



Filter strips and field borders capture sediment and provide habitat for pollinators



Nutrient management can reduce energy use on the farm, saving time and money



Permanent covers protect the land from erosion and reduce evapotranspiration

## How Does Sign-up for AMA Work?

Interested applicants can review the program information available at [www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama](http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama), and should request a new or updated conservation plan for their farm. A signed application can be filed with the local NRCS office at any time.

Applications are grouped for ranking normally once a year. A contract offer is developed based on the conservation plan, and is ranked on how well the proposed practices meet national, state, and local environmental objectives, as well as their cost-efficiency.

Visit the NRCS New Jersey website for the current list of eligible practices and payment rates:

<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama>

### For More Information or to Sign-Up, Contact Your Local USDA Service Center:

*Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties*  
**Columbus Service Center (1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd)**  
Telephone: (609) 267 - 1639

*Mercer, Middlesex and Monmouth counties*  
**Freehold Service Center (4000 Kozloski Rd)**  
Telephone: (732) 462 - 0075

*Hunterdon, Somerset and Union counties*  
**Frenchtown Service Center (687 Pittstown Rd, Suite 2)**  
Telephone: (908) 782 - 4614

*Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties*  
**Hackettstown Service Center (Bldg #1, 101 Bilby Rd)**  
Telephone: (908) 852 - 2576

*Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties*  
**Vineland Service Center (1318 South Main Rd, Bldg 5A)**  
Telephone: (856) 205 - 1225

*Gloucester and Salem counties*  
**Woodstown Service Center (51 Cheney Rd, Suite 2)**  
Telephone: (856) 769 - 1126

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Natural Resources Conservation Service



### The Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) is a

voluntary program only available in sixteen states. In New Jersey, the program specifically targets beginning and limited resource farmers, small farms, and producers who have had limited participation in other USDA financial assistance programs.

Applicants must have current crop and producer records on file with USDA's Farm Service Agency. They must own or control the land, agree to implement specific eligible conservation practices according to the contract schedule, and qualify for farmland assessment.



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Management Assistance Program

Applicants are ranked for funding based on the criteria listed below. Applicants who meet 5 to 6 of the criteria receive consideration as a high priority application. Applicants who meet 3 to 4 of the criteria receive consideration as a medium, and those that meet under 3 are considered a low priority application.

The criteria for AMA are:

1. Average annual gross farm sales \$81,600 or less for the last three years
2. Total farm acreage of less than 50 of specialty/vegetable crops/pasture OR less than 200 of any other crops
3. USDA program payments less than \$10,000 (total) over the last five years
4. Production income more than 75% of the total household income (for the previous tax year)
5. Farm Operating Loan (private or government) used to support the beginning farm operation within the last 10 years
6. Rented acreage totals more than 50% of the total production acreage of the farm



### What are the Payment Rates and Terms?

There is a statutory annual payment limitation of \$50,000 per person per year from all sources of AMA funding. In addition, New Jersey has capped the total amount awarded in any multi-year contract to \$50,000, due to limited program funding.

Individual practice payment rates are calculated at between 50% and 75% of the typical cost of implementing the practice in New Jersey. If the applicant is a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged or limited resource producer, the rates are 25% higher, up to a maximum of 90%.

Payments are made after conservation practices are implemented to the standards agreed to in advance. Projected payments in the approved conservation program contract are based on practice extent and not cost. Payments are made after conservation practices are fully implemented.

Producers may contribute to the cost of a practice through in-kind sources, including personal or donated labor and use of personal equipment, as long as the value of the contribution is documented. To be eligible for funding for livestock practices, the livestock must have been housed or grazed on land under the operator's control for at least 12 of the previous 36 months, with an allowance for normal variations in animal numbers.

### What Practices Can Receive Funding?

New Jersey has developed program categories around the five national priority areas for the AMA program. Practices may address more than one national priority.

The state objectives of the AMA program in NJ include environmental risk factors of the applicant land area, such as distance to bodies of water and pollution potential from nutrients leaching into groundwater.

There are two ranking pools in New Jersey. Applications for livestock operations are ranked separately from applications for cropland operations. The funds awarded to each pool are determined annually by the State Technical Committee.

Category	Eligible Practices on Cropland	Eligible Practices on Grazing Land
Reduction in non-point source pollutants	Cover Crop, Field Border, Filter Strip, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Stream Crossing, Access Control, Livestock Watering System, Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Habitat Supporting practices: Fence, Pipeline, Well
Irrigation Water use efficiency	Irrigation Systems, Irrigation Water Management Supporting practices: Irrigation Water Pipe	
Reduction in particulate or ozone precursor emissions	Cover Crop, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Windbreak Establishment	Renewable power source for Livestock Watering System, Prescribed Grazing, Windbreak Establishment
Reduction in Soil Erosion	Cover Crop, Nutrient Management, Residue Management	Animal Trails and Walkways, Pasture Planting, Prescribed Grazing
Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation	Conservation Cover, Field Border, Filter Strip, Pollinator Habitat, Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Habitat, Windbreak	Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Habitat, Windbreak Establishment