



*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES*

OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION
ANNUAL REPORT

By:

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Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the primary accomplishments of the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) for the period of December 1, 2012 through December 1, 2013.

Significant accomplishments for this reporting period include the following:

- OFP continued to work with key agricultural, conservation and governmental partners to refine the allocation process for state matching funds to local purchase of development rights (PDR) programs;
- To date, \$7.65 million has been allocated to 18 local PDR programs;
- To date, OFP has worked with local PDR programs to permanently preserve 6,334.76 acres of working farm and forest lands in 12 localities. OFP provided \$5.85 million of the \$16.40 million in total purchase price and transaction costs paid for these easements;
- OFP delivered 11 presentations/workshops to a wide variety of audiences. Topics included OFP, PDR programs, farmland preservation tools/techniques, conservation easements, use value assessment, farmland loss data and the Virginia Farm Link program;
- OFP continued to oversee the Virginia Farm Link database. Since May 2008, 140 active farm owners have received 1,853 individual requests from 567 active farm seekers interested in discussing various transition options with them;
- OFP has allocated \$122,410 to Virginia Cooperative Extension since December 2008 for workshops designed to help farm families and their service providers transition farms and farming operations to the next generation; and
- OFP continued collaboration with the Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers on the “Pilot Farm Link and Transition Workshops” and the development of the Certified Farm Seekers (CFS) Program. A total of five farm seekers have been certified, and another 61 farm seekers have submitted applications for the program.

Effective July 25, 2013, the coordinator of OFP, who served in this capacity since the office opened in January 2007, was promoted to serve as VDACS’ director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Research. As a result, OFP activities were limited. A new coordinator for OFP is expected to start work on December 10, 2013.

OVERVIEW

Section 3.2-202 of the Code of Virginia requires that the Commissioner of VDACS submit a written report on the operation of OFP to the chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by December 1 of each year.

The following are the specific powers and duties of OFP as established in § 3.2-201 of the Code of Virginia:

- “1. To develop, in cooperation with the Department of Business Assistance, the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the American Farmland Trust, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension: (i) model policies and practices that may be used as a guide to establish local purchase of development rights programs; (ii) criteria for the certification of local purchase of development rights programs as eligible to receive grants, loans or other funds from public sources; and (iii) methods and sources of revenue for allocating funds to localities to purchase agricultural conservation easements;
2. To create programs to educate the public about the importance of farmland preservation to the quality of life in the Commonwealth;
3. To provide technical, professional, and other assistance to farmers on matters related to farmland preservation;
4. To provide technical, professional, and other assistance to local governments interested in developing additional farmland preservation policies and programs. Such policies and programs shall include (i) use value assessment and taxation pursuant to §§ [58.1-3230](#) and [58.1-3231](#); (ii) transfer of development rights pursuant to Article 7.1 (§ [15.2-2316.1](#) et seq.) of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2; (iii) agricultural and forestal districts pursuant to Chapter 43 (§ [15.2-4300](#) et seq.) of Title 15.2; and (iv) establishment of local lease of development rights; and
5. To administer the Virginia Farm Link program established pursuant to § 3.2-202.”

In addition, § 3.2-201 was expanded in 2008 to include the following additional language regarding the allocation of state matching funds to local purchase of development rights (PDR) programs:

“State grants shall be distributed to local purchase of development rights programs under policies, procedures, and guidelines developed by the Office of Farmland Preservation. In general, for each \$1 in grant moneys awarded by the Office, the applicable local purchase of development rights program of the county or city shall be required to provide a \$1 match. However, as part of these policies, procedures, and guidelines developed by the Office, the Office shall include incentives that recognize and encourage counties and cities participating in use value taxation pursuant to Article 4 (§ [58.1-3229](#) et seq.) of Chapter 32 of Title 58.1.”

By establishing the Virginia Agricultural Vitality Program, and subsequently OFP, the General Assembly was attempting to address two issues that threaten the future viability of the Virginia agricultural sector. The first of these challenges is the aging farm population and the difficulty young farmers have when entering the profession. Statistics describing this problem are dramatic. The average principal farm operator in Virginia is 58.2 years of age. Previous estimates from economists at Virginia Tech indicated that more than 70 percent of Virginia farmland and a significant percentage of Virginia's farm businesses were expected to be transitioned over the next 15 years. At the same time, research from OFP indicates that many Virginia farmers are not planning for this transition. During the period of January through March 2002, OFP sponsored a survey of 1,500 Virginia farmers, with the intent of determining how many had plans for the transition of their farm businesses to the next generation of farmers. This survey was part of a larger strategy adopted by the International Farm Transition Network to develop conclusions about the state of farm retirement planning in the United States, Europe and Japan. This survey showed that of the 512 Virginia farmers that responded, 76 percent either did not plan to retire at all or only planned semi-retirement. Of those 24 percent of farmers who planned to retire, only 30 percent had identified a successor.

The second challenge relates to the loss of farm and forest lands to developed uses in Virginia. The Farmland Information Center (FIC) compiles data showing the rate of farmland lost to development in Virginia. The FIC, a clearinghouse for information about farmland protection and stewardship authorized by the federal Farmland Protection Policy Act, is a public/private partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and American Farmland Trust. The most recent numbers from the FIC cover the period between 1997 and 2007. According to the FIC, between 1997 and 2002, Virginia lost 81,500 acres of agricultural land directly to developed uses. That loss of agricultural land slowed to 60,800 acres between 2002 and 2007. A similar trend occurred when looking at other rural lands as well. When looking at agricultural land, forestland and other rural lands combined, Virginia lost 274,900 acres directly to developed uses between 1997 and 2002, and 206,700 acres between 2002 and 2007.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture conducted every five years by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service also captures the change in land used for farming during the same time period, though these data do not illustrate whether or not the farmland was converted to developed uses, was left fallow, was managed for conservation, or was used for other purposes. Those data report that between 1997 and 2002, there was a 128,796 acre decline in "land in farms" in Virginia. This decline significantly increased between 2002 and 2007, with a 520,904 acre decline in "land in farms" during this five-year period. While the two data sets track different information, together they illustrate the increasing amount of farmland no longer available for agricultural use in Virginia each year. This loss results in an increase in the competition for the remaining farmland, and in many cases, land values that make generating the income needed to pay for that land by agricultural uses difficult in many parts of the state. This loss also results in increased fragmentation of the remaining farm and forest land, which places additional pressures on farmers and foresters who now face a public that is increasingly divorced from agriculture, and who are not accustomed to the sights, sounds and smells associated with working lands. The 2012 Census of Agriculture is not yet available, but is expected to be released by USDA in 2014.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the accomplishments of the office during December 1, 2012 – December 1, 2013:

ADMINISTERING PDR MATCHING FUNDS

Since opening in 2007, OFP staff has worked with local governments, farm and conservation organizations, and other interested parties to establish local purchase of development rights (PDR) programs. PDR programs compensate landowners that permanently preserve their land by voluntarily placing a perpetual conservation easement on the property. Twenty-two local PDR programs exist to date in Virginia, 18 of which have some level of local funding currently available (see Appendix 1).

The 2007 budget amendment provided OFP with \$4.25 million in state matching funds for the 2006-2008 biennium. OFP allocated these funds in February 2008. These funds were to be used to match local funds from certified local PDR programs. This funding was significant, as it was the first time that the Commonwealth of Virginia provided state funds to match local PDR efforts. An additional \$3.4 million has been approved since that time. During the 2013 Session of the General Assembly, the approved budget reduced the \$1.2 million previously allocated for PDR matching funds for FY 2014 from \$1.2 million to \$1 million.

OFP worked with key stakeholders to develop a two-part certification process for these funds. The first part was a certification of the amount of local matching funds that the locality had available for its PDR program. The second part was an application to certify the elements of the local PDR program, based on *A Model Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program for Virginia*, which was developed by the State Farmland Preservation Task Force in 2005.

During the FY 2013 state matching funds grant round, OFP allocated \$1.2 million in new funding. An additional \$129,611.55 in re-appropriated funds also was available as part of this grant round. Localities had until October 19, 2012 to submit their fiscal and program certification forms. Nine localities met the fiscal and certification deadline for FY 2013 funding. These nine localities certified that they had a total of roughly \$15.72 million in non-state funding (\$5,723,055 in FY 2013, and \$9,996,638 from previous years) available to match state funds.

To determine the state matching fund amount for each locality in FY 2013, OFP divided the \$1,329,611.55 amount by nine. These funds were available to certified localities to the extent that each locality was able to provide an equal match using local funds. This equaled \$147,734.62 that was available for each locality that could provide an equal or greater amount of local match. Eight localities provided more than this average, and one locality provided less. The locality that provided less received a match equal to its local contribution minus any remaining state funds previously matched. Those localities that provided more divided the remaining funding. The allocations for FY 2013 were awarded to localities in December 2012 (see Appendix 2).

Localities have up to two years from the execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the locality and VDACS to go to closing on approved agricultural conservation easements (see Appendix 3). Prior to going to closing, each locality must submit the individual easement to VDACS for review by OFP and the Office of the Attorney General. Once the easement language is approved, localities may go to closing and submit to VDACS a claim for reimbursement form for up to 50 percent of the total “reimbursable costs” allowed by the IGA (see Appendix 4).

Similar to the past few years, OFP gave localities with remaining FY 2011 funding until May 24, 2013 to go to closing and to record an approved agricultural conservation easement. For any locality that did not meet this extended deadline, the FY 2011 funds remaining were reprogrammed back to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund and will be reallocated as part of the FY 2014 allocation process.

A total of \$37,500 of the original \$100,000 in FY 2011 funding was reprogrammed from the following three localities: Isle of Wight County, New Kent County and Spotsylvania County (see Appendix 5).

As of November 7, 2013, \$5,853,435.62 in state matching funds from the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund administered by OFP has been used in part to permanently protect 6,334.76 acres (46 easements) in partnership with 12 local PDR programs (see Appendix 6).

VDACS currently is in the process of allocating the \$1 million available in FY 2014 state matching funds, and an additional \$58,749.23 in reprogrammed funding to local PDR programs. Eight localities with more than \$15.8 million available in local matching funds (\$5,525,085 for FY 2014, and \$10,322,385 from previous years) submitted their fiscal and program certification applications by the October 25, 2013 deadline (see Appendices 7 and 8).

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION ON FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Since the opening of OFP in January 2007, staff has been consistently asked to provide technical assistance to local and state governments, agricultural and conservation organizations, individual landowners and farmers, and others interested in learning more about farmland preservation in Virginia.

The following are efforts by OFP to provide technical assistance and outreach on farmland preservation issues from December 1, 2012 to December 1, 2013:

Presentations: OFP delivered 11 presentations/workshops to a wide variety of audiences. Topics included OFP, PDR programs, farmland preservation tools/techniques, conservation easements, use value assessment, farmland loss data and the Virginia Farm Link program (see Appendix 9).

Website: OFP continued to provide updated information on its website at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/preservation. The website provides information on the office, as well as the issues and challenges related to the loss of Virginia’s working farm and forest lands. It also

includes links to the websites, program ordinances, easement templates and other materials for many of the 22 local PDR programs and two local transfer of development rights programs currently established.

Display: The OFP display was used at the following events: Virginia Vineyards Association Winter Technical Meeting (Charlottesville, January 31-February 2, 2013); 2013 Virginia Ag Expo at Land of Promise Farm (Virginia Beach, August 1, 2013); Jeter Farm event (Roanoke, September 27, 2013); State Fair of Virginia (Doswell, September 27-October 6); Virginia Association of Counties annual meeting (Warm Springs, November 10-12, 2013); and the Virginia Farm Bureau Convention (Richmond, December 3, 2013). OFP or Agriculture and Forestry Development Services staff was on hand to provide additional information and to answer any questions.

Landowner phone calls: The OFP coordinator talked with numerous landowners and farmers interested in understanding the range of options for permanently protecting their land. OFP also fielded numerous calls from farm owners and farm seekers interested in the Virginia Farm Link program and the Virginia Century Farm program.

State Land Evaluation Advisory Council (SLEAC): OFP staff participated in the August and September 2013 meetings of SLEAC. SLEAC is responsible for setting the suggested use value assessment rates for each locality that has adopted this program for real estate devoted to agriculture, horticulture, forestry or open space.

VIRGINIA FARM LINK PROGRAM

OFP is charged with administering the Virginia Farm Link program. Pursuant to § [3.2-202](#) of the Code of Virginia, the purpose of the Virginia Farm Link program is to do the following:

“ . . . provide assistance to retiring farmers and individuals seeking to become active farmers in the transition of farm businesses and properties from retiring farmers to active farmers. Such assistance shall include, but not be limited to, (i) assistance in the preparation of business plans for the transition of business interests; (ii) assistance in the facilitation of transfers of existing properties and agricultural operations to interested buyers; (iii) information on innovative farming methods and techniques; and (iv) research assistance on agricultural, financial, marketing, and other matters.”

To date, the primary effort at VDACS to implement the Virginia Farm Link program has been the establishment of the Virginia Farm Link database. Released by VDACS in May 2008, this database attempts to bring together farm owners and farm seekers to begin the discussion about possible farm transition arrangements. As of November 7, 2013, the database has 14 “active farm owners” and 24 “active farm seekers” currently registered. (Please note: This is a significant drop from the 221 active farm seekers as of December 2012, and is a result of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s switch from Virginia Interactive to another database service provider in 2013. As of October 28, 2013, all farm seekers in the database will need to reactivate their accounts to once again be considered “active”.) Since May 2008, 140 active farm owners

have received 1,853 individual requests from 567 active farm seekers interested in discussing various transition options with them. The database is located at www.vafarmlink.org.

In November 2010, OFP met with members of the Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers (VAFBYF) to discuss concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Virginia Farm Link database, and opportunities to better address the initial duties established for the Virginia Farm Link program. While the database has been effective in providing opportunities for interested farm seekers to easily contact interested farm owners, no successful transition had yet been confirmed. As a result of that meeting, VAFBYF established an ad-hoc sub-committee to work with OFP to address these concerns. Through conference calls and meetings throughout 2011, several initiatives were discussed to help enhance the Virginia Farm Link program through effective farm transition programming.

To this end, VAFBYF and OFP decided to collaborate on a series of pilot workshops to enhance relationships between farm seekers and farm owners while exploring key steps to successful farm transitioning. The first pilot workshop took place in Isle of Wight County on August 13, 2011, with approximately 35 participants ranging in ages from 24 to 72 years. Additional workshops were held in Pittsylvania County on February 11, 2012, and in Augusta County on August 4, 2012, with a similar number of attendees for each of these workshops. After each workshop, OFP and VAFBYF made revisions to the agenda based on feedback and review from the participants and the planning team. This effort resulted in the development of a flexible workshop format that can be tailored to individual county Farm Bureau offices interested in further pursuing farm transition and farm linking opportunities for both older and younger members.

This collaboration also resulted in the development of a proposal for a Farm Seeker Certification program as part of a sub-award funding opportunity tied to the larger Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition Project (BFRCP) led by Virginia Tech. The Certified Farm Seeker (CFS) program was designed to provide individuals seeking farming opportunities with the tools needed to successfully demonstrate their farming commitment and vision to interested landowners. This new program officially was unveiled at the Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Summer Expo July 27-29, 2012 in Lynchburg. The CFS program uses the five curriculum modules (whole farm planning introduction, business, land acquisition and tenure, marketing, and on-farm experience) developed by BFRCP and helps farm seekers develop a farm business plan and resume, as well as demonstrate on-farm experience. The program was designed to help all levels of beginning and experienced young farmers who are looking to farm or to expand their farm. As of November 7, 2013, five participants have been certified as Certified Farm Seekers, and an additional 61 farm seekers have applied to participate in the program. The original grant from BFRCP ended in August 2013, and OFP and VAFBYF agreed to extend the project through August 2015.

Once farm seekers are certified, there are incentives available to better assist them in their discussion with interested farm owners. Certified farm seekers are the only farm seekers visible to the public on the Farm Link database and program website. This visibility allows certified farm seekers to be contacted by farm owners, as opposed to non-certified farm seekers whose information is not displayed publicly. In addition, certified farm seekers are eligible for partial

reimbursement for fees paid to service providers related to the farming operation. The program will provide up to 75 percent of the reimbursable costs, up to a maximum of \$500 per certified farm seeker. (See Appendix 10.)

The Office of Farmland Preservation also continued to allocate funding for farm transition workshops designed to help farm families and their service providers transition farms and farming operations to the next generation. An additional \$5,000 was provided to Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to supplement the \$16,000 previously provided for these efforts, for a total of \$21,000 provided between September 2012 and December 2013. A total of \$122,410 has been allocated overall since September 2008.

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE LICENSE PLATES

Chapter 653 of the 2004 Acts of Assembly established a new revenue-generating license plate for supporters of Virginia agriculture. As established in § 46.2-749.102 of the Code of Virginia, the annual fee for the Virginia agriculture plate is \$25 in addition to the prescribed fee for state license plates. For each \$25 fee collected in excess of 1,000 registrations, \$15 is credited to a special nonreverting fund known as the Virginia Agricultural Vitality Program Fund, established within the Department of Accounts. The revenue generated by this fee is paid annually (usually in September) to OFP, and to date has been used to fund projects related to the Virginia Farm Link program. OFP has received a total of \$266,595 from the Virginia agriculture license plate since 2006.

VIRGINIA CENTURY FARM PROGRAM

In October 2010, the Office of Farmland Preservation was assigned with administering the Virginia Century Farm Program. Pursuant to § [3.2-105](#) of the Code of Virginia:

“The Commissioner shall establish a century farm program to honor farm families in the Commonwealth whose property has been in the same family for 100 years or more. In order to be eligible for recognition under the program, a farm shall: (i) have been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years; (ii) be lived on, or actually farmed by, a descendent of the original owners; and (iii) gross more than \$2,500 annually from the sale of farm products. At the discretion of the Commissioner, a farm that does not gross more than \$2,500 annually but is being used for a bona fide silvicultural purpose may be recognized under the program.”

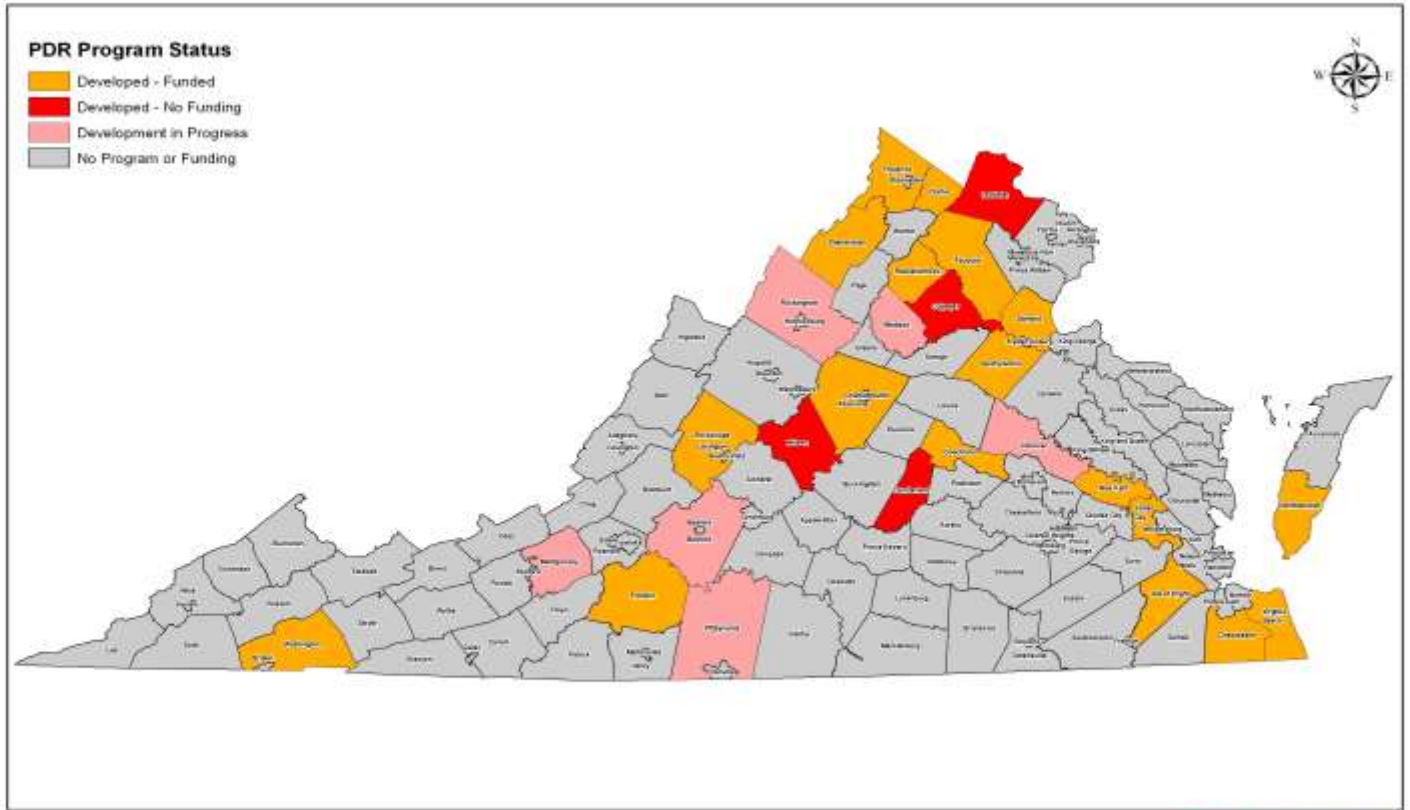
OFP staff has certified a total of 120 new Century Farms since October 2010. OFP also completed a searchable database for all Century Farms in early 2013. There are now 1,263 certified Century Farms since the beginning of the program in 1997. In addition, OFP worked with the Valley Conservation Council to host the first celebration for certified Century Farms. The event, which invited Century Farm owners together for lunch and a chance to meet with each other, was held April 19, 2013 at the farm of Gary and Ellen Lohr in Broadway. More than 50 Century Farm owners and invited guests attended.

OFP STAFF CHANGES

Effective July 25, 2013, the coordinator of OFP, who served in this capacity since the office opened in January 2007, was promoted to serve as VDACS' director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Research. As a result, OFP activities were limited. A new coordinator for OFP is expected to start work on December 10, 2013.

APPENDIX 1

STATUS OF LOCAL PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) PROGRAMS



APPENDIX 2

FY 2013 ALLOCATIONS FOR LOCAL PDR PROGRAMS

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Local Funds Available (Oct 2012)</u>	<u>Previous State Funds Remaining (Oct 2012)</u>	<u>FY 2013 State Funds Awarded</u>
Albemarle County	\$661,257.35	\$0.00	\$160,715.64
Clarke County	\$174,736.00	\$20,133.96	\$154,602.04
Fauquier County	\$694,101.00	\$110,952.46	\$160,715.64
Isle of Wight County	\$521,904.92	\$123,452.46	\$160,715.64
James City County	\$1,937,156.94	\$110,952.46	\$160,715.64
Rappahannock County	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Spotsylvania County	\$367,477.49	\$123,452.46	\$160,715.64
Stafford County	\$235,593.00	\$66,093.00	\$160,715.64
Virginia Beach City	\$11,077,467.00	\$110,952.46	\$160,715.64
TOTAL	\$15,719,693.70	\$665,989.26	\$1,329,611.52

APPENDIX 3

TEMPLATE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Between
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
and
[locality]

This INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT is entered into this 31th day of December, 2012, in the City of Richmond, Virginia, between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“VDACS”) and [locality] (collectively, “the parties”) to provide mutually advantageous terms for cooperation between VDACS and [locality] to implement VDACS’ contribution of funds in support of [locality]’s purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, by Chapter 3 of the 2012 Special Session I Acts of Assembly, has appropriated \$1,200,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 to VDACS for the continuation of a state fund to match local government purchase of development rights program funds for the preservation of working farms and forest lands; and,

WHEREAS, § 3.2-201 of the Code of Virginia authorizes VDACS’ Office of Farmland Preservation to develop methods and sources of revenue for allocating funds to localities to purchase agricultural conservation easements, and to distribute these funds to localities under policies, procedures, and guidelines developed by VDACS’ Office of Farmland Preservation; and,

WHEREAS, for all purposes of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, the term “agricultural conservation easement” shall mean a negative easement in gross that has the primary conservation purpose of preserving working farm and/or forest land; and,

WHEREAS, [local governing body] has enacted an ordinance or passed a resolution that: authorizes, in accordance with Title 10.1, Chapter 17 of the Code of Virginia (“the Open-Space Land Act”) and other applicable law, [locality] to purchase agricultural conservation easements from landowners (each hereinafter called “Grantor”); sets forth a clear, consistent, and equitable administrative process governing such purchases; and outlines the goals and purposes of [locality]’s farmland preservation program; and,

WHEREAS, [locality] has agreed to maintain a public outreach program designed to educate various stakeholders in [locality]—including farmers, landowners, public officials, and the non-farming public—about [locality]’s initiatives to preserve working farms and forest lands; and,

WHEREAS, [locality] has agreed to establish a transparent and replicable process for valuation of agricultural conservation easements; and,

WHEREAS, the purchase of agricultural conservation easements is one component of [locality]’s broader farmland preservation program; and,

WHEREAS, [locality] has agreed to use a deed of easement that is sufficiently flexible to allow for future agricultural production in purchases of agricultural conservation easements for which [locality] uses funds contributed to it by VDACS; and,

WHEREAS, [locality] has agreed that any agricultural conservation easement purchased as per the terms of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT shall meet the definition of "real estate devoted to

agricultural use", "real estate devoted to horticultural use" or "real estate devoted to forest use" as established in § 58.1-3230 of the Code of Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, [locality] has agreed to establish a clear strategy for monitoring and enforcing the terms of the agricultural conservation easements that [locality] purchases; and,

WHEREAS, [locality] has agreed to establish a process that [locality] will use to evaluate the effectiveness of its farmland preservation program, including a protocol for making changes to [locality]'s agricultural conservation efforts based on such evaluations; and,

WHEREAS, VDACS, in reliance on the veracity of the foregoing recitals, certifies [locality] is eligible to receive contributions of funds from VDACS in reimbursement for certain costs [locality] actually incurs in the course of purchasing agricultural conservation easements; and,

WHEREAS, [locality], and the agents and employees of [locality], in the performance of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, are acting on behalf of [locality], and not as officers or employees or agents of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, VDACS and [locality] agree their respective responsibilities, pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, shall be defined as follows:

1. VDACS Responsibilities

- a. VDACS shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of execution of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, restrict \$ _____ (hereinafter "the allocation amount") in an account, from which VDACS shall withdraw funds only to pay contributions of funds that [locality] is eligible to receive pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, except that upon the expiration of two (2) years from the date of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, or immediately upon [locality]'s failure to perform any of its obligations under the terms of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, VDACS shall have the right to withdraw any funds then remaining in such account and the right to redirect those funds to other localities that VDACS certifies as being eligible to receive matching funds and that enter into an intergovernmental agreement with VDACS to govern the distribution of matching funds for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. The allocation amount from this and any prior INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT shall not be considered to be a grant as that term is used in paragraph 1(b) of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.
- b. Upon [locality] or any agent acting on behalf of [locality]'s recordation of a deed evidencing [locality]'s purchase of an agricultural conservation easement in the circuit court of the city or county where the Grantor's land is located and [locality]'s submission to VDACS of a completed claim for reimbursement, on a form prescribed by VDACS, together with the supporting documentation required under paragraph 2(e) of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, VDACS shall reimburse [locality] fifty percent (50%) of the reimbursable costs that [locality] actually incurred in the course of purchasing that agricultural conservation easement, limited to that portion of the allocation amount remaining in the account maintained by VDACS pursuant to paragraph 1(a) of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT. The following shall not be considered to be reimbursable costs that [locality] actually incurred and shall be subtracted from the total amount of reimbursable costs considered for reimbursement by

VDACS in connection with any particular agricultural conservation easement transaction: grants made by the United States of America, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), or any other governmental agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia; payments made by any other funding sources either directly to the landowner or to reimburse [locality]; or in-kind donations or contributions. VDACS may make alternative arrangements for the distribution of funds pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, provided [locality] presents a written request for such alternative arrangement to the Commissioner of VDACS or the Commissioner of VDACS's designated agent (referred collectively hereinafter as "the Grant Manager") prior to incurring any expense for which [locality] seeks a distribution of funds under the proposed alternative arrangement.

For purposes of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, "reimbursable costs" include:

1. The purchase price of the agricultural conservation easement actually incurred by [locality], at present value, including any portion that [locality] will pay over time pursuant to an installment purchase agreement;
 2. The cost of title insurance actually incurred by [locality];
 3. The cost actually incurred by [locality] of any appraisal of the land by a licensed real estate appraiser upon which [locality] purchases an agricultural conservation easement;
 4. The cost actually incurred by [locality] of any survey of the physical boundaries of the land by a licensed land surveyor upon which [locality] purchases an agricultural conservation easement, including the cost of producing a baseline report of the conditions existing on the land at the time of the conveyance of the agricultural conservation easement;
 5. Reasonable attorney fees actually incurred by [locality] associated with the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement, where reasonable attorney fees include those fees associated with outside counsel required for the completion of the easement, but do not include fees related to county or city attorneys serving as staff and who are paid regular salary in the county's or city's employ;
 6. The cost actually incurred by [locality] of issuing public hearing notices associated with [locality]'s purchase of an agricultural conservation easement that [locality] is required by law to issue; and
 7. Any recordation fees actually incurred by [locality] that [locality] is required to pay pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- c. VDACS shall only be responsible for reimbursing [locality] under paragraph 1(b) of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT for reimbursable costs that [locality] actually incurs in the course of purchasing an agricultural conservation easement when [locality] or any agent acting on behalf of [locality] acquires, by such purchase, a deed of easement that, at a minimum, provides:

1. The primary conservation purpose of the easement conveyed by the deed of easement is the conservation of the land in perpetuity for working farm and/or forestal uses.
2. The Grantor and [locality] agree that the land subject to the agricultural conservation easement shall not be converted or diverted, as the Open-Space Land Act employs those terms, until and unless the Grant Manager, with the concurrence of [locality] or an assignee of [locality]'s interest in the agricultural conservation easement, certifies that such conversion or diversion satisfies the requirements of the Open-Space Land Act.
3. The Grantor and [locality] agree that, in the event of an extinguishment of the restrictions of the agricultural conservation easement that results in the receipt of monetary proceeds by [locality] or an assignee of [locality]'s interest in an agricultural conservation easement in compensation for the loss of such property interest, VDACS shall be entitled to a share of those proceeds proportional to VDACS' contribution toward the total reimbursable cost of acquiring the agricultural conservation easement as evidenced by the completed claim for reimbursement required under paragraph 1(b) of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.
4. If the Grantor conveys the agricultural conservation easement for less than its fair market value, the Grantor and [locality] mutually acknowledge that approval of the terms of this Deed of Easement by VDACS and/or its legal counsel does not constitute a warranty or other representation as to the Grantor's qualification for any exemption, deduction, or credit against the Grantor's liability for the payment of any taxes under any provision of federal or state law.
5. All mortgagors and other holders of liens on the property subject to the restrictions contained in the deed of easement have subordinated their respective liens to the restrictions of the deed of easement acquired by [locality]. All such mortgagors and other holders of liens shall manifest their assent to the easement's priority over their respective liens by endorsing the deed of easement.
6. A baseline report documenting the conditions existing on the land at the time of the conveyance of the agricultural conservation easement is incorporated into the deed of easement by reference.

2. [locality] Responsibilities

- a. [locality] shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of execution of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, appropriate funds equal to the allocation amount for the purpose of purchasing agricultural conservation easements.
- b. [locality] shall use matching funds that VDACS contributes to [locality], pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, only for the purpose of purchasing agricultural conservation easements that are perpetual and that have the primary conservation purpose of preserving working farm and/or forest lands.
- c. Within one (1) year from the date of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, and for each subsequent year in which the INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT or

a subsequent agreement is in force, [locality] shall submit to VDACS a progress report that:

1. describes any properties that [locality] has identified as prospects for [locality]'s purchase of agricultural conservation easements and the status of any negotiations for the purchase of such agricultural conservation easements;
 2. estimates the timeframes within which [locality] will execute contracts for any such purchases, close on such purchases, and request reimbursement of reimbursable costs for those purchases from VDACS;
 3. describes the measures [locality] has undertaken to develop and/or maintain a public outreach program designed to educate various stakeholders in [locality]'s community—including farmers, landowners, public officials, and the non-farming public—about [locality]'s agricultural conservation easement program and other initiatives to preserve working agricultural land;
 4. describes the measures [locality] has undertaken to develop and/or maintain a formal plan for stewardship and monitoring of the working agricultural land on which [locality] acquires agricultural conservation easements; and
 5. describes the measures [locality] has undertaken to develop and/or maintain a process that [locality] will use to evaluate the effectiveness of its program, including a protocol for making changes to [locality]'s agricultural conservation efforts based on such evaluations.
- d. For any purchase of agricultural conservation easements for which [locality] requests reimbursement from VDACS pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, [locality] shall obtain a policy of title insurance on its purchased interest that covers at least an amount equal to the amount for which [locality] requests reimbursement from VDACS.
- e. Prior to closing on a purchase of an agricultural conservation easement for which [locality] requests reimbursement from VDACS pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, [locality] shall submit, for review and approval by VDACS and its legal counsel, the following documentation:
1. a written agreement setting forth, in the manner prescribed by [locality]'s ordinance or resolution governing its program to acquire agricultural conservation easements, the terms of [locality]'s purchase of the agricultural conservation easement, including the purchase price;
 2. a written confirmation from the [locality] Commissioner of Revenue or Director of Finance, or the [locality] Commissioner of Revenue's or Director of Finance's designated agent that the property/properties to be encumbered by the agricultural conservation easement meet the definition of "real estate devoted to agricultural use", "real estate devoted to horticultural use" or "real estate devoted to forest use" as established in § 58.1-3230 of the Code of Virginia;

3. a written description of the agricultural, environmental and social characteristics of the property/properties to be encumbered by the agricultural conservation easement;
4. any installment purchase agreement;
5. the deed of easement that the Grantor will deliver to [locality] at closing, including all exhibits, attachments, and/or addenda;
6. a title insurance commitment for a policy to insure the easement interest under contract indicating an amount of coverage at least equal to the amount of funds for which [locality] requests reimbursement from VDACS; and
7. an itemized list of all reimbursable costs that [locality] has or will, up to the time of closing, incur in the course of purchasing the agricultural conservation easement.

[locality] shall make whatever changes to the proposed deed of easement and/or the installment purchase agreement, where applicable, that VDACS and/or its legal counsel deem necessary to ensure compliance with applicable state law and the requirements and purposes of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.

[locality] may fulfill its obligation under this paragraph by submitting accurate and complete copies of all documents enumerated in this paragraph, provided that [locality] shall deliver or make available the original documents to VDACS for review at VDACS' request.

- f. Together with any claim for reimbursement pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT that [locality] submits to VDACS, [locality] shall also submit the following supporting documentation:
 1. a copy of the recorded deed of easement that VDACS and/or its legal counsel approved prior to closing, showing the locality, deed book, and page of recordation, and including all exhibits, attachments, and/or addenda;
 2. copies of invoices, bills of sale, and cancelled checks evidencing [locality]'s incursion of reimbursable costs in the course of purchasing the agricultural conservation easement;
 3. a copy of any executed installment purchase agreement related to the purchase, which shall indicate the purchase price; and
 4. a copy of any deed of trust related to the purchase.
- g. [locality] shall provide the Grant Manager immediate written notice of [locality]'s receipt of any application or proposal for the conversion or diversion of the use of any land upon which [locality] or its assignee, where applicable, holds an agricultural conservation easement, for the purchase of which VDACS contributed funds pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.
- h. [locality], or any assignee of [locality]'s interest in an agricultural conservation easement for which [locality] receives a contribution from VDACS pursuant to this

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT shall at all times enforce the terms of that easement. [locality] shall provide the Grant Manager immediate written notice of any actions, whether at law, in equity, or otherwise, taken by locality to enforce the terms of the easement or to abate, prevent, or enjoin any violation thereof by any party. Any failure by [locality] or such assignee to perform its enforcement responsibility shall constitute a breach of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, for which VDACS shall have a remedy by way of a civil action for specific performance of that enforcement responsibility; or, VDACS shall have the right and authority, at its option, to demand and receive from [locality] a portion of the full market value of the agricultural conservation easement at the time of the breach in proportion to VDACS' contribution toward the total reimbursable cost of acquiring the agricultural conservation easement as evidenced by the completed claim for reimbursement required under paragraph 1(b) of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.

- i. For any purchase of an agricultural conservation easement for which [locality] requests reimbursement from VDACS pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, [locality] shall derive its valuation of the agricultural conservation easement according to the valuation methods prescribed by ordinance or resolution.

3. Merger and Supersedure of Prior Agreement

The parties agree that terms of any INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT previously entered into between the parties to govern VDACS' distribution of funds to [locality] in support of [locality]'s purchase of agricultural conservation easements shall be merged into the instant INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, the latter of which shall supersede all former INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS to the extent that there are any inconsistencies between the terms of these INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS. Notwithstanding the language of this paragraph, VDACS shall be required to restrict the allocation amount(s) provided in paragraph 1(a) of any prior agreement(s) in addition to the current allocation amount, but shall only be required to restrict any prior allocation amount(s) until the expiration of two (2) years from the date of execution of the prior agreement(s).

4. Recertification

This INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT pertains exclusively to VDACS' contribution of funds that the General Assembly has appropriated to VDACS through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. VDACS shall not contribute other funds in the future to [locality] except upon VDACS' recertification of [locality]'s eligibility to receive such funds. VDACS may establish and communicate to [locality] certain benchmarks of program development that VDACS will impose upon [locality] as preconditions to [locality]'s recertification for future contributions.

5. Governing Law

This INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT is governed by and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In all actions undertaken pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, preferred venue shall be in the City of Richmond, Virginia, at the option of VDACS.

6. Assignment

[locality] shall not assign this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, either in whole or in part, or any interest in an agricultural conservation easement for the purchase of which

VDACS contributes funds pursuant to this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, without the prior, written approval of the Grant Manager.

7. Modifications

The parties shall not amend this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, except by their mutual, written consent.

8. Severability

In the event that any provision of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT is unenforceable or held to be unenforceable, then the parties agree that all other provisions of this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT have force and effect and shall not be affected thereby.

In witness, whereof, the parties hereto have executed this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT as of the day and year first written above.

(The rest of this page is intentionally left blank. Signatures manifesting the parties' mutual assent to the terms contained in this INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT appear on the next page.)

Matthew J. Lohr Date
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Agriculture &
Consumer Services

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Assistant Attorney General Date

[Name] Date
[City Manager/County Executive]

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

[City/County] Attorney Date

2. Please indicate below the **cost of title insurance** actually incurred by the locality, related to the purchase of this agricultural conservation easement. Please provide copies of invoices, bills of sale and cancelled checks evidencing the incursion of reimbursable costs.
3. Please indicate below the **cost of any appraisal** actually incurred by the locality, of the land related to the purchase of this agricultural conservation easement. Please provide copies of invoices, bills of sale and cancelled checks evidencing the incursion of reimbursable costs.
4. Please indicate below the **cost of any survey** actually incurred by the locality, of the physical boundaries of the land related to the purchase of this agricultural conservation easement. Please include any costs associated with producing a baseline report of the conditions existing on the land at the time of the conveyance of the agricultural conservation easement. Please provide copies of invoices, bills of sale and cancelled checks evidencing the incursion of reimbursable costs.
5. Please indicate below any **reasonable attorney fees** actually incurred by the locality, associated with the purchase of this agricultural conservation easement. Reasonable attorney fees include those fees associated with outside counsel required for the completion of the easement, but do not include fees related to county or city attorneys serving as staff. Please provide copies of invoices, bills of sale and cancelled checks evidencing the incursion of reimbursable costs.
6. Please indicate below any costs actually incurred by the locality associated with issuing **public hearing notices** related to the purchase of this agricultural conservation easement. Please provide copies of invoices, bills of sale and cancelled checks evidencing the incursion of reimbursable costs.
7. Please indicate below any costs actually incurred by the locality associated with any **recordation fees** that the locality is required to pay pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please provide copies of invoices, bills of sale and cancelled checks evidencing the incursion of reimbursable costs.

Purchase price of easement: \$ _____

Cost of title insurance: \$ _____

Cost of appraisal: \$ _____

Cost of survey: \$ _____

Reasonable attorney fees: \$ _____

Cost of public hearing notices: \$ _____

Recordation fees: \$ _____

TOTAL REIMBURSABLE COSTS \$ _____

VDACS SHARE OF TOTAL REIMBURSABLE COSTS \$ _____

VDACS' share is 50 percent of the reimbursable costs actually incurred by the locality limited to the allocation amount remaining for each locality.

Should your PDR program wish to receive less than the amount currently available at this time, please indicate the desired amount:

DESIRED AMOUNT (IF LESS THAN THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE) \$ _____

Submitted by:

Name:

Title:

Locality:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Tax ID number:

Date submitted:

Check payable to:

Completed claim for reimbursement and any questions should be addressed to:

Kevin Schmidt
Coordinator, Office of Farmland Preservation
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: (804) 786-1346
Fax: (804) 371-2945
kevin.schmidt@vdacs.virginia.gov

APPENDIX 5

FY 2011 FUNDING REPROGRAMMING FOR LOCAL PDR PROGRAMS

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Returned/Lost FY 2011 Funds</u>
Isle of Wight County	\$12,500.00
New Kent County	\$12,500.00
Spotsylvania County	\$12,500.00
TOTAL	\$37,500.00

APPENDIX 6

ACRES PROTECTED WITH STATE PDR MATCHING FUNDS

AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2013

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Easements</u>	<u>Acres Protected</u>	<u>*Local Funding</u>	<u>*State PDR Funding</u>	<u>*Other Funding</u>
Albemarle County	6	712.66	\$1,333,673.29	\$774,014.71	—
Clarke County	17	1,365.45	\$577,317.08	\$577,316.11	\$1,573,025.00
Fauquier County	6	1,739.31	\$1,391,959.09	\$1,061,339.91	\$100,000.00
Frederick County	1	89.75	\$5,000.00	\$130,027.00	\$260,000.00
Goochland County	1	500.93	\$155,623.50	\$155,623.50	—
Isle of Wight County	3	585.40	\$1,794,862.79	\$1,547,744.21	—
James City County	2	142.70	\$489,551.71	\$344,713.39	—
Northampton County	2	440.25	\$114,027.85	\$114,027.85	\$1,238,000.00
Rappahannock County	2	343.23	\$157,431.00	\$156,666.00	—
Spotsylvania County	1	59.08	\$49,809.28	\$49,809.28	\$87,500.00
Stafford County	1	97.83	\$303,055.00	\$299,242.00	—
Virginia Beach City	4	258.17	\$915,068.34	\$642,911.66	—
TOTAL	46	6,334.76	\$7,287,378.93	\$5,853,495.62	\$3,258,525.00

* Includes easement purchase price and in some cases incidentals such as surveys, title insurance, appraisals, reasonable legal fees, etc.

APPENDIX 7

**CERTIFICATION OF LOCAL PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) PROGRAM
MATCHING FUNDS – FY 2014**

Application Deadline: Friday, October 25, 2013

The _____ of _____ hereby certifies that on
(County Administrator/City Manager) (Locality)
this _____ day of _____, local funds in the amount of
\$ _____ were appropriated for the July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014 fiscal year,
and that local funds in the amount of \$ _____ are currently available from
previous fiscal years, for the purpose of purchasing agricultural conservation easements. Added
together, this equals a total of \$ _____ in local matching funds currently
available to match funding from the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund, as referenced in
Section 3.2-201 of the *Code of Virginia*.

It also is certified that none of the funds listed above are from any of the following: grants made
by the United States of America; the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(VDACS), the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Virginia
Outdoors Foundation (VOF), or any other agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth
of Virginia; payments made by any other funding sources either directly to the landowner or to
reimburse the locality; or in-kind donations or contributions. It is further certified that the total
amount above is comprised only of local funding available for the purchase of agricultural
conservation easements by the locality.

It is the intent of _____ to use these funds to purchase perpetual conservation
(Locality)
easements on working farm and forest land through participation in the agricultural conservation
easement program administered by VDACS' Office of Farmland Preservation pursuant to
Section 3.2-201 of the *Code of Virginia*.

It is understood and agreed that participation in VDACS' agricultural conservation easement
program requires meeting additional criteria as promulgated by the Office of Farmland
Preservation, and that certification of the locality's available funds does not guarantee nor
obligate acceptance into the agricultural conservation easement program.

County Administrator/City Manager

County/City Chief Fiscal Officer

Date

Date

Completed certification form and any questions should be addressed to:

Kevin Schmidt
Director, Office of Policy Planning and Research
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: (804) 786-1346
Fax: (804) 371-7786
kevin.schmidt@vdacs.virginia.gov

APPENDIX 8

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF LOCAL PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) PROGRAM- FY 2014

Application Deadline: Friday, October 25, 2013

Locality:

Contact person:

Title:

Address:

Address 2:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Date:

The following application is based on *A Model Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program for Virginia*, which was released by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Farmland Preservation Task Force in November 2005. It is strongly suggested that applicants refer to the model PDR document while completing this application. Please visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/preservation or call (804) 786-1346 to obtain a copy of this report.

To complete this application, please answer each of the questions listed below. Also, please submit any additional documentation to help support or clarify your answers. *If your locality is currently certified for FY 2013, please only provide an update covering the changes that have occurred to your program since you submitted your application last year.*

1. Adopted PDR ordinance/resolution

Please attach your local PDR ordinance/resolution as adopted. If your ranking system is not part of your ordinance/resolution, please include this as well.

2. Program goals and purposes

Please specify your program goals/purposes as outlined in your local PDR ordinance/resolution.

VDACS will be looking for clearly defined program goals/purposes, with a program ordinance/resolution that supports them.

3. Action plan for education/outreach

Please provide information on how your program reaches out to farmers/landowners, public officials and the non-farming public.

VDACS will be looking for examples of efforts to educate various stakeholders in the community on the PDR program and other working farm and forest land preservation initiatives.

4. Easement valuation process

Please outline how your locality determines easement value.

VDACS will be looking for transparency and replicability in the easement valuation process.

5. Broader agricultural enhancement strategy

Please outline what additional strategies your locality is using to preserve working farm and forest land, and how these various strategies work together. Examples include: comprehensive land use plan; agricultural zoning; use value taxation; agricultural and forestal districts; agricultural economic development efforts; farm transition efforts, etc.

VDACS will be looking to see that the PDR program is part of a broader strategy designed to preserve working farm and forest land.

6. Deed of easement

Please attach a copy of your deed of easement template.

*VDACS will be looking to see that the deed of easement is flexible enough to allow for future agricultural production, and that it contains the appropriate components established in the model document. All easements funded by VDACS must be perpetual. **Please note: A more detailed review by VDACS of each individual easement will be required prior to closing.***

7. Monitoring and enforcement strategy

Please describe your monitoring and enforcement schedules/procedures.

VDACS will be looking to see that a clear strategy has been established outlining how the easement will be monitored and enforced.

8. Program evaluation mechanism

Please describe the process used to evaluate the effectiveness of your program, and indicate the process for making changes or updates to your program based on this evaluation.

VDACS will be looking to see that the program has an evaluation mechanism and a process established for implementing evaluation findings.

Completed applications and any questions should be addressed to:

Kevin Schmidt
Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Research
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: (804) 786-1346
Fax: (804) 371-7786
kevin.schmidt@vdacs.virginia.gov

APPENDIX 9

OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION PRESENTATIONS 2012-2013

- Delivered update on FY 2013 state matching funds, Working Lands Discussion Group and potential legislation to local PDR program managers at their December meeting in Richmond (December 5, 2012)
- Delivered update on Office of Farmland Preservation efforts as part of Bedford County Farm Bureau's Farm Transition workshop in Bedford (January 15, 2013)
- Delivered update on Working Lands Discussion Group efforts and outreach as part of the Hanover/Middle Peninsula Conservation Easement Workshop in St. Stephen's Church (February 15, 2013)
- Participated in panel discussing farm transition and farm linking efforts as part of the Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Winter Expo in Harrisonburg (February 23, 2013)
- Delivered presentation on developing a local purchase of development rights (PDR) program to the Pittsylvania County PDR Committee in Chatham (February 26, 2013)
- Participated in three presentations/classes outlining the Certified Farm Seekers program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg (March 4-5, 2013)
- Delivered overview of the Office of Farmland Preservation and the Virginia Farm Link program at the northern Shenandoah Valley Century Farm event held by the Valley Conservation Council in Broadway (April 19, 2013)
- Delivered update on FY 2013 state matching funds, Working Lands Discussion Group and new funding for land conservation to local PDR managers at their June meeting in Richmond (June 4, 2013)
- Delivered update on Office of Farmland Preservation as part of a presentation on VDACS' Agriculture and Forestry Development Services unit at the North American Agricultural Marketing Officials annual meeting in Alexandria (July 16, 2013)

APPENDIX 10

CERTIFIED FARM SEEKER PROGRAM COST SHARE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Each Certified Farm Seeker will receive 75% of reimbursable costs up to \$500

CERTIFIED FARM SEEKER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone : _____

E-mail: _____

SERVICE PROVIDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone : _____

E-mail: _____

Description of Services Provided:

Signature of Applicant Date

Reimbursement must be accompanied by the following:

_____ Copy of invoice showing total cost of services rendered by service provider, and total costs paid by Certified Farm Seeker

_____ Completed W-9 form

Send to:

Office of Farmland Preservation
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street, Room 216
Richmond, VA 23219

For Office Use Only- Cost Code _____
Approved Amount - \$ _____
Approved By _____ Date _____