

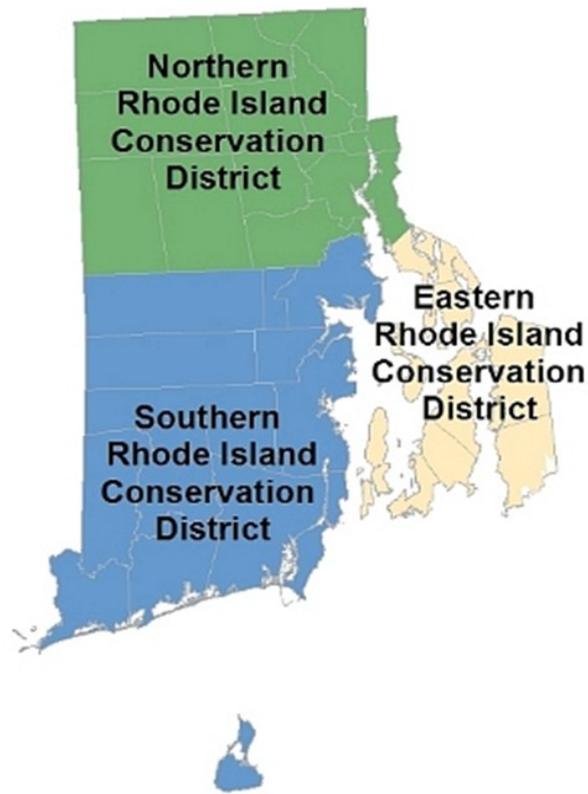
IS MY LAND ELIGIBLE FOR FARM DESIGNATION?

THE ANSWER MAY BE YES, IF EITHER:

1. You have derived \$2,500 of income from the sale of food or fiber in one of the last two years,
2. You have produced \$2,500 of sustenance for the farm family over two years, or a combination of 1) and 2),
3. You are a new farmer that can demonstrate that you will eventually be able to fulfill 1) or 2), or
4. Your farm is in a set aside program, i.e. the sale of your development rights.



Your Tax Assessor may require you to submit a certificate that your farm is still in agricultural production each year to remain in the program. Your property may be reinspected by RIDEM to confirm that it is still in agricultural production at the request of your tax assessor.



TO GET STARTED, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District
PO Box 158 Tiverton, RI 02878
Schurgin.ericd@gmail.com
Tel: (401) 934-0842

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District
2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
Tel: (401) 934-0840
Fax: (401) 934-0843

Southern Rhode Island Conservation District
URI East Farm Bldg 50, Room 1
PO Box 1636 Kingston, RI 02881
Tel: 401-500-0422
SRICD.info@gmail.com

RHODE ISLAND'S FARM, FOREST, AND OPEN SPACE ACT

FARM DESIGNATION APPLICATION GUIDE



Achieving **farm designation** may allow your land to be taxed at the value of its current usage, as opposed to its full development value. Look inside to learn more about the program and how you can start your application.



Administered by the RI Department of Environmental Management, Rhode Island's Conservation Districts, and your local Tax Assessor

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1.) Application

Your initial step is to fill out the Farm Application, which can be found on the last page of booklet "Citizen's Guide" available from your local Conservation District, or online at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/forest/pdf/citgui03.pdf>

2.) Tax Assessor

Go to your tax assessor to get copy of your plat/lot map. Get **tax assessor signature** on your application to verify the acreage of your property.

3.) Conservation District

Make appointment with your Conservation District to get the **signature of your local Conservation District Official**. Please call ahead first! *A \$100 required fee is payable by check to the District at this time.* You must chose Conservation Plan option A, B, or C (see right) at this time

4.) Submit application package to RI DEM

Once your application has been signed by the District Official, they will return it to you after photocopying several pages for their records. At this point you will need to mail or drop off all paperwork to DEM, and a DEM representative will come verify that your farm is in current agricultural production. At this point, your tax assessor is notified of your **farm status**. *\$10 required fee is payable to DEM with your application.*

5.) Farm Conservation Plan

A Farm Conservation Plan will be written, providing baseline info and best management practice recommendations. Several options exist for developing a Farm Plan; you may write the plan yourself using a provided checklist and create the required maps using free online tools, you may apply for assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to have your plan written for you at no cost, or you may hire your local conservation district to either write your full plan or produce maps for you. You must apply for Option A, complete Option B, or complete Option C within 18 months of receiving your acceptance letter.

Conservation Plan Options			
Option	A	B	C
Must be selected at time of application to Conservation District	NRCS Plan or Plan fully written by landowner or consultant.	Plan narrative written by landowner or consultant; maps developed by Conservation District.	Plan narrative written and maps developed by Conservation District.
Maps can be created using one or more of the following methods	Web Soil Survey , Free tool @ http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov ArcGIS Explorer , Free tool @ http://www.arcgis.com/explorer/	Created by Conservation District	Created by Conservation District
Plan Fees			
0-50 acres	n/a	\$325 (maps only)	\$950
51-75 acres	n/a	\$325 (maps only)	\$1230
76-100 acres	n/a	\$325 (maps only)	\$1510
101-125 acres	n/a	\$325 (maps only)	\$1790
126-150	n/a	\$325 (maps only)	\$2070
151-175 acres	n/a	\$325 (maps only)	\$2350
Other Fees			
Administrative fee	\$50	\$50	Included
Review Fee	\$50	\$50	Included