



GET INVOLVED

Check us out online:

www.columbiaco.com/index.aspx?NID=441

To participate, get more information, or get on a VSP email list to receive regular updates, please contact:

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COLUMBIA COUNTY

VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

An alternative approach to incentivizing critical-area protection while promoting agricultural viability in Columbia County.





WHAT IS VSP?

The VSP (Voluntary Stewardship Program) aims to protect critical areas (wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, geologically hazardous areas, frequently flooded areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas) where they intersect with agricultural activities. The VSP offers an incentive-based approach to garner voluntary involvement while enhancing the long-term success and viability of agricultural production in Columbia County.

The success of VSP depends entirely on the participation of Columbia County agricultural operators. If the VSP should fail to protect critical areas, agricultural operators would be subject to the regulatory approach to critical area protection.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any person interested in agriculture, conservation and their local community.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Initially, a VSP survey will be utilized to collect information about what conservation activities you are currently implementing and to understand what additional programs you may be interested in considering. Then, a one-on-one meeting is scheduled to develop your personal Individual Stewardship Plan, as well as discuss potential cost-share programs.



We need YOU! in order to be successful in implementing the VSP. Please consider joining the VSP Work Group, a local stakeholder group comprised of technical advisers, local producers, and your neighbors. For more information, contact Meagan Bailey at the Planning Department (detailed contact information on the back of this brochure).

POTENTIAL VSP COST SHARE PROGRAMS:

Riparian plantings; buffers; stream-bank protection; nutrient/pest management; in-stream habitat; pollinator strips; others?

The Work Group will develop and utilize a cost-share budget and application and selection process for these programs.