

**Essex County, Virginia Land Use Program
Agricultural Use Statement by Land Owner**

I, _____, do hereby certify that I have used/ or rent the open land contained in Map # _____ for the purpose of raising livestock or agricultural products for the years _____, _____, _____, _____, _____. If the land is rented, please list the farmer's name: _____.

I certify that I have a Conservation Plan on file with the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District, or if not, that the property is farmed using a planned program of soil management and soil conservation practices which addresses issues such as the following:

- Reduce or prevent soil erosion by best management practices such as terracing, cover cropping, strip cropping, no till planting, sodding waterways, diversion, water impoundments and other such practices to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Maintain appropriate soil nutrient levels by application of organic and inorganic soil nutrients to produce average yields or crops, or as soil tests recommend, without being a hazard to water quality in local streams, rivers, ponds or other waterways.
- Control brush, woody growth, and noxious weeds on row crops, hay and pasture by use of herbicides, biological controls, cultivation, mowing or other normal cultural practices.

Date: _____ Signature of Owner: _____

- Each application must include an aerial photo map generated from the FSA (Farm Service Agency) farm and tract number.

If asked for proof, I can show of five years of one or more of the following:

- paid crop insurance OR
- Farm Service Agency crop reports OR
- Sales receipts (annual gross sales must average over \$1,000 for previous 3 years)
OR
- Federal Income Tax form: Schedule F (Farm Expenses and Income) OR
- Federal Income Tax form: 4835 (Farm Rental Income and Expenses) OR
- Federal Income Tax form: 1040E (Cash Rent for Agricultural Land) OR
- Any other proof of production of qualified agricultural products on this tract

To insure the integrity of the Land Use Program, the Commissioner of the Revenue may audit for proof of a bona-fide qualified agricultural production business.