The Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative

Supporting bird-friendly practices on working lands













Meet VGBI





Piedmont Environmental Council

October Greenfield Lauria McShane



Quail Forever

Alison Menefee Cathryn McVicker



Virginia Working Landscapes

Dr. Amy Johnson Justin Proctor



American Farmland Trust

Jacob Gilley



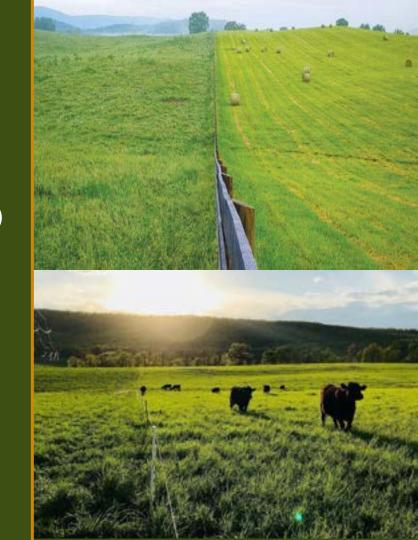


Why Grassland Birds?

- More than 80% of native grassland ecosystems across North America have already been lost
- Since the 1970's, we've seen over 50% decline in grassland bird populations
- No one reason for decline but effect of agricultural intensification is profound

Incentives Program

- Financial incentive for farmers willing to adopt specific BMPs to protect the vulnerable nesting season (April 15 July 1)
 - Delayed Haying
 - Summer Stockpiling
- ➤ Up to \$35 per acre to offset the initial costs of piloting these best management practices



Field Suitability

Size: 20 or more acres are required.

Shape: Square or rectangle fields are preferred (but not required).

Surroundings: Fields surrounded by other hay fields or pastures are preferred over those bordered by forest or development.



Program Enrollment

Application for 2026 is OPEN!

October 1 - November 30

To learn more and apply, visit www.vagrasslandbirds.org/incentives/



or scan the QR code!

Other Offerings

- 1-on-1 site visits to provide advice on habitat management, including pastures, hay fields, meadows, wetlands, riparian areas, etc.
- Connect landowners with other technical service providers and cost-share programs.
- Landowner workshops across the region visit <u>pecva.org/events</u> to learn more!

