

Land Use - FAQ

- When is the application deadline? **November 1**
- What usage qualifies? Forestry with a Forest Management Plan and land used for a bona fide farm, devoted to either the sale of plants and animals or in a qualified soil conservation program.
- Does a family owned farm with no sales qualify? No. The Land Use Program is designed to assure a readily available source of agriculture for the benefit of the community.
- What is the minimum acreage requirement? Five acres for agriculture & 20 acres for forestry
- When must all supporting documents be turned in?
 - New applicants must provide a completed application with the appropriate signatures, a check to cover the application fee(s) AND all requested documents supporting eligibility by the November 1 application deadline
 - Current participants must provide a completed application with the appropriate signatures and supporting documents during the reassessment year which is on a six-year cycle
- What happens if a new owner takes possession of land in the program? The new owner must complete an updated application and remit the necessary fee by November 1 following the transfer date.
- How long does it take to process the application? New application processing can take 30-45 days between the time it takes the land owner to apply and gather necessary documents to be reviewed by our local assessor.
- When does eligibility start? Once all necessary documents are provided and verified a determination can be made. Eligibility can start as soon as the following year.
- How does the office determine who is eligible? Virginia's Land Use Assessment Law created by the General Assembly and local ordinances enacted by the Board of Supervisors determine eligibility requirements to be followed by our office.
- How can I find a Forester to complete a Forest Management Plan? The Virginia Department of Forestry is a great resource and can be contacted at (804) 966-5092. You may also find information at "Find a Forester" on their webpage: <https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/landowner-assistance/find-a-forester/>.
- Once enrolled, what must I do if the land use changes? All changes in use must be reported to the Commissioner's Office within 60 days of the change.
- What is a rollback tax? Rollback tax occurs if land changes from a qualifying to a no qualifying use and is applied to five (5) years plus the current year.