The Million Acre Challenge is for you!

The Million Acre Challenge works with farmers, policy-makers, and consumers to support healthy soils on Maryland farms and across the greater Chesapeake region. This new collaborative project aims to catalyze the growing movement to achieve no fewer than one million acres of healthy soil in Maryland by 2030.

What we’re working on:

- **Offering free testing** for farmers from the Cornell Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health to provide in-depth information about the health of their soil relative to other farms and key management practice recommendations.
- **Opportunities for farmers to learn from other farmers** about innovations, strategies, and successes.
- **Profitability models** that demonstrate how soil health can reduce economic risk and improve farmers’ bottom lines.
- **Tools for informing consumer buying decisions** that can spur demand for food grown in healthy soil.
- **Practical resources** that support research, education, and incentives for soil health practices in our region.

Our Mission: The Million Acre Challenge helps Maryland farmers build soil health, increase farm profitability, and improve water quality — while making farms resilient and active in the face of climate change. Our farmer-focused collaborative uses soil health science, economics, education, and incentives to achieve our mission.

The Million Acre Challenge is a collaborative project of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Fair Farms (a project of Waterkeepers Chesapeake), Future Harvest, Hatcher Group, the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Project partners work closely with farmers, farm educators, agencies, scientists and consumers to supply critical tools and resources that support soil health in Maryland and throughout the region.

To learn more or get involved, contact Amanda Cather, Project Director, at amanda@millionacrechallenge.org or 240-812-2896.