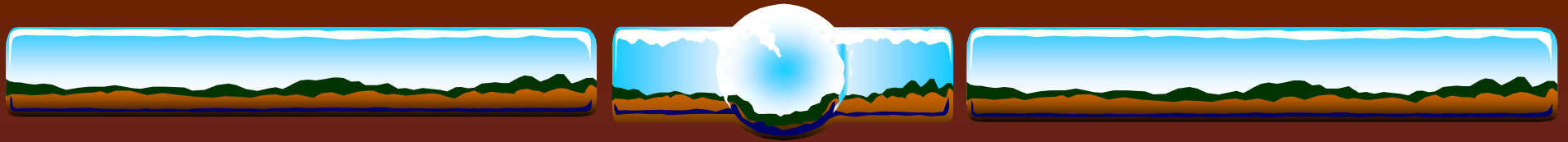


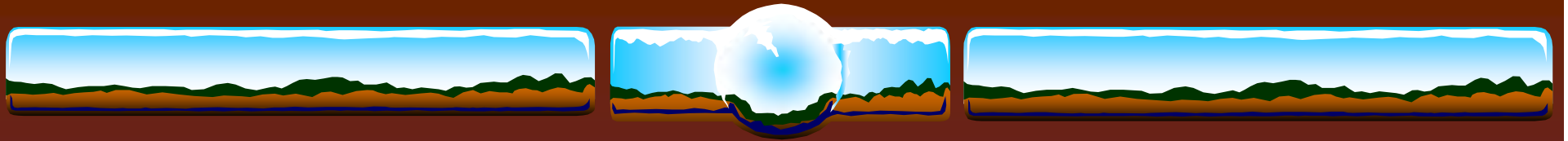
# Targeting Priority Ag BMPs in Virginia

- ❖ History
- ❖ Players
- ❖ Process
- ❖ Implementation



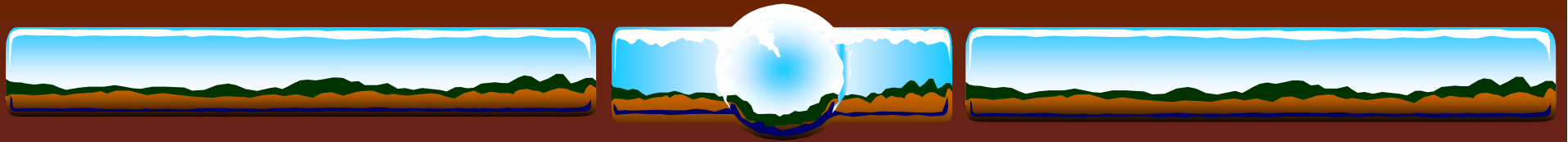
## VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation

- ❖ Virginia DCR offers cost-share on 34 AG BMPs
  - ❖ Typically 75% of implementation cost
    - ❖ Some paid by the acre (flat rate, others component cost plus flat rate)
  - ❖ BMP specifications adopted and modified since 1984
  - ❖ VA state tax credits 25% of out of pocket cost
- ❖ An additional 15 Ag BMPs offer tax credit only



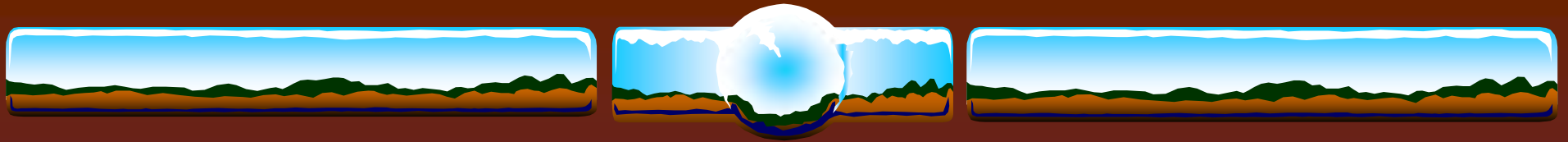
# VA's Biggest Water Quality Issues

- ❖ Chesapeake Bay N, P, & Sediment Reduction Goals
- ❖ Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)
  - ❖ 90% of impaired stream segments
    - ❖ Benthic or Bacteriologic Impairments



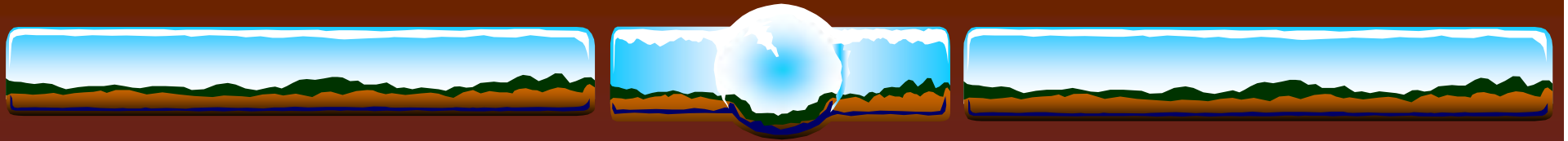
# US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Model

- ❖ Used as a prediction tool to assess outcomes from management scenarios
- ❖ Provided results of model runs evaluating 34 BMPs to the Chesapeake Bay Commission
- ❖ Prioritized
  - ❖ BMPs that keep nutrients out of the environment
  - ❖ Reliability of the BMP
  - ❖ Political reality and likelihood of reliable financing



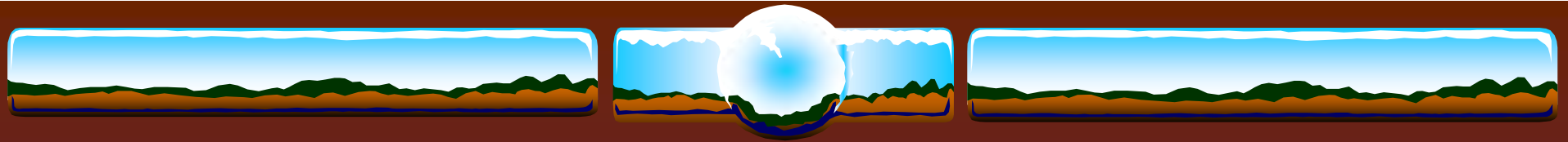
# Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)

- ❖ A Tri-State (PA, MD, VA) Legislative Commission
- ❖ To provide information and advice to any member of the three General Assemblies
- ❖ Signatory of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement
- ❖ Involved in all Chesapeake Bay Program policy and implementation decisions



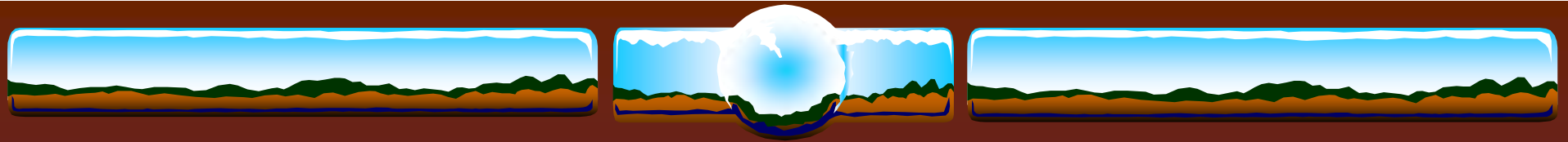
# In 2004 the CBC Published "Cost-Effective Strategies for the Bay"

- ❖ 6 Smart Investments for Nutrient and Sediment Reductions
- ❖ Identifying Most Cost Effective Ag BMPs for Reducing Nutrient and Sediment Loadings to the Chesapeake Bay



# Top BMPs Identified

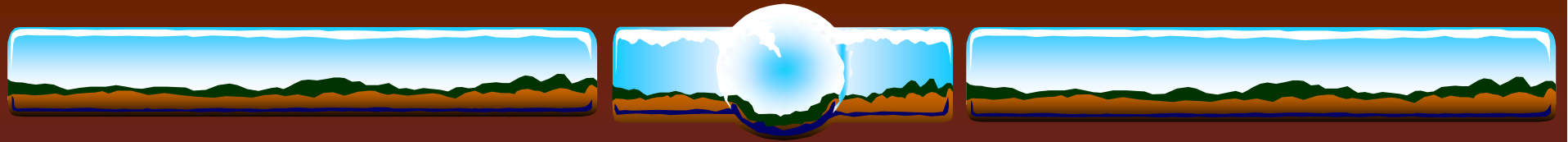
- ❖ Diet and Feed Adjustment
- ❖ Enhanced Nutrient Management (Yield Reserve)
- ❖ Traditional Nutrient Management
- ❖ Conservation Tillage
- ❖ Cover Crops
- ❖ ALSO Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades



# Cost Share Opportunities

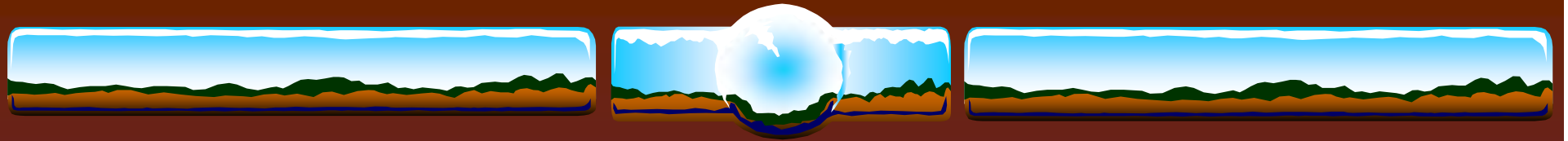
- ❖ In program year 2006 DCR identified existing VA cost-share Ag BMPs that addressed the cost-effective practices
  - ❖ Cover Crops
    - ❖ SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover on Crop Land
    - ❖ SL-8 Protective Cover for Specialty Crops
    - ❖ SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient Management
    - ❖ WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop
  - ❖ Conservation Tillage
    - ❖ SL-15A Continuous No Till System





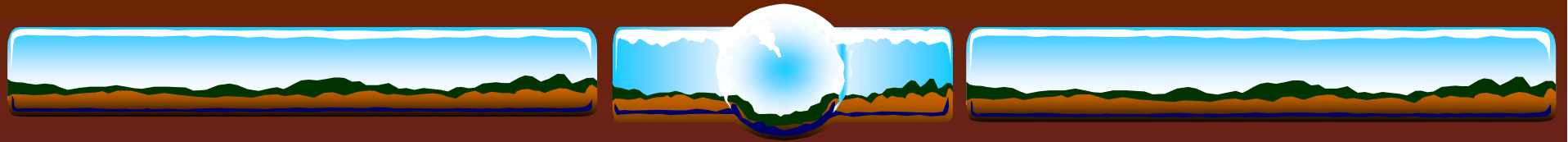
# Nutrient Management

- ❖ Revised Nutrient Management Planning Cost-Share specifications
  - ❖ NM-1 Nutrient Management Plan Writing
  - ❖ NM-2 Nutrient Management Plan Implementation
    - ❖ Three years of implementation with an annual payment each year
    - ❖ Keeps farmers and plan writers in communication
    - ❖ Pays farmers to provide records of nutrient applications and self certify compliance with NMP



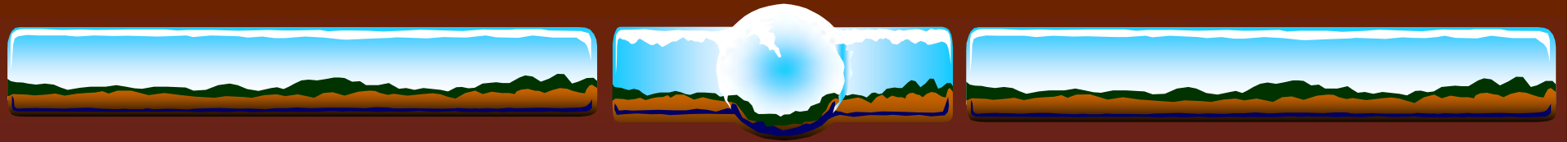
# Other Nutrient Management BMPs

- ❖ NM-3 sidedress nitrogen application on corn
- ❖ NM-3B organic nutrient application on corn using pre sidedress nitrate test to determine need for sidedress nitrogen
- ❖ NM-4 Late winter split application of nitrogen on small grain



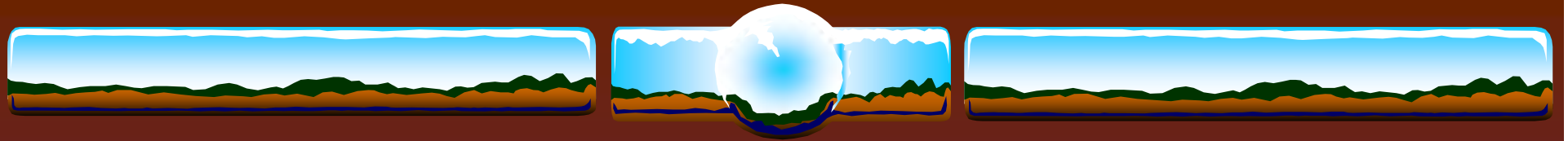
# Development of Contracted BMPs

- ❖ Designed to assure farmers of program funding, (one approval three years of cost-share payments)
- ❖ Convince the VA General Assembly of the need to continuously fund Ag. BMP cost-share
- ❖ Three Year Contracts for cover crops and nutrient management planning



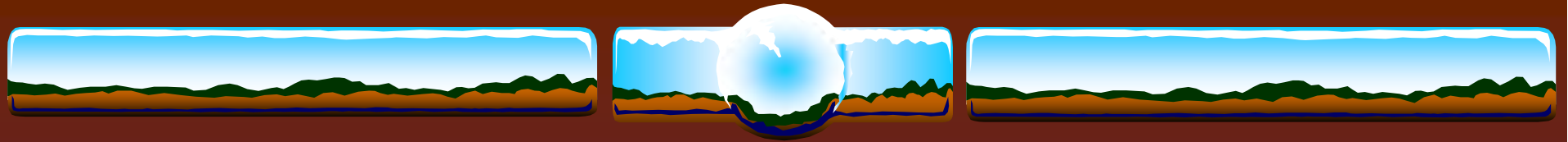
# Other Water Quality Priorities

- ❖ DCR identified existing BMPs that address other major water quality issues
- ❖ Benthic and bacteriologic impairments
- ❖ Stream Exclusion practices
  - ❖ SL-6 Grazing Land Protection
  - ❖ WP-2 Stream Protection
- ❖ Riparian Buffer Restoration



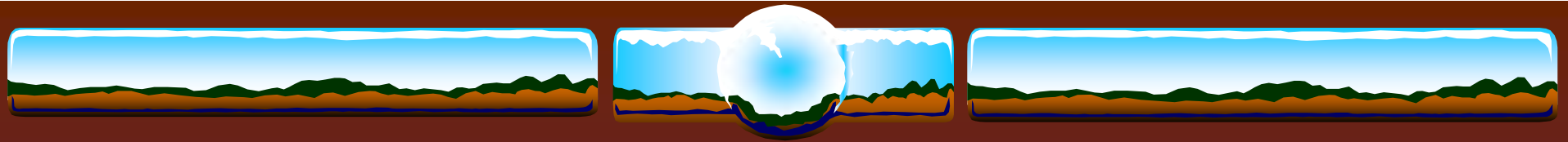
# VA's Five Priority Practices

- ❖ Nutrient Management
- ❖ Conservation Tillage
- ❖ Cover Crops
- ❖ Stream Exclusion
- ❖ Restoration of Riparian Buffers



# Targeted Cost-share Funding

- ❖ Divided cost share dollars into base, priority, and contracted allocation categories
- ❖ Base category
  - ❖ Can fund any BMP in the manual including Priority Practices
- ❖ Priority Practice category
  - ❖ Can only fund identified priority practices
- ❖ Contracted practice category
  - ❖ Nutrient Management Planning & Implementation



# Program Year 2008 Cost-Share Funding

- ❖ 60% of funding focused on priority practices
- ❖ Developed two new priority practices
  - ❖ SL-15 B Continuous No Till Forage Production System
  - ❖ SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop



## For more Information

- ❖ VA DCR webpage

- ❖ <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/>

- ❖ VA Ag. BMP Cost Share Program (VACS)

- ❖ [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil & water/costshare.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_water/costshare.shtml)

- ❖ VACS Manual

- ❖ <http://192.206.31.46/agbmpman/toc.pdf>