I. AFBF Environmental Issues Conference May 31-June 3, 2011

AFBF Environmental Issues Conference

May 31- June 3, 2011
Sheraton Waterside
Norfolk, Virginia

Agenda

May 31		
	Arrive.	
5:30 PM	Welcome Reception	
7:00 PM	Dinner on your own	
June 1		
7:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet	
8:00 AM	Welcome to Virginia	Wilmer Stoneman, VFBF
8:10AM	Review of Agenda and Introductions	Wilmer Stoneman, VFBF Don Parrish, AFBF
8:15 AM	Overview of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL	Anthony Moore Assistant Secretary for Chesapeake Bay Restoration
8:40 AM	Chesapeake Bay Commission: History and Role in the Watershed	Delegate John Cosgrove VA House of Delegates
9:00 AM	Demystifying the Chesapeake Bay Model, Is There a Better Way?	Dana York, President Green Earth Connection, LLC
9:30 AM	The Clean Water Act Yesterday vs. Today	Susan Bodine, Barnes and Thornburg LLP Brooks Smith, Hunton & Williams
10:30 AM	Break/ Email Message Check	
10:45 AM	Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Panel Discussion	Chris Pomeroy, Aqualaw Larry Land, VA Association of Counties Mike Toalson, VA Homebuilders Assoc. Bill Street, James River Association Katie Frazier, VA Agribusiness Council
Noon	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Water Roundtable Discussion	State Staff
2:00 PM	Air Roundtable Discussion	State Staff
3:00 PM	Break / Email Message Check	
3:30 PM	Energy Roundtable Discussion	State Staff
4:30 PM	Adjourn for the day and Dinner on your own.	

June 2

7:00 AM	Continential Breakfast	
7:30 AM	Depart for Tour	
9:00 AM	New Kent Forestry Center	John Carroll, Deputy State Forester
10:00 AM	Depart	
10:30 AM	Dorey Park Welcome Virginia Agriculture The Agriculture Stewardship Program	 Wayne Pryor, VFBF President Matt Lohr, Commissioner Darrell Marshall, VDACS
11:45 AM	Lunch	
12:15 PM	Depart the Dorey Park	
1:30 PM	Tour Chippokes Farm and Forestry Museum	Bill Jacobs, DCR
2:00 PM	Best Management Practices Program	Gary Moore, DCR
2:20 PM	Depart Chippokes	
2:45 PM	Arrive at Smithfield, VA	
3:00 PM	Smithfield Packing Tour	Smithfield Staff
4:30 PM	Smithfield Foods Welcome	Dennis Treacy, Vice President
5:00 PM	Virginia Marine Resources Overview	Steve Bowman, Commissioner
5:30 PM	Dinner Hosted by Smithfield Packing	
8:00 PM	Depart Smithfield, VA	
9:00 PM	Arrive Hotel.	

June 3

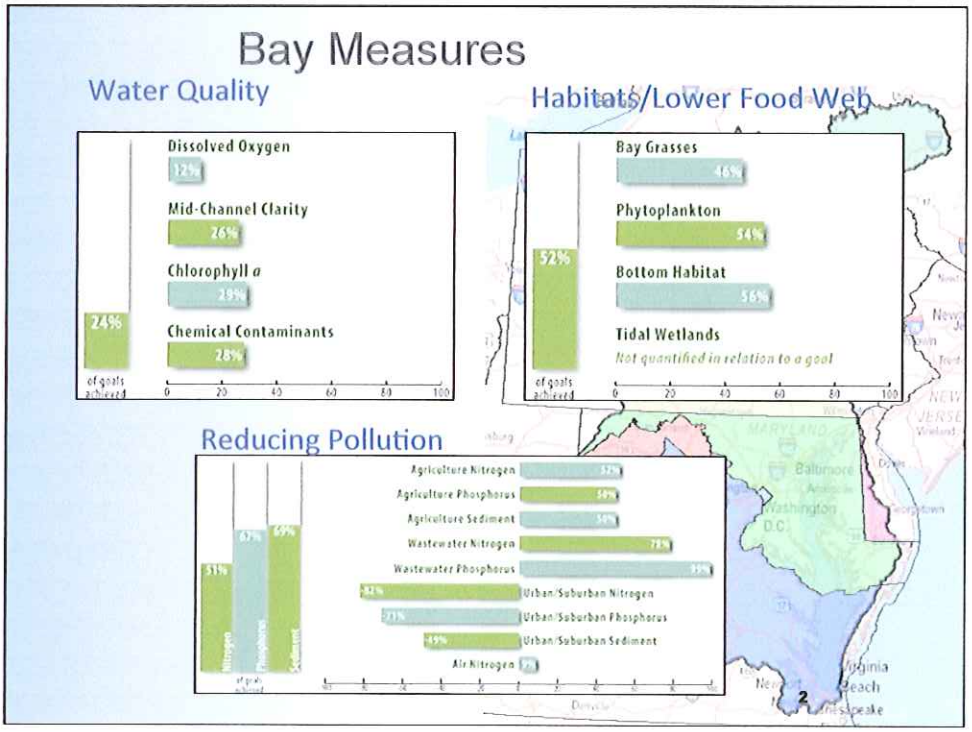
7:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet	
8:30 AM	Wildlife Roundtable Discussion	State Staff
9:30 AM	Miscellaneous Discussion	State Staff
10:30 AM	Wrap Up and Plans for 2012	Don Parrish
11:00 AM	Adjourn	

First	Last	State	Title	RSVP	Phone	Email	Hotel	Jacket	Boot
Larry	Antosch	Ohio Farm Bureau	Senior Director, Program Innovation and Environmental Policy	Yes	614-246-8264	lantosch@ofbf.org	Yes	XL	10
Kent	Askren	Kansas Farm Bureau	Water Resources Specialist	Yes	785-234-4535	askrenk@kfb.org	Yes	L	10
Susan	Bodine					susan.bodine@BTLaw.com	Yes		
Jay	Bragg	Texas Farm Bureau	Associate Director, Commodity and Regulatory Activities	Yes	254-751-2234	jbragg@txfb.org	Yes	XL	13
Staci	Braswell	Florida Farm Bureau Federation	Director, Government & Community Affairs	Yes	352-538-0279	staci.braswell@ffbf.org	Yes	L	9
Joe	Cain	Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation	Director, National Affairs & Political Education	Yes	502-303-3663	Joe.Cain@kyfb.com	Yes	XXL	11
Sandy	Clark	North Dakota Farm Bureau	Public Policy Director	Yes	701-224-0330	sclark@ndfb.org	Yes	XXL	6
Anne	Coan	North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation	Director of Environmental Affairs	Yes	919-788-1005	anne.coan@ncfb.org	Yes	XXXL	6
Kathleen	Early	American Farm Bureau Federation	Director, Legal Research and Services	Yes	503-406-3617	kearly@fb.org	Yes	L	8
Matt	Erickson	American Farm Bureau Federation	Economist	Yes	202-406-3625	matthewe@fb.org	Yes	L	10
Ryan	Farley	American Farm Bureau Federation	Public Policy Assistant	Yes	202-406-3689	ryanf@fb.org	Yes	L	10
Ryan	Findlay	Michigan Farm Bureau	National Affairs Coordinator	Yes	517-256-4375	rfindla@michfb.com	Yes	XL	12
Christina	Gruenhagen	Iowa Farm Bureau Federation	Government Relations Counsel	Yes	515-225-5528	cgruenhagen@ifbf.org	Yes	L	8
Guy	Hall	Alabama Farmers Federation	Governmental & Agricultural Programs	Maybe	334-451-2892	ghall@alfafarmers.org	Yes	XL	10
Craig	Head	Nebraska Farm Bureau	State Director, Governmental Relations & Regulatory Affairs	Yes	402-477-3214	craigh@nefb.org	Yes	XXL	12
Elizabeth	Jones	American Farm Bureau Federation	Director, Congressional Relations	Yes	503-406-3686	elizabethJ@fb.org	Yes	XXL	10
Matt	Kapp	Michigan Farm Bureau	Land Stewardship Specialist	Yes	517-323-2027	mkapp@michfb.org	Yes	L	10
Rick	Krause	American Farm Bureau Federation	Senior Director, Congressional Relations	Yes	202-406-3664	rkrause@fb.org	Yes	XL	10
Ned	Meister	Texas Farm Bureau	Commodity and Regulatory Activities	Yes	254-751-2457	nmeister@txfb.org	Yes	XL	12
Brett	Moline	Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation	Director, Public and Governmental Affairs	Yes	307-721-7711	bmoline@wyfb.org	Yes	XXL	10
Bill	Neilson	Pennsylvania Farm Bureau	Natural Resources Director	Yes	717-761-2740 x542	WANeilson@pfb.com	Yes	L	10
Don	Parrish	American Farm Bureau Federation	Senior Director, Regulatory Relations	Yes	503-406-3667	donp@fb.org	Yes	L	10
Marla	Peek	Oklahoma Farm Bureau	Director of Regulatory Affairs	Yes	405-523-2437	Marla.Peek@okfb.org	Yes	XL	8
Scott	Piggott	Michigan Farm Bureau	Manager, Agricultural Ecology	Yes	517-323-2021	spiggott@michfb.org	Yes	XL	11
Danielle	Quist	American Farm Bureau Federation	Senior Counsel for Public Policy	Yes	503-406-3618	daniellеq@fb.org	Yes	n/a	n/a
Gene	Richardson	Texas Farm Bureau	Associate Director	Yes	254-751-2263	grichardson@txfb.org	Yes	L	8
Emily	Ries	Michigan Farm Bureau	Agricultural Ecology Specialist	Yes	517-323-7000 x2026	erles@michfb.com	Yes	XL	9
Rick	Robinson	Iowa Farm Bureau Federation	Environmental Policy Advisor	Yes	515-225-5432	rrobinson@ifbf.org	Yes	XL	11
Justin	Schneider	Indiana Farm Bureau	Staff Attorney	Yes	317-692-7835	jschneider@infarmbureau.org	Yes	L	9
Andrew	Smith	Virginia Farm Bureau Federation	Senior Assistant Director, Governmental Relations	Yes	804.290.1021	Andrew.Smith@vafb.com	Yes	n/a	n/a
Wilmer	Stoneman	Virginia Farm Bureau	Associate Director	Yes	804-290-1024	Wilmer.stoneman@vafb.com	Yes		
Steve	Swaffar	Kansas Farm Bureau	Director of Natural Resources	Yes	785-234-4535	swaffars@kfb.org	Yes	XXL	13
Evan	Teague	Arkansas Farm Bureau	Environmental Specialist, Coordinator, Swine	Yes	501-228-1335	Evan.Teague@arfb.com	Yes	XL	11
Tyler	Wegmeyer	American Farm Bureau Federation	Director, Congressional Relations	Yes	202-406-3663	tylerw@fb.org	Yes	XL	12
Curt	Williams	Florida Farm Bureau Federation	Assistant Director, SW Florida & St. Johns River Water Management Districts Liaison, Water, Natur	Yes	352-316-2685	curt.williams@ffbf.org	Yes	L	11
Andy	Wittington	Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation	Environmental Programs Specialist	Yes	601-977-4238	awhittington@msfb.com	Yes	XL	11
Dana	York					dyork818@yahoo.com	Yes		
Bob	Young	American Farm Bureau Federation	Chief Economist	Yes	202-406-3620	boby@fb.org	Yes	XL	9
Brooks	Smith								

Demystifying the Chesapeake Bay Model- Is There a Better Way? OR Getting Farmers Full Credit for Conservation Practice Application in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Project Sponsors:
National Association of Conservation Districts in cooperation with USDA

Bay Measures



Presidential Executive Order

- May 12, 2009: President Obama issues Executive Order 13508 on Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection
- Called the Chesapeake Bay a "national treasure" and ushered in new era of shared federal leadership, action and accountability

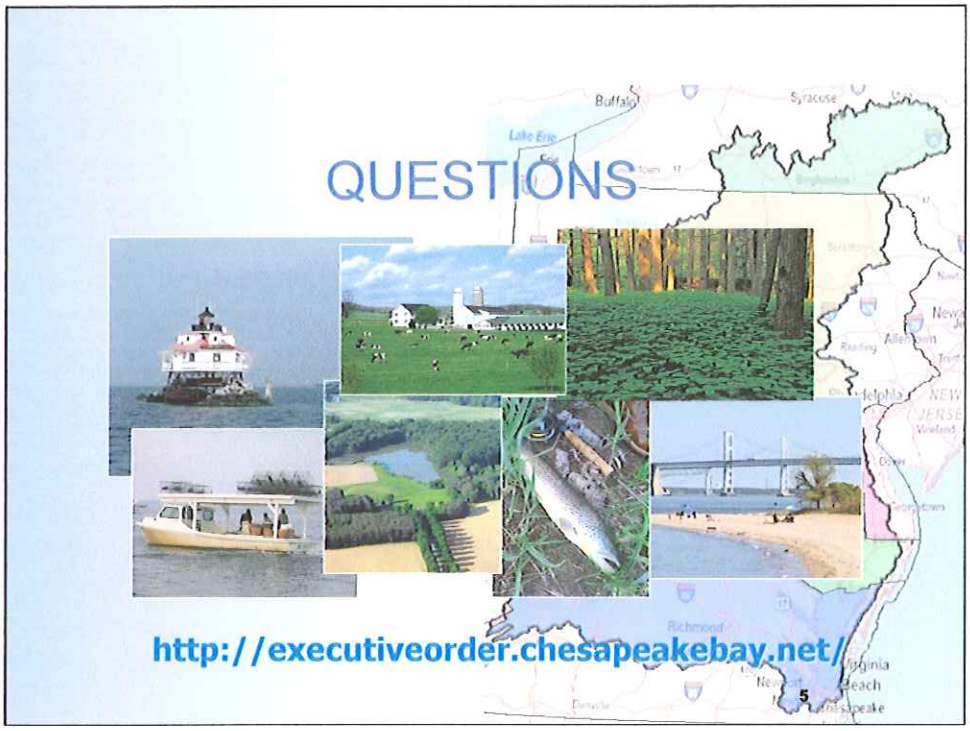
Chesapeake Bay Strategy

USDA 2011 Strategy

Key Goal: implement new conservation practices on 4 million acres of agricultural lands by 2025.

Key Actions:

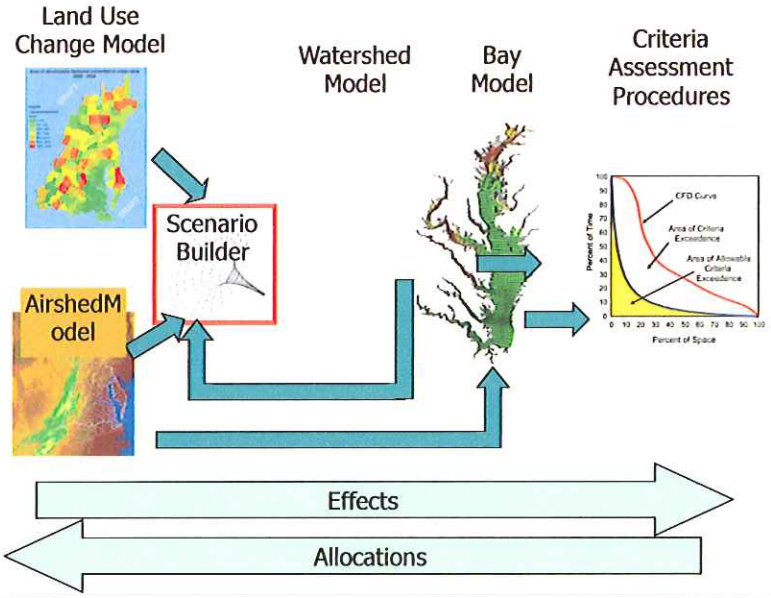
- Target CBWI funding to priority watersheds and priority practices.
- Lead an interdepartmental Environmental Market Team to develop the standards and protocols for environmental markets.
- Work to improve the reporting system for all conservation practices.
- Establish Showcase watersheds to demonstrate results in limited geographic areas through increased outreach and technical assistance.



Conservation Practice Implementation - Desired Outcome

- To have a full accounting of all conservation practice implementation on Agricultural Lands in the Chesapeake Bay States.
- Desired Goals:
  - Develop a sustainable cost effective record system for all conservation practices in the 6 Bay States.
  - Reduce differences between state input to EPA.
  - Reduce Agricultural Land Practice TMDL Implementation Requirements.
  - To provide data that will assist in a more accurate estimate of future conservation needs on Agricultural Lands.
  - To effectively direct scarce resources to solutions that get the most cost effective results for water quality while promoting agricultural production sustainability.

Suite of Bay Modeling Tools

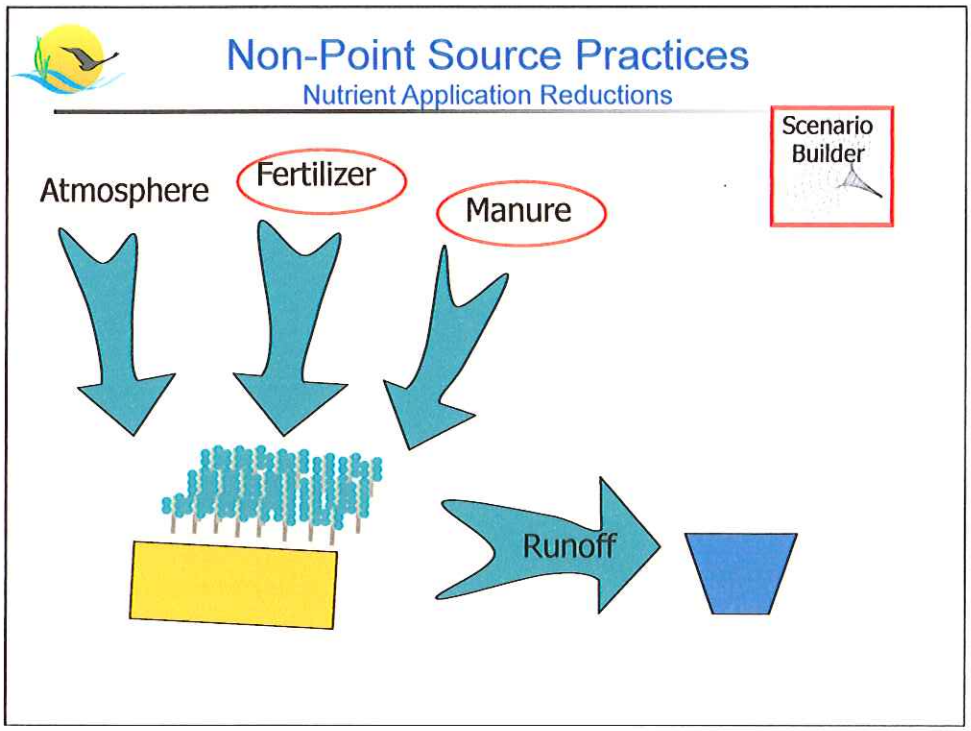


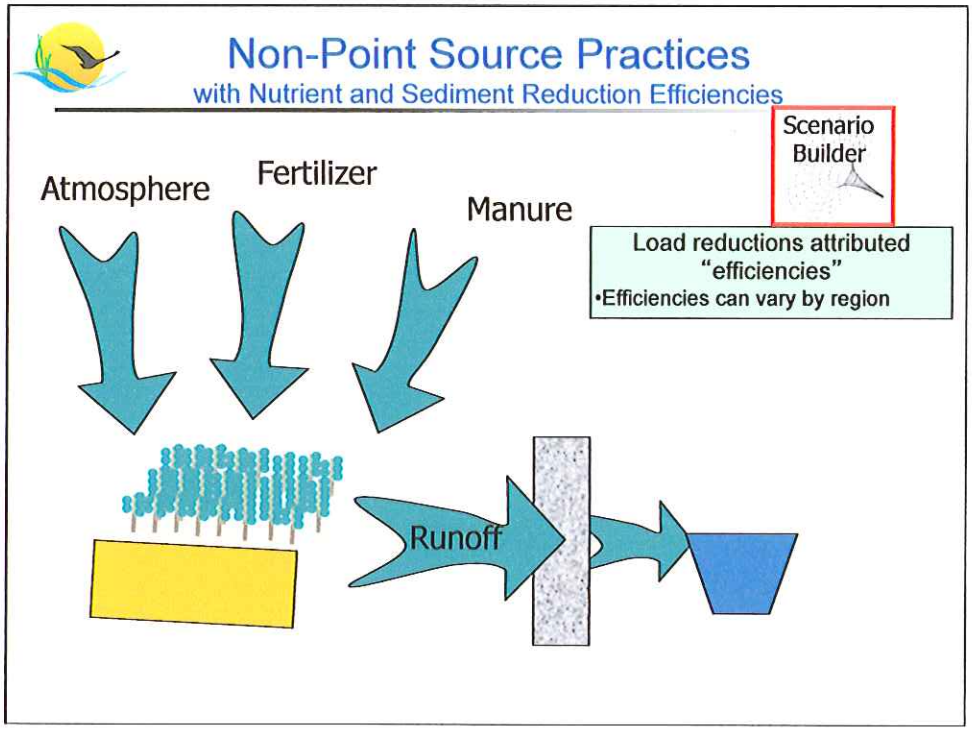
LCM info combined into Scenario Builder

Each segment consists of separately-modeled land uses:

- Pervious Urban
- Impervious Urban
  - Regulated and non-regulated versions of the above
- Construction
- Extractive
  - Combined Sewer System versions of the above
- Forest/Wooded/Open
- Harvested Forest
- Row crops (high till)
- Row crops (low till)
- Vegetable Crops
- Pasture
- Fertilized Hay
- Alfalfa
  - Nutrient management versions of the above
- Nursery
- Degraded Riparian Pasture
- AFO/CAFO
- Unfertilized Hay

4


Non-Point Source Practices
Nutrient Application Reductions
Scenario Builder
Atmosphere
Fertilizer
Manure
Runoff


Non-Point Source Practices
with Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Efficiencies
Scenario Builder
Atmosphere
Fertilizer
Manure
Load reductions attributed "efficiencies"
•Efficiencies can vary by region
Runoff

CBP Agricultural BMPs

Nutrient Management
- Nutrient Management
- Precision Agriculture
- Enhanced Nutrient Management

Conservation Tillage
- Continuous No-Till
- Conservation Tillage

Cover Crops
- Cover Crops – Late Planting
- Cover Crops – Early Planting
- Small Grain Enhancement – Late Planting
- Small Grain Enhancement – Early Planting

Pasture Grazing BMPs
- Alternative Watering Facilities
- Stream Access Control with Fencing
- Prescribed Grazing
- Precision Intensive Rotational Grazing

Other Agricultural BMPS
- Forest Buffers
- Wetland Restoration
- Land Retirement
- Grass Buffers
- Forest Buffers
- Tree Planting
- Carbon Sequestration/Alternative Crops
- Conservation Plans/SCWQP
- Animal Waste Management Systems
- Mortality Composters
- Water Control Structures
- Non-Urban Stream Restoration
- Poultry Phytase
- Poultry Litter Management
- Dairy Precision Feeding and Forage Management
- Swine Phytase
- Ammonia Emissions Reductions

CBP Urban/Suburban BMPs

Other Urban/Suburban BMP
- Forest Conservation
- Impervious Surface and Urban Growth Reduction
- Forest Buffers (Urban)
- Tree Planting (Urban)
- Grass Buffers (Urban)
- Stream Restoration (Urban)
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Nutrient Management (Urban)
- Street Sweeping
- Forest Buffers (Mixed Open)
- Wetland Restoration (Mixed Open)
- Tree Planting (Mixed Open)
- Nutrient Management (Mixed Open)
- Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Non-Urban Stream Restoration (Mixed Open)
- Dirt and Gravel Road Erosion and Sediment Control (Mixed Open)

Stormwater Management
- Wet Ponds and Wetlands
- Dry Detention Ponds and Hydrodynamic Structures
- Dry Extended Detention Ponds
- Urban Infiltration Practices
- Urban Filtering Practices
- Recent/Retrofit Stormwater Manageme

Septic BMPs
- Septic Connections
- Septic Denitrification
- Septic Pumping

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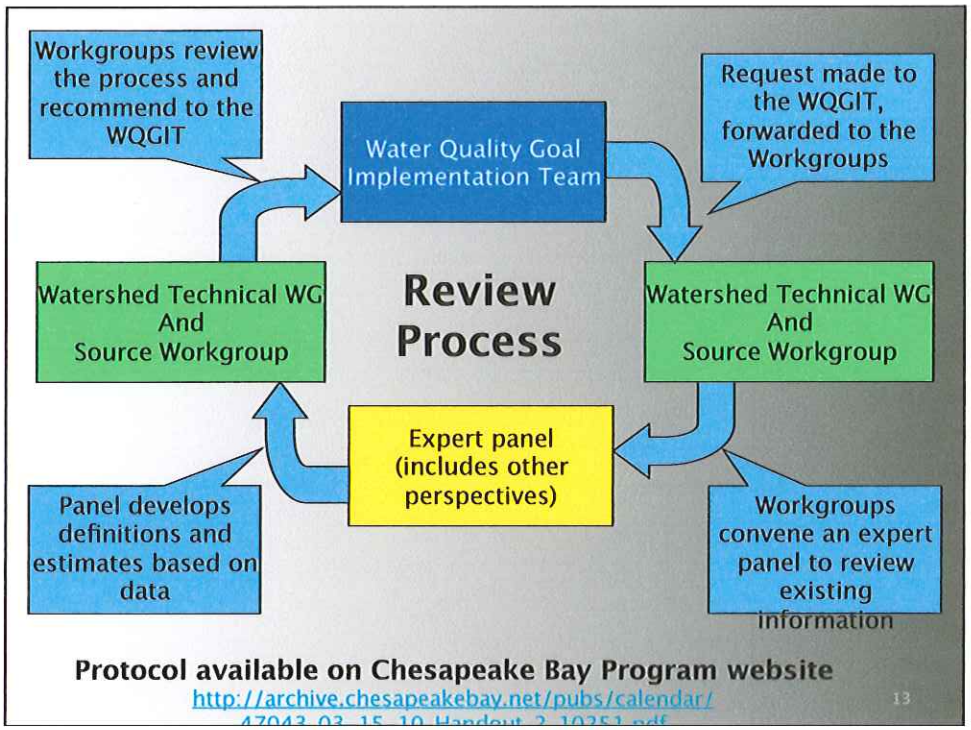


Interim CBP Agricultural BMPs

Nutrient Management
- Irrigation Management
- Passive Hay Management

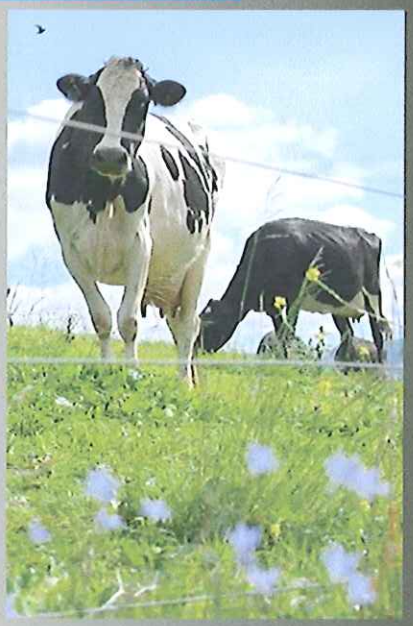
Manure Management
- Liquid Manure Injection
- Poultry Litter Injection
- Manure Processing Technology
- Poultry Litter Amendments

Mortality Management
- Mortality Incineration

Soil Amendments
- Phosphorus Absorbing Materials

Nursery Management
- Nursery Runoff Management

Non-Cost-Shared Practices

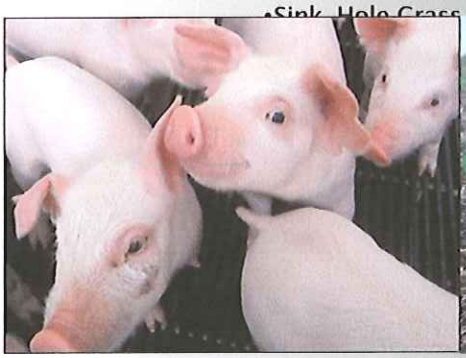


Proposed CBP Agricultural BMPs

Manure Management
- Heavy Use Area Poultry Pads
- Poultry Litter Management

Stormwater Management
- Agricultural Stormwater Management

Sinkhole Management
- Sink Hole Grass Buffers



NRCS Conservation Planner Plug-In

The Plug-In module allows planners who are not NRCS employees to access the NRCS National Conservation Planning database (NCP), using privately owned computers and third-party planning software, to check out client plan information and check completed plans back to the database.

By allowing non-NRCS planners to check plans directly into NCP, NRCS staff will not need to manually input planned practices into Toolkit for later program funding.

NRCS has contracted with GeoAgro, a Florida-based software developer, to provide initial transaction handler services for the Plug-In application through their planning software, CPlanner.

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National Resources Inventory

NRI-CEAP Cropland surveys

- Sample sites were fields associated with a subsample of NRI sample points [classified as "cultivated cropland"]
- Conducted 2003 - 2006 nationally
- USDA-NASS field staff conducted farmer interviews
- Data from farmer interviews plus regular NRI data = input into the "process models" used to generate estimates of sediment & chemical transport, etc.

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Overview of NutrientNet/NTT

- Versions of tool developed for Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland
- Calculation tool for estimating on-farm nitrogen and phosphorus losses
- Interactive farm mapping
- Credit registry
- Credit marketplace

National Resources Inventory

NRI Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management Survey

- To become annual part of the NRI survey program
- Quite similar to the data collection efforts for the original "NRI-CEAP Cropland Farmer Surveys"
- Pilot Project -- to be conducted in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed this year

National Resources Inventory

Pilot Project

- Data to be collected starting late 2011 by USDA-NASS enumerators
- Sample of 1,500 NRI sites selected by Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (Iowa State University)
- Will include the 735 sample fields that were part of 2003 - 2006 survey

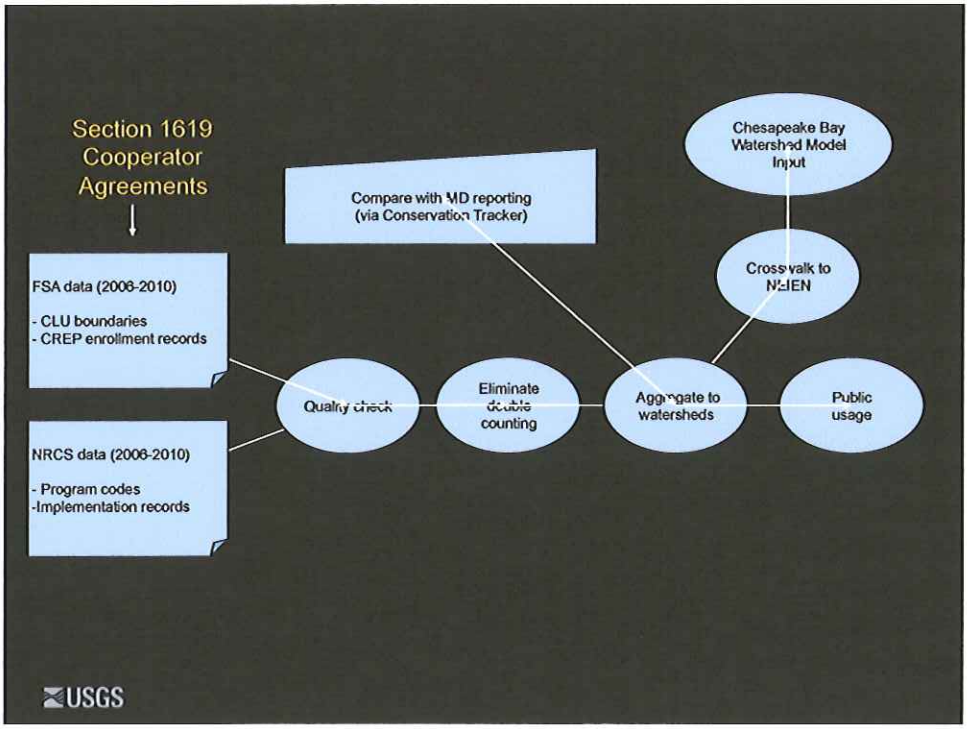
USGS
science for a changing world

Aggregating and Reporting NRCS and FSA Conservation Program Data

Peter Claggett and Dean Hively
U.S. Geological Survey
Eastern Geographic Science Center

May 11, 2011

•U.S. Department of the Interior
•U.S. Geological Survey



Data Collection Systems

System	Method	Sample Size	Verification
1. Farm by Farm Inventory	Farm visit by trained personnel	100%	Through on-site visit by trained personnel while collecting data
2. Farmer Self Certification with Onsite visit	Farmer fills out survey and trained personnel visit site to confirm	100% (Return rate by the farmer affects %)	Through on-site visit by trained personnel
3. Farmer Self Certifications	Farmer fills out survey and mails back	100% (Return rate by the farmer affects % completed in sample)	By Farmer self certification when submitted
4. Use of Existing federal, state or District records	Trained personnel review existing farm data on practice implementation	<100%(Depends on the completeness of the records in the office)	Trained personnel verify through knowledge of the farm or through calls made to the farmer
5. Transect of County or Watersheds	Transect completed by trained personnel in selected areas of County or Watershed	Statistically Determined	Verified by the trained personnel completing the transect on the ground
6. Farmer Reported at USDA office	Farmers go to USDA office and reports practices (similar to FSA crop reporting)	100% (Rate will be affected by farmers who do not respond)	Farmer certified during the visit at USDA office
7. NASS Survey	NASS survey mailed to farm community.	NASS determined %. Return rate will affect outcome	NASS certification procedures
8. Aerial Photography Remote Sensing	Remote Sensing determination of practice implementation	100% or other statistically selected amount	Verification usually involves determining photographic signatures by field checks to determine accuracy of office determination
9. NRI Point or some other statistically selected sites	Remote Sensing or Field Visit to the points.	100% of Points selected completed	Verification can be same as Aerial Remote Sensing method or by visit to each site to collect and certify data

System Development and Implementation

Development Decisions:
- What to collect
- Where to collect
- Protocol (how) to collect
- Existing System Update or Design a New System?
- Training on System Selected
- Pilot System
- Reliability/Validity Testing
- Adjust System/Training
- Communication Strategy
- Implementation
- Reliability/Validity Testing
- Future Year Systems?

Success Considerations:
- Cost of system selected
- Technical Assistance requirements
- People or Technology Intensive
- Sustainability of System for Future Year Collections
- Landowner Acceptance
- State Agency Acceptance
- EPA Acceptance
- Public Acceptance
- Culture Change Requirements

Findings to Date

- States are unified in their desire to collect data on as many practices on the ground as possible,
- All wish to do a farm by farm inventory by trained professionals
- All realize this is expensive but gives the best possible results with strong Ag community support.
- Money, people and priorities are major issues.

Non-cost Shared Practices

- Some state want to collect information on everything (all non-cost shared, meeting NRCS standards or Functional Equivalents)
- Others want to evaluate the return (in Bay Model credits) for the investment (personnel and system costs) before jumping into action

Prominent Practices

- Because there is wide variance in federal and state cost share programs between states there must be a method for collecting any and all practices whether cost shared or not.
- Example: Cover Crops are cost shared can be cost shared in one state, but not other states. Some receive federal and state funding (double counting issue). Even federal EQIP practices may not be the same from state to state.

Issues to be explored

- Legal issues surrounding collection of voluntary practices:
  - FOIA for state collected data
  - Permission from landowners to collect
  - Requirement for maintenance of practices
  - Creating landowner ineligibility for future cost-sharing
- Other activities on practice collection:
  - NRCS/FSA data transfer to USGS
  - CEAP Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Mgt. Survey
- Data Issues:
  - Data collection and verification protocol acceptance by EPA.
  - Acceptance of practices and assignment of efficiencies by Ag Working Group and EPA.
  - Double counting on jointly funded practices.

Agricultural Community's Goals

- Land adequately and properly treated from a resource protection perspective.
- Land that meets the TMDL goal for each acre, field, farm in the watershed.
- Verify all Conservation Practices, BMP's on the ground, managed and maintained properly.
- Viable, vibrant and competitive agricultural production for agricultural producers in the Chesapeake Bay.

Questions

- Bob Ensor, 410-489-7987, rensor@howardcountymd.gov
- Dana York, 410-708-6794, dyork818@yahoo.com

J. NACD Non-Cost Shared Conservation Practice Protocol Public Meeting, June 27, 2011. Meeting Materials and Power points.

Invitation to the National Association of Conservation Districts information sharing meeting on the Chesapeake Bay Non-Cost Shared Conservation Practice Protocol Project.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) would like to extend an invitation to you to attend a presentation on the Protocol Project. This meeting will provide an opportunity for you to hear NACD's progress on developing a protocol for gathering information on non-cost shared conservation practices within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

There will be a time of discussion and sharing suggestions after the presentations.

The meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2011, at the Baltimore County Agricultural Center, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030. The local phone number there is 410-527-5920. We will start at 10AM and will end by 2PM, lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by June 22 to rensor@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-489-7987 (Howard Soil Conservation District) .

National Association of Conservation Districts

Public Meeting on Voluntary Conservation Practices in the Bay

June 27, 2011

Baltimore County Ag Center

1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

Agenda:

10-10:15	Welcome Introductions	Rich Duesterhaus, NACD Bob Ensor
10:15-11:15	Providing Farmers Full Credit for Conservation Practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Bob Ensor, Dana York
11:15-11:45	Questions and Answers	Bob Ensor, Dana York
11:45-12:45	Lunch 1 hour catered and funded by NACD Networking and discussion	
12:45-1:00	So...you have a protocol – What's next?	Bob Ensor, Dana York
1-2	Questions, Comments	Bob Ensor, Dana York

NACD Protocol Meeting Overview:

Purpose of Project: To develop a protocol for data collection and verification of non-cost shared BMP's that will feed into the Bay Model.

Very direct, simple and straightforward...but very complicated.

In order to understand where we are on this project you have to understand:

1. A little about the Bay Model and how it works,

2. What goes into a Data Collection Protocol Development, what are the proper steps, thoughts and tests,

3. What goes into a Verification Protocol Development, what are the proper steps, thoughts and tests,

4. How does "Certainty" or "Safe Harbor" fit into the picture,

5. What states are doing and considering , Plans A & B, as well as the costs and benefits of each option,

6. All of the external forces, other groups and other efforts that may be happening that meld with this initiative ,

7. What has to happen to make it successful at the state and Bay Model level,

8. Next steps to make it happen.

NACD Non-Cost Share Conservation Practice Protocol Meeting

June 27, 2011

Meeting Rules:

1. This is an informational forum. We will strive to answer all your questions, but forums of this nature have the best results when civility is observed in public discourse.
2. One speaker at a time,
3. So we can hear from as many speakers as possible the Moderator has the responsibility to stop discussion at any time,
4. Please hold questions until the end of the presentations. The answer may be in the next slide,
5. We ask that questions and discussion be brief and to the point. Again-so we can hear as many questions and view points as possible.
6. Please raise your hand when you have a question and then please identify your Name, Organization and where you are located.

- We will attempt to answer all questions relevant to the NACD Project.

- Neither EPA nor USDA will be represented, so questions that those groups can and should answer will be recorded, answers will be sought and provided to the entire group via email at a future date. So please make sure you have signed in so we have your contact information.

June 27, 2011 NACD Protocol Project Meeting

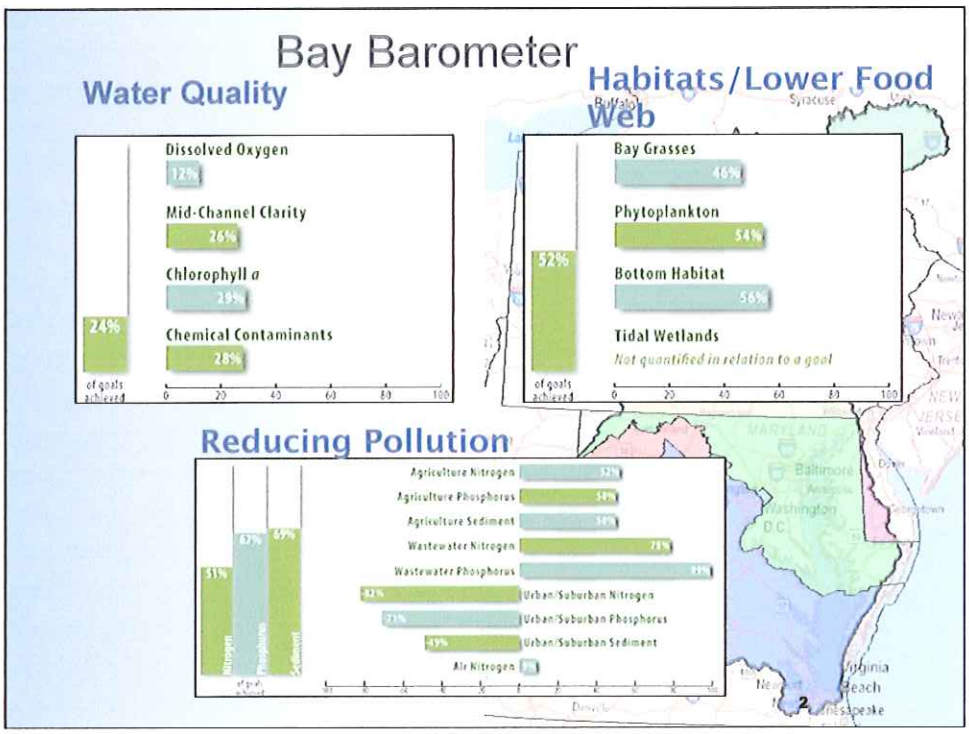
Name	Organization	Email	Phone	Attending
Nancy Nunn	Harry Hughes Center for Agroecology	nnunn@umd.edu;	410-827-8056 X 128	
J. David Foster	Chester River Assoc., Riverkeeper	riverkeeper@chesterriverassociation.org;	410-810-7556 X 303	
Pat Stuntz	Keith Campbell Foundation	Pstuntz@campbellfoundation.org;		
Verna Harrison	Ketih Campbell Foundation	vharrison@campbellfoundation.org;		
Doug Siglin	Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Dsiglin@cbf.org;	443-482-2171	
Alix Murdoch	Chesapeake Bay Foundation			
Jody Johnson	Van Arsdall & Associates	jdjohnson@epi.umaryland.edu;		
Lynne Hoot	MD Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts	lynnehoot@aol.com;	410-956-5771	
Kate Rosenfeld	DC Legislative & Regulatory Services	Krosenfeld@dclrs.com;	202-872-8440	
Connie Musgrove	UMD Center for Env. Science, CBFN Agriculture Initiative	Musgrove@ca.umces.edu;	443-336-3612	
Valerie Connelly	Maryland Farm Bureau	Valeriec.mdfb@verizon.net;	410-922-3426	
Jeremy Peters	National Farmers Union	jpeters@nfudc.org;	202-554-1600	
Don McNutt	Lancaster Co. Conservation District	DonMcNutt@lancasterconservation.org;	717-299-5361 717-222-0795	
Kelly O'Neill	Chesapeake Bay Foundation-HBG	KONeill@cbf.org;		
Bill Satterfield	Delmarva Poultry Institute	Satterfield@dpichicken.com;		
Ann Marsh	Heinz Center	marsh@heinzcenter.org;		
Karl Brown	PA State Soil Conservation Committee	Kbrown@state.pa.us;		
Steve Tagland	Commonwealth of PA	stagland@state.pa.us		
Matt Monroe	WV Dept of Agric.	mmonroe@ag.state.wv.us;	304-538-2397	
Sarah Taylor	WV Dept of Agric.	staylor@ag.state.wv.us;	304-229-5828 X 7510	
Brad Heavner	Environment Maryland	bsh@environmentmaryland.org;	410-467-0439	
J.C. Berger	VA Association of Conservation Districts	JCBerger@vabb.com;	804-394-2725	
Jim Baird	American Farmland Trust	Jbaird@aft.org;		

June 27, 2011 NACD Protocol Project Meeting

Shannon Walker	American Farmland Trust			
Drew Koslow	Mid Shore River Conservancy	drew@midshoreriverkeeper.org;	410-533-2753 (cell)	
Theaux LeGardeur	Gunpowder River Conservancy	keeper@gunpowderriverkeeper.org;	410-967-3526 (cell)	
Tom Leigh	Miles/Wye River	tom@midsshoreriverkeeper.org;	443-995-5570	
Mark Dubin	University of MD	mdubin@chesapeakebay.net;		
Lara Moody	The Fertilizer Institute	lmoody@tfi.org;	202-515-2721	
Kelly Shenk	EPA	shenk.kelly@epamail.epa.gov;		
Sally Bradley	Water Stewardship, Inc	sallyb@wataerstewardshipinc.org;	410-350-0329	
Jason Keppler	MD Dept of Agriculture	KeppleJD@mda.state.md.us;		
Yet to be named	USDA, NRCS, MD			
Rich Duesterhaus	National Assoc of Conservation Districts	Rich-Duesterhaus@nacdnet.org;	202-547-6223	
Dana York	Green Earth Connection	dyork818@yahoo.com;	410-708-6794	
Bob Ensor	National Assoc of Conservation Districts	rensor@howardcountymd.gov;	410-489-7987	

Providing Farmers Full Credit for Conservation Practice Application in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Project Sponsors:
National Association of Conservation Districts in cooperation with USDA-NRCS



Presidential Executive Order

- May 12, 2009: President Obama issues Executive Order 13508 on Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection
- Called the Chesapeake Bay a "national treasure" and ushered in new era of shared federal leadership, action and accountability

Chesapeake Bay Strategy

USDA 2011 Strategy

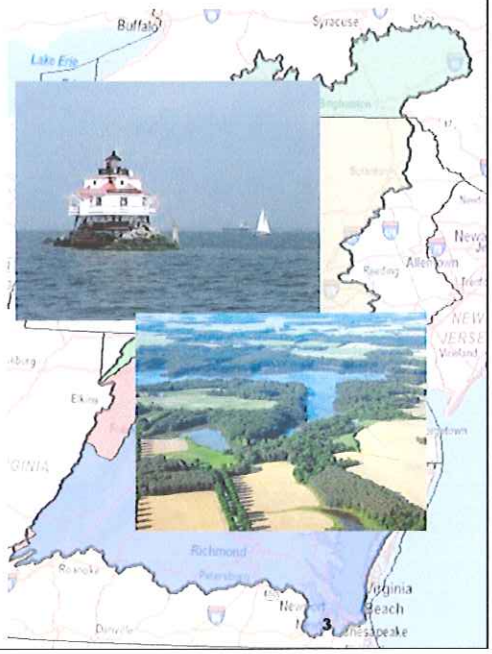
Key Goal: implement new conservation practices on 4 million acres of agricultural lands by 2025.

Key Actions:

- Target CBWI funding to priority watersheds and priority practices.
- Lead an interdepartmental Environmental Market Team to develop the standards and protocols for environmental markets.
- Work to improve the reporting system for all conservation practices.
- Establish Showcase watersheds to demonstrate results in limited geographic areas through increased outreach and technical assistance.

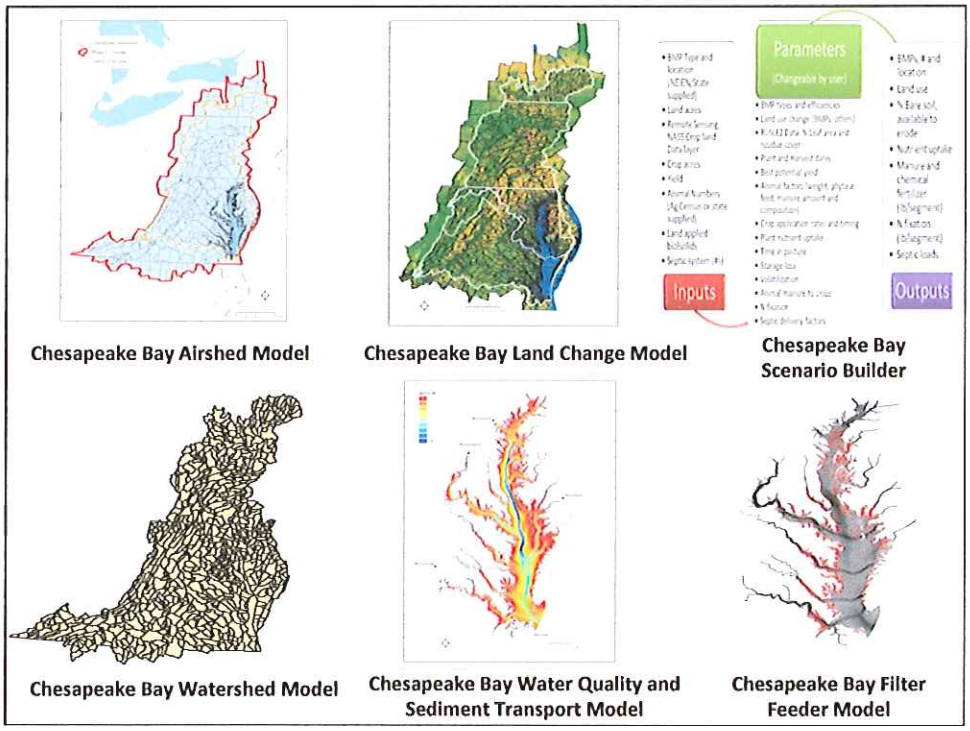
Presidential Executive Order

- Develop a system of accountability for tracking and reporting conservation practices:
  - By July 2012, mechanisms for tracking and reporting of voluntary conservation practices and other best management practices installed on agricultural lands will be developed and implemented.



Conservation Practice Implementation - Desired Outcome

- To have a full accounting of all conservation practice implementation on Agricultural Lands in the Chesapeake Bay States.
- Desired Goals:
  - Develop a sustainable cost effective record system for all conservation practices in the 6 Bay States.
  - Reduce differences between state input to EPA.
  - Reduce Agricultural Land Practice TMDL Implementation Requirements.
  - To provide data that will assist in a more accurate estimate of future conservation needs on Agricultural Lands.
  - To effectively direct scarce resources to solutions that get the most cost effective results for water quality while promoting agricultural production sustainability.



Chesapeake Bay Airshed Model

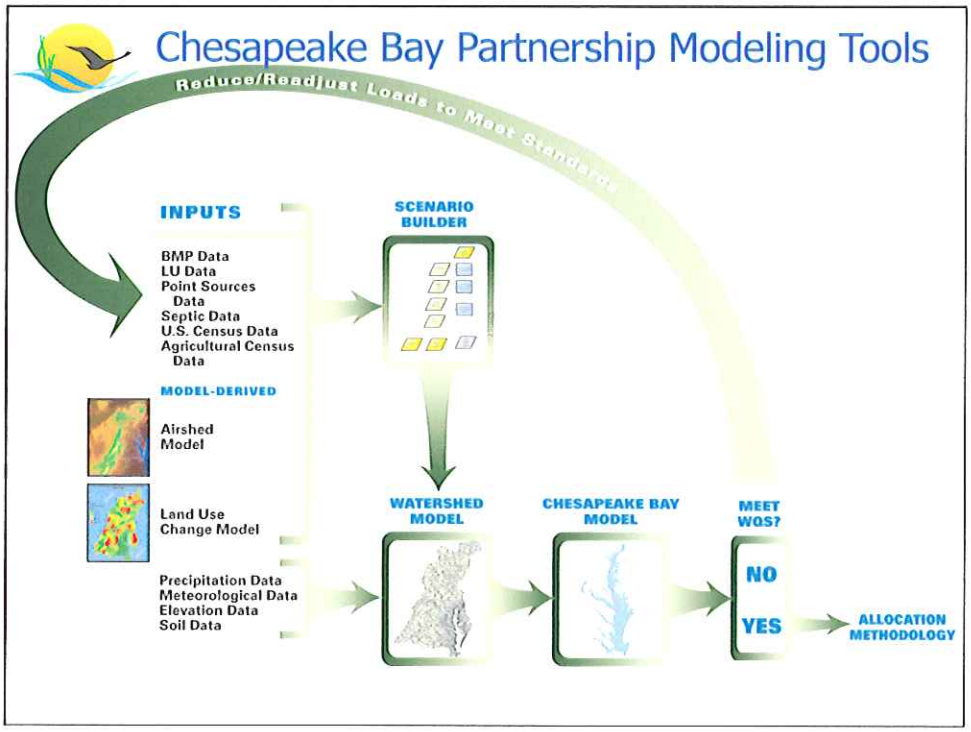
Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model

Chesapeake Bay Scenario Builder

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

Chesapeake Bay Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model

Chesapeake Bay Filter Feeder Model



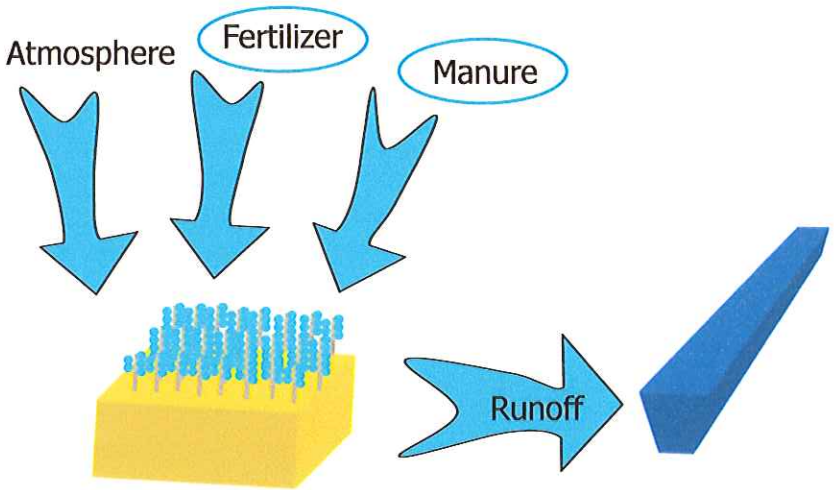
Each segment consists of separately-modeled land uses:

- Pervious Urban
- Impervious Urban
  - Regulated and non-regulated versions of the above
- Construction
- Extractive
  - Combined Sewer System versions of the above
- Forest/Wooded/Open
- Harvested Forest
- Agriculture

Row crops (high till)
Row crops (low till)
Vegetable Crops
Pasture
Fertilized Hay
Alfalfa
✳ Nutrient management versions of the above
Nursery
Degraded Riparian Pasture
AFO/CAFO
Unfertilized Hay

4

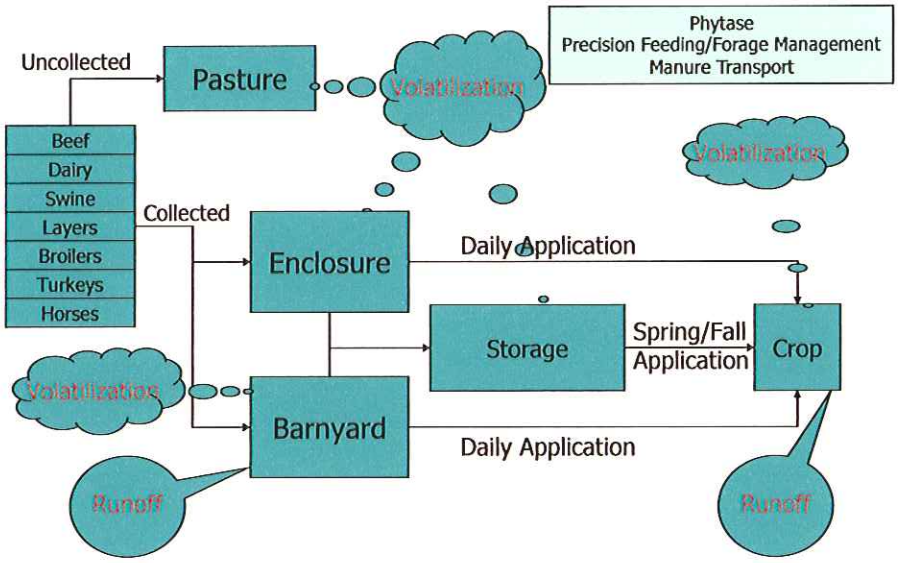
Non-Point Source Practices and Programs
Nutrient Management Applications



10 28

Non-Point Source Practices and Programs

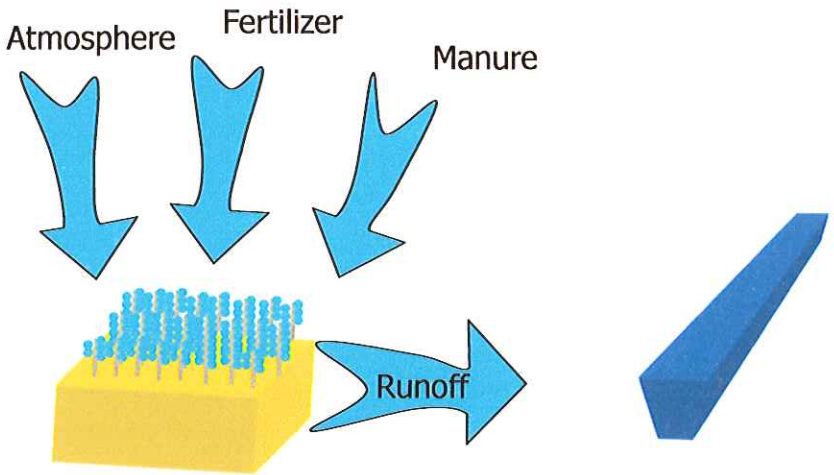
Practices that Alter Nutrient Applications to Agriculture Land



11

Non-Point Source Practices and Programs

Practices With Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Efficiencies



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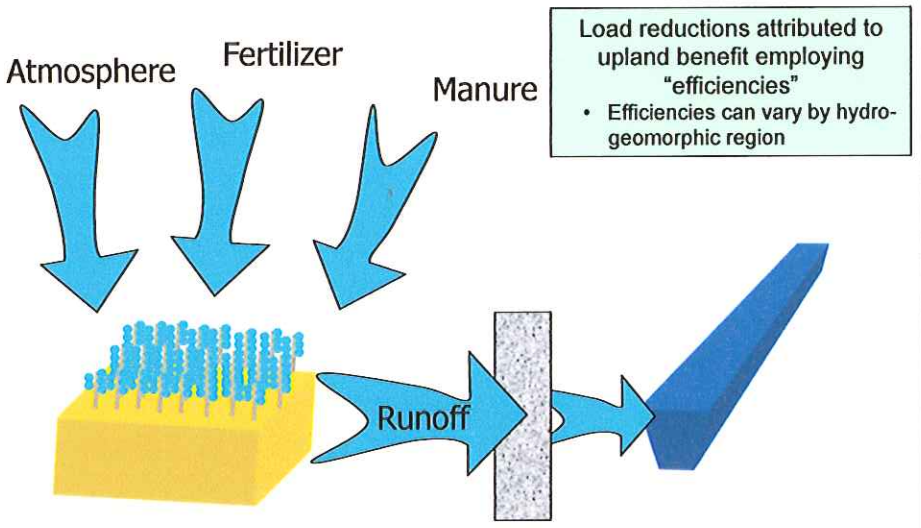
Non-Point Source Practices and Programs

Practices With Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Efficiencies



Load reductions attributed to upland benefit employing "efficiencies"
- Efficiencies can vary by hydro-geomorphic region

13

Current Agricultural BMP List in Model

Nutrient Management
- Nutrient Management
- Precision Agriculture
- Enhanced Nutrient Management

Conservation Tillage
- Continuous No-Till
- Conservation Tillage

Cover Crops
- Cover Crops – Late Planting
- Cover Crops – Early Planting
- Small Grain Enhancement – Late Planting
- Small Grain Enhancement – Early Planting

Pasture Grazing BMPs
- Alternative Watering Facilities
- Stream Access Control with Fencing
- Prescribed Grazing
- Precision Intensive Rotational Grazing
- Horse Pasture Management

Other Agricultural BMPS
- Forest Buffers
- Wetland Restoration
- Land Retirement
- Grass Buffers
- Forest Buffers
- Tree Planting
- Carbon Sequestration/Alternative Crops
- Conservation Plans/SCWQP
- Animal Waste Management Systems
- Mortality Composters
- Water Control Structures
- Non-Urban Stream Restoration
- Poultry Phytase
- Poultry Litter Management
- Dairy Precision Feeding and Forage Management
- Swine Phytase
- Ammonia Emissions Reductions

Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model Urban/Suburban BMPs – Current List

Other Urban/Suburban BMP
- Forest Conservation
- Impervious Surface and Urban Growth Reduction
- Forest Buffers (Urban)
- Tree Planting (Urban)
- Grass Buffers (Urban)
- Stream Restoration (Urban)
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Nutrient Management (Urban)
- Street Sweeping
- Forest Buffers (Mixed Open)
- Wetland Restoration (Mixed Open)
- Tree Planting (Mixed Open)
- Nutrient Management (Mixed Open)
- Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Non-Urban Stream Restoration (Mixed Open)
- Dirt and Gravel Road Erosion and Sediment Control (Mixed Open)

Stormwater Management
- Wet Ponds and Wetlands
- Dry Detention Ponds and Hydrodynamic Structures
- Dry Extended Detention Ponds
- Urban Infiltration Practices
- Urban Filtering Practices
- Recent/Retrofit Stormwater Managemer

Septic BMPs
- Septic Connections
- Septic Denitrification
- Septic Pumping

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Interim Chesapeake Bay Program Agricultural BMPs – To Add to Model

Nutrient Management
- Irrigation Management
- Passive Hay Management

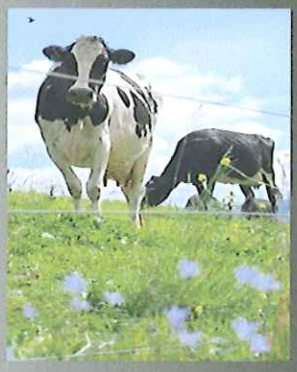
Manure Management
- Liquid Manure Injection
- Poultry Litter Injection
- Manure Processing Technology
- Poultry Litter Amendments

Mortality Management
- Mortality Incineration

Soil Amendments
- Phosphorus Absorbing Materials

Nursery Management
- Nursery Runoff Management

Non-Cost Shared Practices
- Tracking and Reporting

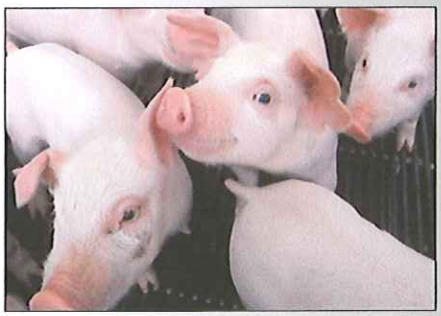


Proposed Chesapeake Bay Program Agricultural BMPs

Manure Management
- Heavy Use Area Poultry Pads
- Poultry Litter Management

Stormwater Management
- Agricultural Stormwater Management

Sinkhole Management
- Sink-Hole Grass Buffers



System Development and Implementation

Development Decisions:
- What to collect
- Where to collect
- Protocol (how) to collect
- Existing System Update or Design a New System?
- Training on System Selected
- Pilot System
- Reliability/Validity Testing
- Adjust System/Training
- Communication Strategy
- Implementation
- Reliability/Validity Testing
- Future Year Systems?

Success Considerations:
- Cost of system selected
- Technical Assistance requirements
- People or Technology Intensive
- Sustainability of System for Future Year Collections
- Landowner Acceptance
- State Agency Acceptance
- EPA Acceptance
- Public Acceptance
- Culture Change Requirements

Data Collection Systems

System	Method	Sample Size	Verification
1. Farm by Farm Inventory	Farm visit by trained personnel	100%	Through on-site visit by trained personnel while collecting data
2. Farmer Self Certification with Onsite visit	Farmer fills out survey and trained personnel visit site to confirm	100% (Return rate by the farmer affects %)	Through on-site visit by trained personnel
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4. Use of Existing federal, state or District records	Trained personnel review existing farm data on practice implementation	<100%(Depends on the completeness of the records in the office)	Trained personnel verify through knowledge of the farm or through calls made to the farmer
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8. Aerial Photography Remote Sensing	Remote Sensing determination of practice implementation	100% or other statistically selected amount	Verification usually involves determining photographic signatures by field checks to determine accuracy of office determination
9. NRI Point or some other statistically selected sites	Remote Sensing or Field Visit to the points.	100% of Points selected completed	Verification can be same as Aerial Remote Sensing method or by visit to each site to collect and certify data

What Systems Are States Currently Using for Data Collection?

- Maryland- Conservation Tracker
- Virginia-Agricultural BMP Tracking Program
- Pennsylvania- Transect Trials- Penn State Model
- West Virginia-Farm by Farm Inventory
- New York-Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM)
- Delaware-NRCS ToolKit-Special Trials

Maryland

- Has completed first once over of state using existing records, knowledge of farms and recorded information in Conservation Tracker.
- Currently piloting farm by farm evaluation, searching for non-cost shared practices in Upper Chester watershed. Developing a data collection/ verification sheet and trial definitions for functionally equivalent practices.
- Using computerized nutrient trading tool to evaluate farm progress toward meeting TMDL goals
- Noting functional equivalent practices in pilot.
- Willing to share system and training materials with other states.

Virginia

- Using system developed in 2010 called Agricultural BMP Tracking Program for a computerized farm inventory of conservation practices in their State cost share and tax credit programs. Contains an accounting system for tracking dollars committed and spent. Maintained by District field office staff.
- Districts develop plans (RMA-Resource Mgt. Area or RPA-Resource Protection Area) that have different buffer strip requirements, noting what additional needs to be done to meet state or NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- Completed a report to the Secretary of Natural Resources in November 2010 for "Development of a Strategy to Collect Data Pertaining to the Voluntary Agriculture and Forestry BMPs". Three Phase Implementation:
  - Phase 1-Pilot in 6 Districts to collect and report data. Draft protocols will be developed for collection, spot checking, data entry and other guidance. Adjust current Tracker to collect voluntary practice data.
  - Phase 2- Pending funding, the focus of data collection will be for practices to help meet the requirements of TMDL.
  - Phase 3- Explore collection of functionally equivalent practices and getting approval to enter them into the Bay Model.

Pennsylvania

- Three Previous Trials:
  - Bradford County Farm Visits to 20% of farms. Took one year to complete. Used some aerial photography and did direct mailing to some Municipalities (95% response rate).
  - Lancaster County BMP Transect using CTIC methodology. Looked at Core 4 practices with 11 technicians. Covered approximately 20% of farms in county. Direct mailings also.
  - RC&D Tillage Survey: in 7 counties using CTIC methodology. Determined residue amounts in the fields at each stop.
- Working with Penn State to develop a farmer friendly nutrient evaluation tool or a one stop conservation plan. Farmer would identify farm and delineate fields and indicate nutrient application into a nutrient balance sheet. System calculates if farmer meets the requirements (red or green) and farmer adjust rates until acceptable. Plan to add a RUSLE soil loss calculation. If TA dollars are available they would send to Districts to verify or do farmer self certification.

West Virginia

- Farm by farm inventory
  - 100 percent of farms by farm visit
- Plans to collect all Non-cost share Best Management Practices
- Would verify through on-site visit by trained personnel while collecting data

New York

- NY State reports BMPs implementation to the EPA through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) of 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in NY
- The process for colleting farmer initiated BMPs starts with the state funded Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program
- AEM is the "umbrella program" that provides a consistent format to efficiently identify environmental concerns and opportunities through a comprehensive on-farm assessment
- AEM is a progressive planning process where district staff use worksheets to take the farmer through a five-tiered process that includes inventory, assessment, plan development, implementation and evaluation that documents the farmers environmental issues and takes into account the farmers resources and timelines
- This approach has been in place for over a decade and has strong Ag community support. Data collection is performed or verified by trained Ag technicians during individual farm visits
- The USC's goal is to collect data on as many conservation practices as possible whether the practice was cost-shared or paid exclusively by the farmer
- The USC is collecting data on non-cost shared practices even if they fail to meet EPA or NRCS standards but have functional equivalency
- The scope and depth of USC partnerships has created strong relationships with key agencies to help the USC provide reliable, consistent data with a network to communicate strategy and outcomes

Delaware

- Utilizing NRCS Toolkit to collect federal, state and 319 cost-shared practices. Also have a state voluntary nutrient management reporting requirement. Tracking manure transport. There are some NGO practices applied in the state.
- Current pilots:
  - Working with Poultry Companies to compile information on voluntary and non-cost shared practices using a check sheet by Flock supervisors.
  - FSA collected data last fall on cover crops when farmers came in to report to get a better handle of actual acreage. Asked if it was a cover crop or commodity crop.
  - Dept of Ag. State Statistician working on survey of voluntary installation of non-cost shared irrigation systems being installed
- Interested in collecting functionally equivalent practices (primarily buffers). Have not developed a system to collect voluntary practices.

Other Options to Explore:

- FSA Data Collection
- NASS Data Collection
- Geo Agro Conservation Plug-In
- World Resource Institute NutrientNet
- NRI Conservation Tillage and Nutrient Management Survey
- USGS Data Sharing Project (NRCS/FSA Data Transfer)
- Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (NRCS)

Findings to Date

- States are unified in their desire to collect data on as many practices on the ground as possible.
- All wish to do a farm by farm inventory by trained professionals.
- All realize this is expensive but gives the best possible results with strong Ag community support.
- Money, people and priorities are major issues.

Non-cost Shared Practices

- Some states want to collect information on everything (all non-cost shared, meeting NRCS standards or Functional Equivalents).
- Others want to evaluate the return (in Bay Model credits) for the investment (personnel and system costs) before jumping into action.

Prominent Practices

- Because there is wide variance in federal and state cost share programs between states there must be a method for collecting any and all practices whether cost shared or not.
- Example: Cover Crops are cost shared in one state, but not other states. Some receive federal and state funding (double counting issue). Even federal EQIP practices may not be the same from state to state.

Issues to be explored

- Legal issues surrounding collection of voluntary practices.
- FOIA for state collected data.
- Permission from landowners to collect information.
- Requirement for maintenance of practices.
- Creating landowner ineligibility for future cost-sharing.
- Data Issues:
  - Defining "functionally equivalent practices", determining how to credit "almost functional equivalent" practices.
  - Data collection and verification protocol acceptance by CBP partnership.
  - Acceptance of practices and assignment of efficiencies by Ag Working Group and CBP partnership.
  - Double counting on jointly funded practices.

Issues to be explored

- Need a "Plan B" - Back up plan in case Plan A cannot be implemented.
  - For example, if funding is insufficient for on-farm assessments, what is back-up plan for tracking and verifying non-cost share practices?

EPA Supports this Effort

- EPA fully supports crediting verified non-cost share practices in the CBP Watershed Model.
- NACD has been providing EPA with regular updates.
- NACD and EPA will be meeting with each state to further discuss state ideas and approaches.
- EPA goal is to have "no surprise" approach so that everyone knows what data and verification protocols are necessary for data to be counted.
- EPA has created a new grant program "CBRAP" that provides an additional $11.2 million which can be used to support these data tracking and verification efforts.

33

Next Steps

- Finalize data tracking and verification protocols with USDA, EPA, NACD and States. Summer 2011.
  - Protocols would include "Plan B" (back-up plan) in event that Plan A can't be implemented.
- Continue Briefings to Chesapeake Bay Program - Summer/Fall 2011
  - Workgroup NACD has briefed Agriculture Workgroup twice and will continue to provide regular updates.
  - Agriculture Workgroup will prioritize developing effectiveness estimates for any non-cost share practices not meeting NRCS standards.
- Test protocols.
- E.O. Strategy date for implementing protocols is July 2012.

34

Agricultural Community's Goals

- Land adequately and properly treated from a resource protection perspective.
- Land that meets the TMDL goal for each acre, field, farm in the watershed.
- Verify all Conservation Practices, BMP's on the ground, managed and maintained properly.
- Viable, vibrant and competitive agricultural production for agricultural producers in the Chesapeake Bay.

Questions

- Bob Ensor, Project Leader, 410-489-7987, Howard County SCD; rensor@howardcountymd.gov
- Dana York, Green Earth Connection; 410-708-6794, dyork818@yahoo.com

SO- You Have a Protocol- What's NEXT?

Bob Ensor and Dana York

1

What Does it Take to Implement the Selected System?

- Accuracy of the collected data is dependent on how well the system was designed, tested and implemented.
- Many steps need to be completed before the first piece of data is collected.
- The time spent on these upfront actions can increase the accuracy of the data by 50%. Lack of taking these actions can make the data incorrect or unusable.

2

There are Many Decisions to Make in the Implementation of a Successful Data Collection System

Development Decisions:

- What to collect
- Where to collect
- Protocol (how) to collect
- Existing System Update or Design a New System?
- Training on System Selected
- Pilot System
- Reliability/Validity Testing
- Adjust System/Training
- Communication Strategy
- Implementation
- Reliability/Validity Testing
- Future Year Systems?

Success Considerations:

- Cost of system selected
- Technical Assistance requirements
- People or Technology Intensive
- Sustainability of System for Future Year Collections
- Landowner Acceptance
- State Agency Acceptance
- EPA Acceptance
- Public Acceptance
- Culture Change Requirements

3

Determining How to Collect the Data is One of the First Critical Decisions

System	Method	Sample Size	Verification
1. Farm by Farm Inventory	Farm visit by trained personnel	100%	Through on-site visit by trained personnel while collecting data
2. Farmer Self Certification with Onsite visit	Farmer fills out survey and trained personnel visit site to confirm	100% (Return rate by the farmer affects %)	Through on-site visit by trained personnel
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4

Do Not Roll out an Un-Tested System.

- Once you have designed your system there are several things you should consider:
  - Ease of use by the data entry individual-is it hard to make changes to data; can you get reports from the system to see what has been entered by whom; in future years who will be able to correct , change, or delete data; etc.
  - System issues-how will you train on data entry; how many people can be on the system at one time; does it connect directly to NEIEN; is the data secure and who has access to data; etc.

5

Training of the Data Collectors Can Make or Break You

- Individuals who collect the data must all similarly understand what they are collecting. This includes the development of definitions that are easily understood and reported the same way each time that situation is found. This is called Reliability.
- Reliability is assured by having good documentation, training sessions and trial tests that are then reviewed to see that each collector is seeing and recording the same thing.
- Trial tests may have to be completed several times, changing the training and documentation each time, until the information provided is adequate for the process used.

6

Certification of the Data Collectors Can Increase Reliability of the Data Collected

- Many times a certification process can be developed to certify the data collectors and data entry individuals.
- A certification process includes: training, multiple collections against a known standard; collection with oversight or observation; and independent collection with verification.
- Once an individual is certified, there are usually refresher course requirements or training when there are changes to what or how the data is collected.

7

Pilot Tests Save You Time and Frustration by Users

- Pilots are important to conduct to: test the training and documentation that has been provided; to get a better estimate of cost and how long the project will take; and to determine if the data collected process is on target for what you intended to collect.
- Pilots also work out the "kink's". It is far better to change everything in a pilot so the system runs smoothly, than to not test and create frustration or a "bad" experience for collectors, and then have to re-enter the same data in a changed system.

8

Data Validity Testing makes Data Credible

- Validity is when you compare data you collected to data from another system of collection to see if you have the same or similar answers.
- Validity checks of the data add credibility to the effort and the system you selected to use.
- It can also be used to check to see if someone is "gaming" the system.

9

Take Time to Develop and Implement a Good Communication Strategy

- Communication Strategies help to alleviate concern.
- You will need three strategies: one for those from whom you are gathering information; one for those who are collecting the data; one for the general public about the overall activity.
- Do not over-promise what you will provide to any of these groups.
- Make sure there is a final report of the outcomes from the effort.
- Communicate often throughout the process: both how is going-- to what did you find out.

10

Data Verification will Support the Upfront Actions in Implementation of Your System

- Data Verification is required to give credibility to the effort.
- The first data verification process is tested during the pilot to determine if the system selected is getting the data you wanted.
- After the system has been tested, data verification is used to test the accuracy of the data collectors. If they have gone through a certification process, usually less verification is needed. However, a 5-20% check of the collected data or of each collector is reasonable.
- Make sure that you make corrections immediately when errors are found to keep data re-entry to the minimum.

11

Field Verification of Conservation Practices for Bay Model (Example)

All practices are OK as reported, meeting standards and specifications, reducing nutrients and sediment as intended.

→

No remedial action required, verify in report to responsible state agency.

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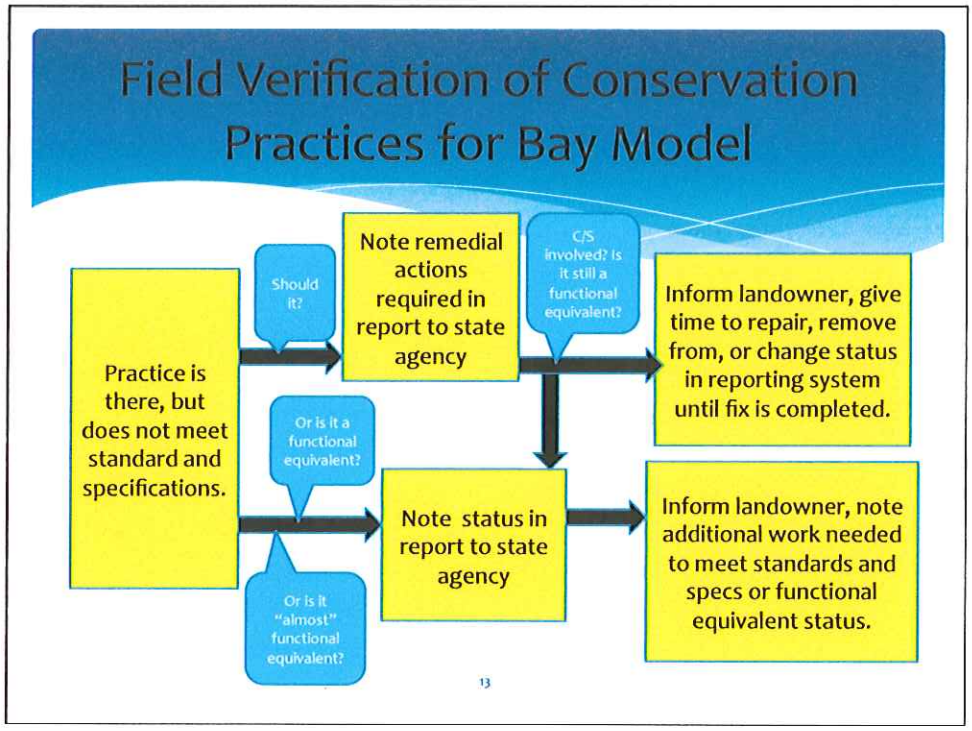
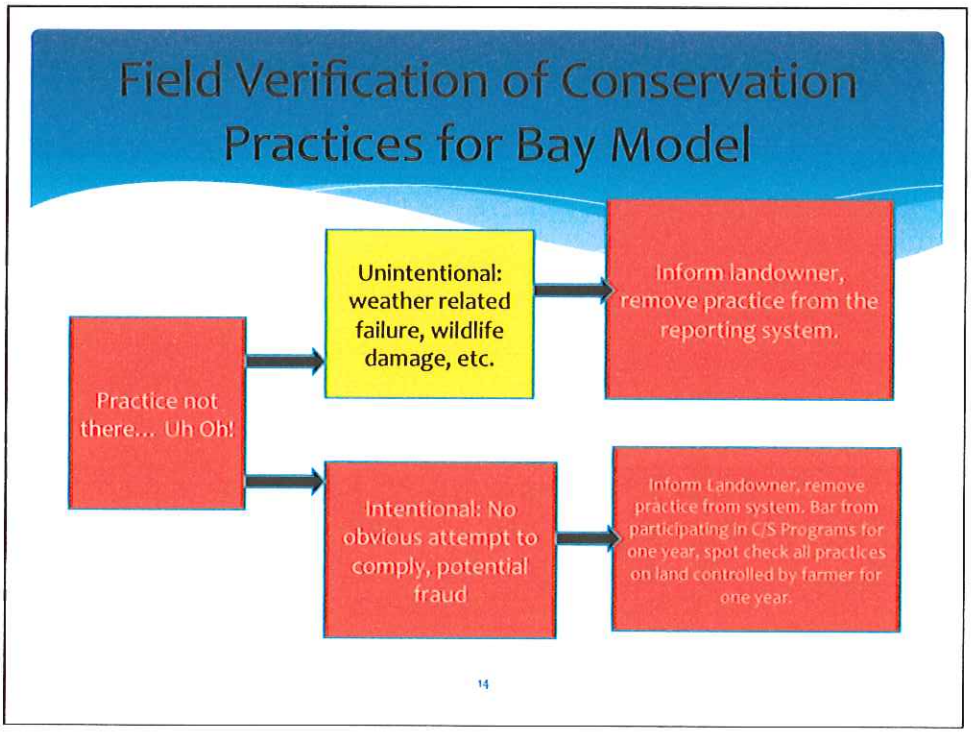

Field Verification of Conservation Practices for Bay Model
Practice is there, but does not meet standard and specifications.
Should it?
Note remedial actions required in report to state agency
C/S involved? Is it still a functional equivalent?
Inform landowner, give time to repair, remove from, or change status in reporting system until fix is completed.
Or is it a functional equivalent?
Note status in report to state agency
Inform landowner, note additional work needed to meet standards and specs or functional equivalent status.
Or is it "almost" functional equivalent?
13


Field Verification of Conservation Practices for Bay Model
Practice not there... Uh Oh!
Unintentional: weather related failure, wildlife damage, etc.
Inform landowner, remove practice from the reporting system.
Intentional: No obvious attempt to comply, potential fraud
Inform Landowner, remove practice from system. Bar from participating in C/S Programs for one year, spot check all practices on land controlled by farmer for one year.
14

Future Years Of Data Collection Can Use Different Systems

- You will need to decide what will you do in future years to collect additional data or to make changes to the data.
- You can go to a less intensive system if you do an intensive baseline survey.
- You should have a good idea of what you will do in future years before you do the first data collection-so you can inform landowners what to expect in the future.

15

"Certainty"

• Certainty is a topic that has been in discussion with USDA/ EPA and States. At this time States want to develop this concept specific to their state. Virginia has already passed a proposed regulation for this concept.

- Options are wide open at this moment,
- Most expect-- If farmer meets TMDL & continues then:
  - Less intense checking for several years (3 – 5?)
  - Farmer must continue to meet TMDL,
  - Farmer is assured no change of the requirements or expectations from what was originally agreed.

16

The Big Job Continues...

* This is a big job. Selection of the protocol that the state will use is just the beginning off the implementation process.
* This data collection protocol is an opportunity for those who are interested to see farmers get full credit for their conservation efforts.

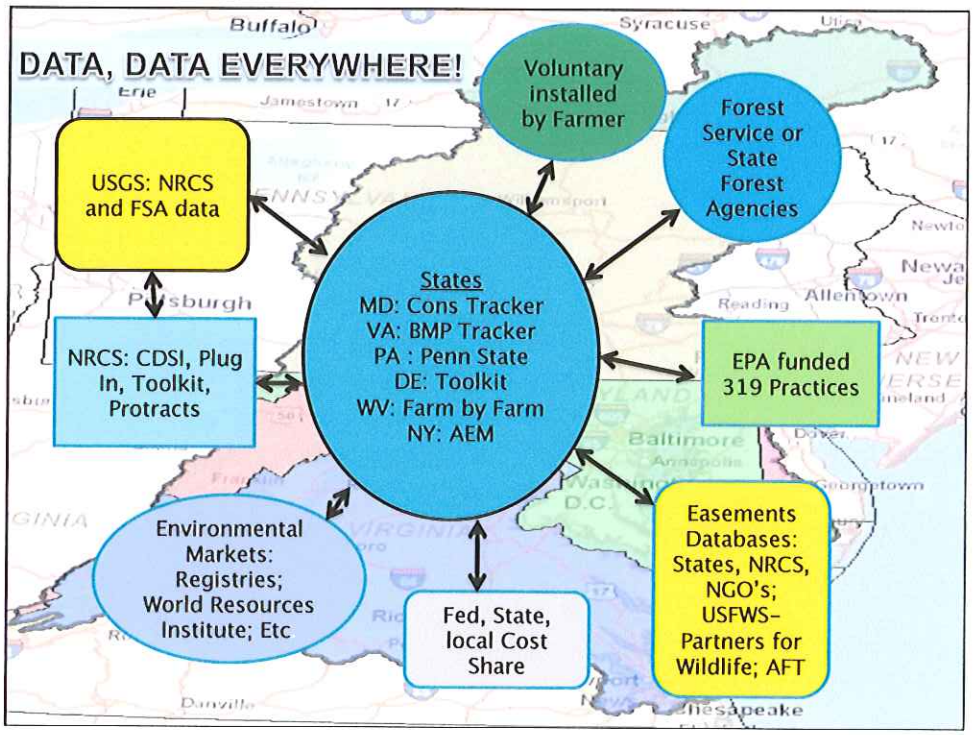
17

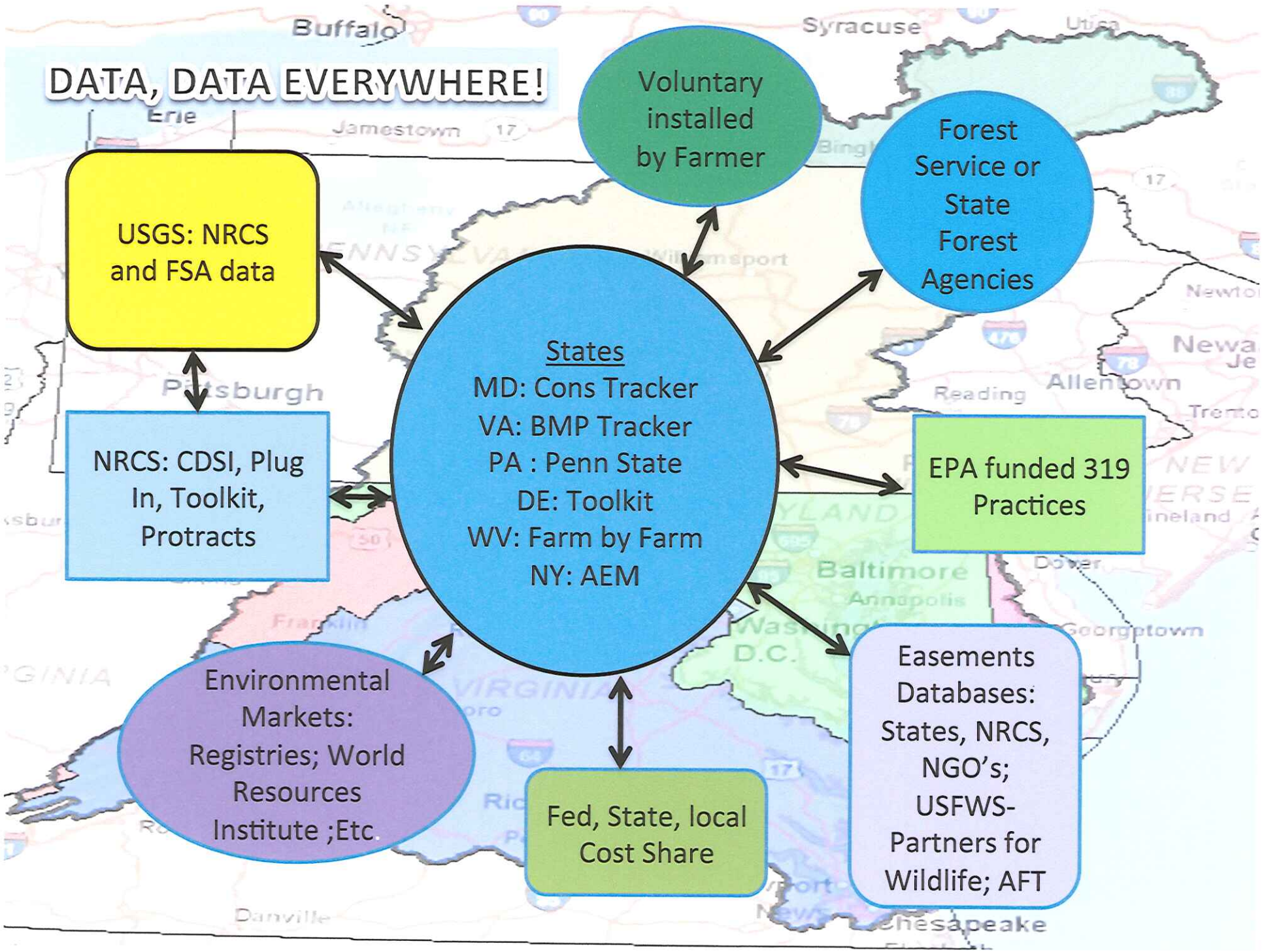
Questions?

Bob Ensor, 410-489-7987, Project Leader,

Dana York, 410-708-6794,

18


DATA, DATA EVERYWHERE!
Voluntary installed by Farmer
Forest Service or State Forest Agencies
USGS: NRCS and FSA data
States
MD: Cons Tracker
VA: BMP Tracker
PA : Penn State
DE: Toolkit
WV: Farm by Farm
NY: AEM
NRCS: CDSI, Plug In, Toolkit, Protracts
EPA funded 319 Practices
Environmental Markets: Registries; World Resources Institute; Etc
Fed, State, local Cost Share
Easements Databases: States, NRCS, NGO's; USFWS– Partners for Wildlife; AFT
Buffalo
Syracuse
Erie
Jamestown
Reading
Baltimore
D.C.
Chesapeake
Danville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NACD Protocol Project Public Meeting- June 27, 2011- Hunt Valley, MD

Comments or Issues Identified during the Question/Comment Sessions: (note: not all questions were given answers since many times this effort was just to make sure we recorded all the comments or statements)

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)- Protection by state varies. In many cases the data in the project will be "public information". States should take that into account.
- A problem for some states in identifying what landowners to contact is that there is not an accurate list of all the landowners in the state.
- Rental Land- This could be a gap in trying to find who is the operator of the land with possible changes each year. It was suggested that most of the records be kept by the landowners name.
- It was suggested that this project should provide who the states contacts are in the project and what practices they will collect and how they propose to collect and verify the data.
- Landowners "overload"- it was suggested that there were so many different entities asking for information that farmers are "tired" of continuing to be asked for information. It was provided is that is why the federal "paper work reduction act" required federal agencies to get clearance from OMB to collect data from landowners. Suggestion was made to try and consolidate the many visits required.
- Virginia has written into their state legislation what information will be collected from landowners.
- It was asked if the collection of forestry practices was part of this project? The response was that only if the state decided to do it (as in VA), but that was normally controlled by the state forestry agency.
- It was mentioned that in the MD easement programs there is a requirement for inspection every year and when this was occurring that perhaps they could collect the conservation practices information also.
- It was stated that the average landowner is "proud of their conservation efforts" and would like to report what they are doing.
- It was stated that the TMDL needs a "compliance mechanism" and that perhaps the state or the districts could carry this out.
- USGS has a lot of information on how they collect data and it was suggested that we could look as some of their standards.
- It was reiterated that farmers should be given credit for what they are doing.
- It was suggested that perhaps this effort could be combined with other collection effort such as nutrient management plan requirements for reporting or other federal or state efforts.
- WV stated that they did intend to combine their efforts --so for example when the are doing water quality monitoring they could also collect the practices on the farm.
- It was asked if the federal entities such as NASS and FSA could do this for the states. It was stated that NASS can provide this service following their

protocols if funded by the state. To date National FSA had not responded to numerous inquiries as to their ability to do this, but it was doubtful due to their budget structure and funding.

- It was stated that though the Environmental Market efforts in each state that this kind of data would be collected. It was stated that this is one of the things that MD is looking at using WRI.
- It was requested that when the state data protocol collections methods are determined that it be discussed how this works with other data collection efforts.
- It was stated that this data is needed to make sure that scarce resources are allocated effectively to the areas of greatest need.
- It was stated that this collection process could cause great apprehension if there is going to be "inspections of voluntary practices"
- It as asked how many other states are allocating to the farm level other than MD. It was clarified that MD was only going to the county or watershed level but farm level was important if the landowner was interested in the potential of environmental trading.
- It was stated that the VA legislation has directed what practices will be required for their state "Certainty" program.
- It was stated that the states might be very different in what and how they collect data depending on what was their overall desired outcome. (example: meet the TMDL; meet environmental trading requirements; meet the sedimentation reduction; etc.)
- WV stated that they felt they will recieve will a far greater benefit by this activity in future work with the farm community.
- It was stated that states should look at the cost/benefit prospective when doing the collections to make better resource allocation decisions in the future.
- It was asked if industry could assist with this effort. The Fertilizer Institute said that some farmers were already using some of their fertilizer applicators information (Willard). It was also stated that perhaps industry could become certified to collect this data, for example fencing companies.
- It was stated that management and structural practices might have to be collected differently. For example nutrient management could not be determined from aerial photography (at this time but will might be in the future).
- It was stated that if you were trying to determine if nutrient management was implemented that you would have to visit a landowner to collect all the needed information. (Timing, placement, mode, etc.)
- It was stated that there would be a continued need for technological advances to assist landowners to meet current, new and emerging environmental requirements to be able to continue to make a profit.

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States able to negotiate on TMDL reporting

By MICHEL ELBEN
Staff Reporter

COCKEYSVILLE, Md. — A public forum was held at the Baltimore Ag Center on June 27 to discuss how farmers in all six states could get full credit for best management practices in the TMDL Bay Model. The National Association of Conservation Districts in cooperation with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsored the event.

"Twenty to 30 percent of non-cost-share BMPs are not being reported," said Dana York of Green Earth Connection.

The NACD is working to develop a baseline, cost effective record system for conservation practices in the six Bay states.

"Credit needs to be given for all the good work put towards the non-point source side of ag in the Bay Model," said Lee McDaniel, NACD board member.

"The wooded buffer near a stream needs to be counted as much as a new one that's just being put in," McDaniel said.

Sometimes farmers don't think of them as BMPs because they've always been there, he said.

There are nine different systems available to NACD to collect BMP data. Each state is doing something a little different.

"What we talk about is not set in stone," said Bob Ensor, NACD protocol project leader and district manager of Howard County SCD.

York said the forum needed to

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TMDL ...

Continued from Front Page

understand this was a land coverage issue.

"I think there's a lot of land that is covered that's not accounted for," York said. "If we show that ag has more land, we can show that one: Other sectors might be greater contributors, and two: We've done an excellent job."

Of the nine possible systems, the states are using various hybrids. Maryland is using a system of existing records, knowledge of farms and recorded information to make a Conservation Tracker.

Virginia is using the Agricultural BMP Tracking Program. It records state cost-share and tax credit programs. Pennsylvania is working with Penn State to develop a farm friendly nutrient evaluation tool or "a one stop conservation plan," Ensor said.

West Virginia is compiling a guidebook of BMPs and creating a data entry system. The state plans to conduct a farm-by-farm inventory.

"We're enlisting all the staff we can to streamline the process," said Matt Monroe, West Virginia Department of Agriculture assistant director for environmental programs.

Ensor said the farm-by-farm model would help identify non-cost-shared practices but for states like Pennsylvania with over 58,000 farms "we recognize the value but it's just not economically feasible.

"New York has a state funded Agricultural Environmental Management program," Ensor said.

The AEM is made up of 16 soil and water conservation districts in New York called the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. They are collecting data on non-cost-share practices even if they fail to meet EPA or NRCS standards but have functional equivalency, Ensor said.

Ensor said one benefit of farm-by-farm inventories would be that some BMPs could meet functional equivalents — like buffer strips that may not meet cost-share regulations but have a water quality benefit.

"If the strip is a little shy of the requirement or cow fence isn't as sturdy as required by NRCS— it could be a functional equivalent," Ensor said.

Karl Brown, Pennsylvania State Conservation district manager, said all of the states are still in the process of establishing their own definitions of functional equivalents.

"What if we worked with ag's allied industries to collect information if they were willing?" Brown asked.

Delaware has engaged the poultry companies to compile information on voluntary and non-cost-shared practices using a check sheet by flock supervisors.

"Delaware FSA also collected data last fall on cover crops when farmers came in to report to get a better handle of actual acreage," Ensor said. "They asked if it was a cover crop or commodity crop."

"If you go back and keep asking farmers for information, there's going to be resistance to giving it," said Bill Satterfield, executive director of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.

Satterfield said the process would need to be a smooth transition for farmers. Brown said the uniqueness of states was a very important issue. Pennsylvania has confidentiality issues that many states don't have.

"In Pennsylvania, if we collect it, it's public data," Brown said. "We've got to balance the give and take of private information."

York reminded the forum that the EPA does not give out the TMDL goals, the states do.

"If the participants here could agree on a baseline, we could help the other 95 percent of the country do some good," said Richard Duesterhaus, NACD northeast regional representative.

York said the only way to accomplish this was with increased monitoring, "but the state has to have money to pay for it."

"The overriding theme is that all states wish to do a farm-by-farm inventory but money gets in the way real fast," Ensor said.