Best Management Practice (BMP) Updates

Agricultural Advisory Board

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Updates

• EPA Contractor Reviewing PA BMP Data Reported to Watershed Model
  – Where are opportunities to improve reporting?
  – Help identify under-reported BMPs

• Designing an Improved System for Collecting BMP Data

• Statistical Land-Based Transect Surveys for Certain BMPs, such as Tillage
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Leadership in working to gather BMP data that will better reflect progress being made by agriculture
- Proposal to utilize remote sensing
- Pilot
  - Potomac Basin
  - Possibly some sub-watersheds of the Susquehanna
• **Potential BMPs**
  – Animal Waste Management Systems;
  – Barnyard Runoff Controls;
  – Carbon Sequestration/Alternative Crops;
  – Cover Crops;
  – Riparian Forest Buffers;
  – Grass Buffers;
  – Land Retirement/Environmental Planting;
  – Mortality Composting;*

*Under Discussion*
Potential BMPs

- Off-Stream Watering w/o Fencing;
- Pasture Fencing;
- Tree Planting;
- Upland Precision Grazing;*
- Upland Precision Rotational Grazing;*
- Conservation Plans, as determined by the existence of BMPs

* Under Discussion
• PADEP would not receive any farm-specific information
  – Aggregated at HUC 14 Watershed Level
  – Similar to the way DEP receives BMP information currently from NRCS (meets 1619)
• Proposal has not yet been finalized