PA Farm Conservation Practices Inventory

A survey of Pennsylvania farmers to document conservation practice implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Reasons for the Survey
Help Tell the Story of PA Ag’s Conservation Efforts

• PA farmers have done much to improve water quality and soil health
• Yet many practices not counted toward water quality goals (ex: Chesapeake Bay)
• Especially true with “voluntary” practices
• Survey will capture this data
Development of the Survey
A Collaborative Effort

- Developed collaboratively by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University/Institution</th>
<th>Department/Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penn State University</td>
<td>PA Dept of Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PennAg Industries</td>
<td>PA Farm Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA Assoc of Conservation Districts</td>
<td>PA Farmers Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA Assoc of Sustainable Agriculture</td>
<td>Professional Dairy Managers of PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA Dept of Agriculture</td>
<td>State Conservation Commission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Questions were pre-tested and refined by farmers and conservation professionals
Survey Overview
Part One: About Your Farming Operations

• Name, address, county, municipality, watershed
• Farm operation size (acres)
• Types and acres of crops grown
• Rented and owned ground
• Types and numbers of animals
Survey Overview
Part Two: Your Conservation Practices

- Questions about 12 conservation practices or plans:
  - Nutrient Management Plans
  - Manure Management Plans
  - Nitrogen Testing (ex, PSNT)
  - Manure Transport
  - Animal Waste Storage Systems
  - Barnyard Runoff Controls
  - Ag E&S Plans & Conservation Plans
  - No Till
  - Cover Crops
  - Stream Bank Fencing
  - Riparian Buffers
  - Land Retirement

- These are priority practices that achieve high levels of nutrient and sediment reductions
Survey Overview
Part Two: Your Conservation Practices

• For each practice, several questions asked
• Questions necessary to determine whether practices meet BMP definitions and will count toward Chesapeake Bay goals
• Space at end to report other practices or provide other comments
Survey Administration
Penn State Survey Research Center

• Survey being administered by the Penn State Survey Research Center
• Invitation letter mailed to over 20,000 farmers in the Bay watershed on January 29, 2016
Each farmer given a 5 digit code to complete the survey online at: [http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp](http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp)

Those farmers not completing survey online by mid-February will be mailed paper copy
Survey Participation
Options for Farmers to Participate

• Fill out survey online at http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp
• Fill out paper copy and mail back to Survey Research Center
• SURVEY CLOSES APRIL 30, 2016
Survey Participation
Farmers Who Did Not Receive Mailing

• Visit website at http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp
• Call Survey Research Center toll free at 1-866-898-4277
• Fill out “HELP TELL THE STORY” postcard at a winter event or meeting
Survey Participation
Deadline for Participation

• For all farmers, SURVEY CLOSES APRIL 30, 2016
After Survey Closes
Analyzing and Reporting Results

- Penn State Ag Sciences researchers will analyze survey responses
- 10% randomly selected for farm visits by Penn State Extension to assess inventory results and help researchers analyze data
- Report will be issued and cumulative results provided to PA DEP to document conservation practices implemented
Protecting Confidentiality
Analyzing and Reporting Results

- Participation completely voluntary
- All names and locational information kept completely confidential
- Results provided to PA DEP will be cumulative by county and will not include names or addresses
- All names and addresses will be removed from survey and farm visit results
- Once study is complete, all identifiers will be destroyed
Conclusion
Help Tell The Story!

• Visit [http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp](http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp) OR
• Fill out paper survey mailed to you and return to Survey Research Center OR
• If you did not receive copy, call 1-866-898-4277
• COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY BY APRIL 30, 2016
Questions?
Contact Penn State

• Matt Royer
  Director, Agriculture and Environment Center
  111 Ferguson Building
  University Park PA 16802
  (814) 863-8756
  mroyer@psu.edu

• Teresa Crisafulli
  Project Manager, Survey Research Center
  330 Building, Suite 105
  University Park PA 16802
  1-866-898-4277
  tac1@psu.edu