PA NRCS Priorities

February 25, 2016

Presentation to
DEP Agricultural Advisory Board
NRCS gathers information and identifies watersheds and other geographical areas that agencies and organizations, including NRCS, are prioritizing for natural resources improvements.
Conservation in Pennsylvania Watersheds
NRCS reviews maps and other hydrological and geographical information including USGS SPARROW Model results and water impaired by nonpoint source pollution (Section 319 Watersheds).
Local Yields of Total Phosphorus from Agricultural Sources

Local Yields of Total Nitrogen from Agricultural Sources

Legend:
- Green: 0.00 - 22,338.21 kg/yr
- Yellow: 22,338.22 - 55,847.79 kg/yr
- Orange: 55,847.80 - 104,864.20 kg/yr
- Red: 104,864.21 - 508,380.83 kg/yr

NRCS also reviews NASS Census of Agriculture Data which may be combined with data from other sources. Some examples include:

- Cropland with Soil at Risk of Nutrient Loss from High Leaching or High Runoff;
- Grazing Animal Units and Watersheds with an Agriculturally Impaired Stream; and
- Animal Units by County.
Grazing Animal Units and Watersheds with an Agriculturally Impaired Stream

Animal Units of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Goats
- 107 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 30,000
- 30,001 - 60,000
- 60,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 323,279

Source: NASS, 2007 Census of Agriculture - total number of cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys, horses, sheep, and goats converted to animal units. DEP Non-Attaining Streams due to agricultural sources, Watershed Boundary Dataset

Strategy [A]: Reduce the Number of Areas where Livestock have Unrestricted Access to Streams
High Priority Watersheds:

- USGS SPARROW model data of watersheds that have a high local yield of nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources;
- Watersheds that have more than 10,000 acres of high leaching and high runoff soils (SSURGO Soils); and
- Agriculturally impaired 319 watershed that were surrounded by other high priority watersheds.
Medium Priority Watersheds:

• USGS SPARROW model data of watersheds that have a high local yield of nitrogen and phosphorus from an agricultural source.

• Areas that have a nitrate violation from PA DEP that were surrounding high or medium watershed if it was not already high or medium priority.
Brook Trout Greatly Reduced HUC12 Watersheds:

- Watersheds identified by the Eastern Brook Trout Venture where brook trout were greatly reduced.
Current Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP
  Wetland Reserve Easement WRE
Agricultural Management Assistance AMA
Conservation Stewardship Program CSP
  Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP
Healthy Forest Reserve Program HFRP
Regional Conservation Partnership Program RCPP
  • Primarily EQIP funding
  • Some Wetland Reserve Easement WRE funding in NFWF-Delaware project
CSP Geographic Areas

CSP Geographic Areas 2013
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2014 Farm Bill
- 60% for livestock related practices
- 5% for Beginning Farmers
- 5% for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
- 5% for wildlife habitat practices
- $25 million for Air Quality
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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<td>8. Is the majority of the offered acreage located in the 12-Digit HUC...</td>
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Golden-Winged Warbler Priority Area
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

• Allows non federal partners to propose areas and resource concerns for targeting
• PA has 5 projects approved in 2015
NFWF Chesapeake Project (example county)
ABC Cerulean Warbler Project