Agriculture Initial Inspections Update

Ag Advisory Board
April 27, 2017
Agenda

• Past – Quick Overview
• Present – Restoration Strategy and Initial Ag Inspection Update
• Future – Data Management
Agriculture Initial Inspections

- Chapter 91 and Chapter 102 requirements
- Small Agricultural Operations
- Specific focus in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Agriculture Initial Inspections

• Chapter 91 - Manure Management Plan Requirements
• Chapter 102 - Ag E&S Requirements
• Education and Outreach
  • Education and Outreach Visits
  • Manure Management and Ag E&S Workshops
• Planning Assistance
  • Technical Assistance
  • Funding
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Pennsylvania Nitrogen Loads: 2015-2025

Where will the remaining nitrogen reductions* come from?

*Based on the jurisdictions' Phase II WIPs.
Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Pennsylvania Phosphorus Loads: 2015-2025

- **Agriculture**: 4.3
- **Urban Runoff**: 3.6
- **Wastewater+CSO**: 76%
- **Forest+**: 24%

Where will the remaining phosphorus reductions* come from?

*Based on the jurisdictions’ Phase II WIPs.

From Rich Batiuk, EPA
Restoration Strategy: Six Elements

1) Address Pollutant Reduction
2) Quantify & Multiply BMPs
3) Improve Record-keeping
4) Identify Needed Changes
5) Establish a DEP Chesapeake Bay Office
6) Seek New Resources
Counties Participating in Chesapeake Bay Watershed Farm Inspection Program

Legend
- County Conservation Districts participating in the farm inspection program.
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Agricultural Inspection Initiative

• DEP began inspections **August 29, 2016**
• Districts began inspections **October 3, 2016**
• Preliminary Results (as of December 31, 2016):
  • Over 500 Inspections Completed (29,400 + acres)
    • Over 326 by Conservation Districts
    • Over 177 by DEP
Agricultural Inspection Initiative

• Pre-inspection notice
• Inspection performed by Conservation District or DEP staff
  • Time frame to achieve compliance, if non-compliant
• Follow-up activities and measures
• Referral to DEP
  • Referral is made when the inspection is completed by CD and the operation remains in non-compliance
Manure Management – 273 out of 326 inspected by Districts were required to have MMP

- 195 farms reported having animals; 78 farms importing manure
- 175 farms have administratively complete Manure Management Plan (64% initial compliance)
- 71 farms (26% of those with planning requirement) reported using assistance to develop plans; the rest were developed by the farmer
- 167 farms (95% of farms with planning requirement) self-reported as implementing the plan
- 179 farms (66% of farms with planning requirement) self-reported following required application setbacks
- 144 farms (82% of farms with planning requirement) self-reported the completion of required application records
Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control (Ag E&S) Plan – 256 out of 326 inspected by Districts were required to have Ag E&S Plan

- 155 farms (60% initial compliance) have administratively complete Ag E&S Plan
- 148 farms (95% of those with planning requirement) reported using assistance to develop plans
- 150 farms (97% of farms with planning requirement) self-reported as implementing the plan
• Referrals (December 31, 2016 to April 1, 2017)
  • 11 operations were referred to DEP for follow-up enforcement action due to lack of required MMP, Ag E&S Plan, or both
  • NOVs have been sent to 6 operations
• Updating SOP and Inspection Form
  • Workgroup comprised of:
    • 4 county conservation districts (Clinton, Union, Cumberland, Lancaster);
    • 4 DEP Regional Offices (NCRO, NERO, SCRO, SERO)
    • DEP Central Office (Operations Division, Bureau of Clean Water)

• Continue on course for inspecting 10% of agricultural operations per year
Agricultural Inspection Initiative -- Future

- **Worldview Development**
  - Used the existing database design that was created for five Pennsylvania county conservation districts and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
  - Submitted 2016 Progress Data Using the new Database Software
- **PracticeKeeper Software Launch to ALL Districts in July, 2017**
  - 6 Modules – Nutrient Management, E & S Planning, Watershed Projects, Complaints and BMPs
  - DEP staff and 9 Districts pilot testing starting now
  - Inspection Module forthcoming
- **Hardware for PracticeKeeper**
  - Funding Distributed for tablets for in-the-field data collection
  - Tablets will also be used for completion of inspections
Contact Information:

Jill Whitcomb  
Environmental Group Manager  
NPS Compliance  
jiwhitcomb@pa.gov  
783-5205

Douglas Goodlander  
Program Manager  
Operations Division  
dgoodlande@pa.gov  
772-0141