Expanded Agricultural Inspections in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed: First Year Results
• **Review** – Existing and new agricultural inspection programs
• **First Year Results** – Inspection numbers and compliance rates
• **Future** – Data Collection and Data Management
Expanded Agricultural Inspections

**Existing:** PA Nutrient Management Program (Act 38), 1997:
- Led by: SCC and CCDs
- Focus: High animal density and larger scale animal farms
- Assessing: NMP/Ag E&S planning and implementation requirements

**New:** Ches Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP), 2016:
- Led by: DEP and CCD
- Focus: Remaining less intensive, smaller scale farms
- Assessing: MMP and Ag E&S planning requirements
1. Inspection strategies determined
2. Pre-inspection notice sent to farm operator
3. Inspection performed by Conservation District or DEP staff
   • *Time frame given to achieve compliance*
4. Follow-up activities and measures on initially noncompliant farms to ensure they come into compliance
5. If noncompliance continues, the farm is referred to DEP
   • *Referral is made when the inspection is completed by CD and the operation remains in noncompliance*
Total:
- 3,093,000 ag acres in PA’s part of the Bay Watershed
- 393,426 acres (12.7%) inspected—2,823 farms

Act 38 Nutrient Management Program:
- 743 agricultural operations inspected
- 147,762 acres inspected

Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections Program:
- 2,080 agricultural operations inspected
- 245,664 acres inspected
• Act 38 Nutrient Management Program:
  • 80% compliance rate for Act 38 planning/implementation

• Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections Program:
  • 65% compliance rate for Manure Management Planning
  • 63% compliance rate for Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control/Conservation Planning
Manure Management –

• 1,692 of 2,080 farms inspected required to have MMPs

• At the time of initial inspection:
  • 1,188 farms found to have written MMPs
  • 1,099 farms had administratively complete MMPs
  • 901 farms reported using assistance to develop plans
Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control (Ag E&S) –

- 1,715 out of 2,080 operations inspected were required to have Ag E&S Plans
- At the time of initial inspection:
  - 1,168 farms found to have written Ag E&S (or Conservation) Plan
  - 1,072 farms had administratively complete Ag E&S (Cons.) Plan
  - 755 farms reported using assistance developing Ag E&S Plan
CB Agricultural Inspection Program: Enforcement

• Noncompliance referrals to DEP (10/1/16 – 6/30/17):
  • 20 farms referred to DEP - lack of required MMP / Ag E&S Plans
  • 3 operations were referred to DEP for water quality violations

• 14 Notices of Violation sent (10/1/16 – 6/30/17):
  • 7 resulted in submission of the required plans to DEP.
  • 4 operations did not provide the plans (Field Orders provided).
  • 3 operations still within the provided time frame

• 4 Field Orders delivered (July – August 2017)
  • 1 farm complied and 2 others are making progress
  • Limited time (last chance) or penalty
CB Agricultural Inspections: Future

• Revised SOP and Inspection Form
• Created new Agricultural BMP Collection Form
• Continue and enhance planning and technical assistance
  • Tools and programs are increasing to support compliance
    • PaOneStop, MMM, plan development workshops (district, PSU, PFB, etc), district guidance and assistance, Ag E&S manual in development
• Continue to inspect 10% of ag acreage in the CB annually
• **Worldview Development**
  • Used the existing database design
  • Submitted 2016 Progress Data Using the new Database Software

• **PracticeKeeper (PK) Launch to ALL Districts in July 2017**
  • 6 Existing Modules –
    • NM, Cons Planning, E & S, Watershed Projects, Complaints and BMP Collection

• **PK Ag Inspection Module Launch to Bay Districts Oct 2017**

• **Hardware for PracticeKeeper**
  • Funding distributed for tablets for in-the-field data collection
  • Tablets also for completion of inspections
The expanded agricultural inspection program has enabled us to reach and engage farmers in a new way, with the majority of them attaining, and still more willing to attain, compliance with Pennsylvania’s environmental planning requirements.

Summary report:
http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/AgriculturalOperations/Pages/Agricultural-Compliance.aspx
Contact Information:

Doug Goodlander
Division Chief
Operations Division

dgoodlande@pa.gov
772-0141