



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

# Expanded Agricultural Inspections in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed: First Year Results

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

# Agenda

- **Review** – Existing and new agricultural inspection programs
- **First Year Results** – Inspection numbers and compliance rates
- **Future** – Data Collection and Data Management

# Expanded Agricultural Inspections

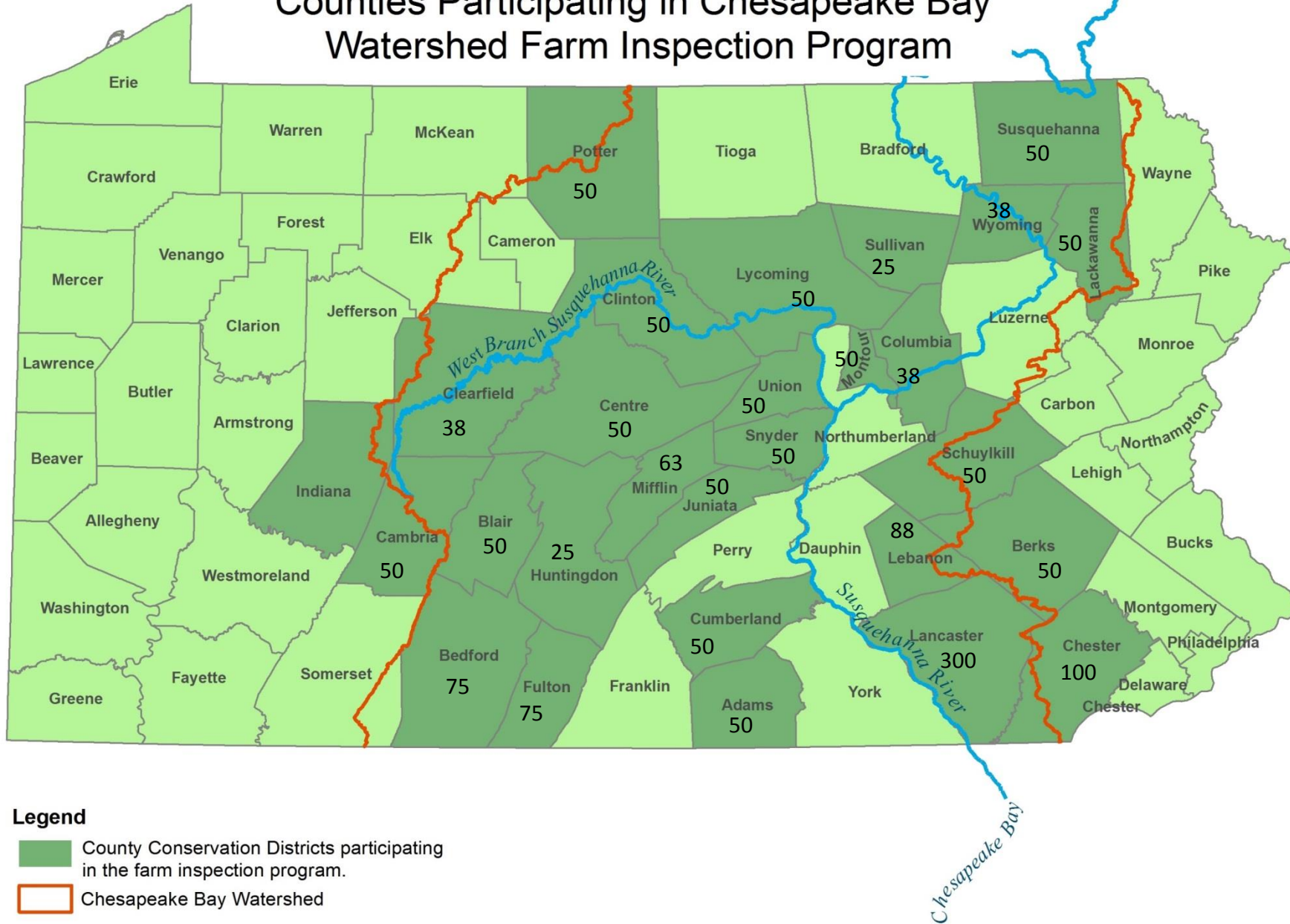
## **Existing:** PA Nutrient Management Program (Act 38), 1997:

- 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

## Counties Participating in Chesapeake Bay Watershed Farm Inspection Program



# Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections: Process

- 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*

# Number of Agricultural Inspections Performed: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

## **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

# Expanded Agricultural Inspections: Compliance Rates on Initial Inspections

- **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

# CB Agricultural Inspection Program – MMP

## 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**

# CB Agricultural Inspections – Future

- **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

# Agricultural Inspections: A Partner Process

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>



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