Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Agriculture Advisory Board
January 27, 2020
• Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspection Program

• Phase 3 WIP Implementation Progress

• Countywide Action Planning and Implementation
Number of Agricultural Inspections Performed:  
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Total:
- Approximately 3,067,600 agricultural acres in Pennsylvania’s part of the Bay Watershed
- 315,823 acres (10.3%) inspected — 2,951 farm operations

Act 38 Nutrient Management Program:
- 886 agricultural operations inspected
- 138,139 acres inspected

Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections Program:
- 2,065 agricultural operations inspected
- 177,684 acres inspected
• Act 38 Nutrient Management Program:
  • 86% compliance rate for Act 38 Planning and Implementation Requirements.

• Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections Program:
  • 63% compliance rate for Manure Management Planning requirements.
  • 64% compliance rate for Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control/Conservation Planning requirements.
Manure Management –

• 1,537 out of 2,065 operations inspected were required to have MMPs

• At the time of initial inspection:
  • 1,048 farms were found to have written MMPs
  • 967 farms had administratively complete MMPs
  • 85% reported using assistance to develop plans
  • 762 farms that indicated records were being kept
    • 322 farms had records reviewed to ensure that nutrients were applied at less than or equal to planned rates
  • 4 Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) were identified
Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control (Ag E&S) –

• 1,610 out of 2,065 operations inspected were required to have Ag E&S Plans

• At the time of initial inspection:
  • 1,101 farms were found to have had written Ag E&S (or NRCS Conservation) Plan
  • 1,024 farms had administratively complete Ag E&S (or NRCS Conservation) Plan
  • 92% reported using assistance with development of the Ag E&S Plan
# CB Agricultural Inspection Program: Enforcement

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to Bureau of Clean Water</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notices of Violations</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Orders</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consent Order and Agreement</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed Cases</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>113</td>
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CB Agricultural Inspections: Future

• Implementing Ag Inspection Reporting and Data Collection Efforts via centralized PracticeKeeper Geo-database

• Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program – Phase 2
  • Begin the process to incorporate “plan implementation” assessments in Lancaster, Adams, Cumberland, and Chester counties
  • Provide resources for farmers to meet obligation to implement their Ag E&S and Manure Management Plans
Open to counties within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

$1.4 million in funding has been distributed for the first two rounds of funding:

- Round 1: 750 plans, $770,000 funds, 180,000 acres
- Round 2: 950 plans, $600,000 funds, 150,000 acres

$1.35 million in funding is available for the third round

TeamAg – Southeast/Southcentral
Larson Design Group – Northeast/Northcentral
• New Programs to Support Implementation

• Pennsylvania Farm Bill
• Agriculture Plan Reimbursement Program
• Funding for the CBAIP Pilot – Phase 2
• Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Buffer Grants
• Turf to Trees and Meadows
• TreeVitalize Grants
• Stream ReLeaf
• Incentives and Methods to Accelerate Implementation

  • Use of “Block Grants”
  • Expansion of Existing Funding Programs like REAP and Growing Greener
  • Establishment of a Center for Water Quality Excellence
  • Review and Consideration of DEP Permitting Process Modifications
  • Improvements to DEP’s Cross-Program Reporting
  • DEP Chesapeake Bay Office Growth
• New Legislative Actions to Support Implementation
  • Keystone Tree Fund
• New Regulatory Actions to Support Implementation
  • Chapter 105 Regulatory Amendments
• New Programmatic and Policy Actions to Support Implementation
  • Expanded Coordination of MS4 and Nonpoint Sources
Countywide Action Planning (CAP) and Implementation Timelines

Funding, Tools, and Resources to support CAP development and implementation
## Phased Plan Development and Implementation

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<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 2 - Second 25% of Reductions</td>
<td>Tier 3 - Third 25% of Reductions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Franklin -- Completed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adams -- Completed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Northumberland</td>
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<td>Cumberland</td>
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**NOTE:** Plans for the Two Tier 1 Counties, **Lancaster and York** are also **Completed.**
Phase 1 (Begins Winter 19/20 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

- Efforts in this phase are focused on the eight Tier 1 & 2 counties that make up 54% of PA’s nutrient load.

- Actions include:
  - Assist Pilot Counties with transition to Countywide Action Plan implementation.
  - Work with remaining Tier 2 counties develop and implement Countywide Action Plans.
  - Begin outreach to Tier 3 and 4 counties.

Phase 2 (Begins Summer 2020 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

- Efforts in this phase are focused on the thirty-five Tier 3 & 4 counties that make up 46% of PA’s nutrient load.

- Actions include:
  - Assist Pilot and Tier 2 counties with Countywide Action Plan implementation.
  - Break Tier 3 and 4 counties in to regional groupings based on existing partnerships.
  - Work with regional groups to help Tier 3 and 4 counties to develop and implement Countywide Action Plans.
Countywide Action Plan Funding Support

County Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator Grant

- Pilot Counties + Tier 2 Counties
- State-funded – Environmental Stewardship Fund
  - Total: $800,000 ($100,000 available for each county) annually

Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grant

- Pilot Counties
- Federal-funded - CBIG
  - Total: $690,000 is available to be allocated to the pilot counties to begin implementing their CAPs
  - Must be spent by September 30, 2020
Countywide Action Plan Staff Support

DEP Support Team for Counties

- DEP Staff Person from Chesapeake Bay Office - point of contact for the county planning team and technical support team
- DEP Regional Office - support for permitting, planning and implementing practices
- Technical Coordinator - provides technical support and data to county planning team

County Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator

- County-based point of contact coordinating, supporting and reporting county action plan activities from development to implementation. Funded through an agreement between DEP and the lead agency of the county planning team.
Countywide Action Plan Training Support

County Community Action Plan Coordinator Onboarding

• Four-day Onboarding Training Scheduled for February, 2020

• Set direction and equip the new county coordinators with resources and knowledge to support planning and implementation

• Ensures that newly hired coordinators at the county and state levels will be adequately prepared and supported
How Does a County Prepare Its Action Plan?

Pennsylvania Countywide Pilot Planning Process
Phase III WIP

- Convene Countywide Action Team Members
- Identify Water Quality and Other Goals
- Identify Local Resources
- Select and Report Actions
- Implement Actions and Continue to Report Actions
Community Clean Water Planning Guide

- Standardized introduction to the planning process
- Clearly defined framework for process, directions
- Timeline and expectations
- Real world examples from pilot counties

Community Clean Water Planning Toolbox

- Customized for each county
- Outlines county specific information in a more technical format
- To be used by the County Coordinators
Community Clean Water Implementation Guide

- Prepare and support counties when transitioning to implementation
- Contains information, strategies, key contacts, etc. to support local partners

Community Clean Water Implementation Toolbox

- Customized for each county
- Outlines county specific information in a more technical format
- To be used by the County Coordinators