

**Regional Agriculture Watershed Assessment Program Initiative**

In September 2012, DEP began a pilot project that directed resources towards achieving compliance at agricultural operations within a small watershed. **Soft Run**, a small agriculturally impaired watershed in **Mifflin County**, was selected for that pilot and produced the following results:

- DEP staff inspected all 19 working farms in this watershed
- DEP found significant water quality compliance issues at only six of these farms
- Voluntary compliance was achieved at four of these six farms
- DEP only needed to take two enforcement actions to achieve compliance

This successful effort to improve water quality in a small impaired watershed encouraged DEP to take this approach across the state.

In February 2014, DEP selected six small watersheds each having water quality impaired by agriculture. One watershed was selected in each of the six DEP regions. Each of the working farms in these watersheds will be visited by staff from the respective DEP regional office during 2014. The DEP will first work with the owner/operator to achieve voluntary compliance with its regulatory requirements.

Working with a local conservation district, DEP will make available technical and financial support to assist farming operations to correct any significant problems having an impact on water quality and in achieving regulatory compliance. Financial assistance agreements will be through a \$592,400 grant to the six conservation districts. These grants will support development of required plans and implementation of BMPs necessary to implement these plans and to address water quality problems. The funds have been allocated from the Environmental Stewardship Fund.

The watersheds selected are described briefly below:

DEP Region	Name	County	Size	Farms
North-central	Kaiser Run (Upper Buffalo Creek)	Union	2.88 sq. mi.	~21
North-west	UNTs Kahle Lake	Venango/ Clarion	4.49 sq. mi.	~8
North-east	Mahantango Creek (Headwaters)	Schuylkill	~ 19 sq. mi.	~25
South-central	Beaver Creek Headwaters (Yellow Creek Watershed)	Bedford	~10sq. mi.	~25
South-east	UNT Tohicken	Bucks	5.1 sq. mi.	~10
	Deer Run	Bucks	3.4 sq. mi.	~4
	Wolf Run	Bucks	1.16 sq. mi.	~4
South-west	Goose Run (Plum Creek Watershed)	Indiana	~3 sq. mi.	~ 12