Pennsylvania
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# PA NRCS Priorities

February 25, 2016

Presentation to
DEP Agricultural Advisory Board

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS gathers information and identifies watersheds and other geographical areas that agencies and organizations, including NRCS, are prioritizing for natural resources improvements.

Conservation in Pennsylvania Watersheds

Legend:
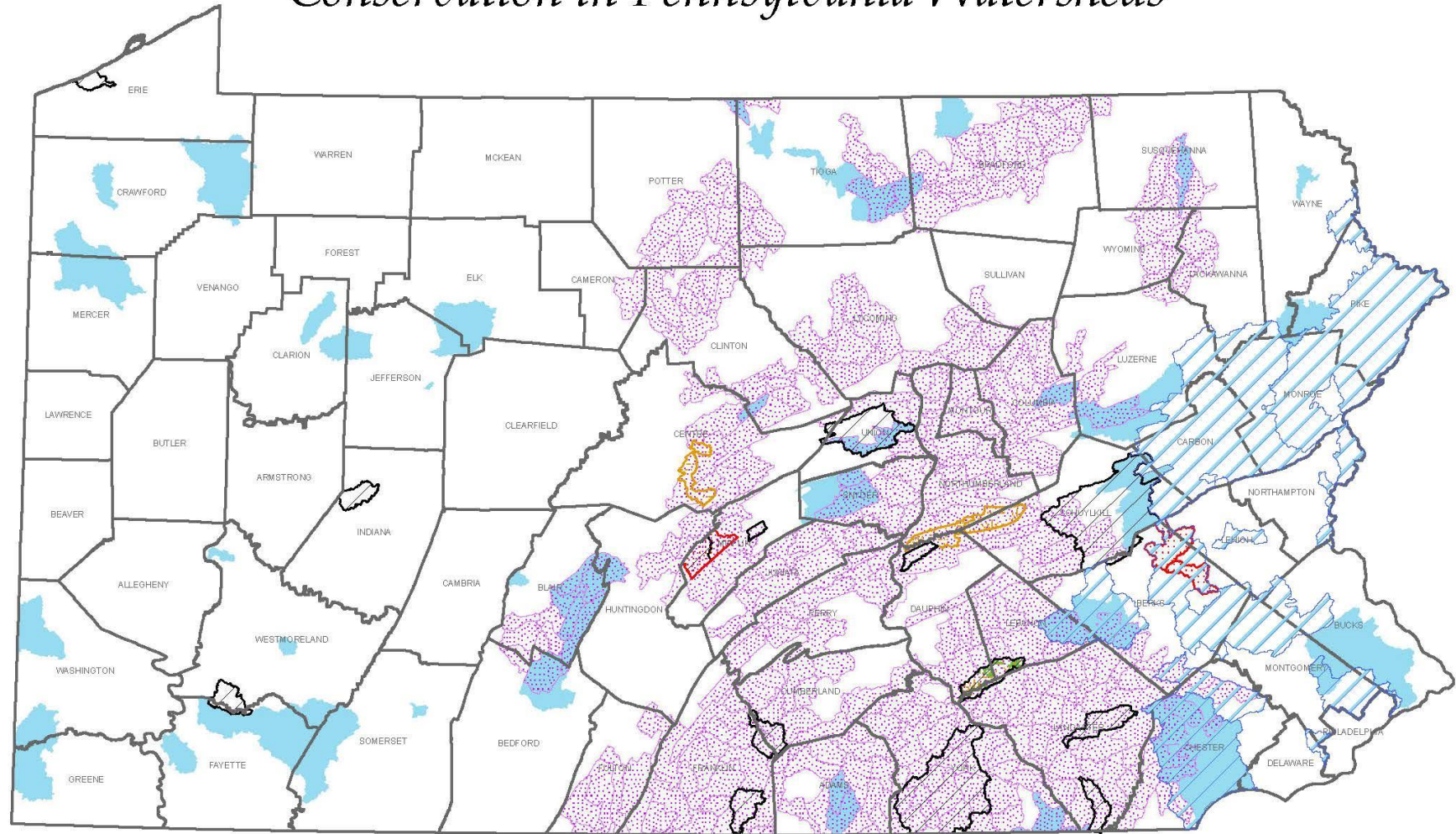
- William Penn Watersheds
- National Water Quality Initiative Watersheds
- 319 Ag Watersheds
- ARS Watersheds
- Showcase Watershed - Conewago
- NFWF Watersheds
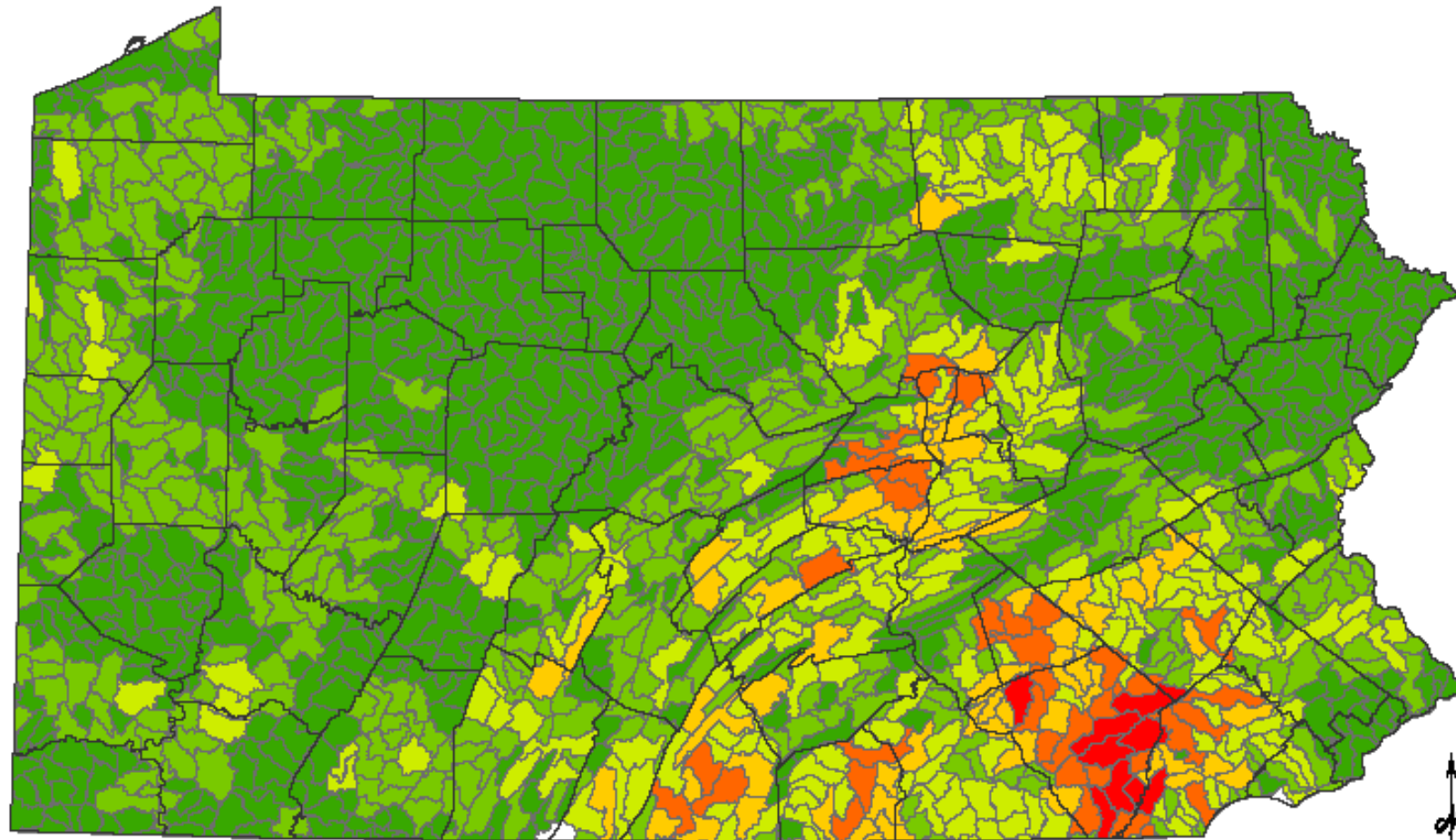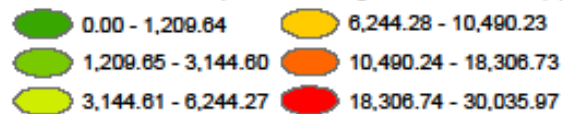- PL566 Watersheds
- County Boundary

USDA

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NRCS reviews maps and other hydrological and geographical information including USGS SPARROW Model results and water impaired by nonpoint source pollution (Section 319 Watersheds).

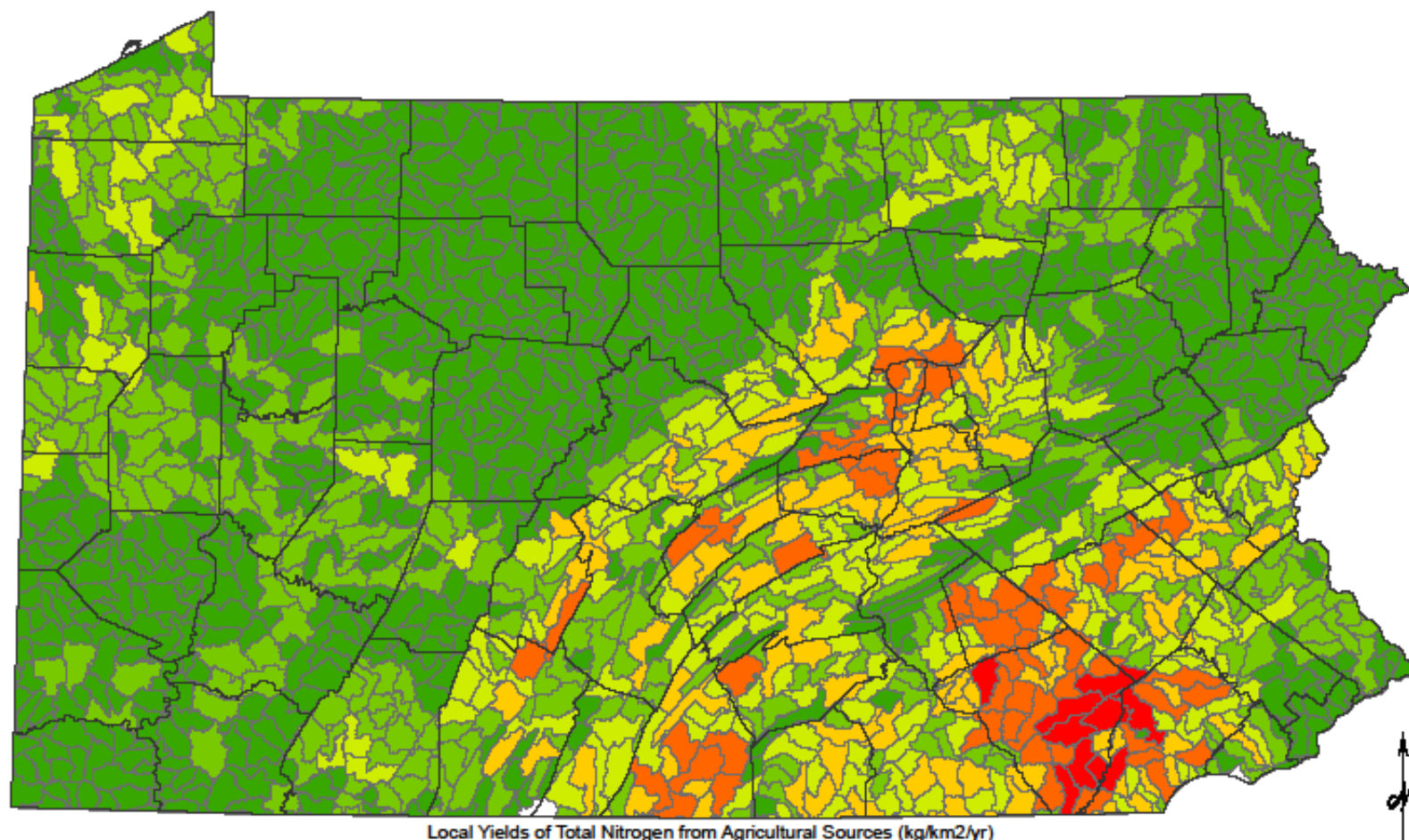# Local Yields of Total Phosphorus from Agricultural Sources

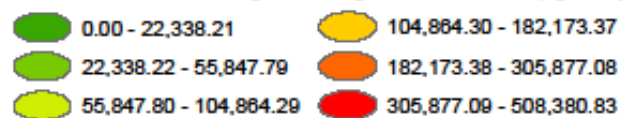**Local Yields of Total Phosphorus from Agricultural Sources (kg/km2/yr)**

- 0.00 - 1,209.64
- 1,209.65 - 3,144.60
- 3,144.61 - 6,244.27
- 6,244.28 - 10,490.23
- 10,490.24 - 18,306.73
- 18,306.74 - 30,035.97

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Local Yields of Total Nitrogen from Agricultural Sources

Local Yields of Total Nitrogen from Agricultural Sources (kg/km2/yr)

- 0.00 – 22,338.21
- 22,338.22 – 55,847.79
- 55,847.80 – 104,864.29
- 104,864.30 – 182,173.37
- 182,173.38 – 305,877.08
- 305,877.09 – 508,380.83

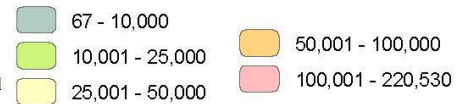NRCS

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NRCS also reviews NASS Census of Agriculture Data which may be combined with data from other sources. Some examples include:

➢Cropland with Soil at Risk of Nutrient Loss from High Leaching or High Runoff;

➢Grazing Animal Units and Watersheds with an Agriculturally Impaired Stream; and

➢Animal Units by County.

Cropland with Soil at Risk of Nutrient Loss from High Leaching or High Runoff Potential
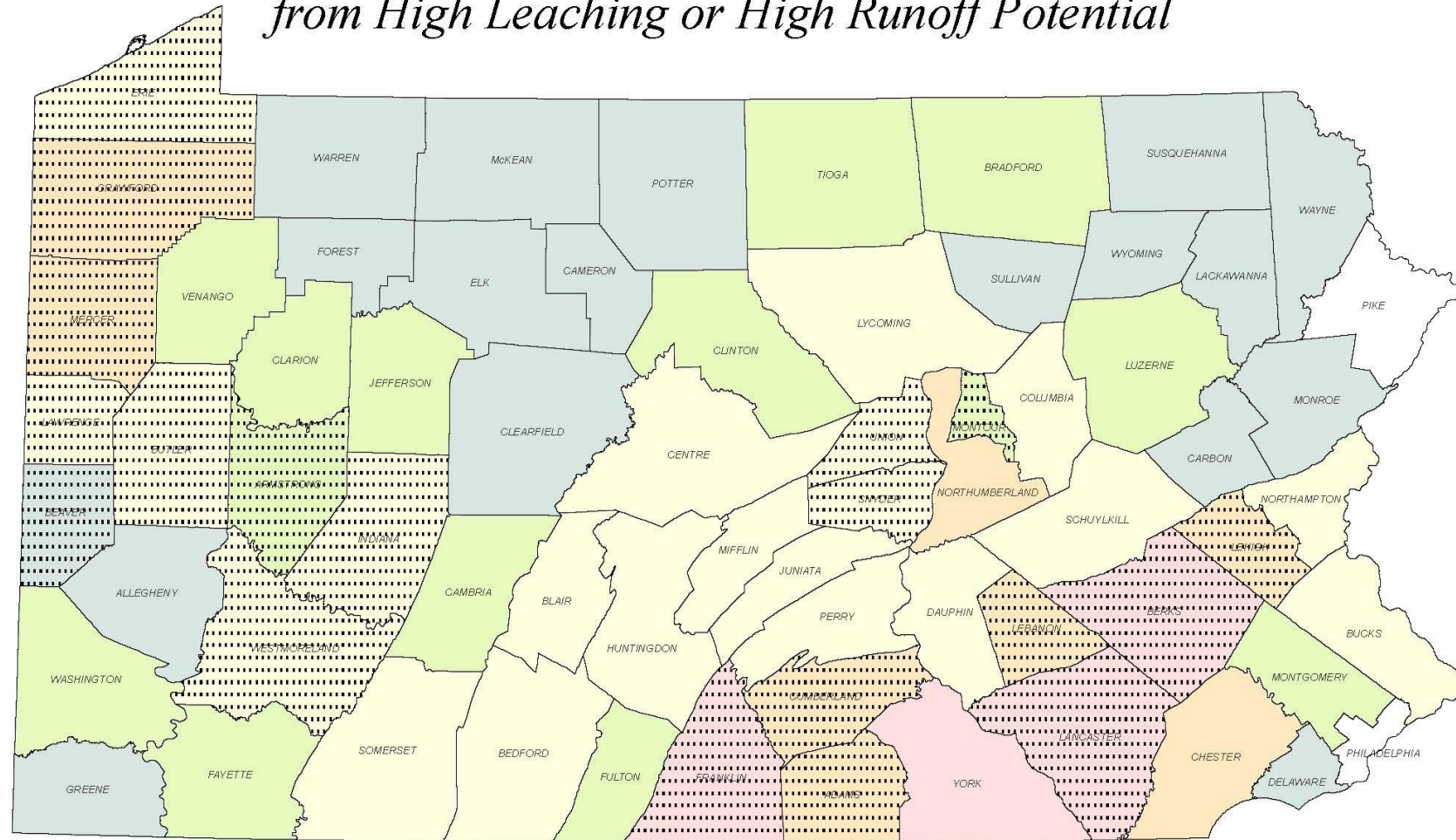
Total acres of corn grain, soybeans, corn silage, oats, wheat, and barley

- 67 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 25,000
- 25,001 - 50,000
- 50,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 220,530

Counties that have greater than 25% of cropland on soils with high leaching soils or soils with a high runoff potential

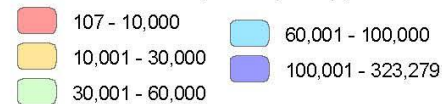Strategy IIIA2: Convert Vulnerable Cropland to Livestock Grazing Systems

Source: NASS 2007 Census of Agriculture - acres harvested of corn grain, soybeans, corn silage, oats, wheat, and barley, NRCS SSURGO Soil Survey

Grazing Animal Units and Watersheds with an Agriculturally Impaired Stream
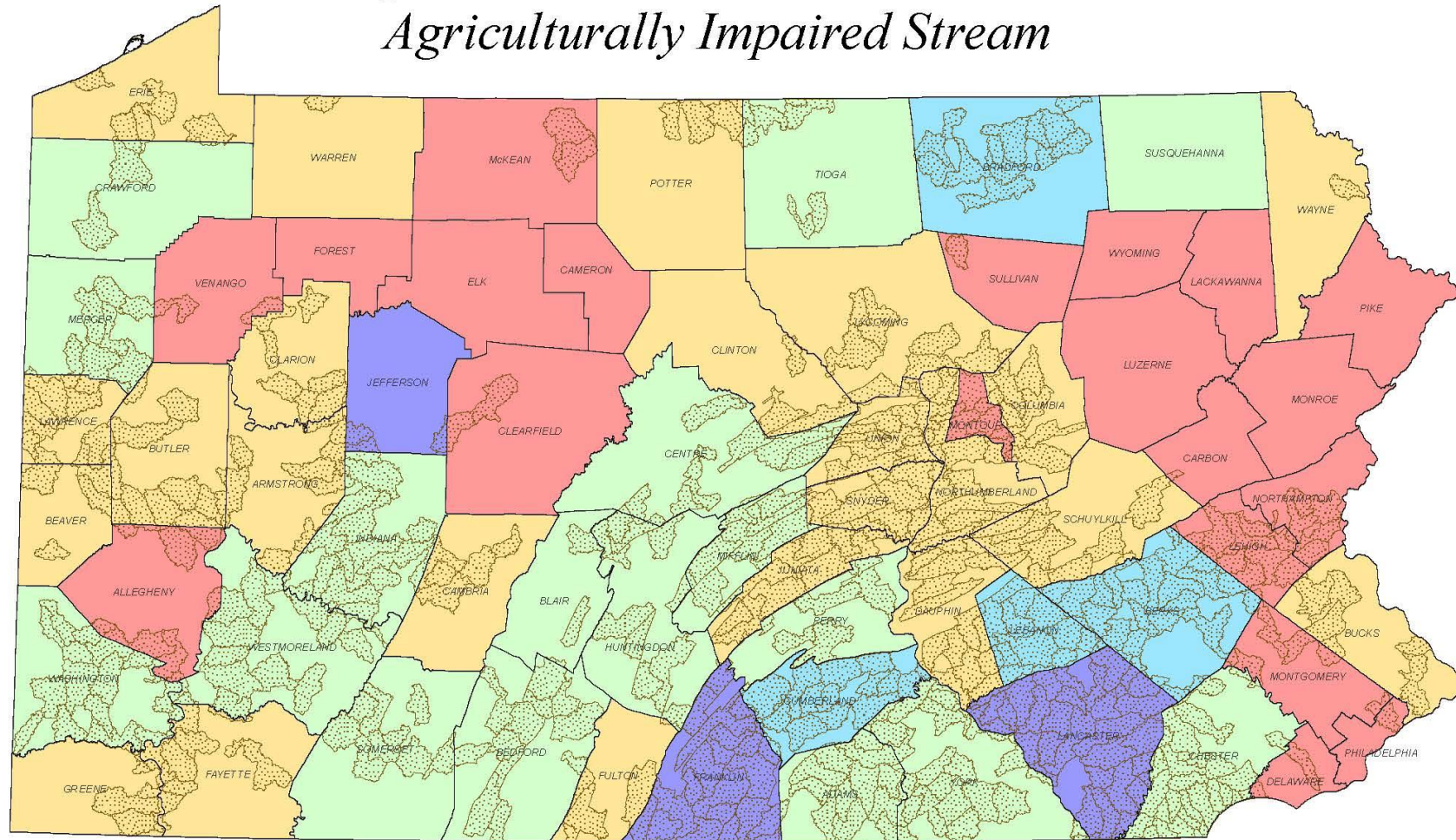
Animal Units of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Goats

- 107 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 30,000
- 30,001 - 60,000
- 60,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 323,279
- Ag Impaired Watersheds

Strategy IA2: Reduce the Number of Areas where
Livestock have Unrestriced Access to Streams

Source: NASS, 2007 Census of Agriculture - total number of
cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys, horses, sheep, and
goats converted to animal units, DEP Non-Attaining
Streams due to agricultural sources, Watershed
Boundary Dataset

Animal Units

Animal Units by County

107 - 10,000	60,001 - 100,000
10,001 - 30,000	100,001 - 433,568
30,001 - 60,000	

Strategy IA1: Increase the Number of CNMPs Written and Applied
The strategy includes Mushroom Compost Management Plans in
Chester and elsewhere mushroom farms are found.

Source: NASS 2007 Census of Agriculture - total
number of cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys,
horses, sheep, and goats converted to
animal units

High Priority Watersheds:

- USGS SPARROW model data of watersheds that have a high local yield of nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources;

- Watersheds that have more than 10,000 acres of high leaching and high runoff soils (SSURGO Soils); and

- Agriculturally impaired 319 watershed that were surrounded by other high priority watersheds.

Medium Priority Watersheds:

- USGS SPARROW model data of watersheds that have a high local yield of nitrogen and phosphorus from an agricultural source.

- Areas that have a nitrate violation from PA DEP that were surrounding high or medium watershed if it was not already high or medium priority.
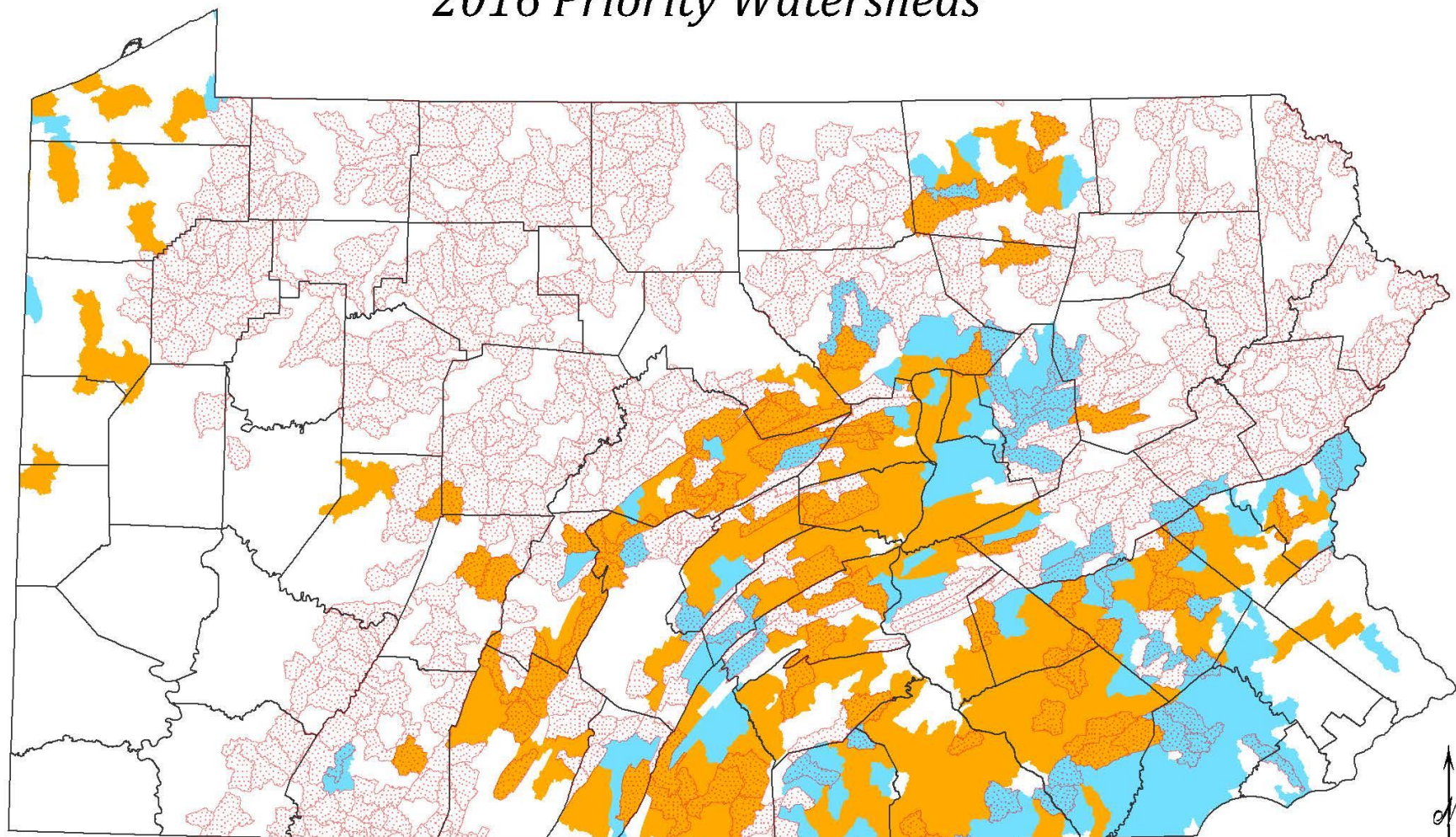
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Brook Trout Greatly Reduced HUC12 Watersheds:

- Watersheds identified by the Eastern Brook Trout Venture where brook trout were greatly reduced.

2016 Priority Watersheds

High Priority Watershed

Medium Priority Watersheds

Brook Trout Greatly Reduced

County Boundary

Current Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP

   Wetland Reserve Easement WRE

Agricultural Management Assistance AMA
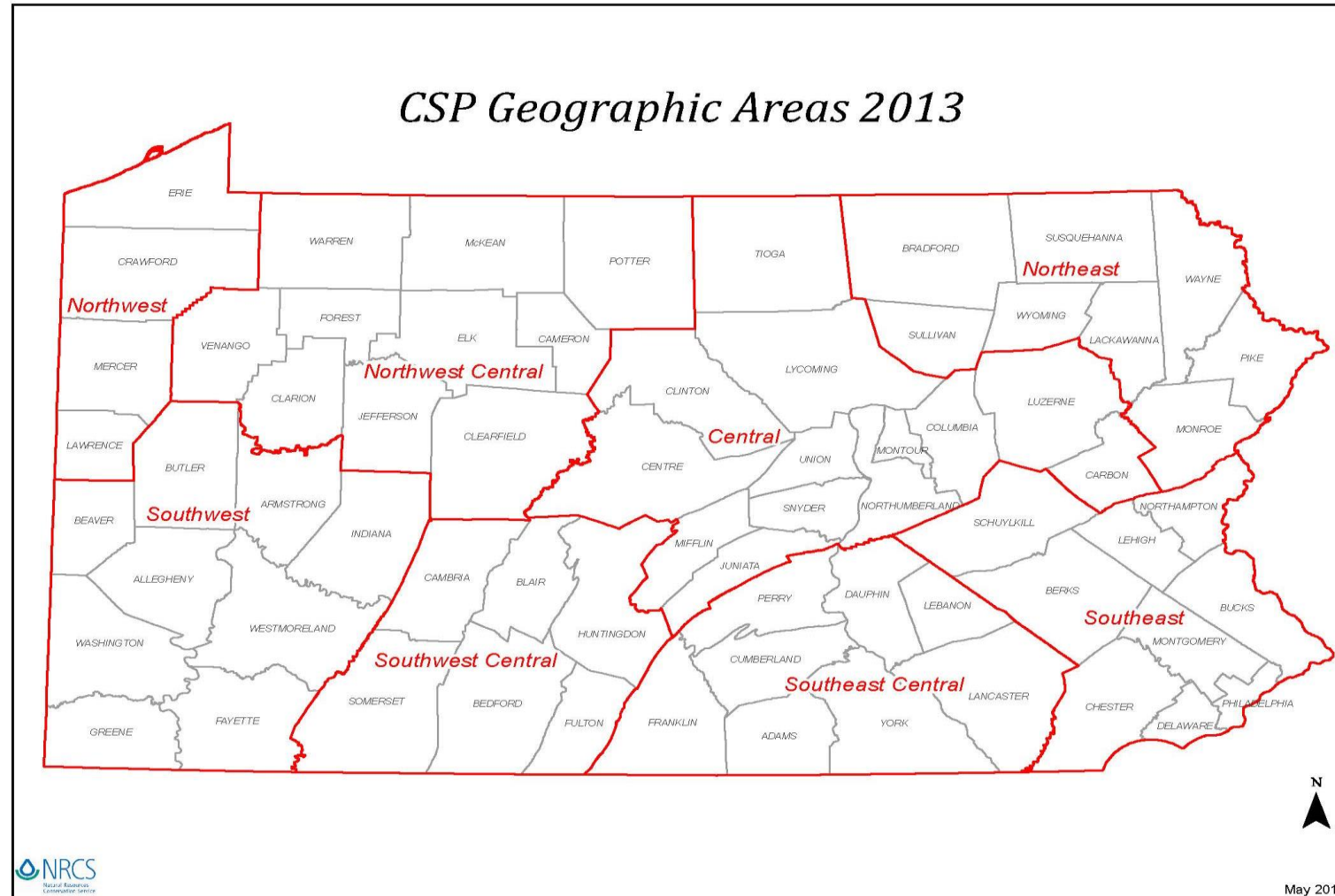
Conservation Stewardship Program CSP

 Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP

Healthy Forest Reserve Program HFRP

Regional Conservation Partnership Program RCPP

- Primarily EQIP funding
- Some Wetland Reserve Easement WRE funding in NFWF-Delaware project

CSP Geographic Areas


CSP Geographic Areas 2013

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2014 Farm Bill
- 60% for livestock related practices
- 5% for Beginning Farmers
- 5% for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
- 5% for wildlife habitat practices
- $25 million for Air Quality

Targeting with Ranking Questions

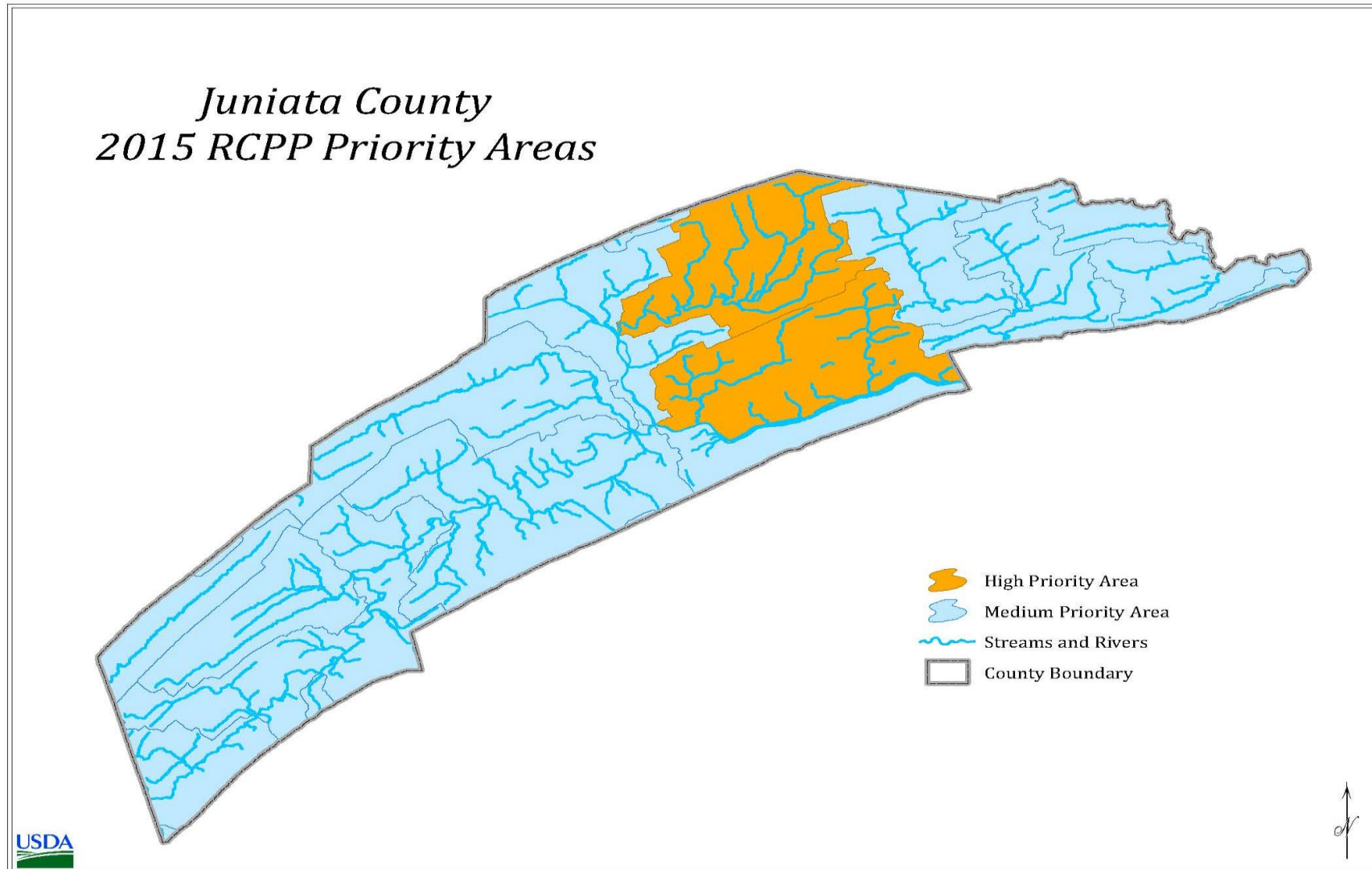|	
8. Is the majority of the offered acreage located in the 12-Digit HUC that Pennsylvania NRCS has identified as a FY 2016 Targeted Priority Watershed? [Use GIS layer (High/Medium Priority watershed) located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Con cerns_FY2016.gdb]?	Yes O or No O
9. Is the applicant applying one or more of the following practices (327, 329, 330, 340, 362, 386, 390, 391, 393, 412, 512, 528, 585, 590, 600) in a land unit that contains poorly, somewhat poorly drained soils [Use GIS layer poor_somewhat_poor_drained_soils) located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Con cerns_FY2016.gdb] to reduce surface runoff from these areas?	Yes O or No O
10. Is the applicant applying one or more of the following practices (327, 340, 386, 390, 391, 393, 512, 528, 561, 590, 595, 635) in a land unit that contains high leaching potential soils [Use GIS layer high_leaching located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Con cerns_FY2016.gdb] to reduce nutrient or pesticide movement?	Yes O or No O
11. Is the majority of the offered acreage located in the 12-Digit HUC that Pennsylvania NRCS has identified as a FY 2016 "Brook Trout - Greatly Reduced" Targeted Priority Watershed? [Use GIS layer (Brook Trout_Reduced_Watersheds) located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Con cerns_FY2016.gdb]?	Yes O or No O

Golden-Winged Warbler Priority Area
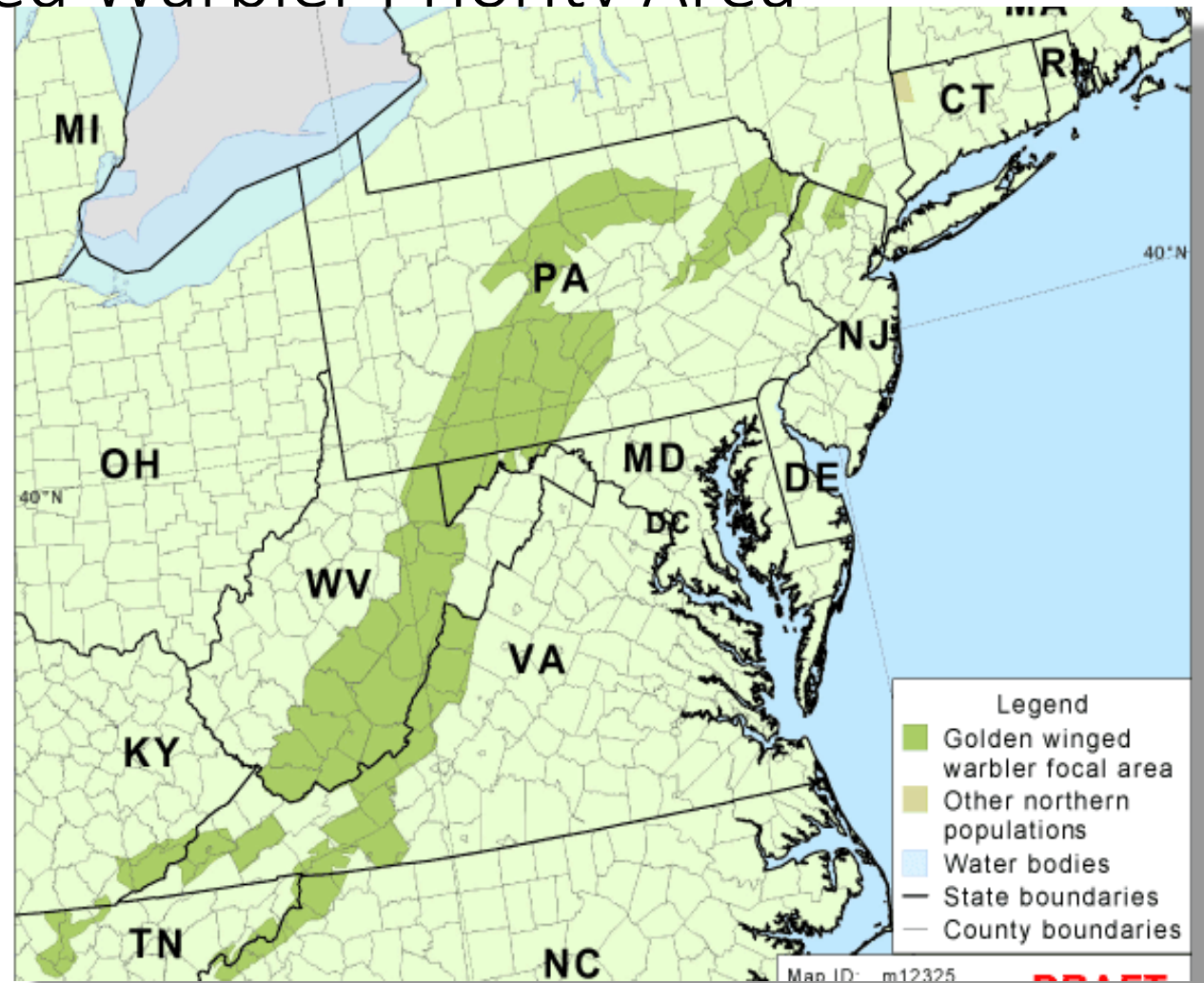
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Allows non federal partners to propose areas and resource concerns for targeting

- PA has 5 projects approved in 2015

NFWF Chesapeake Project (example county)

Juniata County
2015 RCPP Priority Areas

High Priority Area
Medium Priority Area
Streams and Rivers
County Boundary

USDA

ABC Cerulean Warbler Project

Cerulean Warbler Area