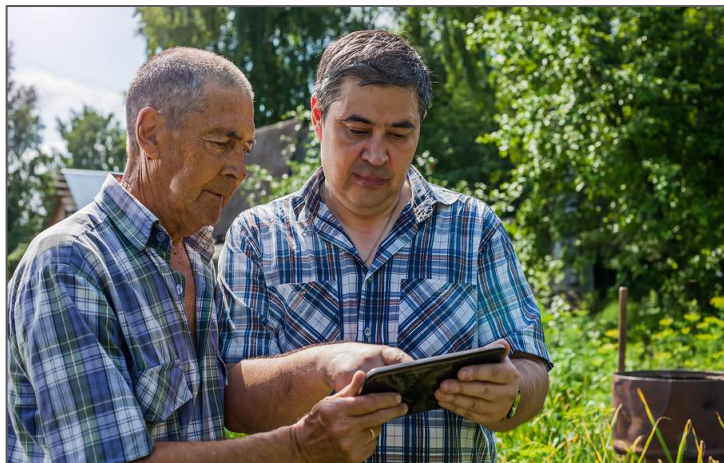


The Agricultural Inspection Program ensures farmers are meeting their legal requirements and helps ensure farmers and the county get credit towards reaching their clean water goals.



What role do Conservation Districts play in this program?

Districts can elect to conduct inspections in their counties instead of state agencies. The state provides funds for them to hire a qualified individual to visit local farms and assist farmers with farm plans and BMP verification and implementation.

How do farmers benefit from this program?

An inspection can serve as a friendly reminder to revisit existing plans to ensure that they are current. For many producers, it's an opportunity to tell their conservation story and re-familiarize themselves with the services that Districts have to offer.

How do counties benefit from this program?

Most importantly, communities enjoy cleaner water when farmers do their part to reduce pollution and sedimentation of local streams. Participating Districts also report they are logging previously unrecorded farm plans and conservation practices that help the county show progress towards the goals in their Countywide Action Plan.

For more information, contact **Kate R. Bresaw**, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Chesapeake Bay Office, 717.772.5650, kbresaw@pa.gov

What Districts Say



“Our Board felt it was important for local Conservation District staff to interact with our farmers, as opposed to DEP staff who may not be as familiar with local agriculture.

— *Christian Stohmaier, Chester County Conservation District*



“Conducting agricultural inspections has helped us start conversations with producers we may not have had otherwise. This allows them to become more comfortable with working with us and using us as a local contact.

— *Katie Doster, Lebanon County Conservation District*



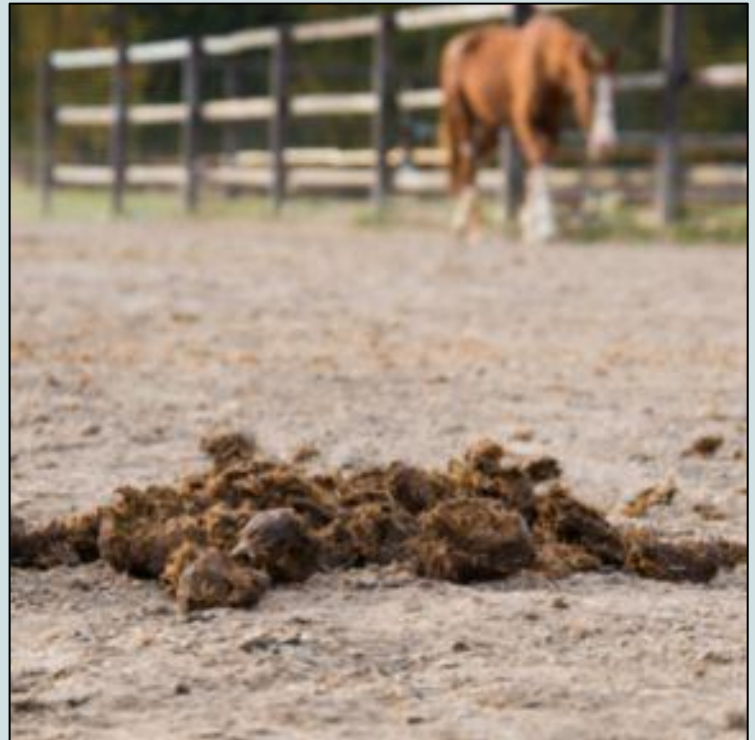
“We have been able to record many plans and manure storages that were not previously tracked. We increased our numbers of cover crop program acres because of the inspections. We are able to get out to farms that normally have no contact with the District.”

— *Charles Heberlig, Cumberland County Conservation District*

What Participating Conservation Districts Do

Districts that participate in the agricultural inspection program do the following:

- Have friendly checks-in with farmers, who may never contact the District or its website
- Record plans and practices that are already in place, but the county has not been credited for
- Steer farmers towards the District's conservation programs when appropriate
- Refer non-compliant operations to the Department of Environmental Protection after being provided a time-frame to achieve voluntary compliance.



Participating Conservation Districts Do NOT:

- Conduct surprise inspections
- Issue notices of violation
- Impose penalties or fines
- Issue field orders

Agriculture Inspection Program Phase 1 vs. Phase 2

The Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspection Program is broken into two phases. In Phase 1, Districts are checking to assure the farm plans required by Pennsylvania regulations exist and are complete. In Phase 2, Districts are checking to assure that the farm plans and the conservation practices within them are actively being implemented and maintained.

For more information, contact Kate R. Bresaw, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection,
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