



United States Department of Agriculture

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Denise Coleman, State Conservationist, Pennsylvania NRCS
2022 Conservation District and PA Agency Ag Meeting

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NRCS Contributions to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Between 2013 and 2020, NRCS has written conservation plans on over 2.62 million acres and implemented:

- 3.2 million acres of conservation that improves water quality
- 2.29 million acres of conservation on cropland that improves soil health
- 393,000 acres of conservation that restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat

Since the 2018 Farm Bill was passed, between 2018 and 2020 NRCS implemented:

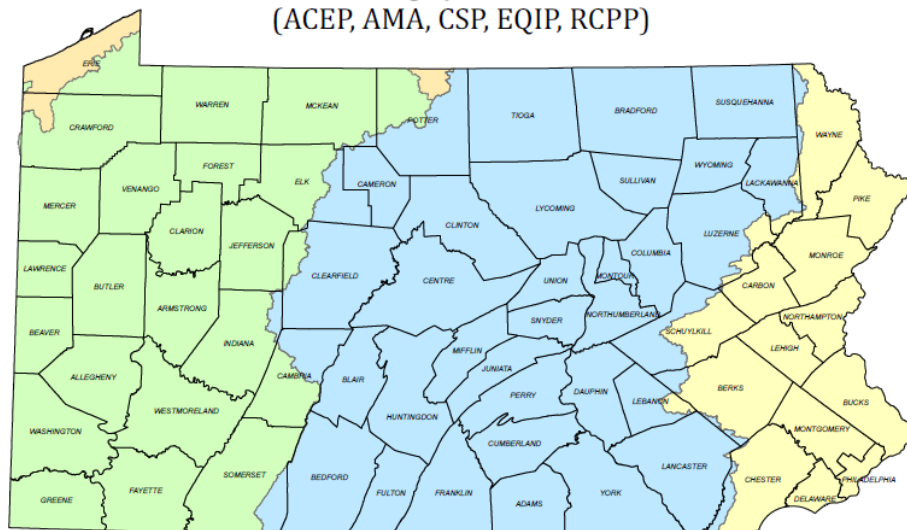
- 1.26 million acres of conservation that improves water quality- That's the size of Grand Canyon National Park.
- 917,000 acres of conservation on cropland that improves soil health.
- 145,000 acres of conservation that restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat.



NRCS in the Bay – Pennsylvania Conservation

- Funding across ACEP, AMA, CSP, EQIP, and RCPP
 - 2018 - \$22.9 Mil (Statewide); \$14.5 Mil (CB) – 63% of total funding
 - 2019 - \$33.4 Mil (Statewide); \$22.8 Mil (CB) – 68% of total funding
 - 2020 - \$31.2 Mil (Statewide); \$20.2 Mil (CB) – 65% of total funding
 - 2021 - \$32.4 Mil (Statewide); \$21.5 Mil (CB) – 66% of total funding
- PA is obligating an average of \$19.8 Million/ year in the Bay alone, excluding easements

Funding by Watershed
(ACEP, AMA, CSP, EQIP, RCPP)









Chesapeake Bay = Blue

Ohio River Watershed	Great Lakes Watershed	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Delaware River Watershed
Contracts.....174	Contracts.....4	Contracts.....379	Contracts.....120
Acres.....27,995	Acres.....245	Acres.....58,481	Acres.....17,790
Dollars.....\$6.0 million	Dollars.....\$341,653	Dollars.....\$20.0 million	Dollars.....\$4.9 million





PENNSYLVANIA NRCS FY 2021 INVESTMENTS ON PRIVATE WORKING LANDS

EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program		AMA Agricultural Management Assistance Program	
	53,272		240
	475		16
	\$22.2 M		\$557,169



CSP Conservation Stewardship Program



56,996



198



\$7.9 M

* Includes CSP and CSP-GCI

RCPP Regional Conservation Partnership Program



1,880



16



\$1.7 M

* Includes RCPP-EQIP



CTA Conservation Technical Assistance



140,144

* Acres planned



1,749

Symbol Key



Acres



Funding



Contracts



Plans



INITIATIVES

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

\$1,383,397

Organic Initiative

(Certified & Transition)

\$183,126

High Tunnel Initiative

\$157,560

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

\$176,993

Climate Smart Initiative

\$391,194





ENHANCING WATER QUALITY



NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (NWQI)

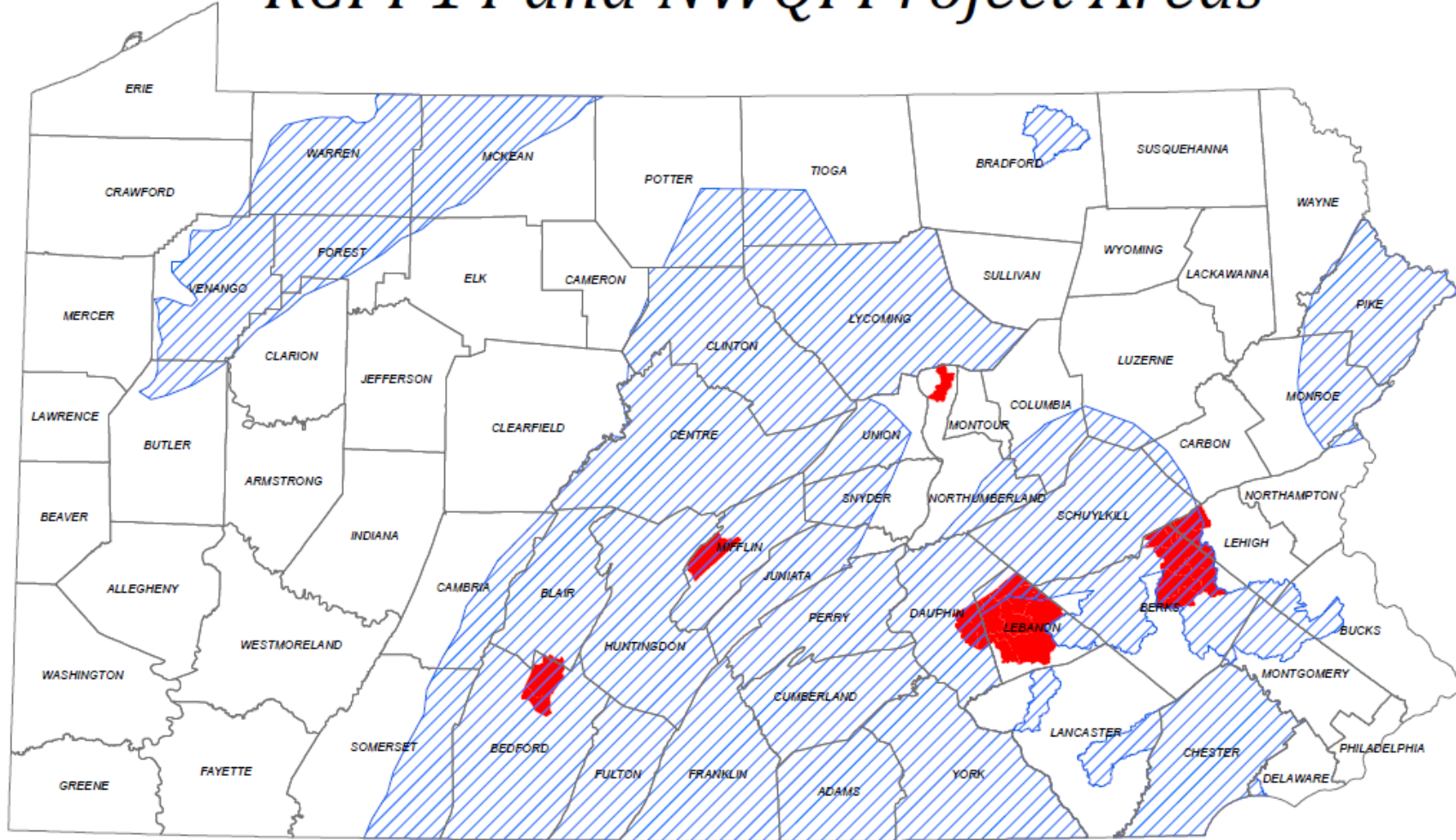
NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and forest landowners interested in improving water quality in priority watersheds with ag impaired streams through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI).

NWQI is currently being offered in the following Pennsylvania watersheds (because of the significant natural resource challenges they face):

- Warrior Run
- Beaver and Upper Yellow Creeks
- Upper Kishacoquillas Creek
- Swatara Creek
- Maiden Creek



RCPP14 and NWQI Project Areas



- County Boundary
- 2014 Farm Bill RCPP Projects
- NWQI





REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

At the beginning of FY 2021 PA NRCS had four active RCPP Agreements. FY2021 was the first year of RCPP projects funded with the revised RCPP under the 2018 Farm Bill.

During FY2021 PA NRCS was awarded seven new RCPP projects. Of these seven new RCPP Projects, five were under agreement by the end of FY 2021. Two projects were still under negotiation.

The five new RCPP projects with agreements completed are shown on the next page.



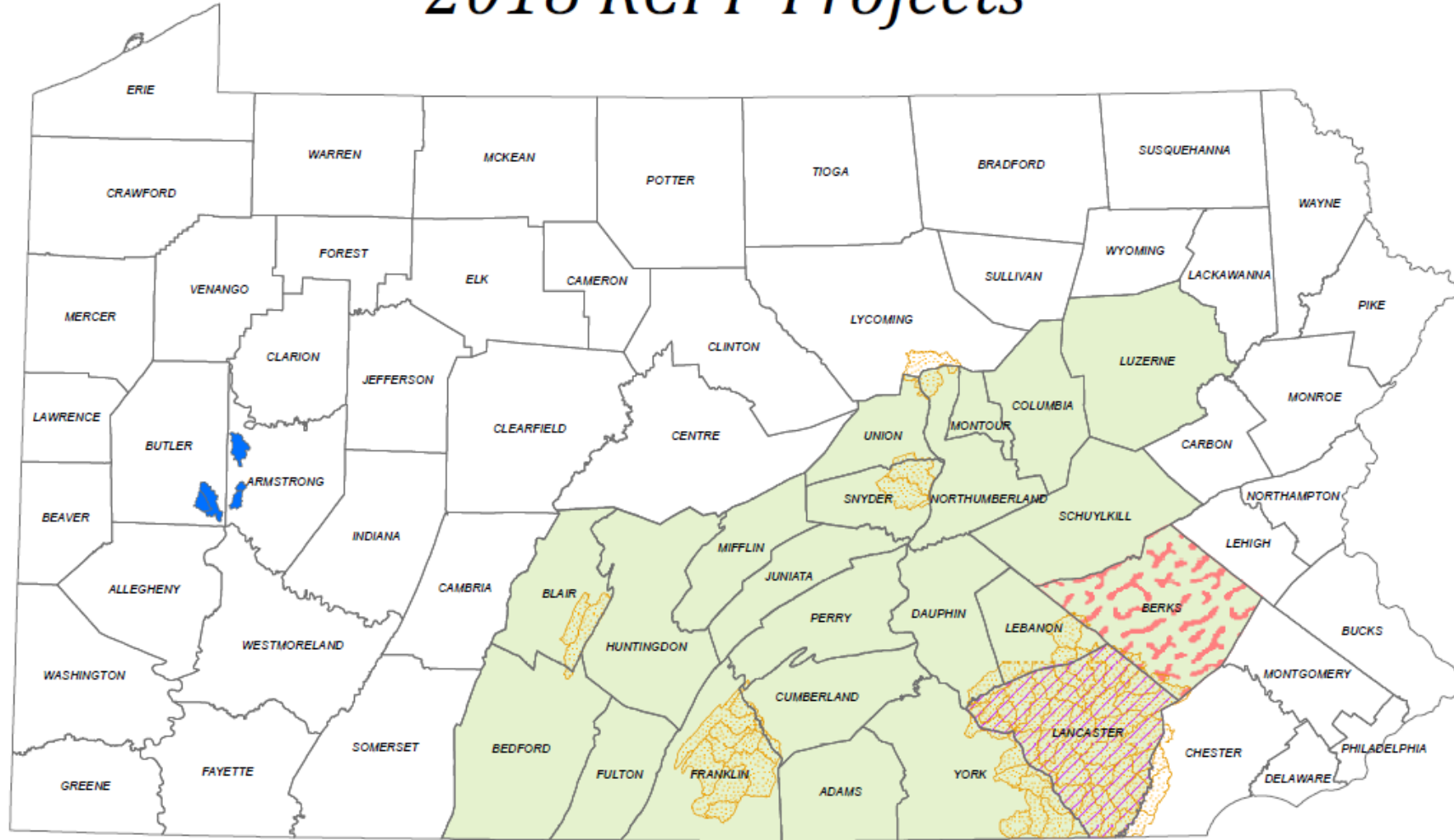








TABLE 6: NEW RCPP PROJECTS IN FY21

RCPP Project	NRCS Funding	Partner Funding
1. <i>Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape</i> Lead Partner: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	\$9,928,571	\$38,982,500
2. <i>Ag BMP Implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed</i> Lead Partner: Berks County Conservation District	\$2,232,143	\$2,294,875
3. <i>Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Alliance</i> Lead Partner: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania	\$1,169,618	\$1,163,815
4. <i>Lancaster's Common Agenda for Clean Water</i> Lead Partner: Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County	\$7,400,000	\$13,244,890
5. <i>Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership</i> Lead Partner: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	\$4,000,000	\$5,707,993



2018 RCPP Projects



-  Turkey Hill Clean Water # 2513
-  Ag BMP Implementation #1934
-  Lancaster Clean Water #2437
-  Kittatinny Ridge #1847
-  Buffalo Creek Watershed #2035
-  County Boundary



TOP CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Practice	Count	Measurement
Livestock		
Waste Storage	79	No
Heavy-Use Area	337,550	SF
Trails & Walkways	30,797	Ft
Stream Crossings	53	No
Fence	601,968	Ft
Roof Runoff	482	No
Prescribed Grazing	3,045	Ac
Agronomic		
No-till	1,138	Ac
Cover Crop	40,775	Ac
Nutrient Management	32,847	Ac
Soil Erosion		
Diversion	29,418	Ft
Waterway	7,357	Ac
Terrace	42,254	Ft
Lined Outlet	61,868	Ft
Buffers		
Herbaceous Buffer	25	Ac
Forest Buffer	150	Ac



Coronavirus Agriculture Relief Payment (CARP) for Price Spikes in CY 2021 – 3/31/22

- Farmers faced/still facing extreme inflation costs for materials, resulting in a hesitation to sign new or implement existing contracts.
 - Those eligible practices completed in CY-2021 – 3/31/22 only included:
 - 367 - Roofs and Covers;
 - 430 - Irrigation Pipeline;
 - 443 - Irrigation System, Surface and Sub-Surface;
 - 468 - Lined Waterway or Outlet;
 - 516 - Livestock Pipeline;
 - 575 - Trails and Walkways;
 - 584 - Chanel Bed Stabilization.



Coronavirus Agriculture Relief Payment (CARP) for Price Spikes in CY 2021 – 3/31/22

- NRCS was able to respond with price adjustments for 7 practices, and completed CARP Modifications at the present time totaling \$1,634,984 as of 1/25/2022 in Pennsylvania.
- Deadline for these eligible practices to be completed in CY-2021 was originally 12/31/21. This deadline has now been extended until 3/31/22.

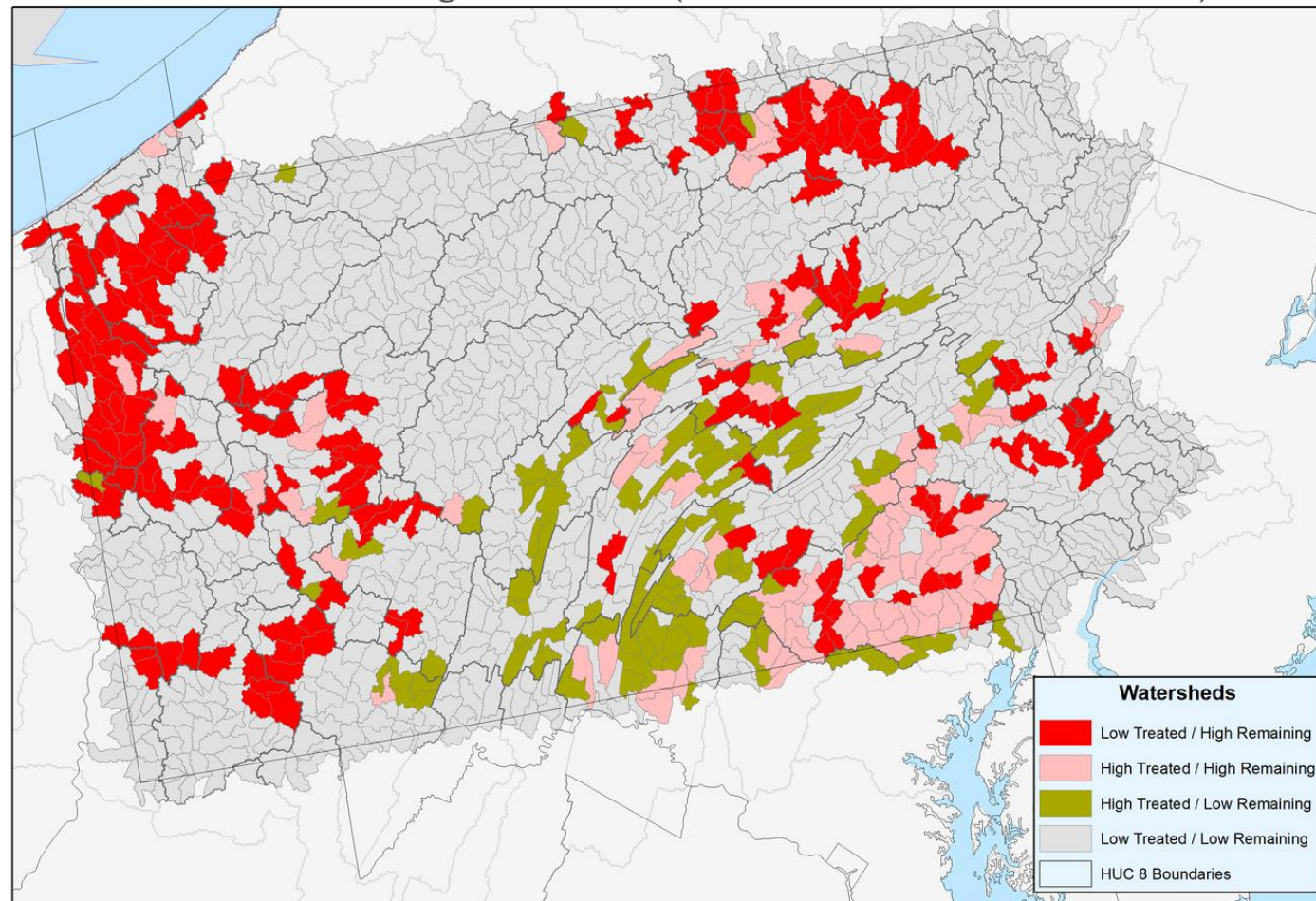


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Pennsylvania - CCBI Priority 1 Acres Treated and Acres Remaining
To Be Treated for Nitrogen Surface Loss (After Treatment for FY 2005 - FY 2020)



Maps from Resource Inventory and Assessment Division (RIAD)

- Red area shows Low Treated/High Remaining areas
- Could be used to know where to target new or more outreach and conservation efforts





Questions?





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