

EPA ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team

April 13, 2015

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EPA Animal Agriculture Program Assessments

- VA, PA, and NY assessments published March 2015.
- WV, MD, and DE assessments to be published in August 2015.

Link:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/ChesapeakeBay/EnsuringResults.html>

Click Agriculture Tab

Acknowledgments

- EPA Region III CAFO Team:
 - Mark Zolandz
 - Kyle Zieba
- EPA Region II Team:
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 - Ruth Izraeli

Authority

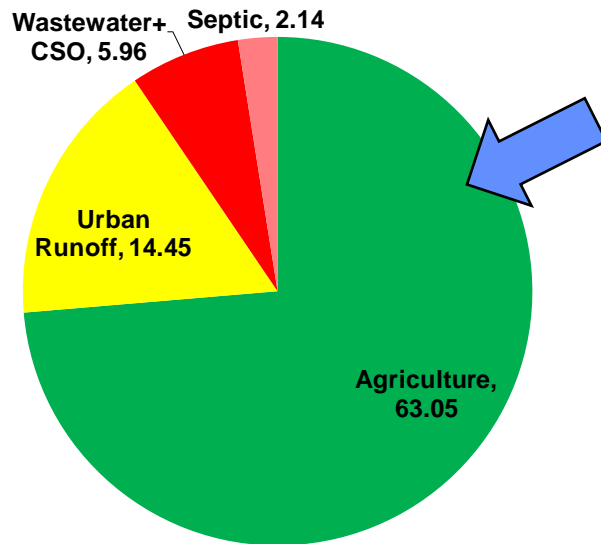
- EPA conducts periodic reviews of state programs as part of its oversight responsibilities under the Clean Water Act.
- Satisfies EPA commitment made in the “CBF Settlement Agreement”

Agriculture is a Big Part of Solution

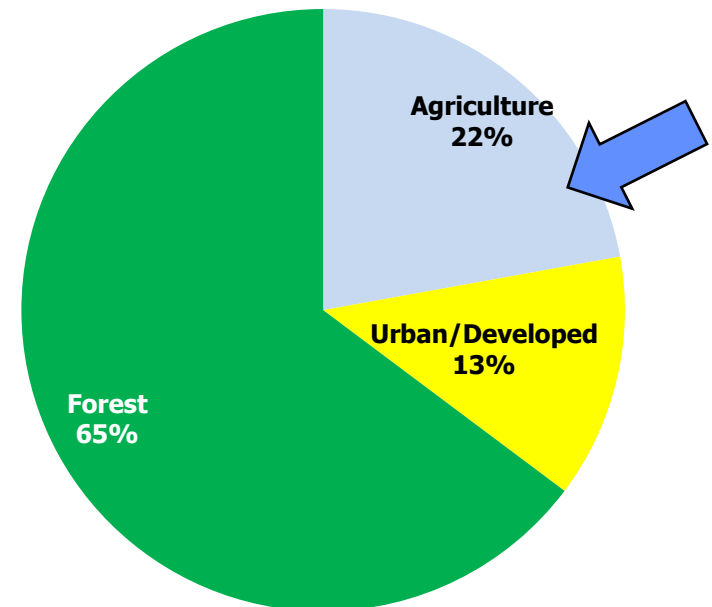
For the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, states are looking to agriculture to achieve:

- *63% of the necessary N reductions and*
- *78% of the necessary P reductions from agriculture.*
- *Why? Big land use, “cost-effective”*

Relative N Reductions for TMDL



Chesapeake Watershed Land Use



What we Evaluated

- Regulatory and voluntary animal agriculture programs.
- Universe of operations covered.
- Staffing and funding.
- Data management.
- Agency communication.
- On-the-ground implementation.
- Alignment with TMDL WIP practices.

Virginia Assessment

- **Agencies:** VADEQ, VADCR, VDACS, DEQ Tidewater Regional Office, DEQ Valley Regional Office
- **Programs:**
 - Nutrient Management Program
 - VA Pollution Abatement Program (VPA)
 - Resource Management Plan Program
 - Agricultural Stewardship Act Program
 - Small AFO Strategy Program
- **Data:** Questionnaire, 60 VPA-permitted AFO files, interviews with agency staff.

Virginia - Top Line Findings

- VPA Program – robust and well-implemented (swine/poultry).
- VPDES CAFO Permit Program – only two permits issued. Determinations underway.
- Voluntary Programs – heavy reliance.
 - Resource Management Plan Program
 - Small AFO Strategy
- Small Dairies – VPA program covers only 13%. Goal: voluntary nutrient mgt plans on 75% of unpermitted dairies.

Pennsylvania Assessment

- **Agencies:** PADEP (north and south-central regional offices), PADA, SCC, Conservation Districts (Lancaster, Lebanon, Snyder, Union)
- **Programs:**
 - CAFO NPDES Program
 - Nutrient Management Program – CAO Program
 - Ag Erosion and Sediment Control Program
 - Manure Management Program
 - Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification Program
- **Data:** Questionnaire, 57 NPDES CAFO files, 86 files from conservation districts, interviews.

Pennsylvania - Top Line Findings

- CAFO/CAO Programs: robust, well-implemented, cover 10-20% of operations.
- Compliance challenges with state regulations covering the remaining 80-90% of operations:
 - Manure Management Program
 - Ag Erosion & Sediment Control program.
- State regulations likely won't be enough to meet TMDL WIP goals.

New York Assessment

- Agencies: NYSDEC, NYSDAM
- Programs:
 - CAFO Program
 - State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) CAFO Permit Program
 - Agricultural Environmental Management Program
- Data: Questionnaire, 41 SPDES-permitted AFO files, AEM materials, interviews with agency staff.

New York - Top Line Findings

- NY's federal CAFO program lacks transparency – no public review of the CNMPs.
- NY's State ECL CAFO program permits additional facilities beyond the federal CAFO permit program.
- NY's Agricultural Environmental Management Program encourages voluntary implementation of priority practices.

Utility

- EPA will use the assessment along with its ongoing CB TMDL evaluations to ensure states have the programs, policies, and resources necessary to succeed.
 - What's working well and why?
 - What is not working well and why?
 - How can state programs be strengthened?
- Strong state agricultural programs are essential for the Bay restoration.

Next Steps

- **Publish Program Assessments for WV, MD, and DE August 2015.**
- **Watershed Assessments:**
 - **Conduct one a year from 2013 – 2016.**
 - **Evaluate how effective state programs are in protecting local waterways from nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment runoff.**
 - **Visit 4 or more animal feeding operations.**
- **2013: Little Antietam Creek, Maryland.**
- **2014: Cooks Creek, Virginia.**

For more information



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