

Kelly O'Neill Bio

Kelly O'Neill has worked to strengthen Pennsylvania's agricultural production and improve water quality since November 2001 with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a conservation organization dedicated to restoring the nation's largest estuary and the streams and rivers that flow to the Bay. Originally a native of northeastern Pennsylvania where her family has been farming for over 150 years, she promotes practices and policies to protect water quality and help farmers to maintain soil and nutrients on the land.

Previously she was a Community and Economic Development agent with Penn State Cooperative Extension, serving Clinton, Centre, Potter and McKean Counties. From 1994-99, she advocated for federal policy reforms and promoted marketing opportunities that reward environmental stewardship and sustain family farms, with the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Nebraska. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, she organized a dairy goat cooperative that helped to significantly improve children's nutrition. She has a B.S. in animal science from Cornell University and an M.A. in international development from Clark University.