

Creating a “BMP Guide” for Chesapeake Bay Program Phase 6 Best Management Practices (BMPs)

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Need for a “one-stop shop” for basic information of CBP BMPs

- 200+ BMPs (depending how you count BMPs like cover crops)
- Numerous lengthy reports and appendices
- Not every sector has “user guide” materials or fact-sheets (e.g., CSN fact sheets for stormwater BMPs)
- Plenty of information available online (e.g., CAST documentation), but not always easy to find or understand

Working title:

Chesapeake Bay Program Quick Reference Guide for Best Management Practices (BMPs): Nonpoint Source BMPs to Reduce Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loads to the Chesapeake Bay and its Local Waters

Overall BMP Guide comprised of two parts—

1. Background and introductory materials

- Overview of Watershed Model and BMPs in the Model (similar to Sections 1 and 6)
- Read me” about the BMP Guide: purpose, contents, disclaimers, etc.

2. “Quick reference sheets” or “quick information sheets”

- Organized by sector in which the BMP is applied (Agriculture, Developed, Natural, Septic)
- One reference sheet for individual or logical groups of P6 BMPs (current draft list of 61 reference sheets)
- NOT “fact sheets” that have more detailed information or specific audiences, e.g., CSN fact sheets
- Reference sheets kept as “bare bones” as possible with basic general and CBP-specific information; provide links to more detailed resources to the extent that’s reasonable

BMP names: conservation tillage example

- See posted mock-up
- Basic CBP definition in “general information” section, front page
- Explicit crosswalk in “specific reporting and modeling section”
 - Bullets/text AND tabular

Current timeline

- Draft outline of overall document and individual BMP reference sheets: **May 2017**
- Draft mock-up/examples: **May 2017**
- Review/feedback from WTWG of draft outline and mock-ups; work with CBP communications team on quality info sheet template: **May – June 2017**
- Fill in draft info sheets, work internally with CBP staff and with external partners as needed. In general, the most common BMPs or BMPs that account for greater reductions in the WIPs will be prioritized and less common BMPs will be completed towards the end. **June – November 2017**
- Share draft document and draft info sheets with workgroups for general feedback and addition of missing state-specific information as they become available: **June – November 2017**
- Make additional edits and improvements based on feedback; work with CBP communications team on complete document: **November – December 2017**
- Share complete draft-final document for final corrections/edits: **December 2017 – January 2018**
- Final “guide” document published for use by partners during Phase III WIP development: **January – February 2018**

Next steps

- Specific suggestions still welcome re: list of practices and contents of the reference sheet (see draft list of BMP reference sheets and Conservation Tillage mock-up).
- Production of drafts about to begin.
- Drafts will be posted for workgroups on monthly calendar entries as they become available.
- Special request: please brainstorm and share online resources that may be useful for multiple reference sheets (e.g., CSN fact-sheets, “animal agriculture education project”).

Thank you!

Questions, suggestions or other thoughts on the BMP Guide? Please contact me—

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