

Agricultural Workgroup

Items for Consideration for 2018-2019 Work Plan

Based on Feedback from AgWG Membership

Scope and Purpose

The charge of the Agriculture Workgroup is to provide expertise and leadership on development and implementation of policies, programs, and research to reduce pollutant loads delivered from agricultural lands and animal operations to upstream waters and the Chesapeake Bay. The Workgroup reports to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team. Functions include:

- Provide a forum for discussion, exchange of information, and evaluation between federal, state, and local agencies, conservation districts, universities, agri-business, and the corporate sector on sustainable and/or cost-effective agricultural production systems that benefit water and air quality.
- Provide recommendations on the prioritization of federal and state technical and financial resources on specific practices in priority watersheds.
- Provide technical expertise and leadership to support the development and implementation of agricultural elements within the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestones, and tracking and reporting mechanisms that support an adaptive management approach towards Bay restoration.
- Coordinate with WQGIT Watershed Technical Workgroup to identify, define, quantify, and incorporate pollutant reduction and conservation practices on agricultural lands and animal operations into the Chesapeake Bay Program decision support system. Provide data and support for the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team and Technical and Support Services.

Areas of Focus

Implementation

Taking state and county watershed implementation plans from theory to on-the-ground practices.

Verification

Ensuring that Best Management Practices are accurately reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program for credit towards water quality goals.

Phase 6.0 Model Updates

Ensuring that the agricultural sector is represented in the most accurate terms available.

Innovative Practices/Approaches

Keeping up-to-date and incorporating, when appropriate, new practice and approaches that have been proven effective in addressing the challenges to improving water quality.

Climate Change

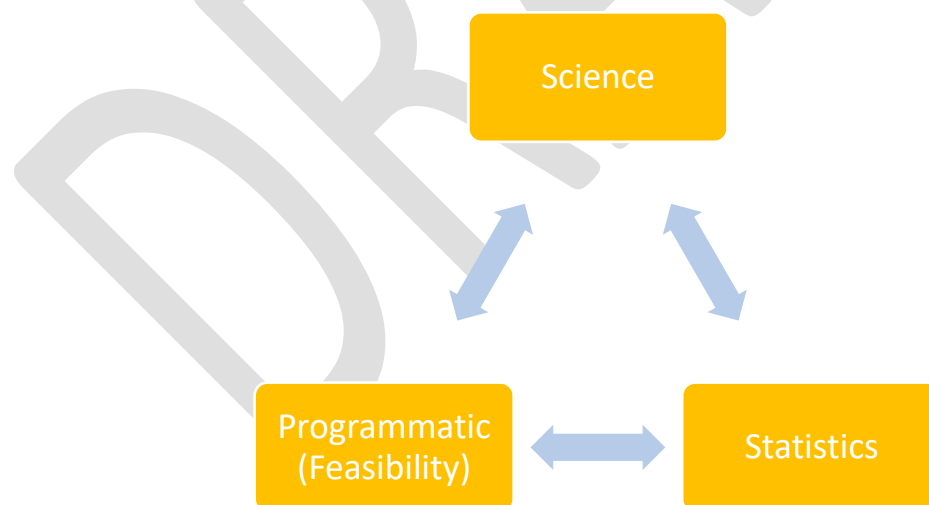
Addressing the factors that make the agriculture sector a key component in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

Implementation

Topic	Sub-topic	Related Issues	Possible Speakers/Resources
Communication	Farmer buy-in		
	Education and outreach		
	Farmer input		
Barriers	Economic	Impact on Famers; Farm Crisis Management	soil conservation districts reps; farmer/operators; ag focused social workers
	Social & Cultural		
	Lease land	Formalizing of lease agreements	Sarah Everhart, UMD
Opportunities	Focusing BMP implementation to maximize load reductions	Use of remote sensing technology; GIS mapping; water monitoring stations	USGS;
Resources	Technical Assistance	State Level; Federal Level	Various states, NRCS, NGOs, citizen groups, CBPO
	Cooperative Agreements	Land Grant Universities, Tetra Tech, EPA funding sources	
Cross-Sector Collaboration	Forestry Workgroup	Riparian Forest Buffers	CBPO Workgroup Coordinators and members, state/county agency reps, NGOs
	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup	STAC Workshop: Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings	
	Wetlands Workgroup	Non-tidal Wetland Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Creation BMP Expert Panel	
	Trading and Offsets Workgroup		
	Climate Resiliency Workgroup	Carbon Sequestration	
	Co-benefits of BMPs	Cross-reference to Model Inputs	
WIP Development		BMP Co-benefits; idea-sharing across jurisdiction; NEIEN; CAST	State and county-level reps; CBPO staff

Verification

Topics	Sub-topic	Related Issues	Possible Speakers/Resources
AgWG vs. EPA role		QAQC methods;	
State Approaches		Cross-jurisdictional idea-sharing	State and county-level reps;
Alternative Methods	Transect Survey	QAQC; Statistical significance; emerging technologies;	State and county-level reps; CBPO staff; Tetra Tech
	Remote Sensing		
	Producer/ Farmer Self-Survey		
Resources	Technical Assistance	Funding and logistics for verifying BMPs	State and county-level reps; CBPO staff



Phase 6.0 Model Inputs

Topics		Sub-topic	Related Issues	Possible Speakers/Resources
BMP Expert Panels	In CBPO Review	Ag Stormwater Management		Expert Panel Chairs, AgWG technical advisor; NRCS; soil conservation districts reps
	In Progress	Cropland Irrigation Management		
		Agricultural Ditch Management	Wetland Expert Panel	
	Establishing	Animal Mortality Management (RFP published)		
		Nursery Capture and Reuses (ad hoc group creating EP charge)		
	Re-evaluate (Previous Reports > 5 years old)	Pasture Management Conservation Planning	Weiner- Simpson Report 2009 report	
Crediting Load Reductions		BMP Life-Spans vs. CBP Credit Cycles		NRCS; CBPO staff
		NRCS 1619 Privacy Agreement		NRCS; CBPO staff
		BMP mapping in CAST	BMPs mapped to Soil Conservation Plans	Tetra Tech,
		Non Cost-Share BMPs	Practices not picked up in agency record-keeping	NRCS; CBPO staff; NGOs; farmer/operators
Data		Soil Phosphorus	Management Board Path Forward (Sept 21, 2017)	CBPO staff;
		Manure and Litter Nutrient Concentrations	Nutrient Concentrations (Broiler, Swine, Turkey, Dairy)	
			Sampling- Compare National ASTM sampling & analysis	

		procedures to operator-retrieved samples	
	Production (Populations)	(Broiler, Swine, Turkey, Dairy)	
	Fertilizers	County-level distribution data	CBPO staff;
	Soil and Manure Analysis	Regional data management standards; Watershed-wide, county-level database to track trend	
	Remote Sensing	Transect survey (tillage and cover crops)	
	Co-benefits of BMPs	Cross-reference to Model Inputs	

Innovations

Topics	Sub-topic	Related Issues	Possible Speakers/Resources
Nutrient Application Recommendations	Partnering with Regional Land Grant Universities	Updating nutrient application recommendations based on the newest research	Academic researchers; USDA-ARS; CBPO staff
Precision Agriculture		Newest technology for efficient planting, harvesting, and nutrient application; 4 R's	Tulane Grand Challenge (Nitrogen reduction)
Soil Health		Carbon Sequestration; conservation tillage; erosion; inter-row mowing for weed suppression; cover crops	
Pay-for-Performance		Economic incentivizing through market valuation of BMPs	Winrock International

Discovery Farms (Midwest)		farmer-led research and outreach program focused on the relationship between agriculture and water quality	
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Climate Change

Topics	Sub-topic	Related Issues	Possible Speakers/Resources
Impacts		Climate-Resilient Farming	NY- Greg Albrecht
Precision Agriculture			Tulane Grand Challenge (Nitrogen reduction)
Carbon Sequestration	Conservation Practices		