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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

June 12th, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Materials

Virtual Meeting Information

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 255 026 759 588

Passcode: 2MvGxh

Phone: +1 202-991-0477,,999598303# US

Calendar page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-june-2025>

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

Intro & Announcements

10:00 **Welcome, roll call, review meeting minutes – 5 minutes**

Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

- Roll call of the governance body
- Roll call of the meeting participants - *Please enter name and affiliation under “Participants” or in “Chat” box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the May AgWG meeting.

CBP Assignments

10:05 **Agroforestry EPEG: Update and Pulse Check – 40 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

Ruth Cassilly, CBPO Nonpoint Source Policy Analyst; Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

The Agroforestry Expert Panel Establishment Group (EPEG) first convened in August of 2024. Over the last 10 months, the EPEG has met with the purpose of evaluating NRCS Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) Silvopasture 381 and Alleycropping 311 for their water quality benefits and considering them for Chesapeake Bay Program BMP crediting. Ruth and Eric will provide a brief update on the EPEG’s preliminary findings ahead of the drafting of a final recommendation report. Prior to moving forward, the EPEG would like to know if the AgWG has comments to provide on the work done to this point or any questions about the recommendations that will likely advance. The AgWG will vote on the final recommendation report at a future meeting.

Data & Modeling

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10:45 Application of Buffer Upland Credit for Phase 7 – 40 minutes (presentation and discussion)
Bill Keeling, VA DEQ

Bill is returning to the AgWG to continue discussion on a proposed change to the methodology for buffer upland credit application for the Phase 7 watershed model. Bill presented this proposal to the Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) in April and to the AgWG in May. Before the WTWG votes on this proposal, they would like the topic to be shared with the AgWG for our awareness and to give our group the opportunity to provide any comments or concerns.

AgWG Planning

11:25 AgWG Planning Document Review – 20 minutes (presentation and discussion)
Eric Hughes, AgWG Coordinator

Eric will review the latest draft of the planning document presented at the April and May AgWG meetings, highlighting the changes that have been made since the May meeting and updates to the list of action items under each objective. Particularly important to this conversation will be next steps, including how to take the document from a draft to final version, and how it can be used to build future AgWG agendas.

Wrap-up

11:45 New Business, Announcements & Updates – 15 minutes

- **Agricultural Modeling Team (AMT) Updates**
 - Tom Butler, AMT Coordinator, will preview the June AMT meeting (6/13) agenda.
- **Personnel Updates**
 - EPA Region 3
 - Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey has been appointed as R3 Regional Administrator
 - CBPO
- **Events**
- **Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update**
 - The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) will meet again on [Wednesday, June 25th, 6:00PM-7:30PM](#).
- **2024 Progress Scenario Released**
 - The official 2024 Progress scenario is now available on CAST. This scenario reflects best management practices (BMPs) that were implemented and functioning during the reporting year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, as reported by jurisdictions to the Chesapeake Bay Program, and verified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The 2024 Progress Scenario can be used to assess progress toward the EPA's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) planning targets.
 - See the full announcement, with additional useful information and links, on the CAST website [here](#).
- **Beyond 2025 Update**

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- The Management Board submitted updated outcome language to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) for review at their [May 23rd meeting](#). At this meeting, the PSC approved the Vision, Principle, Preamble and Outcome language for public feedback.
 - The updated outcome language for the Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediments (formerly 2025 WIP) outcome is to "Implement and maintain practices and controls that will reduce excess nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to support living resources and protect human health by achieving water quality standards". Targets for the updated outcome can be found [here](#).
 - Full language for each outcome, including proposed targets, can be found [here](#).
- **American Society of Agronomy - Sustainable Agronomy Conference Free Webinar Series**
 - The 2025 Sustainable Agronomy Conference is a virtual, four-week educational series tailored to agribusiness professionals and growers. Session topics include agronomic myth-busting, water and weed management, AI and digital agronomy, and regenerative agriculture. A full program schedule can be found [here](#), and additional information is available on the [conference homepage](#).
 - [Registration](#) is open and free, and the four courses take place July 9, 16, 23, and 30th from 11-1 pm, Central time.
- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard**
 - The draft version of the updated and improved Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard is now publicly available at [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard](#).
 - The modules currently show 2023 Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) Annual Progress data, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Nontidal Network monitoring data through water year 2023, and tidal water quality standards attainment data through 2022. The CAST modules will be updated with 2024 Annual Progress data when it becomes available.
 - The "[Targeting Restoration](#)" dashboard is particularly pertinent to the Ag sector and displays a breakdown of the nutrient inputs as well as the N,P,S loads and land uses from CAST at a county level. Users can also view BMP implementation levels for ag sector.
 - The Dashboard team is asking Chesapeake Bay Program stakeholders to check out the updates and provide them with your feedback over the next month. Please send any questions, comments, or concerns to datadashboard@chesapeakebay.net.
- **Other Announcements?**
 - Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in "Recap" email.

12:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 17th, 10:00AM-12:00PM

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Acronym List

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)
AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)
BMP – Best Management Practice
CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)
CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)
CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
CTIC – Conservation Technology Information Center
CVN – Conservation Validation Network
EPA - [United States] Environmental Protection Agency
FSA – Farm Service Agency
MLRI – Modeled Load Reduction Indicator
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
ORISE – Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals' Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts
WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)
UMD - University of Maryland
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USGS – United States Geological Survey
USFS – United States Forestry Service