

# MDA BMP Functional Equivalent Review

Update

AgWG 9/26/13

# **Assumption from July 2013 AgWG Meeting:**

- All approved FE practices will receive the same effectiveness ratings as the federal or state cost shared practices.

# MDA Review: Steps To Date

Based on guidance to strengthen the MDA FE verification manual definitions and worksheets, the following actions have been taken to date:

- **August 2013-**
  - Review of Verification Worksheets by District Professional Engineer and Certified Professional Agronomist/Crop Advisor. Created a new format for worksheets showing NRCS practice specifications and FE specifications.
  - Met with MDA staff on proposed structure of worksheets and manual. Received approval to move forward.
  - Update to AgWG

# MDA Review: Steps To Date

- September 2013-
  - Reviewed Final Concept with MDA staff.  
Reviewed all practice sheets for make changes, finalized FE practice names and FE review process.
  - Proposed Practice Sheets were reviewed by District personnel in Caroline, Howard, and Washington Soil Conservation Districts.
  - Update to AgWG

# How FE Standards were Determined:

- All Critical NRCS Standard components were listed.
- Critical Components of FE were determined by:
  1. Is it required by Federal or State Law?
  2. Is it required for safe functioning of the practice?
  3. Is it required for the practice to provide resource protection?
  4. Owner Certification is required for satisfaction of design criteria of components that are not obvious and for operations and maintenance.

NRCS Specification:	422 Hedgerow Planting	MDA:	422FE Veg. Environmental. Buffer for Poultry				Supporting Data & Document
<u>Spec date:</u>	November-10		Employee records installation date, checks appropriate boxes , circles decision, documents and dates				
<u>Life span:</u>	15-ysr – FE Lifespan 3 years						
<u>Criteria Test:</u>	<b>Implementation Date:</b> November 2012	n/a	Y	N	?	NRCS Test	FE Test
<u>1</u>	This practice will be used for poultry house ventilation-outlet filtering		X			TRUE	TRUE Visual inspection
<u>2</u>	Hedgerows shall have a minimum width of 6 feet wide if seeded or one row if planted with seedlings	X				TRUE	
<u>3</u>	Plant species meets growth rate, form, shade tolerance, soil moisture, and strength		X			TRUE	TRUE Visual inspection
<u>4</u>	Orientation of hedgerow shall be perpendicular to wind direction of fans		X			TRUE	TRUE Visual inspection
<u>5</u>	Plants have > 65% density during time of need		X			TRUE	TRUE Visual
<u>6</u>	If used as a visual screen shall consist of at least one row of evergreens to provide year round screening	X				TRUE	
10 STEPS TOTAL							
<u>Materials Test:</u> <u>9</u>	Plants are native to MD (preferred) or are introduced and non-invasive, and of viable, high quality planting stock- Refer to MD job sheets*		X			TRUE	TRUE Owner interview
<u>Maintenance Test:10</u>	Owner has and follows maintenance plan. *					TRUE	
	*-per owner's certification- 3 rows of Switch-grass placed in front of all poultry house fans, maintained adequately for protection, photo attached					Meets NRCS spec	Meets FE standard
	Certification Date: 9/26/13 DDY      Recertification Date:						

# Vegetative Environmental Buffer for Poultry Houses at Planting Example



# Next Steps

- Re-write FE Verification Manual with final definitions and worksheets
- CBP programs FE's in 5.3.2 CBP Model; Submit FE BMP's for additions to NEIEN Appendix
- Add FE's to MDA CONTRACK Reporting System
- Add FE's to data collection sheets used in Maryland- WIP, FSCAP, MDNTT, Certainty
- In-Service Training for all District Employees



Questions?