



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# **Agriculture Workgroup**

April 2026

# Agenda

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**1**

**Deeper Dive into the E3  
Scenario**

**4**

**Announcements &  
Updates**

**2**

**BMP Review Update**

**3**

**Overview of the NRCS  
Regenerative Pilot  
Program**



1

# A Deeper Dive into the E3 Scenario



# Presentation





## Potential AgWG E3 Approach

- CBPO staff reviews P6 records and consults with interested members (and those who were present for P6 E3 development) offline to **develop draft of revised BMP inputs**
  - Share preliminary draft to discuss at May AgWG meeting
  - Make changes between May and July, seeking final AgWG approval at July meeting
  - Clean Water Goal Team reviews at their August meeting; approves in Sept



2

# **BMP Review Update**



# BMPs – Crediting

- Key takeaways
  - Very few, if any, BMPs are “missing”
  - Several BMPs warrant revisitation
- Initiatives to consider
  - Streamlining workflow for establishing crosswalks between new USDA BMPs and enhancements
- Explore crediting mechanisms for:
  - Soil health
  - In-house poultry litter management
- BMPs to revisit:
  - MTT
  - Grass Filter Strips, Buffers
  - Forest Buffers
  - Barnyard Runoff Control
  - Cover Crops
  - Pasture, Loafing Lot Management
  - Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans
  - NRCS CSP enhancements

# BMPs – Remote Sensing

- AgWG's practices of interest
  - Cover Crop
  - Tillage
  - Buffers (both forest and grass)
  - Stream Exclusion
  - Offstream Watering
  - Wetland Creation/Restoration
  - Tree Planting
- High-level comments
  - Limitations to watershed-wide implementation of remote sensing methods should be considered (e.g., cloud/snow cover)
  - Consider remote sensing methods for determining crop types, fallow fields, land use change


# BMPs – Remote Sensing

- Cover crop/tillage project – year 1
  - Identify/document best practices for cover crop mapping
  - Identify key stakeholders across the partnership to consult throughout this effort
    - Conduct focused meetings to identify jurisdictions' verification methods and discuss best possible applications of the remote sensing product
  - Develop draft workflow for watershed-wide cover crop mapping
  - Develop *initial* watershed-wide cover crop map

# Overview of the NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program



# Context

- Welcome Vivian Dickson, NRCS Chesapeake Bay Coordinator!
  - AgWG as a platform for dissemination of information about NRCS programs
  - Please put questions in the chat – we will follow up offline with answers to any questions that can't be answered on the call
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# Presentation






# 4

## **Announcements & Updates**





# CBP Website Update

- “Project, Publication & Related Resources Audit”
  - Program-wide structure and governance changes will create a need to revisit the presentation of information across CBP groups
  - What changes do you think could/should be made to the AgWG webpage?
    - Missing information or resources?
    - Links to key external documents (e.g., WIPs)?
    - Links to key external sites (e.g., partners’ webpages)?
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# **AMT Updates**






# **AAC Updates**





# Management Board (MB) Updates

- Meeting today to:
    - Finalize Management Strategy and Work Plan Templates
    - **Review draft Governance and Management Framework**
  - Governance and Management Framework
    - May 7 – draft GMF will be shared with MB
    - May 14 – red flag review at May MB meeting
    - June 11 – consensus review/decisions at June MB meeting
    - June 30 – approval sought at June PSC meeting
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# Anything else?

- Send to Caroline Kleis ([Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov](mailto:Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov)) for inclusion in “Recap” email

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# Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at [Hughes.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Hughes.Eric@epa.gov)

