



United States Department of Agriculture



USDA-EPA Task Force *on Crediting Federal Conservation Investments*



Kelly Shenk- EPA Region 3 Ag Advisor
Leon Tillman- NRCS Chesapeake Bay Coordinator

Task Force Overview



**Convened by USDA and EPA
Senior Leadership**

**Ad hoc, Independent
Task Force**

Will make recommendations to the Principals' Staff Committee and Management Board for review and assignment to the appropriate CBP committees.

- EPA and USDA are united in our commitment to give farmers the credit they deserve.
- More fully credit farmers' conservation efforts in cooperation with the Bay States and ag community.
- Maintain scientific integrity and ensure producer privacy is protected.

Objectives

- Develop a full accounting of practices, considering double counting
- Identify and verify expired practices
- Credit more practices
- Develop time-savings methodologies



Membership

Approximately 24 members that will serve 2 sub-groups.

- 6-8 USDA (NRCS, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Farm Service Agency, and Forest Service)
- 2-3 EPA, USGS, and each Chesapeake Bay State

Desired knowledge and expertise :

- Conservation practice crediting challenges and possible solutions,
- Data management and reporting of practices for credit in the CBP model,
- Technical expertise in practices installation, maintenance, and performance,
- Time-saving reporting methodologies/technologies, or
- Federal agriculture and/or conservation law, policy, or programs.

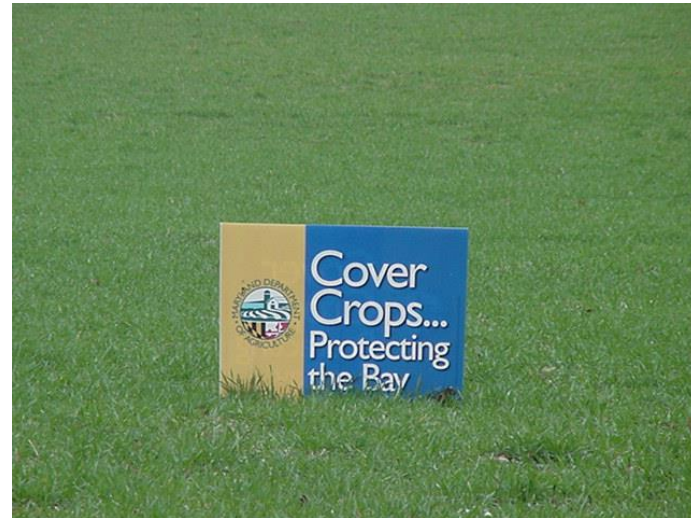
Meeting Frequency

- **Task Force introductory meeting** to review objectives, prior work, current science, and previous and current recommendations.
- **Sub-group bi-monthly meetings** to execute work and propose recommendations.
- **Periodic high level leadership meetings** to discuss recommendations.



Deliverables

- **Action Plan:** Recommended solutions for each objective.
- Will include additional support documentation, as needed
- A final plan will be presented to CBP partnership within 1 year.
- Recommendations will be presented throughout the year as they become ready.



Request - Nominate Members

Management Board members or designees, please nominate representatives to serve on the Task Force by January 31st.

- Each State nominate 2-3 reps
- USGS nominate 2-3 reps
- EPA nominate 2-3 reps
- USDA nominate 6-8 reps (NRCS, FSA, NASS, FS)
- Include brief professional narrative detailing knowledge and experience related to technical practice standards, reporting/crediting methodologies, and federal policies and programs.
- Email nominations to Kelly Shenk and Leon Tillman
 - Subject Line: "Federal Crediting Task Force"
 - shenk.kelly@epa.gov; leon.tillman@usda.gov

Questions

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