Operationalizing Water Quality Trading in the Chesapeake Bay

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Conservation Innovative Grant

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CIG

Operationalizing Water Quality Trading in the Chesapeake Bay

- Partners: World Resources Institute (Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER), Red Barn Consulting, Howard County Soil Conservation District
- Overview
  - 2010- WRI CIG Grant to create an online, multistate platform for water quality trading in the Chesapeake Bay
    - Include registry, market place, interactive map and calculation tool
    - Integrating WRI's Nutrient Net on-farm calculator with USDA's Nutrient Tracking Tool
      - Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Tracking Tool (CB NTT)

  - CBF CIG grant- to work with WRI and other project partners to build upon and expand the efforts of WRI by promoting broader use of the multistate tool in PA and VA and provide additional information to calibrate and validate the multi-state tool
    - Promoting use of a consistent tool for estimating nutrient reduction credits from agricultural operations across the Chesapeake region

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CIG

Operationalizing Water Quality Trading in the Chesapeake Bay

- Objectives:
  - *Outreach:* 200 EQIP-eligible farmers in VA and PA
    - Conduct farm inventories, catalogue BMPs on farms
    - Use CB NTT to estimate compliance with Bay TMDL
  - *Policy Analysis:* Compare VA, PA approaches to baseline with performance-based approach using multi-state trading tool (CB NTT)
    - Compare environmental benefits of practice-based versus performance-based baselines

  - *Tool Development/ Refinement:* Based on feedback from conservation district staff, producers and state policy makers
    - Add features that are consistent with ongoing and future developments in state trading policies

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CIG

Operationalizing Water Quality Trading in the Chesapeake Bay

- Approach
  - On-farm assessments using "Inventory Tool" developed by HCSCD. Data will be entered into Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Tracking Tool.
    - Virginia- 100 farms: Northern Neck SWCD, Culpepper SWCD and Eastern Shore
    - Pennsylvania- 100 farms: Lancaster, Bradford, Chester Counties
- Deliverables
  - Summary of on-farm results including analysis of credit supply, policy comparisons, and summary of farmer perceptions
  - Revisions and updates to nutrient tracking tool

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CIG

Operationalizing Water Quality Trading in the Chesapeake Bay

- Current- Winter/ Spring 2014
  - Release of CB NTT- latest iteration of WRI's Nutrient Tracking Tool, includes interface for each state in the watershed
  - VA training- February
    - CBF staff and conservation district staff- Culpepper and Northern Neck SWCD
  - PA training- Planned for April
    - CBF staff, Red Barn Consulting staff, and select state and local government staff

  - Conducting on farm inventories & starting to enter data into the CB NTT

  - Recommendations/ refinements suggested for tool

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

CIG