

Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Water Quality Initiative

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GOAL


Clean Water and Economically Viable
Farms

OBJECTIVES

To help reduce Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Sediment loads to levels necessary to restore water quality through:

- ◆ Continued implementation of existing regulatory requirements
 - ◆ Increased compliance with current regulatory requirements
 - ◆ Improved regulatory tools
 - ◆ Targeted watersheds
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Focus on Implementation of Existing Regulatory Requirements

- Continue routine CAFO and CAO inspections
 - Continue to respond to / investigate agricultural water quality complaints
 - ◆ Thorough enforcement actions for actual pollution events
 - ◆ DEP may exercise its enforcement discretion
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Modify Regulatory Tools

- Update chapter 102 regulations, administrative manual and technical guidance
- Revise chapter 102 delegation agreements to include agricultural requirements
- Increase funds / revise delegation agreements for Nutrient Management Technicians
- Update Manure Management Manual
- EPA CAFO program review

Increased Outreach

- Initiate a renewed focus on education and outreach
 - Promote the use of nutrient reduction technologies and nutrient trades
 - Modify Chesapeake Bay Technician / DEP Field Staff work plans and activities
 - Develop / Implement Ag Compliance Policies in conservation districts
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Targeted Watershed Approach

- Select manageable size watersheds for the assessment and compliance initiative
- Prioritize DEP regional and central office time to complete agricultural assessment and compliance initiative
- Develop a tired compliance process; Maximize availability of funding opportunities for operations in the targeted watersheds
- Develop a strategy to track implementation of existing and future BMPs, planning, or operational changes

Proposed Timeline

- ◆ **September/October 2010** – Meet with AAB and Subcommittee's
- ◆ **January 2011** – Shared revised Draft with SCC
- ◆ **February 2011** - Meet with AAB and Subcommittee's
- ◆ **March 2011** – Publish in Pa Bulletin (30 day public comment period)
- ◆ **June 2011** – Meet with AAB and Subcommittee's
- ◆ **July 2011** - Shared revised Draft with SCC
- ◆ **August 2011** – Finalize Document

QUESTIONS

