



PA FARM CONSERVATION PRACTICES INVENTORY

*A survey of Pennsylvania farmers to document
conservation practice implementation in the
Chesapeake Bay Watershed*

Reasons for the Survey

Help Tell the Story of PA Ag's Conservation Efforts

- PA farmers have done much to improve water quality and soil health
- Yet many practices not counted toward water quality goals (ex: Chesapeake Bay)
- Especially true with “voluntary” practices
- Survey will capture this data



Development of the Survey

A Collaborative Effort

- Developed collaboratively by:

Penn State University

PennAg Industries

PA Assoc of Conservation Districts

PA Assoc of Sustainable Agriculture

PA Dept of Agriculture

PA Dept of Environmental Protection

PA Farm Bureau

PA Farmers Union

Professional Dairy Managers of PA

State Conservation Commission

- Questions were pre-tested and refined by farmers and conservation professionals

Survey Overview

Part Two: Your Conservation Practices

- Questions about 12 conservation practices or plans:

Nutrient Management Plans
Manure Management Plans
Nitrogen Testing (ex, PSNT)
Manure Transport
Animal Waste Storage Systems
Barnyard Runoff Controls

Ag E&S Plans & Conservation Plans
No Till
Cover Crops
Stream Bank Fencing
Riparian Buffers
Land Retirement

- These are priority practices that achieve high levels of nutrient and sediment reductions

Survey Overview

Part Two: Your Conservation Practices

- For each practice, several questions asked
- Questions necessary to determine whether practices meet BMP definitions and will count toward Chesapeake Bay goals
- Space at end to report other practices or provide other comments

14. Do you have any streamside riparian buffers on land that is part of your farming operation?

No → Please proceed to Question 15.

Yes → 14a. How many acres is the buffer? acres

14b. What is the average width of the buffer? feet

14c. Are trees and/or shrubs growing in the buffer? No Yes

14d. Were any county, state or federal government funds used to construct this buffer?

No → Please proceed to Question 15.

Yes → 14e. How many acres of buffer was funded using county, state or federal government funds? acres

15. Excluding any riparian buffers identified in your answer to Question 14, have you retired any cropland from your farming operation to permanent vegetation such as perennial grasses, trees or shrubs?

No → Please proceed to Question 16.

Yes → 15a. Indicate what year you retired your cropland, how many acres have been retired, and whether trees and/or shrubs are growing in the retired acreage.

Year	Acres	Are trees and/or shrubs growing?
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

15b. Were any county, state or federal government funds used to retire this acreage?

No → Please proceed to Question 16.

Yes → 15c. How many acres of retired cropland was funded using county, state or federal government funds? acres

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Survey Administration

Penn State Survey Research Center

- Survey being administered by the Penn State Survey Research Center
- Invitation letter mailed to over 20,000 farmers in the Bay watershed on January 29, 2016

Survey Administration

Penn State Survey Research Center

- Each farmer given a 5 digit code to complete the survey online at: <http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp>
- Those farmers not completing survey online by mid-February will be mailed paper copy



Survey Participation

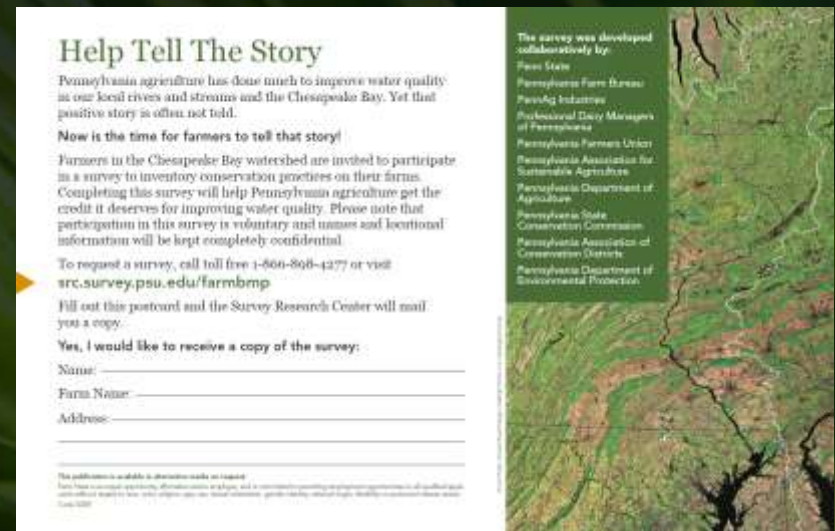
Options for Farmers to Participate

- Fill out survey online at <http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp>
- Fill out paper copy and mail back to Survey Research Center
- **SURVEY CLOSES APRIL 30, 2016**

Survey Participation

Farmers Who Did Not Receive Mailing

- Visit website at <http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp>
- Call Survey Research Center toll free at 1-866-898-4277
- Fill out “HELP TELL THE STORY” postcard at a winter event or meeting



Help Tell The Story

Pennsylvania agriculture has done much to improve water quality in our local rivers and streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Yet that positive story is often not told.

Now is the time for farmers to tell that story!

Farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are invited to participate in a survey to inventory conservation practices on their farms. Completing this survey will help Pennsylvania agriculture get the credit it deserves for improving water quality. Please note that participation in this survey is voluntary and names and locational information will be kept completely confidential.

To request a survey, call toll free 1-866-898-4277 or visit src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp

Fill out this postcard and the Survey Research Center will mail you a copy.

Yes, I would like to receive a copy of the survey:

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

The publication available in alternative media on request.

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The survey was developed collaboratively by:

- Penn State
- Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
- PennAg Institute
- Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Farmers Union
- Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
- Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
- Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Survey Participation

Deadline for Participation

- For all farmers, **SURVEY CLOSES APRIL 30, 2016**

After Survey Closes

Analyzing and Reporting Results

- Penn State Ag Sciences researchers will analyze survey responses
- 10% randomly selected for farm visits by Penn State Extension to assess inventory results and help researchers analyze data
- Report will be issued and cumulative results provided to PA DEP to document conservation practices implemented

Protecting Confidentiality

Analyzing and Reporting Results

- Participation completely voluntary
- All names and locational information kept completely confidential
- Results provided to PA DEP will be cumulative by county and will not include names or addresses
- All names and addresses will be removed from survey and farm visit results
- Once study is complete, all identifiers will be destroyed

Conclusion

Help Tell The Story!

- Visit <http://src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp>
OR
- Fill out paper survey mailed to you and return to Survey Research Center OR
- If you did not receive copy, call 1-866-898-4277
- **COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY BY
APRIL 30, 2016**



Questions?

Contact Penn State

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PA in the Balance: Themes

1. Embrace a Culture of Stewardship
2. Employ Effective Targeting
3. Integrate Soil Health, Manure Management, and Riparian Ecosystem Stewardship into Water Quality Strategies
4. Support Community Based Approaches
5. Recognize a Three Pronged Approach (Education—TA—Enforcement)
6. Revisit and Retool Conservation Incentive Programs
7. Collaboratively Seek New Funding Opportunities

PA in the Balance: Next Steps

1. Reconvene conference planning committee (by early April)
2. Develop draft conference report (by early May)
3. Reconvene conference attendees (early June)
4. Debrief key agencies and stakeholders (beginning immediately)

For more information, contact:

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