

Maryland Agriculture's Role and Progress toward the Chesapeake Bay Restoration

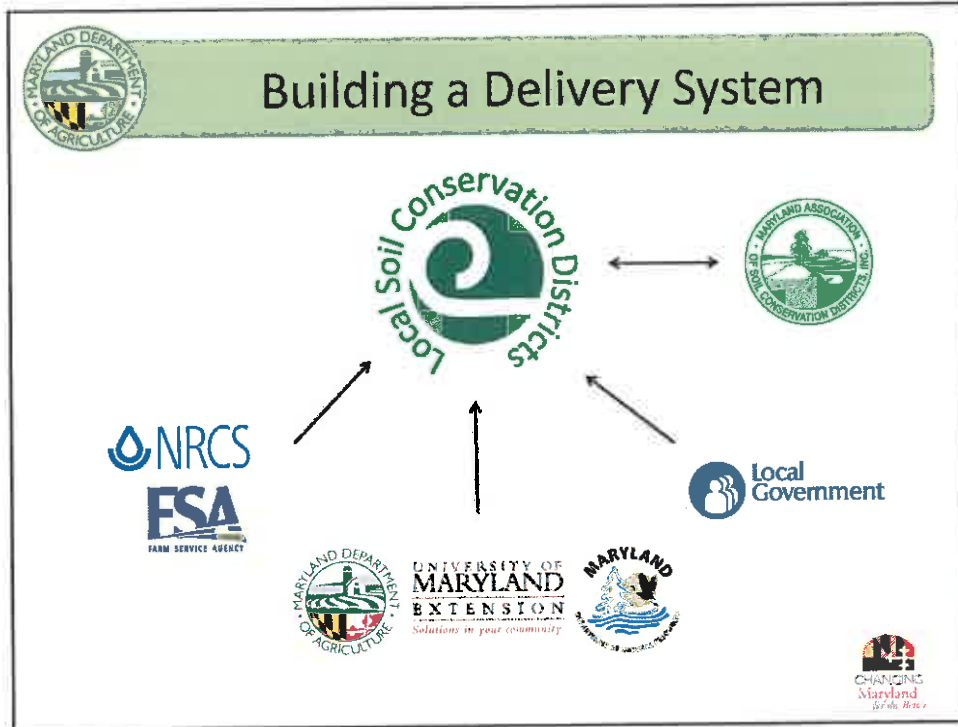
WIP Regional Meetings
Jason Keppler



Our Approach to Water Quality

- Office of Resource Conservation
 - Mission: To protect and conserve natural resources and promote Maryland agriculture by providing leadership, resources and support to the agricultural community for the benefit of all Maryland citizens.
- Technical assistance since the 1940's
- State financial assistance began in the 1980's
 - Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS)
 - Cover Crop
 - Capital
 - Manure Transport
- Federal programs partnership
- Regulatory oversight of Nutrient Management





The complex block, titled "Agricultural BMPs for Water Quality", lists various Best Management Practices (BMPs) categorized into Nutrient Management, Conservation Tillage, Cover Crops, Pasture Grazing BMPs, and Other Agricultural BMPs. The Maryland Department of Agriculture logo is in the top left corner, and the "CHANGING Maryland With You" logo is in the bottom right corner.

Nutrient Management

Conservation Tillage

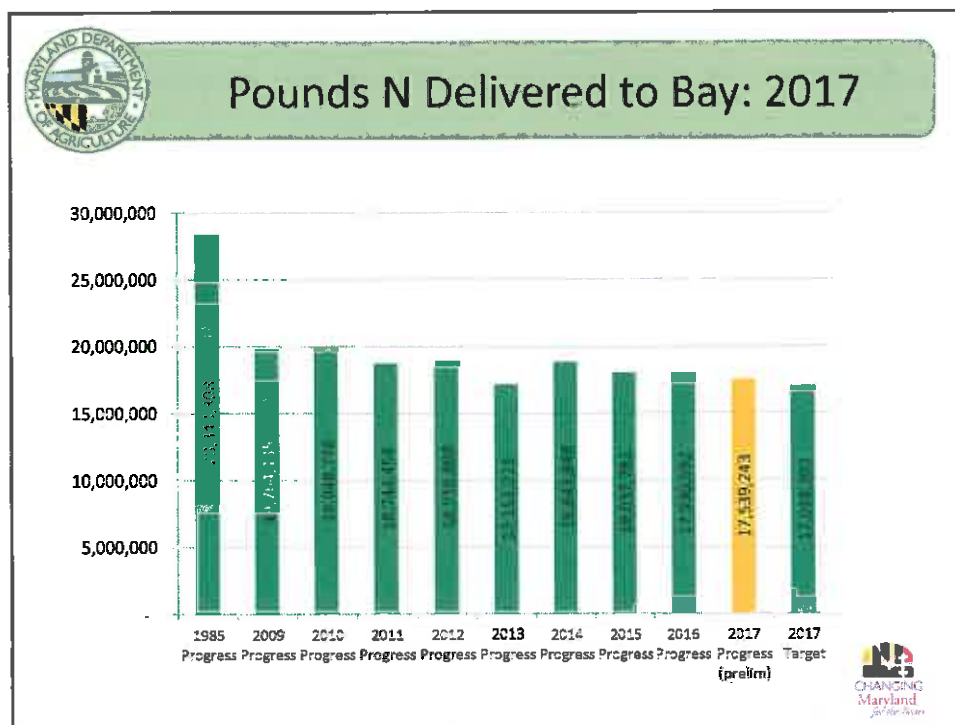
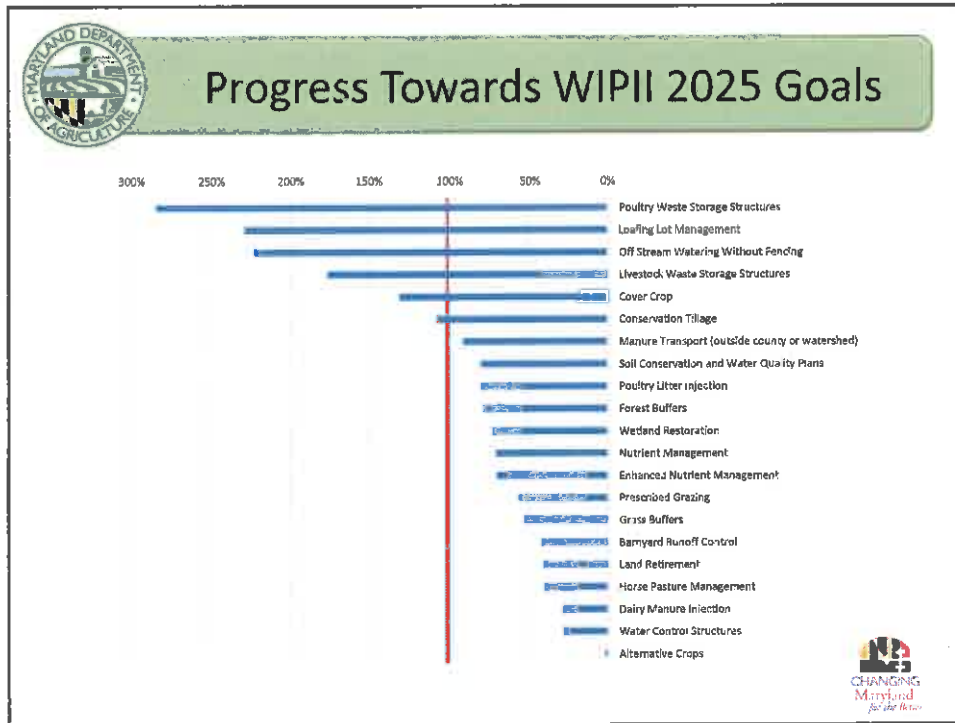
Cover Crops

Pasture Grazing BMPs

- Pasture Fencing
- Rotational Grazing
- Horse Pasture Management

Other Agricultural BMPs

- Forest and Grass Buffers
- Wetland Restoration
- Land Retirement
- Tree Planting
- Carbon Sequestration/Alternative Crops
- Conservation Plans/SCWQP
- Non-Urban Stream Restoration
- Manure Transport
- Animal Waste Management Systems
- Mortality Composters
- Dairy Precision Feed and/or Forage Management
- Barnyard Runoff Controls
- Water Control Structures





WIP III Expectations

- The Phase 3 WIP will be updated in 2018 to coincide with the new version of the Chesapeake Bay Model
 - Incorporates new science and changes to base conditions (e.g. acres of land uses, animal populations, etc.)
- Draft targets released December 2017
- Maryland is still working actively with CBP to understand changes in nutrient loads and BMP effectiveness under the new Chesapeake Bay Model
- Within Maryland, goals will be assigned to the urban and agricultural sectors for 2025
- MDA will approach agricultural goals at the county scale with Soil Conservation Districts



Ensuring BMP Performance

- Since 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Program requires all states and sectors to provide enhanced verification of BMPs to receive WIP credit.
- 100% of BMPs have to be verified to receive initial "credit" and ~10% of BMPs will have to be re-verified annually to receive continued "credit"





Verification Program Status

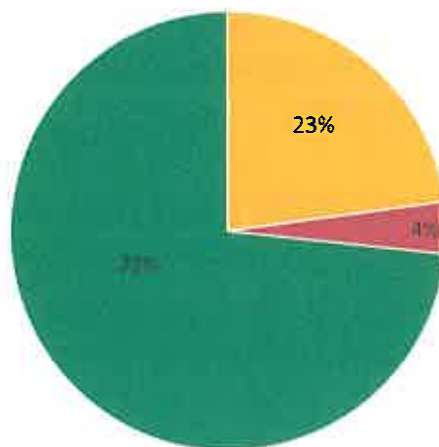
- Efforts began with a pilot program October – December 2016, with 5 Soil Conservation Districts
- Building to a team of 6 staff regionally-based
- Parcels prioritized by potential N reductions from existing BMPs
- **73% are still maintained on the landscape and providing water quality benefits**
- Spatial component included



Verification Results

More than 8,700 agricultural BMPs reviewed since October 2016

- No Longer Exists/Superseded
- Does Not Meet Standards
- Meets Standards





New BMPs in the "WIP III Toolbox"

- Cropland Irrigation Management
- Agricultural Stormwater Management
- Nursery/Greenhouse water capture and reuse
- Agricultural Drainage Management
- Manure Treatment Technologies
- Manure Incorporation



Phase III WIP Strategy

- Regional WIP meetings (all sectors) May and June 2018
- Agriculture engagement Summer 2018 through September 2018
 - MASCD
 - Farmer/Ag Leadership roundtable
 - Local Ag WIP meetings
 - Build Upon Phase II strategy
- Re-evaluate opportunities
 - Agricultural Conservation Leasing Project
- Incorporate new BMPs
- BMP Verification findings
- Draft WIP 3 due March 1, 2019 (final by June 28)





Questions

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