



# **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 One: About Your Farming Operations

- Name, address, county, municipality, watershed
- Farm operation size (acres)
- Types and acres of crops grown
- Rented and owned ground
- Types and numbers of animals

**About Your Farming Operations**

1. Please provide your name and the physical address of your farming operation.

First Name  I  Last Name

Number & Street Address

City  State  Zip Code

Municipality (township, borough, etc.)  County

Watershed, if known:  Delaware  Erie  Genessee  Ohio  Potomac  Susquehanna

2. How many acres is your farming operation? For purposes of answering this question and filling out the remainder of the survey, your farming operation includes all land which you manage for agricultural activities, including owned ground and rented ground.

Number of acres

3. For calendar year 2015, please indicate what crops you grew, how many acres of each, whether they were grown on owned or rented ground, and whether any of the acres grown were a double crop.

Crop	Acres on Owned Ground	Acres on Rented Ground	Acres Grown at a Double Crop
Corn Grain	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Corn Silage	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Soybeans	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wheat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Rye	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Barley	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Alfalfa	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Hay	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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# 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

src.survey.psu.edu/farmbmp/

PENNSTATE  
SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER

part of the Social Science  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### Chesapeake Bay Watershed Farm Study

Please Enter the 5 Digit code from your invitation letter

Code:

Invitations to participate in this study will be mailed the week of January 25. If you did not receive an invitation in the mail by February 5 and you would like to participate in this study, please email: [websurvey@survey.psu.edu](mailto:websurvey@survey.psu.edu) and include the subject line: farm study. Please include your name, address and farm name; you will then receive a code via email. You can request a paper version of the survey if you would prefer to complete the survey through the mail.

If you would like to view a PDF of the survey, click [HERE](#). This is a sample version and is not intended for responses.

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Penn State Ag Sciences News 1/8/2016

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Farmers to be surveyed on use of conservation practices in Chesapeake Bay watershed

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- If you're a farm operator in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, you soon will have a chance to highlight what steps you and your fellow farmers have taken to protect and enhance water quality in the region. Several agricultural and governmental organizations have partnered to develop a survey that will ask producers to document conservation practices they have adopted to promote water quality and soil health in the bay watershed.

"Pennsylvania agriculture has done much to improve water quality in our local rivers and streams and the Chesapeake Bay," said Matthew Royer, director of the Agriculture and Environment Center in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "Yet that positive story often is not told. We want to give farmers in the bay watershed a chance to tell that story."

More than half of Pennsylvania's land area drains to the Chesapeake Bay. The Susquehanna River, which flows through the state's most fertile farming region, is the bay's largest tributary.

The survey will be administered by the Penn State Survey Research Center, which soon will mail a letter to farmers in the watershed seeking their participation. College of Agricultural Sciences researchers will analyze the survey responses, and cumulative results will be provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to document the practices farmers have adopted to conserve soil and water and to protect water quality.

Ten percent of the participants will be selected randomly for farm visits by Penn State Extension to assess inventory results and help researchers better understand the methods used and challenges encountered when adopting various management practices.



# 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

# 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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