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

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Survey OverviewPart 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

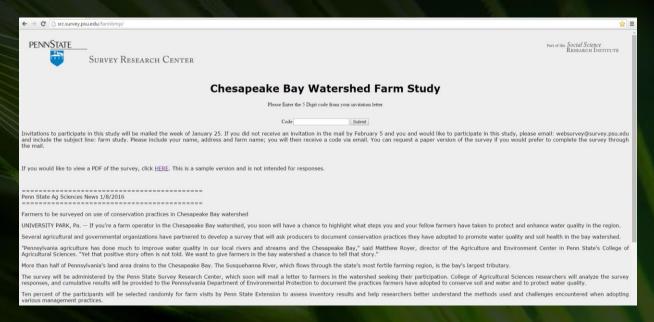
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14. Do you have any streamside riparian buffers on land that is part of your farming operation?
O No → Please proceed to Question 15.
O Yes → 14a. How many acres is the buffer?
14b. What is the average width of the buffer?
14c. Are trees and/or shrubs growing in the buffer? O No O Yes
14d. Were any county, state or federal government funds used to construct this buffer?
O No → Please proceed to Question 15.
O Yes → 14e. How many acres of buffer was funded using county, state or federal government funds?
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?
O No → Please proceed to Question 16.
O 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?
O No O Yes
O No O Yes
O No O Yes
15b. Were any county, state or federal government funds used to retire this acreage?
O No → Please proceed to Question 16.
O 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

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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