



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural
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Service



Maryland State Technical Advisory Committee

December 6, 2022

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Agenda



9:00 a.m. Introductions and NRCS Update
Eric McTaggart, Acting State Conservationist

9:30 a.m. Program Updates

Heydsha Cordero, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

- Fiscal Year 2022 Programs Wrap Up
- Fiscal Year 2023 Programs Updates

11:30 a.m. Engineering Updates

J'Que Jones, State Conservation Engineer

- Engineering Coverage
- Engineering Requests for Assistance
- Conservation Practice Standard Update (378)

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

12:30 p.m. Ecological Sciences Updates

Steve Strano, State Resource Conservationist

- FOTG/Conservation Practice Standards Update
- Technical Service Provider Activities – CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs



1:00 p.m. Soils Updates

Phil King, State Soil Scientist

1:10 p.m. Communications Updates

Genevieve Lister, State Public Affairs Officer

- Staffing update
- New NRCS website

1:20 p.m. Chesapeake Bay Updates

Leon Tillman, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator

- Chesapeake States' Partnership Initiative
- Funding Coordination

1:30 p.m. Partner Updates

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Eric McTaggart

Acting State Conservationist

120-Day Detail (November-March)

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(401) 757-0861



Program Updates



Heydsha R. Cordero

Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

Heydsha.cordero@usda.gov

Fiscal Year 2022 Programs Wrap Up

- Easements
- Agricultural Management Program (AMA), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Fiscal Year 2023 Programs Updates

- EQIP Pilot Project
- Fiscal Year 2023 Program Implementation Schedule
- Fiscal Year 2023 Practices



Program Updates



Fiscal Year 2022 Easements

M. Tiffany Davis

Farm Bill Program Specialist (Easements)

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443-482-2950



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Easements



New Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Enrollments and Obligations

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)

- 8 Applications
- 6 Offers
- 6 Landowners Accepted and Enrolled in Agreements
(4 ACEP General, 2 ACEP Bog Turtle)
 - General- 114 acres and ~\$521,000 for purchase price and restoration
 - Bog Turtle - 16 acres ~\$231,000 for purchase price and restoration



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Easements

New Easements Acquired

Wetland Reserve Easements

- 2 easement acquired
- 68.8 total acres
- Somerset County
- Combined Purchase Price \$292,362

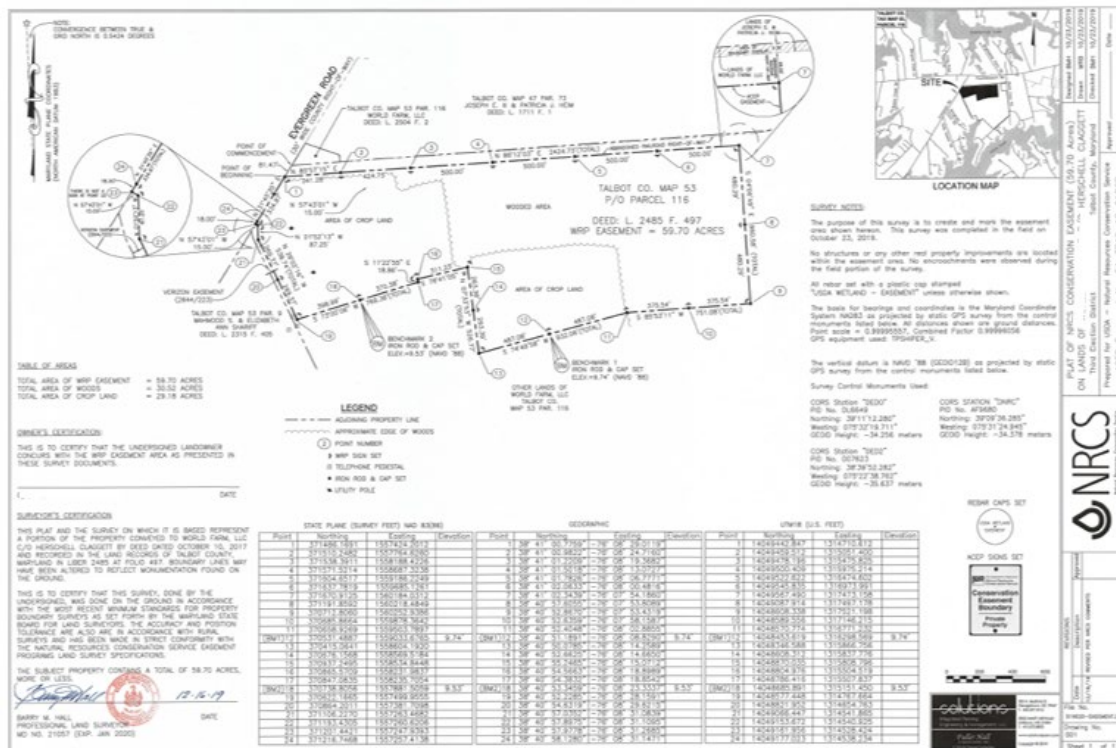


Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Easements

ACEP WRE Land Boundary Surveys

2 WRE Surveys Caroline and Somerset



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Easements

Wetland Easement Restoration

- \$2,186,787 Obligated for Wetland Restoration & Stewardship for Easements prior to FY21
- 4 WRE Easements Restored in Wicomico, Talbot and Somerset
- 165.2 ac- Total Easement Acres
- 93.6 ac - Practice 657- Wetland Restoration Acres



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Easements

Easement Monitoring

Wetland Easements

- NRCS Employees Monitored 133 Easements

Agricultural Easements

- NRCS Employees Monitored 21 Easements
- Partners Monitored and Delivered 174 Reports



Plug #15 in good shape and well vegetated. Area currently in drought conditions. >1/2 the normal rainfall received this year to date. Under normal conditions this area would have an average of 3' depth water ponding.



Berm type plugs 13 & 14 along northern access trail. Area currently in drought conditions. In a normal year area to right of lane shown would have an average 1.5' depth water ponding present.

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Program Updates



Fiscal Year 2022

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Jordan Bailey

Natural Resource Specialist

Farm Bill Program Manger – AMA, CSP, & RCPP

Jordan.Bailey2@usda.gov; 410-913-0264



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)



Fund Pool	Obligated	Contracts
AMA – High Tunnel & Irrigation	\$272,237	17
AMA – High Tunnel	\$105,068	13
AMA - Irrigation	\$167,169	4
RMA (4 High Tunnel & 2 Irrigation)	\$133,319	6
TOTAL	\$405,556	23

TOTAL Contract Acres: **166.1**

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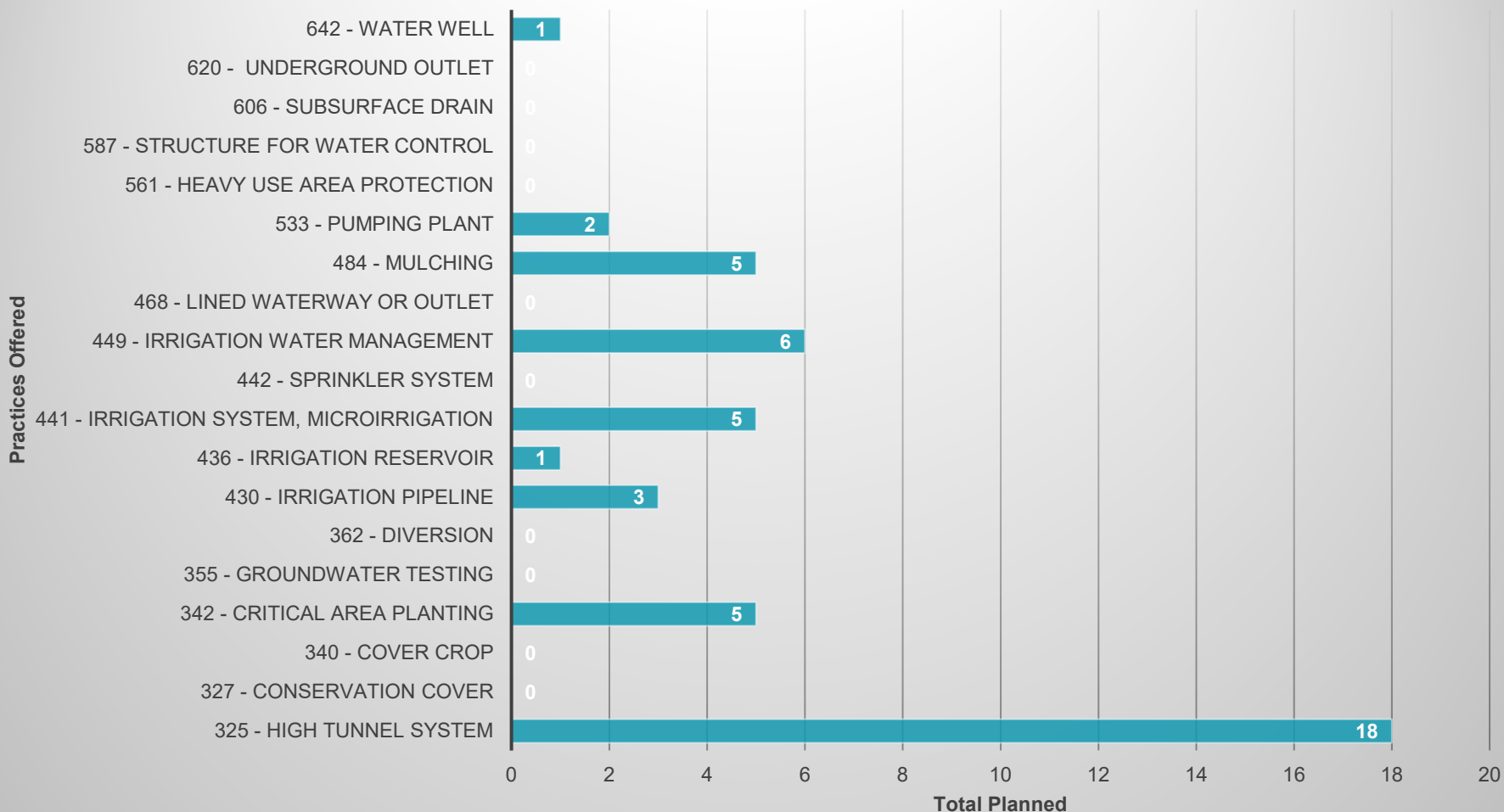
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Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

FY22 AMA - Practices Offered and Total Planned



Program Updates Fiscal Year 2022



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)**
- **CSP-Renewal**
- **CSP-Classic**



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)

Fund Pool	Obligated	Contracts
CSP-GCI	N/A	N/A

- FY 2022 - One application received but withdrawn
- *FY 2023 - Last year of current CSP-GCI authorization*



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP-Renewal (prior contracting 2017)

Fund Pool	Obligated	Contracts
Renewal - AgLand - General	\$838,772	14
Renewal - AgLand - BFR	N/A	N/A
Renewal - AgLand - SDFR	N/A	N/A
Renewal - AgLand - Organic	N/A	N/A
Renewal - NIPF - General	N/A	N/A
Renewal - NIPF - BFR	N/A	N/A
Renewal - NIPF - SDFR	N/A	N/A

TOTAL Contract Acres: **10,825.2**

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Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



CSP-Classic

Fund Pool	Obligated	Contracts
AgLand - General	\$924,800	19
AgLand - BFR	N/A	N/A
AgLand - SDFR	N/A	N/A
AgLand - Organic	N/A	N/A
NIPF - General	\$357,785	13
NIPF - BFR	\$44,912	4
NIPF - SDFR	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	\$1,327,497	36

TOTAL Contract Acres: **14,854.5**



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



CSP TOTALS

Fund Pool	Obligated	Contracts
CSP-GCI	N/A	N/A
CSP-Renewal	\$838,772	14
CSP-Classic	\$1,327,497	36
TOTAL	\$2,166,269	50

TOTAL Contract Acres: **25,679.7**

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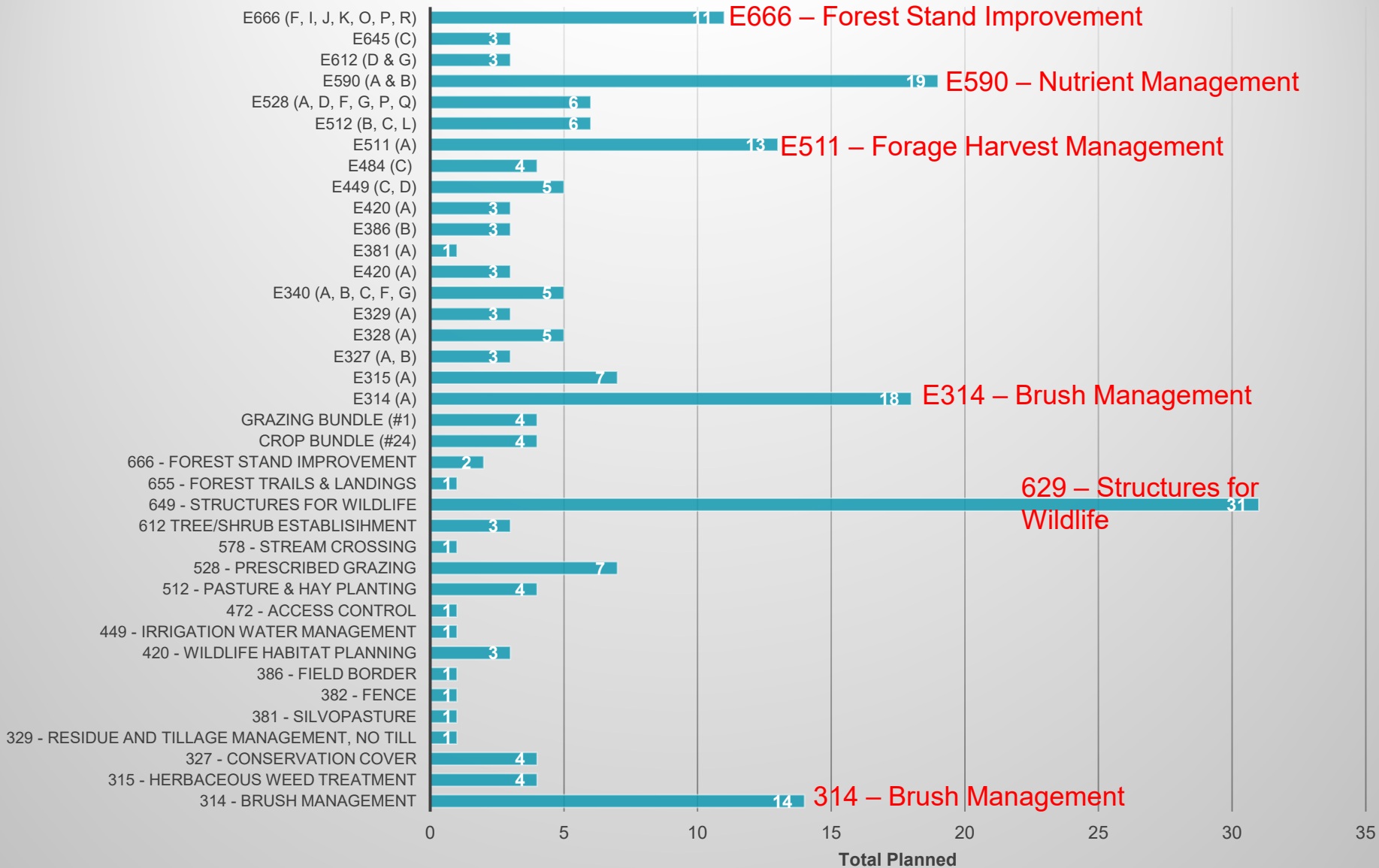
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FY22 CSP - Conservation Activities Planned and Totals

Conservation Activities Planned



Program Updates Fiscal Year 2022



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Farm Bill 2014

- RCPP-EQIP
- RCPP-CSP

Farm Bill 2018 (*Conservation Desktop management*)

- RCPP18-Classic
 - Land Management & Rentals (LMR)
 - Entity Held Easements (EHE)
- RCPP18 – Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA)
 - Land Management & Rentals (LMR)





Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

FY22 RCPP Project Summaries

RCPP Project (Project #)	Lead State (Partner States) & Lead Partner	Total Allocated Budget (TA & FA)	FY22 Contract Count & Total FA	FY23 FA	Farm Bill RCPP type
Taking Soil Health to the Next Level (1814)	MD; Maryland Dept. of Agriculture	\$2,080,000	3 - \$21,335	N/A	RCPP-EQIP 2014
Chesapeake Bay Farm Stewardship & Preservation (1815)	VA (MD & DE); Sustainable Chesapeake	\$11,434,840	8 - \$368,057	\$620,930	RCPP-EQIP 2014
Grazing For Water Quality & Soil Health – MD (1860)	MD; Chesapeake Bay Foundation	\$774,013	3 - \$191,799	\$100,000	RCPP18 (LMR)
Achieving WIP Goals & NM Compliance in Maryland (2019)	MD; Maryland Dept. of Agriculture	\$10,000,000	9 - \$2,385,953	\$2,000,000	RCPP18 (LMR)
TOTALS:		\$24,288,853	23 – \$2,967,144	\$2,720,930	





Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

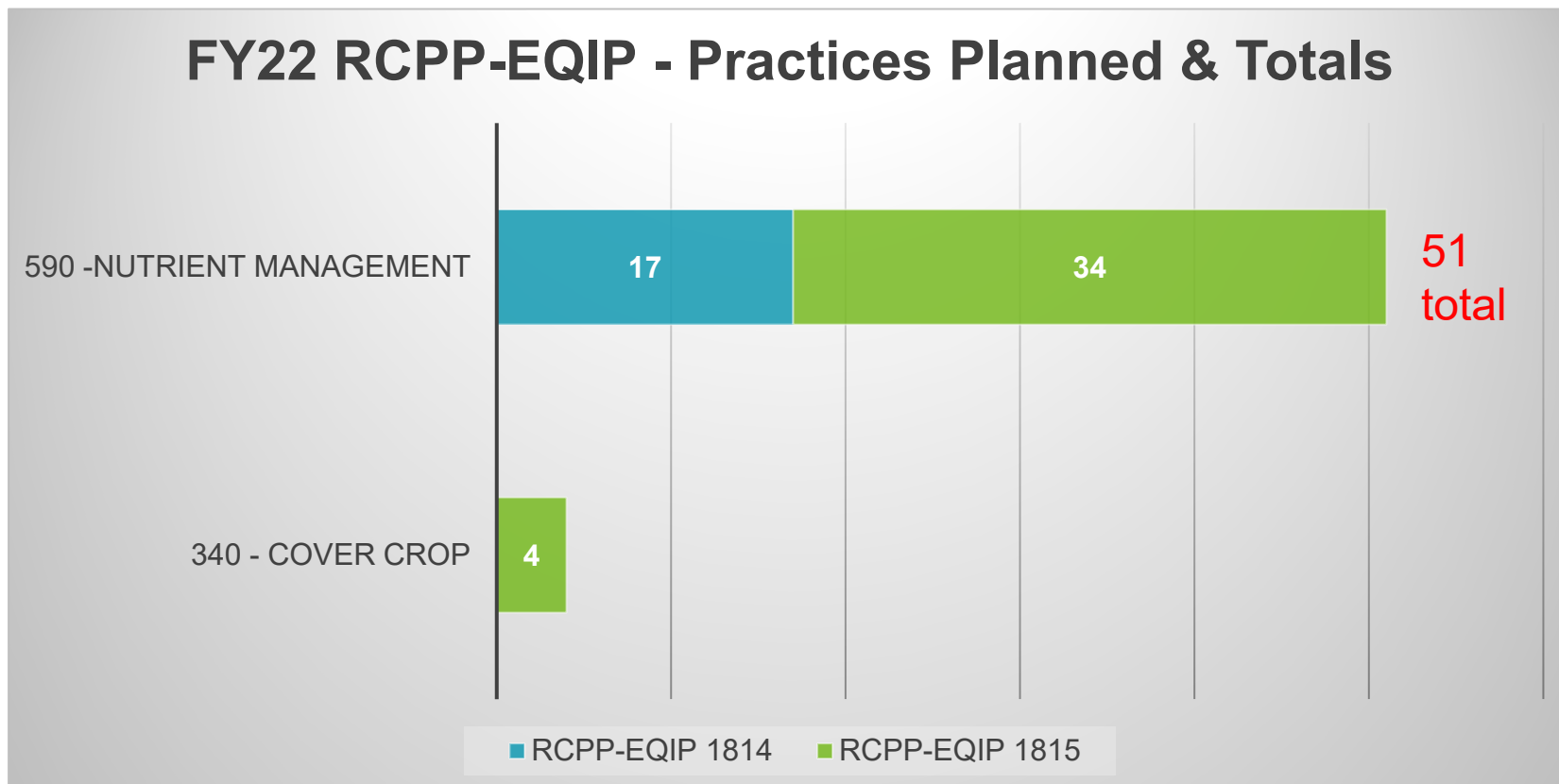
FY23 Anticipated New RCPP Projects

RCPP Project (Project #)	Lead State (Partner States) & Lead Partner	Total Project Budget (TA & FA)	Projected FY23 FA	Farm Bill & RCPP type
Engaging Small AFOs in the NM Planning Process (2697) 1568 – FB14 RCPP-EQIP Renewal	VA (MD) - Sustainable Chesapeake	\$4,575,000	\$804,625	RCPP18 (LMR)
Million Acre Challenge RCPP (2445)	MD - Future Harvest	\$710,000	\$248,500	RCPP18 (LMR)
RCPP-ESLC Land Protection Initiative (2589)	MD - Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	\$4,935,065	\$1,975,000	RCPP18 (EHE)
Maryland Clean Water Commerce Outcomes Project (2659)	MD - Sand County Foundation (EPIC)	\$2,739,000	(\$1,225,000)	RCPP18-AFA (LMR)
FY23 Anticipated TOTALS:		\$12,959,065	\$4,253,125	

FY23 Known Project FA & Anticipated FA TOTALS: \$6,974,055 (\$5,749,055 minus AFA)

Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2022 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

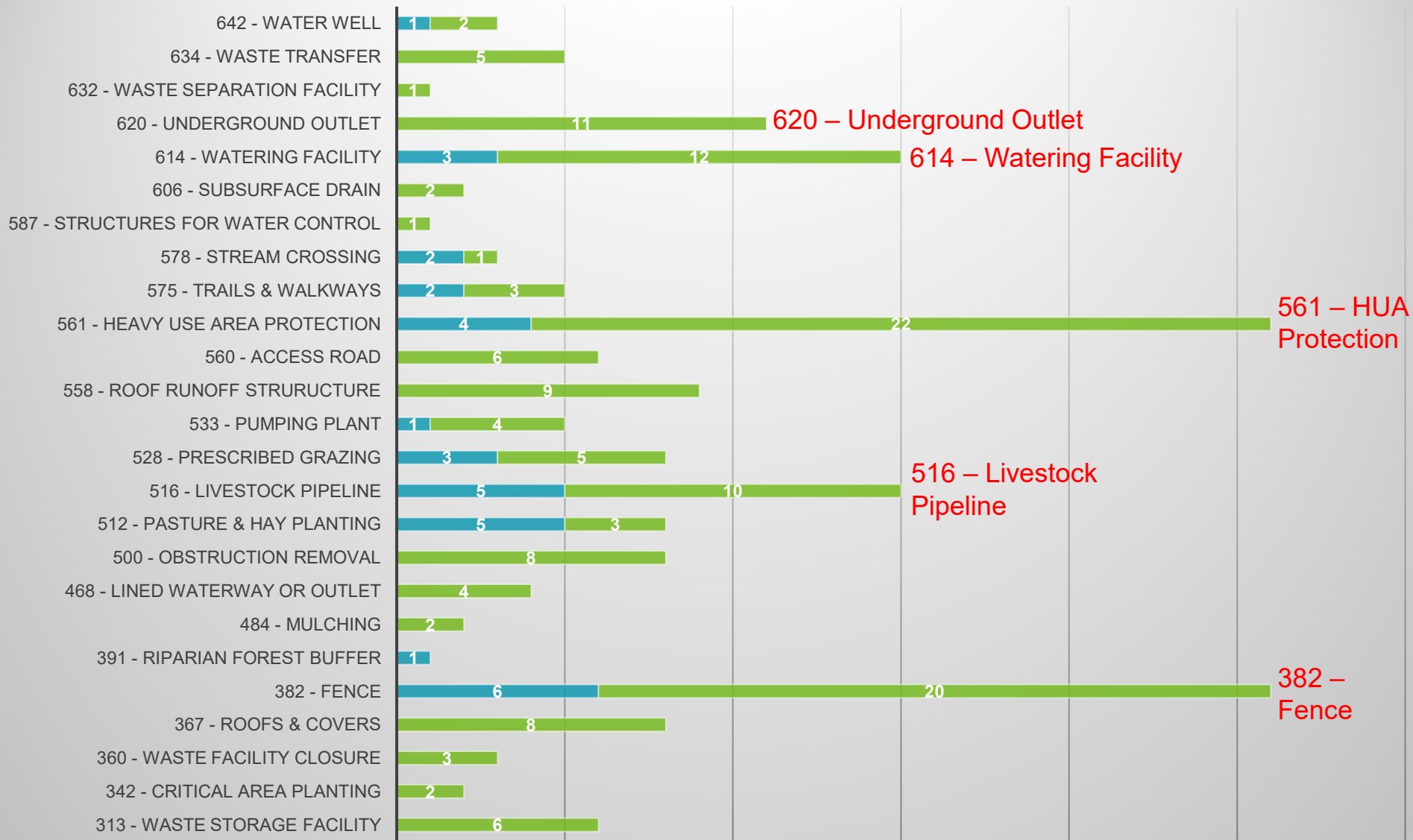


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FY22 RCPP18 - Practices Planned & Totals



Program Updates



Fiscal Year 2022 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Mikel Williams

EQIP Program Manager

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FY 2022 – Financial Assistance Breakdown

A blue-bordered callout box with a light blue background and rounded corners, containing the text "260 Contracts".

**260
Contracts**

A blue-bordered callout box with a light blue background and rounded corners, containing the text "Over 8,000 acres".

**Over
8,000 acres**

A blue-bordered callout box with a light blue background and rounded corners, containing the text "Over \$10.6 million".

**Over
\$10.6 million**

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Accounts

- **Air Quality**
 - A - \$206,000
 - ✓ O - \$85,000
- **American Black Duck**
 - A - \$83,560
 - ✓ O - \$40,000
- **Beginning Farmer**
 - A - \$420,800
 - ✓ O - \$532,000
- **CPA-DIA-CEMA (Formerly CAPs)**
 - A - \$10,000
 - ✓ O - \$50,000
- **Cropland Central**
 - A - \$45,000
 - ✓ O - \$23,000

KEY: A- Allocated; O- Obligated

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Accounts

- **Cropland Eastern Shore**

- A - \$120,091

- ✓ O - \$18,613

- **Cropland Northern Tier**

- A - \$111,336

- ✓ O - \$90,000

- **Wildlife Land**

- A - \$250,680

- ✓ O - \$56,000

- **Forest Land**

- A - \$62,000

- ✓ O - \$310,000

- **Golden Winged Warbler**

- A - \$383,000

- ✓ O - \$313,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Accounts

- **Grazing Eastern Shore**

- A - \$52,000
- ✓ O - \$0

- **Grazing Northern Tier**

- A - \$208,000
- ✓ O - \$309,000

- **Grazing Central**

- A - \$75,000
- ✓ O - \$61,000

- **Livestock Central**

- A - \$250,000
- ✓ O - \$230,000

- **Livestock Eastern Shore**

- A - \$426,000
- ✓ O - \$218,000

- **Livestock Northern Tier**

- A - \$944,000
- ✓ O - \$934,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Accounts

- **NWQI (3-Catocin/Prettyboy)**
 - A - \$954,726
 - ✓ O - \$1,035,000
- **Northern Bobwhite Quail**
 - A - \$83,560
 - ✓ O - \$61,000
- **On Farm Energy**
 - A - \$455,000
 - ✓ O - \$547,000
- **Oyster Restoration**
 - A - \$417,800
 - ✓ O - \$687,000
- **Socially Disadvantaged**
 - A - \$420,800
 - ✓ O - \$194,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Accounts

- **Organic Certified/Transition**

- A - \$15,000
- ✓ O - \$0

- **EQIP Conservation Incentives Contracts (CIC)**

- A - \$417,800
- ✓ O - \$421,000

- **EQIP Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)**

- A - \$50,000
- ✓ O - \$0

- **Local Work Groups**

- A - \$2,350,000
- ✓ O - \$1,195,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 LWGs

❖ **Allegany:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$99,000

❖ **Anne Arundel:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$105,000

❖ **Baltimore City:**

- A – \$50,000
- O - \$7,000

❖ **Baltimore County:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$67,000

❖ **Calvert:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$86,000

❖ **Caroline:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$24,000

❖ **Carroll:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$98,000

❖ **Cecil:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$60,000

❖ **Charles:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$15,000

❖ **Dorchester:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$66,000

❖ **Frederick:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$79,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 LWGs

❖ **Garrett:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$28,000

❖ **Harford:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$62,000

❖ **Howard:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$54,000

❖ **Kent:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$25,000

❖ **Montgomery:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$6,000

❖ **Prince Georges:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$97,000

❖ **Queen Anne's:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$12,000

❖ **Somerset:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$15,000

❖ **St. Mary's:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$55,000

❖ **Talbot:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$74,000

❖ **Washington:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$61,000

❖ **Wicomico:**

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$72,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 LWGs

❖ *Worcester:*

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$33,000

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Pilot Projects

- **Eastern Shore Pilot (by category)**

(Kent & Queen Anne's Counties)

Cropland:

- A – \$120,000
- O - \$226,000

Grazing:

- A – \$100,000
- O - \$129,000

Livestock:

- A – \$378,900
- O - \$420,000

- **Western Shore Pilot (by category)**

(Frederick & Washington Counties)

Cropland:

- A – \$92,100
- O - \$3,048

Grazing:

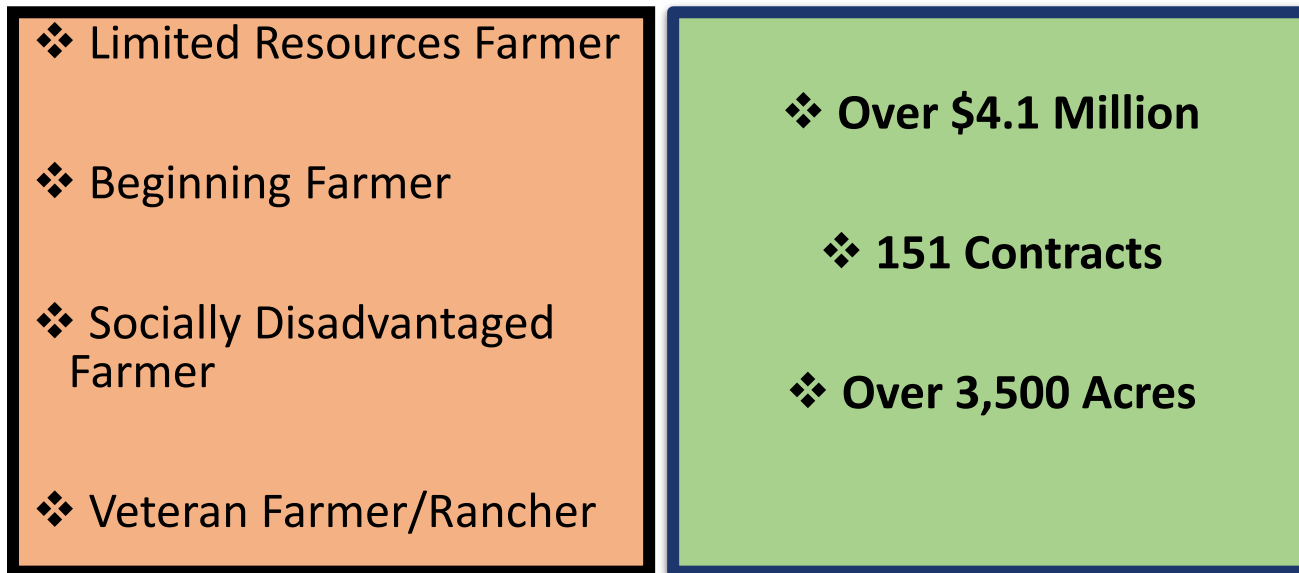
- A – \$92,000
- O - \$481,000

Livestock:

- A – \$1,033,000
- O - \$882,000

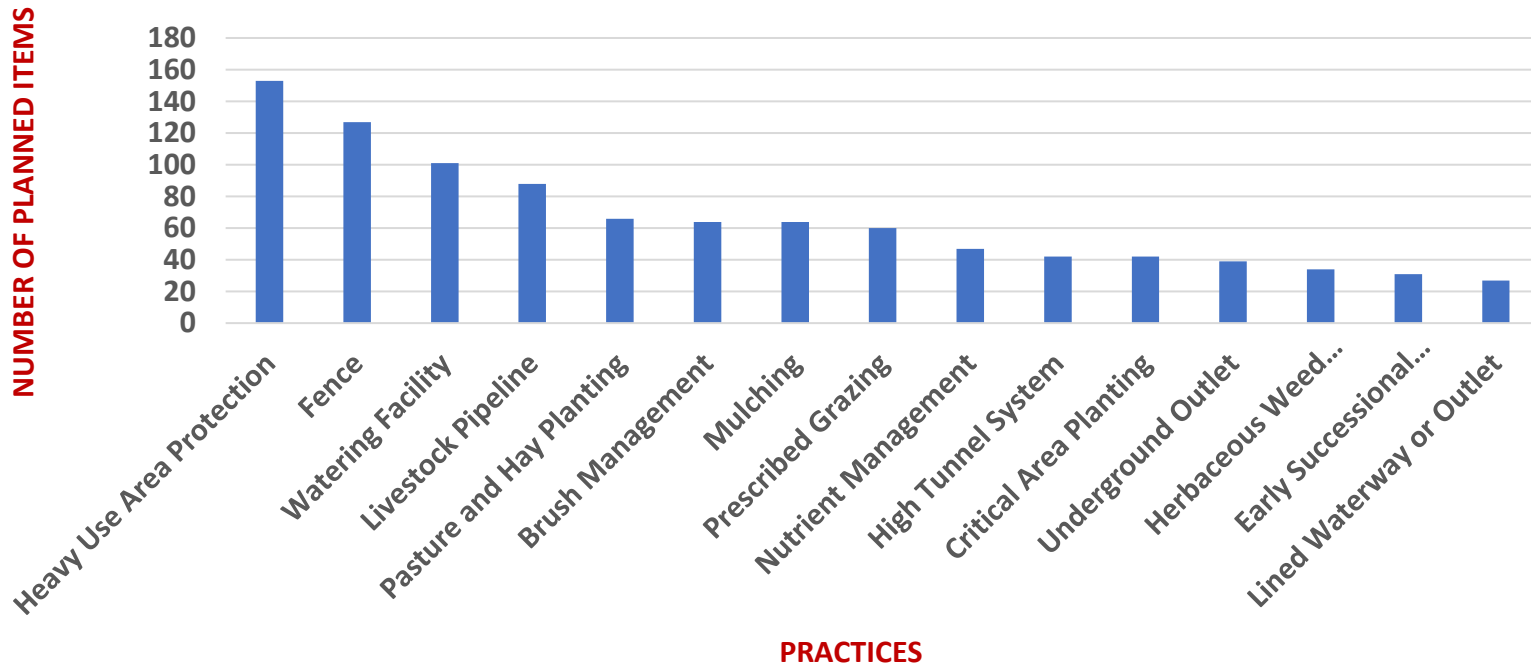
*Amounts are estimates and subject to change. Each county excluded from statewide accounts by category over 2-year pilot project period (FY2021-2022).

FY 2022 Historically Underserved Participation



*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.

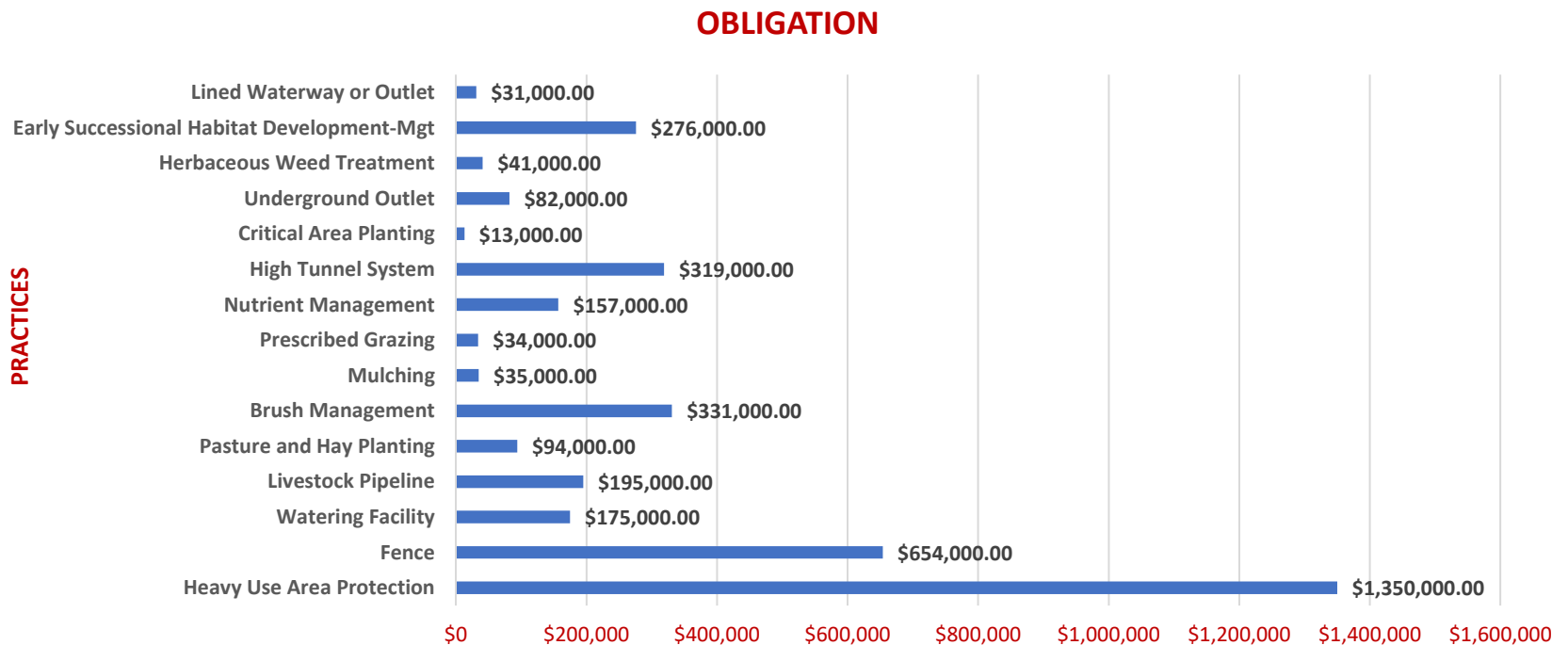
FY 2022 Top 15 Planned Practices



*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



FY 2022 Obligation Of Top 15 Planned Practices



*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



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Program Changes & Updates



Chesapeake Bay Partnership Initiative



Chesapeake Bay Partnership Initiative



- Additional funding received to target resource concerns and practice implementation in the Chesapeake Bay across the 5 Bay states- Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia
- Focus on Maryland priorities related to livestock and oyster restoration
- \$1,000,000 prior-year (FY 2020) funding allocation

FY 2022- Chesapeake Bay Partnership Initiative

10 Contracts –

*7 - Oyster
Restoration*

*2 - Livestock
Northern Tier*

1 - Livestock Central

**Over
151 acres**

**Over
\$968,000
Obligated**

*Amounts are estimates and subject to change.



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EQIP CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs

Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Transition Strategy



Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Transition Strategy

- NRCS conservation activities include planning, design, implementation, and monitoring tasks carried out by technical service providers (TSP) or other third-party service providers (Providers) for NRCS conservation program purposes.
- NRCS has reorganized and renamed Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) into **three new categories**—
 - **Conservation Planning Activity (CPA):** An activity that results in a conservation plan consistent with steps 1-7 of the NRCS conservation planning process. The CPA will document client decisions regarding selected alternatives including identification of desired primary and supporting practices that the client would like to use to treat identified resource concerns.
 - **Design and Implementation Activity (DIA):** An activity that allows for development of specific practice designs, management prescriptions, or other instructions that allow the client to implement the conservation practice or system of conservation practices. A DIA is consistent with Step 8 of the NRCS conservation planning process. (Does not include assistance with conservation practice installation, review, and checkout)
 - **Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA):** An activity that includes evaluation, monitoring, testing, or assessment for a specific purpose, to complete practice implementation requirements, or to determine the effectiveness of conservation practices and activities. A CEMA is consistent with Step 9 of the NRCS conservation planning process but may be used at any point in the planning process.
- NRCS broke these activities out to clarify which phase of the NRCS conservation planning process the TSP/Provider will be supporting.



Available CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs

CPAs

- **Code 102** – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)
- **Code 106** – Forest Management Plan
- **Code 116** – Soil Health Management Plan
- **Code 138** – Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
- **Code 199** – Conservation Plan

CEMAs

- **Code 201** – Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring – Data Collection and Evaluation
- **Code 207** – Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants Activity.
- **Code 216** – Soil Health Testing.
- **Code 217** – Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management.
- **Code 218** – Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment.
- **Code 228** – Agricultural Energy Assessment.

DIAs

- **Code 101** – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)
- **Code 120** – Agricultural Energy Design.
- **Code 140** – Transition to Organic Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 144** – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 148** – Pollinator Habitat Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 157** – Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 158** – Feed Management Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 159** – Grazing Management Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 160** – Prescribed Burning Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 161** – Pest Management Conservation System Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 162** – Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 163** – Irrigation Water Management Design.
- **Code 164** – Drainage Water Management Design.
- **Code 165** – Forest Management Design and Implementation Activity.
- **Code 202** – Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring – System Installation

Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)



Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)

- USDA offers financial assistance and one-on-one technical advice through a suite of voluntary programs to directly support farmers, ranchers, private forest landowners, and partners in implementing climate-smart management solution by helping to build soil health, sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance productivity and commodity marketability, and mitigate the impacts of climate change while also building resilience.
 - ❖ EQIP supports climate-smart conservation practices that enable agricultural producers and land managers to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across a diversity of operations while building resilience for the future.
- “FY22 EQIP-CSAF” fund pool is grouped with EQIP CIC Implementation Schedule
- Utilizes the EQIP application. Any EQIP application with practices planned that are designated as Core Practices for CSAF should be ranked in the CSAF ranking.



Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)

- Mitigation Practice List- Core Practices

CSAF Core Practices

- Anaerobic Digester (366)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strips (393)
- Grassed Waterways (412)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)*
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Silvopasture (381)
- Soil Carbon Amendment (808)*
- Soil Testing (216)*
- Stripcropping (585)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Vegetative Barriers (601)
- Waste Separation Facility (632)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (380)



Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)

MD Mitigation Practice List- Core Practices

Soil Health

- 327
- 328
- 329
- 332
- 340
- 345
- 386
- 393
- 412
- 484

Nutrient Management

- 590

Livestock Partnership

- 366
- 632

Grazing and Pasture

- 512
- 528

Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat

- 311
- 380
- 381
- 390
- 391
- 422
- 612
- 645

MD Resource Concern Categories:

- *Air quality emissions*
- *Soil quality limitations*
- *Terrestrial habitat*
- *Concentrated erosion*
- *Degraded plant condition*
- *Field pesticide loss*
- *Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss*
- *Inefficient energy use*
- *Pest pressure*
- *Source water depletion*





EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)



EQIP CIC – Purpose

- **Statute:** EQIP CIC is a new enrollment option created by section 2304 of the 2018 Farm Bill; **Regulation:** (7 CFR Part 1466) Subpart D— Incentive Contracts
- Incentive contracts are an option available through EQIP that offers producers financial assistance to adopt conservation management practices on working landscapes.
- Producers may use incentive contracts as a “steppingstone” from correcting resource issues on specific land units through EQIP to achieving sustainable stewardship on their entire operation by implementing elements of CSP on a smaller scale.
- To provide stewardship opportunities for producers through EQIP:
 - Based on land use
 - Must address at least one Priority Resource Concern (PRC)
 - Within an identified watershed or other area



EQIP CIC – FY22 Maryland

Implementation Timeline:

Funding Cycle	Sign-Up Cutoff date	Eligibility and Cost Estimate Deadline	Screening & CART Assessment & Ranking Deadline	Preapprovals Posted	Intent to Proceed Letter Notification Deadline	Approval Deadline	Signatures and submittal for Obligation	Obligation Deadline	Last Day of Obligation (State Office)
EQIP CIC	April 1, 2022	May 13, 2022	May 20, 2022	May 27, 2022	June 3, 2022	July 1, 2022	July 8, 2022	July 22, 2022	August 5, 2022

High Priority Area (HPA):

- Maryland

Land Use:

- Cropland

Priority Resource Concerns (PRCs)-3:

- Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Soil Quality Limitations
 - Subset of the 8 State identified CSP PRCs
 - Conservation plans must target at least one PRC



EQIP CIC – FY22 Maryland

Practices:

- Available management practices (1 year lifespan); Can be scheduled 5 years, if practical for the operation
 - **328, 329, 333, 340, 345, 484, 511, 590, 808**
 - ❖ **Payment caps for management practices do not apply to EQIP-CIC**
 - Focus is on Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry and Drought Mitigation Practices
- Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs):
 - **207 & 216**
 - CEMAs are not required to be scheduled
 - Encouraged if applicable to the operation

Allocation:

- \$417,800
 - 5% of EQIP General allocation; Flexibility to roll unused CIC funds into EQIP General funds

Ranking:

- EQIP-CIC separate ranking pool – “FY22 EQIP-CIC”



EQIP CIC – Practices

Scheduling Example:

- Participant scheduling management practices 328-Conservation Crop Rotation, 329-Residue and Tillage Management-No-Till, and 340-Cover Crop
 - **Year 1**-328, 329, 340
 - **Year 2**-328, 329
 - **Year 3**-328, 329, 340
 - **Year 4**-328, 329
 - **Year 5**-328, 329, 340



EQIP CIC – Major Features

Payments:

- CIC management practices will serve as the “annual” payments and will be paid annually
- Advanced payments will be available for EQIP-CIC management practices for Historically Underserved
- Payments for annual practices will be made as soon as practicable after October 1 of *each* fiscal year with CSP Annual Payments
- CIC has flexibility on annual payments. If a practice extends slightly past the start of a new fiscal year, it can still be paid as soon as practicable after October 1
 - **Example:** Cover crop planted October 10-tied to previous cropping year and can be paid as soon as practicable after completion-could be paid immediately
 - **Example:** Prescribed Burn completed in April-participant can be paid as soon as practicable after October 1

Payment Schedule:

- EQIP-CIC utilized existing FY22 EQIP payment schedule
- High Priority Practice and Source Water Protection practice scenarios will be available in EQIP-CIC for the increased payment rate



EQIP CIC – Major Features

- EQIP CIC Payment Limitation:
 - \$200K Payment Limitation, separate from EQIP ‘Classic’
- EQIP CIC Contract Limitation:
 - Joint Operations (bus type 2 or 3) have a contract limit not to exceed \$400K



United States Department of Agriculture

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Program Updates



Fiscal Year 2023 Programs

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Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Pilot Project

- **Extended statewide**
 - Provides a more consistent, equal, ranking of applications because teams are only competing amongst themselves
 - Re allocation of funds can occur more quickly
 - Combine Local Work Group (LWG) mtgs will reduce the number of overall LWG during the year
 - Allows DC's to prioritize applications and time spent preparing them for obligation.
- **Creation of 2 county teams; totaling 12 Teams**



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Pilot Project

- **Allocations of average of 3 years of obligations in LWGs and statewide Cropland, Livestock, and Grazing accounts from the respective counties will be divided into the county team accounts.**
 - All EQIP General LWGs and statewide Cropland, Livestock, and Grazing accounts will be removed to prevent duplication in funding.
- **All EQIP Initiatives and other General accounts will be offered for each Fiscal Year (FY).**



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- Pilot Project

- **Each team account will include tracked and ProTracts linked priority categories of Cropland, Grazing, and Livestock.**
 - i.e. FY 23 Anne Arundel-Calvert Pilot Team, (3 Tracked Categories: Cropland-Grazing-Livestock).
- **If these categories cannot be tracked and linked in ProTracts for funds management, separate accounts will be created for each team category resulting in 3 accounts per team for accountability and transparency of Federal funds.**
 - i.e. FY23 Anne Arundel-Calvert Pilot Team, (Cropland); FY23 Anne Arundel-Calvert Pilot Team, (Grazing); FY23 Anne Arundel-Calvert Pilot Team, (Livestock).



EQIP –Pilot Avg Obligation and Allocation



➤ **FY 23 Proposed Allocation**

- \$6,945,935.00

➤ **FY 22 Local Work Groups Allocation**

- \$2,350,000.00

➤ **FY 22 Local Workgroups Obligation**

- \$1,195,000.00

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM	TOTAL	Average	2023 allocation	Adjusted FY 23 allocation
Team 1	\$ 1,141,978.75	\$ 380,659.58		
Allegany	\$ 285,684.39	0.068010862	\$472,399.02	\$470,499.00
Garrett	\$ 856,294.36			
Team 2	\$ 481,954.59	\$ 160,651.53		
Anne Arundel	\$ 314,146.26	0.028702939	\$199,368.75	\$198,368.00
Calvert	\$ 167,808.33			
Team 3	\$ 2,934,095.54	\$ 978,031.85		
Baltimore	\$ 254,291.01	0.174740875	\$1,213,738.76	\$1,211,738.00
Carroll	\$ 2,679,804.53			
Team 4	\$ 196,340.89	\$ 65,446.96		
Baltimore City	\$ 30,082.94	0.011693136	\$81,219.76	\$100,000.00
Prince Georges	\$ 166,257.95			Natural Resources Conservation Service



EQIP –Pilot Avg Obligation and Allocation



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM	TOTAL	Average	2023 allocation	Adjusted FY 23 allocation
Team 5	\$ 705,890.24	\$ 235,296.75		
Caroline	\$ 402,094.70	0.042039489	\$292,003.56	\$290,003.00
Talbot	\$ 303,795.54			
Team 6	\$ 3,001,215.73	\$ 1,000,405.24		
Cecil	\$ 2,199,734.81	0.178738236	\$1,241,504.17	\$ 1,239,504.00
Harford	\$ 801,480.92			
Team 7	\$ 628,522.40	\$ 209,507.47		
Charles	\$ 92,434.47	0.037431826	\$259,999.03	\$258,999.00
St. Mary's	\$ 536,087.93			
Team 8	\$ 886,556.09	\$ 295,518.70		
Dorchester	\$ 465,978.67	0.052799094	\$366,739.08	\$364,739.00
Wicomico	\$ 420,577.42			





EQIP –Pilot Avg

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM	TOTAL	Average	2023 allocation	Adjusted FY 23 allocation
Team 9	\$ 3,269,966.77	\$ 1,089,988.92		
Frederick	\$ 1,865,299.77	0.194743779	\$1,352,677.63	\$1,350,677.00
Washington	\$ 1,404,667.00			
Team 10	\$ 876,876.22	\$ 292,292.07		
Howard	\$ 605,002.87	0.052222607	\$362,734.83	\$360,734.00
Montgomery	\$ 271,873.35			
Team 11	\$ 2,167,933.33	\$ 722,644.44		
Kent	\$ 1,236,462.96	0.129111872	\$896,802.67	\$894,927.00
Queen Annes	\$ 931,470.37			
Team 12	\$ 499,792.56	\$ 166,597.52		
Somerset	\$ 115,213.60	0.029765285	\$206,747.73	\$205,747.00
Worcester	\$ 384,578.96			
TOTAL	\$ 16,791,123.11	\$ 5,597,041.04	\$6,945,935.00	\$6,945,935.00



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



FY2023 Implementation Schedule

Maryland NRCS Program Implementation Schedule FY2022(Internal)

12/06/2022

AMA & EQIP (Pilot)

Funding Cycle	Sign-Up Cutoff date	Eligibility Deadline	Screening, <u>CART</u> Assessment, Cost Estimate & Ranking Deadline	Preapprovals Posted	Intent to Proceed Letter Notification Deadline	Approval Deadline	Signatures and submittal for Obligation	Obligation Deadline	Last Day of Obligation (State Office)
1	January 13, 2023	February 17, 2023	March 17, 2023	March 24, 2023	March 31, 2023	April 21, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 26, 2023	July 28, 2023
2 - AMA (RMA) ONLY									

EQIP General and Initiatives (WLFW, NWQI, On-Farm Energy, Air Quality, Organic, CPA-DIA-CEMA)

Funding Cycle	Sign-Up Cutoff date	Eligibility Deadline	Screening, CART Assessment, Cost Estimate & Ranking Deadline	Preapprovals Posted	Intent to Proceed Letter Notification Deadline	Approval Deadline	Signatures and submittal for Obligation	Obligation Deadline	Last Day of Obligation (State Office)
1	January 13, 2023	April 14, 2023	April 21, 2023	April 28, 2023	May 5, 2023	June 2, 2023	June 9, 2023	June 30, 2023	July 28, 2023
Reallocation #1	NA	NA	NA	June 9, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 30, 2023	July 7, 2023	July 14, 2023	July 28, 2023
EQIP CIC	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	July 28, 2023

*Reallocation #1 will include additional funds received from NHO during the second funds assessment

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Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



FY2023 Implementation Schedule

RCPP - EQIP & RCPP18

Funding Cycle	Sign-Up Cutoff date	Eligibility Deadline	Screening, CART Assessment, Cost Estimate & Ranking Deadline	Preapprovals Posted	Intent to Proceed Letter Notification Deadline	Approval Deadline	Signatures and submittal for Obligation	Obligation Deadline	Last Day of Obligation (State Office)
1*	January 13, 2023	February 17, 2023	March 17, 2023	March 24, 2023	March 31, 2023	April 21, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 26, 2023	July 28, 2023
2**	April 14, 2023	May 19, 2023	May 26, 2023	June 2, 2023	June 9, 2023	July 7, 2023	July 14, 2023	July 21, 2023	July 28, 2023

* Sign-Up #1 is for existing (prior year) RCPP agreements with funds remaining to be allocated

** Sign-Up #2 is for existing (prior year) RCPP agreements with funds remaining to be allocated AND for new FY2022 RCPP agreements

CSP-GCI, CSP-Renewals & CSP-Classic

Funding Cycle	Sign-Up Cutoff date	Eligibility Deadline and Cost Estimate Deadline	CART Assessment & Ranking Deadline	Preapprovals Posted	Intent to Proceed Letter Notification Deadline	Field Verification Deadline	Approval Deadline	Signatures and submittal for Obligation	Last Day of Obligation (State Office)
CSP-GCI 2022	October 14, 2022	NA	November 16, 2022	NA	November 21, 2022	NA	December 9, 2022	December 16, 2022	December 23, 2022
CSP-Renewals 2022-1	April 15, 2022	November 10, 2022	November 16, 2022	November 17, 2022	November 21, 2022	December 9, 2022	December 9, 2022	December 16, 2022	December 23, 2022
CSP-Classic 2022-1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

ACEP

Funding Cycle	Sign-Up Cutoff date	FO Submit Applications to State Office	Screening & CART Assessment CART Ranking	Preapprovals Selected	WRPO Finalized and Cost Estimates in CD	WRE Offers Mailed	LO Deadline to Respond	Last Day to enter enrollments funds in NEST
1	January 6, 2023	January 13, 2023	February 3, 2023	February 17, 2023	March 10, 2023	May 12, 2023	May 26, 2023	June 9, 2023

All program funds are subject to availability.

*Preapproval dates may be moved forward if ALL applications within a fund pool are ranked prior to the established deadline

**AMA will have funds swept and reallocated as necessary

ACEP Fund Assessment: March 1st, June 1st and July
Unusable Funds back to NHQ: July 27



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Program Updates Fiscal Year 2023



FY2023 Practices



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Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Practices

- 102 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – Written
- 104 – Nutrient Management Plan – Written
- 106 – Forest Management Plan – Written
- 108 – Feed Management Plan – Written
- 110 – Grazing Management Plan – Written
- 112 – Prescribed Burning Plan – Written
- 114 – Integrated Pest Management Plan – Written
- 116 – Soil Health Management Plan – Written
- 118 – Irrigation Water Management Plan – Written
- 128 – Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Written
- 130 – Drainage Water Management Plan – Written
- 136 – Agricultural Energy Design Plan – Written
- 138 – Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition – Written
- 140 - Transition to Organic Design (new 2023)
- 142 – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan – Written
- 146 – Pollinator Habitat Plan – Written
- 154 – IPM Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan – Written
- 161 - Pest Management Conservation System Design (new 2023)
- 162 - Soil Health Management System Design (new 2023)
- 199 - Conservation Plan (new 2023)
- 201 – Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring – Data Collection and Evaluation
- 202 – Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring – System Installation
- 216 – Soil Testing



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Practices

- 217 Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management (new 2023)
- 221 – Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement (new 2023)
- 222 – Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation (new 2023)
- 223 – Forest Management Assessment (new 2023)
- 224 – Aquifer Flow test (new 2023)
- 309 – Agrichemical Handling Facility
- 311 – Alley Cropping
- 313 – Waste Storage Facility
- 314 – Brush Management
- 315 – Herbaceous Weed Control
- 316 – Animal Mortality Facility
- 317 – Composting Facility
- 325 – High Tunnel System
- 327 – Conservation Cover
- 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
- 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
- 329 – Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
- 330 – Contour Farming
- 331 – Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops
- 332 – Contour Buffer Strips
- 333 – Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum
- 338 – Prescribed Burning
- 340 – Cover Crop
- 342 – Critical Area Planting
- 345 – Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

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Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Practices

350 - Sediment Basin (new 2023)

351 – Well Decommissioning

355 – Groundwater Testing

356 – Dike

359 - Waste Treatment Lagoon (new 2023)

360 – Waste Facility Closure

362 – Diversion

366 – Anaerobic Digester

367 – Roofs and Covers

368 – Emergency Animal Mortality Management

372 – Combustion System Improvement

374 – Farmstead Energy Improvement

378 – Pond

380 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

381 – Silvopasture Establishment

382 – Fence

383 – Fuel Break

384 – Woody Residue Treatment

386 – Field Border

390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover

391 – Riparian Forest Buffer

393 – Filter Strip

394 – Firebreak

395 – Stream Habitat Improvement and Management

396 – Aquatic Organism Passage

410 – Grade Stabilization Structure



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Practices

- 412 – Grassed Waterway
- 420 – Wildlife Habitat Planting
- 422 – Hedgerow Planting
- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir
- 441 – Irrigation System, Macro-Irrigation
- 442 – Sprinkler System
- 447 - Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery (new 2023)**
- 449 – Irrigation Water Management
- 468 – Lined Waterway or Outlet
- 472 – Access Control
- 484 – Mulching
- 490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

- 500 – Obstruction Removal
- 511 – Forage Harvest Management
- 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting
- 516 – Livestock Pipeline
- 520 – Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment
- 521 – Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner
- 522 – Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete
- 527 - Sinkhole Treatment (new 2023)**
- 528 – Prescribed Grazing
- 533 – Pumping Plant
- 554 – Drainage Water Management



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Practices

- 558 – Roof Runoff Structure
- 560 – Access Road
- 561 – Heavy Use Area Protection
- 570 – Stormwater Runoff Control
- 572 – Spoil Spreading
- 574 – Spring Development
- 575 – Trails and Walkways
- 578 – Steam Crossing
- 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- 584 – Channel Bed Stabilization
- 585 – Strip-cropping
- 587 – Structure for Water Control
- 590 – Nutrient Management
- 591 – Amendments for the Treatment of Agriculture Waste
- 595 – Pest Management Conservation System
- 600 – Terrace
- 604 – Saturated Buffer
- 605 – Denitrifying Bioreactor
- 606 – Subsurface Drain
- 607 – Surface Drain, Field Ditch (new 2023)
- 608 – Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (new 2023)
- 612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment
- 614 – Watering Facility
- 620 – Underground Outlet
- 629 – Waste Treatment
- 632 – Waste Separation Facility



Program Updates

Fiscal Year 2023



Practices

634 – Waste Transfer

635 – Vegetated Treatment Area

638 – Water and Sediment Control Basin

642 – Water Well

643 – Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats

644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

646 – Shallow Water Development and Management

647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

649 – Structures for Wildlife

654 – Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment

655 – Forest Trails and

656 – Constructed Wetland

657 – Wetland Restoration

658 – Wetland Creation

659 – Wetland Enhancement

666 – Forest Stand Improvement Landings

670 – Lighting System Improvement

672 – Building Envelope Improvement

735 – Waste Gasification Facility

782 – Phosphorous Removal System

808 – Soil Carbon Amendment

812 – Raised Beds (new 2023)

821 – Low Tunnel System (new 2023)





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Engineering Updates



J'Que Jones

State Conservation Engineer

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- Engineering Coverage
- Engineering Requests for Assistance
- Conservation Practice Standard Update (378)



Engineering Team



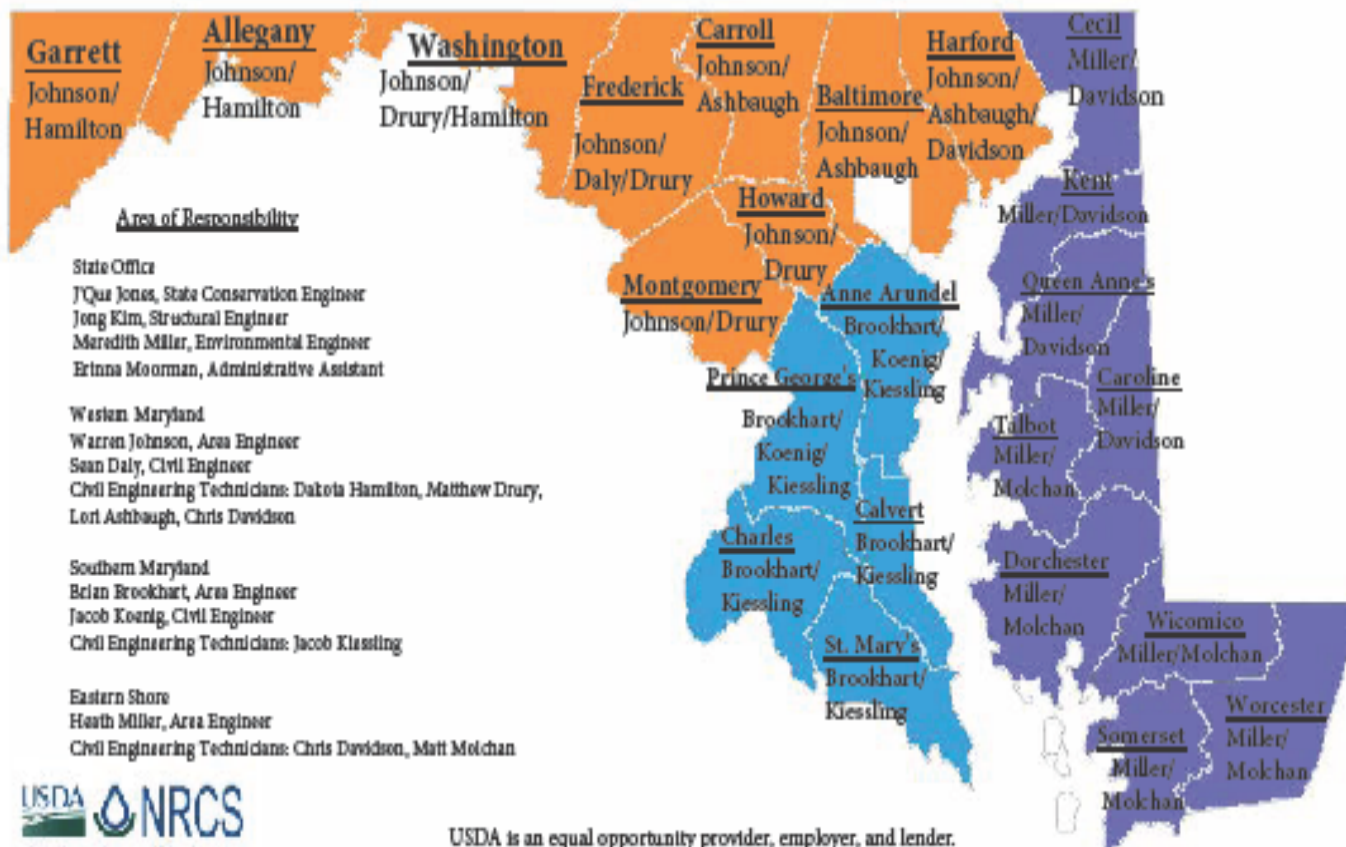
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Maryland NRCS Engineering Coverage



Area of Responsibility

- State Office**
 J'Qua Jones, State Conservation Engineer
 Jong Kim, Structural Engineer
 Meredith Miller, Environmental Engineer
 Erinna Mooman, Administrative Assistant
- Western Maryland**
 Warren Johnson, Area Engineer
 Sean Daly, Civil Engineer
 Civil Engineering Technicians: Dakota Hamilton, Matthew Drury,
 Lori Ashbaugh, Chris Davidson
- Southern Maryland**
 Brian Brookhart, Area Engineer
 Jacob Koenig, Civil Engineer
 Civil Engineering Technicians: Jacob Kiessling
- Eastern Shore**
 Heath Miller, Area Engineer
 Civil Engineering Technicians: Chris Davidson, Matt Molchan



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Engineering Request for Assistance Standard Operating Procedure

- **Formalized and standardized process**
- **Defines workflow for engineering and field staff**
- **Developed with input from stakeholders (DCs, DMs, engineering, etc.)**
- **Updated Workload Priorities spreadsheet**
- **Training/ Overview scheduled on 12/13/22**



Field Office Technical Guide Updates

- **31 practices updated in FY22 & FY23**
- **CPS 378 Ponds updates in progress**
 - Impacts Small Pond Approval
 - Incorporated in COMAR
 - Input and feedback from multiple stakeholders
 - Scheduled to finalize in January





Questions



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Ecological Sciences Update



Steve Strano

State Resource Conservationist

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- Field Office Technical Guide/Conservation Practice Standards Update
- Technical Service Provider Update- Conservation Activity Plan Transition
- Delmarva Wetlands Partnership Outreach Efforts





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Ecological Sciences

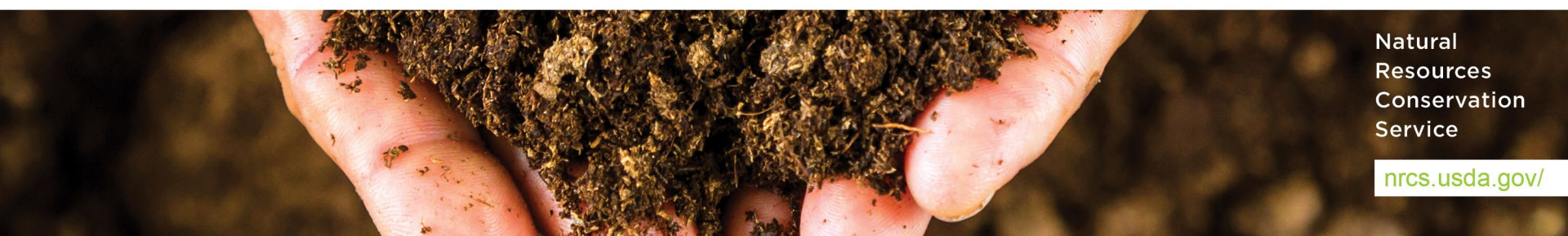


Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Updates



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Forester Signature Blocks on IR Sheets

- Implementation Requirements sheets (i.e. practice designs) for the forestry-related practices have been updated to include a signature block for a licensed forester
- Practices implemented on forest land that manipulate stand structure or composition requires a licensed forester to approve the prescription
- Provides a streamlined process for providing forestry practice designs to cooperators and USDA program participants
- Forester signature is only required for the design certification, and it is not required when the practice is being used on land other than forest land

- Brush Management (314)
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
- Fuel Break (383)
- Woody Residue Treatment (384)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Firebreak (394)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Pest Management Conservation System (595)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (647)
- Forest Trails and Landings (655)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)

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New Conservation Practice Standards

Raised Bed (812)

- New interim practice
- Applicable when existing soil conditions are significantly impaired by poor fill material and/or the potential for contaminants for edible crops
- Developed with urban agriculture in mind
- Does not apply to rooftop ag or indoor vertical farming
- Beds from 6 to 24 inches
- Framing materials must be able to last 5 years

Low Tunnel Systems (821)

- New interim practice standard
- Extend growing season and reduce plant pest pressure
- Structures are 4 feet tall or less

Soil Carbon Amendment (336)

- Converted to a national standard from an interim standard
- Will adopt later this year, but the interim standard (808) will still be available

Practice Standard Revisions



Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (380)

- Renovation has been combined into the standard

Standards in revision process

- Fence (382) – Susan Lamb
- Feed Management (592) – Susan Lamb
- Wetland Creation (658) – Julie Devers
- Wetland Enhancement (659) – Julie Devers



MD Conservation Planting Guide

Added more flexibility to selection of species in common wildlife habitat mixes 3, 4 and 5

- Cool-season grasses not required, but still available
- Added switchgrass and Indiangrass local ecotypes as options

Species removed from recommended tree/shrub list:

- Green ash and white ash due to emerald ash borer
- Sawtooth oak and bicolor lespedeza (shrub) due to invasiveness

Teff added to temporary cover

- Teff is a warm season annual from Africa that produces a dense cover relatively quickly
- Does not appear to voluntarily reseed

Giant miscanthus – sterile hybrid

- Interest on Eastern Shore for poultry litter
- National decision not to allow as a conservation plant

CRP/CREP Technical Update









- **Marginal Pasture Wildlife Buffer (CP29) and Marginal Pasture Wetland Buffer (CP30) – Eligible on lands capable of support trees**
- **Added Moist Soil Management as a standalone management activity for Wetland Restoration (CP23) and Shallow Water Areas (CP9)**
- **Stacked buffers**
 - Plan to combined stacked buffers into single contract



Endangered and Threatened Species

Programmatic consultation with USFWS has been updated

- **New species:**
 - Northern long-eared bat (NLEB)
 - Eastern black rail
- **NLEB was just uplisted to endangered**
 - Potential issues for golden-winged warbler WLFW
 - Working with USFWS

Habitat Category	T&E Species
Beach/Cliff Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle (<i>Habroscelimorpha dorsalis dorsalis</i>) • Puritan Tiger Beetle (<i>Ellipsoptera puritana</i>)
Forest Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) • Northern Long-Eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)
Sandplain Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandplain Gerardia (<i>Agalinis acuta</i>)
Stream/River Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwarf Wedgemussel (<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>) • Yellow Lance (<i>Elliptio lanceolata</i>)
Stream/River Habitat – Plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harperella (<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>)
Tidal Fresh Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive Joint-Vetch (<i>Aeschynomene virginica</i>)
Wetland Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Black Rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis spp. jamaicensis</i>) • Bog Turtle (<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>)
Wetland Habitat – Plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canby's Dropwort (<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>) • Northeastern Bulrush (<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>) • Swamp Pink (<i>Helonias bullata</i>)

Required Resource Concern List

SWAPA+HE	RC Categories	Crop	Farmstead	Forest	Pasture
	# required (total including "when applicable")	10 (26)	12 (24)	7 (10)	16 (27)
Soil	Concentrated erosion	X	X	X	X
Soil	Soil quality limitations (i.e. soil health)	X			X
Soil	Wind/water erosion	X	X		X
Water	Field pesticide loss	X	/		/
Water	Field sediment and nutrient loss	X	/	/	/
Water	Source water protection	/			/
Water	Storage and handling of pollutants	/	X		/
Water	Weather resilience				
Animals	Livestock production limitation	/	/	/	X
Animals	Terrestrial habitat			X	
Animals	Aquatic habitat	/	/		/
Plants	Degraded plant condition			X	X
Plants	Fire management			X	
Plants	Pest pressure (includes invasive species)			X	X
Air	Air quality emissions		X		
Energy	Inefficient energy use		X		

X- Required; / - Concerns only need to be evaluated when applicable



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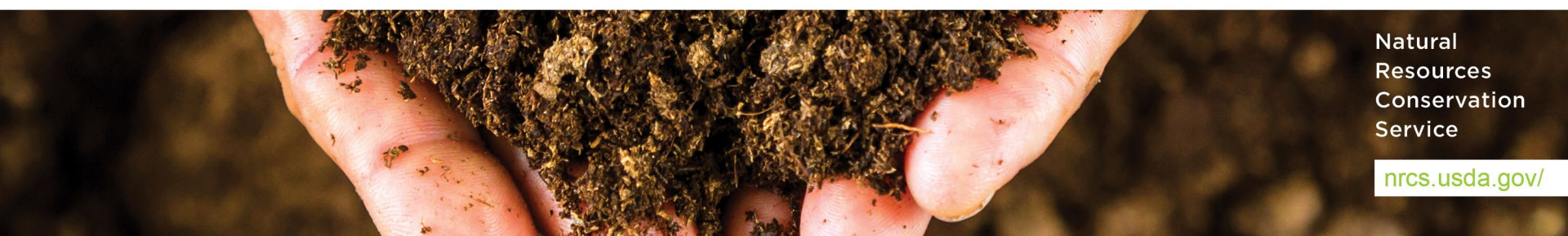


Technical Service Provider Update: CAP Transition



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Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Transition

- **Transition started after 2018 Farm Bill was passed**
- **Congressional focus on increasing TSP work**
- **Better alignment with NRCS planning process**
- **Created 3 types of activities:**
 - Conservation and Planning Activity (CPA)
 - Design and Implementation Activity (DIA)
 - Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA)



Conservation Planning Activity (CPA)

- **Similar to CAPs**
- **Includes steps 1-7 of planning process**
- **Deliverable is a plan with the resource inventory, alternatives analysis, and decision of practices to meet plan objectives**

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – CPA 102

Conservation Plan – CPA 199

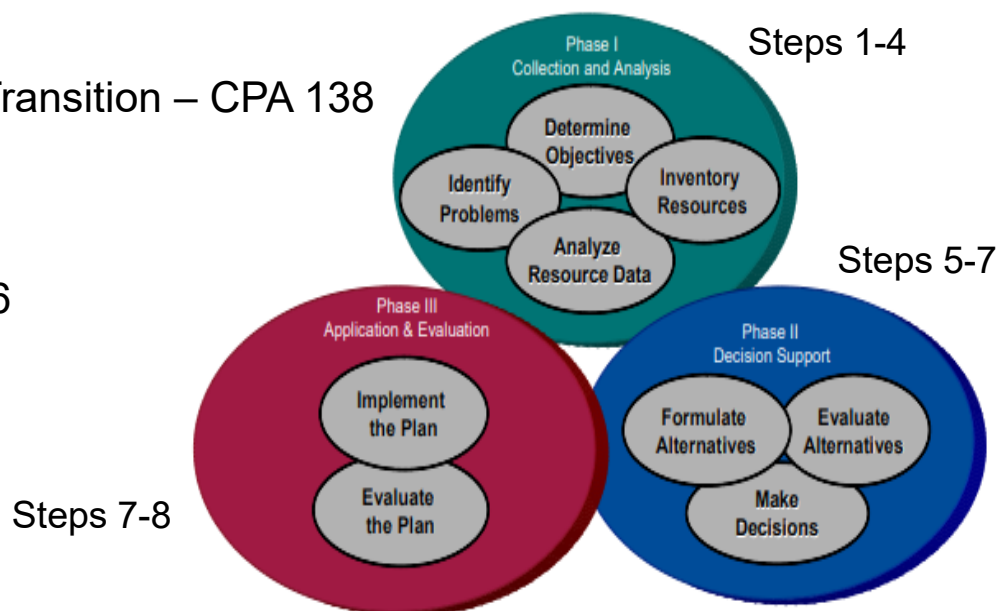
Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition – CPA 138

Forest Management Plan – CPA 106

Grazing Management Plan – CPA 110

Soil Health Management Plan – CPA 116

NRCS Planning Process



Design and Implementation Activity (DIA)

- **Step 8 of the planning process – *Implement the Plan***
- **Conservation practice designs for a system of practices**
- **Design Only - Does NOT include implementation**
- **TSPs must be certified for conservation practices included in design**

Agricultural Energy Design – DIA 120

CNMP Design and Implementation Activity – DIA 101

Feed Management Design – DIA 158

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design – DIA 144

Forest Management Practice Design – DIA 165

Grazing Management Design – DIA 159

Improved Management of Drainage Water Design – DIA 164

Irrigation Water Management Design – DIA 163

Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity – DIA 157

Pest Management Conservation System Design – DIA 161

Pollinator Habitat Design – DIA 148

Prescribed Burning Design – DIA 160

Soil Health Management System Design – DIA 162

Transition to Organic Design – DIA 140

Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA)

- **Not tied to a specific step in the planning process**
- **Provides information to support planning decisions or evaluate results of practice implementation**
- **Utilizes professional degrees and organization certifications rather than TSP certification**

Agricultural Energy Assessment – CEMA 228

Aquifer Flow Test – CEMA 224

Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment – CEMA 218

Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation - CEMA 201

Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation - CEMA 202

Feral Swine Damage Assessment – CEMA 297

Forest Management Assessment – CEMA 223

Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation – CEMA 222

PFAS Testing in Water or Soil - CEMA 209

Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants Activity – CEMA 207

Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management – CEMA 217

Soil Health Testing – CEMA 216

Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring – CEMA 221

Contracting CPAs, DIAs, CEMAs

- **Can be contracted individually**
- **Pairing**
 - CPA and DIA
 - DIA and conservation practices (not recommended)
- **Prohibited**
 - Cannot contract CPA, DIA and practices in same contract
- **CEMA**
 - Can be included with any activity



Forestry Example



Forest Management Plan CPA106

- Forest Stewardship Plan
- Includes in-depth stand-level inventory and analysis
- Identification of practices and amounts needed to implement plan

Forest Management Practice Design DIA165

- Site specific designs and specifications for practices included in the Forest Management Plan

Forest Management Assessment CEMA223

- An in-depth stand inventory and analysis when a current Forest Management Plan does not provide it



Soil Health Testing CEMA216



- **Soil testing to assess soil health**
- **Qualified individual: Certified Crop Advisor, Professional Soil Scientist, TSP Certified for Soil Health Management Plan**
- **Developing soil sampling strategy, collect samples, acquire sample analysis, and submit results to NRCS soil health test**
- **Also have option for just doing soil test when samples have already been collected**
- **Can be used at beginning and end of a multi-year system to improve soil health**



Year 1

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Natural Resources Conservation Service





United States Department of Agriculture

Ecological Sciences



Delmarva Wetlands Partnership Outreach Efforts



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Delmarva Wetlands Partnership

- **Informal partnership focused on wetlands restoration**
- **Organizations involved:**
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Ducks Unlimited
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - USDA NRCS in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia
- **Conducted outreach on Delmarva to assess landowner interest in wetlands restoration**
- **Final Report: *Meeting the Bay's Wetland Goals: Insights from the Delmarva Wetland Partnership September 2022***

Available at:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/delmarva-eastern-shore-wetland-restoration/>

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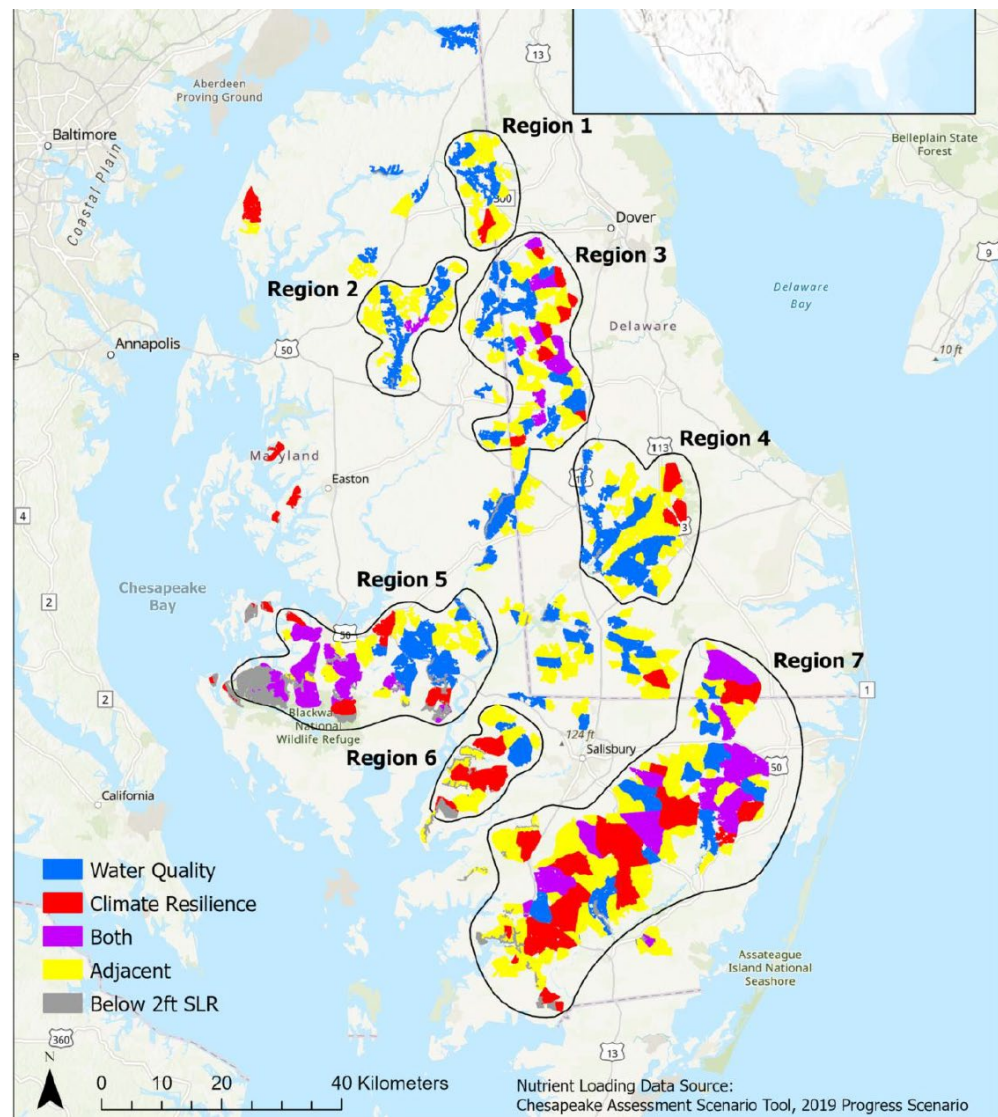
Prioritization Using Ecological Targeting

Criteria

- Total nitrogen and phosphorus
- Agricultural land use, excluding prime farmland
- Ecohydrologically active areas
- Soil types appropriate for restoration
- Floodplains
- Water storage capacity
- Climate flow
- Black duck and other declining species habitat and known occurrence

Results

- Initially identified 964 restoration opportunities
- Reduced to 453 priority restoration areas
- 2,294 landowners with parcels > 10 acres

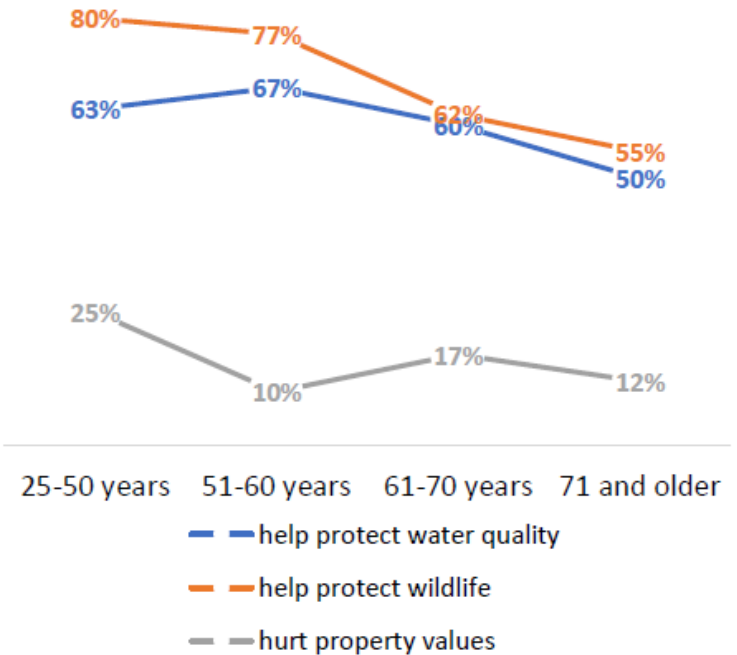


Outreach Results

- Feb-Apr 2022 - Mailed surveys to 2,294 landowners
- 373 responses
- Over 60% full time residents on Delmarva
- 22% already enrolled in restoration program
- 65% reported never being contacted about opportunities
- 77% interested in restoration on their land
- 225 respondents requested follow-up
- Follow-up has resulted in about 20 new potential projects
- Partnership is actively seeking grant funding for both technical and financial assistance to meet demands

FIGURE 4: PERCEIVED BENEFITS AND CONCERNS OF LANDOWNERS BY AGE

% who "strongly agree" wetlands do the following...



75% agreed wetlands help impact of flooding
84% felt they are beautiful
94% agreed they help wildlife

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ECS Personnel Updates

State Agronomist has been selected and starts January 3rd



Questions?



Soils Updates



Phil King

State Soil Scientist

phil.king@usda.gov

- Staff Updates
- Geophysical Tools
- Web Soil Survey Update
- Online Soil Data



Soils Updates



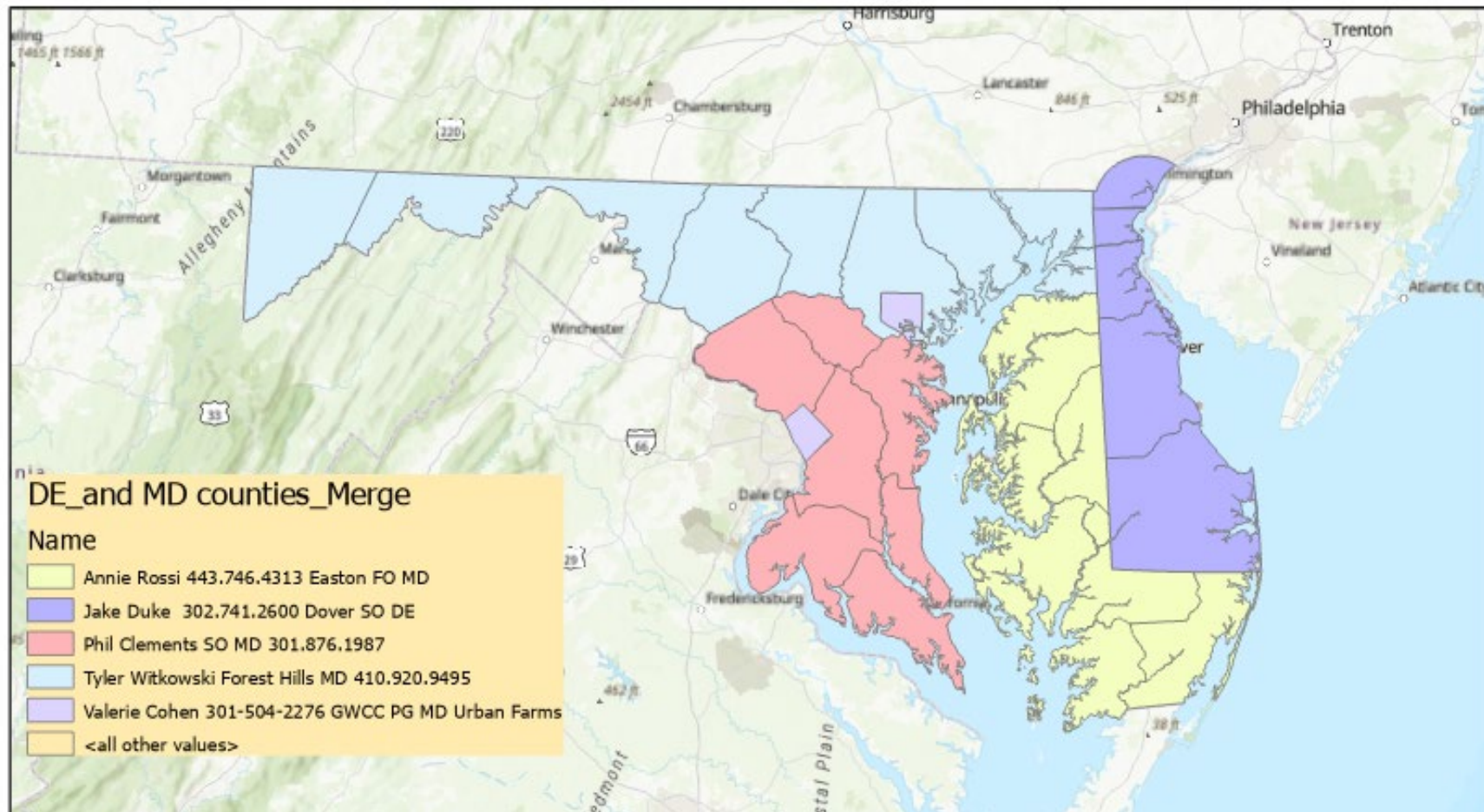
New Staff 2022

- **Tyler Witkowski Resource Soil Scientist, Harford County** (Northern Tier)
- **Phil Clement Resource Soil Scientist, Annapolis** (Southern MD)



Soils Updates

Technical Soils Services Regions and Staff



Soils Updates



New Services- Geophysical Tools

X-ray Florescence (XRF)

- Targeted use - Urban Farms – screening for heavy metals
- Principle investigator – Val Cohen, Resource Soil Scientist stationed in Beltsville MD



Soils Updates

New Web Soil Survey Products

Subaqueous Soil Survey for South River



Soils Updates

New Web Soil Survey Products

Soil Health Interpretation

Soil Health	?	⌵
Agricultural Organic Soil Subsidence		⌵
Dynamic Soil Properties Response to Biochar		⌵
Farm and Garden Composting Facility - Surface		⌵
Fragile Soil Index		⌵
Limitations for Aerobic Soil Organisms		⌵
Organic Matter Depletion		⌵
Soil Surface Sealing		⌵
Soil Susceptibility to Compaction		⌵
Surface Salt Concentration		⌵



Soils Updates

New Web Soil Survey Products



Ecological Site Descriptions

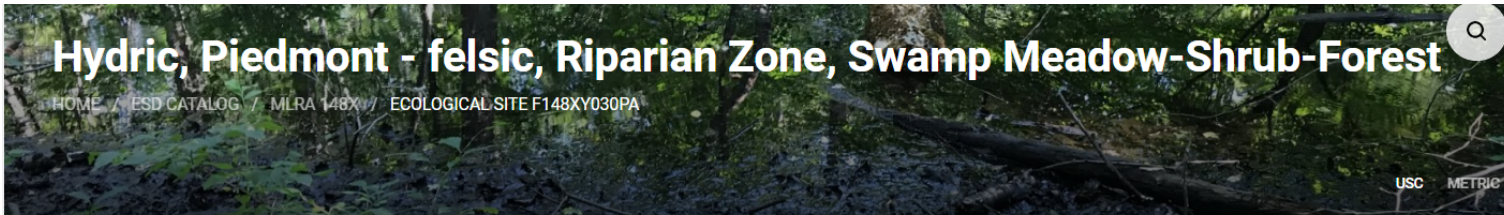
Printable Version Add to				
for Use Soil Properties and Qualities Ecological Sites Soil Reports				
Table — Ecological Sites by Map Unit Component —				
Howard County, Maryland				
Howard County, Maryland				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Component name (percent)	Ecological site	Acres in AOI
BaA	Baile silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Baile (85%)	F148XY030PA — Hydric, Piedmont - felsic, Riparian Zone, Swamp Meadow-Shrub-Forest	0
		Glenville (15%)		
Ha	Hatboro-Codorus silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Hatboro (60%)	F148XY030PA — Hydric, Piedmont - felsic, Riparian Zone, Swamp Meadow-Shrub-Forest	0
		Codorus (35%)	F148XY027PA — Moist, Piedmont - felsic, Riparian Zone, Ecotonal Meadow-Shrub-Forest	
		Glenville (5%)		
Totals for Area of Interest				162,113.2



Soils Updates



New Web Soil Survey Products



- General information
- Physiographic features
- Climatic features
- Water features
- Soil features
- Ecological dynamics**
- Interpretations
- Supporting information
- Reference sheet

Ecological dynamics

Three vegetation community structures are common in the riparian zones of the Northern Piedmont: grasslands, shrub thickets, and forests. In some areas, the vegetation community might progress through a classic successional sequence from grass to shrub to forest following a stand replacement disturbance. On these hydric sites, wet conditions resist succession somewhat. Additionally, riparian zone grasslands and shrub thickets commonly persist as disturbance-driven climax communities. Within broader timeframes, the fluvial processes of erosion, deposition, and aggradation are highly dynamic; consequently, so are the vegetation structure and composition within a riparian zone. Vegetation community dynamics are especially intense where flood energy is relatively high (Zimmerman et al., 2012).

State and transition model

More interactive model formats are also available. [View Interactive Models >](#)
 Click on state and transition labels to scroll to the respective text

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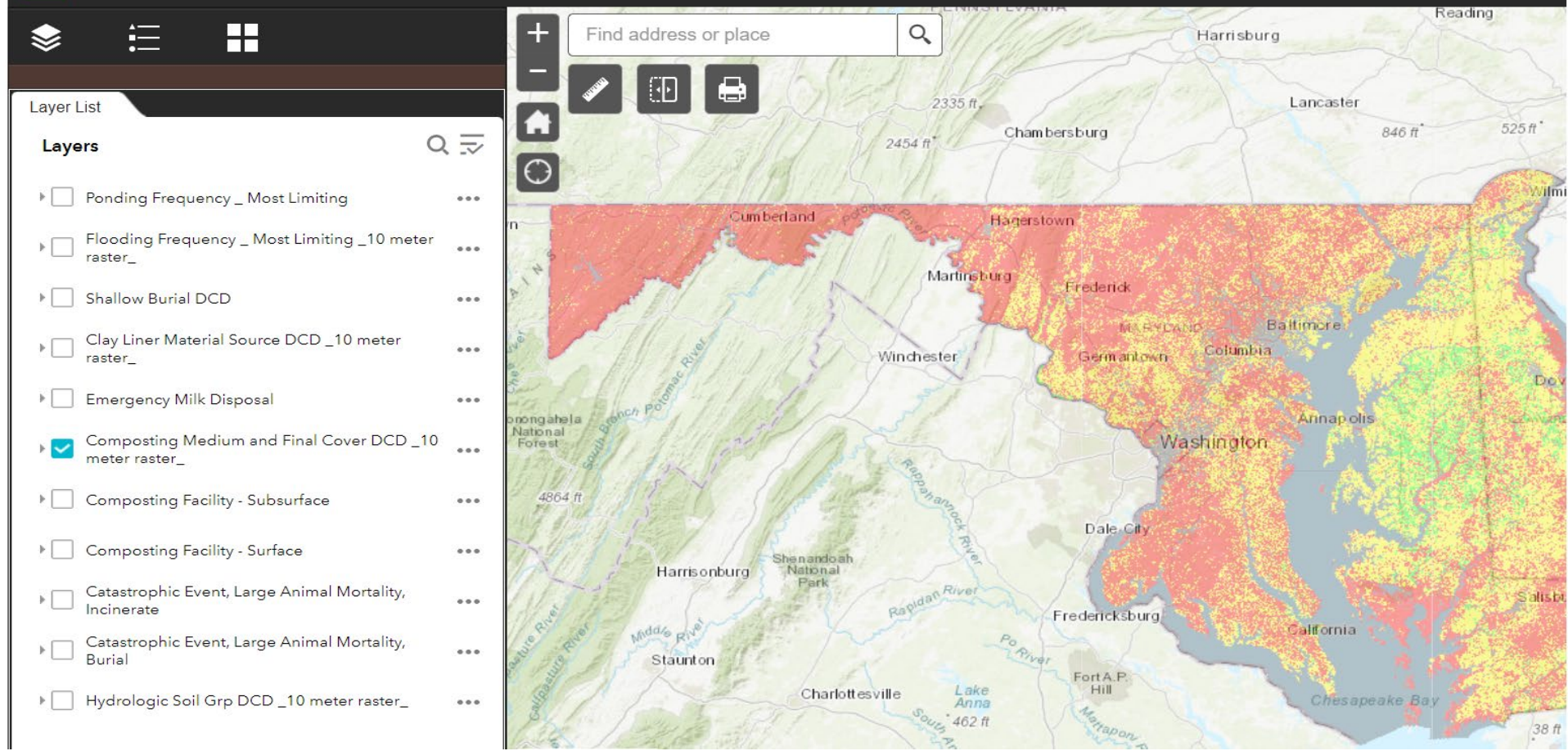
Soils Updates

ArcGIS Online soil data for MD and DE

[Emergency Animal Mortality Management in MD and DE \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Emergency Animal Mortality Management Map - MD/DE DCD by Natural Resources Conservation Service





Soils Updates



Questions?

Request for additional products or services?



Communications Updates



Genevieve Lister

State Public Affairs Officer

genevieve.lister@usda.gov

- Staffing Update
- New Website





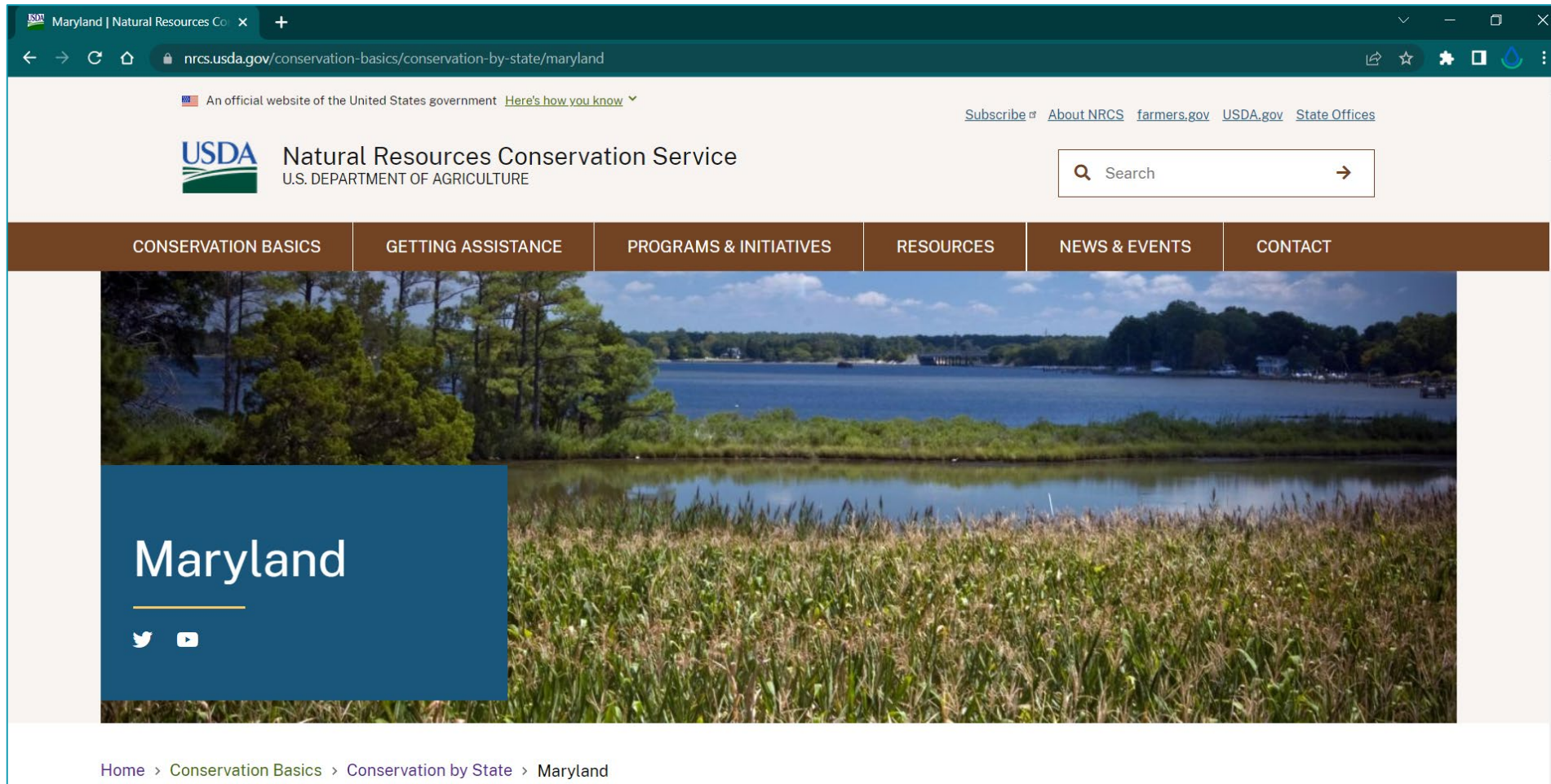
United States Department of Agriculture

Communications Updates

New NRCS Website



www.nrcs.usda.gov/maryland



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NRCS Maryland website. The browser's address bar shows the URL nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/maryland. The page header includes the USDA logo, the text "Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE", and a search bar. A navigation menu below the header contains links for "CONSERVATION BASICS", "GETTING ASSISTANCE", "PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES", "RESOURCES", "NEWS & EVENTS", and "CONTACT". The main content area features a large landscape photograph of a river and a field of tall grasses. A blue overlay on the left side of the image contains the word "Maryland" in white, with a thin orange underline and social media icons for Twitter and YouTube. The footer of the page shows a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Conservation Basics > Conservation by State > Maryland".

Communications Updates

New NRCS Website



Maryland State Office



410-757-0861



339 Buschs Frontage Road,
Suite 301
Annapolis, MD 21409

[STATE OFFICE PAGE](#)



Find Your Local Service Center

USDA Service Centers are locations where you can connect with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees for your business needs. Enter your state and county below to find your local service center and agency offices. If this locator does not work in your browser, please visit offices.usda.gov.

Maryland



-Please select-



SEARCH

Technical Resources



Ecological Sciences
& Conservation
Planning



Engineering



Soils



Field Office Technical Guide | MW



Field Office
Technical Guide

Maryland/D.C. Area

Change state

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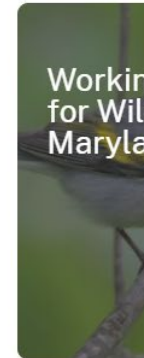
Communications Updates

New NRCS Website



State Programs and Initiatives

Financial assistance is provided to Maryland producers through these Farm Bill Programs.



Chesapeake Bay Updates



Leon Tillman

NRCS Chesapeake Bay Coordinator

leon.tillman@usda.gov

- Chesapeake States' Partnership Initiative
- Funding Coordination



Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative

- **May 2022 announcement, leveraging financial and technical assistance in the Chesapeake Bay**
- **Invested additional \$22.5 million in total funding**
 - \$10 million in ACEP, \$10 million in EQIP, and \$2.5 million in CSP
- **Utilized the locally led process for priorities**
- **MD: Additional \$1 million in EQIP**

Accomplishments in FY 2022 include:

- Obligated over \$16.6 million (74% of the total) across all programs.
- Additional funds were obligated based on locally led approach and targets by the respective State Technical Committee
- Prioritized practices that reduce nitrogen and sediment, management of livestock and waste, and conserve wetlands
- MD: Obligated \$968k in EQIP



Funding Coordination

- **Communication and coordination with EPA and NFWF regarding financial assistance**
 - Quarterly Meetings
 - Held Joint Webinars and Workshops
- **Exploring opportunities to leverage financial and technical assistance funding**
- **Evaluating potential opportunities through BIL and IRA funding**



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Partner Updates



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