

## **Agriculture Program**

The Agriculture Program, located within the Chesapeake Bay Office, is responsible for developing regulations, policies, guidance, outreach, and inspection strategies for compliance assessment, compliance assistance, and enforcement of regulatory programs relating to agriculture. This section conducts activities relating to the compliance with regulatory requirements for agriculture-related erosion and sediment control and manure and nutrient management; Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

The Agriculture Program works closely with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the County Conservation Districts to implement the Nutrient and Manure Management Program as well as erosion and sediment control requirements. County Conservation Districts are delegated authorities to implement nutrient and manure management, erosion and sediment control, and water obstructions and encroachments regulations. County Conservation Districts provide technical, planning, and compliance assistance for agriculture. These are key elements to achieving water quality improvements statewide.

Beginning in 2016, the Agricultural Inspection Program, which included the inspection of plan development and implementation of BMPs on larger and higher density CAFO and Nutrient Management regulated farms, was expanded in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to focus on smaller farms. Through a cooperative effort of County Conservation Districts and state DEP staff, the Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspection Program was initiated to inspect all farms to ensure compliance with the manure and erosion and sediment control planning requirements within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in ten years. The plans are required in order to ensure that proper best management practices are implemented to minimize nutrient runoff and accelerated erosion and sedimentation. Providing the compliance assistance for over 30,000 farms covering 3,067,629 agricultural acres within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is no small task, Table 1.

**Table 1.** Farms and agriculture acres inspected from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 as compared with total farms and acres in agriculture land use within Pennsylvania’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
2017 USDA Ag Census Farms in PA CB watershed	30,193
2018 Ag Land Use Acres in PA CB watershed	3,067,629
Farms Inspected under the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program (CAFO and Concentrated Animal Operations)	886
Total Farm Acres Inspected under the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program (CAFO and Concentrated Animal Operations)	138,139
Farms Inspected under the CB Ag Inspection Program	2,065
Total Ag acres inspected under the CB Ag Inspection Program	177,684
<b>Total Farms Inspected</b>	<b>2,951</b>
<b>Total Acres Inspected (10.3%)</b>	<b>315,823</b>