

CHESAPEAKE BAY AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS PROGRAM (Phase 2)



SUMMARY

PA DEP's Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections Program Phase 2 provides grants to help farmers install best management practices specified in approved erosion control and manure/nutrient management plans.

- Phase I focused on inspections to ensure farms have required plans; Phase II is a pilot program that focuses on BMP installation to attain compliance
- Administered by PA Department of Environmental Protection through County Conservation Districts
- Annual program funding (2020): \$2.8 million
- Allocation Sources: PA Environmental Stewardship Fund (created in 2002) and EPA

FEATURES

A pilot program designed to move farm operators into compliance with water quality deficiencies. More than 8,150 farms in Bay watershed have been inspected under Phase 1; Phase 2 provides grants to support practices that will eliminate compliance deficiencies and improve water quality.

Funds can support design and engineering of BMPs if these services are not covered by another program; does not fund permitting.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

Farm operators within Adams, Chester and Lancaster counties (pilot counties) found to be out of compliance with farm conservation plans. May expand to other counties based on success of pilot program.

Eligible Costs

- Installation costs associated with BMPs as a result of a site inspection that found deficiencies in the implementation of a required erosion control and/or nutrient management plan.
- Cost-share up to \$20,000 per farm; Conservation Districts work with landowner to secure financial assistance from other sources to fully correct deficiencies; Payments based on NRCS EQIP cost-share incentive rates.

HELPFUL TIPS

Farmers should consider combining this assistance with funds from programs such as Conservation Excellence Grants, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program tax credits, and EQIP program grants.

HOW TO APPLY

This is not an application-based assistance program. Program offers technical and limited financial assistance to help landowners comply with plan implementation in participating counties.

Lancaster County CD: Kevin Seibert, 717-299-5361 Ext. 2524

Adams County CD: Tyler Echard, 717-334-0636; techard@adamscounty.us

Chester County CD: Dan Miloser, 610-455-1380, dmiloser@chesco.org

