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Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG)

Meeting Agenda

September 18th, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[Meeting Materials](#)

Virtual Meeting Information

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 255 026 759 588

Passcode: 2MvGxh

Phone: +1 202-991-0477,,999598303# US

Calendar page: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture-workgroup-meeting-september-2025>

Workgroup Areas of Focus

Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation

Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments

Intro & Announcements

10:00 **Welcome, roll call, review meeting minutes – 5 minutes**

Kathy Brasier, AgWG Chair

- Roll call of the governance body and meeting participants - *Please enter name and affiliation under “Participants” or in “Chat” box*
- **Decision requested:** Approval of [minutes](#) from the August AgWG meeting.

10:05 **Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Recap – 10 minutes**

Bob Waring, AAC Vice Chair; Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District

Bob will provide an overview of the latest meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, sharing the leadership team’s key takeaways and the group’s interests and near-term priorities.

Accounting & Reporting

10:15 **BMP Crosswalk Review – 50 minutes (presentation and discussion)**

Olivia Devereux, Devereux Consulting

The AgWG oversees and facilitates partnership-led changes to credit assigned to the agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) recognized in the Chesapeake Bay Program’s suite of modeling tools. Members of this workgroup strive to ensure that the widest possible range of practices are represented in our modeling tools, and that they are represented as accurately as possible based on the best available science. Olivia will present a resource she has developed to

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show the NRCS-recognized BMPs with CBP-recognized BMPs. This demonstrates the breadth of coverage of existing CAST BMPs. The workgroup will discuss potential applications for the crosswalk and information to add to make the resource more useful. Workgroup members will then discuss opportunities for pursuing credit for “new” BMPs (those that are not currently recognized in CAST) and revisiting credit assigned to existing CAST BMPs.

11:05 Satellite Remote Sensing Applications for Cover Crops – 50 minutes (presentation and discussion)

Dr. W. Dean Hively, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Dr. Hively previously presented to the AgWG in February of 2024 on the use of satellite remote sensing for informing conservation management of field crops. He is returning to the workgroup with a presentation focused on remote sensing of cover crops, emphasizing his work in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This presentation will support a broader discussion of remote sensing-based verification of agricultural BMPs.

Wrap-up

11:55 New Business, Announcements & Updates

- **AMT Updates – Tom Butler, AMT Coordinator**
- **WTWG Updates – Auston Smith, WTWG Coordinator**
- **Soliciting nominations for Vice Chair and at-large members**
- **CAST Webinar “[Modeling BMP Effectiveness at the Farm Scale](#),”**
 - This webinar will take place on Thursday, September 18 at 12-1pm
 - Guest presenter, Marcie Dunn, will share her experience using NRCS planning tools — Conservation Desktop and the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART) — to identify, prioritize, and evaluate on-farm conservation practices. Marcie will walk through a real-world project example to show how these tools support decision-making and demonstrate the benefits of conservation efforts at the farm scale. Following Marcie’s presentation, the CAST Team will introduce the Farm Scale Pollutant Load Analysis Field Guide as an alternative approach that anyone can use with publicly available CAST data to estimate both water quality and carbon reduction benefits of BMPs.
 - To register for this webinar, click [here](#).
- **2025 NFWF Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum**
 - Check out the latest information on the Forum, including a draft agenda, by visiting the [2025 CANF landing page](#). This website will be updated with additional details as the Forum approaches.
 - [Register to secure your spot](#). In order to secure your spot for this space limited event, **you must register by completing the registration form no later than September 22, 2025**. There’s no cost to register.
 - [Book your room](#). Lodging can be reserved directly through Hershey Lodge, and **rooms must also be reserved by September 22, 2025** to secure discounted room rates.
- **Bay in the Balance 2025 Conference**

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- This event will take place **December 8-10** at the Wyndham Conference Center and Hotel in Gettysburg. For more information on the event and to register, please visit the following [site](#).
- Please note: Given that many AgWG members will be participating in this conference, AgWG leadership intends to schedule an in-person AgWG meeting on the afternoon of December 10th after the end of Bay in the Balance, in lieu of the workgroup's December meeting currently scheduled for 12/18.
- **University of Maryland Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology Call for Research Pre-Proposals**
 - The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology is soliciting research pre-proposals to address agriculture and food systems, land use, soil and water quality, and forest health and forestry. To view the full request for proposals, click [here](#). For more information about the Harry R. Hughes Center, visit their [website](#).
 - Proposals are due Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025, to hughescenter@umd.edu.
- **Water Quality Monitoring Field Day with USGS**
 - "Attendees will embark to Goldsboro, York County on September 17th from 10am to 12pm. You will be welcomed by USGS and WAY streamside at Fishing Creek where one of York's six state-of-the-art water quality monitoring supergauges is located. The USGS Team will demonstrate and discuss streamflow measurement and stream gaging, continuous-instream water-quality monitoring, discrete water-quality sampling, and a brief overview and examples of surrogate regression monitoring. The monitors are continuously sampling for sediment and nutrients, the pollutants York and the Chesapeake Bay are being graded on. Field trip attendees will be able to engage and ask questions of USGS and also of York County WQM Program Partners".
 - For more information and to register for this event, fill out this [Google Form](#).
- **Chesapeake Bay Program Press Release: [Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Shows Mixed Results](#)**
 - The Chesapeake Bay Program recently released a [press release](#) on the latest Chesapeake Bay Water Quality data. The press release also shared the latest information on the amount of pollutants and their long-and-short-term trends entering our waterways, as observed through the non-tidal network monitoring system and River Input Monitoring stations throughout the watershed.
 - Additional information and data are accessible through the [press release](#) and on [ChesapeakeProgress](#).
- **WQGIT Phase 7 Office Hours Recordings**
 - The WQGIT will be hosting a variety of informational office hours sessions focused on key Phase 7 topics. Future session dates and topics are below:
 - **Mon 9/15 1:00-2:30pm** - Wastewater Topics: Exfiltration method, CSO Loads, Septic/Sewer Model, SSO Loads, Boat Pump-Outs
 - **Thu 9/18 2:00-3:30pm** – Will be held for remaining or parking lot topics, only if needed.
 - Recordings from the August 15th and August 18th office hours are posted. These and future office hour recordings will be linked on the respective calendar pages,

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[CAST model documentation page](#), and [Phase 7 project page](#). You can view them now if you were unable to attend the sessions:

- ☐ August 15: [BMP Excess, Land Use Loading Rate Ratios](#)
- ☐ August 18: [Back-Cast Overview, Land Use aggregation, CAST Land Uses](#)

- **Other Announcements?**

- Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email.

12:00 **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: **Thursday, October 16th, 10:00AM-12:00PM**

Acronym List

AgWG- [Agriculture Workgroup](#)
AMT- [Agricultural Modeling Team](#) (Phase 7)
BMP – Best Management Practice
CAST- [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#) (user interface for the CBP Watershed Model)
CBP- [Chesapeake Bay Program](#)
CBPO- Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CBW- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
CTIC – Conservation Technology Information Center
CVN – Conservation Validation Network
EPA - [United States] Environmental Protection Agency
FSA – Farm Service Agency
MLRI – Modeled Load Reduction Indicator
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
ORISE – Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PSC – [Principals’ Advisory Committee](#) (CBP)
PSU- Penn State University
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts
WQGIT- [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)
UMD - University of Maryland
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USGS – United States Geological Survey
USFS – United States Forestry Service