

# Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative

USDA FSA, NRCS and FS

U.S. EPA

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

# Riparian forests are ultimate multi-tasker

- Clean water
- Protect erodible lands
- Scrub air pollutants
- Provide fish and wildlife habitat



# Need more trees

- 2<sup>nd</sup> most relied upon BMP to reduce nitrogen pollution
- Targets are a significant acceleration of trends
  - 2012: 3,400 ac
- Several programs available including CREP, EQIP and RCPP

Riparian Forest Buffer Planting Targets by Chesapeake Bay States 2012-2025			
State	Total Acres	Acres per year	100 foot buffer, miles per year
Delaware	4,790	370	31
Maryland	1,190	90	8
New York	6,180	475	40
Pennsylvania	89,630	6,895	575
Virginia	80,820	6,215	518
West Virginia	3,250	250	21
Total	185,860	14,295	1,191

# How do we plant more forest buffers?

- Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative
- USDA/EPA leadership looking for new ideas from states
- USDA providing \$5+ million in new incentives
- State task force process
- Final due March 2015





Leadership

Outreach

Financial  
Incentives

Technical  
Assistance

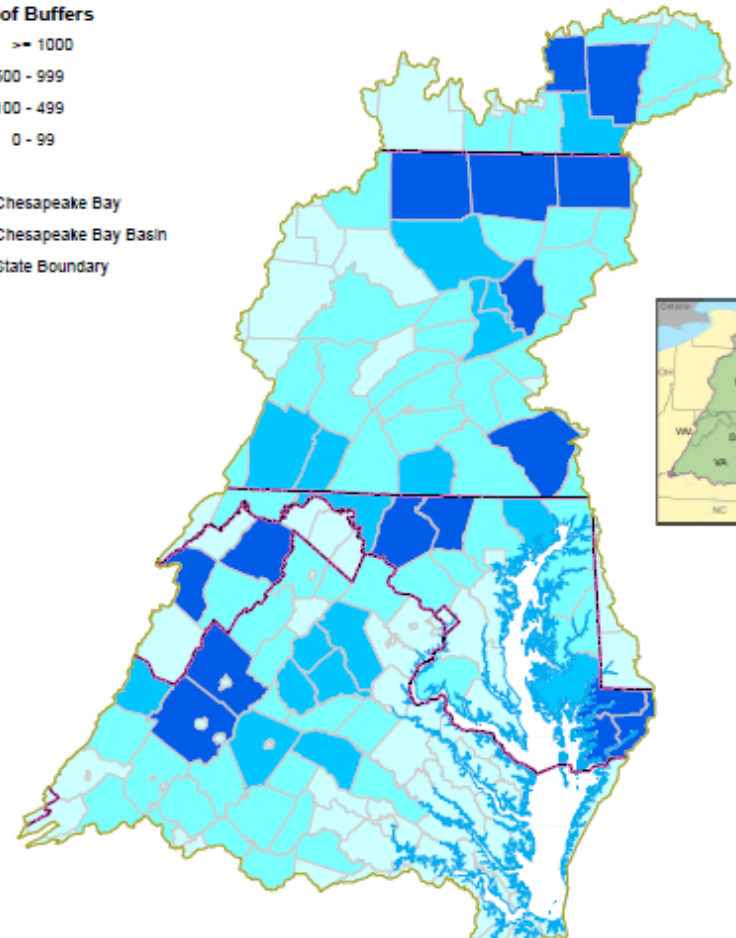
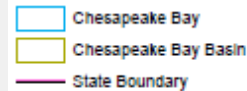
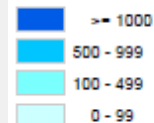
# Leadership

- Key to success
- Local champions
- Incentives/credit

Acres of Forest Buffers Restored Through CRP/CREP in the Chesapeake Bay Basin, by County (1998-2012)



Acres of Buffers





# Outreach

- Coordination
- Varied audiences
- Cross-sell
- Re-enrollment



# Financial Incentives

- Partial Incentive Payment adjustment
- Enhance cropland incentive package
- Better leverage programs (e.g. EQIP rankings, state programs)
- Extend establishment period



# Technical Assistance

- Staffing/partners
- One-stop shop/circuit rider teams (enrollment and maintenance)
- Training



# How can Ag Workgroup help?

- Get engaged with state task forces
- Evaluate how state programs can support/include trees
- GIT funding

# Contacts

NY: Ginny Green, [Virginia.Green@ny.usda.gov](mailto:Virginia.Green@ny.usda.gov)

PA: Katrina Thompson, [Katrina.Thompson@pa.usda.gov](mailto:Katrina.Thompson@pa.usda.gov)

MD: Louise Lawrence, [louise.lawrence@maryland.gov](mailto:louise.lawrence@maryland.gov)

WV: Kevin Hinkle, [kevin.hinkle@wv.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.hinkle@wv.usda.gov)

VA: Emily Horsley, [Emily.Horsley@va.usda.gov](mailto:Emily.Horsley@va.usda.gov)

DE: Marcia Fox, [marcia.fox@state.de.us](mailto:marcia.fox@state.de.us)