

Chesapeake Bay-Wide Access to Conservation Practices for Annual Reporting

Olivia H. Devereux

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BMP Verification Committee

USGS Project Objectives

- To assist the CB states with submitting NRCS data for annual progress assessment
- To provide the states with the tools they need to submit the NRCS data in future years

Tools:

1. 1619 agreement - uniformity among Chesapeake Bay states
2. Methodology for de-duping co-cost shared data
3. Methodology for data aggregation

Outline

Part I

- Comparison of USDA Cooperator Agreements (Section 1619 MOU)
- Draft of Chesapeake Bay-wide agreement (USGS and States)

Part II

- State-specific strategies for addressing double counting
- Status of data requests to NRCS and FSA
- Verification of NRCS and FSA practices
- Other issues/Discussion

States with NRCS Cooperator Agreements

- Maryland (MDA)
- Virginia (DCR)
- New York (USC)
- West Virginia (DEP and WVDA)

State	Agency	Purpose 1	Purpose 2	Data covered	Start date	Expire date
MD	MDA	Conservation cooperator with NRCS.	Provide conservation services, monitoring, assessing or eval.	All	10/27/09	none
VA	DCR	Provide technical assistance to NRCS		Lists specific data that may be viewed	12/4/09	none
NY	USC	Conservation cooperator with NRCS.	Provide conservation services, monitoring, assessing or eval.	Not specified	3/3/11	none
WV	WV CA	Tracking for Bay TMDL-NRCS		AWMS and mortality disposal systems	2/21/12	3/1/13
WV	WV DA	Assist with delivery of conservation-related services-NRCS	Monitoring, assessing, or evaluating conservation benefits	Not limited	4/7/12	none
-	USGS	Provide technical or financial assistance to FSA	Provide monitoring, assessing or eval.	CRP and CREP programs	8/2/10	9/30/15
-	USGS	Provide technical or financial assistance to NRCS	Provide monitoring, assessing or eval.	Farm Bill programs	11/20/10	9/30/15

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
USDA SECTION 1619 COOPERATOR
CERTIFYING USDA AGENCY: FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

Purpose

This USDA Section 1619 Cooperator Memorandum of Understanding is being issued by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to establish that (*replace with the name of the Chesapeake Bay state agencies and USGS*) have been certified by FSA to be working in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture on a USDA program by providing technical or financial assistance to a USDA program that concerns an agricultural operation, agricultural land, farming practice, or conservation practice. Those individuals or organizations (governmental or non-governmental) certified by FSA as working in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture by providing this assistance to USDA programs requiring access to data protected by Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) are known as USDA Section 1619 Cooperators...

Chesapeake Bay state agencies:

1. Maryland Department of Agriculture
2. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
3. West Virginia Department of Agriculture
4. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
5. Delaware Natural Resources, Environment, and Conservation
6. New York Upper Susquehanna Coalition

PART II

WV—Preventing Double Counting

- FSA CREP mostly reported through federal data
 - no risk of duplication with state-reported practices
 - exceptions: CP 21 filter strips & CP 22- riparian buffers. These will be reported by the state and removed from FSA data.
- NRCS practice data—WV Agricultural Enhancement Program only funds practices that are not funded by NRCS
 - no risk of duplication
- NRCS technical assistance for practices where there was no cost-sharing from NRCS could be a potential area of duplication with WV.
 - USGS will prepare the NRCS data with technical assistance practices clearly identified so WV can assess if there is duplication. It is anticipated that practices such as prescribed grazing and nutrient budget worksheet may be duplicated. If so, the technical assistance-only practices will not be reported to CBP.

PA—Preventing Double Counting

- PA-DEP does not have a 1619 agreement and cannot identify duplicates other than by practice name.
- All practices reported by NRCS and FSA will be removed from all PA data sources

MD—Preventing Double Counting

- MD's Conservation Tracker database tool has all practices, regardless of cost-share funding source
 - NRCS data would be duplicated
 - NRCS data will only be used as a management tool to assess the data quality and completeness of the Conservation Tracker data and to work with staff on improving reporting.
- Poultry litter data from NRCS may be useful to MD. USGS will determine the data NRCS tracks for poultry litter incorporation and treatment.

VA—Preventing Double Counting

- The majority of practices co-cost shared by VA and NRCS include nutrient management and cover crops.
 - All VA nutrient management and cover crops will be reported; None from NRCS will be reported
- Other practices that appear to be duplicates will be identified record by record using farm owner/operator and location, ~100 instances.

DE—Preventing Double Counting

- Data from NRCS and FSA are not co-cost shared by DE,
 - No risk of duplication
- Exceptions
 - Cover crop methodology was developed last year. State acres are subtracted from the NRCS acres. State data is more specific so preference is to report state data.
 - NRCS forestry practices should only include tree planting, forest harvesting practices. Other forestry practices, if present, should be compared with DE Dept. of Forestry data.
 - Manure relocation is funded either by NRCS or DE, never both. Submittal will include this practice from both sources.

NY—Preventing Double Counting

- Likely to use only NY data, not NRCS or FSA data
- Considering options

Timeline

- Status of Data Requests
 - FSA data-received both tabular and CLU data
 - NRCS data
 - Received sample data (one month) on 9/11/2012
 - NRCS will not have final data from June 30, 2012 until October 11th
- Annual Progress Timeline
 - 3/1/2013 – final draft form
 - 12/31/2012 – State submissions are due to CBP
- De-duping and data aggregation to preserve producer confidentiality must occur between 10/11 and 12/31/2012

FSA data

- Includes all fields necessary for reporting
- Land use is not populated

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| • StateCode | • HUC | • nametype |
| • CountyCode | • QtyAcreUnderCRP_1 | • mailingadd1, |
| • ContractNo | • QtyAcreCRP_1Expire | • mailingadd2 |
| • ContractSuffix | • UnauthUsePaidAmt | • city |
| • StatusCode | • UnauthUseReductionAmt | • state |
| • IndicatorCREP | • HayGrazReductionPaidAmt | • Zip |
| • LandClassCode | • HayGrazReductionAmt | • Common Land Unit |
| • LandSubClassCode | • MngHayGrazePaidAmt | • Plus more... |
| • ProgramYr | • MngHayReductionAmt | |
| • SignupNo | • FSTechRespIndicator | |
| • NoMonthsContract | • NRCSTechAsstIndicator | |
| • NoYrsContract | • CP11_3YrDate | |
| • YearContractEnd | • DateCreated | |
| • OriginalCRPStartDate | • ProducerInvolvementCode | |
| • StatePhysicalLocation | • CustNo | |
| • CountyPhysicalLocation | • FarmNo | |
| • PracticeCode | • lastname | |
| • crppracticdescription | • firstname | |
| • PracticeAcres | • nameformat | |

Recommendations for Additional Data

- Land use field populated
 - Where applicable, land use change “from” and “to” (E.g.: Land use change from *row crop* to *grass or forest*)
- More explicit cover crop data
 - Commodity vs. regular
 - Plant date (e.g.: early, late, standard)
 - Planting method (e.g.: aerial, drilled, other)
 - Variety (e.g.: wheat, rye, etc...)

Accountability Under Data Sharing

- Who will verify?
 - NRCS?
 - State?
- Who will support cost of verification?
- Who will CBP hold accountable?
 - Funder of practice?
 - Submitter of data?

OTHER ISSUES?

QUESTIONS?