


Draft Agricultural BMP Verification Guidance Review Sessions

CBP Agriculture Workgroup Webinar

- * May 22, 2014: 10:30 – 12:00

- * June 12, 2014: 10:30 – 12:00

AgWG Verification Webinar

- ▶ **Welcome!**
 - ▶ Thank you for your participation in a series of agricultural BMP verification guidance review sessions which are being held prior to the next full Agriculture Workgroup (AgWG) meeting scheduled for June 19, 2014.
 - ▶ These sessions are intended to inform AgWG members of the revised verification guidance documents, and to solicit discussion and questions.
 - ▶ Written comments received prior to June 19th will be provided to the AgWG for full consideration in the workgroup's formal review process.
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- ▶ In response to a request from the BMP Verification Subcommittee Chair to provide revised guidance for agricultural BMP verification by May 9th, addressing comments received from the BMP Verification Review Panel, the AgWG formed an Ad Hoc Ag Verification Team to assist in developing the new documentation.
- ▶ The following appreciated volunteers served:
 - Kristen Saacke Blunk: Co-Chair
 - John Rhoderick: Co-Chair
 - Dave Kindig: VADCR
 - Curt Dell: USDA-ARS/NRCS
 - Roy Hoagland: NGO
 - Marel Raub: CBC
 - Jason Keppler: MDA
 - Mark Dubin: UME Coordinator/Emma Giese: CRC Staffer

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- ▶ The revised draft **Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Agriculture Workgroup's Agricultural BMP Verification Guidance** package currently includes three primary documents:
 - Agricultural BMP Verification Guidance
 - Jurisdictional Agriculture Verification Design Table
 - Agricultural BMP Verification Guidance Matrix 4.1
 - Agricultural Background Document (coming)

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- ▶ **Verification Guidance Highlights**
 - **Three BMP Categories**
 - Visual Assessment BMPs: Single Year
 - Example– Cover Crops
 - Visual Assessment BMPs: Multi–Year
 - Example– Animal Waste Management Systems
 - Non–Visual Assessment BMPs
 - Example– Nutrient Application Management

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▶ Verification Guidance Highlights

◦ Four BMP Implementation Mechanism Types

- Non-Cost-Shared BMPs:
 - Example– Farmer or privately funded practices.
- Cost-Shared BMPs:
 - Example– Federal, state and county financial assistance programs.
 - Public grant funded NGO programs.
- Regulatory Program BMPs:
 - Example– State nutrient management regulatory programs.
- Permit Program BMPs:
 - Example– Federal/state CAFO programs.

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- ▶ **Verification Guidance Highlights**
 - **Two Verification Inspection Categories**
 - **Initial Inspections:**
 - Example– BMP Implementation inspections for cost–shared BMPs.
 - Initial BMP identification assessments for non–cost shared BMPs.
 - **Follow–up Checks:**
 - Example– O & M compliance inspections for federal, state, and county contractual BMPs.
 - Compliance inspections for regulatory or permit state programs.

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▶ Verification Guidance Highlights

◦ Three Verification Inspection Levels

- Initial Inspections:
 - Minimum 100% BMP implementation inspections for cost-shared BMPs or initial BMP identification assessments.
 - Transect sub-sampling allowed for Visual Assessment BMPs: Single Year.
- Follow-up Checks:
 - Minimum 10% sub-sampling for BMPs accounting for more than 5 percent of the state WIP sector goals.
 - Minimum 5% sub-sampling for BMPs accounting for 5 percent or less of the state WIP sector goals.
 - Minimum 100% for permit program BMPs.

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- ▶ **Verification Guidance Highlights**
 - **Jurisdiction Agricultural Protocol Design Table**
 - **New Design Table**
 - Developed and recommended for use by the BMP Verification Panel and Committee.
 - **Reflects new BMP Categories:**
 - Visual Assessment BMPs: Single Year
 - Visual Assessment BMPs: Multi-Year
 - Non-Visual Assessment BMPs
 - **Incorporates BMP Implementation Mechanisms**
 - Non-Cost Shared BMPs
 - Cost-Shared BMPs
 - Regulatory Program BMPs
 - Permit Program BMPs

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- ▶ **Verification Guidance Highlights**
 - **Agricultural Verification Guidance Matrix 4.1**
 - Revised to Reflect new BMP Categories:
 - Visual Assessment BMPs: Single Year
 - Visual Assessment BMPs: Multi-Year
 - Non-Visual Assessment BMPs
 - Revised Verification Method Eligibility:
 - Incorporated draft Agricultural Management Plans Subgroup recommendations.
 - Incorporated draft FE/RI Technical Review Panel recommendations.
 - Incorporated draft verification guidance recommendations.

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▶ Verification Guidance Highlights

- **Independent Review:** a review carried out by someone within the same organization having technical expertise in the subject matter to a degree at least equivalent to that needed for the original work, but who was not involved as a participant, supervisor, technical reviewer, or advisor in the development or operations of the program/practice under review.
- **External Independent Review:** a review carried out by a separate outside organization with technical expertise in the subject matter to a degree at least equivalent to that needed for the original work. Generally, this level of review is sought when considering key decisions that are being made that could affect the overall verification program.

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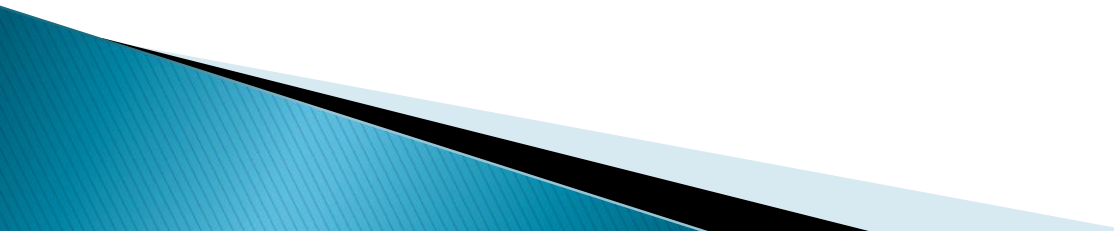
▶ Verification Guidance Highlights

◦ Plan for Future Changes

- Adopt “BMP Protocol” Approach:
Incorporate a defined process for the AgWG to evaluate future changes and provide recommendations to the WQGIT for possible verification guidance revisions.
- Adopt a Partnership Approach:
Recommend the BMP Verification Committee define a multi-sector approach to evaluating future verification changes.

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► Path Forward

- Written comments are being requested.
 - Send comments to Mark and Emma.
 - All comments received by COB June 18th will be posted for the AgWG meeting on June 19th.
 - Final edits will be implemented in preparation for July AgWG meeting.
 - AgWG recommendations on final BMP guidance expected at July meeting.
 - AgWG Recommendations forwarded to the WQGIT and associated BMP Verification Panel and Committee.
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Questions?