

Virginia Tech Expert Panel Updates for the Agriculture Workgroup, June 2015

Manure Treatment Technologies

The subgroups (separation, anaerobic, composting, etc.) of the panel are currently drafting their respective sections of the report and will be discussing them at a two-day panel meeting later this month. They will continue to draft their report in the coming months and remain on schedule to release their recommendations for partnership review this Fall.

Animal Waste Management Systems (AWMS, including Poultry Pads)

The RFP was distributed to a wide range of relevant experts inside and outside the watershed, but no proposals were received by the RFP deadline of May 22. We have continued to reach out to new experts and are currently negotiating with a prospective Panel Chair. We hope to have a panel proposal sometime in July.

Other ongoing projects and BMP panels under Virginia Tech

Ag Land Use Loading Rate Review

Gene Yagow is working closely with the Steering Committee (formerly known as the Ag Land Use Loading Rate Review Subgroup) to analyze loading rate data from literature previously collected by Tetra Tech and Water Stewardship, Inc., and new sources suggested by the Steering Committee. They are currently reviewing an updated list of sources and analysis based on a revised set of criteria and have a call scheduled next week.

Wetlands

Following changes to the 4th year of the Center for Watershed Protection's cooperative agreement with the CBP as the Sediment and Stream Coordinator, Neely Law was unable to continue as Panel Coordinator. Virginia Tech is taking on role of Coordinator for remainder of panel's work.

Urban Tree Canopy

Held public stakeholder forum and webinar on Wednesday, June 3rd.

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/22656>

Impervious Disconnection

Panel membership approved by USWG at May meeting; revised panel Scope and Charge up for USWG approval on June 16th USWG call.