

AGENDA  
March 18, 2021  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
AgWG Conference Call

Conference Call Information

**Zoom Link\*:** <https://zoom.us/j/91676048147>

**Meeting ID:** 916 7604 8147

**Password:** 2494

**Dial In:** 929 205 6099

**Participant ID:** available through Zoom link

**Calendar Page:**

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture\\_workgroup\\_conference\\_call\\_march\\_20211](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/agriculture_workgroup_conference_call_march_20211)

\*To enter the webinar, please open the webinar link first. After opening the webinar, either elect to join via computer audio or via phone call. If you select phone, **please ensure you enter the participant ID.**

**Workgroup Areas of Focus**

**Accounting & Reporting • Implementation • Innovation**

**Data & Modeling • CBP Assignments**

**10:00 Welcome, introductions, roll-call, review meeting minutes**

Workgroup Chair

- Roll-call of the governance body
- Roll-call of the meeting participants- *Please enter name and affiliation under "Participants" or in "Chat" box.*
- Approval of meeting minutes from the February 18th Conference Call
- New WQGIT/AgWG Staffer Jackie Pickford
- [New At-Large](#) Introductions
  - RO Britt, Smithfield Foods
  - Tim Rosen, ShoreRivers
  - Matt Royer, Penn State (alternate Tyler Groh, Penn State)
  - Jenna Schueler, CBF (alternate for Matt Kowalski, CBF)

**Data & Modeling**

**CAST-21 DRAFT WORKPLAN TASK 2**

**10:15 Forecasting Agricultural Trends (20 min)**

Jeff Sweeney

Jeff Sweeney, EPA, returns to the AgWG seeking a decision following a [February review](#) of findings from investigations on alternatives to the current methods for forecasting agricultural land uses and animals. In February, two options were proposed to the AgWG for partnership consideration. The AgWG was asked to review the Ag Census Projection Analysis [spreadsheet](#) and provide any feedback to Sucharith Ravi, UMCES, and Jeff by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Option #1: Keep current projection method (Dbl. Exp. Smoothing: Alpha = 0.8) **RECOMMENDED**
- Option #2: Change to Linear Projection (Method 2)

**Decision:** The AgWG is asked to approve a path forward regarding CAST-21 Workplan Task 2: Investigate alternatives to the current methods for forecasting agricultural land uses and animals and propose options for partnership consideration: Option #1: Keep current projection method (Dbl. Exp. Smoothing: Alpha = 0.8) OR Option #2: Change to Linear Projection (Method 2)

#### 10:35 **Rapid Review: The Partnership & Agriculture Workgroup (25 min)**

Loretta Collins

Loretta Collins, UMD, will provide an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program and where the Agriculture Workgroup fits into it for the benefit of our new members and a refresh for those who have been around for a while.

#### 11:00 **BREAK (5 min)** [How do you pronounce triticale?](#)

### **CBP Assignments**

#### 11:05 **Ag Data Concerns Review (30 min)**

Loretta Collins

The CAST concerns ad hoc group has been meeting monthly since September to discuss the draft “[CAST-21 Workplan](#)” items and additional concerns that were raised by the AgWG’s jurisdictional membership. Loretta Collins, AgWG coordinator, will provide an update on progress of both the Workplan and additional concerns solicited from the state jurisdictions last year.

### **Innovation & Implementation**

#### 11:30 **NRCS-USGS-EPA Federal Coordination in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (15 min)**

Kasey Taylor, Delaware State Conservationist, NRCS; Scott Phillips, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, USGS; and Kelly Shenk, Agriculture Advisor, EPA Mid-Atlantic Region will provide an overview of their efforts to enhance federal coordination in the Chesapeake Bay watershed with respect to funding for agricultural conservation practices and measuring the impact of those practices on water quality.

#### 11:45 **New Business & Announcements (10 min)**

- **COVID-19 Announcements?**
- **Non-Urban Stream Restoration** EPEG – In progress
- **Animal Mortality** Expert Panel Report – Expected release date April 2021
- **Soil Health Benchmark Study**
  - More than 100 farms contributed soil samples and field records PASA’s Soil Health Benchmark Study—the largest, most diverse community soil health science project in the country. <https://pasafarming.org/new-report-uneearths-soil-health-insights/>
- **2021 Small Watershed Grants Program**
  - The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is now soliciting **Full Proposals** for the **2021 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants** program. **Due Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021.**
  - Register for webinar [here](#).

- For more info contact Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)), Stephanie Heidebreder ([stephanie.heidebreder@nfwf.org](mailto:stephanie.heidebreder@nfwf.org)) or Sydney Godbey ([Sydney.godbey@nfwf.org](mailto:Sydney.godbey@nfwf.org))
- **Other Announcements?** - send to Jackie Pickford ([pickfordj@chesapeake.org](mailto:pickfordj@chesapeake.org)) for inclusion in "Recap" email

11:55 **Review of Action and Decision Items (5 min)**

12:00 **Adjourn**

## **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, April 15th, 10AM-12PM: Conference Call**

## **COVID-19 Resources:**

**Evolving list... NEW**

### **Delaware**

UD Extension: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/trending/coronavirus-resources/>

Farmer Relief: [Delaware Grant Program for Contract Poultry Growers Impacted by COVID-19](#)

### **Maryland**

MDA Updates: <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/category/covid-19/>

UMD Extension: <https://extension.umd.edu/learn/covid-19-resources>

Maryland Farm Bureau: <https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/coronavirus/>

Maryland Farmer COVID-19 Relief Program: [More Info](#)

### **New York**

Crisis Management: <https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension: <https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/coronavirus-response/>

**State-Level Ag/COVID resources that are updated, sometimes daily (with some overlap):**

Executive Order 2026 on Essential Businesses/Entities:

- <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>

NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets:

- <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>
- [https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/covid19\\_resourceguide\\_0.pdf](https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/covid19_resourceguide_0.pdf)

Cornell University / Cornell Cooperative Extension:

- <https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/coronavirus-response/>
- <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/publications/covid-19/>
- <https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/publications/news-e-alerts/>
- <http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>
- <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>

### **Pennsylvania**

Dept. of Agriculture: <https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Resources.aspx>

Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) guidance documents:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx>

Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/coronavirus>

### **West Virginia**

Dept. of Agriculture: <https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Virginia**

Virginia Tech: [https://aaec.vt.edu/content/dam/aaec\\_vt\\_edu/extension/aaec-outreach-reports/covid-19-resources-may-2020/COVID-impacts-on-Virginia-5-20.pdf](https://aaec.vt.edu/content/dam/aaec_vt_edu/extension/aaec-outreach-reports/covid-19-resources-may-2020/COVID-impacts-on-Virginia-5-20.pdf)

Virginia Cooperative Extension: <https://ext.vt.edu/covid-19updates/resources.html>

### **USDA**

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture: <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

Coronavirus and USDA Assistance for Farmers: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program- Additional Assistance: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

Federal Rural Resource Guide: [https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA\\_COVID-19\\_Fed\\_Rural\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf)

### **EPA**

EPA: [www.epa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.epa.gov/coronavirus)

EPA Policy and Frequent Questions on Grant Issues related to COVID-19 (3/26):

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2020-g02>

EPA Memo on COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program (3/26):

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/oecamemooncovid19implications.pdf>

EPA COVID-19 Enforcement and Compliance Resources: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/covid-19-enforcement-and-compliance-resources>

### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

National Association of Conservation Districts: <https://www.nacdnet.org/covid-19/>

Farm Bureau: <https://www.fb.org/land/impact-covid19-on-ag>

Farmer's Legal Action Group Quick Summary of COVID-19 Relief for Farmers:

<http://www.flaginc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Updated-Farmers-Guide-to-COVID-19-Relief-April-27-2020.pdf>

National Farmers Union: <https://nfu.org/coronavirus/>

Center for Dairy Excellence: <https://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/>

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association: <https://www.uspoultry.org/COVID-19/>

Pork Checkoff: <https://www.pork.org/public-health/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19/>

National Grain and Feed Association: [https://imis.ngfa.org/members/n/COVID-](https://imis.ngfa.org/members/n/COVID-19_Updates/ngfa/News/COVID-19_Updates.aspx?hkey=85178898-8bf7-4520-9299-b9348fa2641f)

[19\\_Updates/ngfa/News/COVID-19\\_Updates.aspx?hkey=85178898-8bf7-4520-9299-b9348fa2641f](https://imis.ngfa.org/members/n/COVID-19_Updates/ngfa/News/COVID-19_Updates.aspx?hkey=85178898-8bf7-4520-9299-b9348fa2641f)

National Cattlemen's Beef Association: <https://www.ncba.org/coronavirus.aspx>

### **Crisis Hotline**

Farm Aid: Monday-Friday 9-5 EST at 1-800-FARM-AID: <https://www.farmaid.org/blog/resources-for-farmers-affected-by-covid-19/>

Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI): <https://www.rafiusa.org/hotline/>