

# TODAY

Set	Set the stage
Refine	Refine focus areas and topics
Breakout	Break-out by topic to build strawmen for full AgWG
Vet	Vet strawmen
Synthesize	Synthesize what we've got

## SET THE STAGE

- Who's here and why?

# SET THE STAGE

**Endorsement** – I LIKE THIS.



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graph BT; A[Endorsement] --> B[Agreement with Reservation]; B --> C[Stand Aside]; C --> D[Hold]; D --> E[Stop]
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**Agreement with Reservation** – I CAN LIVE WITH IT.

**Stand Aside** – I TRUST THE GROUP AND WILL NOT BLOCK THIS DECISION BUT REGISTER MY RESERVATIONS.

**Hold** – I BELIEVE MORE WORK IS NEEDED BEFORE WE MAKE A DECISION.

**Stop** – I DO NOT AGREE AND I NEED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF THIS DECISION

## VALUE

AG Viability & Sustainability + Improving Water Quality Across Our Shared Region

## GOAL

Balance Science & Data Collection + Improved & Increased Implementation

# Scope and Purpose

The charge of the Agriculture Workgroup is to provide expertise and leadership on development and implementation of policies, programs, and research to reduce pollutant loads delivered from agricultural lands and animal operations to upstream waters and the Chesapeake Bay. The Workgroup reports to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team.

Functions include:

- Provide a forum for discussion, exchange of information, and evaluation between federal, state, and local agencies, conservation districts, universities, agri-business, and the corporate sector on sustainable and/or cost-effective agricultural production systems that benefit water and air quality.
- Provide recommendations on the prioritization of federal and state technical and financial resources on specific practices in priority watersheds.
- Provide technical expertise and leadership to support the development and implementation of agricultural elements within the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestones, and tracking and reporting mechanisms that support an adaptive management approach towards Bay restoration.
- Coordinate with WQGIT Watershed Technical Workgroup to identify, define, quantify, and incorporate pollutant reduction and conservation practices on agricultural lands and animal operations into the Chesapeake Bay Program decision support system. Provide data and support for the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team and Technical and Support Services.

## REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS

### Implementation

- Taking state and county watershed implementation plans from theory to on-the-ground practices.

### Verification

- Ensuring that Best Management Practices are accurately reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program for credit towards water quality goals.

### Phase 6.0 Model Updates

- Ensuring that the agricultural sector is represented in the most accurate terms available in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model.

### Innovative Practices/Approaches

- Keeping up-to-date on and incorporating, when appropriate, new practices and approaches that have been proven effective in addressing the challenges to water quality improvement in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

### Climate Change

- Addressing the key components of the agriculture sector's role in adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.

# REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS - IMPLEMENTATION

Topic	Sub-topic	Related Issues
Communication	Farmer buy-in	Social & Cultural Barriers
	Education and outreach	
	Farmer input	
Barriers	Economic	Impact of implementation on farmers;
	Social & Cultural	Farm Crisis Management
	Leased farm land	Formalizing of lease agreements
Opportunities	Focusing BMP implementation to maximize load reductions	Use of remote sensing technology; GIS mapping; water monitoring stations
Resources	Technical Assistance	State Level; Federal Level
	Cooperative Agreements	Land Grant Universities, Tetra Tech, EPA funding sources
Cross-Sector Collaboration	Forestry Workgroup	Riparian Forest Buffers
	Toxic Contaminants Workgroup	STAC Workshop: Contaminants of Concern in Agricultural Settings
	Wetlands Workgroup	Non-tidal Wetland Rehabilitation, Enhancement, Creation BMP Expert Panel
	Trading and Offsets Workgroup	Defining load reductions available for trading
	Climate Resiliency Workgroup	Carbon Sequestration
	Co-benefits of BMPs	Cross-reference to model Inputs

## REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS - VERIFICATION

Topics	Sub-topic	Related Issues
AgWG vs. EPA role		QA/QC methods;
State Approaches		Cross-jurisdictional idea-sharing
Alternative Methods	Transect Survey	QAQC; Statistical significance; emerging technologies;
	Remote Sensing	
	Producer/ Farmer Self-Survey	
Resources	Technical Assistance	Funding and logistics for verifying BMPs



## REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS – PHASE 6.0 MODEL INPUTS (IN 3 SLIDES)

Topics		Sub-topic	Related Issues
<b>BMP Expert Panels</b>	In CBPO Review	Ag Stormwater Management	
	In Progress	Cropland Irrigation Management	
		Agricultural Ditch Management	Wetland Expert Panel (over- lapping BMPs)
	Establishing	Animal Mortality Management (RFP published)	
		Nursery Capture and Reuses (ad hoc group creating EP charge)	
	Re-evaluate (Previous Reports > 5 years old)	Pasture Management Conservation Planning	Weiner- Simpson Report 2009 report

## REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS – PHASE 6.0 MODEL INPUTS (IN 3 SLIDES)

Topic	Sub-topic	Related Issues
<b>Crediting Load Reductions</b>	BMP Life-Spans vs. CBP Credit Cycles	
	NRCS 1619 Privacy Agreement	
	BMP mapping in CAST	BMPs mapped to Soil Conservation Plans
	Non Cost-Share BMPs	Practices not picked up in agency record-keeping
	Manure Transport	Ensuring accurate reporting of transport via public and private systems

## REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS – PHASE 6.0 MODEL INPUTS (IN 3 SLIDES)

Topic	Sub-topic	Related Issues
Data	Soil Phosphorus	Management Board Path Forward (Sept 21, 2017); public confidence in model
	Manure and Litter Nutrient Concentrations	Nutrient Concentrations (Broiler, Swine, Turkey, Dairy); public confidence in model
		Sampling- Compare National ASTM sampling & analysis procedures to operator-retrieved samples
	Production (Populations)	(Broiler, Swine, Turkey, Dairy); public confidence in model
	Fertilizers	County-level distribution data; public confidence in model
	Soil and Manure Analysis	Regional data management standards; Watershed-wide, county-level database to track trends
	Remote Sensing	Transect survey (tillage and cover crops)

## REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS – INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND APPROACHES

Topics	Sub-topic	Related Issues
<b>Nutrient Application Recommendations</b>	Partnering with Regional Land Grant Universities	Updating nutrient application recommendations based on the newest research
<b>Precision Agriculture</b>		Newest technology for efficient planting, harvesting, and nutrient application; 4 R's
<b>Soil Health</b>		Carbon Sequestration; conservation tillage; erosion; inter-row mowing for weed suppression; cover crops; soil health indicators as BMPs
<b>Pay-for-Performance</b>		Economic incentivizing through market valuation of BMPs
<b>Discovery Farms (Midwest)</b>		farmer-led research and outreach program focused on the relationship between agriculture and water quality

REFINE FOCUS AREAS AND TOPICS –  
CLIMATE CHANGE

Topics	Sub-topic	Related Issues
Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture		Climate-Resilient Farming
Climate Change Mitigation within Agriculture	Carbon Sequestration	
	BMP Co-benefits	

## BREAKOUT GROUPS – THE FIVE THINGS

1. Briefly define scope (area-topic-issue-opportunity).
2. Why is this particular aspect a priority for the AgWG?
3. What (and who) are the resources needed for addressing this?
4. What are the potential barriers/problems related to this?
5. Are there other topics/areas that are of consequence to this that will need to be addressed prior to or in sequence with this?

VET

VET



VET

VET

SYNTHESIZE