

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)
Quality Assurance Project Plan
for
New York Work Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Program **2010**

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Approved:

By: _____
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By: _____
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By: _____
Kevin DeBell, EPA/ Chesapeake Bay Program

By: _____
Mary Ellen Ley, QA Coordinator, USGS/Chesapeake Bay Program

Project Description

Two tasks have been selected for Quality Assurance Project Planning. Below is a short description of each task, a description of the data and how the data will be used.

1. GIS Support – The USC relies on a Geographical Information System (GIS) for strategic watershed planning efforts. It uses an ArcView GIS Stream and Wetland Assessment Tool that it developed in partnership with Penn State University. The relevant GIS data collection procedures will be discussed under the two tasks described below rather than separately under this task.

2. Baseline Data Collection– We will collect agricultural information needed for CBP modeling efforts. We will collect information as either point data or as a location within a CBP Version 5 watershed. We will report data by CBP Version 5 Watershed or other polygon as requested by the CBP. All information collected will follow CBP protocols and use the NYS NEIEN node for data submission.

Project Statement of Objectives

Goals:

The goal of the **Baseline Data Collection** efforts is to provide additional data for the CBP so they can better model the nutrient and sediment loading rates and reductions made in NY.

Level of Confidence:

The **Baseline Data** will be from USDA NRCS records and USC on-the-farm-surveys so it will be of comparable quality to the other data in the CBP model. The USC farm surveys are “Tier 1 and Tier 2” surveys developed by the NYS Department of Ag and Markets under the NY Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program. The worksheets can be viewed at <http://www.nys-soilandwater.org>. These worksheets must be completed to obtain NY funds for cost sharing best management practices.

Key Project Staff

Overall Project Management: James Curatolo, USC Watershed Coordinator, jac3@htva.net
Overall QA/QC: and Computer software: Chris Yearick, USC GIS Specialist, cdy3@cornell.edu
Data processing and data verification: Chris Yearick, USC GIS Specialist, cdy3@cornell.edu

Time Line

Baseline Data Collection: ongoing

Data Types

Baseline Data Collection

Attachment 1 includes the USC-modified AEM Tier 1 worksheet and BMP data forms. That sheet summarizes all of the Ag and BMP data categories to be collected. The BMP categories are those used by the CBP and provided by Jeff Sweeney, CBP, to the USC as the correct categories for CBP modeling.

All information will come from USDA NRCS files and farm inventories conducted by the USC. Only data from the NRCS and USC files are acceptable. The original data in the NRCS files was collected to document implementation projects funded under EQIP, CRP and other programs. The USC data was originally collected to develop a database to help with watershed planning efforts. As the data is being collected in a CBP format for the CBP, the relevance to the project is self-evident.

Data Management Scheme

Baseline Data Collection: Data for each farm will be written on the USC-modified AEM Tier 1 worksheet and BMP Assessment form. The descriptors on the top of the page will allow for the data to be tracked back to the original source document (AEM ID). The data from the hard copy will be entered into a MS Access database and delivered to the CBP (Jeff Sweeney) through the NYS NEIEN node. We will do a simple analysis in Access to search for outliers in the database and compared with the appropriate hard copy when found. We will select 50 data sheets and compare the hard copy to the data entered. We will use this test as an estimate of data entry reliability and report the results. All hard copies will be available to the CBP for review if requested. The USC will store data on read only CD's guaranteeing the data cannot be changed or lost due to computer malfunction. Additional data storage, retrieval, data reduction and data entry in the computer model will be handled by and a responsibility of the CBP.

Data Processing and Agency Requirements

Baseline Data Collection: All data processing, compiling and analysis will be handled by the CBP.

Quality Assurance

Baseline Data Collection: We will do a simple analysis in Access to search for outliers in the database and compared with the appropriate hard copy when found. We will select 50 data sheets and compare the hard copy to the data entered. We will use this test as an estimate of data entry reliability and report the results.

Agency Information Resource Management Requirements

All data sets developed for a farm under the **Baseline Data Collection** located using an 10 digit WBD descriptor.

Reconciliation

Baseline Data Collection: Under this project we are providing data in a format defined by the CBP. The CBP, after analysis, will provide information to the USC for review with potential anomalies highlighted. The USC will suggest reasons for anomalies that have arisen in the CBP modeling efforts.



AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Tier 1

AEM Identification Number: _____ - _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Evaluator Name: _____		Evaluating Agency: _____	
Watershed Identification (WBD10): _____		Lat	_____ .
Farm Name: _____		Lon	_____ - _____ .
Owner's Name: _____		Operator's Name: _____	
Address: _____		Address: _____	
Phone: _____		Phone: _____	
Fax: _____		Fax: _____	
Email: _____		Email: _____	
Preferred Contact Point? (please check only one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Operator			

1) Future Status of the Farm

A) Do you anticipate any major modifications on your farm within the next 5 years? Yes No

If yes, please check the condition(s) that best describes the modification(s):

- Business Structure Expansion Retirement
 Operation Type Diversification of Farm Business Sale of Farm

B) Do you plan to subdivide any portion of your farm in the next 5 years? Yes No

2) Basic Farm Information

A) What **Primary** Farm Enterprise best describes your operation?

- Dairy Beef Horses Fruit/Vegetables
 Poultry Swine Vineyard Greenhouse
 Sheep/Goats Cash Crop: (**Please Define**) _____
 Other: (**Please Define**) _____

B) Please indicate the following number of acres: **Owned** **Rented** With Nutrients Applied

Cropland Acres	_____	_____	
Grazed Land Acres	_____	_____	
Permanent Hay Land Acres	_____	_____	_____
Woodland Acres	_____	_____	
Total Acres	_____	_____	

C) Does your operation qualify for Ag Value Assessment? Yes No

3) Animal Numbers for your Primary Farm Type

Average Weight: _____ Number: _____ Average Weight: _____ Number: _____
 Average Weight: _____ Number: _____ Average Weight: _____ Number: _____

4) **Management Questions** (Please check Yes or No)

Yes **No**

Do you spread manure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a manure storage facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you generate process washwater from the cleaning of product or facilities? (i.e. milkcenter, egg wash, washing of produce)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a barnyard or outdoor feedlot on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you store silage or other high moisture feeds on the farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you utilize pastureland on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use commercial fertilizer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you store and/or mix pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your operation utilize cropland for row crop production?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the water supply on your farm from a well or a spring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a waterbody within or adjacent to your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you presently or do you plan to harvest timber on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you store fuel or other bulk petroleum products on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you received odor complaints or do you believe your farm has an odor concern?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NYS Agricultural Interest Assessment – check all that are of interest

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Tax Relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Pest Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agri-Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Manure Treatment Options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biofuels | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor-Farm Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biosecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Wildlife Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easements | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Farming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Conservation/Generation | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution Credit Trading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Management Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Right To Farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmland Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feed Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation/Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries Habitat Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellhead Protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Management/Timber Harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grasslands Farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Improvement |

Would you like to receive a copy of the AEM Guide to Conservation Funding? Yes No

This document is also online at www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem/aemoutreach.html

(OPTIONAL)

Producer Questions & Comments:
