



ALLIANCE
for the Chesapeake Bay



CLEAN WATER
PARTNERSHIP

Maryland & Virginia
Milk Producers Cooperative Association

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Jenna Mitchell Beckett
Email: jmitchell@allianceforthebay.org
Phone: 717-517-8698

TURKEY HILL CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP AWARDED \$4 MILLION TO SUPPORT DAIRY PRODUCERS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LOCAL WATER QUALITY

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, in partnership with [Turkey Hill Dairy](#), [Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative](#), and nine other partners, was recently awarded \$4 million to continue supporting dairy farmers in South Central Pennsylvania with on-the-ground improvements through the [Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership](#) (THCWP). Funding was awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

This award enables the partnership to continue providing technical and financial assistance to producers. The THCWP has had success by leveraging grant dollars to pay for 100% of the cost for conservation/nutrient management plan development, as well as up to 75% of the cost of installing those conservation practices outlined in their plans through previous awards from NRCS and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. These practices not only ensure the farm operations' sustainability as businesses, but they also prevent soil loss and reduce the amount of nutrients entering local streams.

"The RCPP grant is an apt recognition of the importance of the Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership's work and their relationships with our local farmers," said Tim Hopkins, CEO of Turkey Hill. "It will allow the team to continue making a definitive impact on water quality throughout the Chesapeake watershed."

"This project greatly impacted the water runoff from my farm due to better facilities, better water drainage, and better water control. It made a huge impact on the water that's running off of my farm. The health improvement we have seen in our calves and heifers has been huge simply due to the new facilities and better environment that we now have."

- Turkey Hill Clean Water Partner Farmer in Lancaster County, PA, April 2021

In 2018, Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership introduced a requirement for all farmers supplying milk to Turkey Hill to obtain a heightened level of on-farm conservation through developing conservation plans. Since then, the Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership has approximately 260 dairy farms (equivalent to 25,150 cows) of which 39 farms have been supported with conservation planning and/or on-the-ground projects are complete or underway. Additionally, the partnership has:

- Cost-shared installation of 66 agricultural best management practices (BMPs)
- Covered 100% of the cost for 29 new conservation plans to be written
- Planted 645 trees (5 acres) on participating farms
- Received national recognition as the [Outstanding Supply Chain Collaboration Award](#) recipient from the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Alliance in 2020

“We have dairy farmers standing in line ready to implement conservation practices and be better for the Bay,” said Jay Bryant, CEO, Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association. “This \$4 million RCPP grant doesn’t just have an impact on water quality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The conservation practices funded by this grant will improve animal health leading to higher quality dairy goodness, and better ensures farm sustainability for generations to come. We thank UDSA NRCS and our sustainability partners at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Turkey Hill Dairy for joining us in our effort to create the dairy supply chain of the future.”

Since its inception, a large goal of the Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership has been to inspire other businesses to create environmental change within their operation, and the RCPP award guarantees that their business neighbors are listening. The Alliance has been in conversation with a few other local businesses within the agricultural industry who call the Chesapeake Bay region their home and are eager to create similar change within their operations. The RCPP award will support the Alliance’s efforts to expand this supply chain-driven model for the benefit of water quality and communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

About the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay:

Headquartered in Annapolis, MD, with offices in Lancaster, PA, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, VA, the Alliance implements local programs that connect people to their local rivers and streams. As individuals become directly involved in local restoration efforts, our programs build resiliency among our communities and landscapes to continually adapt to a changing world.

In the last 50 years, the Alliance has:

- Planted over 1 million trees
- Installed over \$10M in practices to reduce polluted stormwater runoff
- Implemented over 764 acres of on-farm best management practices
- Trained over 700 volunteer scientists to collect over 360,000 water quality data points

About Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association:

Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative is a community of dairy farm families passionate about cultivating dairy goodness and bottling fresh Maola branded milk products. Founded in 1920, the cooperative’s farmers produce three billion pounds of milk a year for consumers and manufacturers worldwide. Our dairy farm families take pride in creating dairy products people crave, operating with passion and integrity, responsibly caring for our resources and providing a rewarding livelihood for our farmers and employees.