

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay receives over \$900,000 to accelerate agricultural conservation implementation in Pennsylvania

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The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's agricultural conservation efforts recently received a significant boost in momentum thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). In partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Chesapeake Bay Program, NFWF awarded \$915,000 to the Alliance as part of its Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins Grant Program. This funding will accelerate the Alliance's on-the-ground agricultural conservation implementation work in Pennsylvania.

More specifically, this funding will prioritize agricultural best management practice (BMP) implementation and riparian forest buffer establishment on agricultural lands in Pennsylvania; ultimately supporting the Commonwealth's 2025 water quality goals within the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Pennsylvania's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). Through collaboration with farmers, partners, local businesses, and municipalities, the Alliance will rapidly implement the most cost-effective water quality improvements to farms located in high-priority watersheds in Pennsylvania.

The Alliance will use a cost-share structure to support farmers unable to afford critical improvements. Best management practices to be installed include, but are not limited to, riparian forest buffers, animal walkways, animal waste management systems, and heavy use area improvements. Not only are these practices crucial to helping meet the state's and Bay's water quality goals, they are also important to improving farm functionality and ensuring sustainability into the future.

The projects made possible by this funding will be completed in cooperation with the Alliance's partners at the Lancaster and Union County Conservation Districts, Team Ag Inc., The Hershey Company, Land-O-Lakes Inc, Turkey Hill Dairy, Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Octoraro Source Water Collaborative, and Organic Valley.



“The need for additional resources for farmers to implement projects to restore our waterways continues to grow. The Alliance is incredibly grateful for NFWF AND EPA’s support in helping farmers pay for this impactful work.”
- Jenna Mitchell Beckett

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

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