



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Finding Solutions to Excess Manure Nutrients – Partnering to Create the Chesapeake Bay Manure Strategy

A regional agricultural summit on excess manure and litter nutrients, convened by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Program and the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office in November 2004, laid the groundwork for regional collaboration on reducing nutrient loads to the Chesapeake Bay from animal agriculture in the region. Supported by the regional summit recommendations and an EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Directive, a series of animal sector specific meetings were held to bring together experts on dairy, swine and poultry from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, and Virginia. Stakeholders involved included federal and state agencies, environmental and agricultural non-governmental organizations, producers, and industry representatives.

Discussions during these sector meetings generated challenges and potential solutions specific to each animal industry, as well as those common across geographic regions within the watershed. Agency and stakeholder input yielded a formal detailed strategy that was endorsed by the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council. The strategy focuses on feed management, development of alternatives uses of manure and litter, quantifying nutrient surpluses, and improving coordination among existing programs. Land grant universities, federal agencies including EPA and NRCS, environmental organizations, agricultural stakeholders and state agencies have all joined together to collectively implement actions to reduce the contributions of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

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