

The importance of CEAP

Under the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress provided more than \$24 billion for the implementation of conservation programs and practices on private lands in the United States. A portion of this was directed to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative to help restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The information from the 2011 NRI-CEAP survey will provide the farming community, the general public, legislators, and others involved in environmental policy with a current account of the environmental impacts of the application of conservation practices throughout the watershed.

To learn more about CEAP, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap.



For more information or questions about the CEAP survey, contact your local NASS Field Office or visit www.nass.usda.gov:

- Delaware (800) 282-8685
- Maryland (800) 675-0295
- New York (800) 821-1276
- Pennsylvania (800) 498-1518
- Virginia (800) 772-0670
- West Virginia (800) 535-7088



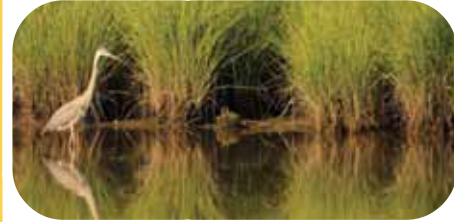
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2011 National Resources Inventory



Conservation Effects Assessment Project Survey of Farming and Conservation Practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



U.S. Department of Agriculture · National Agricultural Statistics Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service

What is CEAP?

The 2011 National Resources Inventory (NRI) – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey collects information from farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed about farming and conservation practices on cultivated cropland. Farmers installed many agricultural management practices using publicly available technical and financial assistance from conservation programs and through their own initiative and at their own expense. Conservation practices help farmers and rural communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed maintain productive farmland, protect the environment and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The information collected through the CEAP survey is vital to help determine what resources farmers may need to further protect the soil, water and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and to document on-farm conservation accomplishments.

Why participate in CEAP?

The survey will capture producers' current farming and management practices, including conservation practices designed to help protect soil and water resources. The survey will provide a complete picture of conservation practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This information will be used to maintain, modify and improve programs that assist farmers in planning and installing on-farm conservation practices.

Maintaining conservation programs in the United States benefits producers by protecting the environment upon which their livelihoods depend. The programs provide financial incentives such as rental payments and cost-sharing incentives to offset the cost of installing conservation practices. USDA conservation programs currently benefiting farmers include:

- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

In addition to these and other federal programs, assistance is available from state agencies and nonprofit organizations. Also, many farmers install conservation practices without public incentives or assistance.

How is CEAP conducted?

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) last conducted on-farm interviews for CEAP in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in 2006. Since that time, area farmers have continued to install many on-farm best management practices. Collecting this updated information helps document the prevalence of conservation practices and provides the base from which to strengthen conservation planning, implementation and management.

NASS representatives will visit more than 1,500 farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed from November 2011 through January 2012 to collect information on farm production practices; chemical, fertilizer and manure applications; integrated pest management; and installed conservation practices. Respondents are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347) that their individual information will be kept confidential.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will combine the data collected with information from its hydrologic, climate and soil databases to estimate environmental and management conditions for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

