



An Economic Analysis of Agricultural Conservation Practices within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

FY08 Workshop Proposal

Submitted by the Chesapeake Bay Program's
Nutrient Subcommittee and Agricultural Nutrient
and Sediment Reduction Workgroup



Topic Selection

- Project list developed by AgNSRWG members
- Input from AgNSRWG, NSC, CBPO, CRC, STAC



Workshop Steering Committee

- **David Kindig**- AgNSRWG Chair, VA DCR
- **Mark Dubin**- AgNSRWG Coordinator, UMD
- **Sally Bradley**- Nutrient Subcommittee Staff, CRC
- **Kelly Shenk**- EPA CBPO
- **Daphne Pee**- Regional Coordinator, MAWP
- **Jim Pease**- STAC Representative, VATECH

* The Steering Committee will be expanded to include additional members if this proposal is funded



Topic Background

- Tributary strategies are relying on ag practices to achieve a significant portion of the total goals
- Five out of the six smart investments for short term achievements are ag practices
- Despite implementation of ag practices through cost-share programs, there remains strong interest in considering an economic approach to determining cost versus benefit
- Recent fluctuations in energy and commodity prices are influencing the cost/benefit dynamics of ag production



Workshop Objectives

- Evaluate the economics of agricultural production costs and benefits of agricultural conservations practices
- Evaluate the applicability of incentive versus cost-share based programs



Anticipated Audience

*Persons involved with agricultural conservation practice planning and programs

■ Participants

- Federal agencies
- State agencies
- County conservation district staff
- Non-profit organizations
- Private sector consultants
- Agricultural industry representatives

■ Speakers

- University and USDA economists and agronomists
- Federal and state agricultural program managers
- Private agricultural consultants
- Agricultural industry representatives



Workshop Details

- **Date:** Early November 2008
- **Number of participants:** 50-100 individuals
- **Location:** Centralized watershed location
 - Frederick or Hagerstown (MD)
 - Chambersburg or Gettysburg (PA)
- **Schedule:** Two-day workshop
 - Day 1- General forum session
 - Day 2- Committee type session
- **Product:** Workshop proceedings and recommendations



Cost Estimate

■ Budget

- Facility rental
- Catering
- Registration activities
- Steering committee and speaker expenses
- Publication of the proceedings

■ Request: \$10,000

*Additional funds may be provided by other workshop partners if needed



Workshop Partners

- UMD-Mid-Atlantic Water Program
 - In-Kind
 - Financial support possible

- Environmental Defense Fund
 - In-Kind

- Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment
 - In-Kind