



The Lancaster Clean Water Partners Supports the Chesapeake Resilient Farms Initiative

There's no questioning Lancaster's commitment to achieving part of the Chesapeake Bay's Total Maximum Daily Load reductions by 2025. In order to reach our monumental goals of reducing 11.7 million pounds of nitrogen and over 500,000 pounds of phosphorus, dedicated and sustainable funding is required. The closer Lancaster gets to our goals, the more we know that success is possible, especially when it comes to partnering with landowners committed to their land and family legacy, soil health, and economic viability in the agriculture sector. The proposed Chesapeake Resilient Farms Initiative will address the growing gap in available funding that supports farmers in making conservation-conscious choices.

Lancaster's farmers are leading the way in conservation, with two-thirds of farms already using no-till practices and cover crops, and many installing structural practices that significantly reduce nutrient and sediment runoff to our local streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. We look to the Chesapeake Resilient Farms Initiative as an opportunity to effectively increase the human and physical infrastructure needed to address non-point sources of runoff. This emphasizes the need and showcases the way federal and state agencies work together in unique ways like how the six state agriculture secretaries have [here](#).

We stand ready to get farm-focused practices in the ground through this program in Lancaster County, the Chesapeake Bay watershed's biggest restoration opportunity. And we thank all the organizations and state officials that have committed support to this program.

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