



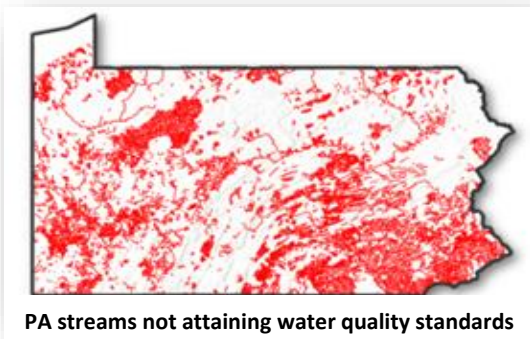
Pennsylvania Conservation Assessment Initiative

What is the Pennsylvania Conservation Assessment Initiative?

Beginning April 2023, EPA Region 3 is launching the Pennsylvania Conservation Assessment Initiative to help farmers implement conservation practices to control pollution from manure. Working closely with PA State Agencies such as the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and trusted local leaders like the Lancaster County Conservation District, EPA's goal is to connect farmers with technical assistance and funding opportunities that will lead to cleaner operations and improved water quality in local streams. Identifying, and addressing significant pollutant discharges from these farms will:



- help farmers keep nutrients and sediment on the farm where they can do the most good
- improve water quality for downstream users
- help Pennsylvania meet its water quality goals for local streams and the Chesapeake Bay



How did EPA choose the farms to assess?

With nearly 25,000 miles of impaired streams in Pennsylvania, EPA Region 3 analyzed data and identified farms that have the potential to significantly pollute local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. The criteria used to identify farms for assessment included proximity to impaired waters, likelihood of downstream impacts, and potential impacts on drinking water. The farms to be assessed are currently not covered under the federal Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) permitting program.

What will happen if we find water quality issues?

If we find water quality issues, EPA Region 3 will work with state and local partners to help connect farmers with funding opportunities and technical assistance to improve conservation practices. If the farm does not address the water quality issues, we may determine the farm needs a permit to protect water quality.

What resources are available for farmers if opportunities for improvement are identified?

EPA Region 3 is committed to help improve water quality on farms that need it by connecting farmers with state and local funding resources. For example, the Clean Streams Fund's Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program provides \$154 million statewide for farm conservation practices that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in Pennsylvania's local streams.

More information questions regarding funding resources:

Info: Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program [page](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov): www.agriculture.pa.gov > Plants, Land & Water > State Conservation Commission > Ag Conservation Assistance Program. **Media:** Terri White, EPA Office of Public Affairs, white.terri-a@epa.gov, (215) 814-5523

This effort is coordinated with:

PA Department of Environmental Protection • PA Department of Agriculture • PA State Conservation Commission • PA Farm Bureau
Lancaster County Conservation District