



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
DELAWARE FIELD OFFICE
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NASS VISITS DELAWARE FARMERS FOR CONSERVATION SURVEY

CEAP Survey Focuses on Chesapeake Bay Watershed

DOVER, DE – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will soon visit 77 selected farmers in DELAWARE as part of the 2011 National Resources Inventory (NRI) – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey. The survey, conducted between November 2011 and February 2012, will gather information from producers about farming and conservation practices on cultivated cropland.

“Conservation practices help agricultural producers reduce soil erosion, enhance water and air quality, conserve energy, and enhance wildlife habitat.” said Chris Cadwallader, Director of the NASS Delaware Field Office. “Conservation programs and practices are important to farmers and all citizens residing in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to help maintain productive farmland and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay. I strongly encourage all farmers contacted to respond to the survey.”

Why respond to the CEAP survey? Your response will help:

- Provide a much needed comprehensive picture of conservation practices agricultural producers are using in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Document the good work farmers in the region have done to conserve natural resources and measure the corresponding achievements in reducing the environmental impact to the Chesapeake Bay from agricultural lands.
- Improve the ability to channel conservation program funding to the areas in the watershed which will provide the most return on investment to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

“The 2011 CEAP survey is extremely important to all of the states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed,” said Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture. “It will give us all a clearer, more factual picture of what has actually happened, and what is happening now, regarding agriculture and the Bay. Delaware farmers are and have long been, environmental stewards.” Kee continued. “CEAP provides the only scientific-based opportunity to document farmers’ many voluntary as well as incentive-based conservation practices that should be included as part of any watershed improvement model as we move ahead to address water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and throughout the State of Delaware.”

“Agricultural producers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have continued to install many on-farm best management practices which are conservation-related since NASS last conducted the CEAP survey in 2006.” said Cadwallader. “This updated information is needed to document the prevalence of all conservation practices and provide the needed scientific base from which to strengthen conservation planning, implementation and management.”

Producers will be asked to provide information on farm production practices including tillage, chemical, fertilizer and manure applications, integrated pest management, crop rotations, irrigation and installed conservation practices. As with all NASS surveys, respondents are guaranteed by law that their individual information is kept confidential. For more information or questions about the CEAP survey, contact the NASS Delaware Field Office at 800.282.8685 (DE Only) or 302.698.4535 or visit www.nass.usda.gov.

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