

Leveraging Opportunities in the 2023 Farm Bill for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

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Dairy cows grazing at Blue Mountain View Farm near Annville, Pennsylvania.

- Most programs in the 2018 Farm Bill expire on September 30, 2023.
- Congress has started the process of developing the 2023 Farm Bill.
- Efforts will intensify in the 118th Congress.



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2023 Farm Bill Timeline

- **90%** of the remaining reductions needed to implement the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) must come from agriculture.
- The Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPS) developed by the states rely on implementing Farm Bill agricultural conservation practices.



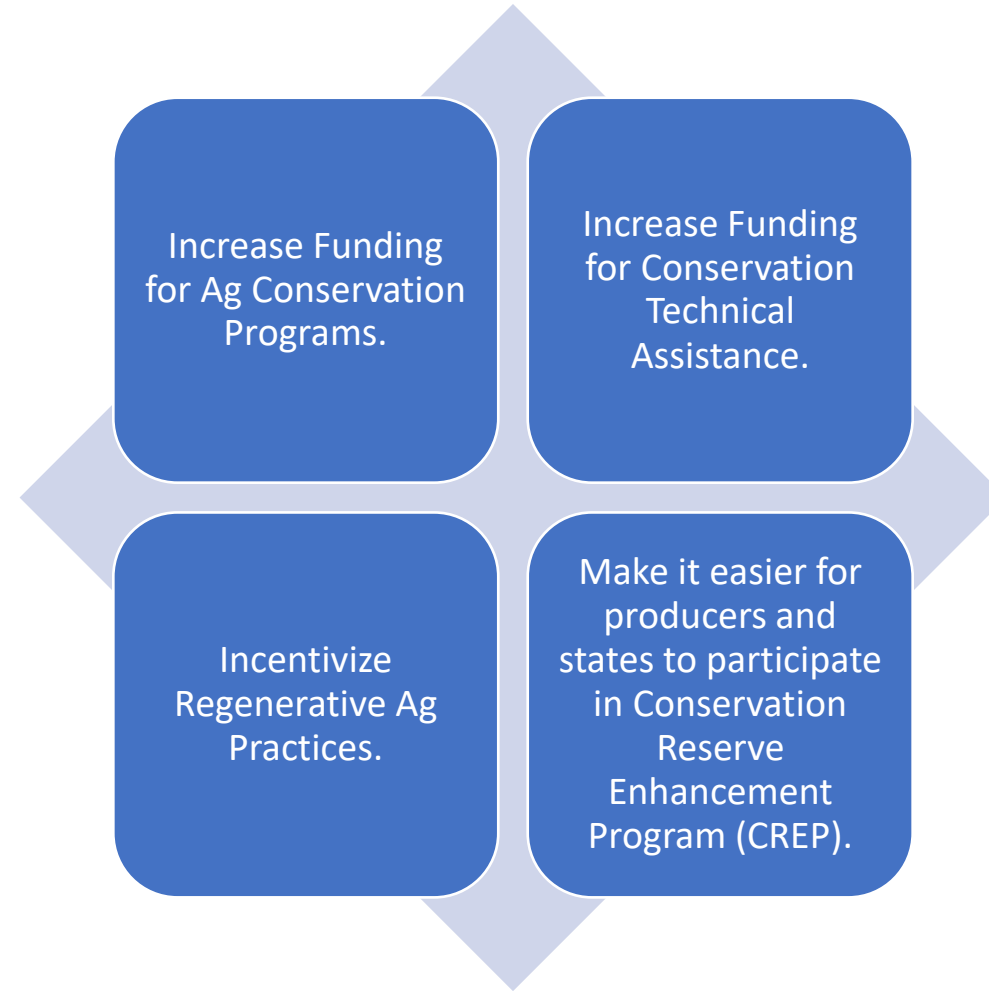
Riparian buffers on Open Book Farm in Frederick County, Maryland help keep pollution out of rivers and streams as well as provide important habitat for wildlife. CODY YEAGER/CBF STAFF



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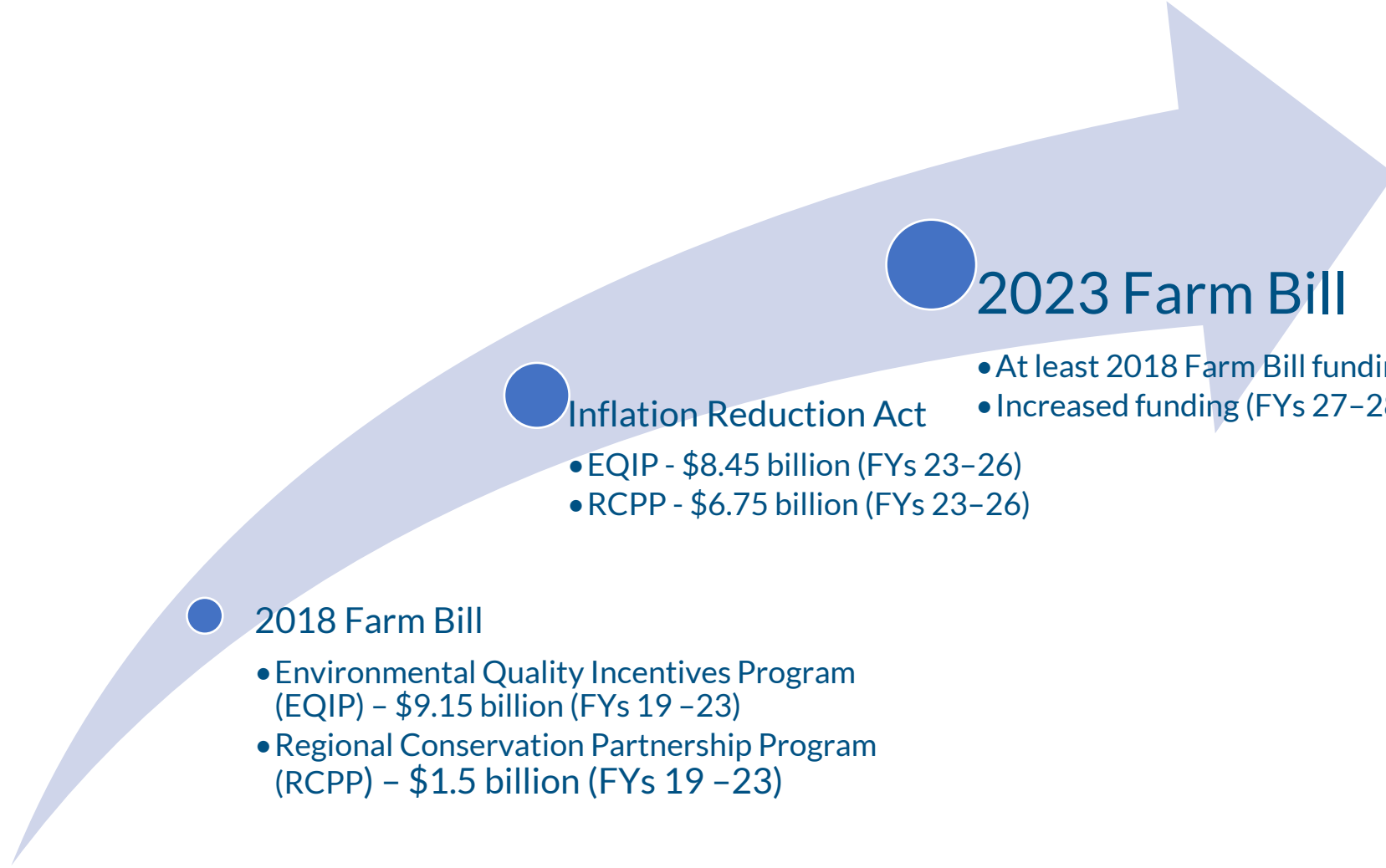
2023 Farm Bill and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Opportunities for the Bay in the 2023 Farm Bill



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Leveraging the 2023 Farm Bill for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



2023 Farm Bill

- At least 2018 Farm Bill funding levels (FYs 24-26)
- Increased funding (FYs 27-28)



Inflation Reduction Act

- EQIP - \$8.45 billion (FYs 23-26)
- RCPP - \$6.75 billion (FYs 23-26)



2018 Farm Bill

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - \$9.15 billion (FYs 19 -23)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - \$1.5 billion (FYs 19 -23)



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Increase Funding for Ag Conservation Programs



Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative

- Fiscal Year 2022 unspent funds
- Inflation Reduction Act
- 2023 Farm Bill



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**Direct Funding to the
Chesapeake Bay Watershed**

- There is not enough CTA at the current pace.
- We need even more CTA in the watershed as we accelerate efforts.
- Hiring and training must both be addressed.



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**Increase Funding for
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

- Regenerative agriculture practices improve water and air quality, enhance ecosystem biodiversity, produces nutrient-dense food, and store carbon which helps mitigate the effects of climate change.
- The 2023 Farm Bill Should **Increase** incentives and technical assistance for implementation of Regenerative Ag practices.



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Incentivize Regenerative Ag Practices



Make it Easier for Producers and States to Participate in CREP

- Improvements to programs like the *Riparian Buffer Management Payments* have not been easily implemented.
- States should be allowed to easily amend CREP agreements.
- 2023 Farm Bill should streamline the CREP process and expedite amendments.



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Solutions!

- Chesapeake Bay Program- \$238 million boost to funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Funding for Pennsylvania - Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)
- Overall funding for USDA Title II Conservation Programs - \$20 billion boost through the Inflation Reduction Act
- Establishment of the USDA Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative
- The 2023 Farm Bill is a key piece to accelerating progress, clean water, and healthy communities.



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Moment in Time for the
Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Questions?

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