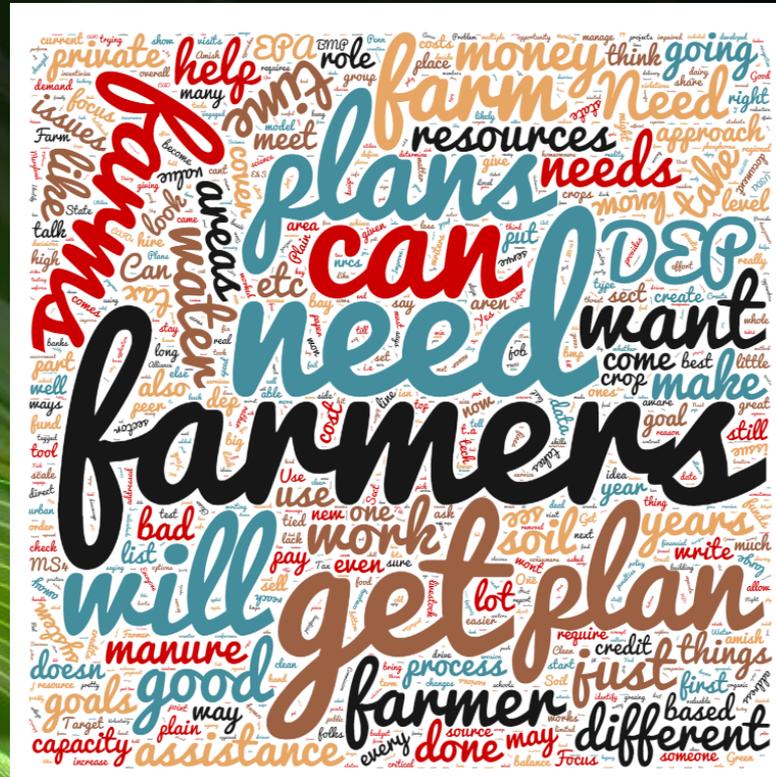


# PENNSYLVANIA IN BALANCE

## *Emerging Priority Initiatives for Agriculture and Water Quality*



**Matt Royer**  
Director  
Agriculture & Environment Center



**PennState**  
College of Agricultural Sciences

# Pennsylvania in the Balance Conference

March 1-3, 2016, Hershey PA

- Over 120 diverse stakeholders
- Collaborative forum to identify new and innovative solutions
- Dual goals:
  - Vibrant, productive agriculture
  - Clean water (PA streams and rivers, Chesapeake Bay)
- Clear themes and recommendations emerged which can form the basis of a new consensus based, collaborative strategy in PA



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# Pennsylvania in the Balance

## Themes

1. Embrace a Culture of Stewardship
2. Develop and Deploy Effective Targeting
3. Integrate Soil Health, Manure Management, and Riparian Ecosystem Stewardship into Water Quality Strategies
4. Support Community Based Approaches
5. Recognize a Three Pronged Approach to Accelerating Conservation (education/outreach, TA, enforcement)
6. Revisit and Retool Conservation Incentive Programs
7. Collaboratively Seek New Funding Opportunities



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# PA in Balance: Framework for Implementation

- PA in Balance Council

Bill Angstadt, Angstadt Consulting

Rich Batiuk, EPA

Karl Brown, SCC

Harry Campbell, CBF

Denise Coleman, USDA NRCS

Matt Ehrhart, Stroud

Lara Fowler, Penn State

Jim Hershey, Hershey Farms

Nicki Kasi, DEP

Marel King, CBC

Peter Kleinman, USDA ARS

Patrick McDonnell, DEP

Bill Neilson, PA Farm Bureau

Russell Redding, PDA

Jennifer Reed Harry, PennAg

Jake Reilly, NFWF

Matt Royer, Penn State

Joel Rotz, PA Farm Bureau

Mary Seaton, Penn State

Brenda Shambaugh, PACD

Kelly Shenk, EPA

Jim Shortle, Penn State

Chris Thompson, LCCD

- Final conference report and webpage released March 2017
- Informal partner groups to lead four priority initiatives



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# Pennsylvania in Balance

## Four Priority Initiatives

1. Increase technical capacity through enhancements in conservation training
2. Develop and disseminate a narrative around a culture of stewardship through soil and stream health
3. Develop new and creative incentives to encourage a high bar of conservation beyond compliance
4. Develop and deploy delivery mechanisms for accelerating conservation in priority watersheds



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# Increase Technical Capacity through Enhancements in Conservation Training

- PSU's Ag Stewardship and Conservation Certificate
- Exploring Thaddeus Stevens 2-year ag technician certificate program
- Ag E&S Manual development
- Extension trainings on MMPs and Ag E&S (PAOneStop)



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# Develop and Disseminate “Culture of Stewardship” Narrative through Soil and Stream Health

- New partnership around soil and stream health: PA No Till Alliance and Stroud Water Research Center
- PA in Balance Council to explore broad based narrative/communications strategy



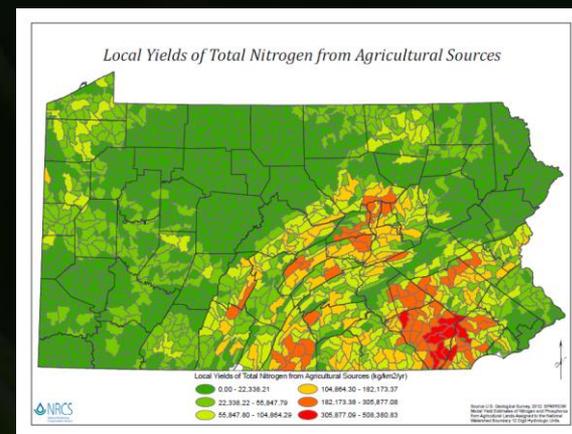
Photo by Shannon Fretz Photography



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# Develop and Deploy Delivery Mechanisms for Accelerating Conservation in Priority Watersheds

- Focus conservation efforts and resources in high priority, high opportunity watersheds
  - High N/P/S loads, local impairments, local involvement
- Build delivery mechanisms and deliver variety of leveraged programs to implement priority BMPs in an accelerated, cost effective manner
- Presently being addressed through Phase 3 WIP process
- PA in Balance: Focus Lancaster



Map by PA NRCS



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# Other Relevant Penn State Efforts and Projects

- 2016 Farm Survey
  - Documented BMPs implemented and paid for by farmers voluntarily
- Developing methodologies for assessing implementation of nutrient use efficiency (aka supplemental nutrient management)
  - 2017 NFWF award to Mid-Atlantic 4R Stewardship Alliance
- PA in Balance “Focus Lancaster” and the Lancaster Clean Water Partnership
  - NFWF award to Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County
  - “Dairy Stewardship” collaborative extension team
  - Amish schools education on riparian buffers



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# Thank you!

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