

# The Delmarva Conservation Partnership

Working Together for Clean Water, Habitat for Plants and Animals, and Thriving Agriculture



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## The Challenge We Face

Clean water is essential to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and those who depend on it. At the same time, agriculture faces the challenge of sustainably producing enough food for a growing population. And although agriculture has made great strides over the last several decades toward nutrient use efficiency and minimizing the impacts of food production on water quality, it still contributes a large proportion of nutrients and sediment to our local streams and rivers, and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. If we work together, we can achieve both agricultural production to feed a growing population and the clean water that both nature and people need.

## The Solution

To address the need for continued progress toward clean water and habitat goals on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, The Nature Conservancy and The Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association joined forces to convene the *Delmarva Conservation Partnership*. The *Delmarva Conservation Partnership* is a unique public-private collaboration that brings together over 30 groups including conservation organizations, agribusiness, government agencies, and the scientific community to advance nutrient management practices and strategically protect and restore wetlands, natural buffers and other lands that provide habitat and improve water quality.

## Key Accomplishments\*

- 312** acres of **wetlands restored**
- 551** acres of **wetlands protected**
- 98** acres of **buffers restored**
- 344** acres of **buffers protected**
- 424** acres of **other lands protected**
- 8,200** acres enrolled in **NRCS programs to implement advanced nutrient management**

\*Results reported as of November 2016.



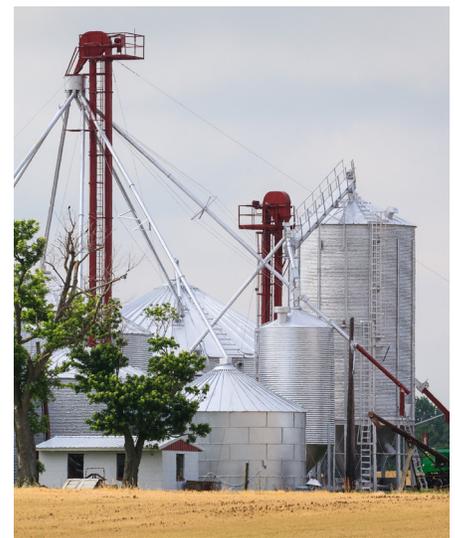


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## Our Objectives

With initial funding provided through a \$10M partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the DCP committed to achieving the following 5-year goals:

- GOAL** **Improve nutrient management practices** on 37,000 acres of farmland
- GOAL** **Protect 1,500 acres of natural filters** including wetlands and buffers
- GOAL** **Eliminate 300,000 pounds of nitrogen** delivered to local waterways each year
- GOAL** **Eliminate 10,000 pounds of phosphorus** delivered to local waterways each year
- GOAL** **Eliminate 20,000 pounds of sediment** delivered to local waterways each year



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## Partnership Structure

The foundation of our partnership is based upon the creation and integration of two entities:

### CHESAPEAKE 4R ALLIANCE

The Chesapeake 4R Alliance is a collaboration among agribusinesses, farmers, government agencies, conservation groups and scientists working to ensure that every nutrient application on Delmarva is consistent with the 4Rs — the Right nutrient source, applied at the Right rate, at the Right time, in the Right place. The C4R is focused on increasing implementation of 4R practices to benefit the economic, environmental and social well-being of our region and our farmers.

### DELMARVA SCIENCE CONSORTIUM

The Delmarva Science Consortium is a collaboration of scientists committed to advancing agriculture management practices through targeted research. Optimal design and placement of conservation practices depends on understanding the costs and benefits of different agricultural management practices in relation to field location and overcoming barriers to implementing the right practices in the right places.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
please contact:

#### **Amy Jacobs**

Agriculture Program Director  
The Nature Conservancy  
ajacobs@tnc.org

#### **Lindsay Thompson**

Delaware Maryland Agribusiness  
Association  
lindsay.mdag@gmail.com

