

Warwick Initiative...It All Starts with a Plan



Strong Communities, Healthy Waters: Sustaining Agricultural Communities while Enhancing our Natural Environment

Chesapeake Bay Funders Network is a collaboration of private non-profit foundations. CBFN Agriculture Committee: Agua Fund, Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Town Creek Foundation, Virginia Environmental Endowment, Wallace Genetic Foundation, Western PA Watershed Protection Program. www.chesbayfunders.org

Goal: Warwick Township, Lancaster County plans to inspire each farmer in the township to develop an agriculture conservation plan for his/her farm, stabilizing the rich productive soil of the county to enhance the unique waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Without proper maintenance of soil and water, raising crops and livestock becomes impossible. Nature continually reflects our actions of caring and responsibility. Farmers today realize that they can make a difference. Funding will be used to help farmers update and implement conservation plans that will improve water quality, ultimately providing economic benefits to farmers.

Of the 7,004 acres in the township, about 55 % are in farming. The township has 123 farms. The goal of the project is to have an updated or new conservation plan for each farm.

A conservation plan offers many benefits...

1. Provides a plan to minimize soil movement. (Satisfies State Chapter 102 regulations, 1977.)
2. Provides eligibility for local permitting, and state and federal programs. (Building permit, REAP, and USDA Cost Share Programs.)
3. Provides security for Agriculture against unfounded complaints or nuisance suits.

Partners: Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, Lancaster County Conservation District, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Team Ag, and Warwick Township.

Lancaster County, PA has been known as the Garden Spot of the World for centuries. Through partnerships and planning, the soils of Lancaster County can continue to be the most productive non-irrigated land. Likewise, the waters leading to the Chesapeake Bay will illustrate the care and responsibility from the stewards upstream.