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## Summary of FRRCC Recommendations for EPA Outreach & Engagement with Agricultural Sector

The content below is a compilation of 2009 and 2011 FRRCC recommendations pertaining to outreach and engagement as part of their document that was transmitted to EPA's Administrator(s) at that time.

It should be noted that the 2011 FRRCC recommendations were focused solely on Water Quality issues. However, within that focus, they made many recommendations that were applicable to any activities related to outreach and engagement between EPA and the Agricultural sector. The table below focuses on those outreach and engagement recommendations.

In addition, information that was submitted by the Office of Water to the Administrator in 2012 relating to EPA outreach and engagement actions in response to those recommendations is also incorporated. These may be outdated, but they reflect what Office of Water formally identified as EPA outreach and engagement actions in 2012.

Regions and Programs are invited to add EPA activities that they believe address any of the outreach and engagement activities in the table below. Please submit these back to Donna Perla ([perla.donna@epa.gov](mailto:perla.donna@epa.gov); 202-564-0184) by April 15, 2016).

### **BACKGROUND – CONCERNS OF THE FRRCC**

The Ag community believes it is critical for EPA to engage the agricultural sector sufficiently:

- to mutually build trust,
- for EPA to understand what's important to producers and better understand the barriers, motivations and needs of producers in order for them to be both profitable and contribute to environmental goals,
- for EPA to be more aware of impacts of environmental regulations on the agricultural community,
- for EPA to get input from the agricultural community at the 'grass-roots' level to understand their issues/challenges and to collaboratively identify solutions,
- to help the farmers/producers identify potential negative impacts that ag activities may have on future yield and ability to adapt to more severe weather events, emphasizing a positive relationship between sustainability and profitability.

The FRRCC has, thus, made several recommendations over the past several years, related to outreach and engagement between EPA and the agricultural community.

The table below breaks these recommendations into several categories:

- More effective two-way communication
- Leveraging partnerships with agricultural entities for a variety of purposes:

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- Better regulatory coordination, compliance, and understanding of impacts to the agricultural sector
- Incentivizing and recognizing superior environmental management or innovative agricultural conservation
- Scientific research on management practices to economically achieve environmental protection
- Strategically leveraging resources:
  - Leveraging external resources and EPA program resources
  - Ensuring adequate EPA staff and resources to address agricultural challenges

Recommendation	Specific Recommendations	Examples of EPA implementation	Contact information
<p><b>MORE EFFECTIVE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION –</b></p> <p>The FRRCC has emphasized the importance of having trusted local individuals with the technical and social skills to effectively communicate, educate, perform, and persuade, and who are available for the “long-haul” in sufficient numbers to reach key stakeholders.</p> <p>The FRRCC has suggested more effective two way communication. Specifically, FRRCC recommends stronger EPA regional agricultural presence – not for regulatory purposes but as information gatherers and disseminators providing more information to the agricultural community about environmental policies, trainings, assisting in catalyzing technology transfer, and sharing ag/environmental updates. FRRCC also recommends making information and technology more visible and accessible to producers.</p>			
<p><b>Create Effective Communication Mechanisms</b></p>			
Recommendation	Specific Recommendations	Examples of EPA implementation	Contact information
<p>EPA quarterly or monthly electronic “AgNews Notes” (coordinated by Ag Counselor) and / or an EPA public engagement plan, reaching out to key leaders and stakeholders to exchange information.</p>	<p>Clearly define &amp; communicate statutory requirements, regulations, criteria to meet standards, identify where EPA has flexibility or limitations for compromise;</p>	<p>EPA’s Ag Center has a list serve “Ag News from EPA’s Ag Center” which highlights EPA HQ and Regional press releases and other items of interest to the ag community. The list serve has over 2000 subscribers. The news items are also posted on the ag Newsroom page.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-newsroom">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-newsroom</a></p>	<p>EPA National Agriculture Center            Ginah Mortensen            Carol Galloway</p>

Examples of information to include are listed in the next column.		<p>Website specifically dedicated to agricultural air quality topics/issues/projects:  <a href="https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/agriculture/">https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/agriculture/</a>                      (includes fact sheets for relevant regulations)</p> <p>Training videos for the agricultural community summarizing requirements for stationary engines:  <a href="http://www.apti-learn.net/LMS/register/EPALearning.aspx?t=0">http://www.apti-learn.net/LMS/register/EPALearning.aspx?t=0</a>                      (click on "Stationary Sources", then "Launch Course")</p>	Bill Schrock & Allison Costa, OAR/OAQPS
		Region 8 periodically hosts 1 hour webinars on proposed rules and finalized rules and other topics as requested.	Region 8 Rebecca Perrin
	Offer ideas for compliance assistance	<p>The Agency's ag website has information on best management practices and compliance assistance information.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture</a>                      Also see air quality website above</p>	EPA National Agriculture Center Ginah Mortensen Carol Galloway
	Include topics such as updates/clarifications of regulations pertaining to agriculture	<p>The Agency's ag website has information on regulations impacting agriculture listed by regulation and also by practices.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture</a></p>	EPA National Agriculture Center Ginah Mortensen Carol Galloway
		Region 8 Ag Advisor sends periodic "Ag Update" newsletter to Regional ag contacts.	Region 8 Rebecca Perrin
Status of proposed regulations	<p>EPA's Ag website has a webpage on proposed regulations.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-proposed-or-new-rules-policies-and-guidance">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-proposed-or-new-rules-policies-and-guidance</a></p>	EPA National Agriculture Center Ginah Mortensen Carol Galloway	

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		Region 8 "Ag Updates" newsletter.	Region 8 Rebecca Perrin
	Status of pending agriculturally related lawsuits in which EPA is involved		
	Announcements of land conservation programs at state, regional, and/or national levels; and stewardship award opportunities and award recipients		
	Information on new research/data useful to producers, on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nutrient and manure management</li> <li>- Water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat</li> <li>- Climate change impacts</li> <li>- Best management practices</li> <li>- Success stories and Lessons learned</li> </ul>	The Agency's ag website has information on, and links to, many topics including most of those listed. <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-programs-practices-and-topics-interest">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-programs-practices-and-topics-interest</a>	EPA National Agriculture Center -Ginah Mortensen Carol Galloway
		Region 8 "Ag Updates" newsletter.	Region 8 Rebecca Perrin, R8

	<p>Share key EPA POCs on ag-related issues and keep updated as staffing changes</p>	<p>Many of the Regional Ag Advisors are listed on the "Contact Us" page on the Agency's ag website.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/forms/agriculture-contact-us">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/forms/agriculture-contact-us</a></p> <p>OAQPS and USDA-NRCS have an MOU to collaborate on issues of mutual concern. As one part of that MOU, OAR provides regulatory updates (including litigation updates) to USDA's Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (FACA) at each task force meeting.</p>	<p>EPA National Agriculture Center -Ginah Mortensen Carol Galloway</p> <p>OAQPS Robin Dunkins</p>
<p>Create and support effective, user-friendly on-line information and web pages for agricultural community, EPA agricultural staff, and others</p>	<p>Post easily found information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Ag Advisors' meetings</li> <li>- Partnership efforts</li> <li>- Success stories and lessons learned</li> </ul>	<p>It's not a newsletter, but the Ag Center has a list serve "Ag News from EPA's Ag Center" that highlights EPA HQ and Regional press releases and other items of interest to the ag community. The list serve has over 2000 subscribers. The news items are also posted on the ag Newsroom page.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-newsroom">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-newsroom</a></p> <p>The Agency's ag website has information on and links to Partnerships and Success Stories.  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-partnerships">https://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agriculture-partnerships</a></p>	<p>EPA National Agriculture Center -Ginah Mortensen Carol Galloway</p>
<p><b>Increase Communications and Better Coordinate with Agricultural Partners on EPA Activities (particularly at the Regional Level)</b></p>			
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Specific Recommendations</p>	<p>Examples of EPA implementation</p>	<p>Contact information</p>
<p>Dedicate time to meet and interact with agricultural producers within the region and</p>	<p>EPA should have a coordinated public engagement plan</p>	<p>The Acting Ag Counselor in 2012 led an effort to finalize our draft Agency-wide Rural Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman</p>

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make a planned effort to connect more effectively with the agricultural community at the local level	Hold quarterly/regularly scheduled meetings between the Regional Administrator and agricultural partners to transparently provide information and receive feedback on EPA's national and regional agriculturally related activities	Region 2 participates in the NYC Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) that meets regularly. The WAC exists as part of the NYC Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) whereby NYC drinking water rate payers fund installation of conservation practices that protect NYC drinking water supplies in the Catskills. The agricultural stakeholder process for the 2017 FAD is just getting underway, as of May 2016.	Region 2, Kristina Heinemann
		EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator and the Regional Agricultural Advisor have been participating in "Ag Roundtables" and educational farm tours to meet with small groups of farmers and agricultural industry representatives to foster a two-way dialogue on key agricultural and environmental issues. These discussions have been very productive and have allowed for a candid discussion of successes, challenges, and opportunities for working together to achieve agricultural profitability and water quality goals.	Region 3, Kelly Shenk

		Region 8 Ag Advisor hosts a meeting between EPA and Colorado Stakeholders 1-2 times a year.	Region 8 Rebecca Perrin
		EPA Region 10 holds a semi-annual meeting for the Regional Administrator, NRCS, and the state Agriculture and Environment Directors. In addition, the RA has quarterly calls with the state Ag Directors EPA R10 staff attends quarterly meetings with Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Dairymen's Association	Region 10 Lucy Edmondson – Washington Operations Office (WOO) Director  Nick Peak – Region 10 Idaho Operations Office (IOO)
	Establish FRRCC-like groups at the Regional level		
	Collaborate with regional partners to identify the top 3 agricultural resource conservation issues in the region; and work to identify tailored solutions		
	Engage stakeholders before planning regulatory actions to encourage voluntary action,	OW has established an Animal Ag Discussion Group to increase effectiveness of communication with the livestock industry	OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman

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	identify barriers and discuss possible solutions	Region 2 is in the process of planning Regional Administrator level events on the EPA Worker Protection Standard in the next several months	Region 2, Kristina Heinemann
		EPA Region 10 staff recently met with State and Local Ag and Health Agencies regarding Implementation of Worker Protection Standards	Region 10, Derek Terada
	Establish communication mechanisms with NRCS District Conservationists, Conservation Districts, and Land Grant University County Extension Agents, farm groups, technical service providers (TSPs), consulting engineers (CE), certified crop advisors (CCA), and agricultural industries.	Region 2 regularly participates in NRCS State Technical Committee (STC) Meetings in New York, New Jersey, and less regularly in STC meetings in the Caribbean	Region 2, Kristina Heinemann
		Region 8 is actively working to improve communication and partnership between NRCS State Conservationist and EPA to address nonpoint source pollution.	Region 8 Rebecca Perrin,
		Staff and Managers in the R10 Idaho, Oregon and Washington Operations Offices have regular communication with NRCS staff and managers in each state	Region 10 Lucy Edmondson – EPA WOO Tony Barber – EPA Oregon Operations Office (OOO) Jim Werntz, Dirk Helder and Nick Peak – EPA IOO

			Steven Potokar –R10
		AgSTAR has a partnership program targeting many of these groups (NRCS, universities, extension agents, and other not-for-profits)	Office of Air & Radiation/ Office of Atmospheric Policy Chris Voell
		EPA Nonpoint Source Control Branch Staff serves as Board Member on International Certified Crop Advisor (ICCA) Program; coordinate and communicate regularly with CCAs and Ag retailers	EPA OW/OWOW Erika Larsen,

**LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH AGRICULTURAL ENTITIES –**

The FRRCC believes more partnerships with agricultural entities are needed for better coordination and education of regulations related to agriculture, more effective, broad dissemination of information on and recognition of best management practices and land stewardship/conservation, and to develop effective technology transfer programs. As a result, the FRRCC recommended that EPA strengthen traditional partnerships and expand into non-traditional relationships to leverage EPA resources more strategically.

<b>Partnerships to Recognize Implementation of Best Management Practices and Land Stewardship/Conservation</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Specific Recommendations</b>	<b>Examples of EPA implementation</b>	
Mechanisms to recognize implementation of good practices		OW has established the "Hero Farmer" award in partnership with NACD to recognize farmers implementing conservation practices	EPA OWOW
		OW is participating with US Poultry and Egg and with the Dairy industry in their annual environmental stewardship award programs	OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman
		AgSTAR publishes case studies highlighting successful examples of farms with methane mitigation projects	Office of Air & Radiation/ Office of Atmospheric Policy Chris Voell
		The NRCS RCPP program in Region 2 – the Delaware River Basin in NJ provides an opportunity to partner with agricultural stakeholders and organizations through partnership with the William Penn Foundation that currently has a grant program for agricultural conservation throughout the Delaware River Basin. EPA Region 2 regularly reviews proposals submitted to the Delaware River Restoration Fund (monies from William Penn) for agricultural conservation projects.	Region 2, Kristina Heinemann
<b>Recommendations for Regulatory Partnerships</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Specific Recommendations</b>	<b>Examples of EPA implementation</b>	<b>Contact information</b>
Expand EPA's relationships with other regulatory bodies to better coordinate between state and	Expand EPA's relationship with National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), to better coordinate state and federal regulations and		

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<p>federal regulations, resolve conflicting ordinances, avoid instability of commodity markets, enhance regional and state customer service skills, and better coordinate education, compliance, implementation, evaluation, and research needs for environmental regulations related to agriculture.</p>	<p>to develop and support integrated training for EPA and state employees to increase their effectiveness in working with agricultural producers</p>		
	<p>EPA help facilitate other agencies and/or organizations to identify issues and develop solutions</p>	<p>AgSTAR partners with state agencies, universities and other not-for-profit organizations to promote methane mitigation projects at livestock operations</p>	<p>Office of Air &amp; Radiation/ Office of Atmospheric Policy OAR/OAP Chris Voell</p>
		<p>OAQPS collaborates with USDA to identify how NRCS funding mechanisms (EQIP, CIG) can be used by the ag sector to meet air quality objectives and Clean Air Act Requirements</p>	<p>OAQPS Robin Dunkins</p>
		<p>Annual EPA Region 10 CAFO/AFO workshop brings together State and Local ag and environment counterparts to discuss Ag related practices, improvements, research and partnership.</p>	<p>Region 10 Nicholas Peak - IOO Steven Potokar</p>
	<p>Continue to encourage ecosystem services markets by providing guidance to States on ways to support markets &amp; improve outcomes</p>	<p>EPA Region 10 Methyl Bromide Task Force on residues and Associated Research in Idaho with ISDA, IDEQ, USDA – APHIS, EPA OPP, and EPA ORD.</p>	<p>Region 10/IOO Dirk Helder –</p>
	<p>EPA work closely with USDA, DOE, FWS, and other federal agencies that regulate or impact agriculture</p>	<p><i>EPA/DOE/USDA work on bioeconomy</i> AgSTAR IA with USDA to promote methane mitigation projects  EPA/USDA Ammonia Workgroup  EPA/USDA/DOI workgroup on wildland fire</p>	<p>Administrator's Office Donna Perla OAR/OAP, Chris Voell OAR/OAQPS, Bill Schrock OAR/OAQPS, Bill Harnett</p>

	<p>EPA work with USDA and conservation programs to help ensure that environmental compliance is being met</p>	<p>Joint EPA/USDA (NRCS) guidance on air quality conservation measures for (1) cropping and general land management and (2) livestock operations</p>	<p>OAR/OAQPS, Allison Costa</p>
	<p>Appreciate practical and financial limitations within which producers operate</p>	<p>Guidance on financing options within AgSTAR Program</p>	<p>OAR/OAP, Chris Voell</p>
	<p>EPA should support the development of certainty agreements by States to encourage and acknowledge stewardship by ag producers and work proactively with agriculture to address water quality issues early and often</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA has actively supported Ag Certainty programs for states. There are now Ag Certainty programs in MI,MN, TX, LA, UT, MD and VA</li> <li>• EPA Region 3 continues to support Ag Certainty programs as a way to provide further incentive to agricultural farmers to implement priority conservation practices that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in local and Chesapeake Bay waters.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Virginia: The "Resource Management Plan Program" regulations were finalized and program implementation is underway.</li> <li>- Maryland: Ag Certainty program was finalized and is underway. EPA Region III Agricultural Advisor served on the Maryland Agriculture Certainty Oversight Committee.</li> <li>- Delaware: Ag Certainty discussions are underway with both farmers and DE state agencies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman</p> <p>Region 3 Kelly Shenk</p>
	<p>Work with States to establish a reasonable level of stewardship &amp; develop uniform checklists to assess a farm's operation &amp; management</p>		

<b>Recommendations for Scientific Partnerships to Evaluate Efficacy of and Enhance Education About Practices</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Specific Recommendations</b>	<b>Examples of EPA implementation</b>	<b>Contact information</b>
EPA work with others to conduct research related to water & air quality & nutrient management, biofuels and ensure that sound science-based management practices that protect air, water, biodiversity, soil health are implemented	Explain the science behind practices, their impacts and cross-media benefits	From 2013-2014, EPA held workshops in each regional office to communicate new scientific methods and approaches in the field of numeric nutrient criteria development, and to discuss associated successes and challenges with regional, state and tribal water quality scientists.	OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman,
	Assess and define issues through collaborative research and data collection	OP, ORD, and OW have formed an interoffice team of economists, ecologists and water quality modelers to enhance our ability to monetize the benefits of water quality improvements. Each office is also contributing funding and staff time for intramural research. ORD will also fund a STAR Grant competition. This is a multiyear effort, with an eye towards producing interim deliverables within 18 months that could be used in EPA's benefit-cost analyses.	OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman,
		EPA/USDA joint Ammonia Workgroup facilitates information exchange and collaboration on activities related to ammonia measurements, modeling, and mitigation strategies	OAR/OAP, Bill Schrock
		IA with NPS to research atmospheric deposition at Rocky Mountain National Park	Region 8, Rebecca Perrin
		EPA Region 10 Pesticide Use in Commercial Shellfish Beds of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor Risk Assessment.	Region 10 Catherine Gockel
Leverage private sector efforts to establish performance metrics for agriculture			

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<p>Coordinate existing efforts to research, develop, and pilot technical tools, such as farm-level tools and facilitate the evaluation and adaptation of practices and tools to improve their performance</p>	<p>OW is conducting several pilot projects with the animal ag industry to implement on-the-ground practices that result in water quality improvement including Smithfield NMP training, WQ video with US Poultry and Egg</p>	<p>OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman</p>
	<p>EPA Region 10 Partnership to Improve Nutrient Efficiency (PINE) a RARE grant-funded team of researchers, coupled with an Oregon Department of Agriculture Fertilizer Grant and in-kind support from the DEQ's Inorganics Laboratory have fueled a project that collaborates with commercial growers, fertilizer companies, Oregon State University Extension, three Soil &amp; Water Conservation Districts, Lane Council of Governments and Willamette Partnership on examining the influence of current crops and nutrient management practices on nitrate leaching below the rooting zone.</p>	<p>Region 10 &amp; Office of Research and Development Jana Compton - ORD Alan Henning, Reg 10 Catherine Gockel, Reg 10 Susanna Pearlstein, Reg 10</p>
	<p>EPA Region 10 Sho-Ban Deep Soil monitoring Project with USDA ARS and Tribe.</p>	<p>Region 10 IOO Nicholas Peak/Ralph Fisher</p>
	<p>EPA Region 10 Microbial Source Tracking (MST) – EPA Lab/Lummi Nation for bacterial impacts to Nooksack Watershed</p>	<p>Region 10 Bill Zachmann and Stephanie Bailey</p>
	<p>EPA Region 10 Pollinator Strategy – Managed Pollinator Protection Plans. EPA working with Tribal and State counterparts.</p>	<p>Region 10 Gabriela Carvalho</p>

	<p>Develop and use tools and protocols, and metrics for improved measurement, documentation, and verification of water quality benefits or impacts [or any other desired outcome] from agricultural practices and strategies</p>	<p>OW is in the process of completing a report entitled Nutrient Impacts Cost Report which includes cost information related to nutrient pollution. It is intended to assist states and tribes in verifying or refuting nutrient control estimates and to assist with the development of policies and tools, including numeric nutrient criteria adoption. The report includes cost information related to nutrient pollution.</p>	<p>OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman</p>
		<p>USDA/EPA Coordination: Region III continues to coordinate closely with USDA on its findings from the first two CEAP Chesapeake cropland studies. In March 2016, NRCS will be presenting to EPA and key agricultural and environmental stakeholders the findings from the first two studies and plans for its CEAP – Part 3 study in the Chesapeake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ag Modeling Workshop: At the request of the agricultural industry, EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership held an agricultural modeling workshop to solicit advice and recommendations for how to improve agricultural data inputs used in the Chesapeake Bay Program’s TMDL decision-support tools.</li> </ul>	<p>Region 3, Kelly Shenk</p>
		<p>EPA Region 10 Next Gen: Zaps Liquid Water Monitoring Project – EPA/Lummi Nation/ Whatcom Public Utility District monitoring water quality Realtime reporting of water quality and bacterial loading to Nooksack watershed</p>	<p>Region 10 Steven Potokar</p>
	<p>Develop and use tools and protocols, and metrics for improved measurement, documentation, and verification of other benefits or impacts from</p>	<p>Biomass Accounting Framework</p>	<p>OAR/OAP Sara Ohrel</p>

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	agricultural practices and strategies		
EPA work with States and other agricultural partners to demonstrate economically achievable BMPs at the farm level to facilitate understanding of benefits to producer and the environment	Open communication with NRCS District Conservationists, Conservation Districts, and LGU County Extension Agents, farm groups, technical service providers (TSP), consulting engineers (CE), certified crop advisors (CCA). Agricultural industries – including retailers	Technical BMP Panels: EPA continues to provide resources to the Chesapeake Bay Program’s technical BMP panels to develop nutrient and sediment reduction estimates for high priority agricultural conservation practices.	Region 3, Kelly Shenk
	Participate on the Ag Drainage Water Management Task Force	Coordinate with members and with industry coalition to stay aware of state of the art conservation drainage technologies	OW/OWOW & Region 5 Katie Flahive OW/OWOW, & Tom Davenport R5
	Collaborate on short courses offered as part of TSP, CE, or CCA training	OW is working with the livestock industry to develop training programs for EPA on farms and farming practices	OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman
Connect more effectively to Land Grant Universities	Establish EPA-Land Grant University liaison positions in all EPA Regions and work with LGUs to provide salary and adequate travel budget		
	Invest in developing curricula and short courses for both agriculture & natural resources students that address regulatory issues facing agriculture		
	Coordinate with SERA-46, the land grant university committee	EPA, as co-chair of the Task Force, coordinates collaboration and development of Priorities for Collaboration that will assist state Task Force	OW/OWOW Katie Flahive

	developed in partnership with the Hypoxia Task Force.	members in nutrient reduction strategy implementation.	
<p><b>STRATEGICALLY LEVERAGING RESOURCES –</b>                  Adequate resources (staffing, agricultural expertise, informational materials, money, facilities, and time) are needed to develop and implement targeted technical, educational, and financial assistance programs at every scale (national, regional, state, local, and farm) to effect and sustain positive change.</p> <p>Additionally, recognizing limited resources are available, strategic investments are needed in actions that yield the highest returns. Leveraging resources of other federal agencies is one approach to improve effectiveness and reach of currently available resources for the development and delivery of critical best management practices.</p>			
<p><b>Strategically leverage external resources to invest in actions that yield the highest returns</b></p>			
Recommendation	Specific Recommendations	Examples of EPA implementation	Contact information
Convene key stakeholders to better align resources to address problems – particularly those who share common goals of reducing pollution from ag sources		See above for joint EPA/USDA workgroups	
Coordinate funding opportunities with other federal agencies, particularly conservation programs:	USDA (NIFA, ARS, RD, Office of Environmental Markets)	In 2013 EPA signed an MOU with USDA to work on helping states develop water quality trading programs and together the two agencies are developing a water quality Trading Roadmap	OW/OWM Allison Wiedeman
	NRCS	EPA is coordinating with USDA NRCS and state water quality agencies to implement the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), an effort to improve water quality in small agriculture watersheds across the country.	OW/OWOW Katie Flahive/ Erika Larsen

		<p>EPA Region III continues to leverage federal, state, and private funding to support the agricultural community in implementing agricultural conservation practices that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in support of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating EPA and USDA Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aligning EPA 319 funding with USDA EQIP funding as part of the NRCS National Water Quality Initiative;</li> <li>- Providing science needed for USDA to target Farm Bill funding to priority agricultural watersheds and practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed as part of the NRCS Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative;</li> <li>- Coordinating EPA Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Program with the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant Program to ensure we are making the most out of our federal dollars in supporting innovative approaches to addressing agricultural challenges farmers face in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Region 3, Kelly Shenk
	USDA – NRCS	OAQPS collaborates with USDA to identify how NRCS funding mechanisms (EQIP, CIG) can be used by the ag sector to meet air quality objectives and Clean Air Act Requirements	OAR/OAQPS Robin Dunkins
	DOE (Bioenergy Technology Office)	AgSTAR/Biogas Opportunities Roadmap work  Bioeconomy Initiative and Biomass Research and Development Initiative	OAR/OAP Chris Voell  OA, Donna Perla
	USGS		
	NSF		

<p>leverage resources with State conservation programs</p>		<p>The WAC exists as part of the NYC Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) whereby NYC drinking water rate payers fund installation of conservation practices that protect NYC drinking water supplies in the Catskills. The agricultural stakeholder process for the 2017 FAD is just getting underway, as of May 2016.</p>	<p>Region 2, Kristina Heinemann</p>
		<p>Funding States: EPA provides over \$20 million of grant funding to Chesapeake Bay states to support implementation of the TMDL, including support for conservation districts, BMP implementation, regulation compliance, and data management. EPA works closely with States in ensuring that this funding is leveraged with USDA funding to support agricultural community.</p>	<p>Region 3, Kelly Shenk</p>
<p>Leverage resources of existing EPA programs, including:</p>	<p>Section 319 funds – to help States develop reasonable levels of stewardship for certainty agreements                  State Revolving Funds – expand their use for practices and sell applicable credits to reimburse the Fund</p>	<p>Over \$4B in SRF funding has been invested in nonpoint source projects such as wetlands restoration, erosion control measures, Ag conservation practices, and repair/replacement of failing septic systems. In the update of EPA’s Section 319 Program and Grants Guidelines in 2013, EPA noted the CWSRF as an important source of funding for nonpoint source (including agricultural) impairments, and charged states with identifying processes for coordinating between the nonpoint source and CWSRF programs as they update their Nonpoint Source Management Programs.</p>	<p>OW/OWM                  Allison Wiedeman</p>
		<p>EPA Region 10 Farmers Irrigation District in Oregon Hood River Valley Improving irrigation and conserving water. \$36.2 Million in SFR Loans  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcvR9bx2D6E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcvR9bx2D6E</a></p>	<p>Region 10                  Michelle Tucker</p>

		Water Quality Trading – EPA Region 10 TMDL trading market. NRCS, Willamette Partnership, and Freshwater Trust	Region10 Claire Schary
		EPA Region 10 Riparian Buffer Programs for salmon habitat and water quality – EPA, Washington Department of Ecology, WSCC, NOAA, and NRCS, will award 10 grants to build reach scale salmon and water recovery plans in agricultural landscapes.	Region 10 Gina Bonifacino
		EPA Region 10 Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships with Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Groups- EPA working with entities promoting pesticides reduction	Region 10 Marylou Soscia
		EPA Region 10 Direct Seed Soil Conservation and Soil Health – EPA and the Spokane Conservation district award \$17 million in approximately 500 low-interest loans combined with another \$8 million in revolving funds to help Washington farmers buy the equipment they need for direct seeding. Direct seed improves soil health by increasing organic matter in the soil.	Region 10 Catherine Gockel
		DERA regional/state funds to convert diesel engines or fund other electrification/repowering/upgrading projects in the ag sector that reduce PM/NOx	<i>Contacts vary by state – see <a href="http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel">www.epa.gov/cleandiesel</a></i>
Reach out to private foundations and markets to leverage resources and agricultural expertise		NRCS RCPP for the Delaware River Basin leverages private foundation monies from the William Penn Foundation for agricultural conservation work. Region 2 has an established relationship with this Foundation through the Delaware River Restoration Fund and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary	Region 2 Kristina Heinemann

		Region 3 is working closely with groups like the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (foundations) to leverage private funding to support agricultural efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	Region 3, Kelly Shenk
<p><b>Ensure adequate staff and resources to address agricultural challenges</b></p> <p>The FRRCC has emphasized the importance of having trusted local individuals with the technical and social skills to effectively communicate, educate, perform, and persuade, and who are available for the “long-haul” in sufficient numbers to reach key stakeholders.</p>			
Recommendation	Specific Recommendations	Examples of EPA implementation	Contact information
Create, support, and improve visibility of full-time Regional Agricultural Advisors	Position them to report directly to the Regional Administrator	EPA has Regional Agricultural Advisors in all Regions; an analysis of where they are in the organizational structure is being conducted	Ag Counselor Ron Carleton,
		EPA Region 10 has had a half time Acting Advisor and will soon be advertising for a Full Time Ag Advisor.	Region 10 Lucy Edmondson –WOO Director
	Provide funds and dedicate time to increase their availability to meet and interact with producers and stakeholders in the field on an on-going basis		
Assign staff with excellent technical expertise and customer skills to work effectively in the field with agriculture:	On general and programmatic environmental issues	EPA Region 10 has numerous technical staff who work with members of the Ag community on a range of issues, including air, water and pesticides. These staff are in the Seattle office as well as in the Operations Offices.	
		Region 2 has numerous technical staff who work with members of the Ag community on a range of issues, particularly in water and pesticides, as well as through initiatives like Local Food Local Places, and Reduction of Food Waste	

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	Helping to catalyze effective technology transfer to agricultural producers,		
	Connecting more effectively with the Land Grant Universities.		
Develop training and support integrated training for EPA, fed & State reg agency employees to increase their effectiveness in working with farmers especially on ag production practices		The Region 2 ag coordinator regularly encourages Regional colleagues to participate in NRCS training programs; especially in NJ where training often is in close proximity to the Regional office.	Region 2, Kristina Heinemann
Re-establish the IPM Strategic Agricultural Initiative-like specialists, focusing on nutrient management		R10 Regional Nutrient Management Specialist (SEE)	Region 10 – IOO Ralph Fisher