



*A science-based nonprofit working to strengthen private and public sector efforts to reduce nutrient pollution of rivers, lakes and coastal waters*

### **Farm Level Assessment and Continuous Improvement Programs**

#### **Drivers**

- Chesapeake Bay TMDL – Opportunity for farms to demonstrate “reasonable assurance” of water quality protection
- Expectation of reducing/offsetting “nutrient footprint” at all levels of supply chain
- Ecosystem services and markets will require ‘product’ quality assurance

#### **Benefits to Farmers and Virginia Agribusiness**

- Independent, private third-party verification of conservation performance
- Position operation for increased regulations and accountability
- WSI programs prioritize farmer needs for state and federal for technical assistance and cost share
- Confidentiality – information is not shared with outside parties except at farmer request

#### **Our Approach**

- Science-based
- Performance-based
- Water quality assessment and whole farm planning
- Independent, verifiable, accountable and credible

#### **Process at the Farm level**

##### *Conservation Baseline (CBL)*

- Grower conservation assessed & verified
  - Virginia or NRCS minimum requirements for nutrient management, erosion control, manure management
  - Verification and reduction estimates for implementation of above CBL practices

##### *Continuous Improvement Program (CIP)*

- Long-term goal to reduce nutrients by tributary strategies (TMDL) levels
- Accomplished by 5-7 year CIPs
- Assist grower in finding fiscal and technical assistance to implement CIP
- CIP implementation verified biennially
- CIP “cycle” targets based on cost efficiency

#### **The WSI Team:**

- *Tom Simpson*, Principal and Executive Director
- *Ron Korcak*, Co-Principal, Agriculture
- *Dale Gardner*, Chesapeake Agricultural Program Coordinator
- *Sally Bradley*, BMP Technical Specialist
- *Dan Kaiser*, Director of Industry Programs

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