

**Delaware State Technical Committee Meeting
May 26, 2022**

Kasey Taylor, NRCS State Conservationist

Kasey opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the virtual meeting.

Updates for DE Strategic Plan, Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative, CRFI and Urban Agriculture/Small Farms - Kasey Taylor

- The next steps in identifying the plan for the resilience in agriculture for critical resource concerns and identifying the key resource concerns and focus points through partnerships as well as an agency, we started looking at reducing our non-point source pollutants, improving air quality, protect surface and ground water quality, improve soil health, and enhancing habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species.
- To protect surface and ground water quality, we are building out solutions to reduce nutrient discharge and identify and reduce other agricultural impacts through structural and agronomical practices and needed financial assistance.
- We focused on the Chesapeake Bay timelines to address key milestones identified through the WIP goals. A request was sent to the Chief to prioritize funding for impactful results beyond agency or partnership funding.
 - Initially, \$700M was requested which was not practical with the time of the year.
 - The Chief and Under Secretary apportioned \$22.5M toward the Chesapeake Bay conservation effort. That funding will be delivered through the EQIP, CSP, and ACEP programs.
 - From 2011 to 2021, USDA/NRCS has invested more than \$1.1 billion towards helping producers and partners meet or exceed goals for cleaner water and a healthier ecosystem within the Chesapeake Bay.
 - The funding will support practices that will prioritize nutrient reductions, sediment reductions, livestock and waste management, and wetland creation as it relates to the bay objectives of nitrogen and phosphorus load reductions, wetland restoration, and riparian buffer implementation.
 - Funding will also be targeted toward priority areas, focusing on the watersheds using geospatial information systems (GIS) as well as partner feedback and local recommendations to target funding and identify priority areas.
 - Under Secretary Robert Bonnie announced the creation of a new federal task force with EPA for coordination and collaboration to develop a plan improve the bay.
 - Leon Tillman, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator has been assisting with the delivery of technical and financial assistance through collaboration.
 - NRCS and EPA will work together on funding coordination. NRCS, USGS, and EPA will coordinate monitoring by evaluating agreements and opportunities to expand technical and financial assistance delivery.
- We are looking at financial assistance becoming the tool to provide funding to the producers. At the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2021, we were apportioned \$6.5M for EQIP and \$92,000 for AMA bringing our starting total to roughly \$6.6M.
 - We have prioritized and assessed the needs in working with our partners and producers to deliver the funding within our June 24th timeline to have the funds fully obligated.
 - We had an opportunity for additional funding for our working lands applications; \$100,000 came in from new funding for the Chesapeake Bay initiative for Delaware and,

we also received \$991,239 in regional equity funding bringing us to roughly, \$7.5M. We will now be able to fully fund our backlog of poultry headquarters.

- To define key services that will be provided, we will be looking at the current agreements in the New Castle Conservation District and to develop an urban ag inventory to include our urban ag resources. We will also look at a plan for our customers to understand what is available to them.
 - To do this, we are working to adopt our payment schedule to expand practices that better fit key resource concerns and needs for the growers.
 - We will also address program hurdles to help customers better understand our programs and customize services individually.
- We will look at reconvening our urban ag subcommittee and discussing the roles and responsibilities and draft out a subcommittee plan within a FY23 timeline.
- We will also look at identifying and hosting our urban conservation partners for structured conversations about available ag resources, as well as develop fact sheets and a summary on the support of agriculture.
- We will be asking our conservation partners to provide a simple documentation of available resources from them to combine into one cohesive document for our producers/growers use.

Delaware Poultry Pilot Environmental Assessment, New and Expected Resource Concerns - Jayme Arthurs, State Resource Conservationist

- In the 2018 Farm Bill, there was language to address new and expected resource concerns through EQIP. Delaware participated in developing the language focusing on poultry operations.
- When working with poultry producers, trying to get them into our financial programs as early as possible, Delaware has started working with NHQ on how to address resource concerns on poultry operations in the state.
 - We are developing an environmental assessment (EA) document to assist when completing our environmental evaluations for poultry operations.
 - We started working with a private consulting company from the mid-west that will create the environmental document (ED) to assist us with the process.
 - We have set up criteria for new poultry operations participation.
 - Must have a signed contract with a poultry integrator and an approved loan for the construction of new poultry houses by EQIP eligibility deadline.
 - Must install a practice within the first 12 months, contract requirement.
 - Birds must be scheduled to be placed in the poultry house within the first 6 months of program application deadline.
 - Eligible practices: manure storage facilities, composters, heavy use area protection pads, and poultry wind breaks.
 - All other EQIP program eligibility must be met.
 - We have contracted with Conservation Works to complete the ED for the Poultry Pilot Project.
 - NRCS and Conservation Works had our first meeting in May and anticipate completion by July 2023.
 - Currently identified 10 sites in Sussex County that could be potential poultry farms sites to complete environmental evaluation. The plan is to visit the sites in mid-June.
 - There will be meetings for both stakeholders and the public June 14th. Notices have been sent to stakeholders and the public meeting will be posted in local papers.

Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grants and Poultry Headquarter BMP Project - Marcia Fox and Holly Walker, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)

- Non-Point Source Grants provides funds for projects designed to reduce non-point source pollution in Delaware. DNREC administers multiple water quality grants to implement BMPs throughout the State. Below are the grants administered for project implementation:
 - Clean Water Act, Section 319 Grant (319)
 - Chesapeake Bay Implementation (Section 117 CWA, CBIG)
 - Community Water Quality Improvement Grant (CWQIG)
- These grants are to improve water quality as part of the specific watershed implementation plan.
- Funded project amounts range from \$25,000 and up. Federal grants provide more variables as projects were funded from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000.
- All grants have an end date of from 2 – 6 years depending on the project type with required match. The difference is where the grants can be funded.
 - Community grants can be funded anywhere in the state.
 - 319 must be funded in one of the nine (9) approved watersheds
 - Chesapeake Bay Implementation can be funded in any of the watersheds
- Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, conservation districts, community organizations, and homeowner associations. 319 and CBIG grants can fund a municipality.
- The federal grants, CBIG and 319, funding is allocation for traditional agricultural BMPs.
- Projects are solicited through a Request for Proposals (RFP) annually in December.
- Each grant has an allowable amount of pollution discharged into a water body so water quality standards can be met, pollution limit or diet. This can be implemented by offering BMPs, improving how wastewater is handled, upgrading water treatment plans, replacing failing septic systems, or focusing on education and outreach.
- They continuously expand the programs and invest in partnerships to assist with outreach.
- There is a need to expand partnerships and funding resources so they are looking at innovative ways to accomplish this.
- Through local work group (LWG) conversations, they heard that there are poultry headquarter practices that are not being funded, some applicants were waiting to be funded or, they did not rank high enough for EQIP. Recognizing the need and concerns, they recommended implementation of a “pilot program” that mimics EQIP using EPA federal funds to fund poultry headquarter BMPs with contributions of 75% of federal funds while the landowner contributes 25% for a complete project.
- They will work with NRCS and the conservation districts to identify landowners and implement the BMPs.
- Moving forward, projects have been identified within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Sussex County. Sussex Conservation District will work with the landowner to get signed agreements for the practices.
- Working with the Department of Agriculture, they reduced the amount of the match.
 - ✚ Katherine Owens, (DNREC) asked if two entities, such as a Conservation District and a HOA, can apply for funding for the same project through CWQIG? Marcia replied that they would request there be one sponsor to submit the grant proposal work plan.
 - ✚ Holly Porter stated that DCA is happy to help share the information with growers; the concern in today's market is the 25% cost-share for growers may be tough.

- ✚ Chris Brosch asked how does a farmer access this pilot program, what does the application process look like and how does the money flow? Marica replied that they have decided that through EQIP ranking, what does not rank high enough to be funded, the next few applicants in line would be funded based on ranking criteria.
- ✚ Debbie Absher also stated that they are going to be looking at the ones that have not received funding in the past couple years that haven't ranked high enough or previous RCPP projects that were not approved.

Conservation Reserve Program Air, Water, and Habitat Zones – Jayme Arthurs

- Conservation Reserve Program is administered by Farm Service Agency (FSA) in partnership with NRCS and the CREP coordinator, Patti Webb, DNREC providing technical assistance to the producers and landowners.
- Annually, we review our CRP air, water, and habitat zones for new general CRP enrollments. Typically, CREP is the more popular in the state because of partnership funding.
- If practices are located in the CRP zones, there are additional points associated with their offer which is part of the Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) making the process more competitive.
- The funding threshold for CRP is decided at the national level and landowners must meet that threshold to qualify.
- There are different zones for air, wildlife, and water.
 - The proposed wildlife zone is looking at Bobwhite, Bog Turtle priority areas in New Castle County to include American Black Duck priority zones.
 - Proposed water quality zones are based on source water protection areas that were identified or established for EQIP.
 - Water quality and wildlife habitat zones can qualify for 25% of the cropland in the state.
 - We also have an opportunity to identify CRP air quality zones. Jayme's team is looking at how to identify an air quality zone and asked the STAC to reach out to him, jayme.arthurs@usda.gov or Jaime Argo, jaimе.argo@usda.gov if they have an ideas to establish the air quality zone.
- Kasey introduced Maryann Reed, FSA District Director. Maryann stated there will be information forthcoming for a new CRP announcement.

Conservation Practice Adoption and Motivation Survey - Clarence White, National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Senior Statistician

- Clarence introduced the Conservation Practice Adoption and Motivation (CPAM) survey that will be coming out soon. This is a reimbursable survey that the NRCS has contracted with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to collect.
- The intent of the CPAM survey is to gain better understanding of conservation practice adoption and the role of technical and financial assistance in an operators' decision to begin or expand their use of these practices.
- The data in the pilot study was used to determine our ability to target specific practices and determine the best way to collect data. They will be reaching out via internet, phones, etc.
- A pilot study was conducted in 2021 across four states Nebraska, Oregon, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. Those states were chosen due to the diversity of agriculture they have and the contrast of agricultural practices between the states.
- They evaluated the data between the fall of 2021 going into 2022. Questionnaires were finalized and sent to OMB for approval. They are now getting ready for live data mail out collection.

- In 2021 there were four versions of the questionnaire: Crop Practices, Confined Livestock Practices, Grazing Practices, and Forestry Practices.
- Because NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for a variety of practices, it's imperative that we use resources wisely and efficiently in areas for improved conservation practices.
- There are different sections in the questionnaires but, the following are listed in all versions.
 - Land use and livestock
 - Technical assistance
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (all except Confined Livestock)
 - Demographics
 - Value of sales (all except Forestry)
- In Version one, cropland will have unique practices to see if landowners are using them and if so, how long, has the use been expanded, or if they have reduced their use and why not.
- The livestock version will also have unique practices that are similar to cropland. They want to find out which practices are being used and if not, what is the impediment.
- Moving forward, the information collected during the pilot study was used to make decisions for this year's national survey.
- After reviewing the results of the pilot study and receiving input from stakeholders the decision was made to only conduct two versions, crop and confined livestock practices.
- The survey results will be used to guide the implementation of NRCS programs going forward.
- After the survey has been completed, this information will be used to improve technical and financial assistance programs.
- NASS will mail the Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations Survey to over 3,000 northeastern farmers and ranchers with nearly 150 of the potential respondents are Delaware operators.
- The surveys went out on May 30th. Postcards will be mailed to non-responders on August 1st.
- The data collection period (phone follow-up) began on June 13th.
- Survey Results will be available online September 15, 2022.
 - ✚ Mark Nardi asked, if you anticipate responses including only cost shared practices or all practices such as producer installed and funded practices? Clarence responded, currently they are focusing on the programs and incentives that NRCS is looking at but going forward, they can look at expanding different things. Right now, they are just gathering information.
 - ✚ Holly Porter asked if there is any blurb or flyer that we can share with our members to encourage them to watch for this in their mailboxes and complete the survey? Clarence responded that there is but, he does not have them right now and will work with his public affairs office to have those sent through Shareefah to the committee.
 - ✚ Kasey stated that Dastina, NRCS public affairs specialist has sent out information from NHQ that can be amplified throughout the partnership. She will forward the notice that was issued to the partnership on April 29th.

FY22 Farm Bill Programs Updates – Brooke Jones, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Field Operations

- Agricultural Lands Easement Program (ALE) - for FY22, Delaware received an allocation of \$1,737,067 to acquire parcels with DDA.
 - Delaware and DDA are also working on a new process to realign our timelines to allow NRCS more time to obligate parcels within current fiscal year.
- Wetland Reserve Easement Program (WRE) received an of allocation of \$349,507.
 - We did not receive any viable applications this year. The funds will go towards easements that were already acquired for restoration and maintenance projects.

- FY 22 approved Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC)
 - Cropland \$5,000/ac
 - Forestland \$3,000/ac
 - 30-year enrollments @ 75% value
- In June, GARC's for FY 23 Area Wide Market Analysis (AWMA) procurement will take place and may show increases in forestland.
- EQIP-Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)
 - We provided a brief CIC highlight at the last STAC meeting
 - CIC incentivizes additional conservation around locally established resource priorities.
 - CIC is envisioned as a steppingstone between EQIP and CSP.
 - Producers must address at least one priority resource concern in a high priority area established by the state.
 - The length of the CIC contract is five years.
 - Payments are the major feature of CIC and there are two types of payments.
 - Implement a structural, vegetative, or land management practice. Paid after certification of practice.
 - Allows for management practices that support increase levels of conservation through managing, maintaining, and improving incentive practices. Paid at the end of the fiscal year.
 - CIC has a payment limitation of \$200K.
 - Joint operations can have a contract that does not exceed \$400K.
 - Each state must set aside 5% of their original EQIP allocation to fund CIC applications and contracts.
 - Delaware CIC is focusing on climate smart agriculture and forest drought mitigation practices within an EQIP-CIC high priority area.
 - Cropland is the targeted land use area for Delaware and the resource concerns chosen to address are:
 - Field sediment, nutrient & pathogen loss
 - Source water depletion
 - Field pesticide loss
 - Below are the CIC practices selected for Delaware.

216	Soil Health Testing
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue and Tillage Management –No Till
340	Cover Crop
345	Residue and Tillage Management –Reduced Till
449	Irrigation Water Management
554	Drainage Water Management
590	Nutrient Management
595	Pest Management Conservation Systems
808	Soil Carbon Amendments
 - EQIP-CIC sign-up dates:
 - Application: 2/11/2022
 - Eligibility: 3/11/2022
 - Assessment and Ranking: 4/1/2022
 - Obligation: 6/24/2022
 - We were able to fund all of our EQIP-CIC applications and used the entire 5% allocation.

- Brooke provided a screenshot of the spending plan from the beginning of the year showing the \$325,150 5% CIC allocation.
- We received \$991,239 in regional equity (RE) money to fully fund poultry headquarters practices in Sussex County and Kent/New Castle Counties. We also allocated additional funds to our cropland and cover crop ranking pools.
- RE funds obligation deadline was set to July 29th.
- We also received \$100,000 funding for the Chesapeake States Partnership Initiative.
- EQIP - Classic Deadlines
 - Application: 10/15/2021
 - Eligibility: 1/31/2022
 - Ranking and Assessment: 4/1/2022
 - Original Allocation Obligation: 6/24/2022
 - Additional funds obligation: 7/29/2022
- Cover Crop Deadlines
 - Producer Cover Crop Decisions: 4/29/2022
 - Assessments: 6/3/2022
 - Ranking: 6/3/2022
 - Obligations: 7/1/2022
- Cover Crop Implementation-FY22 and beyond
 - In FY22, we looked to enhance use of cover crops by implementing changes in our practices in accordance with the Working Lands Manual.
 - The guidance states we can do five separate payments for the life of the contract.
 - Moving forward, we will limit payments of cover crop to a maximum of five separate payments during single contract on the same land unit when the participant plans and applies cover crop as a component of the complete conservation system to address resource concerns related to soil health
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
 - We received \$89,707 for use in the following targeted practices.

317	Composting Facility
325	High Tunnel System
340	Cover Crop
367	Roofs and Covers
430	Irrigation Pipeline
436	Irrigation Reservoir
441	Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation
449	Irrigation Water Management
533	Pumping Plant
558	Roof Runoff Structure
642	Water Well

- Funding will be focused on funding High Tunnels and companion practices
- AMA-RMA (Risk Management Agency) received a separate allocation of \$140,561 to address the following practices.

317	Composting Facility
325	High Tunnel System
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation

340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
430	Irrigation Pipeline
436	Irrigation Reservoir
441	Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation
449	Irrigation Water Management
484	Mulching
533	Pumping Plant
558	Roof Runoff Structure
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
590	Nutrient Management
595	Pest Management Conservation System
642	Water Well

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and CSP Renewal dates

FY22 CSP Renewals:

Application: 4/7/2021

Assessment: 10/1/2021

Ranking: 10/15/2021

Obligation: 12/17/2021

Total Obligated: \$149,037

FY22 CSP Classic:

Application: 3/25/2022

Assessment: 6/10/2022

Ranking: 6/10/2022

Obligation: 7/29/2022

Total Allocation: \$1,000,000

Local Work Group (LWG) Reports – Brooke Jones

- Brooke provided slides indicating recommendations from the LWG meetings in each county.
 - Program improvements:
 - Bullet 2 will be addressed in the August STAC meeting.
 - ✚ Kasey stated that we are not phasing out cover crops, we are looking at a system adoption for our producers meeting the standards and recommendations for one to five years.
 - ✚ Richard Wilkens asked if the eligibility decision for cover crop practices specific to Delaware. Kasey replied that this decision is within the national programmatic criteria at the national level but we can look at local implications within soil health flexibilities.
 - ✚ Richard noted that he will bring this to the trade associations at the national level.
 - Bullet 3 will be addressed through the Urban Ag Subcommittee.
 - Concerns to address:
 - Bullet 3 will be addressed in the August STAC meeting.
 - Bullet 4, Brooke stated that we do allow for underground outlets if they meet resource concerns.
 - Concerns to address High Tunnels:

- Will be addressed through the Urban Ag Subcommittee and provide update during August STAC meeting.
- We are currently compiling a list of urban ag practices that would benefit small acres for the urban ag subcommittee to provide recommendations.

Update on New Practices or Payment Scenarios for FY23 – Jayme Arthurs

- Conservation practice standard updates were provided along with the agenda that was sent to the meeting invitees along with the link to the Federal Register.
 - Raised beds for urban ag is showing interest so we are working with an interim conservation practice standard (ICPS) initiated from New Jersey.
 - Waste Separation Facility – a dairy producer reached out to us for interest in this practice so we are looking to adopt this practice.
 - Stormwater Runoff Control – there is a practice scenario for implementing rain gardens for urban ag producers.
 - Aquatic Organism Passage – received a reach out specifically for a possible dam removal work in the Brandywine River to benefit American Shad.
- There is a Delaware Payment Schedule team looking into all practices/payment scenarios available for implementation for financial assistance to see if they fit our state, cost implementation or changes/suggestions. If there are questions, please reach out to Jayme or Ann Baldwin.
 - ✚ Marcia Fox asked when will they be ready, when can someone apply? Jayme replied these will be adopted for FY23 so eligibility will start at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year.
 - ✚ Marcia asked who do you anticipate applying for dam removal? Jayme replied, the Brandywine Conservancy.

Nanticoke Watershed Plan Updates - Ann Baldwin, State Engineer

- The intent is to develop a watershed plan to address the aging tax ditches in the Nanticoke Watershed as well as an environmental assessment (EA) to address the environmental concerns.
- An experience contractor was hired and has been working on it since approval.
- They have collected extensive data including surveys and photographs in all Nanticoke sub watersheds.
- They have been performing modeling of hydrology using GEO HEC-RAS technology.
- Within the next month, we are expecting to receive a hydrological report to review and provide recommendations.
- The anticipated plan completion date is February 2023.
 - ✚ Mark Nardi asked if there are any monitoring plans pre or post construction and are there any creative conservation practice solutions that might be implemented with the construction portion? Ann replied that in terms of water quality, there will be a plan but pre and post monitoring has not been discussed. Looking at the alternatives in the plan presented, we could look at incorporating that. In terms of water quality and innovative practices, we wrote in the request for opportunities for implied practice alternatives.

Committee Member Reports

- *Farm Service Agency (FSA), Maryann Reed*
 - Kasey reported that Maryann previously shared her CRP update and Maryann will follow up as previously reported. Maryann had no additions.

- *U.S. Geological Survey, Mark Nardi*
 - USGS next generation water observing system in the Delaware River Bay is getting ready to fly airborne electro magnetics (AEM) over the bay to understand where the fresh saltwater interface is underground and how ground water is pushing into the bay.
 - This information can be used for model calibration if we increase pumping.
 - They are working with Holly Michael at the University of Delaware.
 - They are also hoping to get a better understanding of what the sedimentary package looks like down to 100 meters.
 - They will be sending out a press release and anticipate a field day to demonstrate the equipment and answer questions.
- *National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS), Clarence White*
 - No additions to Clarence's report above. He will share updates as received.
 - Charles Butler, Deputy added a reminder that the ag census will be coming out at the end of the year.
- *NRCS Georgetown, Thelton Savage (Ziggy), District Conservationist*
 - Ziggy stated that the Sussex staff are working very hard to get contracts out to program participants that have applied for cost share assistance.
- *Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Marcia Fox*
 - Marcia stated they are actively working on the Riparian Forest Buffer strategy.
 - The state is lacking in the riparian forest buffer implementation becoming the forefront of the Chesapeake Bay (CB) program. As such, they have asked all the bay jurisdictions to draft a strategy building off what was previously developed by USDA, NRCS and FSA in 2016.
 - They have been working on plans to develop a cost share program for buffer implementation specifically in the CB watershed.
 - This will mirror Maryland's conservation buffer initiative.
 - The Bond Bill Markup is actively occurring. There is no news on increases in their programs but they anticipate bump ups in their line items for conservation cost share.
 - Delaware will be receiving an additional \$750,000 per year for the next five years for infrastructure funds specifically for the CB watershed. 40% must be used for underserved communities.
 - They are currently drafting a work plan to accommodate different project ideas. If you have any project ideas, please reach out to her.
 - ✚ Kasey asked if the additional funding would require a sponsorship match. Marcia replied that for the first year, the match is waived. For years two through five, they are not sure what that will look like yet but they are hoping for a match reduction.
 - ✚ Jenn asked what the infrastructure applies to? Marcia replied, forty percent (40%) of the infrastructure funding is intended for use by state and local entities, directly for support of implementation projects in underserved areas. This money can be used to fund both proven and new innovative practices. Examples include urban tree canopy, urban agriculture, and all forms of green infrastructure. Priority will be given to activities that accelerate the pace for meeting WIP commitments while addressing co-benefits beyond just water quality improvements.
 - ❖ Remaining funding must be used in agricultural most effective basins for the prioritizing the following BMPs for implementation:
 - Streamside/Riparian Forest and Grass Buffers in agricultural areas

- Wetland Restoration – Headwater or Floodplain
 - Alternative Crops - Switchgrass, Carbon Sequestration
 - Tillage Management - High, Low, Conservation
 - Horse Pasture Management
 - Sorbing Materials in Agriculture Ditches
 - Retirement of Highly Erodible Land
 - Manure Transport to lands for application at agronomic rates according to a nutrient management plan; to lands for reclamation purposes; or to manure treatment or waste to energy facilities
 - Implementation of Nutrient Management practices such as precision agriculture practices that ensure the right rate, timing, and placement of nutrients on cropland to minimize nutrient losses
 - Implementation of Soil and Water Conservation Plans
- *Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD), Jen Nelson*
 - Jen dropped two links in the chat:
 - The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Northeast Region Meeting in Maryland conference landing page: <https://mascd.net/2022am/>. Contact Jen if you have any questions.
 - Jen has been working with Delaware Soil Health Partnership to develop a website focusing on events for soil health. The website officially launches on June 5th. there is also a sign up on the website to receive updates from the partnership for upcoming meetings, events, etc.: <https://delawaredigshealthysoils.com/>
 - *Sussex County Conservation District (SCD), Debbie Absher*
 - Cost share sign up is June 13 – September 29 for cover crops and tax ditch maintenance.
 - They are also anxiously awaiting the state budget.
 - *State Cooperative Extension Service and Land Grant Universities, Jenn Volk*
 - Kasey and Jenn mentioned the success of the film premier, The Delmarva Ground of Change.
 - Upcoming field days:
 - Weed Science Field Day, June 29th 8:00 - 10:00 am, UDCarvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE
 - (NEW – not mentioned during meeting) Warm Season Annual Forage Pasture Walk - July 7th 6:00 - 8:15 PM; Mule Run Farms, Houston, DE 19954 ; For more details: https://events.udel.edu/event/warm_season_annual_forage_pasture_walk_2022#.YqstGuzMK5c
 - 2022 Summer Turf & Nursery Expo - August 3rd 8:00 am - 3:00 pm; UD Botanic Gardens, Newark, DE. For more information: <https://www.dnlaonline.org/2022-summer-turf-nursery-expo-3/>
 - Nematode Field Day, August 18th Time TBA; UD Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE
 - They will be providing an extension exhibit at the Delaware State Fair. They will have nine undergraduate extension scholars assisting them.
 - 🗣️ Tim Riley asked if the Soil Health film is available or is it being held for "screening" events? Jenn replied that they are planning on putting it out on YouTube but, not sure when it will happen.

✚ Jenn provided a follow-up to Tim's question. The film is now available to watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/CO3fSrnbrS8>. Debbie Absher, Jen Nelson, and I are planning a Southern Delaware film screening, tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 11th at 3:30 PM at the Clayton Theater in Dagsboro, Delaware. More details and registration are forthcoming.

- *Farm Bureau – Richard Wilkins*
 - Richard announced that are also dealing with the supply chain disruptions that are plaguing the industry. Mega inflation in crop inputs, fertilizers, and crop protective materials are 300-400% increases in pricing over last year. Fuel prices have doubled over last year.
 - The disruptions in global supply for grains and proteins are showing an increase in commodity values right now.
 - On Delmarva, the avian influenza situation has cause disruptions this year.
 - If you are a poultry producer, it has caused disruptions with placements of chicks, extended layouts.
 - If you're a crop farmer, dependent on poultry manure as a source of nutrients for your crops, that has caused a disruption with being able to timely move manure.
 - The lack of revenue from the pandemic, is proving the need for a type of revenue assurance or revenue protection for contracted livestock producers. Richard is currently leading a national effort to get a risk management agency approved product for contact livestock.

Next meeting August 26, 2022