

MILESTONES

MACS HELPS FARMERS MEET 2013 BAY MILESTONE MARKERS
2-YEAR MILESTONE PROGRESS (JULY 2011 THROUGH JUNE 2013)*

✓	Cover Crops
	GOAL: Plant 355,000 acres of cover crops annually
	STATUS: 429,818 acres planted during the 2011-2012 planting season
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 121 percent
✓	Barnyard Runoff Control Systems
	GOAL: Construct 153 barnyard runoff control systems by June 30, 2013
	STATUS: 103 systems installed as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 67 percent
✓	Manure Transport
	GOAL: Annually transport 37,000 tons of excess poultry litter or livestock waste to farms or alternative use facilities that can use the manure safely and in accordance with their nutrient management plans.
	STATUS: 35,380 tons of manure transported as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 96 percent
✓	Retirement of Highly Erodible Land
	GOAL: Retire 608 acres of highly erodible land by June 30, 2013
	STATUS: 1,716 acres retired and planted with protective vegetation as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 282 percent
✓	Streamside Forest Buffers
	GOAL: Plant 221 acres of forest buffers next to streams by June 30, 2013
	STATUS: 327 acres planted as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 148 percent
✓	Streamside Grass Buffers
	GOAL: Plant 538 acres of grassed buffers next to streams by June 30, 2013
	STATUS: 2,029 acres planted as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 377 percent
✓	Waste Storage Structures—Livestock
	GOAL: Construct 34 livestock waste storage structures by June 30, 2013
	STATUS: 53 structures constructed as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 156 percent
✓	Waste Storage Structures—Poultry
	GOAL: Construct 7 poultry waste storage structures by June 30, 2013
	STATUS: 17 structures constructed as of June 30, 2012
	PERCENT OF MILESTONE COMPLETED: 243 percent

*In some instances, progress includes practices installed with funds from both MACS and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

For a full description and progress report on agriculture's role in the Bay cleanup visit:
www.baystat.maryland.gov/2yearplan.html

THE MACS MISSION

Since 1984, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has been helping Maryland farmers install water quality improvement projects on their farms, adopt sustainable agricultural practices and comply with a growing list of federal, state and local environmental requirements.

MACS provides farmers with conservation grants that cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install approved best management practices (BMPs) on their farms to prevent soil erosion, manage nutrients and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. More than 30 BMPs are currently eligible for MACS funding. A low interest loan program is available to cover the farmer's portion of BMP installation, conservation equipment purchases and start-up costs for major environmental improvement projects.

MACS plays a key role in helping farmers meet short-term Bay restoration goals called milestones as well as long term restoration actions outlined in Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), the federally mandated document that serves as a road map for restoring a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

The majority of the practices cost-shared by MACS are financed through the capital program, which includes the sale of general obligation bonds. Cover crops, manure transport and portions of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) are financed through a combination of general fund allocations and special funds provided by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (Flush Fee) and Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund.