



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

Shenandoah Valley of Virginia 2010 Program of Work

After successful completion of WSI's beta-test in 2009, WSI is gearing up for a busy 2010 by expanding our capacity to provide Virginia farmers with confidential assessments and continuous improvement plans to meet state goals for water quality protection.

WSI has secured funding to enroll 40 more farms in the WSI program with pending proposals to enroll an additional 30 farms in 2010.

- Call WSI's own Dale Gardner to immediately to secure your spot in the 2010 program!
- 540-246-2839

Plans for 2010

- An additional 40 farms recruited and assessed in WSI program
- Aggregate farm specific data on costs to achieving water quality goals and use to improve policy directed at conservation assistance
- Expand use of trained and accredited Conservation Assessment Professionals (CAPs) to expand WSI's organizational capacity
- Establish WSI program as acceptable within EQIP planning cost share programs
- WSI has partnered with two local food cooperatives to test whether WSI certification can help improve and promote the sustainability of their supply chain

Position your farm for the future with third-party verification

- Improve efficiency and enhance conservation
- Independent evaluation of conservation performance compared to State and Federal expectations
- Identify "high impact" practices for technical assistance and/or cost share
- Interest by bankers, insurance, and supply chain in this type of program for "risk management"
- Prepare for future ecosystem service markets
- May constitute "reasonable assurance" for farms under Bay TMDL

Accomplishments from 2009

- 33 farms assessed and committed to work with WSI to implement Continuous Improvement Plans (CIP)
 - CIPs will move individual farms towards the Virginia nutrient reduction goals to protect the Chesapeake Bay
- Developed a Nutrient Load Estimator (NLE) that estimates the nutrient loads from agricultural and urban tracts and then estimates reductions that would be expected from BMPs.
- Developed protocol for certifying implementation, operation and maintenance of nutrient reduction practices to meet state, federal, Chesapeake Bay Program and private offset or voluntary markets
- Developed criteria for different stages of "Water Steward" labeling based on conservation performance and/or commitment to continuous improvement

Contacts:

Dale Gardner 540-246-2839, daleg@waterstewardshipinc.org

Daniel Kaiser 202-236-9828, dank@waterstewardshipinc.org