



Our Bay Inspection Story

Lisa Blazure, Clinton County Conservation District



Clinton County Stats

About 395 farms

2012 Ag Census identifies 52,715 farmland acres
avg farm size 112 acres

About 50% have MMP/NMP

About 58% have Conservation Plans/Ag E&S

CAFO – 2 dairy, 1 swine, 1 poultry

CAO – 18, most are veal barns, some poultry & dairy

Other: Dairy, Poultry (<10,000 birds), Pigs (<300)

Most of our agricultural acres are in karst geology

Inspection coordination between staff



Period	County	Municipality	Farm ID	Name of Operation	Owner Name	Operator Name	Mailing Address
2016-2017	Clinton	Dunnstable Township	18 912-16		David Adamosky		107 Sunflower Lane Lock Haven 17745
2016-2017	Clinton	Porter Township	18 923-53		Charles Beamer		104 Bartholomew Ln Mill Hall 17751
2016-2017	Clinton	Greene Township	18 916-26		Ezra E. Beiler	David F. Beiler	202 Fisher Lane Loganton 17747
2016-2017	Clinton	Pine Creek Township	18 924-15	Carson Farms	Ben Carson		2084 Sulphur Run Rd Jersey Shore 17740
2016-2017	Clinton	Dunnstable Township	18 912-16		Robert Gordon Jr.		PO Box 48 Woodstock 17779
2016-2017	Clinton	Greene Township	18 916-21		Aaron K. Esh		110 Oak Ln Loganton 17747
2016-2017	Clinton	Greene Township	18 916-84		Henry E. Esh		1174 West Valley Rd Loganton 17747
2016-2017	Clinton	Greene Township	18 916-34		Henry P. Esh		673 East Valley Rd Loganton 17747
2016-2017	Clinton	Greene Township	18 916-15		John P. Esh		236 Pine Loganton Rd Loganton 17747

OUR BAY FUNDING IS SPLIT BETWEEN 3 POSITIONS

Progress & Statistics

Completed 42 out of 50 inspections (40 different landowners)

53% had MMP

36% had Consv Plan/Ag E&S

15 were in compliance

3 refusals

Average time invested per inspection 6.8 hours

(about 40 hours invested prior to starting inspections)

Average time invested per education farm visit 1.2 hours

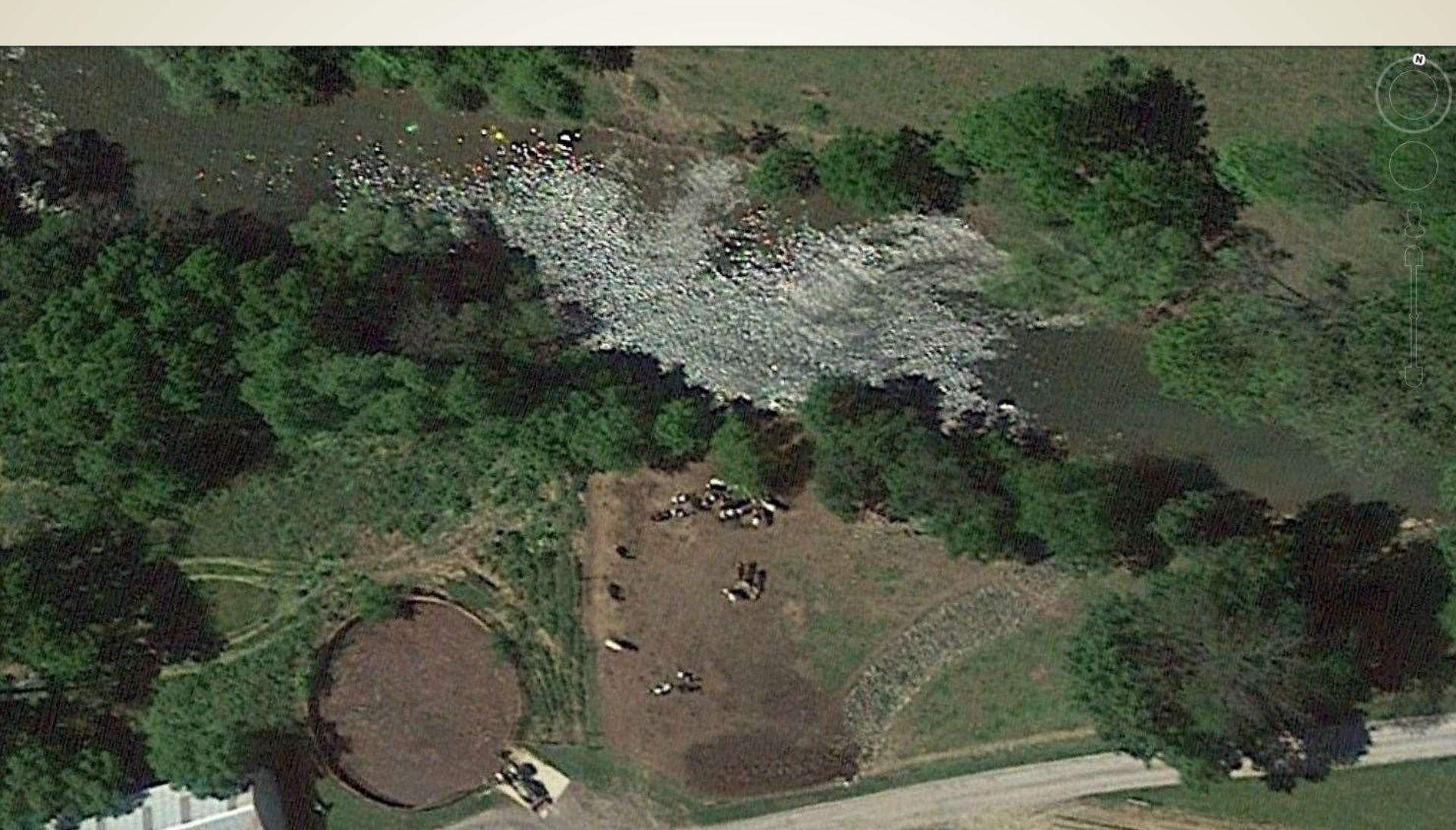


Locations for inspections

- Kitchen table
- Milkhouse
- Butcher shop
- Tobacco sorting room
- Hood of the car
- Mudroom
- Meat packing plant
- In the office

Good aspects of the inspections

- Most farmers were very cooperative
- A few said it was a good thing that we were checking for plans
- Many said that they would rather deal with local District people than the State or EPA
- Verified the CAO status of some farms
- Opportunities for other conversations – especially cover crops
- Motivated some farmers to make management changes



■ Inspections are getting some resource concerns addressed

A regulatory push may be a good thing when years of education outreach still doesn't motivate the farmer to implement BMPs



His take home message:
MMP is too complicated

Doesn't matter what you do on the farm as long as the bookwork is done

Does there need to be a regulatory presence on every farm?

- Most inspections were chosen at random
- Should we focus our efforts on farms with known or suspected problems?
- After identifying a plan violation, do we need to prioritize our follow-up actions to focus efforts on farms that have resource concerns?

We were still able to offer planning help

- Offered a manure management workshop
 - Advertised to all county farms
 - 6 attendees
- Offered an Ag E&S PA OneStop workshop
 - Almost full attendance (9 people, 1 no-show)
 - Required help from other staff
- Started a new reimbursement program
 - 75% of plan cost, up to \$250

Challenging aspects of the inspections

- After follow-up and referral actions, the average time per inspection may be around 7.5 hours
- $7.5 \text{ hrs} \times 50 \text{ inspections} = 375 \text{ hours} = 10 \text{ weeks of work}$
- Additional inspection workload impacts other existing programs
 - Time is not being spent on grant projects
 - Hesitation applying for new grant funds
 - No-till drill/interseeder rental program
 - Educational demonstration lot



Challenging aspects of the inspections

- Inspectors may have personal conflicts of interest with some farms on the inspection list
- Be cautious about sharing too much personal information with the farmer





With staff time challenges, we need to have the discussion about what is the most efficient use of our time to achieve the goals of protecting and improving our resources.

Questions?

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