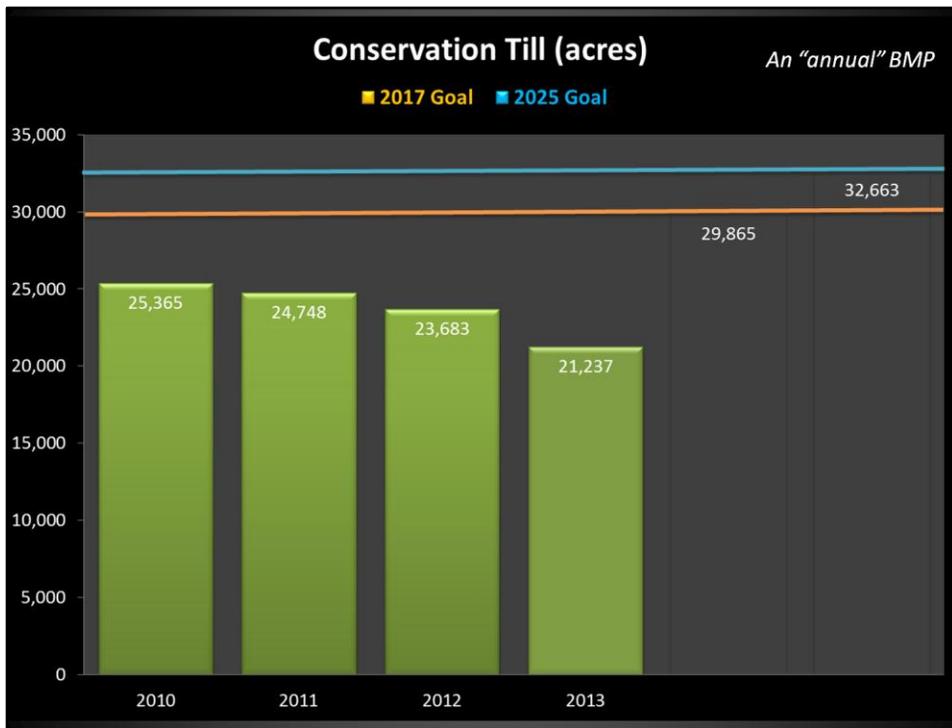


West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Progress: Implementation Progress and Goals

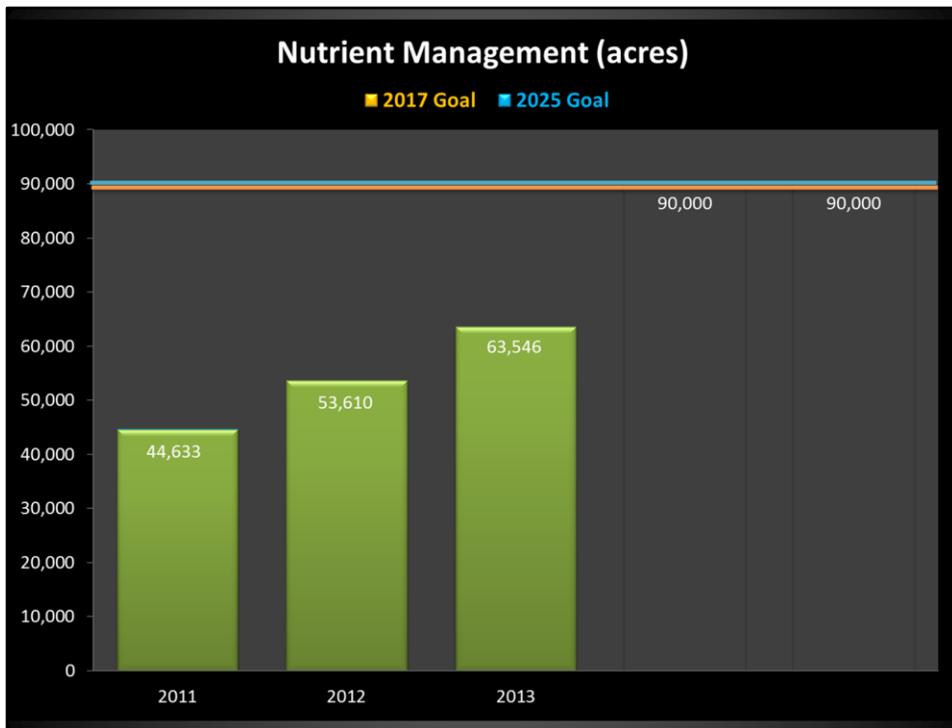
Slides prepared by West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team, March 2014

This presentation's filename is "WV_2013_Ag&Dev_Progress Milestones
slides_031114.pptx" or "...pdf."



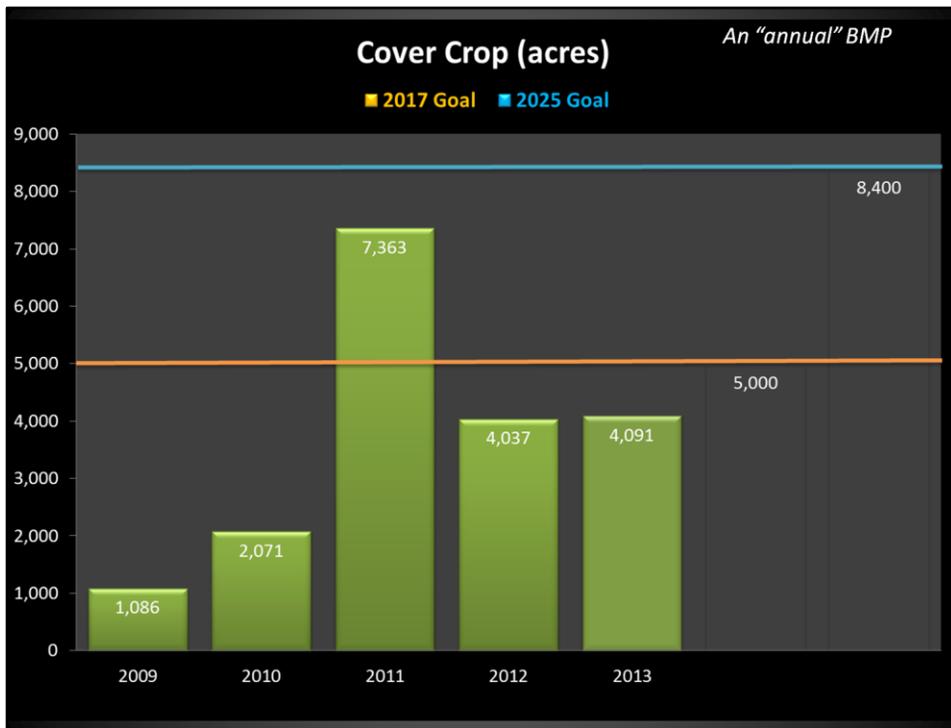
This data is reported annually and is not cumulative. While acreage went down in recent years, it may reach the 2017 goal with ongoing outreach efforts.

This is a Best Management Practice (BMP) that is often done without cost-share, and therefore there would be additional acreage that is difficult to track.



We are well on our way toward achieving our 2025 goal of having nutrient management plans (NMPs) on 90,000 agricultural acres, with 63,546 acres having NMPs in 2013 (increase of almost 10,000).

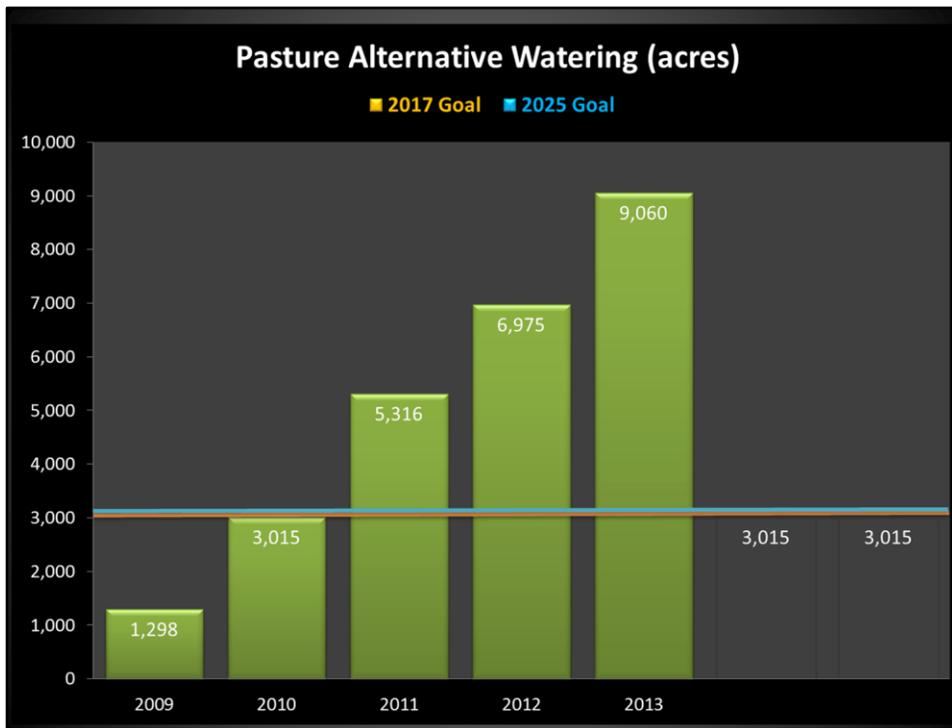
West Virginia Department of Agriculture has increased staff to 5 full-time nutrient management planners & WVCA will also assist, to further accelerate progress toward this goal.



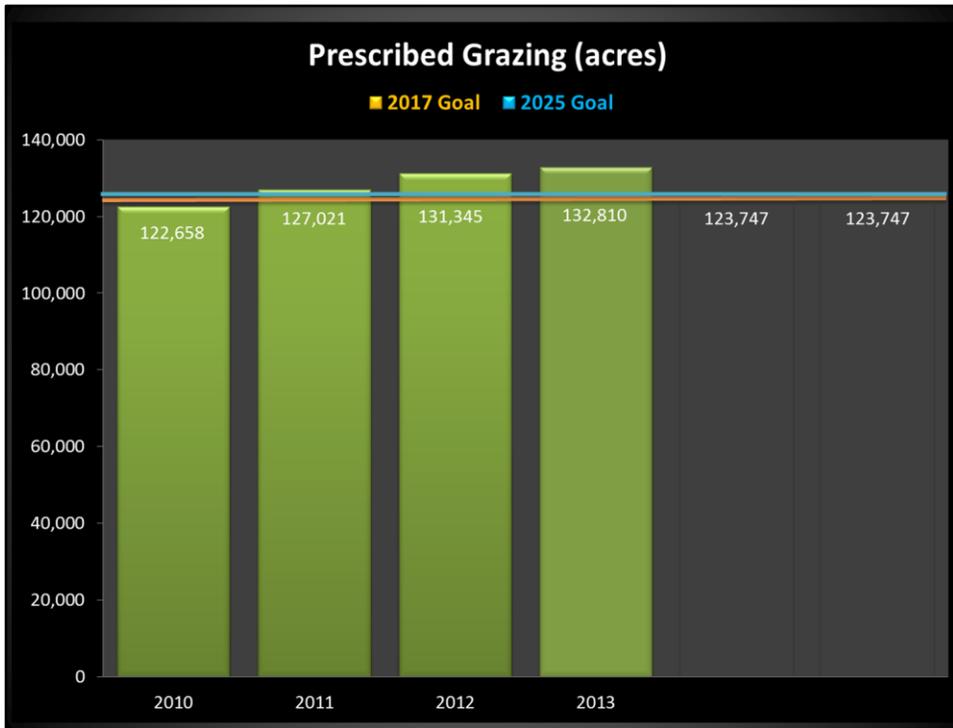
This data is reported annually and is not cumulative. This is one of the most highly demanded programs by landowners. It is important that funding is available and is entirely spent each year.

We believe there are considerably more acres receiving cover crops, but it is a challenge to document. We are interested in capturing the non-cost-shared data in the future.

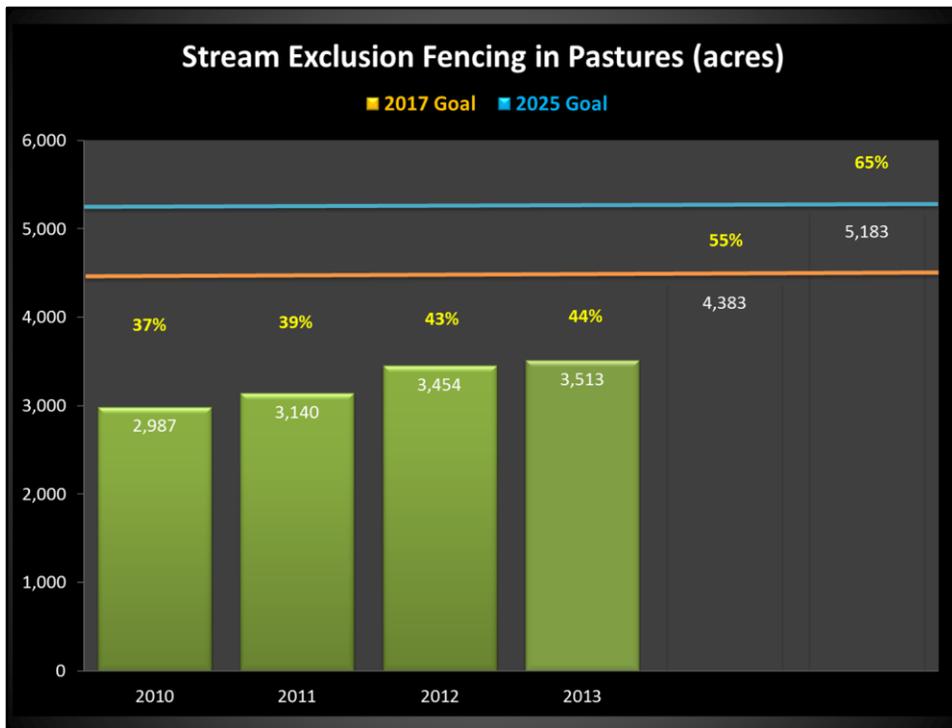
In the 2011 season ('10-'11), more acres per farm were allowed to assist with the drought recovery. In the 2012 season ('11-12), wet weather meant that fewer farms could participate.



In 2013: 139 new watering facilities from the NRCS data alone, but that includes some non-Bay-watershed areas of the bordering counties. A multiplier is used to convert “watering facilities” to acres in the model, and reported here as acres.

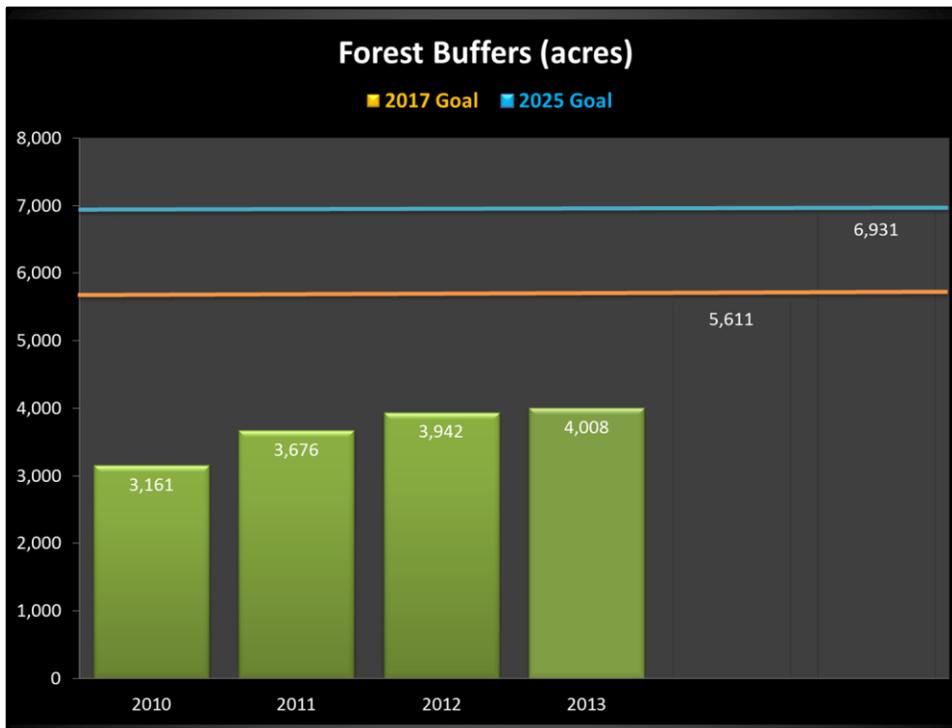


We are doing very well as of 2013.



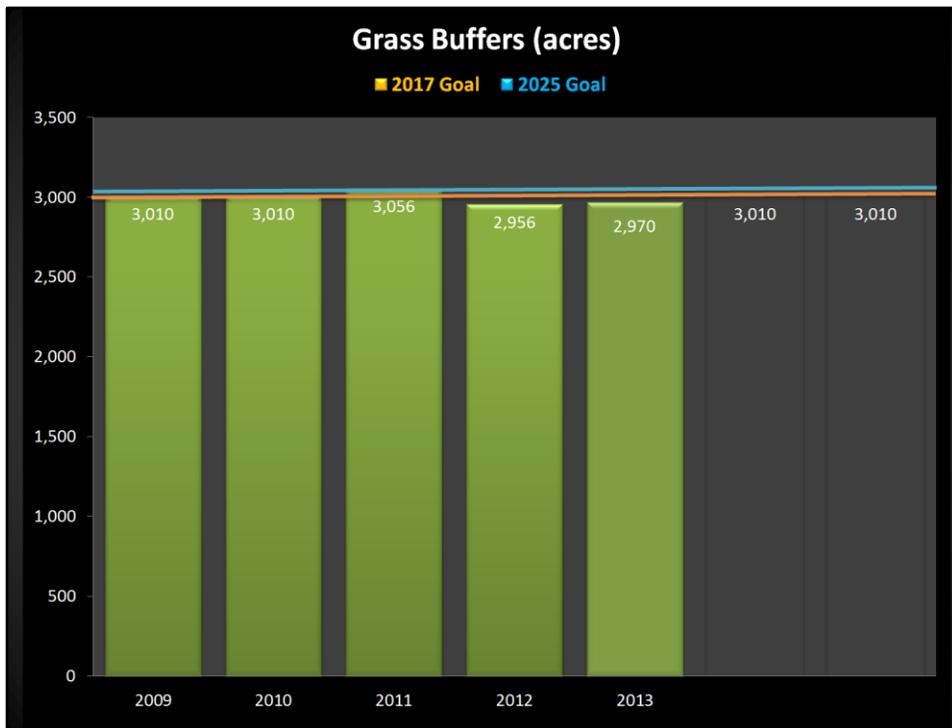
This is a highly successful voluntary practice made possible by Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agriculture Enhancement Program (AEP), and innovative partnerships with non-governmental groups like Trout Unlimited. The US Fish and Wildlife Service’s “Partners for Fish and Wildlife” Program recently installed its millionth foot of fencing (http://www.fws.gov/northeast/PDF/2013-05-20_Million_Feet_web.pdf) in WV, and many of those feet were in the Chesapeake Bay drainage.

Federal resource constraints slowed implementation difficult in recent years, but we should see a significant increase in the next few years.



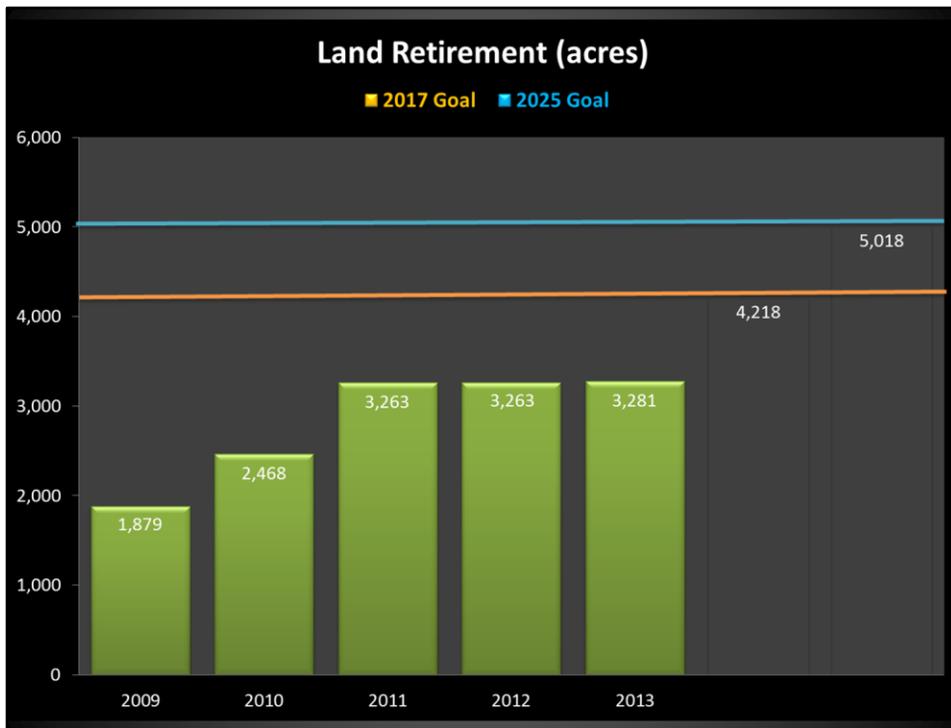
The success of this practice is largely due to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) which incentivizes conservation uses of land. This is a highly successful voluntary program. WV Division of Forestry’s Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forester also coordinates volunteer buffer planting events with landowners and watershed groups.

As with “Stream Exclusion Fencing,” which also depends partly on CREP, federal resource constraints slowed implementation difficult in recent years, but we should see a significant increase of this BMP in the next few years.



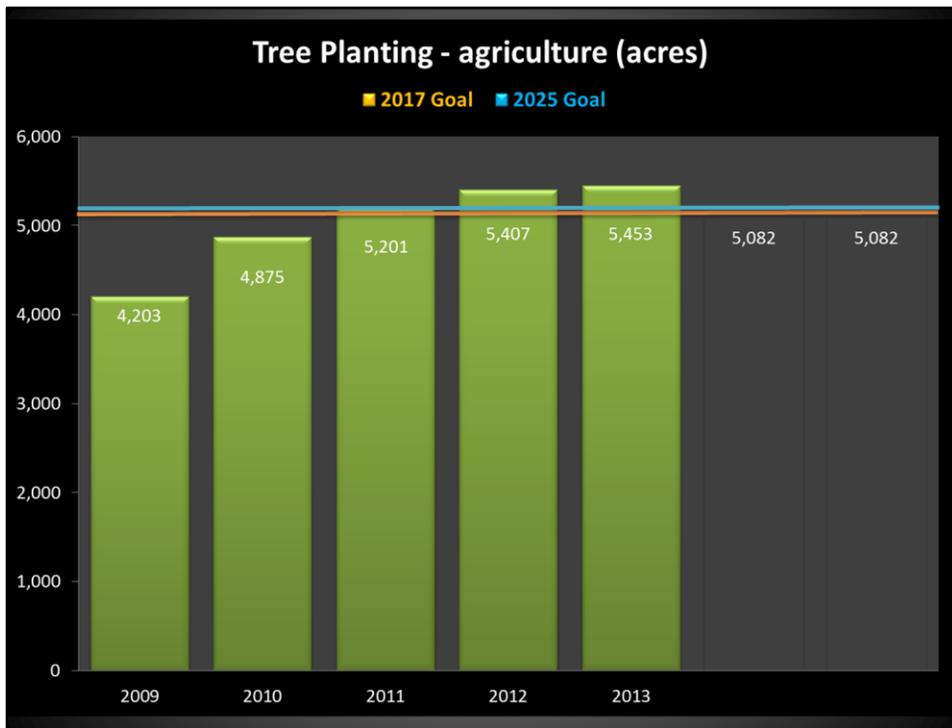
The uncertainty of this number is due to an error in acreage recording up to 2011 in which an additional 100 acres were added to the total. The 2012 number is correct; zero acres of this practice were added to the amount in the previous year. 14 acres (of CP21, "Filter Strips,") were added in 2013.

This BMP is still on track to meet the 2017 target.



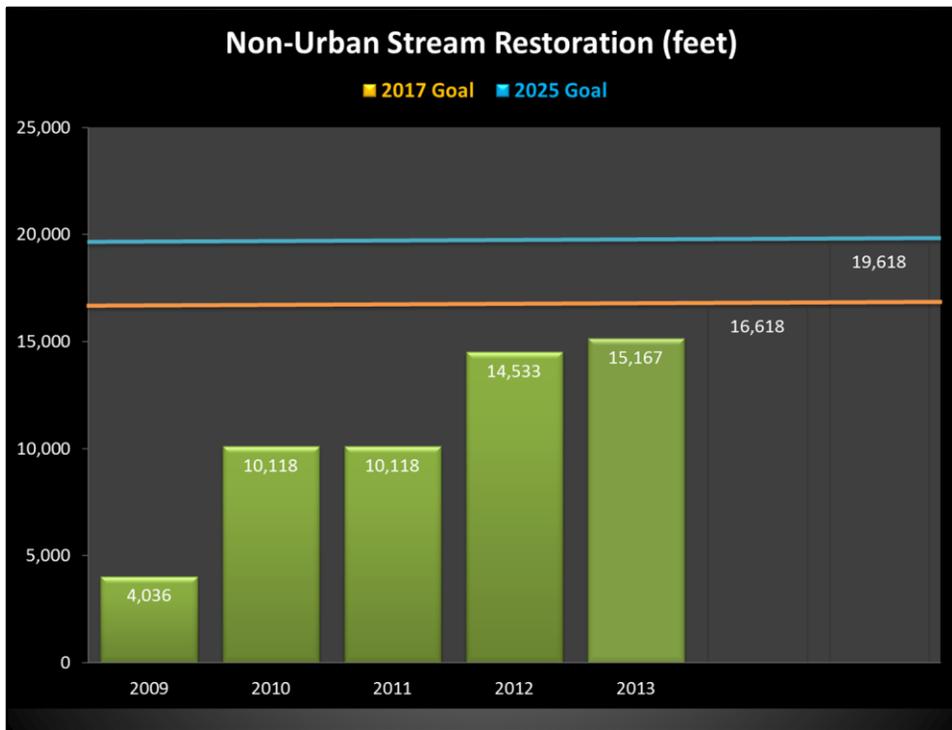
In the past we have counted under this practice the NRCS practices: 386/Field Border and 512/Pasture and Hay Planting (only a portion of these, since many of these 512 acres don't result in the effect we were trying to count). Our understanding is that these practices **don't result in actual loss of farmland or cessation of farming**, but rather result in uses of that land that reduce the nutrients leaving the site.

18 acres (of CP1 "Establishment of permanent introduced grasses and legumes") were added in 2013.

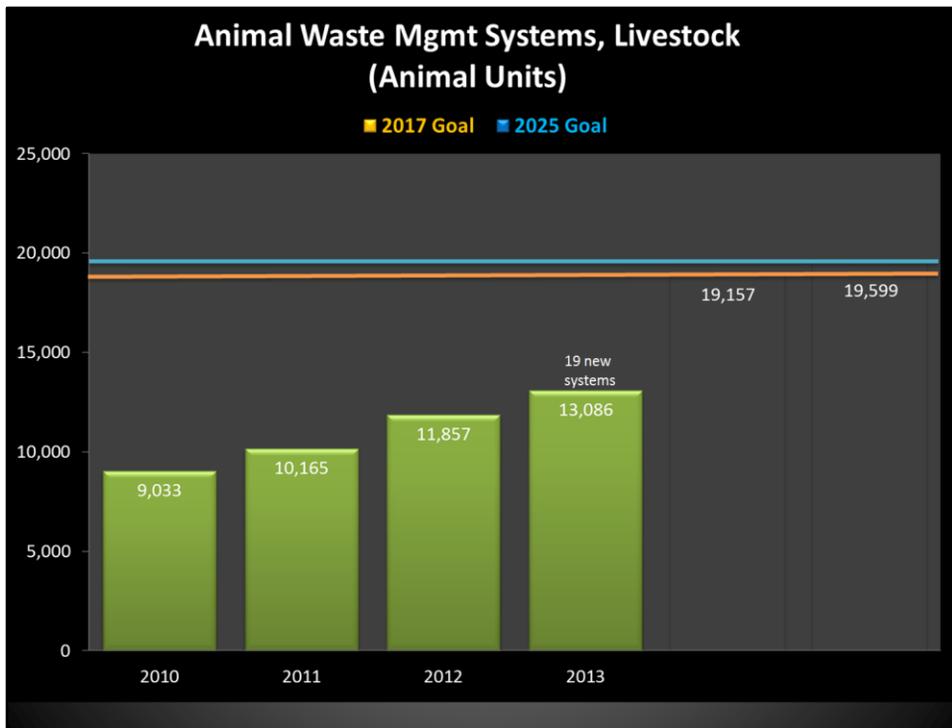


This BMP is on track.

We count NRCS practice 612, “Tree/Shrub Establishment.” This is a different practice from forest buffers, and does not include those tree planting projects.



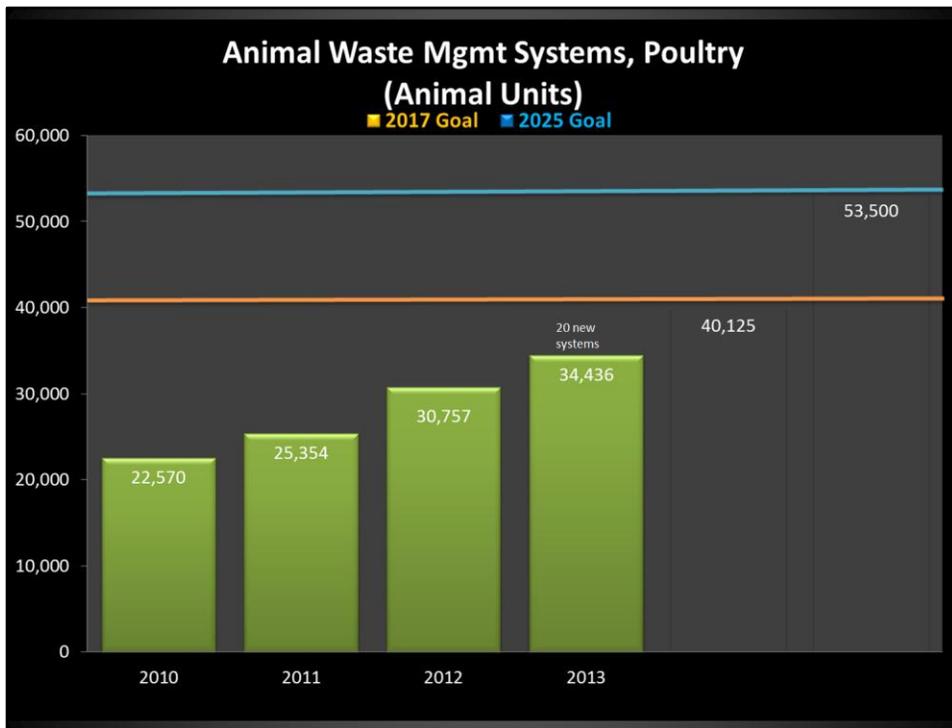
The practice of natural stream restoration is gaining acceptance as successful projects are available to demonstrate the effectiveness of this practice.



2013 Progress Implementation was 1248 Livestock AU's, or 19 total systems across 6 Bay counties.

We are working on revising the historical numbers. Ultimately we'll have a better record that reflects the actual number of livestock that have had this treatment applied.

An "animal unit" is 1000 lbs of animal weight. One animal unit is equal to 1.14 beef cows, but 455 broilers (chickens).



We are working on revising the historical numbers. Ultimately we'll have a better record that reflects the actual number of poultry that have had this treatment applied.

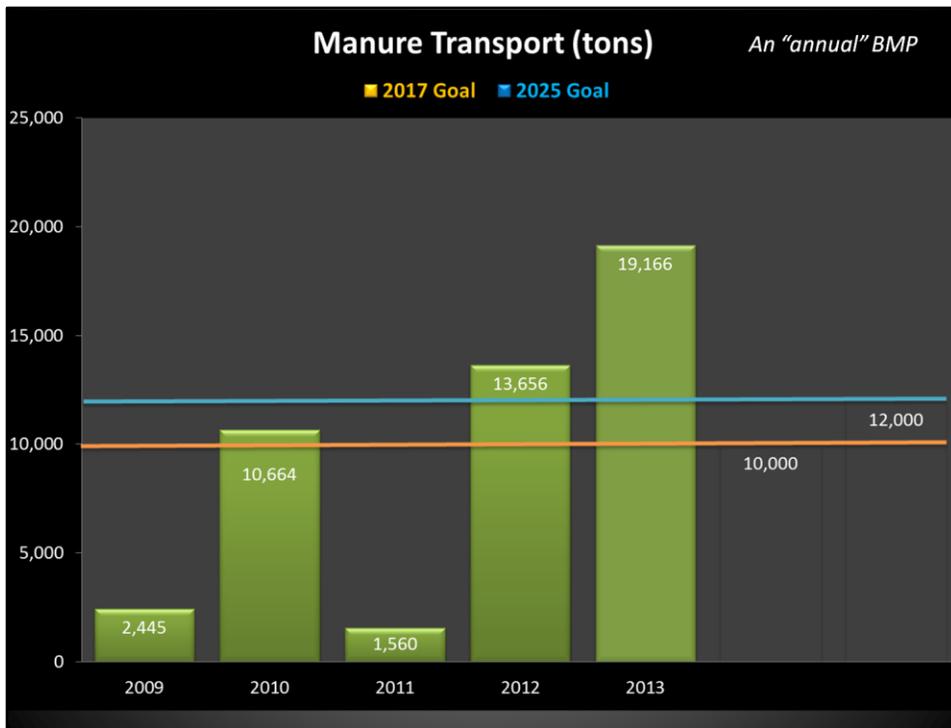
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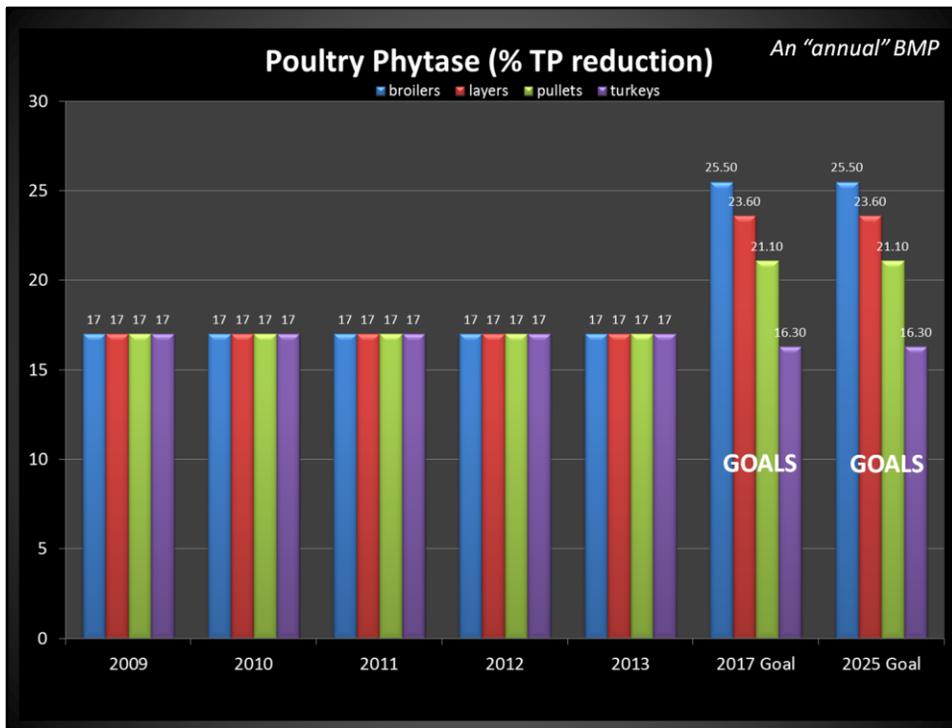
We are working on revising the historical numbers (data has been submitted to Chesapeake Bay Program but is not reflected in this chart yet). Ultimately we'll have a better record that reflects the actual number of poultry and livestock that have had this treatment applied.

Note: An "animal unit" is 1000 lbs of animal weight. One animal unit is equal to 1.14 beef cows, but 455 broilers (chickens).

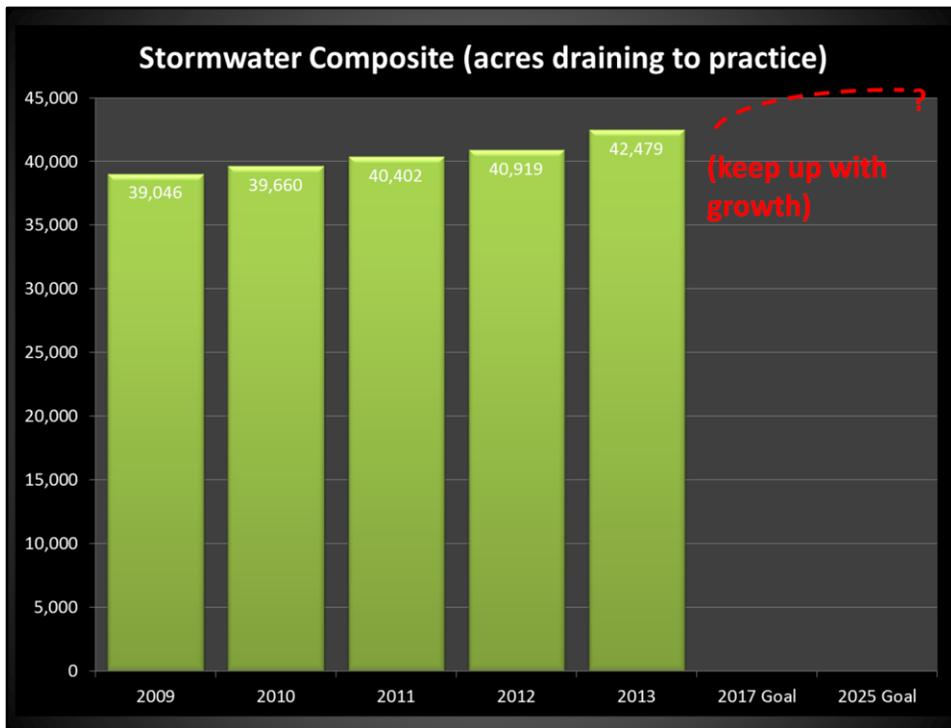
This is an important BMP in our strategy.



This data is reported annually and is not cumulative. Documenting Manure Transport each year can be challenging. There is no mandate for reporting, so attempts are made to contact NRCS County offices and as many transporters of litter as possible to obtain information that they have. It is estimated that actual manure transport numbers may be considerably higher than what is reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program each year.

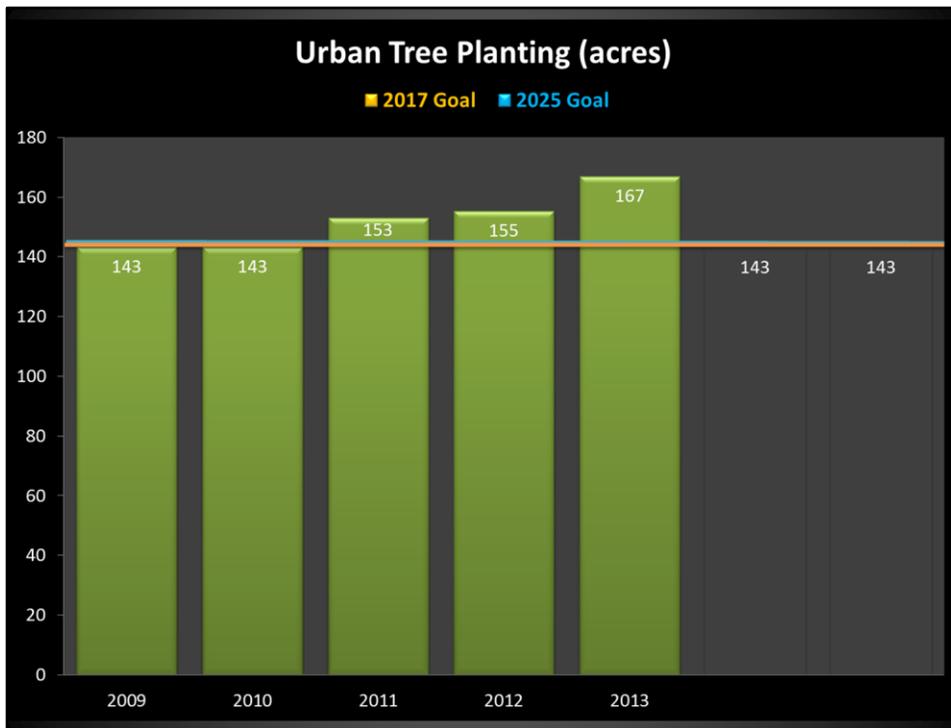


West Virginia poultry producers are using poultry phytase, a feed additive, for which we are currently given credit of 17% reduction of phosphorus, toward a 2013 goal of 24%. West Virginia laboratory data shows we have likely already achieved the 2013 milestone, and should receive appropriate credit once the laboratory data are accepted.



This composite measure includes wet ponds and wetlands, dry ponds, extended dry ponds, infiltration practices, filtering practices, and bioretention. These practices are being installed in new construction, and as retrofits on existing developed land including school grounds and voluntarily by homeowner groups and municipalities.

Developed Lands BMPs such as these stormwater management practices were not given numeric goals in the WIP, because the plan for this sector is to “hold the line” at levels indicated in the Ches. Bay Watershed Model’s 2010 “No-Action” Scenario. That is, despite the expectation that new homes, roads, and other impervious surfaces will be built in the coming years, we have prescribed no increase in loads generated from this sector. Stormwater BMPs on new developments will be tracked and reported to document whether we were able to control the runoff from these lands. Stormwater retrofits, tree plantings, and other strategies outlined in the WIP are being implemented to help meet this goal. In 2015, an assessment will be made to determine whether WV is on track to achieving this sector’s no-net-increase goal [from Spring 2013 newsletter article].



Urban Tree Canopy goals and urban tree planting recently have become priorities for many of our communities, thanks to the CommuniTree program of Cacapon Institute and its partners, the WV Division of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, WV Conservation Agency, and WV Division of Highways. This success is also thanks to many of you: teachers, students, watershed group members, City Council members, cemetery boards, etc. and we need every one of you! Our communities are experiencing the benefits including cleaner air, more shade, and less stormwater pollution [*adapted from UTC brochure*].



“Chesapeake STAT”
Stat.chesapeakebay.net

WV’s progress toward 2-year milestones is tracked online at ChesapeakeSTAT. “ChesapeakeStat provides information about Bay Program partner restoration activities, funding and progress toward goals. The information is displayed on a public website, stat.chesapeakebay.net.

The ChesapeakeStat website helps foster coordination among partners and improve government accountability. ChesapeakeStat reflects the Bay Program’s continuous process of analyzing data to assess progress toward goals” [from CBP website]. The Executive Council launched ChesapeakeStat in June 2010.

“Programmatic Milestones”

www.wvca.us/bay

“documents”

In addition to numeric amounts of each BMP planned in the WIP, the 2015 milestones also include programmatic actions. E.g., programmatic goals accomplished in 2012 include (developed lands sector) the completion of a statewide stormwater guidance manual and development of ordinances that would, if accepted, reduce runoff in Morgan and Jefferson Counties, Harpers Ferry, and Bolivar; (wastewater sector) installation of the new Frankfort PSD wastewater treatment plant in Mineral Co. and an upgrade to Shepherdstown’s plan to reduce nutrients; (agriculture) hiring of additional nutrient management planners and conducting outreach for agricultural producers [from March 2013 newsletter].