

AGNR

FIVE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Ensure a Clean and Healthy Chesapeake Bay



- **Safely apply fertilizer, manure, biosolids and other land-applied materials to protect water quality and soil health.**
- **Develop technologies in the built environment to protect and conserve water resources.**
- **Create environmentally aware communities to promote interest and participation in environmental stewardship.**

BACKGROUND: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As the primary agricultural research institution in Maryland, AGNR has played a critical role in supplying the knowledge to guide management strategies that reduce nutrient losses from agricultural activities while maintaining economic viability and environmental sustainability. Managing the surface waters in built and natural environments is an area of strength and growth for the University. However, intensification of agricultural production driven by a growing human population and an increasingly globalized food system presents future challenges for maintaining the beneficial uses of the largest estuary in the U.S.

AREAS OF FOCUS

The key to restoring the Chesapeake Bay lies in developing land use management strategies that minimize the transport of sediment, nutrients, and other contaminants into aquatic ecosystems. The health of non-tidal waters and the Chesapeake Bay depend on improved land use practices. While AGNR has been involved in research, Extension, and education efforts in agriculture since the beginning of the Bay restoration effort, more recently, the college's focus has expanded to include research, Extension, and education activities related to developed land use. Balancing agricultural, environmental, and human uses of the Bay in a sustainable way is our primary focus for the Chesapeake Bay and the watersheds that flow into it.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Our goal is to increase the impact of AGNR in the areas of teaching, research, and Extension in all areas of our strategic initiative. We will work collaboratively, both within and outside of our college, growing our network and creating sustainable teams to implement our goals. These teams bring strength in people, expertise, and facilities that will develop strategies to ensure that the Chesapeake Bay is both clean and healthy.



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TAKING ACTION

In 2019, we plan to:

- Host a Global Challenges event focused on the Chesapeake Bay.
- Facilitate a workshop on nutrient management and water quality.
- Develop an I-series course on watershed management.
- Create an inventory of AGNR faculty & staff involved in this strategic initiative.
- Increase collaborations and create an integrated research and Extension plan.

