



2017 Special Topic Scenario

"Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship- Progress through Planning"

Rise and Shine Farms is located in Sussex County and consists of 500 acres of cropland and six poultry houses. The farm is located along the Nanticoke River and the soils are primarily loamy sands with gently sloping topography. The cropping rotation is corn and soybeans using a conventional tillage system. Several of the fields are artificially drained by ditches which flow to the Nanticoke River. Six poultry houses were added to the farming operation last year. The cropland and poultry headquarters is separated from the Nanticoke River by a forested floodplain. The farm is also located near a developing area where new homes and businesses are increasing each year.

Continued attention to water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay region and their recent addition of poultry houses to the farming operation has prompted the operators of Rise and Shine Farms to visit the Sussex County Conservation District to inquire about installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their farm. Rise and Shine Farms would like a Conservation Plan developed for their farm that will identify the resource concerns and provide recommendations to address those resource concerns. Rise and Shine Farms would like to mitigate their impact to water quality, maintain their profitability, and be good neighbors and stewards of the land

As a Conservation Planner, you will develop a conservation plan for Rise and Shine Farms keeping the nine steps of planning in mind. The plan should identify two resource concerns on the farm for both the cropland and the poultry operation. The plan should identify and prioritize the BMPs to address those resource concerns and highlight the benefits to water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, and the community.