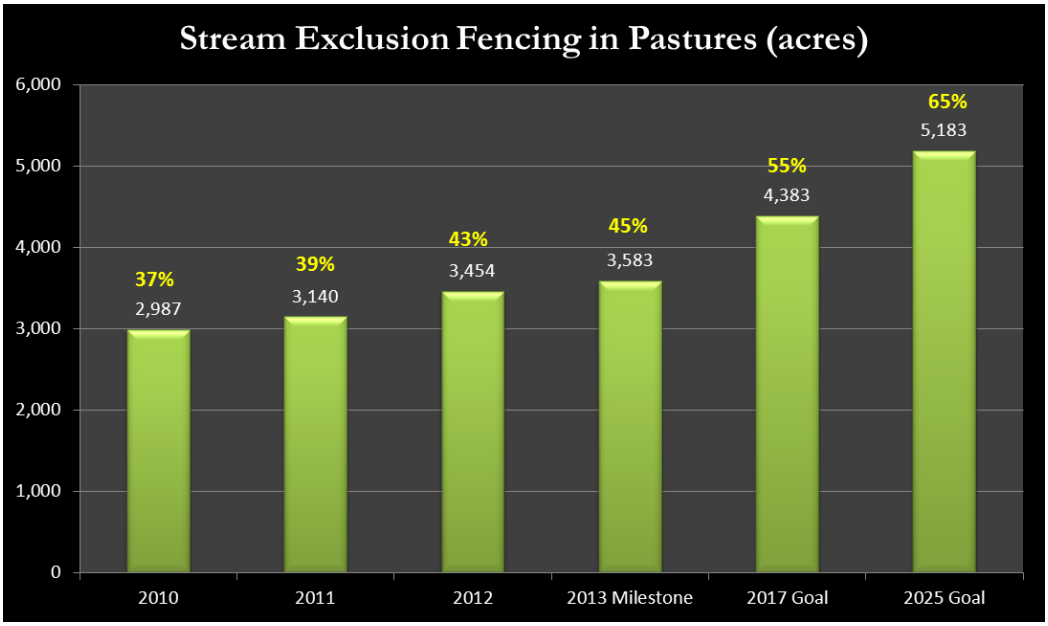
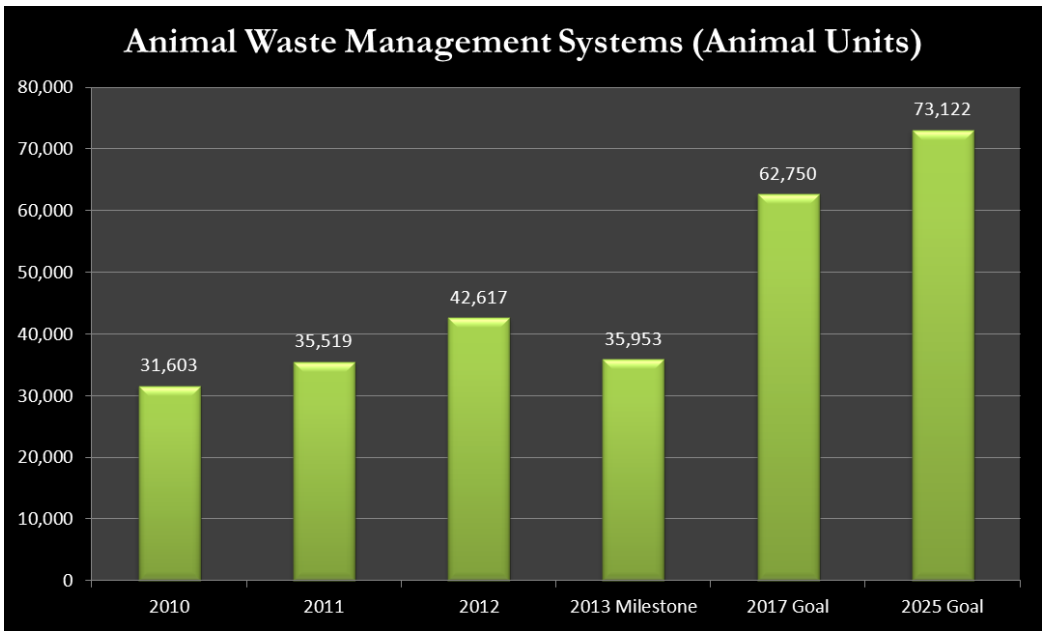
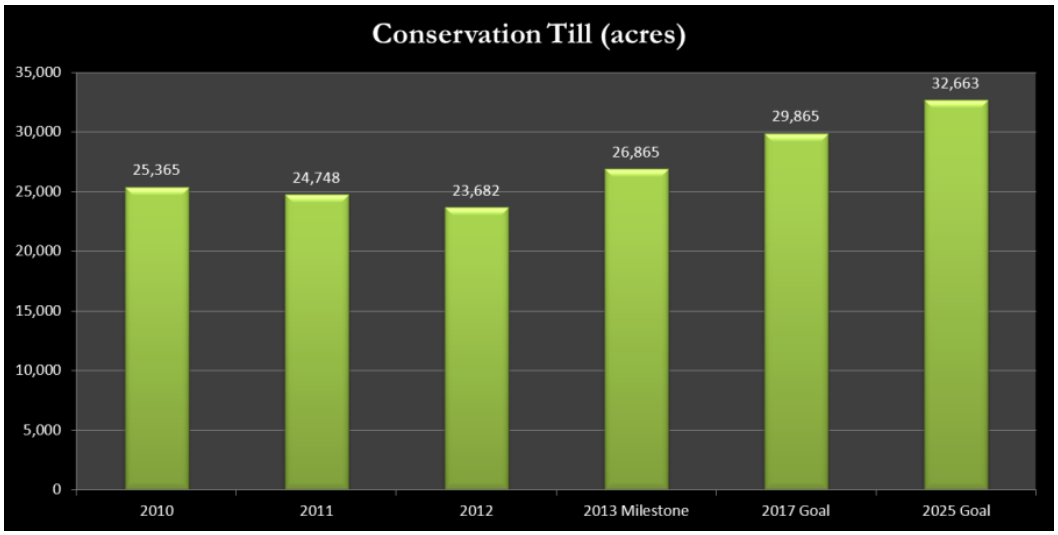
# West Virginia's Progress Toward 2013 Two-year Milestones

Submitted by Alana Hartman, WVDEP

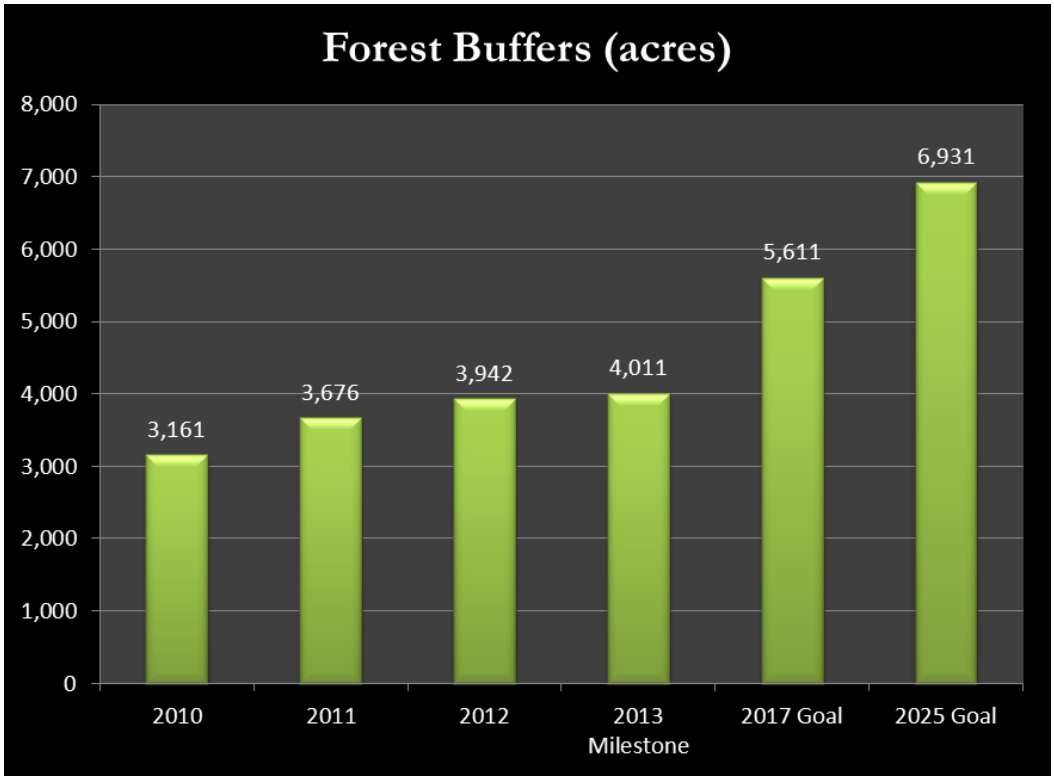
West Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reaching the Chesapeake Bay contains many long-term goals to be implemented by 2017 and 2025. How can we be sure we are on track to reaching those goals? Two-year milestones are the answer. Progress toward West Virginia's 2-year milestones is tracked online at ChesapeakeStat. Currently, this website contains an analysis of West Virginia's progress during the 2009-2011 milestone period (that first one was a three-year period). We recently completed our annual reporting of Best Management Practice (BMP) numbers to the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the results show that West Virginia is making significant progress toward our 2013 milestones. For example, looking at the top six agriculture BMPs in our WIP, we are doing very well as of 2012:

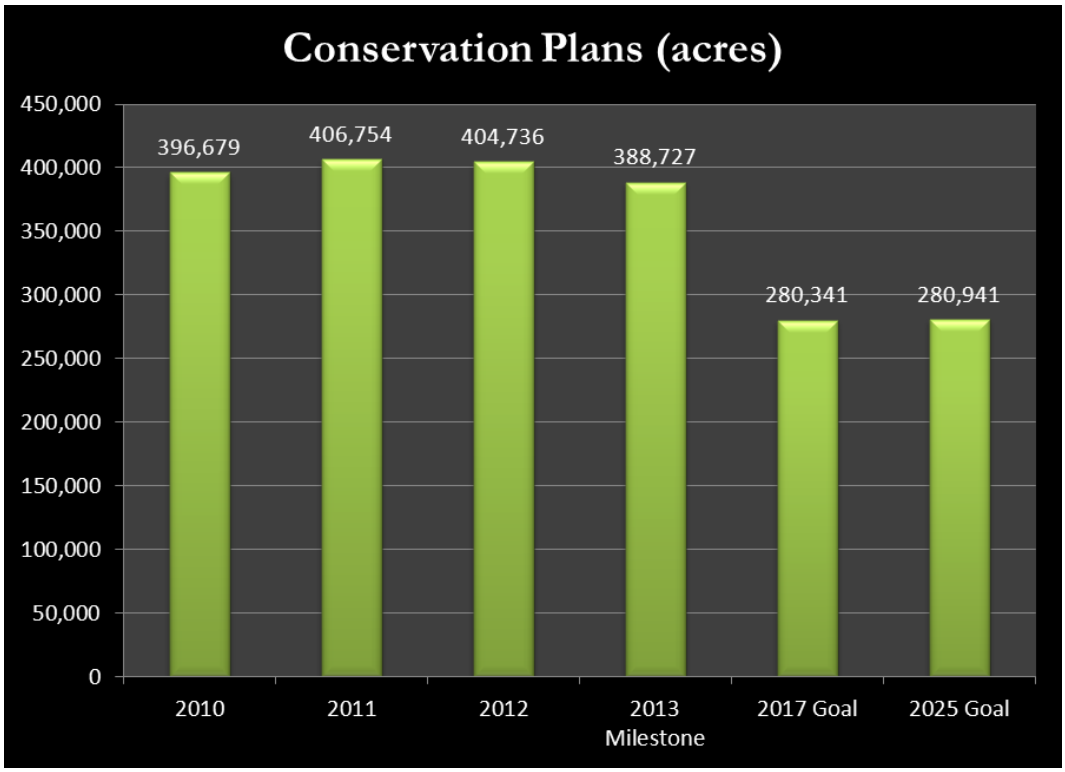


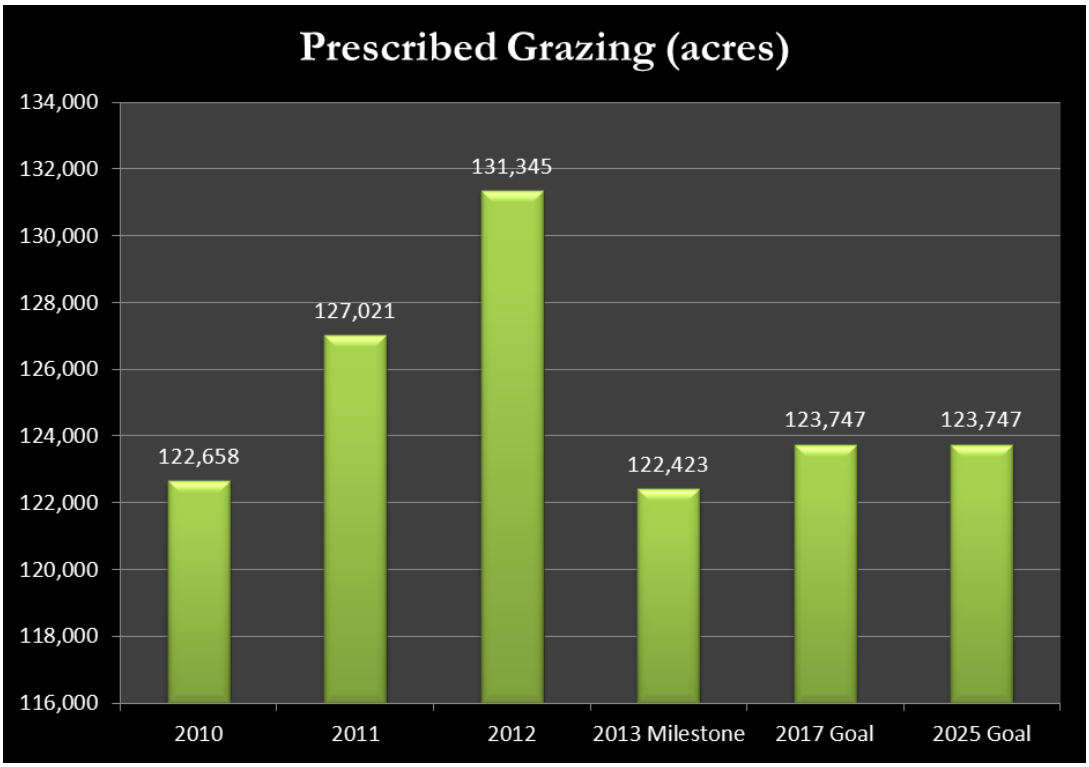






Previous estimates of Conservation Till acreage were optimistic. We've reduced the reported numbers in an effort to reflect actual acres in conservation tillage on a year to year basis.



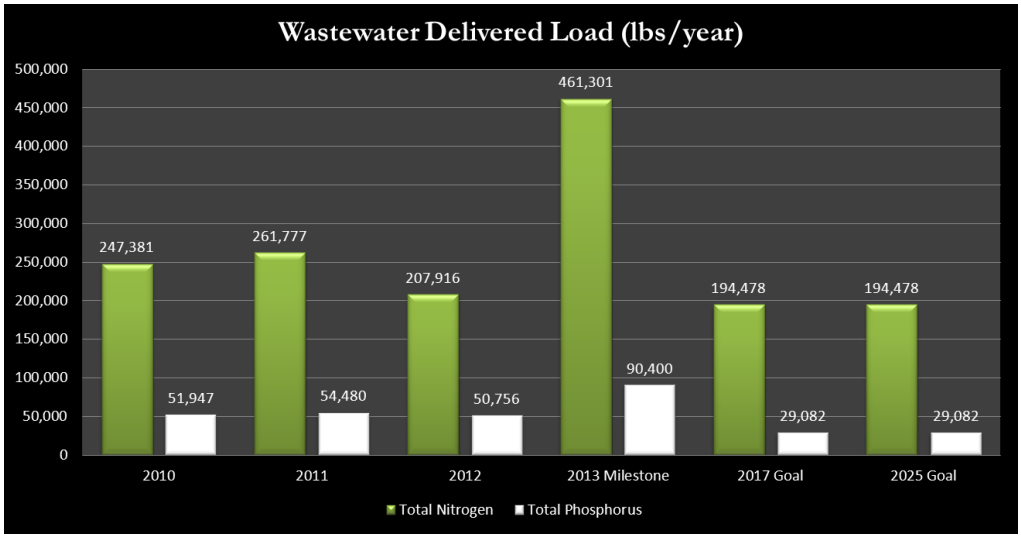



We are also well on our way toward achieving our 2025 goal of having nutrient management plans (NMPs) on 90,000 agricultural acres, with 53,610 acres having NMPs in 2012. West Virginia Department of Agriculture recently brought on two additional nutrient management planners to further accelerate progress toward this goal. In addition, 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.

Wastewater treatment plant goals are measured in pounds per year of each pollutant, total nitrogen and total phosphorus, "delivered" to, or reaching the Chesapeake Bay. The 2012 results indicate West Virginia is already meeting the 2013 milestones for wastewater treatment plants:




Developed lands BMPs such as stormwater management practices are not given numeric goals in the WIP, because the plan for this sector is to "hold the line" at levels indicated in the Chesapeake 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 planting, 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 West Virginia is on track to achieving this sector's no-net-increase goal.

In addition to numeric amounts of each BMP planned in the WIP, the 2013 milestones also include programmatic actions. Programmatic goals accomplished in the developed lands sector in 2012 include the completion of a statewide stormwater guidance manual and development of stormwater ordinances that would, if accepted, reduce runoff in Morgan and Jefferson Counties, Harpers Ferry and Bolivar. Programmatic milestones achieved in the wastewater sector include the installation of the new Frankfort PSD wastewater treatment plant in Mineral County and an upgrade to Shepherdstown's plant to reduce nutrients. Agriculture milestones achieved include the hiring of additional nutrient management planners mentioned above, and conducting outreach events for agricultural producers. This edition of the newsletter contains more information about several of these initiatives.

This first analysis of 2012 progress toward 2013 milestones is very promising. In the coming weeks, we will further document, analyze, and publicize our progress with other BMPs and in relation to our sediment goals. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s website: "The two-year milestones represent key check-in points on the way to having all pollution reduction measures in place by 2025 to restore the Bay and its tidal rivers, with controls in place by 2017 that would achieve 60 percent of the necessary reductions. The milestones are a critical part of an

accountability framework agreed upon by EPA and the jurisdictions to assure progress." They also help us as state agency and nonprofit partners to gage what programs and efforts are working best, and which could use more impetus.