On Farm Conservation Practices

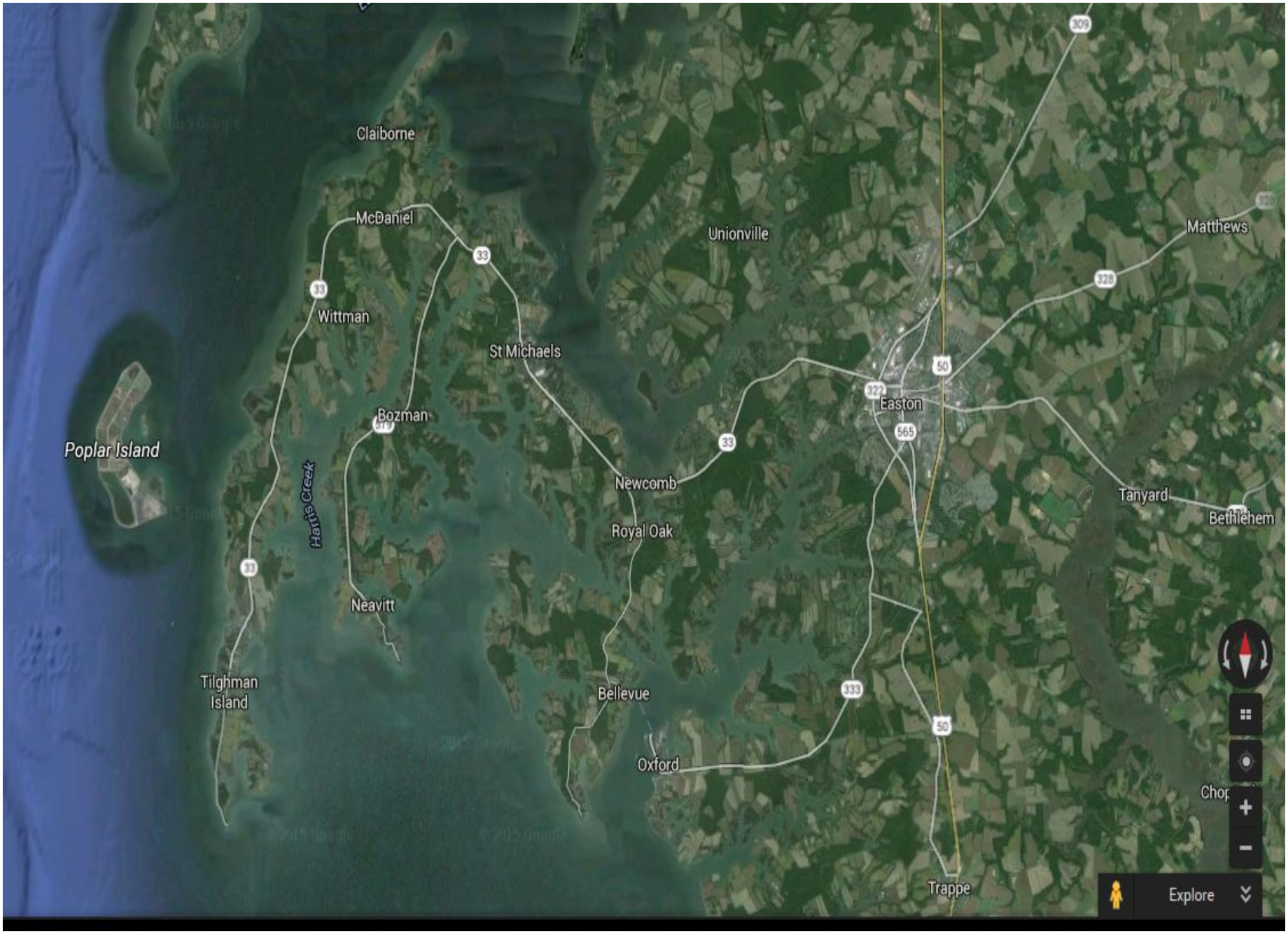
November 2015

Presentation to:

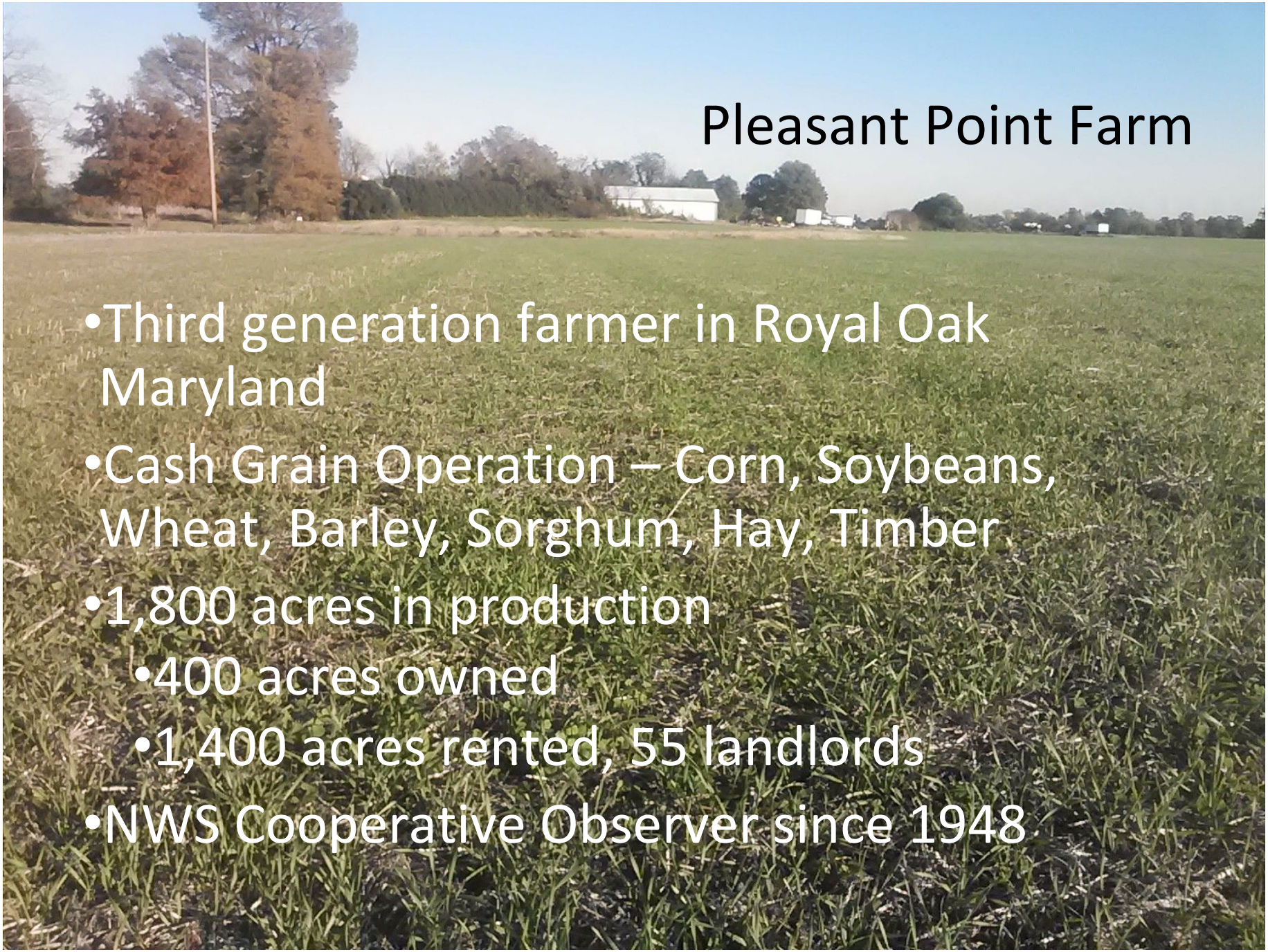
Agriculture and Environmental Law Conference

John Swaine, III
Talbot Soil Conservation District
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts


Baltimore
Maryland
Annapolis
Washington, D.C.
Galesville
St. Michaels
Delaware
Oxford
Cambridge
Chesapeake Bay
Solomons
Potomac River
Smith Island
Crisfield
Virginia
Atlantic Ocean


Claiborne
McDaniel
Wittman
St Michaels
Unionville
Matthews
Bozman
Poplar Island
Harris Creek
Newcomb
Royal Oak
Easton
Tanyard
Bethlehem
Neavitt
Tilghman Island
Bellevue
Oxford
Trappe
Explore
309
33
328
50
565
333


Pleasant Point Farm
Bellevue Rd
Bellevue Rd

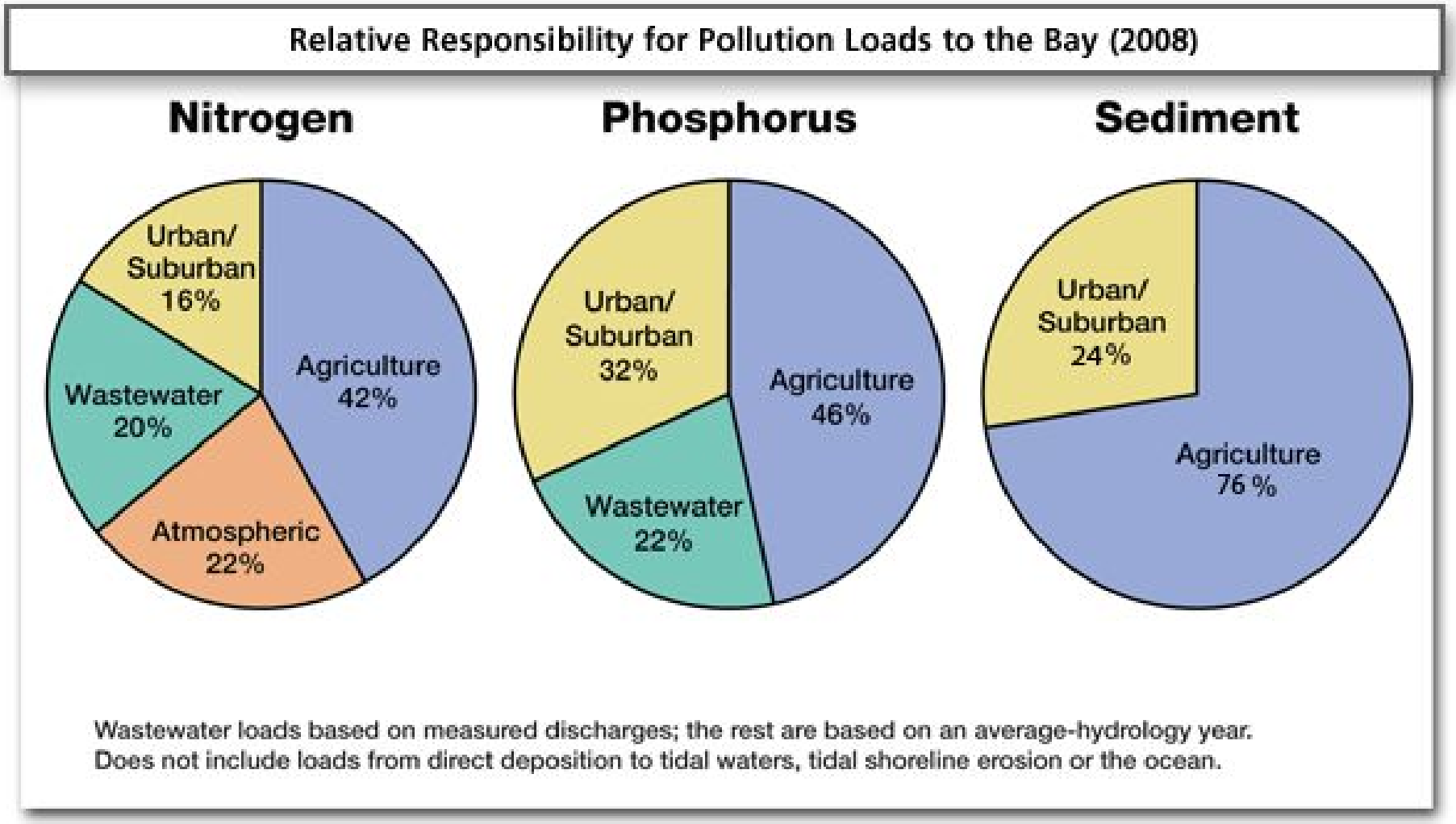

Pleasant Point Farm
•Third generation farmer in Royal Oak Maryland
•Cash Grain Operation – Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Barley, Sorghum, Hay, Timber
•1,800 acres in production
•400 acres owned
•1,400 acres rented, 55 landlords
•NWS Cooperative Observer since 1948

John Swaine III

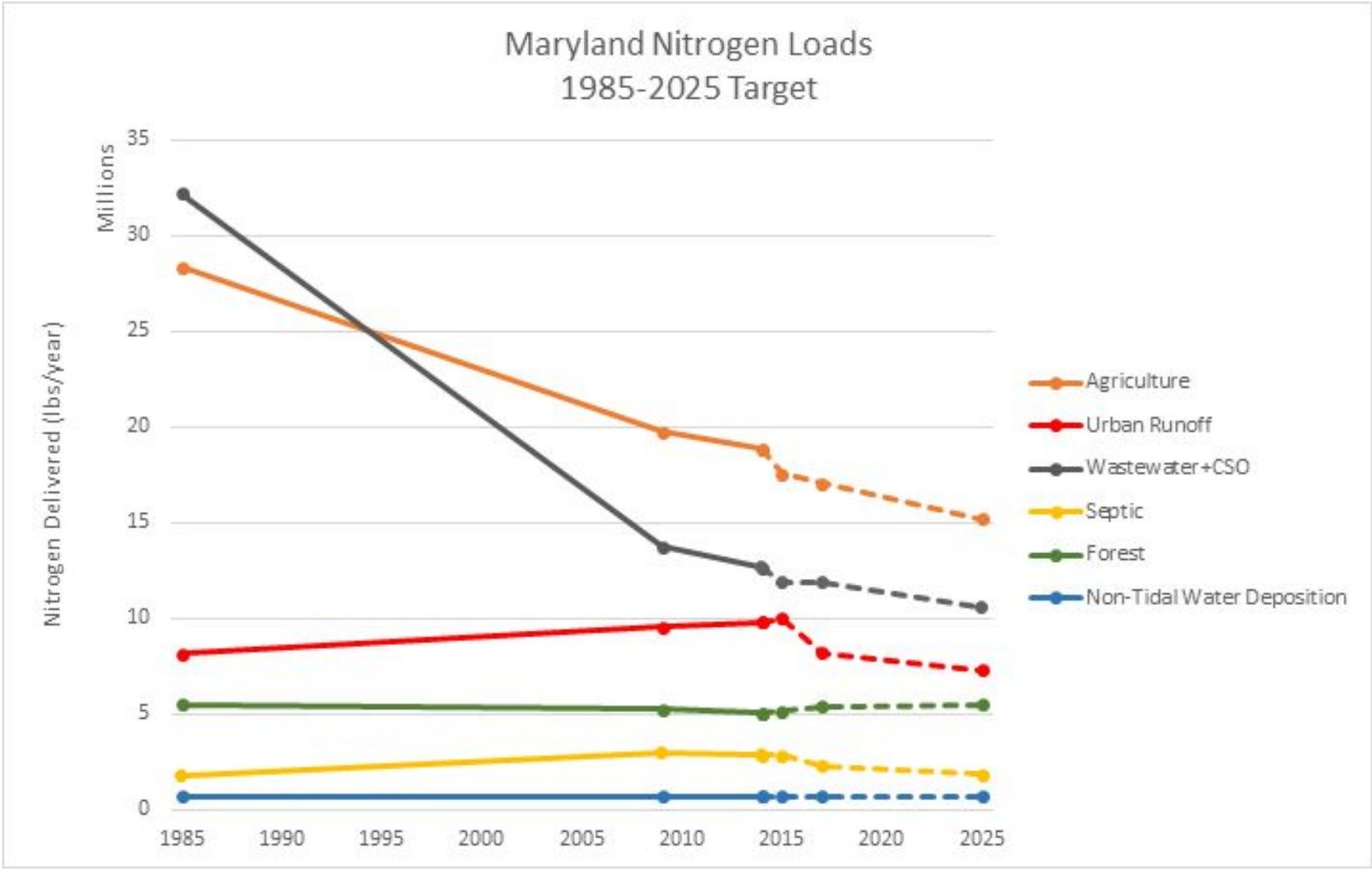
- Bachelor's of Science, Agronomy, University of Maryland
- Certified Crop Advisor, Nutrient Management Consultant, Pest Control Consultant and Pesticide Applicator
- Provide advisory and service to:
  - Talbot Soil Conservation District – 27 years
    - 15 years as Chairman
  - State Soil Conservation Committee
  - Talbot Farm Bureau
  - Talbot Weed Control
  - Talbot Agronomy Program
  - Talbot Ag Preservation Advisory Board
  - Easton Ruritan Club – 28 years


Conservation and Farming

Nutrient and Sediment Loads by Sector

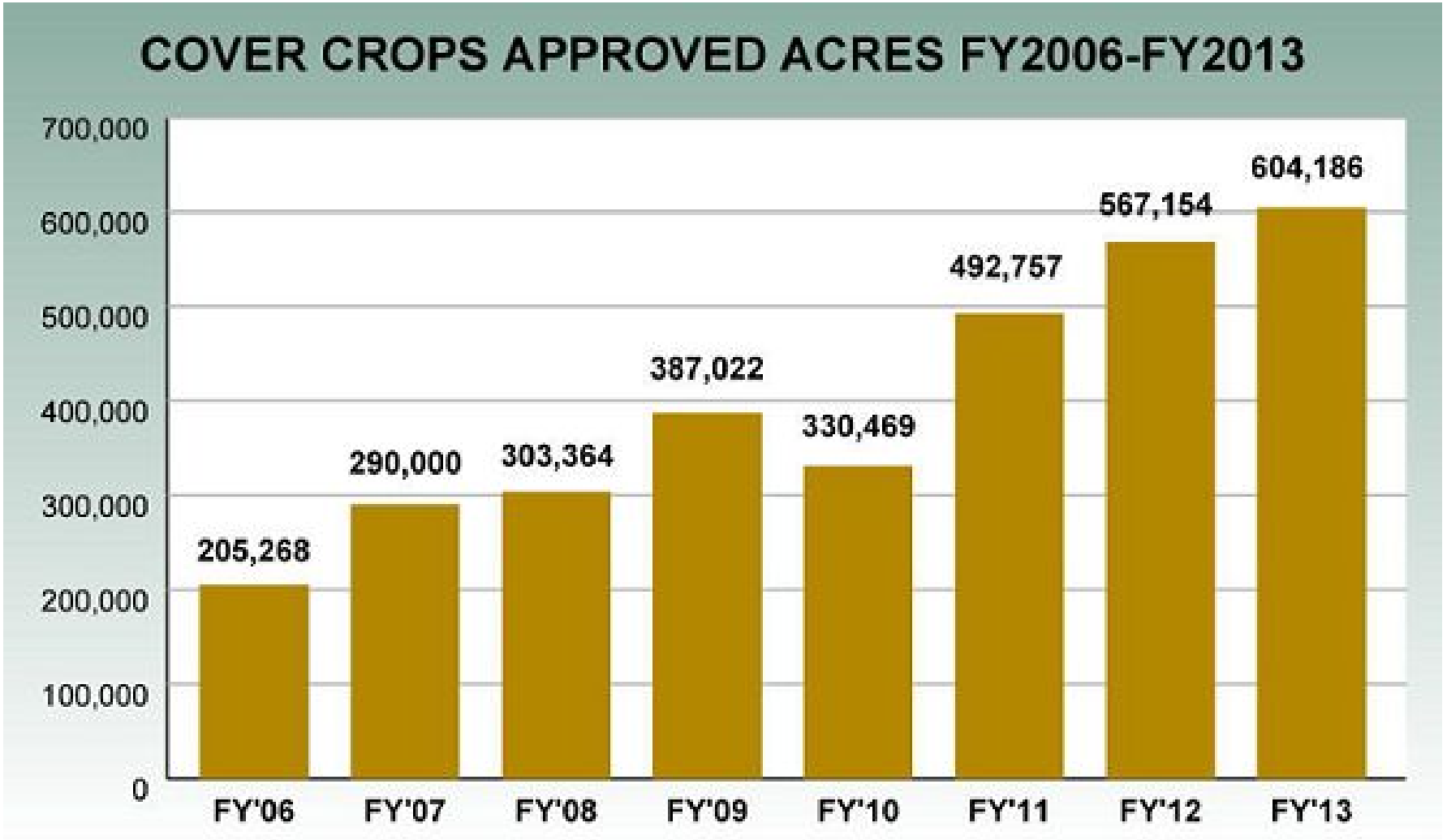


Nitrogen Reduction in Maryland



Maryland's Cover Crop Acreage

(Total cropland 1.1 m Acres)



CHESAPEAKE BAY MILESTONES July 2013 through June 2015

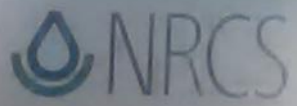
Where We Stand: Halfway Point—Two Year Milestone Progress/Agricultural Sources

MILESTONE	Goal Implementation by June 30, 2015	Status As of June 30, 2014	Percent of Milestone Achieved
Cover Crops	Plant 386,007 acres annually	410,530* acres planted during 2013-2014 planting season	106%
Retirement of Highly Erodible Land	Retire 973 acres of highly erodible land by 2015	832 acres retired and planted with protective vegetation	86%
Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans	Develop plans for 926,207 acres by 2015	933,965 acres planned	101%
Streamside Forest Buffers	Plant 353 acres of forest buffers next to streams by 2015	356 acres planted	100%
Streamside Grassed Buffers	Plant 866 acres of grassed buffers next to streams by 2015	1,038 acres planted	119%
Waste Storage Structures/ Livestock	Construct 55 livestock waste storage structures by 2015	47 structures installed	85%
Waste Storage Structures/ Poultry	Construct 12 poultry waste storage structures by 2015	15 structures installed	125%

**Statewide, 423,212 acres of cover crops were planted on land both in and out of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed during the 2013-2014 planting season.*

Conservation Plan

John Swaine III
Pleasant Point
Farm



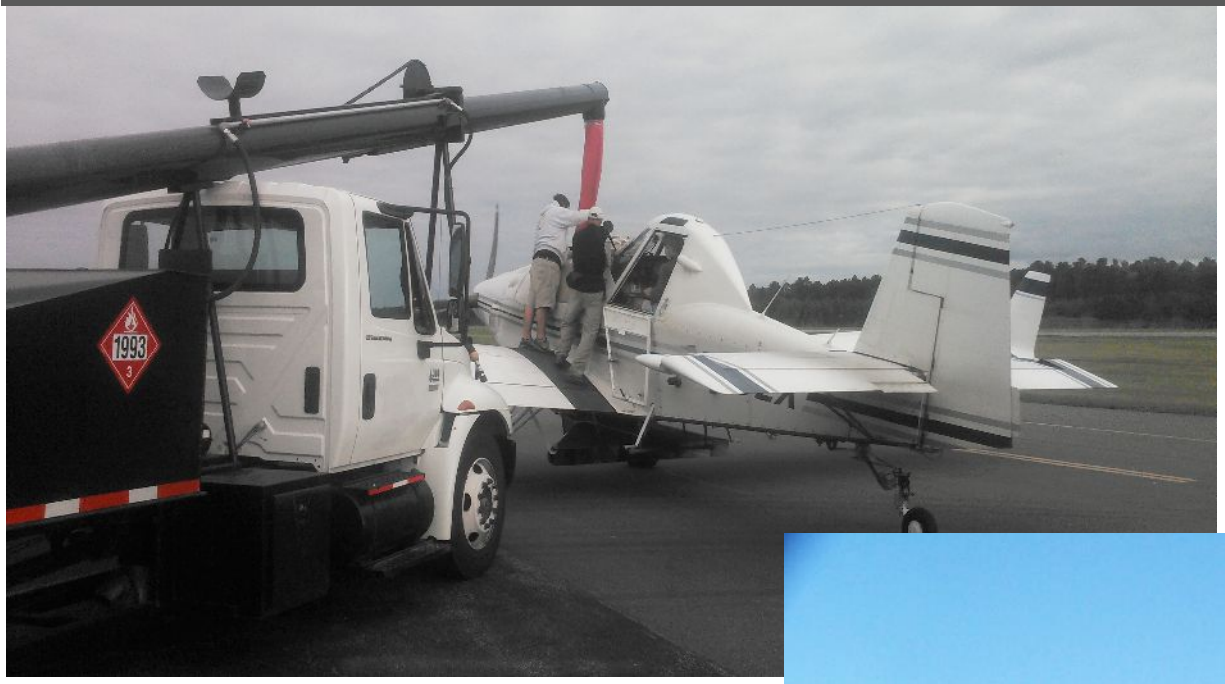
Natural Resources Conservation Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Cover Crops


Cover
Crops...
Protecting
the Bay

Cover Crops



Talbot Soil Conservation District – Cost Shared BMPs

BEFORE

After

Grass Waterway

Tree Buffer CREP

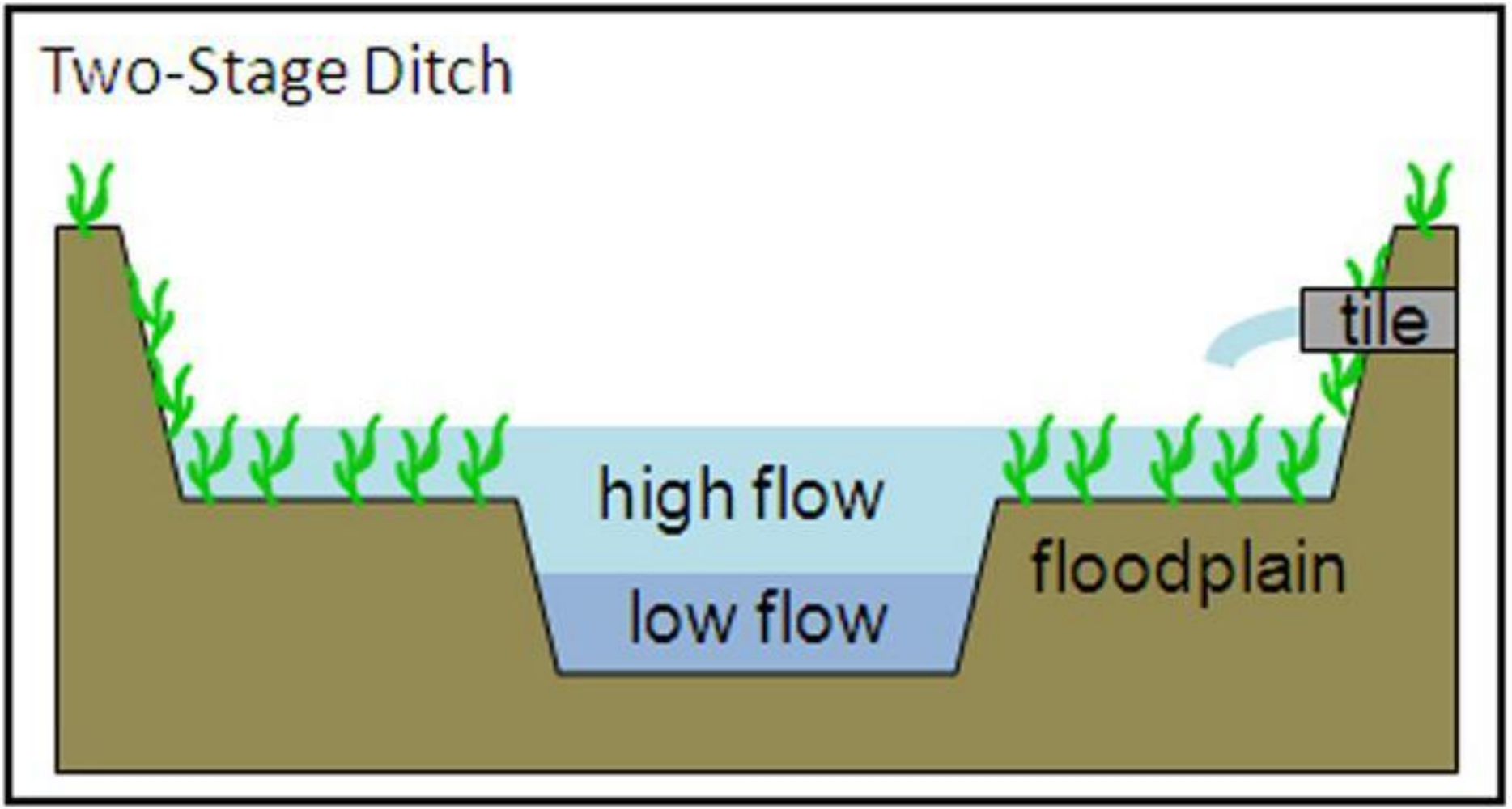
CREP Buffer

Wetland Restoration

Ag Chemical Handling Facility

On Farm Fertilizer Storage

Increase in Voluntary Efforts




ST. MICHAELS VENTURES
DEERE
120D

Agricultural Concerns

- Loss of Poultry Industry and Loss of Poultry Litter as Fertilizer
- Accuracy and timeframe to improve Bay Model
- Cost-effectiveness of Ag BMPs
- Additional Mandatory Programs
- Loss of Competiveness in Production

Take Home Suggestions

- Be Prepared
- Establish tracking and reporting of practices
- Get involved – everyone has a role.
- Establish partnerships to work collaboratively
- Get your land-grants on board to defend current practices and quantify water quality benefits