

# 2023 Virtual Conservation District and PA Agency Ag Meeting April 3 & 6, 2023

## Breakout Questions

TOPIC: Collaboration and Problem Solving: *We Want to Hear from You*

We will be using Jamboard to lead discussion and collect feedback during the breakout sessions. Jamboard is a digital whiteboard that lets you collaborate in real time using either the Jamboard device (a 55-inch digital whiteboard that works with G Suite services), web browser or mobile app.

### Part 1: Questions to Prompt Discussion (20 mins)

1. What are your ag practice priorities and what challenges do you face trying to meet them? What gaps need to be addressed and by whom? (This can be funding, technical assistance, partnership building, etc.) (5min)
2. In what ways can we leverage partnerships and programs to produce future projects and collaboration that provide the best value to ag best management practice implementation efforts? What kind of partnerships or resources do you need to reach your goals? (5min)
3. What's working? What existing or ongoing efforts are already contributing to your successful projects and have potential for scale-up to expand impact? (5min)
4. How can state and federal agencies enhance their role? How might these agencies need to think differently in delivering its programs to best fit your needs? Please provide constructive feedback and ideas so that we can better support ongoing ag practice implementation efforts led by you and your partners. (5min)

### Part 2: Let's discuss PA in the Balance (30 min)

*The full 2-page outcomes summary from the December 2022 PA in the Balance meeting can be found on the 2023 Ag Meeting course page on the PA Clean Water Academy*

Goal: to develop highly functional systems to accelerate efficient, effective, and high impact conservation implementation on Pennsylvania farms

The Need: Over the last year, historic state and federal investments have been made to support Pennsylvania agriculture in implementing conservation practices that improve farm operations and water quality. These investments present a tremendous opportunity, but require rapid development of a policy and resource framework to ensure efficient and effective delivery to benefit producers and meet conservation objectives across the Commonwealth.

Based on the 3 pillars: momentum, risk management, and mitigation, 5 recommendations were made at the December PA in Balance meeting. We will go through each and discuss opportunities.

1. Streamline the conservation funding delivery system
2. Invest in workforce development and training to position Pennsylvania as the nation's career and innovation hub for agricultural and natural resources conservation.
3. Support local partnership and implementation coordination to ensure resources are deployed efficiently and tailored to local needs.
4. Extend the agricultural and conservation partnership network to businesses and corporations.
5. Position Pennsylvania partnerships for climate-smart commodities as centers for innovation and market development.