

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

3.1.12

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (MAB)

Purpose

Management Assistance Best Management Practices (MAB) is intended to provide practical and technically feasible support to participating farms in addressing known resource concerns through temporary, adaptive, or management-oriented measures while longer-term BMP solutions are awaiting prioritization.

MAB is designed to:

- Reduce water quality or operational risk;
- Improve farm management conditions;
- Support implementation readiness;
- Encourage adaptive management and innovation;
- Provide lower-cost interim assistance where full BMP implementation is not yet feasible.

MAB's are not intended to replace permanent BMPs, implementation or USDA NRCS conservation practices, but to supplement and support the broader Whole Farm Planning process.

General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for MAB, the following conditions must be met:

- Farm must be an active WAP participant in good standing;
- Proposed activities must be related to resource concerns already identified within the Whole Farm Plan or associated planning documents (i.e., NMP);
- Resource concern cannot be newly created or intentionally caused;
- Farm participant must be willing to actively support implementation, including contributing labor, tools, operational changes, access, or other reasonable assistance;
- Proposed effort must be technically justifiable and reasonably expected to improve management conditions, reduce risk, or support future Best Management Practices implementation.

Approval of MAB projects is at the discretion of the Agricultural Program Manager.

Project Criteria

- Maximum WAP contribution shall not exceed \$5,000 per project;
- Projects may utilize temporary, creative, adaptive, or non-standard approaches;
- USDA NRCS practice standards may inform implementation but are not required to be fully met;
- Staff and participants acknowledge that adaptive learning may occur during implementation;
- Participants will be expected to reasonably operate and maintain the project or management approach as feasible with continued technical support from WAP staff;
- MAB efforts may be advanced proactively by staff similar to repair or management recommendations where conditions warrant timely intervention.