

The Performance-based Environmental Policies for Agriculture (PEPA) Initiative



Working with Watersheds

A goal of this National Facilitation project is to help develop recommendations, at the watershed-level, for the use of performance-based incentives with farmers, stakeholders, agency staff, and scientists in watersheds across the U.S. This flyer provides brief information on the selection criteria being used to identify watersheds that may be good candidates for participation.

Watershed Selection Criteria

Watersheds that represent good candidates for developing recommendations for performance-based incentives should have the following:

- an agricultural-water quality issue that is widely acknowledged, including by farmers;
- the desire to find alternative and more cost-effective solutions to the issue;
- an existing watershed group, with adequate farmer participation, that is addressing the issue; and
- current water quality monitoring efforts are preferable, but not necessary.

Process for Developing Recommendations

For watersheds that are interested in exploring the use of performance-based incentives for agricultural pollution control, our project provides planning and a process for creating science-based, stakeholder-driven recommendations. Our process for facilitating the development of watershed-level recommendations includes the following steps. This process is described in much greater detail in *Developing Performance-based Incentives for Agricultural Pollution Control*, which can be downloaded from www.flexincentives.com or requested from our project.

1. Assembling a group of not more than 25 people, including farmers, agency staff, and scientists;
2. Convening 3 meetings over 3-6 months during which we identify performance measure(s) and targets, incentive mechanisms, other program details; and
3. Writing a formal recommendation and creating a plan for pilot-testing.

Get Involved

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about performance-based incentives or discuss organizing a presentation in your watershed.

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We are currently pilot-testing the use of performance-based incentives in Iowa and Vermont. Additional information on this can be found at www.flexincentives.com.

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