

*Division of Soil and Water Conservation*

## ***Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Advisory Group***

# ***Updates on Agricultural Initiatives***

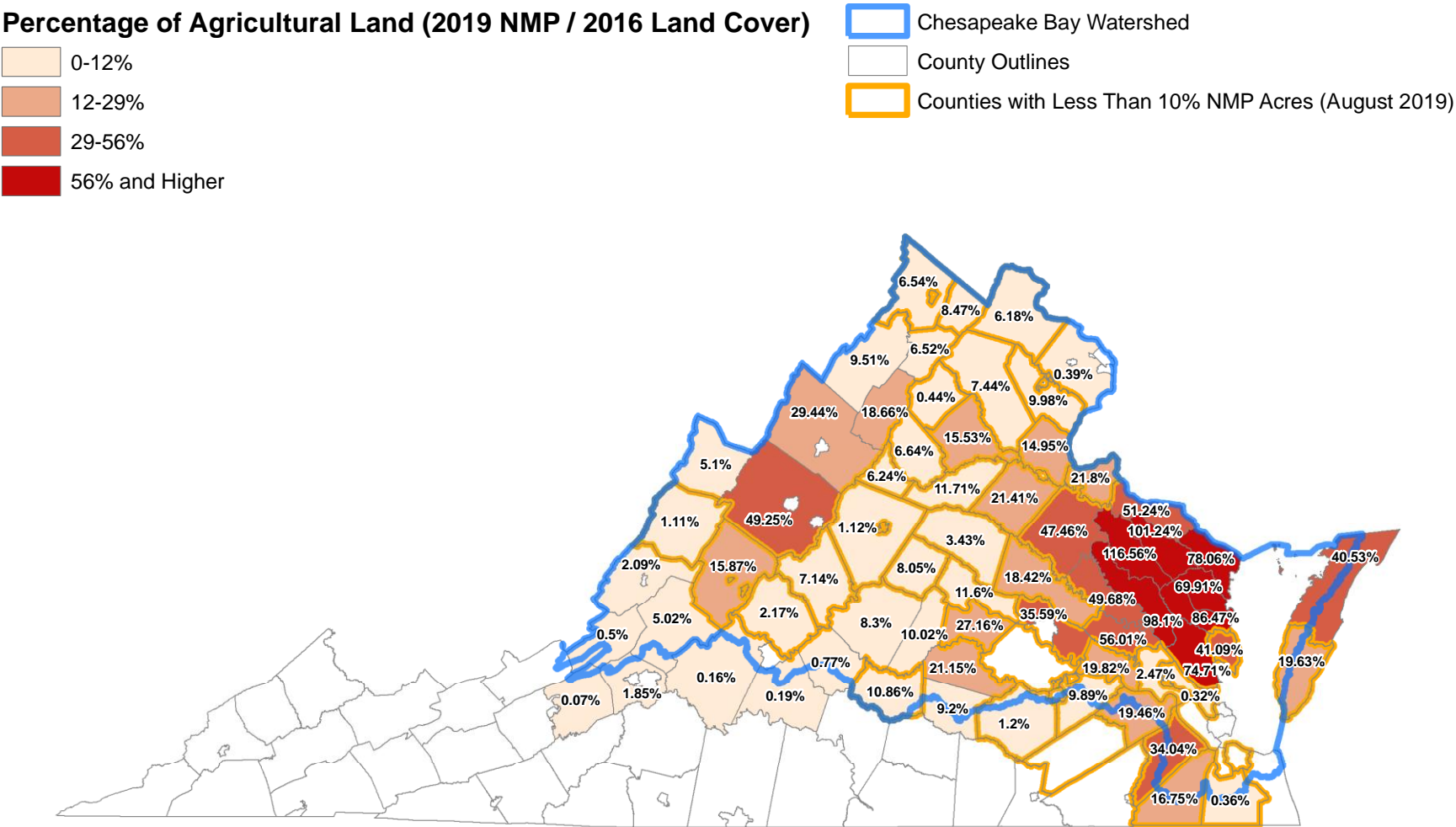
***October 28, 2020***



# Nutrient Management on Agricultural Land

- NMP Direct Pay for 37 localities with less than 10% of all agricultural acres under NMP (crop, hay, pasture) in 2019 – 3 yr. NMPs
- EPA \$469K Grant for Direct Pay NMP only covers 9 of these 37
  - Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Rappahannock, & Shenandoah
- 29 participating Private Sector Planners – 46K acres by Oct 2020
- NMP coverage on Bay cropland ~ 50% (426K acres in FY2019 – Virginia cost share & tax credits)
- Will revise target list periodically based on progress towards 852K acres

# Percentage of Agricultural Land - 2019 Nutrient Management Data / 2016 Land Cover Data



# Percentage of Cropland - 2019 Nutrient Management Data / 2016 Land Cover Data

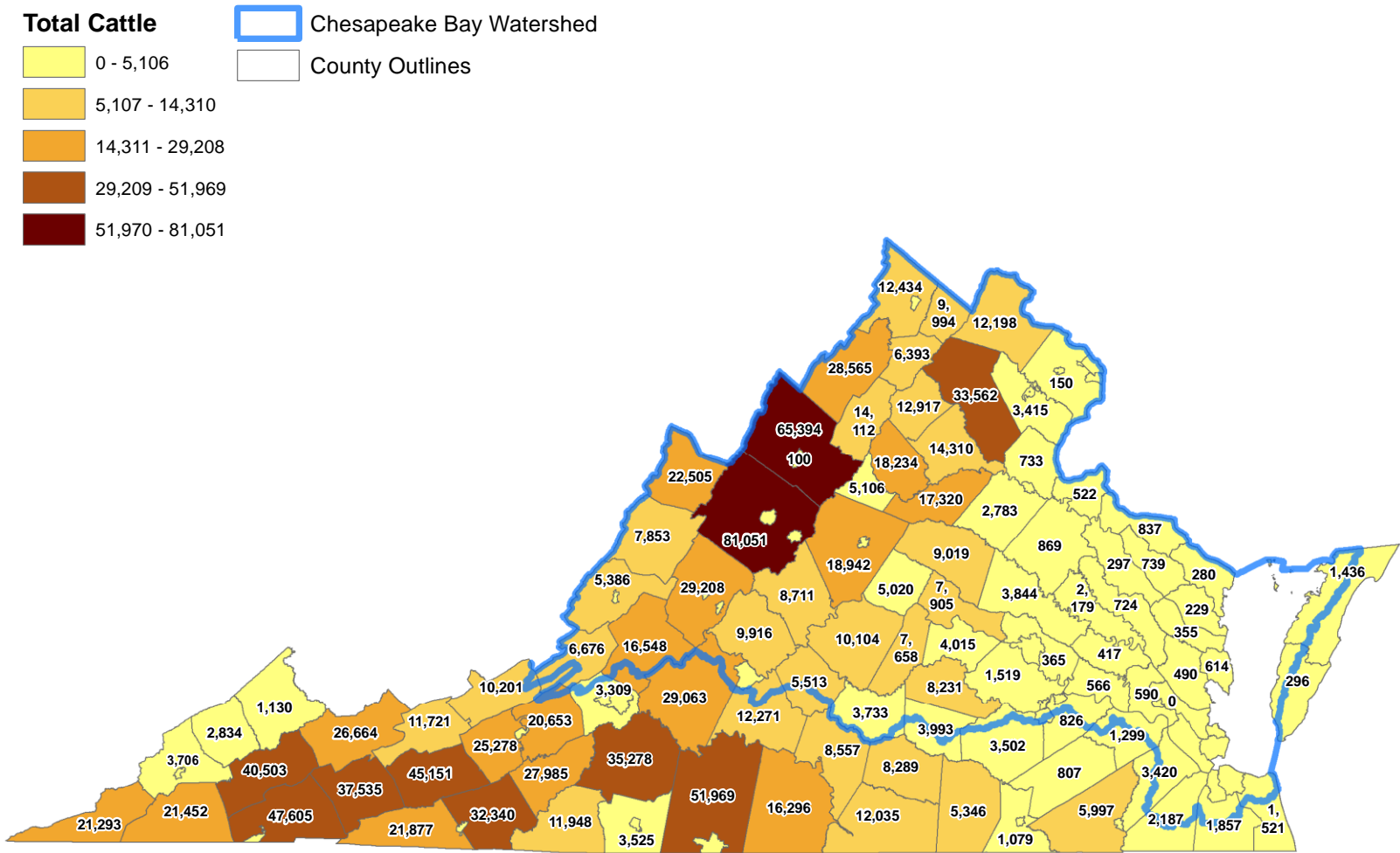


# EPA Most Effective Basin Grant

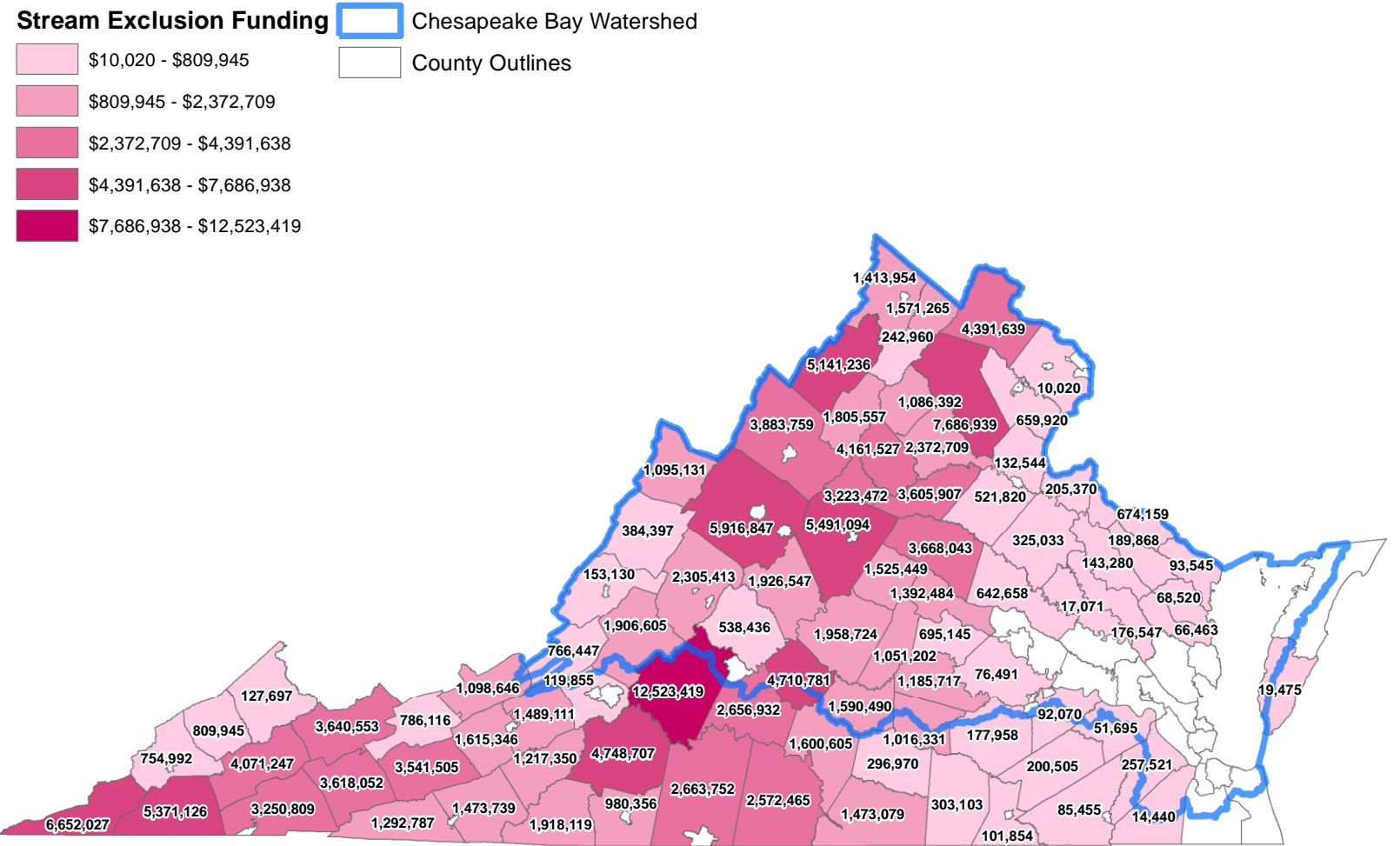
- Supplemental Bay Program Grant (Oct - awaiting EPA approval)
- \$1.1 million BMPs + \$130K technical assistance for SWCDs
- EPA selected Bay side of Eastern Shore, NNeck Great Wicomico
- Shore – Whole Farm Approach (WFA) on cropland w/RMP
  - Highly successful pilot in Three Rivers SWCD (95+% enrollment)
  - WFA bundles NMP core or (optional) enhanced, cover crops in one contract
  - Must be implemented on entire farm to qualify
- NNeck – Significant cropland erosion mitigation w/RMP



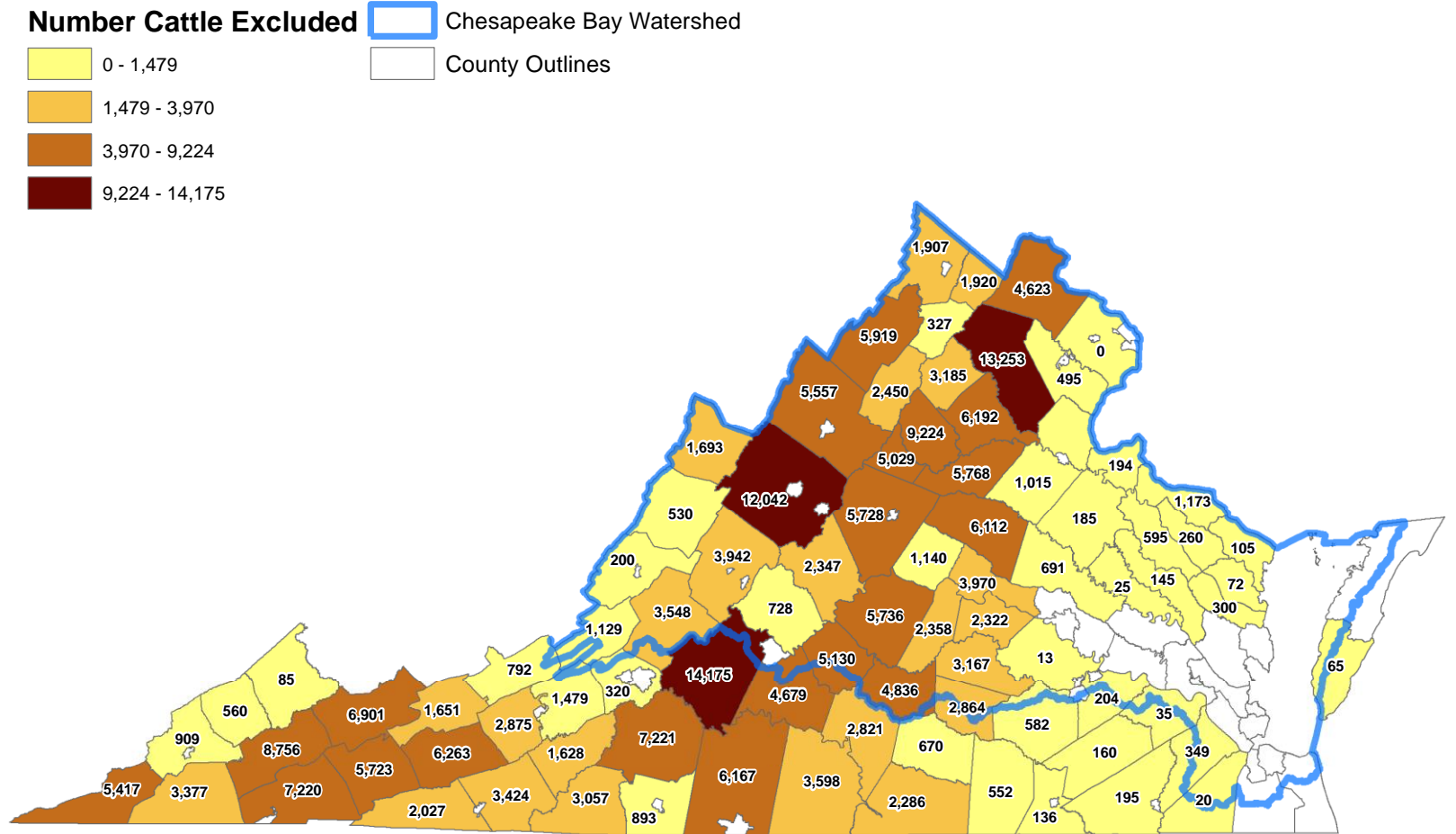
# 2017 Agricultural Census - Total Cattle



# Stream Exclusion BMP Funding - 2010 - 2020 VACS Program Years



## Total Cattle Excluded - 2010 - 2020 VACS BMPs





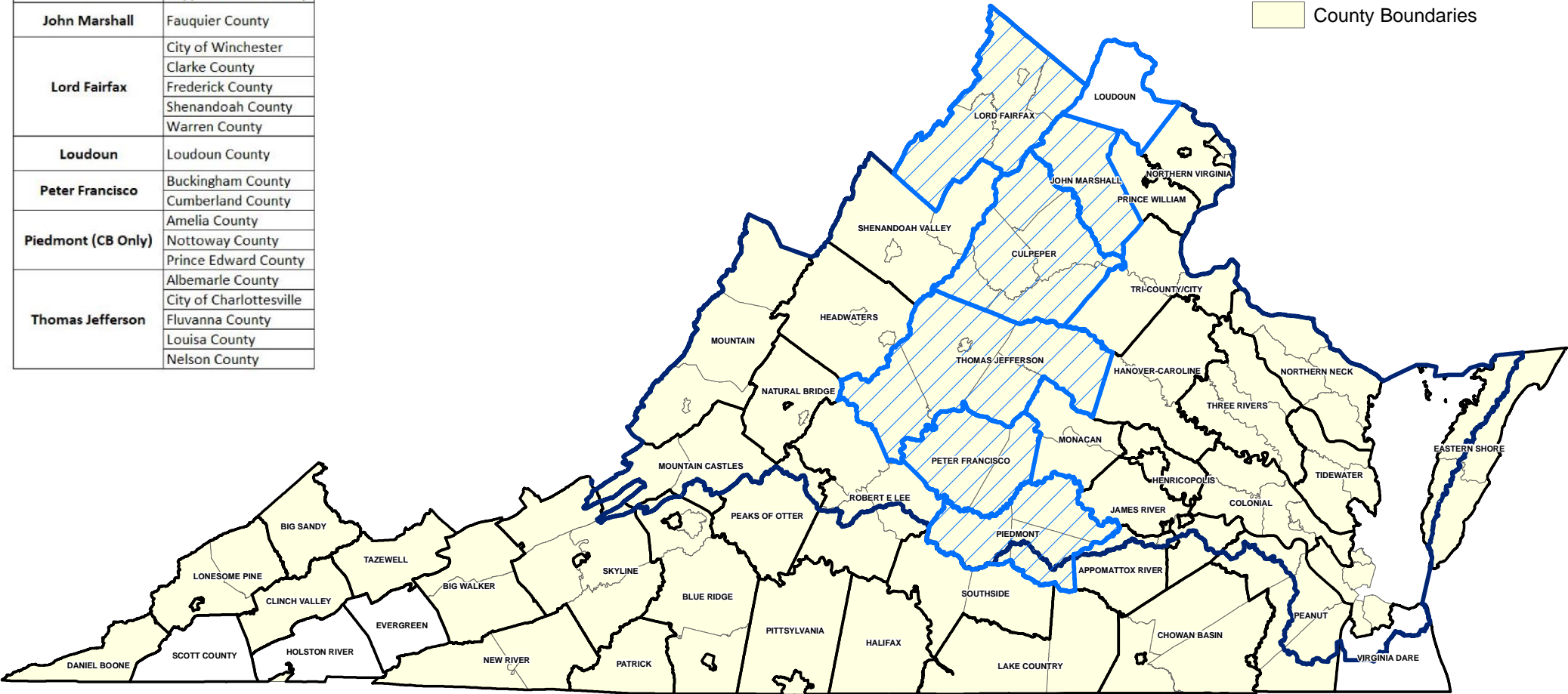
# Small Herd Initiative

- Target bovine herds 20 – 35 head
- Funded by returned and other unobligated cost share from Chesapeake Bay SWCDs
- Start-up goal of **≥\$2 million/year** plus 13% technical assistance for SWCDs
- Non-competitive, one-time funding, via set-aside funds
- Cover any VACS exclusion BMP at 100% up to maximum \$25K per participant
- No impact on other cost share participant caps
- Need VSWCB approval to initiate Small Herd Initiative

# FY2022 Targeted Small Herd Districts / Counties

District	County/City
Culpeper	Culpeper County
	Greene County
	Madison County
	Orange County
John Marshall	Rappahannock County
	Fauquier County
	City of Winchester
	Clarke County
Lord Fairfax	Frederick County
	Shenandoah County
	Warren County
Loudoun	Loudoun County
Peter Francisco	Buckingham County
	Cumberland County
Piedmont (CB Only)	Amelia County
	Nottoway County
	Prince Edward County
Thomas Jefferson	Albemarle County
	City of Charlottesville
	Fluvanna County
	Louisa County
	Nelson County

- Targeted Small Herd Districts
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- SWCD Boundaries
- County Boundaries



## WIP Task #14

- Pending agreement between Virginia's Secretaries of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Forestry, and Education and the Virginia Association of SWCDs (VASWCD)
- Goal is to identify and implement avenues for cross-collaboration that address technical assistance, education and training, research needs, and agriculture incentives.
- Includes 12 specific action items; w/focus on cross-training of agencies and SWCDs on programs available to assist farmers
- Monitor progress by semi-annual meetings and annual report

# Farmer Survey

- Interagency committee coordinated by OSNR to develop agricultural BMP survey for Virginia farmers in Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Survey will be distributed in early 2021 by Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
- Survey will ask for information on cost-shared and voluntary BMPs
- VCE will be trained by DCR in spring 2021 to spot check BMPs on 10% of respondents' acres
- VCE will provide DCR the raw data for deduplication and removal of personal data prior to aggregation on county level and submittal for Chesapeake Bay model credit

# Data Sharing Agreement w/NRCS

- Agreement to share 11 types of end of lifespan NRCS BMPs
- Implementation procedures are pending
- Written permission from NRCS producers required first
- DCR seeks funding to compensate SWCDs to participate
- DCR w/SWCDs will then verify BMPs continued functionality
- Producers offered state voluntary agreement, VACS CCI, or RMP
- BMP data scrubbed & aggregated by DCR before reported
- DCR also reports results to NRCS of each federal BMP verification completed



# Agricultural BMP Verification

- DCR/SWCDs began agricultural BMP verifications in 2015 – 2016
  - Verified 731/1396 agricultural VACS BMPs that expired 2010 – 2015
- DCR/SWCDs second verification round 2017 – 2018
  - Verified another 1504/1734 additional VACS BMPs due to expire by 2019
- Numbers of BMP verifications needed continues to grow
  - 492 structural VACS BMPs will expire 2020 - 2021
  - Plus an unknown number of NRCS BMPs
  - Two transect surveys in 2021 (conservation tillage and cover crops)
- Despite these efforts, many pre-2010 BMPs have expired