

EDF and the On Farm Network:

Finding the ways that work



Who is EDF?

- **An Uncommon Approach:**
 - **Commitment to sound science**
 - **Commitment to the power of partnerships**
 - **Commitment to the power of markets**
- **EDF partners with businesses, governments, and communities to find practical environmental solutions.**

What are EDF's Priorities?

- **EDF's view: Without good science, good economics, and collaboration, you cannot succeed.**
- **Water quality and ecosystem resilience are a top priority**
- **Find ways that are economically viable – if they don't work economically, they won't help the environment**

Why Agriculture?

- Need to feed the country, the world
- Need to do this while protecting natural resources
- Agriculture manages more than 2/3 of the land in the US – frontline stewards of our waters and much more
- We cannot achieve water quality goals without partnering with ag

Why the On-Farm Network?

- **Science, economics, partnership**
- **Nutrient management – increasingly clear we need to go beyond business as usual**
- **Cases in point: Chesapeake Bay, Lake Erie, Gulf of Mexico, local drinking water**
- **We are not getting the job done in key places – not because farmers are not trying, but because we need better ways**

What is EDF's Role?

- **Partner – non-traditional voices shake things up**
- **Relationships with agencies**
- **Communications, fund raising**
- **Partnership development**
- **Diversity of viewpoints to strengthen initiative**

Where is OFN today?

- Western Lake Erie Basin – 85 growers managing 135,000 acres
- North Carolina – 7 growers managing about 20,000 acres
- Upper Miss River Basin – 500+ farmers managing about 600,000+ acres

Chesapeake Bay: 265 farmers in PA, VA, DE, MD managing 140,000 acres



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