

AGRICULTURAL BMPS

STATE PROGRAM: Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Murmac Farms LLC

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$800,000



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To improve the local water quality of Nittany Creek and assist Pennsylvania in meeting its Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, Murmac Farms LLC invested in significant upgrades to the manure management system at its dairy farm where it manages about 18.8 million gallons of manure annually. The farm, which is a concentrated animal feeding operation, operates a two stage lagoon system with a flush system that recycles water from the second stage lagoon to clean the barns and recover sand for bedding. Through the farm's recycling and reuse, the manure storage capacity was increased to six months. This eliminates the need to spread manure in the winter, reduces the risks of spills, and significantly reduces phosphorus loading on farm fields. Financing for this unique SRF project comes from PENNVEST, the state's SRF loan program, with an \$800,000 loan for 20 years and an interest rate of rate of 1.7 percent for years 1-5 and 2.2 percent for years 6-20. Beyond the benefits of conserving material resources, this investment is projected to remove 43,161 pounds of total phosphorus from farm fields. As of June 2021, the project is 68 percent complete.

To read more about this case study, please [visit https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2021-pisces-compendium.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/2021-pisces-compendium.pdf).