

# **Irrigation Nutrient Runoff Program (Irrigation Assistance Cost Share Program) Summary Highlights for Science and Technology Council Meeting June 20, 2008**

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- Mark A. Davis - Deputy Principal Assistant - Department of Agriculture
- Called Irrigation Nutrient Run-off Program or Irrigation Assistance Cost Share Program
- In 2003, DDA partnered with MD and VA on the Delmarva Conservation Corridor Project.
- Through that effort one of the top priorities that emerged was to initiate a cost share program for new irrigation systems.
- The underlining principals were that irrigation would increase farm viability (through the ability to permit diversification and create income assurance), as well as protect the watersheds (by ensuring constant uptake of nutrients and thereby reduce nutrient run-off).
- DDA submitted an earmark request for a few million dollars and received \$251K to initiate the project.
- The funds will be spent to cost share new systems on a dollar per dollar basis (50% program and 50% landowner) on farms which are preserved and located in the Chesapeake Bay or Inland Bay watersheds.
- The cooperative agreement with USDA NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) has been signed.
- The state clearing house still needs to review project funding. The program will not be initiated or applicants sought until fall 2008.
- The funds will be channeled through the Aglands Preservation Foundation, because it is their pool of

landowners who will eligible to receive project funds.