What is the issue, why does it matter?

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ERS-FF workshop  
"Data Needs for Agri-Environmental Policy Modeling and Analysis"  
Why evaluate agri-environmental policies?

• Inform the policy design process
  – Economic efficiency
  – Environmental effectiveness
  – Distributional implications
  – Unintended consequences
• Improve program performance (ex-ante, “ex-now”)
• Evaluate program performance (ex-ante, ex-post)
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Concluding Remarks

• How do different farmers decide what practices to implement, in the presence of a conservation program?
  
  - Isolating the unique effect of programs requires analysis to extract the influence of other factors that affect farm-level decision-making
  
  - Requires data on all factors potentially affecting farmers’ decisions, sufficient to allow statistical segregation of program-related effects from other influential factors
Concluding Remarks, cont.

- How do the farm practices attributable to conservation programs affect environmental quality?
  - Where, and under what resource conditions, are practices implemented in response to the program located?
  - Which agri-environmental indicators will be used to measure program success?
  - Ideally, indicators will link to behavioral change AND environmental characteristics the public values