

Maryland Department of Agriculture

MISSION

To provide leadership and support to agriculture and the citizens of Maryland by conducting regulatory, service, and educational activities that assure consumer confidence, protect the environment, and promote agriculture.

VISION

To achieve excellence in programs and services that preserve and protect agricultural resources and the environment, promote profitable agriculture and consumer confidence, and enhance the quality of life for all Marylanders.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. To promote profitable production, use and sale of Maryland agricultural products.

- Obj. 1.1** Create new markets and support existing market opportunities for Maryland farmers and agribusinesses.
- Obj. 1.2** Increase the international sales by Maryland agribusinesses and the export of Maryland agricultural products to international markets.
- Obj. 1.3** Increase percentage of insurable crop acres in Maryland with buy-up levels of crop insurance to 65 percent.
- Obj. 1.4** To distribute Commercial Equine Feed Fund revenue to groups conducting educational, research, or promotional projects for the Maryland Horse Industry.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of producers participating in MDA activities	400	412	424	380	400	420	430
Number of producers participating in Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)	365	375	401	411	417	417	417
Amounts of FMNP checks redeemed by producers	\$510,000	\$510,000	\$321,386	\$532,159	\$530,684	\$530,000	\$530,000
Number of reported international sales	15	16	16	45	27	30	30
Insurable acres on Maryland farms	1,269,750	1,330,800	1,330,800	1,395,672	1,395,672	1,395,672	1,395,672
Percentage of insurable acres with buy-up coverage	59.1%	63.5%	61.6%	60.4%	59.3%	59.1%	59.1%
Commercial equine feed revenue	\$205,807	\$194,462	\$200,390	\$193,198	\$213,198	\$215,000	\$220,000
Percent of commercial equine feed revenue distributed	8.6%	11.0%	12.7%	15.5%	14.1%	14.0%	15.9%

Goal 2. To protect the health of the public, plant, and animal resources in Maryland.

- Obj. 2.1** Maintain robust laboratory output and timely reporting results.
- Obj. 2.2** Continued recognition by the United States Department of Agriculture of Maryland's highest official status in all Cooperative Animal Disease Control/Eradication or other programs in which the Animal Health Program participates.
- Obj. 2.3** To maintain the processing of completed registration applications, including all necessary supporting documents, and issue registrations within 30 days of receipt.
- Obj. 2.4** 100 percent of all veterinary hospitals licensed in the State will pass inspection annually.
- Obj. 2.5** For the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to make a determination on 90 percent of cases within 120 days from obtaining knowledge of an alleged violation of the Veterinary Practice Act.

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Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of necropsies performed	761	1,053	1,022	991	812	900	900
Equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests performed in Maryland laboratories	13,510	15,270	14,417	12,075	12,018	12,000	12,000
Registrations issued for veterinarians	2,583	3,652	2,679	2,789	2,602	2,650	2,700
Registrations issued for veterinary hospitals	528	651	582	540	527	540	545
Percent of hospitals passing inspection	99%	97%	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Determination of cases within 120 days (percentage)	92%	87%	88%	99%	50%	75%	75%

Obj. 2.6 Successfully complete gypsy moth and hemlock woolly adelgid pest management activities where economically and environmentally feasible.

Obj. 2.7 Successfully deploy monitoring/survey traps for various forest pests (pine beetle, sirex nachilio, walnut twig beetle, emerald ash borer, etc.)

Obj. 2.8 Maintain the adult mosquito population below the level that causes unacceptable annoyance to humans.

Obj. 2.9 75 percent of inspected licensees, permittees and certified applicators will be in compliance with pesticide laws and regulations.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Total number of acres assessed (gypsy moth)	426,679	467,815	527,837	479,198	500,254	500,000	500,000
Number of acres where protective treatment is environmentally and economically feasible (gypsy moth)	0	2,530	12,289	5,594	0	700	9,000
Number of acres of treatment completed (gypsy moth)	0	2,530	11,994	5,164	0	700	700
Total number of forest pest traps deployed	N/A	N/A	372	371	418	281	250
Number of acres treated with insecticide for mosquito control	1,487,111	1,810,081	1,352,866	1,544,682	1,060,604	1,319,384	1,308,223
Number of acres treated with biological insecticides to control mosquito larvae	5,277	7,433	6,234	6,447	5,270	7,008	6,924
Percentage of acres treated with biological insecticide	0.35%	0.41%	0.46%	0.42%	0.49%	0.53%	0.53%
Acres of water management	825	640	283	456	1,432	724	871
Percent of pesticide licensees and permittees in compliance with laws and regulations	70.5%	70.4%	60.5%	62.2%	71.8%	73.3%	76.7%
Percent of pesticide licensees and permittees inspected	46.1%	42.7%	37.6%	52.7%	53.4%	56.9%	65.0%
Number of plant inspections conducted	367	446	489	421	411	450	450
Number of plant establishments licensed	1,832	1,840	1,692	1,660	1,658	1,650	1,650

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Goal 3. To preserve adequate amounts of productive agricultural land and woodland in Maryland in order to provide for the continued production of food and fiber, to limit random development, and to protect agricultural land and woodland as open space.

Obj. 3.1 By the year 2022, preserve 1,030,000 acres of farmland, woodland and open space land in Maryland through the purchase of permanent easements, local government land preservation programs, local Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), and similar programs.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Total number of easements, cumulative	2,037	2,078	2,012	2,154	2,187	2,196	2,248
Total acres under easements	278,265	282,957	286,239	292,357	296,682	294,736	305,762

Goal 4. To provide and promote land stewardship, including conservation, environmental protection, preservation and resource management.

Obj. 4.1 Provide financial and human resources through a combination of voluntary and regulatory programs to improve the management of agricultural production in Maryland so as to reduce the potential for non-point source losses of nitrogen and phosphorus from Maryland farms.

Obj. 4.2 Develop and promote soil conservation and water quality plans and best management practices to meet local water quality goals for nitrogen and phosphorus.

Obj. 4.3 Increase by 50 percent (to 3,000 per year) the number of best management practices (BMP) installed to meet nutrient reduction goals.

Obj. 4.4 Reduce soil erosion by 15,000 tons per year, and increase the amount of animal waste managed by 2,500 tons per day/per year.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
¹ Reduction in nitrogen loadings to Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (pounds)	9,598,854	9,424,500	11,192,087	9,499,457	11,000,000	11,500,000	12,000,000
¹ Reduction in phosphorus loadings to Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (pounds)	554,782	482,369	526,006	627,609	625,000	600,000	630,000
Number of new acres under conservation plans	61,596	37,350	43,224	29,785	24,211	30,000	25,000
Number of new BMPs installed	2,178	3,775	3,775	1,438	3,032	30,000	3,200
Acres of cover crops planted	381,257	402,222	413,826	415,550	427,458	448,700	448,700
Acres of land treated	2,476	928	2,978	1,248	1,643	2,000	2,000
Additional tons of soil saved per year	10,404	14,677	16,703	13,857	18,300	17,700	17,700
Total financial assistance paid to transport manure	\$638,545	\$724,710	\$906,360	\$1,307,155	\$1,260,852	\$1,707,000	\$2,500,000
Tons of manure transported	61,150	35,380	52,481	118,995	167,237	225,000	330,000
Cost per ton manure transported	\$10.44	\$20.48	\$17.27	\$10.98	\$7.54	\$7.59	\$7.58

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- Obj. 4.5** To ensure all applicable Maryland farmers have and implement their nutrient management plan developed by certified consultants, keep records pertaining to their plan, update their plan as needed, and file a copy of their plan with the Department.
- Obj. 4.6** Stimulate the adoption of additional conservation practices on agricultural lands in Maryland by providing regulatory relief to agricultural operations through the Maryland Certainty Program

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Cumulative acreage of plan summaries filed with MDA as of June 30 each year	1,325,184	1,291,912	1,349,925	1,298,200	1,295,939	1,294,000	1,293,000
Compliance as percent of total eligible acreage	99%	90%	99.8%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Adequacy of plans based on plan consultant's review	95.0%	98.0%	97.0%	98.0%	98.0%	99.0%	98.0%

Goal 5. To provide health, safety and economic protection for Maryland consumers.

- Obj. 5.1** Employees will maintain an average score of 99 percent during supervisory comparisons for uniform interpretation of standards for quality, weight, production practices and reducing physical, chemical and microbial contaminants to ensure officially identified product is accurately certified.
- Obj. 5.2** Conduct shell egg facility inspections, sampling of product, outreach activities and enforcement actions that increase the compliance rate to 92 percent.
- Obj. 5.3** Improve the net contents compliance rate of commodities prepackaged in Maryland stores to 90.5 percent.
- Obj. 5.4** Maintain the accuracy compliance rate for initial inspections of retail gasoline meters at a minimum of 94 percent.
- Obj. 5.5** Maintain the accuracy compliance rate for initial inspections of small capacity scales at a minimum of 94 percent.
- Obj. 5.6** Ensure that 90 percent of seed lots offered for sale in Maryland are labeled correctly.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Average score of employees on comparative gradings	99.0%	99.4%	99.4%	99.3%	99.2%	99.5%	99.5%
Percentage of eggs sold in Maryland sampled by inspectors	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Percentage of samples examined that are found to be in full compliance with the Maryland Egg Law	84.0%	86.0%	85.4%	80.6%	82.5%	90.0%	90.0%
Percent of prepackaged commodities inspected and labeled accurately	79.1%	80.5%	83.6%	82.7%	79.2%	80.2%	80.2%
Percentage of retail gasoline meters that meet performance requirements	94.6%	92.1%	93.7%	93.5%	93.5%	94.0%	94.0%
Percentage of small capacity scales found within applicable tolerances	94.4%	94.0%	94.8%	94.4%	93.9%	94.0%	94.0%
Percent of seed lots found to be correctly labeled	84.9%	84.0%	85.8%	87.4%	82.0%	90.0%	90.0%

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- Obj. 5.7** Ensure that 99 percent of randomly sampled pesticide products, including disinfectants; and 95 percent of disinfectant products are in conformance with Maryland law relating to quality and safety with respect to active ingredient content and toxic material.
- Obj. 5.8** Ensure that 90 percent of randomly sampled fertilizer, soil amendments and liming materials are in conformance with Maryland laws relating to quality and safety with respect to the active ingredient content and toxic materials; and at least 95 percent of livestock feed and pet food sampled are in conformance with Maryland law relative to nutrition (as per standards established by the Association of American Feed Control Officials).

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Percent of collected pesticide samples in conformance	99%	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of collected disinfectant samples in conformance	99%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of fertilizer, soil amendments and liming material samples in conformance	56%	51%	69%	56%	49%	50%	50%
Percent of feed samples tested in conformance with law	93%	90%	88%	93%	94%	95%	95%

NOTES

¹ Fiscal year 2015 is an estimate.