

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 ensure 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 international sales by Maryland agribusinesses and the export of Maryland agricultural products to international markets.

Obj. 1.3 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.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of producers participating in Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) activities	475	237	148	226	386	400	425
Number of producers participating in Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)	193	191	191	200	216	150	175
Amounts of FMNP checks redeemed by producers	\$488,770	\$586,550	\$426,380	\$213,275	\$520,518	\$500,000	\$550,000
Number of reported international sales	22	17	2	8	8	12	15
Number of farms in the Maryland Certified Local Farm Enterprise directory	N/A	30	50	70	95	115	125
¹ Amount of food purchased by state institutions through the Maryland Certified Local Farm Enterprise program	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$553,431	\$553,431	\$750,000	\$900,000

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

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of livestock necropsies performed	23	90	126	198	190	195	200
Number of poultry necropsies performed	36	458	920	606	443	450	475
Equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests performed in Maryland laboratories	9,449	7,379	8,714	7,805	7,307	7,500	7,750
Non-EIA tests performed in Maryland laboratories	4,075	25,059	46,780	28,992	19,635	20,000	21,000
Number of acres where protective treatment is environmentally and economically feasible (gypsy moth)	0	168	531	7,411	6,030	10,000	10,000
Number of acres of treatment completed (gypsy moth)	0	168	531	7,411	6,030	10,000	10,000

Obj. 2.3 Successfully deploy monitoring/survey traps for various forest pests (pine beetle, sirex noctilio, walnut twig beetle, emerald ash borer, etc.).

Obj. 2.4 Maintain the adult mosquito population below the level that causes unacceptable annoyance to humans.

Obj. 2.5 75 percent of inspected licensees, permittees and certified applicators will be in compliance with pesticide laws and regulations.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Total number of forest pest traps deployed	328	446	430	447	487	400	400
¹ Number of acres treated with insecticide for mosquito control	1,405,597	1,021,610	1,337,432	1,014,173	1,014,173	1,014,173	1,014,173
¹ Number of acres treated with biological insecticides to control mosquito larvae	5,995	6,057	5,219	538	5,219	5,219	5,219
¹ Percentage of acres treated with biological insecticide	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%
¹ Acres of water management	647	369	51	22	0	0	0
Percent of pesticide licensees and permittees in compliance with laws and regulations	74.2%	70.7%	80.0%	75.8%	73.0%	75.0%	78.0%
Percent of pesticide licensees and permittees inspected	60.1%	52.1%	26.7%	34.1%	36.0%	37.0%	38.0%
Total number of biocontrol agents (parasitoids) released to help suppress the emerald ash borer	13,013	12,661	15,003	3,642	5,000	4,000	4,000
Total number of biocontrol agents/insects released to help suppress the hemlock woolly adelgid	974	1,532	4,300	4,244	1,500	1,500	1,500

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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 2030, 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), Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program, and similar programs.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Total number of easements, cumulative	2,348	2,413	2,504	2,585	2,653	2,654	2,723
Total acres under easements	318,315	326,651	337,305	348,308	355,674	355,821	363,334

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.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
¹ Reduction in nitrogen loadings to Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (pounds)	12,502,299	12,351,546	12,044,367	12,885,142	13,000,000	13,750,000	14,500,000
¹ Reduction in phosphorus loadings to Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (pounds)	1,271,971	1,216,417	1,196,227	1,209,940	1,300,000	1,400,000	1,500,000
Number of acres managed under a current conservation plan	884,329	861,876	827,879	806,518	802,492	850,000	875,000

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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.

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.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of new BMPs installed	2,002	2,140	1,970	2,091	2,262	2,100	2,200
Acres of cover crops planted	359,702	488,214	432,132	424,616	397,016	450,000	450,000
Acres of land treated (BMPs)	1,490	1,649	1,061	1,706	2,228	1,800	1,900
Tons of soil saved per year	4,712	13,148	16,715	11,683	20,695	15,000	18,000
Total financial assistance paid to transport manure	\$1,443,174	\$1,838,503	\$1,969,850	\$3,263,112	\$3,140,631	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000
Tons of manure transported	249,840	309,374	377,244	402,807	364,414	425,000	425,000
Cost per ton manure transported	\$5.78	\$5.94	\$5.22	\$8.10	\$8.62	\$7.76	\$7.76
Cumulative acreage of plan summaries filed with MDA as of June 30 each year	1,243,789	1,242,798	1,238,514	1,229,951	1,239,593	1,240,000	1,241,000
Compliance as percent of total eligible acreage	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Adequacy of plans based on plan consultant's review	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%
Number of urban site inspections and records reviews	192	223	202	220	148	175	175
Number of certified professional fertilizer applicators	1,536	1,435	1,149	1,394	1,284	1,250	1,250
Number of trained employees	1,543	1,476	1,518	1,523	1,415	1,400	1,400
Compliance percentage during urban review	77.0%	79.0%	76.7%	80.0%	79.0%	80.0%	80.0%

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

Obj. 5.1 Conduct outreach activities, education, inspections, product sampling and enforcement actions that increase compliance rates to 92 percent.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Percentage of retail facilities selling eggs in Maryland, sampled by	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	25.0%	50.0%
Percentage of samples examined that are found to be in full compliance with the Maryland Egg Law	90.0%	88.0%	66.0%	48.3%	83.0%	50.0%	55.0%
Percentage of organic producers and handlers fully compliant with certification requirements	67.0%	78.4%	79.7%	90.1%	85.0%	80.0%	80.0%
² Number of produce farmers that received education and technical assistance to assist with Produce Safety Rule compliance	42.0%	54.0%	56.0%	48.3%	272	275	275
Percentage of farmers inspected that were fully compliant with the Produce Safety Rule	50.0%	60.0%	75.0%	50.0%	61.0%	50.0%	60.0%

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- Obj. 5.2** Improve the net contents compliance rate of commodities prepackaged in Maryland stores to 90.5 percent.
- Obj. 5.3** Maintain the accuracy compliance rate for initial inspections of retail gasoline meters at a minimum of 94 percent.
- Obj. 5.4** Maintain the accuracy compliance rate for initial inspections of small capacity scales at a minimum of 94 percent.
- Obj. 5.5** Ensure that 90 percent of seed lots offered for sale in Maryland are labeled correctly.
- Obj. 5.6** Ensure that 99 percent of randomly sampled pesticide products, including disinfectants, and 95 percent of disinfectant products conform with Maryland law relating to quality and safety with respect to active ingredient content and toxic material.
- Obj. 5.7** Ensure that 90 percent of randomly sampled fertilizer, soil amendments and liming materials conform 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 conform with Maryland law relative to nutrition (as per standards established by the Association of American Feed Control Officials).
- Obj. 5.8** Inspect all veterinary hospitals at least once every 24 months.
- Obj. 5.9** Resolve 90 percent of complaints received by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners within the goal time period (Level Green: 120 days, Level Yellow: 12 months, Level Red: 24 months.)

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Percent of prepackaged commodities inspected and labeled accurately	83.4%	81.3%	97.2%	78.7%	72.4%	90.0%	90.0%
Percentage of retail gasoline meters that meet performance requirements	92.0%	90.7%	85.3%	90.7%	90.6%	95.0%	95.0%
Percentage of small capacity scales found within applicable tolerances	93.2%	92.2%	95.7%	95.4%	85.1%	95.0%	95.0%
Percent of seed lots found to be correctly labeled	87.0%	95.6%	89.5%	86.0%	84.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Percent of collected pesticide samples in conformance	93.8%	98.0%	98.0%	95.0%	98.0%	99.0%	100.0%
Percent of collected disinfectant samples in conformance	97.1%	98.0%	99.0%	95.0%	98.0%	99.0%	100.0%
Percent of fertilizer, soil amendments and liming material samples in conformance	81.4%	97.0%	90.0%	85.0%	88.0%	95.0%	98.0%
Percent of feed samples tested in conformance with law	93.8%	95.0%	80.0%	90.0%	95.0%	97.0%	99.0%
Percentage of hospitals inspected during the fiscal year	N/A	47.0%	71.0%	82.0%	79.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Percentage of hospitals failing inspection that have a follow-up inspection completed within 6 months of the failed inspection	N/A	65.0%	65.0%	89.0%	76.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Percent of all complaints received that are resolved within goal time period	N/A	77.0%	81.0%	97.0%	99.0%	90.0%	90.0%

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Goal 6. The goal of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), an independent agency within MDA, is to bring together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of Rural Maryland communities.

Obj. 6.1 Encourage healthy, connected communities throughout Rural Maryland through convening of stakeholders, education, public relations and advocacy.

Obj. 6.2 Support the development and growth of vibrant economies in Rural Maryland.

Obj. 6.3 Foster stewardship of Maryland’s natural resources.

Obj. 6.4 Maximize RMC outreach, resources and mission through financial and organizational development.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Rural Population	1,733,468	1,751,117	1,777,352	1,820,379	N/A	N/A	1,798,963
Rural per capita income	\$36,095	\$37,168	39,487	\$43,067	N/A	N/A	\$50,774
Number of grant applications received	175	178	141	215	192	183	182
Private sector dollars leveraged for rural development projects	\$5,636,990	\$12,557,902	\$12,021,692	\$10,072,195	\$8,074,606	\$9,672,677	\$10,479,814
Number of attendees at biennial Rural Summit	389	N/A	250	N/A	330	N/A	330
Rural unemployment rate	3.9%	6.3%	5.0%	3.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate of broadband access in rural communities	81.0%	N/A	81.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Physicians per 100K rural population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of people trained/served/reached through RMC grants	18,755	44,728	1,683,640	247,549	377,349	472,290	565,398
Number of loans made with RMC grants	1	10	10	20	29	14	17
Total RMC funds invested in capital items	\$1,147,389	\$6,815,925	\$51,368,480	\$1,404,872	\$6,673,964	\$3,208,430	\$3,620,638
Number of research and tools created and executed through RMC grants	9	42	87	18	5,090	1,049	1,257

NOTES

¹ 2023 data is estimated.

² Reporting method changed from percentage to number in FY 2023