

# 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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of producers participating in Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) activities	237	148	226	386	392	400	410
Number of producers participating in Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)	191	191	200	216	200	200	200
Amounts of FMNP checks redeemed by producers	\$586,550	\$426,380	\$213,275	\$520,518	\$825,184	\$658,000	\$600,000
Number of reported international sales	17	2	8	8	9	12	15
Number of farms in the Maryland Certified Local Farm Enterprise directory	30	50	70	95	131	150	170
Amount of food purchased by state institutions through the Maryland Certified Local Farm Enterprise program	N/A	N/A	\$553,431	\$553,431	\$522,334	\$590,000	\$615,000
Value-Added Licences	N/A	N/A	N/A	502	521	530	540

### 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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of livestock necropsies performed	90	126	198	190	218	225	235
Number of poultry necropsies performed	458	920	606	443	495	520	545
Equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests performed in Maryland laboratories	7,379	8,714	7,805	7,307	7,615	7,725	7,835
Non-EIA tests performed in Maryland laboratories	25,059	46,780	28,992	19,635	21,832	22,900	24,000
Number of acres where protective treatment is environmentally and economically feasible (gypsy moth)	168	531	7,411	6,030	22,989	20,000	10,000
Number of acres of treatment completed (gypsy moth)	168	531	7,411	6,030	22,989	20,000	10,000

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**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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Total number of forest pest traps deployed	446	430	447	487	617	400	400
<sup>1</sup> Number of acres treated with insecticide for mosquito control	1,021,610	1,337,432	1,014,173	978,697	978,697	978,697	978,697
<sup>1</sup> Number of acres treated with biological insecticides to control mosquito larvae	6,057	5,219	538	926	926	926	926
<sup>1</sup> Percentage of acres treated with biological insecticide	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<sup>1</sup> Acres of water management	369	51	22	0	0	0	0
Percent of pesticide licensees and permittees in compliance with laws and regulations	70.7%	80.0%	75.8%	73.0%	69.0%	69.0%	70.0%
Percent of pesticide licensees and permittees inspected	52.1%	26.7%	34.1%	36.0%	39.0%	40.0%	41.0%
<sup>1</sup> Total number of biocontrol agents (parasitoids) released to help suppress the emerald ash borer	12,661	15,003	3,642	12,371	8,400	5,000	5,000
<sup>1</sup> Total number of biocontrol agents/insects released to help suppress the hemlock wooly adelgid	1,532	4,300	4,244	3,185	2,635	2,000	2,000

**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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Total number of easements, cumulative	2,413	2,504	2,585	2,653	2,757	2,842	2,911
Total acres under easements	326,651	337,305	348,308	355,674	370,013	359,038	366,486

**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 resilience through adaptation.

**Obj. 4.4** Protect and improve water and soil quality to create healthier environment.

Performance Measures	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of acres managed under current conservation plan	861,876	827,879	806,518	802,492	815,542	850,000	900,000
Number of Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program best management practices adopted by farms	368	398	335	613	574	650	650

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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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of new BMPs installed	2,140	1,970	2,091	2,262	1,923	2,000	2,200
Acres of cover crops planted	488,214	432,132	424,616	397,016	442,699	450,000	450,000
Acres of land treated (BMPs)	1,649	1,061	1,706	2,228	2,978	3,000	3,500
Tons of soil saved per year	13,148	16,715	11,683	20,695	15,488	17,500	20,000
Total financial assistance paid to transport manure	\$1,838,503	\$1,969,850	\$3,263,112	\$3,140,631	\$3,092,524	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000
Tons of manure transported	309,374	377,244	402,807	364,414	361,241	375,000	375,000
Cost per ton manure transported	\$5.94	\$5.22	\$8.10	\$8.62	\$8.56	\$8.53	\$8.53
Cumulative acreage of plan summaries filed with MDA as of June 30 each year	1,242,798	1,238,514	1,229,951	1,239,593	1,231,881	1,230,500	1,230,500
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	223	202	220	148	191	200	220
Number of certified professional fertilizer applicators	1,435	1,149	1,394	1,284	1,401	1,425	1,450
Number of trained employees	1,476	1,518	1,523	1,415	1,502	1,525	1,550
Compliance percentage during urban review	79.0%	76.7%	80.0%	79.0%	80.0%	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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Percentage of retail facilities selling eggs in Maryland, sampled by	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	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	88.0%	66.0%	48.3%	83.0%	50.0%	75.0%	78.0%
Percentage of organic producers and handlers fully compliant with certification requirements	78.4%	79.7%	90.1%	85.0%	93.0%	90.0%	90.0%
<sup>2</sup> Number of produce farmers that received education and technical assistance to assist with Produce Safety Rule compliance	54.0%	56.0%	48.3%	272	495	500	525
Percentage of farmers inspected that were fully compliant with the Produce Safety Rule	60.0%	75.0%	50.0%	61.0%	39.0%	50.0%	55.0%

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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.)

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2020 Act.</b>	<b>2021 Act.</b>	<b>2022 Act.</b>	<b>2023 Act.</b>	<b>2024 Act.</b>	<b>2025 Est.</b>	<b>2026 Est.</b>
Number of consumer complaints investigated during the fiscal year.	N/A	200	231	205	189	210	230
Number of gas station meters tested and inspected for tolerance and specification compliance.	N/A	44,887	7,058	16,219	17,272	25,000	27,000
Number of scales tested and inspected for tolerance and specification compliance.	N/A	1,496	12,025	2,907	8,395	8,500	9,500
Percent of seed lots found to be correctly labeled	95.6%	89.5%	86.0%	84.0%	88.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Percent of collected pesticide samples in conformance	98.0%	98.0%	95.0%	98.0%	94.0%	98.7%	99.6%
Percent of collected disinfectant samples in conformance	98.0%	99.0%	95.0%	98.0%	94.0%	98.7%	100.0%
Percent of fertilizer, soil amendments and liming material samples in conformance	97.0%	90.0%	85.0%	88.0%	95.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Percent of feed samples tested in conformance with law	95.0%	80.0%	90.0%	95.0%	95.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Percentage of hospitals inspected during the fiscal year	47.0%	71.0%	82.0%	79.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Percentage of hospitals failing inspection that have a follow-up inspection completed within 6 months of the failed inspection	65.0%	65.0%	89.0%	76.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Percent of all complaints received that are resolved within goal time period	77.0%	81.0%	97.0%	99.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%

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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	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Rural Population	1,751,117	1,777,352	1,820,379	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,853,950
Rural per capita income	\$37,168	\$39,487	43,067	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$50,774
Number of grant applications received	178	141	215	192	192	199	194
Private sector dollars leveraged for rural development projects	\$12,557,902	\$12,021,692	\$10,072,195	\$8,074,606	\$9,337,509	\$9,161,436	\$8,857,850
Number of attendees at biennial Rural Summit	N/A	250	N/A	330	225	N/A	268
Rural unemployment rate	6.3%	5.0%	3.6%	N/A	2.3%	3.6%	3.2%
Rate of broadband access in rural communities	N/A	81.0%	N/A	N/A	98.0%	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	44,728	1,683,640	247,549	377,349	980,055	534,984	630,796
Number of loans made with RMC grants	10	10	20	29	1	16	16
Total RMC funds invested in capital items	\$6,815,925	\$51,368,480	\$1,404,872	\$6,673,964	\$11,049,686	\$6,376,174	\$8,033,274
Number of research and tools created and executed through RMC grants	42	87	18	5,090	69	5,177	3,445

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The most recent actual year of data is an estimate.

<sup>2</sup> Reporting method changed from percentage to number in FY 2023