

# **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **SUMMARY**

The Department of Agriculture helps farmers produce high-quality commodities, promotes Maryland agricultural products, and protects consumers and the environment. In pursuit of these activities, the Department is organized into four main offices: Office of the Secretary; Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services; Plant Industries and Pest Management; and Resource Conservation.

The FY 2008 - FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program provides funds for three programs which help farmers preserve Maryland's farmland, transition from growing tobacco to other crops, and reduce nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) runoff. These programs are the Agricultural Land Preservation Program, the Tobacco Transition Program, and the Agricultural Cost-Share Program.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program preserves productive agricultural land, limits the extent and impact of suburban development, and protects the rural character of Maryland's landscape. Through the end of FY 2006, the program has permanently preserved 250,186 acres of agricultural land. The FY 2008 - FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program provides funding to preserve an estimated 44,000 additional acres of farmland.

The Tobacco Transition Program provides funds to farmers who transition from growing tobacco to other crops. The program also purchases easements to retain land in non-tobacco agricultural use.

The Agricultural Cost-Share Program was created in 1983 as a result of an agreement among the Chesapeake Bay States (Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania), the District of Columbia, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission to reduce the amount of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) entering the Chesapeake Bay. Agricultural activities in Maryland account for a significant portion of the nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Chesapeake Bay. The Agricultural Cost-Share Program provides financial incentives to farmers to implement best management practices which reduce nutrient runoff from Maryland's farmland. Through the implementation of best management practices, the Agricultural Cost-Share Program consistently reports reducing nitrogen runoff by approximately 100,000 pounds per year and phosphorus runoff by approximately 5,000 pounds per year. Since 1998, the installation of best management practices to reduce soil erosion have saved an average of 26,300 tons of soil per year from entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

## **CHANGES TO FY 2007 - FY 2011 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

### **Changes to FY 2008**

None

### **Changes to FY 2009 - FY 2011**

None

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## FY 2008 - FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program

### Grants and Loans

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Budget Code: LA1111

#### Agricultural Land Preservation Program (Statewide)

**FY 2008 Total \$69,961**

This program preserves productive agricultural land and woodland, limits the extent and impact of urban sprawl development, and protects agricultural land and woodland as open space through the purchase of perpetual preservation easements. Financial support for this program comes from the State property transfer tax, agricultural transfer tax, local matching funds, and the Federal Farmland Protection Program. The FY 2008 budget will provide funding to preserve an estimated 10,800 additional acres.

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Special Funds	67,961	46,750	55,850	57,050	58,000	285,611
Federal Funds	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,961</b>	<b>48,750</b>	<b>57,850</b>	<b>59,050</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>295,611</b>

#### Subtotals for Office of the Secretary

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Special Funds	67,961	46,750	55,850	57,050	58,000	285,611
Federal Funds	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,961</b>	<b>48,750</b>	<b>57,850</b>	<b>59,050</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>295,611</b>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### MARKETING, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES & CONSUMER SERVICES

Budget Code: LA1213

**Tobacco Transition Program (Regional)** **FY 2008 Total** **\$9,880**

This program assists tobacco growers with the transition to growing alternative crops and starting natural resource-based enterprises. The Department of Agriculture works with the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland to operate the program and disburse the funds. The Tobacco Transition Program has two capital components: the Tobacco Buyout component, under which eligible tobacco growers will receive one dollar per pound per year for ten years to stop growing tobacco; and the Agricultural Land Preservation component, which will assist in purchasing agricultural easements with local government and/or the State's Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The FY 2008 goal is to increase the total number of preserved farms to 125, which will result in preserving an estimated 21,500 cumulative acres.

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	3,000	3,000	5,000	-	-	11,000
Special Funds	6,880	7,300	7,300	7,500	7,500	36,480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,880</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>47,480</b>

#### Subtotals for Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	3,000	3,000	5,000	-	-	11,000
Special Funds	6,880	7,300	7,300	7,500	7,500	36,480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,880</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>47,480</b>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### OFFICE OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Budget Code: LA1505

#### Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (Statewide)

**FY 2008 Total \$5,108**

This program provides grants to Maryland's farmers for installing one or more of about 20 nationally recognized best management practices (BMPs) that reduce soil and nutrient runoff from farmland. The program requires a minimum 12.5% cost-share match from grantees. In addition, State financial assistance for most BMPs is limited to \$35,000 per project or \$75,000 per farm. These limits increase to \$100,000 per project and \$150,000 per farm when proposed BMPs include animal waste storage facilities.

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	5,108	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	35,108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>35,108</b>

#### Subtotals for Office of Resource Conservation

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	5,108	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	35,108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>35,108</b>

#### Subtotals for Grants and Loans

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	8,108	10,500	12,500	7,500	7,500	46,108
Special Funds	74,841	54,050	63,150	64,550	65,500	322,091
Federal Funds	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,949</b>	<b>66,550</b>	<b>77,650</b>	<b>74,050</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>378,199</b>

#### Total Program - Department of Agriculture

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GO Bonds	8,108	10,500	12,500	7,500	7,500	46,108
Special Funds	74,841	54,050	63,150	64,550	65,500	322,091
Federal Funds	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,949</b>	<b>66,550</b>	<b>77,650</b>	<b>74,050</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>378,199</b>