

## Helping Farmers Meet Bay Restoration Goals

# Message from the Secretary of Agriculture



For more than a quarter of a century, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has been providing

farmers with the financial resources they need to improve their operations by installing the latest pollution control measures to reduce soil erosion, curb nutrient runoff and protect water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

For many farmers keeping up with technology is not easy or cheap. In many instances, it involves changing the way they have farmed the land or raised their livestock for generations. Add to that the hefty price tag attached to making certain types of environmental improvements. Animal waste storage structures, poultry mortality composters, heavy use areas and stream protection measures can run into the thousands.

That's where MACS comes in. MACS provides farmers with grants to help cover the cost of installing on-farm best management practices (BMPs) that have been scientifically proven to protect water quality. MACS currently funds 30 practices and is always researching new practices that can help farmers meet water quality goals.

Through continued funding and policy commitments, Maryland officials clearly recognize the importance of MACS to agriculture and the broader Chesapeake Bay cleanup. These commitments are needed to meet new restoration goals.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established tough new pollution caps for the Bay, ordering the Bay states and the District of Columbia to develop ambitious plans to meet long term restoration goals. Maryland aims to reduce nitrogen 21 percent, phosphorus 18 percent and sediment 12 percent by 2020, five years ahead of EPA's deadline. Two-year milestone markers have been established to make certain that progress stays on track.

In December, following a public comment period, EPA approved Maryland's Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan. The plan outlines 75 options for reducing nutrients and sediment entering the Bay from all sources, including sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, storm drains and agriculture. Not surprisingly, many of the agricultural practices included in the plan are funded by MACS, including our cover crop program, which is by far our most popular and effective conservation practice.

Maryland's restoration plan calls on farmers to plant 325,000 acres in cover crops annually by 2011 and 355,000 acres annually through 2017. This alone will reduce nitrogen entering the Bay by more than 2 million pounds annually. While bad weather and a late harvest prevented many farmers from getting their cover crops planted during the 2009-2010 cover crop planting season, the good news is that MACS approved more than 506,000 acres of cover crops to be planted during the 2010-2011 season—a figure that is more than one and a half times the two-year milestone.

In other areas, manure transport and installation of heavy use concrete pads for poultry operations, animal waste structures, livestock fencing and runoff control systems are all on track to meet Maryland's first installment of two-year implementation goals.

I invite you to read the following pages of our 2010 Annual Report to learn more about how MACS is working with farmers to protect natural resources and meet Maryland's Bay restoration goals.

Earl F. Hance  
*Maryland*  
 Secretary of Agriculture



# MACS Helps Farmers Meet 2011 Bay Milestones

Progress as of June 30, 2010\*

For a full description and progress report on agriculture's role in the Bay cleanup visit: [www.baystat.maryland.gov/2yearplan.html](http://www.baystat.maryland.gov/2yearplan.html)

<b>Cover Crops</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Plant 325,000 acres of cover crops annually
<b>Status:</b> 206,810 acres planted during the 2009-2010 planting season
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 64 percent
<b>Manure Transport</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Transport 45,000 tons of poultry litter out of the Bay Watershed annually
<b>Status:</b> 46,226 tons of poultry litter transported out of the Bay Watershed in 2010
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 103 percent
<b>Heavy Use Poultry Area Concrete Pads</b>
<b>Goal:</b> 400 farms construct concrete pads at entrances to poultry houses and manure sheds by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 290 farms have installed concrete pads
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 73 percent
<b>Stream Protection with Fencing</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Erect fencing to protect 3,000 acres by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 4,255 acres protected with stream fencing
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 141 percent
<b>Stream Protection without Fencing</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Install stream protection measures (excluding fencing) on 3,000 acres of land by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 1,387 acres protected
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 46 percent
<b>Livestock Waste Structures</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Construct 145 livestock waste structures by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 68 structures constructed
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 47 percent
<b>Poultry Waste Structures</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Construct 53 poultry waste structures by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 48 structures constructed
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 91 percent
<b>Water Control Structures</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Construct 125 water control structures by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 41 structures installed
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 33 percent
<b>Runoff Control Systems</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Construct 75 runoff control systems by December 2011
<b>Status:</b> 135 systems installed
<b>Percent of Milestone Completed:</b> 180 percent

\*In some instances, progress includes practices installed with both MACS and USDA-NRCS funds.

## ABOUT MACS

Established in 1984, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program helps farmers protect natural resources on their farms, adopt sustainable agricultural practices and comply with growing list of federal, state and local environmental requirements.

MACS provides farmers with conservation grants that cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install conservation measures known best management practices (BMPs) on their farms to protect natural resources. Thirty practices were eligible for MACS grants in 2010.

MACS is funded through a combination of capital resources and special funds. The majority of the practices cost-shared by MACS are financed through the capital program, which includes the sale of general obligation bonds. Cover crops, nutrient management services, manure transport and portions of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) are financed using special funds from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and general fund allocations.

## 2010 Program Summary

In Fiscal Year 2010, MACS provided Maryland farmers with \$17.7 million in grants to install 1,800 capital and special projects on their farms. Maryland farmers contributed \$950,000 toward capital projects and will shoulder maintenance and upkeep expenses of the BMPs for years to come. Collectively, the projects will prevent an estimated 1.4 million pounds of nitrogen and 89,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering Maryland waterways each year. Cover crops were responsible for the bulk of the nitrogen savings (1.2 million pounds) and nearly half of the phosphorus savings (41,362 pounds).

Protecting streams from sediment pollution is another important MACS goal. In Fiscal Year 2010, MACS helped farmers manage an estimated 17,000 tons of soil annually by cost-sharing erosion control practices such as grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures and diversions. Managing animal waste to protect local waterways is a

FISCAL YEAR 2010 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUMMARY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

District	Completed Projects	Payment Amount
Allegany	11	\$ 68,668
Baltimore County	25	\$ 180,649
Calvert	2	\$ 11,300
Caroline	40	\$ 743,652
Carroll	95	\$ 703,011
Catoctin	28	\$ 419,972
Cecil	26	\$ 179,501
Charles	12	\$ 106,314
Dorchester	33	\$ 214,760
Frederick	46	\$ 413,378
Garrett	2	\$ 5,739
Harford	14	\$ 74,434
Howard	9	\$ 49,542
Kent	27	\$ 157,634
Montgomery	11	\$ 50,451
Prince George's	5	\$ 33,002
Queen Anne's	18	\$ 577,054
Somerset	57	\$1,715,118
St. Mary's	21	\$ 129,886
Talbot	16	\$ 84,795
Washington County	20	\$ 270,721
Wicomico	15	\$ 363,396
Worcester	56	\$1,723,142
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>\$8,276,119</b>



## FISCAL YEAR 2010 PROGRAM SUMMARY

Capital Projects Approved	Number of Projects	Funds
From State Funds	623	\$ 6,858,470
From Federal Funds	29	\$ 103,900
<b>Total Capital Projects Approved</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>\$ 6,962,370</b>
Capital Projects Completed	Number of Projects	Funds
CREP Projects with State Funds	65	\$ 224,681
All Other Projects with State Funds	509	\$ 7,978,482
With Federal Funds	15	\$ 72,956
<b>Total Capital Projects Completed</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>\$ 8,276,119</b>
Special Projects Completed	Number of Projects	Funds
Cover Crops	1,046	\$ 8,874,473
Manure Transport	116	\$ 469,398 <sup>1</sup>
Nutrient Management Plan Cost-Share	53	\$ 63,213
<b>Total Special Projects Completed</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>\$ 9,407,084</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>\$17,683,203</b>
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Estimated Pounds of Nutrients Removed by Capital Projects	128,180	48,317
Estimated Pounds of Nutrients Removed by Cover Crops	1,240,860	41,362
	Tons	Acres of Land
Tons of Soil Saved Per Year <sup>2</sup>	17,009	1,218
Manure Managed Daily with Animal Waste Storage Structures	Tons of Manure	Animal Units <sup>3</sup>
Poultry Manure Managed Daily	1,147	54,810
Dairy Manure Managed Daily	211	5,576
Beef Manure Managed Daily	123	3,680
Other Animal Manure Managed Daily	56	1,231
<b>Total Animal Manure Managed Daily</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>65,297</b>
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1984-2010		
Projects Completed with State Funds	<b>18,916</b>	<b>\$97,714,729</b>

<sup>1</sup>Does not include poultry company matching funds

<sup>2</sup>Based on the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)

<sup>3</sup>One animal unit = 1,000 lbs. of live animal weight

Note: Nutrient reduction figures are based on the best science available and are consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Model.

major Bay restoration goal. In Fiscal Year 2010, MACS helped farmers construct 45 animal waste storage structures that collectively will help manage 561,000 tons of manure annually.

Although MACS helps farmers install conservation practices that they otherwise could not afford, the grants do not cover equipment purchases or start up costs for major projects. Low Interest Loans for Agricultural Conservation (LILAC) help farmers bridge the cost-share gap by providing needed cash to get a project off the drawing board and in the ground. Guaranteed by the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund, LILAC loans are typically offered at three to four percent below market rates. They are available at lending institutions statewide. In Fiscal Year 2010, MACS provided farmers with \$214,390 in LILAC loans to help pay for conservation tillage and manure handling equipment.

# Completed MACS Cost-Shared Practices By District For Fiscal Year 2010

Practice	<i>Allegany</i>	<i>Anne Arundel</i>	<i>Baltimore County</i>	<i>Calvert</i>	<i>Caroline</i>	<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Catoctin</i>	<i>Cecil</i>	<i>Charles</i>	<i>Dorchester</i>	<i>Frederick</i>	
Conservation Cover						4					1	
Contour Farming												
Contour Orchard												
Critical Area Planting	1					3	1				4	
Dead Bird Composting Facility					6					1		
Diversion	1		2				1	4			3	
Fencing	5		5			7	2		5	1	6	
Field Border												
Field Windbreak												
Filter Strip								1		17		
Grade Stabilization Structure					12		1	9	2		1	
Grassed Waterway			6			42	5	9	2		10	
Heavy Use Area Protection	1		1		14	7	1	1		8	8	
Lined Waterway or Outlet												
No Till												
Pasture & Hay Planting											1	
Pipeline	1											
Riparian Forest Buffer	2		1			7	3			1	1	
Riparian Herbaceous Cover						1				5		
Roof Runoff Structure			3			6	2	1	1		2	
Sediment Basin												
Sediment Control Pond				2			1				3	
Spring Development	2		3			5	2				2	1
Stream Crossing			2			1	2	1			1	
Strip Cropping, Contour												
Strip Cropping, Field							2					
Terrace System								3				
Waste Storage Pond												
Waste Storage Structure			3		6	4	3	3			4	
Waste Treatment Lagoon												
Wastewater Treatment Strip						2		2			1	
Water Control Structure					6							
Water Well	1							1	1			
Watering Facility	2		6			10	5	1	3		5	2
Wetland Restoration												
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>



Garrett  
 Harford  
 Howard  
 Kent  
 Montgomery  
 Prince George's  
 Queen Anne's  
 St. Mary's  
 Somerset  
 Talbot  
 Washington County  
 Wicomico  
 Worcester  
 Total FY 2010  
 Cumulative FY88-10

	1		1										7	606	
													0	47	
													0	2	
				1	1		1			1			13	807	
						4		7			2	1	21	905	
		1					3						15	488	
	1				1		1			4			38	1,042	
													0	10	
													0	2	
	1		1						6	1			27	1,648	
	1		11		1	1			2				41	1,725	
		2	18	4	2		10		5	1			116	4,335	
	2	1					12	1	51		4	12	55	179	620
		1		1			1	1		4	1			9	366
														0	12
	1													2	8
										2				3	3
	1								1					17	1,368
														6	6
	3	1	1	2		1	1			4				28	595
		1												1	49
	1		3		1		1							12	1,054
														15	1,133
		3			1									11	435
														0	61
														2	71
			1											4	89
														0	36
				2		4	1	6	1	5	2	1		45	2,043
														0	15
														5	35
								1						7	15
	1			1			1			2				8	167
	3			2			2			5				46	1,879
									2					2	2
	16	10	36	13	7	23	23	65	21	30	16	57	680	21,679	

## 2009-2010 Cover Crop Program

The Cover Crop Program is MACS' largest and most popular cost-share program. Cover crops are important to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the productivity of Maryland's farmland. Small grains, such as wheat, rye or barley, are planted as cover crops in the fall to help farmers control soil erosion on their fields over the winter and reduce the amount of nutrients that end up in the Bay.

MACS offers a Traditional Cover Crop Program, which does not allow for harvest, and a Commodity Cover Crop Program for farmers who want to harvest their cover crops. The use of manure and fertilizer is restricted in both programs. During the 2009-2010 planting season, farmers enrolled in the Traditional Cover Crop Program received a base payment of \$40/acre and up to \$45/acre in add-on incentives for using highly valued planting practices. Farmers enrolled in the Commodity Cover Crop program received a flat rate of \$25/acre. Twenty-eight percent of the cover crops planted during the 2009-2010 season were harvested.

A variety of factors—including a late harvest, low cover crop seed germination rates and heavy fall rains—resulted in unfavorable planting conditions during the fall 2009 planting season. As a result, cover crop acreage was 13 percent lower

2009-2010 COVER CROP PROGRAM

District	Contracts	Acres	Total Payment Amount
Allegany	8	364	\$ 21,778
Anne Arundel	12	797	\$ 36,313
Baltimore County	22	3,334	\$ 127,552
Calvert	16	1,245	\$ 46,497
Caroline	80	14,879	\$ 546,643
Carroll	79	13,324	\$ 533,837
Catoctin	25	2,746	\$ 103,263
Cecil	53	10,744	\$ 481,113
Charles	19	3,804	\$ 155,840
Dorchester	73	18,009	\$ 729,389
Frederick	111	14,087	\$ 538,786
Garrett	9	587	\$ 31,776
Harford	44	4,834	\$ 227,078
Howard	15	1,041	\$ 40,698
Kent	100	24,327	\$1,171,890
Montgomery	25	7,303	\$ 278,284
Prince George's	16	979	\$ 43,818
Queen Anne's	69	14,940	\$ 684,944
St. Mary's	33	3,911	\$ 161,687
Somerset	35	7,409	\$ 322,361
Talbot	67	25,305	\$1,118,978
Washington County	42	7,170	\$ 275,313
Wicomico	55	14,357	\$ 699,217
Worcester	38	11,314	\$ 497,418
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>206,810</b>	<b>\$8,874,473</b>

PROJECTS FINANCED WITH SPECIAL FUNDS

# Manure Transport

Excess animal manure can threaten the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Poultry and livestock farmers with high soil phosphorus levels or more manure than they can handle may apply for grants to help cover the cost of hauling manure off their farms. Eligible farmers receive up to \$20 per ton to transport excess manure to alternative use facilities or other operations that can use the manure safely and in accordance with their nutrient management plans. Cost-share rates are 25 percent higher for farms located in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties on the Eastern Shore.

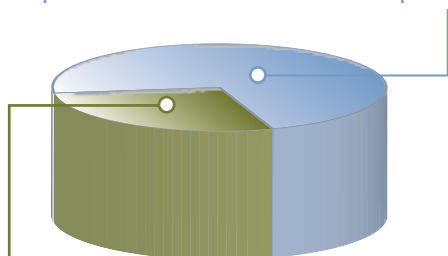
Increasing the amount of excess manure that is transported annually out of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is one way the state plans to meet the Bay's new nutrient reduction goals. In

Fiscal Year 2010, Maryland's Manure Transport Program helped poultry producers ship 46,226 tons of poultry litter outside of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The litter was used by mushroom growers and to manufacture organic lawn care products.

Cumulatively, in Fiscal Year 2010, Maryland farmers transported 80,899 tons of manure to approved farms and businesses both in and out of the watershed using \$469,398 in state grants. Delmarva poultry companies provided matching funds to transport poultry litter, bringing the total amount of financial support provided to farmers through the Manure Transport Program to \$872,244. Other animal producers received up to 87.5 percent cost-share or a maximum of \$7,500 per farm.

## ACRES PLANTED IN COVER CROPS

72 percent = Traditional Cover Crops



28 percent = Commodity Cover Crops

than the previous year with Maryland farmers planting 206,810 acres of cover crops statewide. MACS provided these farmers with \$8.9 million in grants to help offset associated seed, labor and equipment costs.

Funding for the MACS Cover Crop Program is provided by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund.

## MANURE TRANSPORT PROGRAM SUMMARY | Payments for Transport

Fiscal Year	Actual Tons Transported	State Cost-Share	Poultry Companies Cost-Share*
FY1999	1,896	\$ 17,992	\$ 17,992
FY2000	13,366	\$ 111,464	\$ 111,464
FY2001	20,477	\$ 195,559	\$ 195,559
FY2002	47,481	\$ 434,610	\$ 420,395
FY2003	28,556	\$ 233,444	\$ 229,645
FY2004	40,755	\$ 295,356	\$ 285,806
FY2005	36,329	\$ 239,196	\$ 200,113
FY2006	69,009	\$ 380,694	\$ 293,728
FY2007	99,297	\$ 490,011	\$ 356,955
FY2008	99,817	\$ 520,357	\$ 370,985
FY2009	119,892	\$ 663,177	\$ 504,024
FY2010	80,899	\$ 469,398	\$ 402,846
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>657,774</b>	<b>\$4,051,258</b>	<b>\$3,389,512</b>

\*Match provided for poultry litter only.



# Nutrient Management Services

Maryland farmers are required to follow science-based nutrient management plans that specify how much fertilizer, manure or other nutrient sources they may safely apply to crop fields. By matching fertilizer use with crop nutritional needs, the plans help prevent excess nutrients from contaminating waterways. Nutrient management plans are tailored to individual farms and crop fields. To assure that they meet state requirements and follow the latest scientific recommendations, nutrient management plans must be prepared by a certified consultant such as a University of Maryland Extension specialist, private consultant for hire, or farmer who is trained and certified to prepare his or her own plan.

MACS receives state general funds to provide grants to farmers who hire private, non-government consultants to develop or update nutrient management plans for their farms. The

FISCAL YEAR 2010 DISTRICT SUMMARY FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COST-SHARE

District	Completed Plans	Acres	Payment Amount
Caroline	3	1,297	\$ 3,950
Carroll	5	1,708	\$ 9,747
Cecil	12	5,208	\$14,432
Dorchester	4	2,659	\$ 5,350
Frederick	9	3,592	\$ 9,762
Harford	1	176	\$ 922
Howard	1	51	\$ 360
Kent	11	3,673	\$10,417
Queen Anne's	2	554	\$ 1,538
St. Mary's	4	2,104	\$ 5,557
Talbot	1	449	\$ 1,178
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>\$63,213</b>

reimbursement rate is 87.5 percent of the cost of the plan, up to \$3,000 per operation. Grants cover one nutrient management plan/update per operator, per year. Certain out-of-pocket expenses are also covered.

Due to budget reductions, funding for nutrient management services has

diminished in recent years. In Fiscal Year 2010, MACS issued \$63,213 in cost-share grants to 53 farmers in 11 counties who hired private consultants to develop nutrient management plans covering 21,471 acres of farmland.



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Since 1997, Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has helped thousands of Maryland landowners plant streamside buffers, establish wetlands, protect highly erodible land and create wildlife habitat on their property.

CREP is a state-federal conservation partnership that pays landowners competitive land rental rates to take environmentally-sensitive land out of production and install conservation practices that protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Rental contracts range from 10 to 15 years. In Fiscal Year 2010, promotional efforts focused on re-enrolling the first wave of landowners whose CREP contracts were set to expire. As of June 30, 2010, CREP participation stood at 69 percent of its enrollment target of 100,000 acres. Enrollment figures continue to fluctuate from year to year as some contracts expire while others are renewed or added. CREP figures prominently in

FISCAL YEAR 2010 CREP PROJECTS COMPLETED BY DISTRICT

District	Completed Projects	MACS Payment
Allegany	3	\$ 34,540
Baltimore County	1	\$ 2,228
Carroll	19	\$ 95,094
Catoctin	4	\$ 27,974
Cecil	1	\$ 2,122
Dorchester	22	\$ 17,637
Frederick	2	\$ 9,144
Harford	1	\$ 1,270
Kent	2	\$ 3,103
Talbot	5	\$ 4,956
Washington County	5	\$ 26,613
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$224,681</b>

Maryland's two-year plan to place natural filters on private lands.

MACS provides CREP landowners with cost-share grants to establish conservation practices on land that they have agreed to no longer till or graze. In Fiscal Year 2010, MACS provided 65 landowners statewide with \$224,681 in cost-share funds to install streamside

buffers, conservation cover, wetlands, livestock crossings and animal fencing on land enrolled in CREP. Maryland also provides a \$100 per acre signing incentive to farmers who enroll or re-enroll in the program. Funded by the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund, MACS provided \$405,000 in sign-up bonuses for 4,050 acres of land in Fiscal Year 2010.



# Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts— Bringing MACS to Farmers

Maryland's 24 soil conservation districts play a crucial role in helping farmers use MACS to protect natural resources on their farms. Located in every Maryland county, soil conservation districts—with technical guidance from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service—help farmers select the right BMPs for their operations, supervise their installation or construction and develop maintenance plans to keep them in good working order. District staff also help farmers calculate costs to install BMPs and apply for state and federal cost-share and low interest loans.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	
Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757
Baltimore County	410-527-5920, ext. 3
Calvert	410-535-1521, ext. 3
Caroline	410-479-1202, ext. 3
Carroll	410-848-8200, ext. 3
Catoctin	301-695-2803, ext. 3
Cecil	410-398-4411, ext. 3
Charles	301-934-9588, ext. 3
Dorchester	410-228-5640, ext. 3
Frederick	301-695-2803, ext. 3
Garrett	301-334-6950, ext. 3
Harford	410-838-6181, ext. 3
Howard	410-489-7987
Kent	410-778-5150, ext. 3
Montgomery	301-590-2855
Prince George's	301-574-5162, ext. 3
Queen Anne's	410-758-3136, ext. 3
St. Mary's	301-475-8402, ext. 3
Somerset	410-651-1575, ext. 3
Talbot	410-822-1577, ext. 3
Washington County	301-797-6821, ext. 3
Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3
Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3



**Maryland  
Department of Agriculture**

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