



# Welcome to the Maryland Department of Agriculture

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) preserves agricultural land, protects the health and safety of citizens, livestock and companion animals, and myriad agricultural products and agricultural-related industries, all while conserving and protecting our state's treasured natural resources, especially the Chesapeake Bay.



*Get to know us. We work for you!*





# Welcome to MDA:

## Serving & Preserving Maryland

**M**aryland's agricultural production is as diverse as the state and second to none in its importance to the state's economy, environment, food supply and quality of life. Maryland agriculture includes poultry and grain, livestock and equine, forests and nurseries, orchards and vineyards, dairy and seafood. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is committed to ensuring the safety and sustainability of this important sector of our economy.

### MDA Services

**Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)**, the nation's oldest and most successful farmland preservation program, preserves prime agricultural land and woodland by purchasing easements and restricting development. Since 1980, MALPF has preserved 283,700 acres on 2,084 farms in all 23 counties. By 2011, MALPF managed a public investment of more than \$606 million in permanently preserved land.

**Regulatory Information Center:** MDA helps ensure compliance with environmental and consumer protection laws. When necessary, MDA initiates enforcement actions, such as imposing fines and penalties, and taking civil and/or criminal judicial actions. Enforcement actions are posted at:  
[www.mda.state.md.us/news\\_room/reg\\_center.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/news_room/reg_center.php)

**Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service** resolves agriculture-related conflicts through mediation, a confidential, voluntary, no-cost to low-cost process that helps involved parties develop mutually agreeable solutions.





## Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

**Food Quality Assurance** ensures that consumers and businesses that farm food products meet high standards for safety, freshness, quality and grade. MDA:

- Certifies the quality, weight, plant sanitation, production and processing practices, and labeling of agricultural commodities, such as eggs, poultry, meat, grain, fruits and vegetables
- Regulates the sale of eggs through licensing and inspection to ensure eggs meet standards for safety, quality, labeling and weight
- Regulates and licenses all persons buying, receiving, exchanging or storing grain from a producer
- Inspects and reviews organic production and handling operations as a USDA accredited certifier
- Inspects fruit and vegetable producers and handlers to determine compliance with Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices that minimize the risk of microbial contamination.



**Animal Health** safeguards the health of livestock and poultry through programs that control infectious diseases, some of which can affect humans. MDA:

- Regulates the movement of animals into and within the state to guard against the spread of disease
- Conducts disease monitoring and detection activities for livestock and poultry diseases
- Regulates, licenses and inspects livestock markets, dealers and haulers
- Regulates animal vaccines used in disease control programs
- Regulates and inspects poultry hatcheries; regulates live bird market activity; and registers poultry growers
- Operates animal disease diagnostic laboratories in Frederick and Salisbury
- Responds to disease outbreaks and other animal emergencies under the State Emergency Operations Plan.

**Maryland Horse Industry Board** promotes Maryland's horse industry and supports research related to equine health. The board also licenses and inspects equine stables that operate as boarding, sales and/or breeding facilities; and rental, instructional, rescue or training facilities.



**State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners** ensures the safe practice of veterinary medicine in Maryland by enforcing the Veterinary Practice Act and its regulations. The board licenses, registers and inspects veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary hospital owners, and humane organizations; investigates complaints; and takes disciplinary actions when necessary.

**Maryland Agricultural Fair Board** supports agricultural fairs and shows across the state that provide educational opportunities for youth and the general public about the agriculture industry.

**Weights and Measures** ensures consumers get what they pay for by inspecting weighing and measuring devices, such as supermarket scales and gas pumps. MDA also:

- Inspects commercial establishments to ensure the price advertised on the shelf is the same price charged at checkout.
- Tests the net contents of packaged goods that are labeled by weight, volume, or length
- Conducts undercover buying and selling to ensure that the entire transaction is conducted in an honest manner
- Investigates consumer complaints.



**Agricultural Marketing** develops profitable marketing opportunities for Maryland farmers and agricultural producers. MDA:

- Promotes farmers' markets and other consumer outlets for Maryland farm products
- Coordinates the Farmers Market Nutrition Program to help low income citizens who are at dietary risk obtain fresh, local produce



- Manages the Maryland's Best Agriculture, Buy Local, and Farm-to-School initiatives
- Connects farmers with buyers from grocery stores, restaurants, food service companies and schools
- Promotes crop insurance to help farmers manage production and market risk
- Works internationally to help Maryland agricultural producers find and expand sales overseas.



## Office of Plant Industries & Pest Management

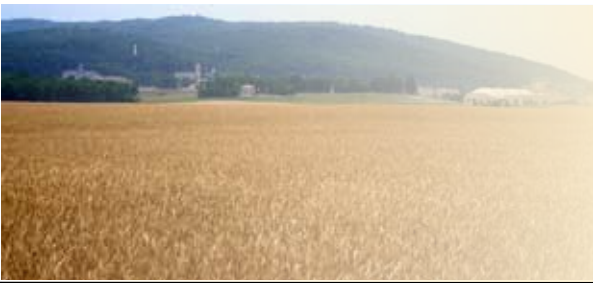
**Plant Protection & Weed Management** protects the health of plants and honey bees and serves as the state's expert on plant pests and agricultural quarantines. MDA:

- Licenses anyone who advertises, sells, installs or produces nursery stock in Maryland
- Inspects garden centers, chain stores, landscape operations, nurseries and greenhouses to intercept dangerous pests and diseases that could damage the state's nursery stock
- Conducts surveys for invasive plant pests
- Manages honey bee diseases to protect the essential role of honey bees in crop pollination
- Operates an entomology, plant pathology and green house laboratory to test and analyze samples
- Issues quarantines to prevent the sale or movement of plant materials to control or contain a new or dangerous disease or pest
- Enforces the Maryland Weed Control Law which requires all landowners, not just farmers, to manage noxious weeds.



**Turf & Seed** ensures the continued availability of high quality seed and sod to Maryland's seed consumers, whether it is a farmer tilling hundreds of acres or a homeowner with a small garden. MDA:

- Inspects, tests and certifies seeds for farmers, seed and sod dealers, and the public
- Enforces seed and sod labeling laws.



**Pesticide Regulation** ensures that pesticides are used, sold, handled and disposed of safely by both commercial and private applicators. MDA:

- Licenses and inspects proper pesticide application
- Approves training courses and conducts pesticide applicator examinations
- Enforces federal and state laws on the sale and use of pesticides
- Investigates pesticide accidents/incidents and consumer complaints.



**State Chemist** conducts laboratory analysis on animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, pesticides and other regulated materials to ensure those products work efficiently and do not cause adverse effects. MDA:



- Inspects retail outlets, distribution centers, warehouses, animal feed mills and fertilizer production facilities
- Stops the sale or distribution of products that are ineffective or harmful to humans, animals or the environment
- Serves as the primary chemistry lab for the state/federal Food Emergency Response Network.

**Mosquito Control** works to prevent mosquito-borne diseases in humans, pets and livestock by working with local jurisdictions to:

- Survey and monitor larval and adult mosquito populations
- Apply insecticide in high-need locations by airplane or truck
- Coordinate biological control activities, including breeding source reduction, and public education.

**Forest Pest Management** protects the state's forest and urban landscape trees from diseases, insects and other pests that can destroy landscape and forest trees. Conducting field activities from four regional field offices across the state, MDA:

- Develops and implements environmentally sound pest management practices
- Conducts Detection and Evaluation Surveys to identify the size, movement and potential of forest pests.



## Office of Resource Conservation

MDA works closely with farmers to balance crop and livestock production with the need to protect natural resources. Its programs are vital in helping Maryland meet its Chesapeake Bay restoration goals

**Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program** provides farmers with grants to help cover the costs of installing best management practices (BMPs) to control soil erosion, manage nutrients, safeguard water quality, and comply with a growing number of federal, state and local environmental requirements.

**Nutrient Management Program** works to ensure that farmers and urban land managers apply fertilizers, animal waste and other nutrient sources in an environmentally sound manner. MDA:

- Trains, certifies and licenses individuals to prepare nutrient management plans
- Ensures that farmers follow approved nutrient management plans
- Performs on-farm audits and inspections to ensure compliance
- Conducts an urban nutrient management enforcement program.



**Resource Conservation Operations:** MDA provides the state's 24 soil conservation districts with technical and financial assistance to implement conservation programs on Maryland farms. MDA:

- Works with soil conservation districts and the Maryland Department of the Environment to investigate complaints involving agricultural pollution
- Oversees a Nutrient Trading Program to create incentives for private sector financing of agricultural BMPs
- Works with federal, state, and local agencies to implement Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay by 2020
- Manages a number of ongoing research grants aimed at developing new technologies to protect and conserve soil and water resources.

# MDAgriculture

## Frequently Requested Phone Numbers

Animal Health	410-841-5810
Food Quality Assurance	410-841-5769
Forest Pest Management	410-841-5922
Marketing Services	410-841-5770
Maryland Agricultural Commission	410-841-5882
Maryland Agricultural Fair Board	410-841-5770
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Preservation Foundation	410-841-5860
Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service	410-841-5740
Maryland Horse Industry Board	410-841-5861
Mosquito Control	410-841-5870
Office of the Secretary	410-841-5880
Pesticide Regulation	410-841-5710
Plant Industries & Pest Management	410-841-5870
Plant Protection & Weed Management	410-841-5920
Resource Conservation	410-841-5865
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	410-841-5862
State Chemist	410-841-2721
State Soil Conservation Committee	410-841-5863
<b>Switchboard</b>	<b>410-841-5700</b>
<b>Toll-Free</b>	<b>800-492-5590</b>
Turf & Seed	410-841-5960
Weed Control	410-841-5920
Weights & Measures	410-841-5790



### Maryland Department of Agriculture

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[www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us)

Governor Martin O'Malley  
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown  
Secretary Earl Hance  
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