

Maryland Agricultural Commission

Overview

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Maryland Agricultural Commission Overview

Statutory Authority:

'2-201-205 of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Vision and Mission:

Formulate and make proposals for the advancement of Maryland agriculture by serving as an advisory body to the Secretary on matters pertaining to agriculture.

Primary Function:

The Maryland Agricultural Commission is appointed by the Governor of Maryland and serves as an advisory body to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. The Commission consists of 30 members representing various commodities across Maryland, and includes both a consumer and a University of Maryland (ex officio) representative.

The Commission currently pursues the following priorities and activities

- Encouraging the agricultural community to be more pro-active on issues affecting agriculture and rural life.
- Evaluating farm/agriculture industry labor and regulations.
- Increasing public awareness of food safety.
- Supporting the department's efforts to promote agriculture.

Agriculture Statutes Effecting Agriculture Commission

Subtitle 2. Maryland Agricultural Commission

§2–201. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the General Assembly in the enactment of this subtitle to provide for a broadened representation in policy determinations with regard to agricultural matters in the State.

§2–202. Maryland Agricultural Commission established in Department; duty.

There is a Maryland Agricultural Commission in the Department. It shall formulate and make proposals for the advancement of Maryland agriculture by serving as an advisory body to the Secretary on matters pertaining to agriculture.

§2–203. Composition of Commission; appointment and terms of members

A. The Commission has 30 members. One member is ex officio and is the principal administrative official for agricultural affairs at the University System of Maryland as designated by the Chancellor of the University. The Governor appoints the remaining 29 members as follows:

1. Two from a list of at least four nominees representing the dairy industry;
2. Two from a list of at least four nominees representing the poultry industry;
3. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the livestock industry;
4. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the tobacco industry;
5. Two from a list of at least four nominees representing the nursery industry;
6. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the horticulture industry;
7. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the field crops industry;
8. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the vegetable industry;
9. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the veterinary profession;
10. One from a list of at least two nominees of the Maryland State Grange;
11. One from a list of at least two nominees of the Maryland Farm Bureau;
12. Two without nomination appointed at large from services related to agriculture;
13. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the turf industry;
14. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the horse–breeding industry;
15. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the food processing industry;
16. One without nomination appointed at large from the general public to be the consumer member;
17. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the organic farming industry;
18. One from a list of at least two nominees representing direct farm marketing;
19. One from a list of at least two nominees representing viticulture;
20. One from a list of at least two nominees representing agriculture education in primary or secondary schools;
21. One from a list of at least two nominees representing agri–business;
22. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the forestry industry;
23. One from a list of at least two nominees representing the aquaculture industry;
24. One from a list of at least two nominees representing agri–tourism; and
25. One from a list of two nominees representing the biofuel industry.

- B. Consumer member- Qualifications : The consumer member of the commission
- i. Shall be a member of the general public;
 - ii. May not be involved in any way with the activities on which the Commission advises the Secretary; and
 - iii. May not, within 1 year before appointment, have had a financial interest in or have received compensation from a person who is involved in any way with the activities on which the Commission advises the Secretary.
- C. While a member of the Commission, the consumer member may not have a financial interest in or receive compensation from a person who is involved in any way with the activities on which the Commission advises the Secretary.
- D. The term of membership is 3 years. A person may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Members of the Commission appointed before January 1, 1973, may continue to serve until the expiration of their terms. New appointments shall be made from nominees of the industry, profession, or organization represented by the member whose term is expiring.

§2–204. Officers; meetings; executive secretary; compensation.

- A. Officers: The Commission may elect from among its appointed members a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and other officers it deems appropriate. The officers have the duties and responsibilities usually incumbent upon these officers.
- B. Meetings: The Commission shall meet every month, unless by majority vote it decides otherwise. The Commission also shall meet when called by the Secretary.
- C. Executive secretary: The Commission shall employ a full-time executive secretary whose minimum duties shall be to carry out the work of the Commission, and to assist the Secretary in the promotion of the agricultural industry. He shall maintain an office in the City of Annapolis. The Commission, with the approval of the Secretary, shall determine the salary of the executive secretary.
- D. Compensation; budget: All salaries and expenses for rent, stenographic and clerical help, stationery, postage, and miscellaneous office materials necessary for the work of the Commission and executive secretary shall be provided in the State budget. The members of the Commission may not receive a salary, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings and other business of the Commission.

§2–205. Commission Recommendations.

The Commission shall submit its recommendations in writing, to the Secretary who shall notify the Commission of the action he takes on the recommendations.

Maryland Agricultural Commission Monthly Meetings

The Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month throughout the year, except during the months of April and October. Monthly meetings are from 8:30 am to noon at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in rooms 114 and 112.

In the months of April and October the Commission conducts spring and fall farm tours. The tours educate Commission members on the different types of agriculture operations in Maryland. In addition to the tours, the Commission sponsors a public meeting where local farmers, citizens and elected officials are given the opportunity to express their concerns about agriculture issues impacting the industry. All 23 counties host the Commission every five years.

Meeting Reports

Members of the Maryland Agricultural Commission must submit their written reports to the Executive Secretary at least four days before the next meeting. The written report should be a summary of the verbal report they plan to give at the next Commission meeting. The reports should be emailed to the Executive Secretary as a word document and typed in 12 point, Times New Roman font. The top of the report should include the commissioner's name, commodity group and date.

Expense Reports

Members of the Maryland Agricultural Commission will receive their monthly expense report at the beginning of each meeting and they must be completed and submitted to the Executive Secretary by the conclusion of the monthly meeting. Commission members will receive mileage reimbursement at the current state approved rate. Commissioners are encouraged to carpool if possible.

Meeting Schedule

2016 Meeting Schedule

Month	Meeting Date	Type of Event	Report Deadline
January	January 13, 2016	Meeting	January 9
February	February 10, 2016	Meeting	February 6
March	March 9, 2016	Meeting	March 5
April	April 13, 2016	Tour	--
May	May 11, 2016	Meeting	May 1
June	June 8, 2016	Meeting	June 4
July	July 13, 2016	Meeting	July 9
August	August 10, 2016	Meeting	August 6
September	September 14, 2016	Meeting	September 10
October	October 12, 2016	Tour	--
November	November 9, 2016	Meeting	November 5

December	December 14, 2016	Meeting	December 10
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Inclement Weather Policy

The Maryland Agriculture Commission will follow Anne Arundel County Public Schools inclement weather decisions. If Anne Arundel County Public Schools are closed or have a delayed opening due to inclement weather then the Maryland Agriculture Commission meeting is cancelled. Changes to school schedules caused by inclement weather or other emergency conditions are announced through the school system's website (www.aacps.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/aacps), and Twitter page ([@AACountySchools](https://twitter.com/AACountySchools)); and broadcast on major area radio and television stations, including AACPS-TV (Channel 96 on Comcast and Broadstripe, and Channel 36 on Verizon). In addition, announcements are posted (and you may sign up for e-mail alerts) on the website School's Out (www.schoolsout.com).

Tour Schedule

Season	Year	Counties
2016	Spring	Baltimore & Carroll
	Fall	Calvert & St. Mary's
2017	Spring	Garrett & Allegany
	Fall	Wicomico & Dorchester
2018	Spring	Anne Arundel Co & Baltimore City
	Fall	Talbot & Caroline
2019	Spring	Cecil & Harford
	Fall	Howard & Montgomery
2020	Spring	Washington & Frederick
	Fall	Kent & Queen Anne's
2021	Spring	Prince George's & Charles
	Fall	Somerset & Worcester
2022	Spring	Baltimore & Carroll
	Fall	Calvert & St. Mary's
2023	Spring	Wicomico & Dorchester
	Fall	Garrett & Allegany
2024	Spring	Talbot & Caroline
	Fall	Anne Arundel Co & Baltimore City
2025	Spring	Howard & Montgomery
	Fall	Cecil & Harford
2026	Spring	Washington & Frederick
	Fall	Kent & Queen Anne's
2027	Spring	Prince George's & Charles
	Fall	Somerset & Worcester

Social Media Outlets

Facebook <http://facebook.com/MdAgDept>

Twitter <http://twitter.com/mdagdept>

Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mdagdept>

You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/user/StateMaryland/videos?query=agriculture>



Executive Secretary Contact Information

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