

A Look at Maryland Agriculture



Maryland

Capital: Annapolis

Population: 5,296,000

Founded: Maryland Charter granted in 1632, became a state on April 28, 1788 (7th state)

State Bird: Baltimore Oriole

State Tree: White Oak

State Flower: Back Eyed Susan

State Crustacean: Blue Crab

Number of Districts: 23 Counties plus Baltimore City

Largest City: Baltimore Population: 651,000



Soil

- Sassafras series consisting of very deep, fine-loamy, siliceous, semiactive, well drained, moderately permeable soils formed in sandy marine and old alluvial sediments of the Coastal Plain.

- These soils are categorized as prime farmland and best suited to construction, onsite effluent disposal, and recreational development.

Climate



- The mean annual air temperature is 45°F-48°F, mean annual precipitation 35"-50" and frost free period 160-250 days.

General



- Maryland agriculture is the state's largest commercial industry.
- The Maryland agricultural industry contributes more than \$17 billion in revenue annually.
- Agriculture employs 350,000 Marylanders.
- 14% of the state's workforce are involved in Maryland's food and fiber sector:

50% wholesaling & retailing
20% farm production
15% marketing & processing
12% agribusiness 3% farm supply



Animals

- Known as "America in Miniature", Maryland agriculture is as diverse as that of the nation.
- As the state has grown in population, traditional dairy, grain and livestock production, while still active, have given way to products more directly related to consumers.
- Poultry, nursery and turf production, seafood, dairy, racing and pleasure horse industries now dominate Maryland agriculture.

Crops



- 40% of Maryland's land is in agriculture – over 2 million acres.
- The average size of a farm is only 178 acres, with a value of \$3,176 per acre.
- Extensive research and work is done by farmers to implement best management practices that protect our land while providing the food and fiber products necessary for our existence.



Maryland Agriculture in the Classroom
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