

# Crop Damage from Deer in Maryland

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Based on a 2011 Maryland  
census survey, crop loss by  
species:

Deer = 77%

Groundhogs = 10%

Resident geese = 6%

Migrant geese = 5%

“Others” = 2%

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Based on discussions with farmers around the state, The average crop loss from deer is around \$50/acre/farm.

With nearly 1.1 million acres in cropland in Maryland, this would equate to nearly \$60 million in losses annually.







# Drone photos of deer damage to a corn field

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# Possible Solutions to Address Deer Crop Damage

- 2023 Legislative session - passage of SB327/HB983 - Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps
- A portion of the funding increase shall be used for the creation and funding of a farmer cost-share program to provide funding for farmers to plant forage crops on private agricultural land to reduce the loss of commercial crops due to wildlife foraging; and increase forage habitat for wildlife.





# Possible Solutions to Address Deer Crop Damage

- MDFB Policies:
- We urge the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to explore, develop and implement effective, innovative practices to control the deer population in our state.
- We support the creation of a landowner ombudsman within DNR to focus on wildlife management on private lands.
- We support the commercial sale of venison from certified processing facilities.
- We urge the State of Maryland to provide cost share funding to help deter crop damage. (fencing cost share)
- We urge county and state parkland to have a valid wildlife management plan to control and properly maintain the wildlife population on this land.
- We urge the state to require and implement a wildlife management plan for all public, wild and forest land (including the 5 million trees initiative).





# Thank You!

Any Questions?