



*W*elcome  
to the Maryland  
Department of Agriculture

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's programs aim to promote, protect and increase profitability of all Maryland farmers and agriculture partners.



**Agricultural and Seafood Marketing** develops marketing opportunities for farmers and watermen through the Maryland's Best Agriculture and Maryland's Best Seafood promotional campaigns. Other initiatives include the following: Farm-to-School Program, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program which helps low-income citizens obtain produce, Foodbank programs, Homegrown by Heroes (veteran) Program, the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program, and the International Marketing Program.

**Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service** resolves agriculture-related conflicts through mediation- a voluntary, confidential, neutral process that helps develop mutually agreeable solutions.

**Animal Health** safeguards the health of livestock and poultry through programs that control infectious diseases, some of which can affect humans. The unit operates two animal disease diagnostic laboratories and responds to animal disease outbreaks.

**Food Quality Assurance** inspects and certifies the quality, weight, production practices, processing practices and/or labeling of agricultural commodities (eggs, meat, grain, etc.), offers organic certification through the Maryland Organic Certification Program, licenses Grain Dealers, inspects produce operations for risk of microbial contamination, and enforces the Maryland Egg Law.

**Forest Pest Management** develops and implements environmentally sound pest management practices by conducting surveys to identify the population size, movement and potential of forest pests and diseases across the state.

**Maryland Agricultural Fair Board** supports agricultural fairs and shows that provide education about the agriculture industry.

**Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation** preserves farmland by purchasing easements that restrict development. Since 1980, the program has preserved over 350,000 acres.

**Maryland Horse Industry Board** promotes and serves as an economic development incubator for the horse industry, as well as licenses and regulates equine lesson, boarding, rescue, and rental operations that are open to the public.

**Mosquito Control** works to prevent mosquito-borne diseases and suppress mosquito nuisance by surveying mosquito populations and applying insecticide as needed.

**Pesticide Regulation** regulates the sale, use, and proper application of pesticides. The unit also licenses and inspects pesticide businesses for compliance with the law, certifies pesticide applicators, investigates pesticide accidents/ incidents, and administers the law regarding pesticide use at public schools and various federal pesticide programs that protect water quality, worker safety, and more.



**Plant Protection & Weed Management** has the following programs: Apiary Inspection for honey bee health along with trained dogs that inspect for a quarantined disease, Nursery Inspection for plant pests and diseases, Pest Survey for invasive plant pests, Entomology and Plant Pathology Lab services, Maryland Ginseng Management Program, and Noxious Weed Management.



**Resource Conservation** helps farms of all sizes protect natural resources, meet Chesapeake Bay restoration goals, and build resilience to climate change by providing educational, financial, and technical assistance programs. Its regulatory arm enforces Maryland's agricultural and turfgrass nutrient management laws and regulations.

**Spay and Neuter Grant Program** provides grants to government and nonprofit entities that provide free spay and neuter services to pets of low-income Marylanders, feral/community cats, and for certain capital expenses.

**State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners** licenses, registers and inspects veterinarians, vet technicians, vet hospitals, and humane organizations.



**State Chemist** section registers animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural commodities. The program also performs laboratory analysis to ensure products meet label claims and are not harmful to the environment. In addition, the program inspects facilities to ensure that the commodities are being manufactured, warehoused, and distributed in a way that prevents adulteration.

**Turf & Seed** inspects and certifies seeds, enforces seed and sod labeling laws and conducts lab tests on seed for purity, weed seeds and germination. The program also registers farmers growing hemp.

**Weights and Measures** inspects weighing and measuring devices, and net contents of packaged commodities in the marketplace for compliance with the law. The program also investigates consumer complaints in regards to incorrect weight and measurement.

## Frequently Requested Phone Numbers

Animal Health	410-841-5810
Fiscal Services	410-841-5855
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 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
Switchboard	410-841-5700
Turf & Seed	410-841-5960
Weed Control	410-841-5920
Weights & Measures	410-841-5790



50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401  
[www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov) On Twitter @MdAgDept