

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture

2016 Annual Report to Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly

The Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture was established on June 29, 2006 to "promote the economic profitability of agriculture in the State by ensuring that all appropriate State agencies work in a cooperative, coordinated manner with local government and industry groups in planning, implementing, overseeing and evaluating intergovernmental initiatives related to agricultural affairs of the State."

Primary Responsibilities:

- A. Promote a clear and consistent "business-friendly" climate for agriculture in the State by serving as a liaison between the Governor and local governments and industry organizations;
- B. Develop an annual, coordinated intergovernmental plan for services and functions dealing with the agricultural affairs of the State;
- C. Develop procedures for identifying and assessing agricultural developments with a potential for impact on the State and on local governments;
- D. Develop and implement a consistent, systematic method for the coordination of the State's agricultural economic development activities;
- E. Develop and implement specific and measurable actions to improve the economic and regulatory climate for agriculture in the State;
- F. Make recommendations for programs and policies, if appropriate, in order to ensure that the needs and goals of the State's agricultural strategy are met and accomplished; AND
- G. Undertake the establishment of an "agricultural affairs information center" that serves as the first point of contact regarding agricultural issues impacting farmers in the State.

The commission met once during 2016 calendar year on September 27, 2016. The following presenters touched on a wide-range of topics that are important to the agriculture community:

- Ashley Jones, Entomologist, Plant Protection & Weed Management Program - Presentation on Maryland's Pollinator Protection Plan
- Joe Tassone, Program Manager, Geospatial Data Analysis - Presentation on "The Future of Sustainable Farming and Forestry in Maryland"
- Gail Ownings, Chair, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy Policy Committee - Presentation on "The Placement of Largescale Solar Operations on Agricultural Land"