

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture

2017 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 2017 calendar year on June 1, 2017. The following presenters touched on a wide-range of topics that are important to the agriculture community:

- Kevin Atticks, Grow and Fortify - Presentation on "Maryland's Value-Added Agriculture - Baltimore Metropolitan Council Report"
- Brian Geraci, State Fire Marshal - Presentation on "Inspections Guidelines for Wedding Barns"
- Kirk Engle, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - An update on food safety programs at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council - Presentation on "Where to Find the Ag Money & How to Get It"

The commission also discussed its plan for the upcoming year, which includes discussions and updates on more value-added markets and opportunities in the state, and looking at policy changes to help address crop damage caused by wildlife.