



Maryland Department of Agriculture Update

Comptroller's Pandemic Spending Workgroup

Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg

Dec. 8, 2021



AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND



- ***Maryland's top industry***
- ***Overall economic impact of \$19.6 billion and 83,000 jobs across the state***
- ***12,429 farms, nearly 2 million acres***
- ***Average farm size = 160 acres***



AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND

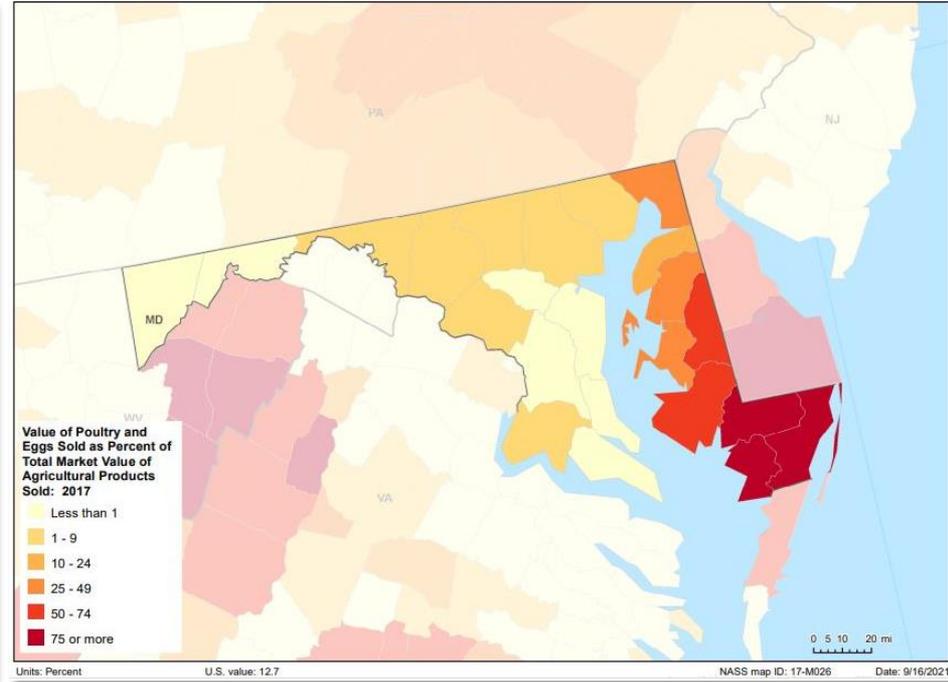
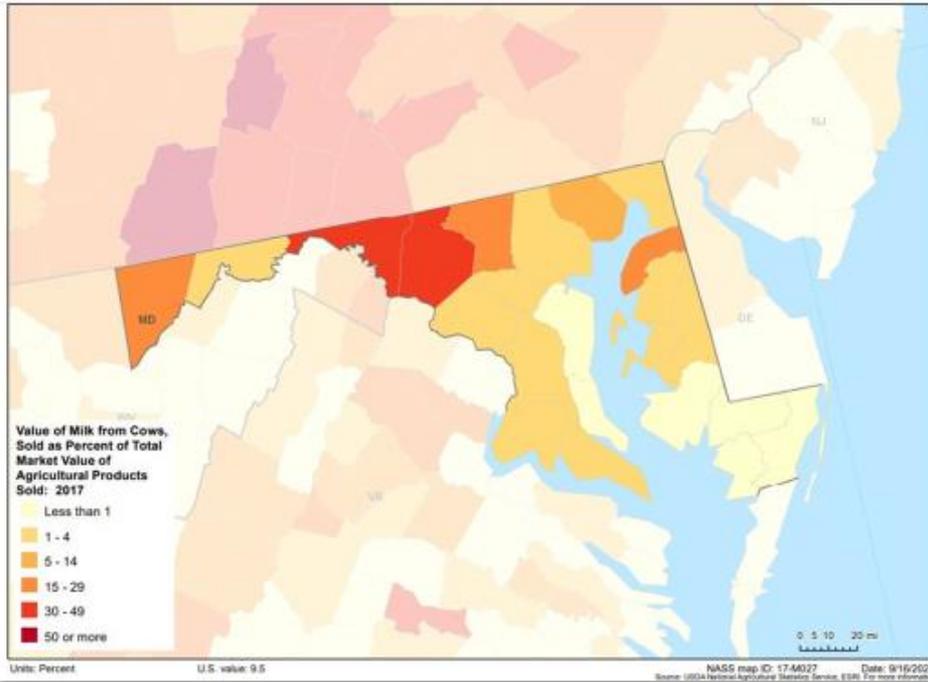


AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND



Concentration of Dairy Operations in Maryland

Concentration of Poultry Operations in Maryland





COVID-19 IMPACT & MDA'S RESPONSE



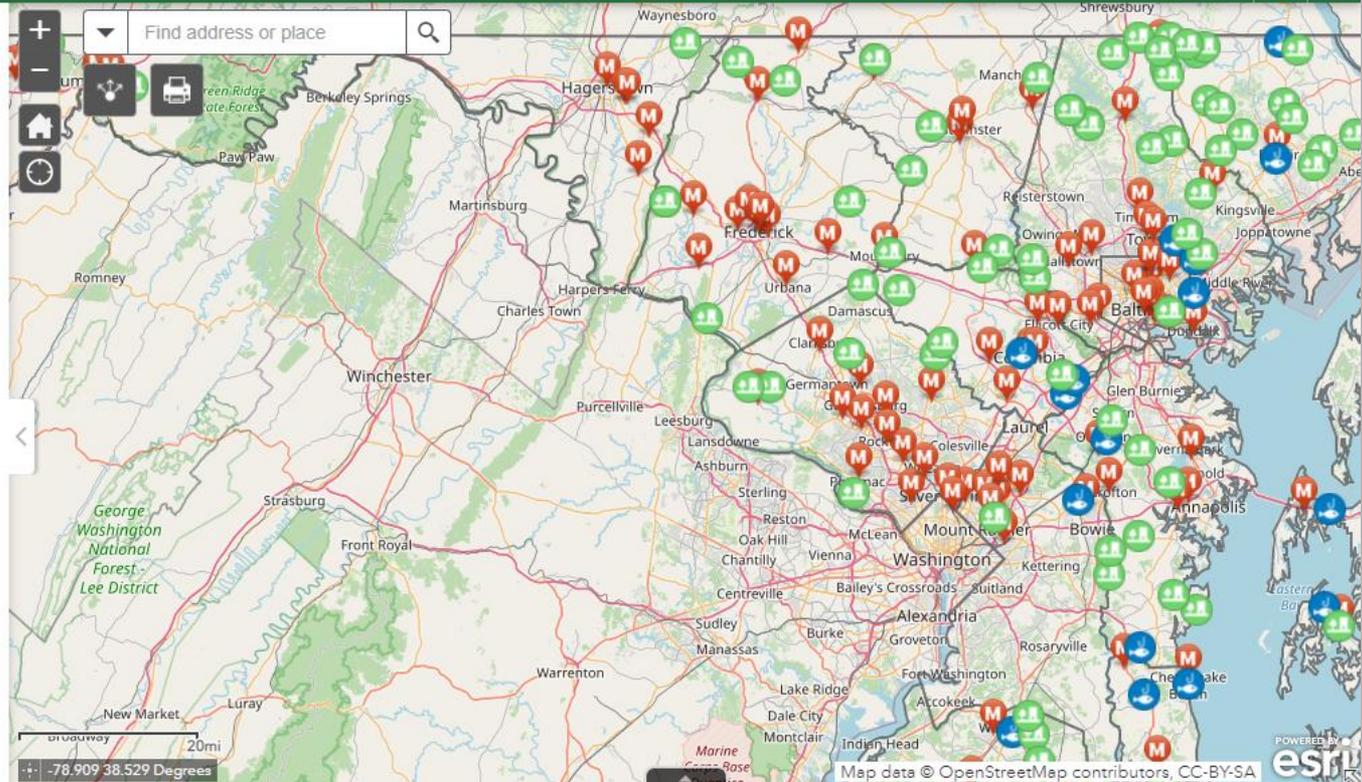
AG & SEAFOOD PRODUCTS LOCATOR



Local Food Options: Farmstands, Farmers Markets, and Seafood

with Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

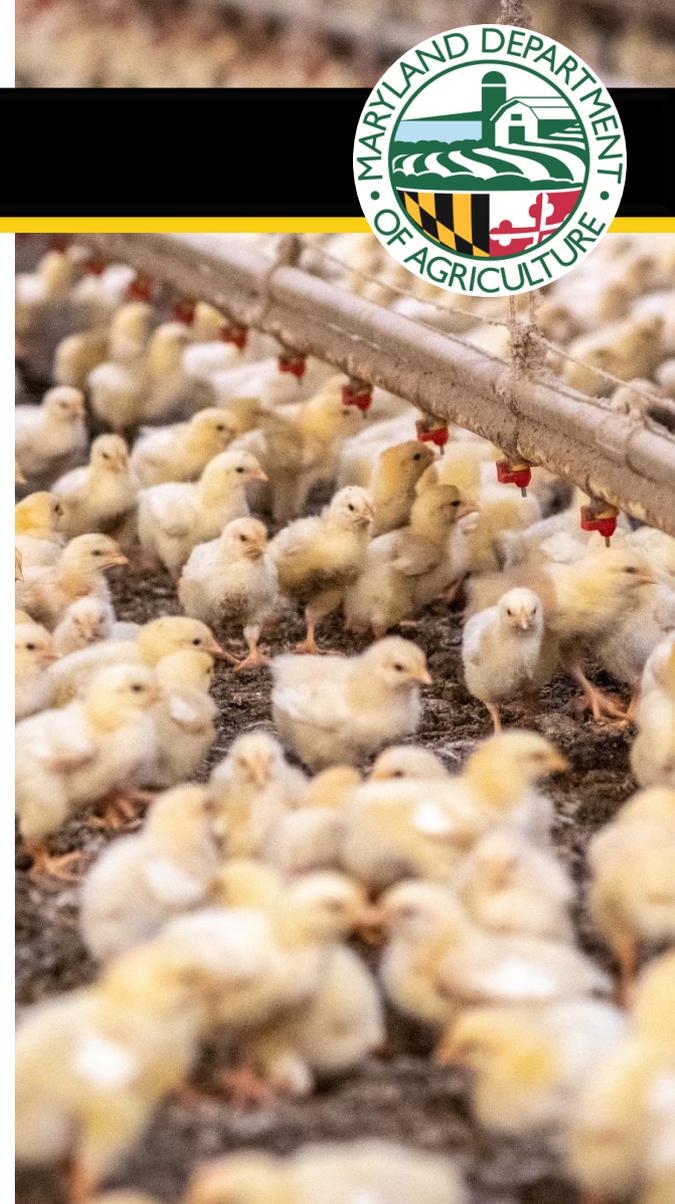
Maryland farmers and seafood companies doing direct sales to replace markets unavailable during the COVID-19 pandemic are listed in the maps on this page, along with Maryland farmers markets. Other producers are listed throughout the Maryland's Best website: [MarylandsBest](https://www.marylandsbest.com)



MDA COVID-19 RESPONSE



- *Food Supply Task Force*
- *Poultry and Egg Processing Facilities Staff Shortages*
 - *Collaboration with counterparts in Delaware and Virginia*
 - *Increased access to testing for Eastern Shore poultry workers and their families*
 - *Decreased absenteeism in poultry facilities*



MDA COVID-19 GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS



Farmworkers and the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) TEMPORARY WORKER HOUSING COVID-19 GUIDANCE

PREPARE, EDUCATE, PREVENT, ISOLATE, COMMUNICATE.
Employers and employees can help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guidance will help Maryland agricultural employers know how to prevent COVID-19 and what to do if there is an outbreak. The most important prevention measure is good communication and education about COVID-19. This guidance also includes information on how to provide temporary housing for farm workers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has downloadable signs and guidance available in several languages.

- PREPARE - Have a plan and be prepared**
- Develop a plan to provide food, water, transportation, and supplies if workers are quarantined. You should also have a healthy worker who can replace any workers who are quarantined.
 - Develop a plan to provide temporary housing for farm workers. Temporary housing should be located on the farm and should be able to allow for any other activities on campus. You should also have a plan to provide temporary housing for farm workers.
 - Identify the nearest health care facility that provides care to farm workers.
 - If possible, have your HDV workers visit a health insurance plan with a "float nurse."
 - Start your plan for farm workers that will be used for workers that need medical attention or treatment that is not available on the farm and the person providing the treatment.
 - Develop a plan to provide temporary housing for farm workers. Temporary housing should be located on the farm and should be able to allow for any other activities on campus. You should also have a plan to provide temporary housing for farm workers.



Guidance for LIVESTOCK SHOWS & COMPETITIONS

The State of Maryland continues to be vigilant in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 as we begin to safely reopen certain businesses and activities across the state. The Maryland Department of Agriculture understands that summer represents a peak season for livestock shows and competitions at local fairs and other agricultural events. All policies and procedures you put in place on your agricultural site should be communicated to workers in their native language through printed signs, verbal announcements, and training. The following checklist is intended to assist you with ensuring you have implemented all the necessary activities.

- BEFORE THE EVENT:**
- Coordinate the risks related to COVID-19 in the community, whether the venue is located. It is not advisable to hold an event in an area with significant community transmission.
 - Familiarize yourself with local, state, and federal guidelines to view the spread of COVID-19. The community where the venue is located may have additional restrictions in place.
 - Develop a management plan for the venue that incorporates best practices provided by MDA and U.S. CDC.
 - Communicate clearly and share plans with the local health department before the event.
 - Speak with the animal manager. Discuss alternatives, including any new procedures for the facility and sanitation practices.
 - Require pre-registration to alternate in-person interaction on-site and to allow for entry on specific dates and times in order to control capacity. Maintain a record of registrants.



Agricultural Site COVID-19 Guidance: MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WORKFORCE

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Individuals infected with COVID-19 and those exhibiting any of these symptoms should not work. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person-to-person contact and is highly contagious. To maintain a healthy workforce, you should develop and implement a plan to prevent workers on your agricultural site. All policies and procedures you put in place on your agricultural site should be communicated to workers in their native language through printed signs, verbal announcements, and training. The following checklist is intended to assist you with ensuring you have implemented all the necessary activities.

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Maryland Agritourism Operations During COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

As an agritourism operator...

Am I able to operate my agritourism operation?
As a business owner, you should refer to the CDC, State Health, Section 4-201 that can authorize many types of activities at a business. You should also refer to the CDC, State Health, Section 4-201 that can authorize many types of activities at a business. You should also refer to the CDC, State Health, Section 4-201 that can authorize many types of activities at a business.



COVID-19 Guidance: AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE TRAINING

All training should be provided in the native language of workers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has guidance and signs available in multiple languages.

Definition of COVID-19: How it Spreads/Symptoms

1. Involuntary the sick
You should be going to work with the novel coronavirus, also called COVID-19. There is a chance someone from you can get COVID-19. You should be going to work with the novel coronavirus, also called COVID-19. There is a chance someone from you can get COVID-19.



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE Maryland Pick-Your-Own Operations During COVID-19 State of Emergency

As a pick-your-own farm operator...

What do I need to do to protect myself, my employees, my customers, and the public from COVID-19?
All Marylanders are advised to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Any place where people congregate is a possible opportunity for COVID-19 to spread. It is absolutely essential that pick-your-own farms operators do what they can to reduce the risk of transmission.



COVID-19 Guidance: FARMS AND ON-FARM DELIVERIES AND PICK-UPS

The following guidance and recommendations for farms has been developed to assist farms in limiting exposure and risk related to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). As always, it is critical to practice biosecurity for the safety of animals, workers, and the public. It is now critical to also consider ways to limit person-to-person contact and necessary -congregating safely while maintaining social distance.



COVID-19 Facility/Site Compliance: Agricultural SAFE BUSINESS PRACTICES, FACE COVERING & SOCIAL DISTANCING COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

This checklist will help agricultural businesses including farms to implement best practices to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace. It can be used as a self-assessment tool by agricultural businesses, as a tool for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Health and the local Health Department to evaluate COVID-19 safe business practices for facilities. All recommendations for signage and communications should be made available in the written and spoken languages of the employees. Simple language and infographics are strongly encouraged.

- 2. Disease How the virus spreads**
Say: COVID-19 is a virus that is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
- 3. Disease How the virus spreads**
Say: COVID-19 is a virus that is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
- 4. Answer**
Ask: How is the virus being passed from one person to another? It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.

- GENERAL OPERATIONS ARE ADVISED TO:**
- Require customers and staff to follow Governor Hogan's 20-GA-10 Executive Order requiring the use of a face covering including face masks or cloth face coverings.
 - Keep customers and workers from grouping too close to one another, in no case closer than 6 feet.
 - Provide signage that urges customers to keep a 6-foot distance away from others, and discouraging groups of 10 or more from assembling together in one area.
 - Allow for customers to be spaced 6 feet or more apart when they are picking and paying for the produce. Use flags, cones, and tape, or otherwise demarcate areas available for picking in the fields. Allow for sufficient space between customers are waiting to pay for the produce.
 - Do not let anyone work or pick who is sick or is experiencing fever, body aches, nausea, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath or may have been exposed to individuals with these symptoms. You can use signage like, "Do not pick if you are sick."
 - If a worker becomes sick during the work day, have them go home and isolate themselves from their staff and customers immediately.

- COVID-19 Planning & Procedures**
- Identify a drop-off location for regular deliveries or pick-ups away from on-farm high traffic areas and housing. Drop-off locations should be clearly marked and signage should be posted.
 - Create specific instructions for drop-off deliveries or pick-ups.
 - Use signage to clearly identify drop-off/pick-up points. Use signage in multiple languages if employees, staff, and/or delivery vehicles are not fluent in English. Signage should be posted in multiple languages if employees, staff, and/or delivery vehicles are not fluent in English.
 - Use signage to clearly identify drop-off/pick-up points. Use signage in multiple languages if employees, staff, and/or delivery vehicles are not fluent in English.
 - Create specific instructions (translated for regular deliveries or pick-ups) that must be conducted at a certain area on the farm and may require assistance from farm workers. Limiting access for high-traffic areas, farm workers equipment loading/unloading, etc.
 - Use signage to clearly identify drop-off/pick-up locations.
 - Use signage to clearly identify drop-off/pick-up locations.
 - Log all deliveries/pick-ups on and farm entries.
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- 5. Answer**
Ask: How is the virus being passed from one person to another? It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
- 6. Answer**
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- 7. Answer**
Ask: How is the virus being passed from one person to another? It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.

- General Prevention: Workplace Prevention**
- 1. Introduce the topic**
Say: COVID-19 is a virus that is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
 - 2. Disease personal prevention methods**
Say: COVID-19 is a virus that is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
 - 3. Disease personal prevention methods**
Say: COVID-19 is a virus that is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.

- How do I prepare my pick-your-own operation?**
- Put up signage and provide information on website and social media to explain any changes to the operation or extra precautions taken to limit exposure to COVID-19.

- 8. Answer**
Ask: How is the virus being passed from one person to another? It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
- 9. Answer**
Ask: How is the virus being passed from one person to another? It is being passed from one person to another. It is being passed from one person to another.
- 10. Answer**
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MARYLAND FARMER COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM



- *Sept. 2020, Governor Larry Hogan announced the Maryland Farmer COVID-19 Relief Program*
- *Direct payments:*
 - *\$1,000 per house to contract poultry growers across the state*
 - *15% bonus payment to farmers who received CFAP1 funding*
- *Provided \$5 million to 1,300+ farmers & producers*
- *Funding from the federal CARES Act*



FEEDING THOSE IN NEED



- ***Farmers Market Nutrition Program***
 - *Maryland Market Money Program*
 - *\$100,000 matching funds for WIC, SFMNP*
- ***USDA Food Box Program***
 - *\$87.1 worth of food distributed statewide*
- ***Food Donations to Local Communities***





MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures™

Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)

- *Quasi-Public entity offering funding to:*
 - *Develop food/feed/fiber production and processing businesses;*
 - *Assist with rural land preservation efforts; and*
 - *Alleviate shortage of nontraditional capital and credit available to farmers, etc.*

MARBIDCO: COVID-19 Response



MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures™

During Pandemic:

- *Deferred Loan Payments on 14% of loan portfolio*
- *Lowered Interest Rates by 100 Basis Points*
 - *Rates as low as 2.25% for popular program*
- *Used CARES Act Funding for Pandemic Adjustment Equipment Grant Program (PAEGF)*
- *Created Pandemic Adjustment Loan Fund*

MARBIDCO: Pandemic Adjustment Loan Fund



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growing rural ventures™

Pandemic Adjustment Loan Fund:

- *Low-cost loans with flexible terms:*
 - *Interest Rate: 3.75 %; Term: 12-36 months*
 - *No collateral required*
- *Up to \$3,000 for working capital*
- *Up to \$10,000 for equipment purchases*

Total: 37 loans at \$297,317

MARBIDCO: Pandemic Adjustment Equip. Grant Program



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Pandemic Adjustment Equipment

Grant Program (PGAEF):

- *Funded by CARES Act money*
- *Provided funding to purchase equipment, capital assets*
- *Grants up to 80% of eligible cost*

Total: 92 grant at \$1.98 million

- *Includes 45 grants for cold storage equipment*

MARBIDCO: Relief Act Grants



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Used \$2 Million in RELIEF Act funding to create six programs:

RELIEF Act Funding Grant Program	No. of Projects Funded	Total Amount Funded	Average Grant Amount
Aquaculture Relief Grants	92	\$138,500	\$1,505
Urban Farmer Relief Grants	11	\$5,500	\$500
Cold Storage Relief Grants	71	\$323,364	\$4,554
Livestock Processing Relief Grants	22	\$580,946	\$26,407
Wood Products Grant	20	\$784,690	\$39,235
Maryland Market Money	1	\$167,000	\$167,000
Total	217	\$2,000,000	



THANK YOU!