



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 10, 2020

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB 1304 - Baltimore County - Hunting - Deer Management Permits

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1304, county delegation bill that adds Baltimore county to the list of Shotgun only hunting counties that would allow the use of a rifle for the harvesting of deer only under a Deer Management Permit. The regular deer firearms hunting season would still remain Shotgun only. Currently, Calvert and Charles, Harford and St. Mary's counties have this provision in the law.

This bill will expand our farmers in Baltimore county's ability to utilize another tool in the toolbox in addressing the crop damage inflicted on their crops as a result of foraging deer herds. A Deer Management Permit **does not allow nighttime shooting** and is only permitted by DNR after DNR confirms crop damage due to deer. The DMP only allow the harvest of antlerless deer and all deer harvested are to be donated food banks or processed for the farmer's own consumption. In 2019, there were only 62 DMP's issued in Baltimore County.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1304 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396



(Near Marc Shawan Road, Butler Road and Mantua Mill) The caged in areas display what the crop in each plot should look like. The surrounding areas have been destroyed by deer.



(Bonita Ave and Worthington) Deer create significant damage on crops, even as the field is surrounded by an electric fence.



(Mantan Mill and Butler Road) In this photo, 27 deer can be seen grazing in a field. Close by was another cluster of 21 deer, meaning a farmer had nearly 50 deer in their field at once.