



# Impact of COVID-19 on Maryland's Agriculture and Seafood Industries

*House of Delegates: Environment & Transportation Committee*

**Agriculture Secretary Bartenfelder  
Natural Resources Secretary Haddaway-Riccio**

**May 27, 2020**



# Operations During State of Emergency

- All non-emergency essential employees are teleworking until further notice
- Gradually resuming low-risk field activities, including water quality monitoring and technical assistance to design and install best management practices
- All in-person public hearings/meetings have be cancelled, postponed or are being held via teleconference
- 30-day extension for expiring licenses, certifications, registrations, etc.
- Dedicated webpages for COVID-19 updates & resources

# Maintaining a Stable Food Supply Chain

- **TOP PRIORITY: Maintaining supply chain with limited interruption**
- Food production and agriculture are essential
- Working closely with industry to provide guidance, identify resources



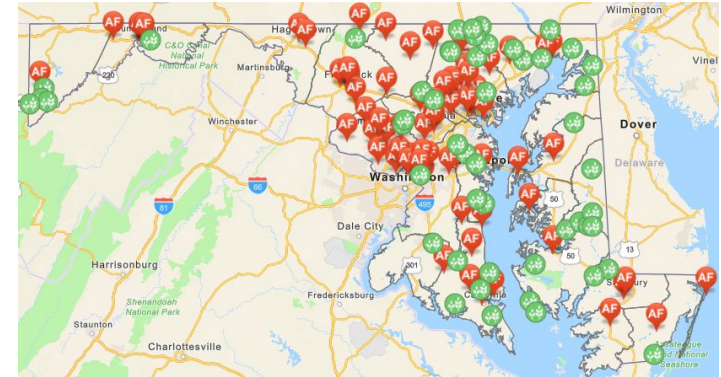
# MDA's Industry Task Forces

- Maryland Food Supply Chain Task Force
- Eastern Shore Poultry Interagency Task Force
- Delmarva Poultry Production Task Force



# Promoting the Agriculture and Seafood Industries

- Identifying new opportunities for producers and distributors
- Connecting consumers directly to agriculture, seafood producers
- Keeping farmers markets, farm stands, etc. open and operating safely
- “Keep Calm and Carry Out” Campaign
- Working to establish true cost of COVID-19-related losses



# COVID-19 Emergency Federal Assistance

- DNR and MDA are actively seeking additional federal assistance for the seafood industry
- There is growing concern that \$300 million included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for all states' commercial fisheries is insufficient
  - \$4.1 million allocated to Maryland
- USDA's food purchase program is critical to filling the market void, keeping critical food supply chains open and providing sustainable sustenance for those in need



**THANK YOU!**