Maryland Department of Agriculture Update

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Acting Secretary Kevin Atticks

January 26, 2023

AGRICULTURE IN MARYLAND

- *12,300 farms*
- *2 million acres*
- *Average farm size = 165 acres*
- *$8.25 Billion Industry*
  - *$3 Billion Value Added*

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Vision Is… to achieve excellence in programs and in services that preserve and protect agricultural resources and the environment, promote profitable agriculture and consumer confidence, and enhance the quality of life for all Marylanders.

Our Mission Is… to provide leadership and support to agriculture and the citizens of Maryland by conducting regulatory, service, and educational activities that assure consumer confidence, protect the environment, and promote agriculture.

DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS

I. *Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services*

- Agricultural Marketing
- Animal Health
- Food Quality Assurance
- Maryland Horse Industry Board
- Maryland Agricultural Fair Board
- State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- Weights & Measures

II. *Plant Industries & Pest Management*

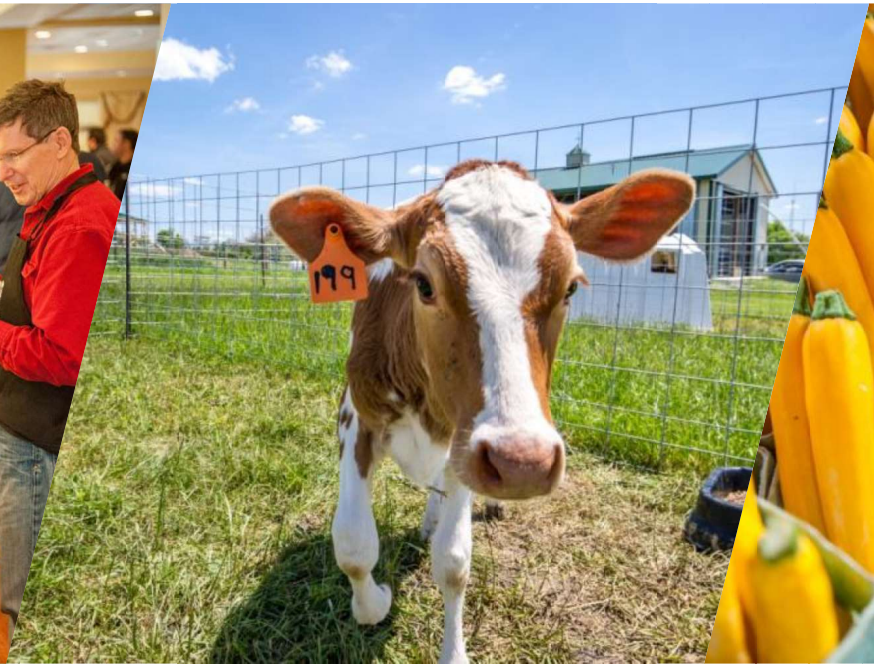
- Plant Protection and Weed Management
- Turf and Seed
- Pesticide Regulation
- State Chemist
- Mosquito Control
- Forest Pest Management

III. *Resource Conservation*

- Nutrient Management Program
- Conservation Grants
- District Operations
- Program Planning and Evaluation

IV. *Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)*

OFFICE OF MARKETING, ANIMAL HEALTH & CONSUMER SERVICES

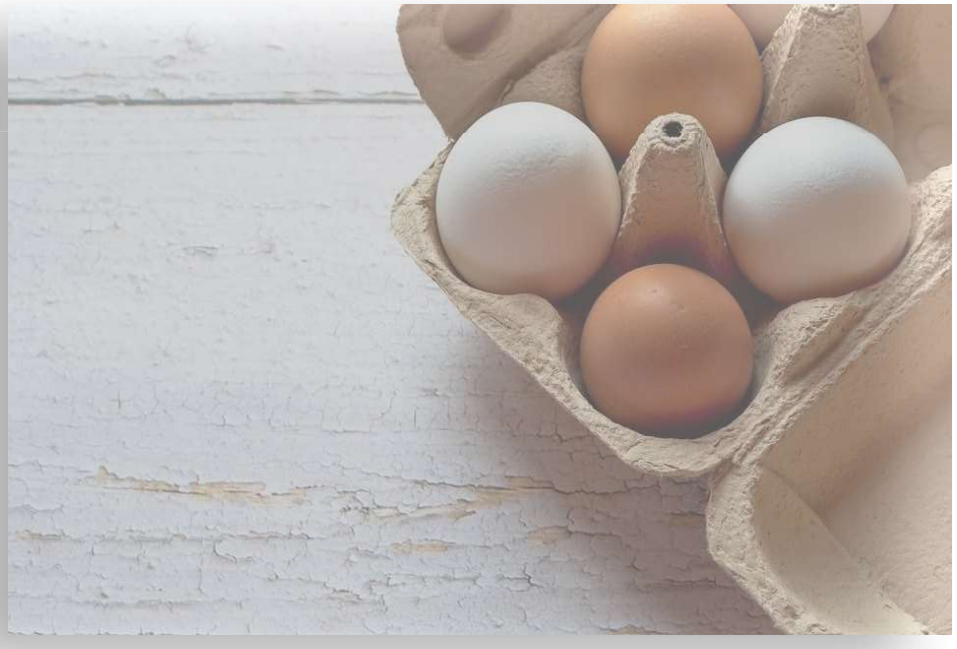


HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

- Highly infectious, deadly for poultry
- Spread primarily from wild birds
- First case on Delmarva – February 23, 2022
- Six cases total in Maryland
  - Three in Cecil County
  - One in Queen Anne's County
  - One in Anne Arundel
  - One in Washington County

HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

- Swift, coordinated response by MDA, DDA and USDA
- Biosecurity practices are key to help stop the spread
- Nationwide egg pricing effects



MARYLAND'S BEST

Promoting Maryland Farmers and Watermen

2023 Food & Beverage Expo

Blue Catfish Purchasing Initiative

MDA'S MARKETING OFFICE

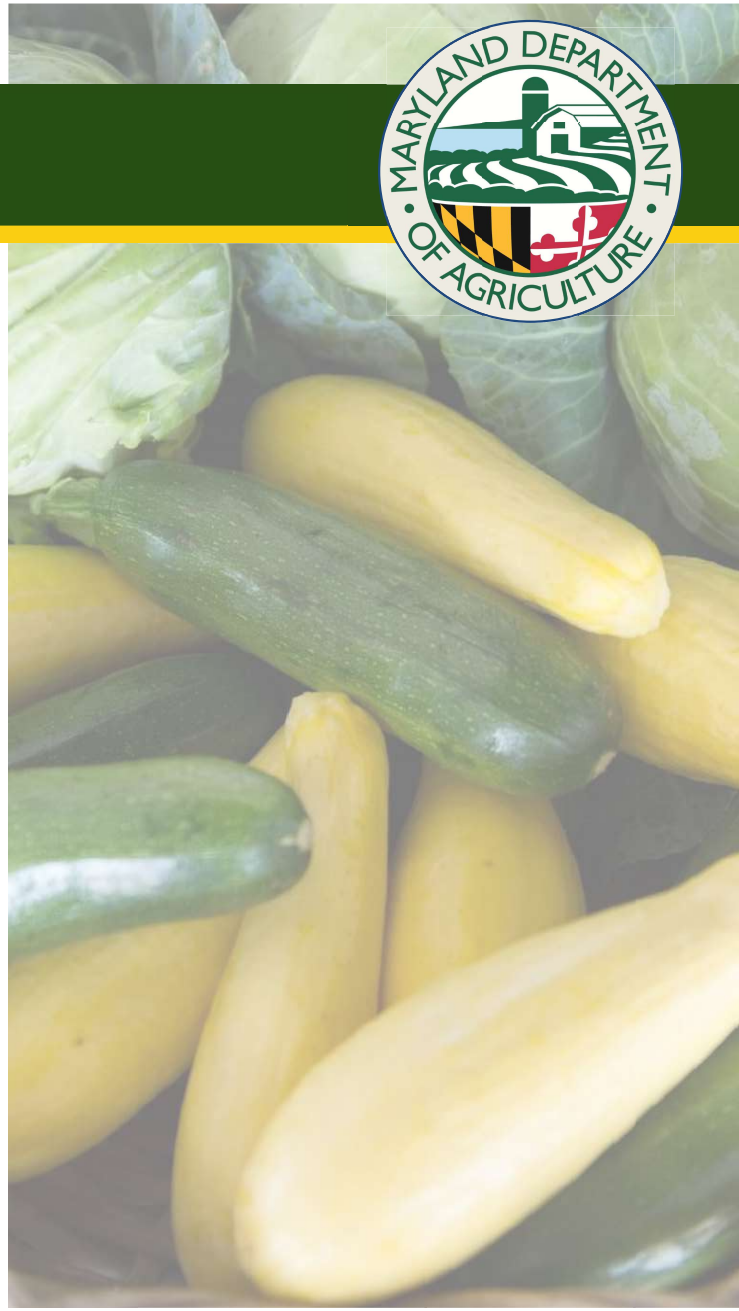
- ***Blue Catfish update***
  - Top priority for MDA's Seafood Marketing program
  - Continued outreach and promotion of the benefits of harvesting blue catfish
  - Maryland Food Bank receiving a grant from MDA through USDA to purchase Maryland blue catfish
  - MPT and MDA producing documentary about blue catfish

Pounds of Blue Catfish Harvest in MD and Dockside Value

Year	Pounds	Metric Tons	Dollars
2015	935,132	424	$ 341,636
2016	1,436,819	652	$ 545,862
2017	1,741,955	790	$ 920,308
2018	2,112,772	958	$ 1,082,032
2019	2,093,539	950	$ 1,134,435
2020	1,805,310	819	$ 866,964
2021	2,209,281	1,002	$ 1,612,025

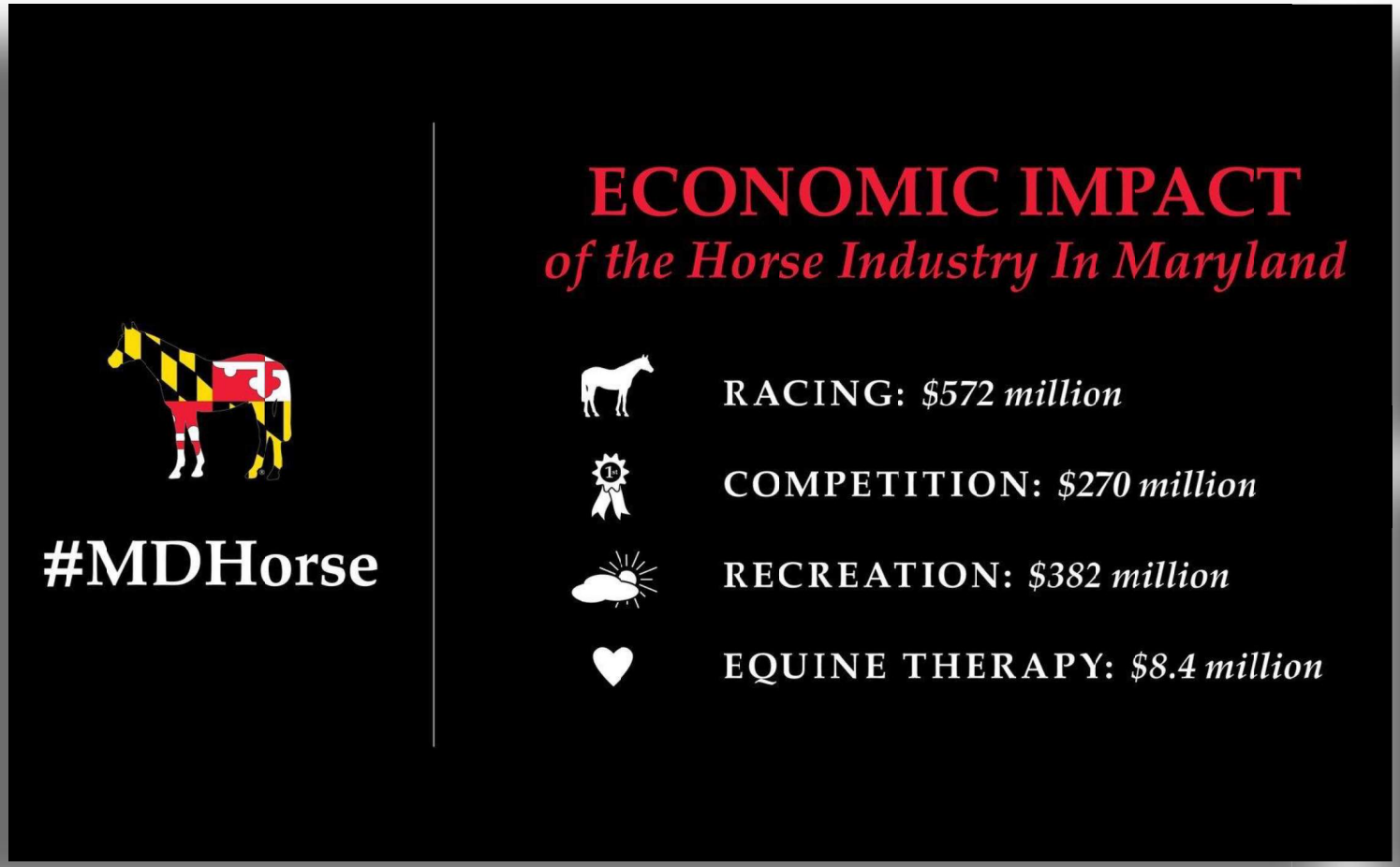
MDA'S MARKETING OFFICE

- ***Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program***
  - Encourages state-owned institutions to purchase at least 20% of their food from local producer
  - Currently 69 farmers certified for the program
  - Registered farms must have a certified nutrient management plan with MDA
  - Directory of registered farms is on MDA's website

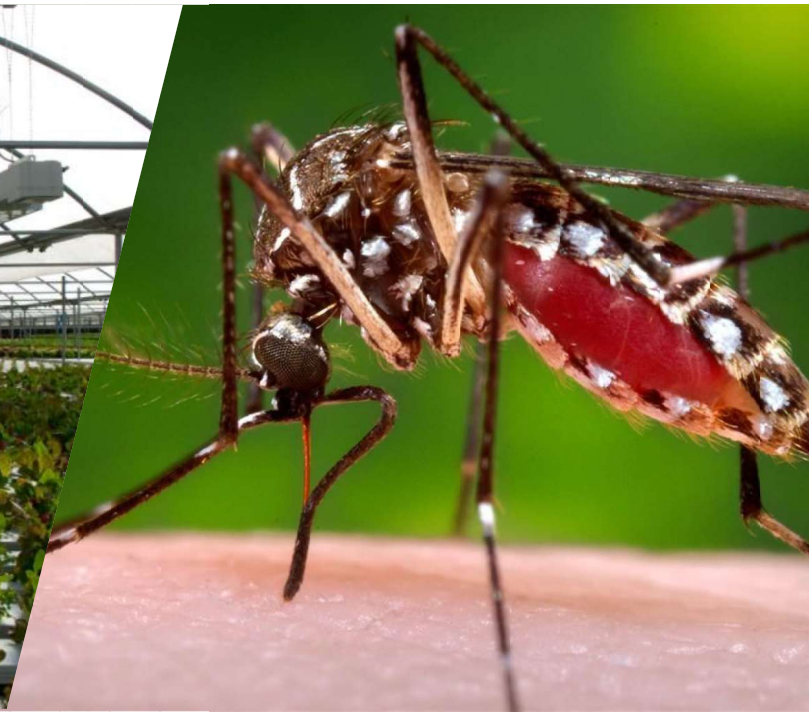


MDA'S MARKETING OFFICE

HORSE INDUSTRY – ECONOMIC IMPACT



OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES AND PEST MANAGEMENT



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY OVERVIEW

- Planthopper
  - Hemiptera (Fulgoridae)
- Native to Asia
  - China, India, Vietnam
- Feeds on ~80 different plant species
- Preferred Host is *Ailanthus altissima*
  - Tree of Heaven
- First found in PA in 2014

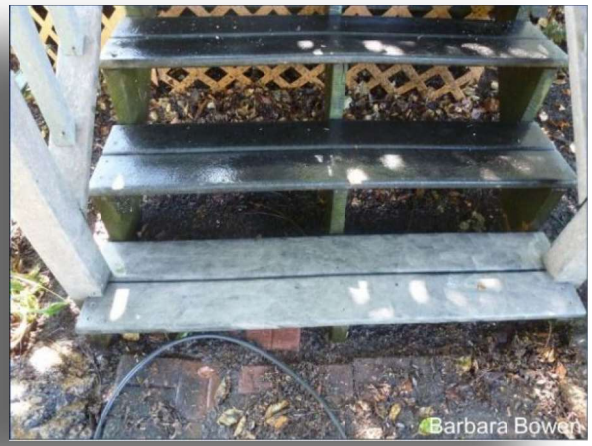
SPOTTED LANTERNFLY DAMAGE

Feeding damage

- Weakens plants
- Affects fruit palatability
- Major losses in future production

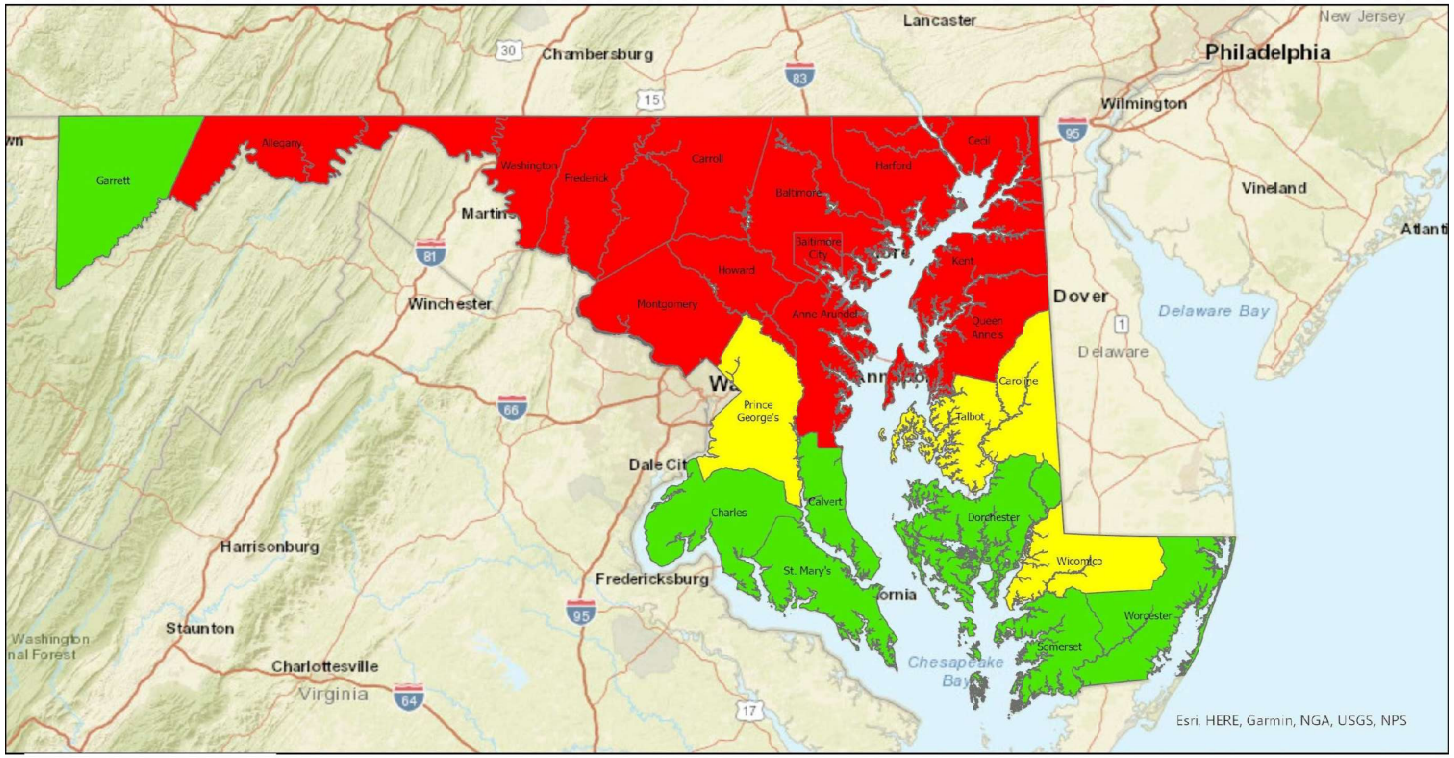
Honeydew

- Sticky, sugary secretion
- Attracts stinging insects
- Promotes growth of sooty molds
- Prevents photosynthesis
- Unsightly, nuisance



SLF IN MARYLAND – WHERE IS IT?

Extent of the Spotted Lanternfly Infestation in Maryland, Fall 2022



Status

- Infested
- Lightly infested
- Uninfested

Created by Kenton Sumpter -MDA- 12/2/2022

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY TRAPPING

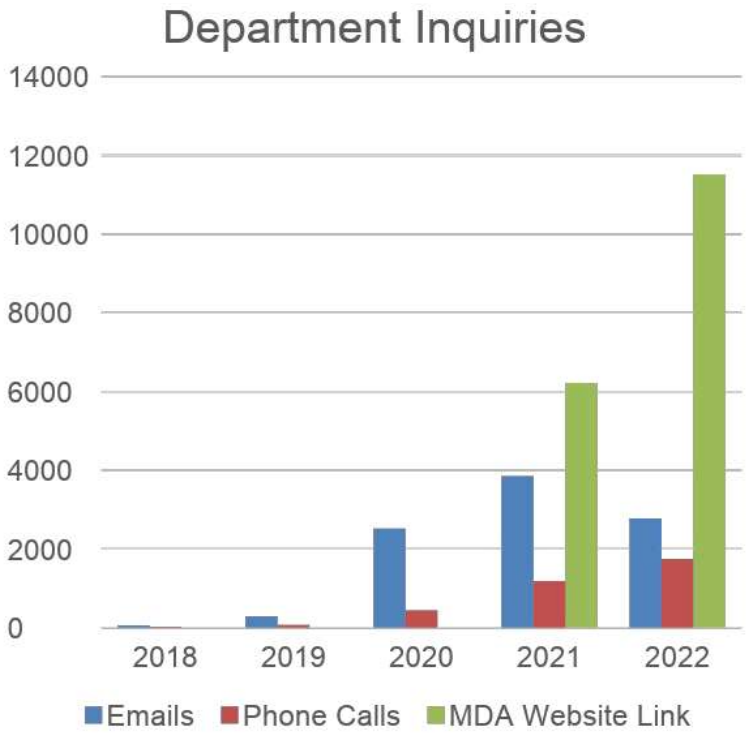
Circle Traps

- Catch more SLF, especially adults
- Catch less by-catch
- Can be used in highly infested areas to catch adults
- Easier for staff to collect samples

MDA SLF INQUIRIES

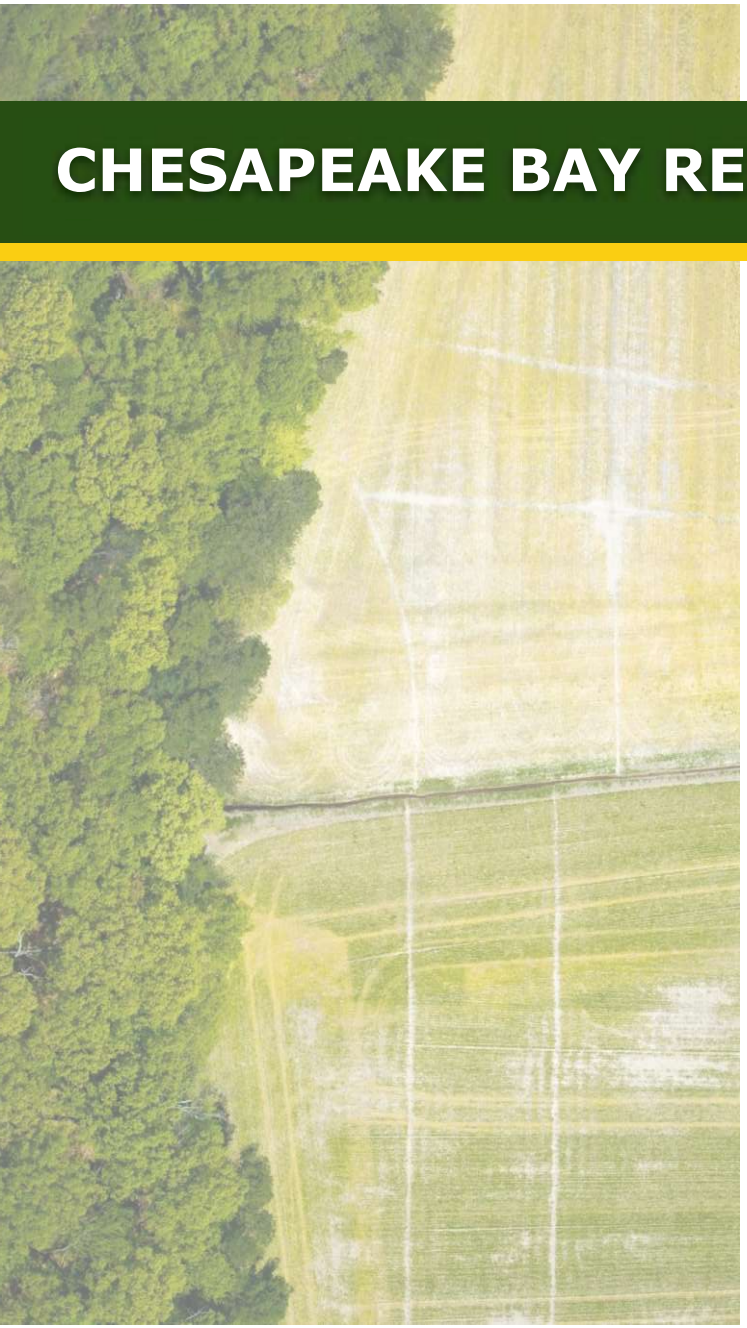
- Email: DontBug.MD@maryland.gov
- MDA SLF Website: mda.maryland.gov/spottedlanternfly

Online portal that assists in mapping all sightings



	Email	Phone Calls	MDA Website Link
2018	58	24	N/A
2019	287	68	N/A
2020	2,514	440	N/A
2021	3,850	1,183	6,223
2022	2,775	1,750	11,515

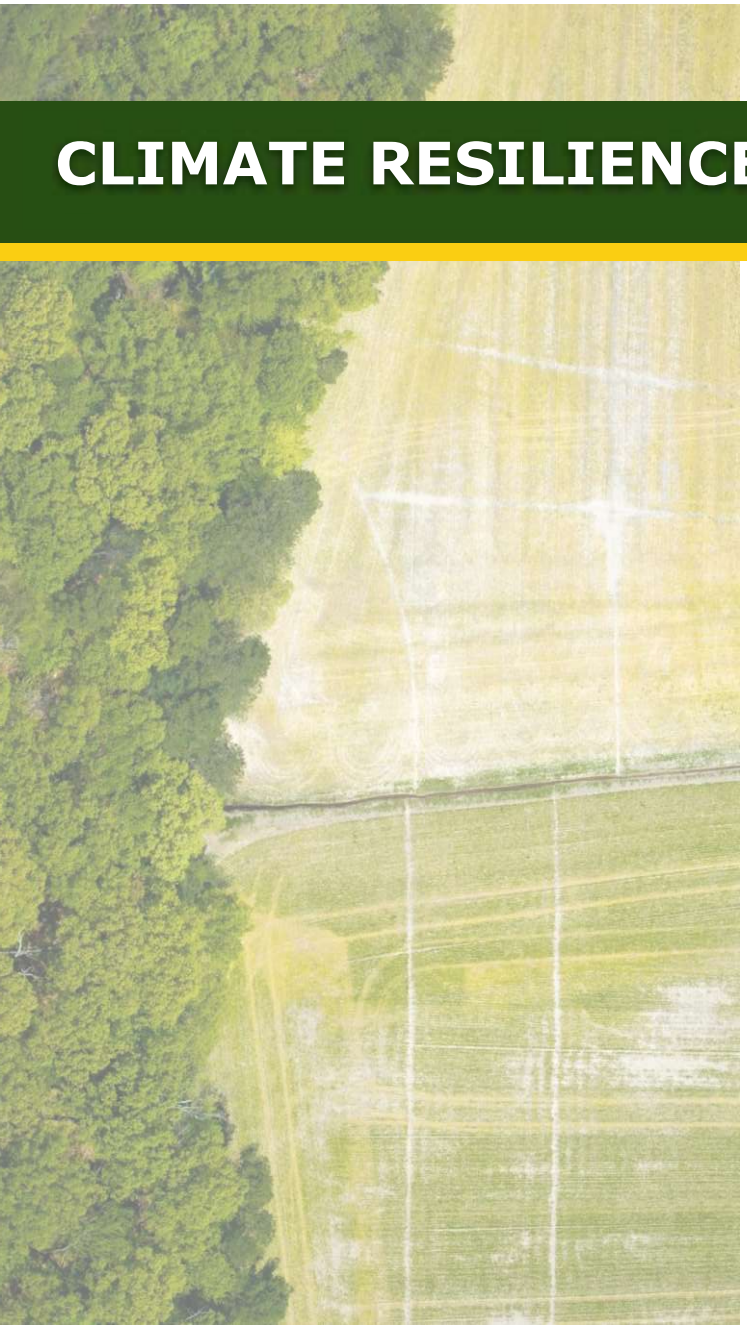
OFFICE OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION



CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION

The Office has ramped up efforts to meet the Chesapeake Bay's 2025 restoration goals:

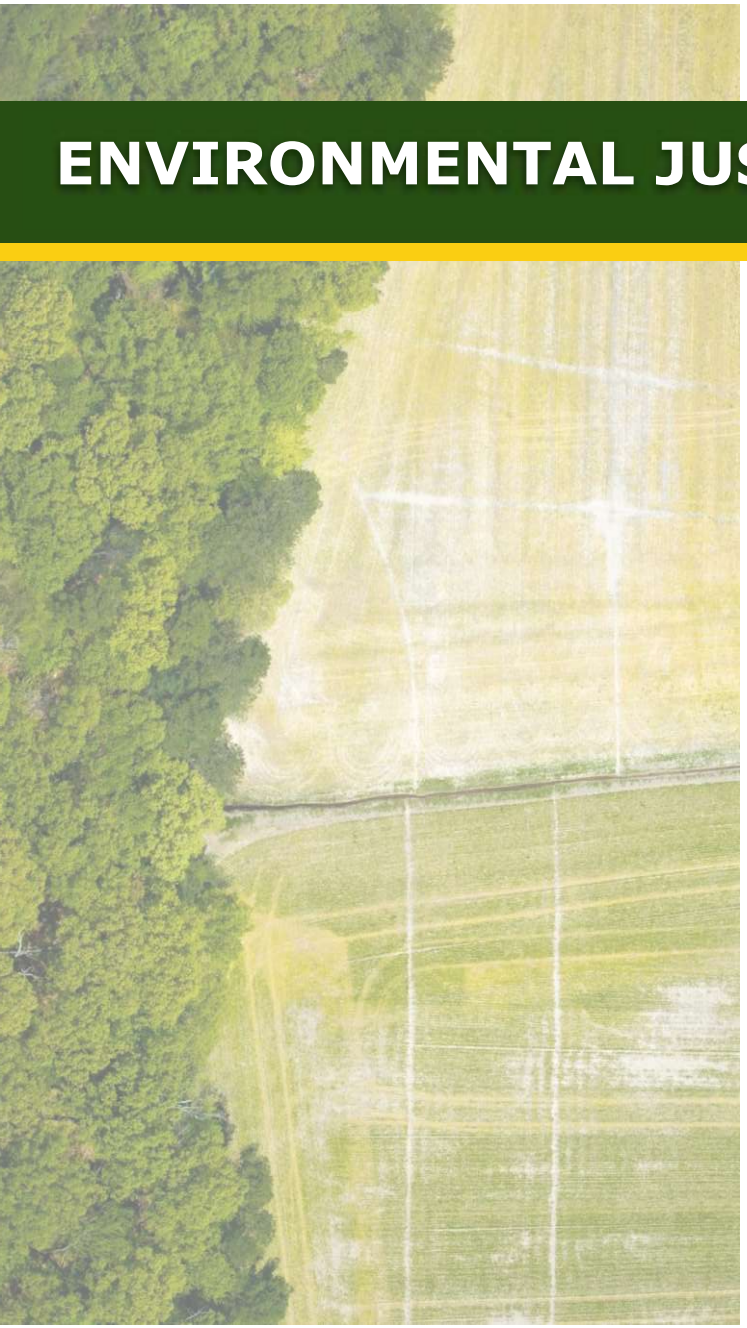
- Up to 100% cost-share is now available for more than 20 high priority permanent conservation practices
- Ensures full implementation of the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT)
- Secured 53 technical field positions



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Office integrates climate-smart farming practices into its conservation agenda:

- Developed Maryland's Healthy Soils Program
- Supports research on climate-smart conservation practices
- Introduced **Cover Crop Plus+** and **Healthy Soils Competitive Fund**
- Supports the Tree Solutions Now Act by providing farmers with attractive payments to plant trees



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Ensures that its programs and services are available to all farmers, including urban growers, small acreage farms, and historically underserved communities

- Launched a Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program
- Introduced cover crop grants for small farms
- Developed regulations to implement the Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant
- Spearheaded a pilot project that supports Baltimore City high school students who want to pursue a career in turfgrass management.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION (MALPF)

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About MALPF

- Created in 1977 by the Maryland General Assembly
- Governed by Agriculture Article, §2-501 through 2-519, Annotated Code of Maryland
- State-County Partnership Program
- Easements are perpetual.

Purpose

- To preserve productive agricultural land and woodland to provide for the continuing production of food and fiber for the citizens of Maryland.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION (MALPF)

Totals for Calendar Year 2022

- 9,336 Acres Preserved
- $422,96,014.89 Public Investment
- 78 Easements

MALPF Totals (As of Dec. 31, 2022)

- 351,750 Acres Preserved
- $899,138,991.95 Public Investment
- 2,618 Easements

MDA PRIORITIES

- Increase profitability of farms
- Soil health promotion
- Continue working in partnership with stakeholders to protect the Bay

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THANK YOU!