

**L00A**  
**Department of Agriculture**

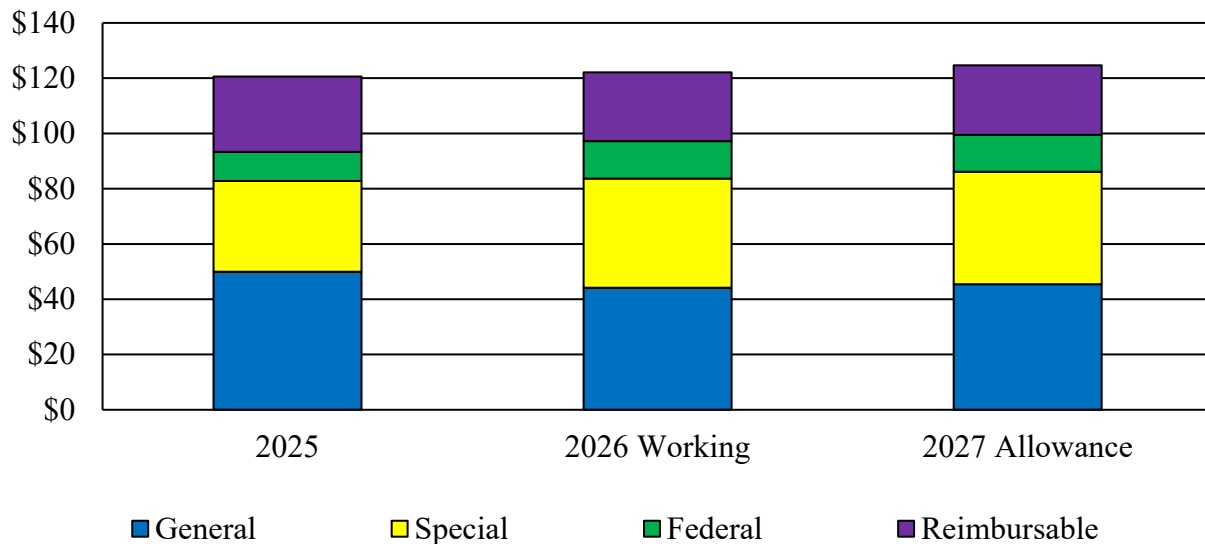
**Program Description**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) supervises, administers, and promotes agricultural activities throughout the State. MDA’s goals are (1) to promote the profitable production, use, and sale of Maryland agricultural products; (2) to protect the health of the public, plant, and animal resources in Maryland; (3) to preserve adequate amounts of productive agricultural land and woodland in Maryland in order to provide for the continued production of food and fiber, to limit random development, and to protect agricultural land and woodland as open space; (4) to provide and promote land stewardship, including conservation, environmental protection, preservation, and resource management; (5) to provide health, safety, and economic protection for Maryland consumers; and (6) for the Rural Maryland Council, to bring together citizens; community-based organizations; federal, State, county, and municipal government officials; as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of rural Maryland communities.

***Operating Budget Summary***

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**Fiscal 2027 Budget Increases \$2.6 Million, or 2.1%, to \$124.7 Million  
(\$ in Millions)**



Note: The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 allowance accounts for contingent reductions. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

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- The \$2.6 million increase in the fiscal 2027 allowance is primarily attributable to increases of \$3.5 million for personnel expenses, which are partially offset by a decrease of \$2.4 million in Cover Crop Program reimbursable funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund. The budget plan also includes Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2026 provisions that reduce funding by \$300,000 in general funds and \$300,000 in special funds.

### **Federal Rescissions**

MDA notes two federal rescissions that impact funding in its budget but not necessarily funding that is used by MDA. There is a \$4,850,000 reduction in Local Food Purchase Assistance 2025 Agreement funding that impacts fiscal 2027 and future years. The funding was received by MDA but then passed on to food banks to purchase food from Maryland farmers. The final funding from two previous grants is reflected as \$2,000,000 in each of fiscal 2026 and 2027. There is also a rescission of \$180,000 for Spongy Moth suppression, work funded with federal funds in fiscal 2025. MDA received \$135,000 in general funds from the Contingent Fund within the Board of Public Works' (BPW) budget in April 2025 and funding from the Department of Natural Resources and local governments to backfill the lost federal funding.

### **Fiscal 2026**

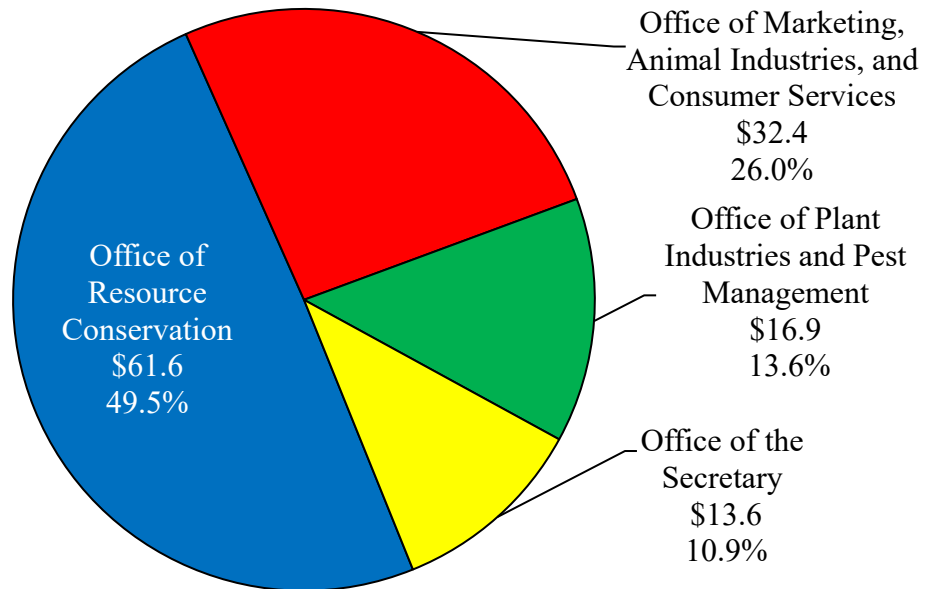
#### **Proposed Deficiency**

The fiscal 2027 operating budget includes two fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriations. MDA has fiscal 2026 personnel deficiencies totaling \$500,000 in general funds, which include shortfalls related to lower than expected vacancy savings. There is also a \$55,000 general fund deficiency in the Turf and Seed program to replace the vent hood system in the seed testing laboratory.

### **Fiscal 2027 Overview of Agency Spending**

MDA is organized into four administrative units and is staffed by 438.5 regular positions and 57.7 contractual full-time equivalents (FTE) in the fiscal 2027 allowance. **Exhibit 1** reflects the breakdown of the \$124.7 million fiscal 2027 allowance by unit, accounting for the contingent reductions.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Overview of Agency Spending**  
**Fiscal 2027 Allowance**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



Note: The fiscal 2027 allowance accounts for contingent reductions. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

Source: Governor's Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

- **Office of Resource Conservation (\$61.6 Million, 49.5%):** Advises the Secretary on agricultural soil conservation and water quality; provides financial, technical, and staffing support to the State's 23 soil conservation districts; provides cost-share funding for best management practice (BMP) implementation, manure transport, and nutrient management plan development; trains, certifies, and licenses nutrient management plan consultants; and oversees Maryland's agricultural certainty and nutrient trading programs as part of the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. The main two largest expenditure categories include \$23.1 million for the Cover Crop Program and \$21.2 million for salaries, most of which is for regular positions in soil conservation districts. Other significant items are included in **Appendix 5**.
- **Office of Marketing, Animal Industries, and Consumer Services (\$32.4 Million, 26.0%):** Provides weights and measures supervision; conducts inspection, grading, monitoring, and testing of agricultural product quality; generates agricultural statistics; protects animal health; regulates veterinarians; promotes the equine industry; assists in the development of

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agricultural markets; administers the Spay/Neuter program; promotes agriculture through agricultural fairs, shows, and youth activities; supports the transition from tobacco production in Southern Maryland; addresses issues affecting rural quality of life through the Rural Maryland Council and Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund; and helps develop resource-based industries through the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO). The main expenditures include \$13.0 million for salaries and \$5.4 million for grants through the Rural Maryland Council. Other significant items are similarly included in Appendix 5.

- ***Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management (\$16.9 Million, 13.6%)***: Manages forest pests; implements mosquito control services; regulates pesticides and pesticide applicators; administers nursery inspections, noxious weed control, and honeybee registration programs; regulates seed and sod labeling; regulates the chemical components of pesticides, commercial fertilizers, feeds, pet foods, compost, soil conditioners, and liming materials; and administers nuisance insect control services in cooperation with local governments. The main expenditure categories include \$11.4 million for salaries; \$1.9 million for contracts; \$1.3 million for contractual FTEs; and \$0.8 million for motor vehicles.
- ***Office of the Secretary (\$13.6 Million, 10.9%)***: Provides administrative support services, advises the Secretary on agricultural issues through the Maryland Agricultural Commission, and administers agricultural land preservation. The main expenditure categories include \$6.4 million for salaries, \$2.8 million for the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) services allocation, \$1.3 million for contractual arrangements related to agricultural easement purchases, and \$0.6 million for fuel and utilities.

### **Proposed Budget Change**

MDA's fiscal 2027 budget increases by \$2.6 million as shown in **Exhibit 2**. The increase is primarily attributable to increases of \$3.5 million for personnel expenses, \$1.3 million in Conservation Incentives Grants reimbursable funding from the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and \$1.2 million for pass through funding for food banks to purchase invasive blue catfish from U.S. Department of Agriculture funding. These increases are offset partially by a decrease of \$2.4 million in Cover Crop Program reimbursable funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund and \$2.0 million due to the loss of federal Local Food Purchase Agreement funding in fiscal 2027.

**Exhibit 2**  
**Proposed Budget**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
**(\$ in Thousands)**

<b>How Much It Grows:</b>	<b><u>General</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Special</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Federal</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Reimb.</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Fiscal 2025 Actual	\$49,972	\$32,824	\$10,542	\$27,232	\$120,571
Fiscal 2026 Working	44,189	39,448	13,565	24,902	122,104
Fiscal 2027 Allowance	45,465	40,705	13,304	25,188	124,662
Fiscal 2026-2027 \$ Change	\$1,276	\$1,257	-\$261	\$286	\$2,557
Fiscal 2026-2027 % Change	2.9%	3.2%	-1.9%	1.2%	2.1%
 <b>Where It Goes</b>					<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>					
Salary adjustments.....					\$2,305
Employee and retiree health insurance.....					2,292
Deferred compensation match.....					135
Turnover adjustments .....					-797
Contractual full-time equivalent decrease.....					-428
<b>Other Changes</b>					
<b><i>Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund</i></b>					
Conservation Incentive Grants reimbursable funding.....					1,300
Climate Resiliency reimbursable grant funding.....					664
Cover Crop Program reimbursable funding .....					-2,357
<b><i>Agricultural Policy</i></b>					
Food bank funding to purchase invasive blue catfish – federal funding.....					1,157
Agricultural Marketing subprogram federal fund grant.....					850
Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming grants and operations.....					400
State fair, county fairs, shows, 4-H, and Future Farmers of America federal grant ...					150
Loss of Local Food Purchase Agreement funding in fiscal 2027 .....					-2,000
MARBIDCO Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program .....					-100
<b><i>Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act Contingencies</i></b>					
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland mandate reduction .....					-300
Maryland Native Plants mandate repeal.....					-100
Maryland Healthy Soils Program mandate reduction .....					-100
Urban Agriculture Water and Power Grant Program mandate reduction.....					-100

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<b>Where It Goes</b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
<i><b>Routine Operations</b></i>	
Legal and appraisal services by DGS and MDP mapping for MALPF .....	148
Motor vehicle operations, primarily due to new weights and measures vehicle.....	135
Building maintenance at MDA Headquarters .....	125
Gypsy Moth Suppression Program federal contribution.....	-200
Travel.....	-172
Copy charges in the Laboratory Integrated Pest subprogram, federal funds .....	-150
New and replacement equipment .....	-117
Communications costs.....	-56
Supplies and materials.....	-29
Fuel and utilities .....	-15
Other.....	-83
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,557</b>

DGS: Department of General Services

MALPF: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

MARBIDCO: Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation

MDA: Maryland Department of Agriculture

MDP: Maryland Department of Planning

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

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## **Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund**

MDA’s overall reimbursable funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund is relatively stable, but there are shifts in how the funding is allocated. The biggest change is a decrease of \$2.4 million, which is unexpected given the overall demand and lack of sufficient funding for the Cover Crop Program.

### **Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act**

Three provisions in the BRFA of 2026 impact MDA’s fiscal 2027 operating budget as follows:

- ***Maryland Native Plants Program:*** Repeals the funding mandate for the Maryland Native Plants Program that required the Governor to provide \$150,000 for the University of Maryland Extension (UME) to hire 1 extension agent as a native plant specialist and \$100,000 for MDA to hire 1 staff to administer the Maryland Native Plants Program. The fiscal 2027 budget includes a \$150,000 general fund reduction at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus and a \$100,000 general fund reduction in MDA’s Marketing and Agriculture Development Program, contingent on legislation repealing the

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Maryland Native Plants Program mandate. Chapters 489 and 490 of 2023 established the Maryland Native Plants Program to (1) respond to the increasing demand for, use of, and sale of native plants by retail garden centers, retail nurseries, and wholesale nurseries; and (2) educate the public, landscapers, and other plant users on the importance, benefit, and availability of native plants. MDA must administer the program, and UME must administer the educational components of the program in coordination with MDA and other agencies. Chapters 489 and 490 mandated that, for fiscal 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$150,000 for UME to hire 1 extension agent as a native plant specialist and \$100,000 for MDA to hire staff to administer the program. MDA is using existing staff in its Marketing and Agriculture program but likely would find its resources constrained to implement the Maryland Native Plants Program.

- ***Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCC):*** Reduces the mandate from \$1.0 million to \$0.7 million for the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to TCC from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF). The fiscal 2027 budget includes a \$300,000 special fund reduction, contingent on legislation reducing the CRF mandated appropriation for TCC to \$700,000. CRF, established by Chapters 172 and 173 of 1999, is a special fund supported by payments made by tobacco manufacturers under the Master Settlement Agreement. One purpose of the CRF is for Medicaid, another is to fund the implementation of the Southern Maryland Regional Strategy Action Plan for Agriculture adopted by TCC – a nonprofit, quasi-governmental cooperative planning and development unit for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties – with an emphasis on alternative crop uses for agricultural land used for growing tobacco. As required by the strategy action plan, TCC established the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) as a division in calendar 2000, when the State instituted a voluntary buy-out program to transition farms out of tobacco production. The CRF funds are appropriated to MDA, which then issues grants to TCC for SMADC to develop programs to stabilize the region’s agricultural economy as Maryland growers transition away from tobacco production. Chapter 187 of 2022 required the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$900,000 in fiscal 2024 and 2025 to TCC from the CRF and required the funds to be used for the activities of SMADC. Subsequently, Chapters 575 and 576 of 2024 extended the funding requirement beyond fiscal 2025 and increased the annual mandated appropriation from the CRF from \$900,000 to \$1.0 million.
- ***Maryland Healthy Soils Program:*** Reduces the amount of funding that the Governor is mandated to provide the Maryland Healthy Soils Program from \$0.5 million to \$0.4 million for fiscal 2027 through 2028. The fiscal 2027 budget includes a \$0.1 million general fund reduction, contingent on legislation reducing the mandate for the Maryland Healthy Soils Program. Chapter 373 of 2017 established the Maryland Healthy Soils Program to (1) improve the health, yield, and profitability of the soils of the State; (2) increase biological activity and carbon sequestration in the soils of the State by promoting practices based on emerging soil science, including planting mixed cover crops, adopting no-till or low-till farming practices, and rotation grazing; and (3) promote widespread use of healthy

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soils practices among farmers in the State. Chapter 38 of 2022 (Climate Solutions Now Act) established a funding mandate of at least \$500,000 in fiscal 2024 through 2028. The funding reduction contingent on the BRFA will reduce competitive grant funding that is awarded from the Healthy Soils Competitive Fund to farmers with gross annual income of \$2,500 or more or that manage 8 or more animal units (8,000 pounds of live animal weight) and organizations that work with farmers that have \$2,500 or more of donated agricultural products to implement innovative conservation practices.

- Urban Agriculture Water and Power Grant Program and Fund:** Reduces the mandate for the MDA Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Fund by \$100,000 in fiscal 2027 only. The fiscal 2027 budget includes a \$0.1 million general fund reduction, contingent upon the enactment of legislation modifying the mandate for the Urban Agriculture Water and Power Grant Program and Fund. Chapters 393 and 394 of 2022 established the Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program and Fund to provide grants to urban agricultural producers and qualified nonprofit organizations for the purchase and installation of (1) agriculture equipment associated with water supply and irrigation and (2) electric power access. For fiscal 2024 through 2027, the Governor is required to include an appropriation of \$500,000 in the annual budget bill to the fund. As of October 1, 2025, the program has received 29 applications requesting \$1,139,290 across six counties and Baltimore City to install water and power infrastructure on urban operations. There are 15 projects completed to date at a cost of \$374,638, so a \$100,000 reduction should not substantially impact program grant awards.

## ***Personnel Data***

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	<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>FY 26-27</b>
	<u><b>Actual</b></u>	<u><b>Working</b></u>	<u><b>Allowance</b></u>	<u><b>Change</b></u>
Regular Positions	426.20	430.50	438.50	8.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>61.50</u>	<u>64.65</u>	<u>57.65</u>	<u>-7.00</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>487.70</b>	<b>495.15</b>	<b>496.15</b>	<b>1.00</b>

***Vacancy Data: Regular Positions***

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	26.60	6.08%
Positions and Percentage Vacant	30.50	7.08%
 Vacancies Above Turnover	 3.90	

- In October 2025, BPW approved the abolition of 502.7 positions statewide, including 170.7 vacant positions and 332.0 positions associated with the Voluntary Separation

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Program (VSP). In MDA, 9.0 positions were abolished, of which 3.0 were vacant and 6.0 were due to the VSP.

- MDA’s fiscal 2027 allowance reflects an increase of 8.0 regular positions and a decrease of 7.0 contractual FTEs. The new regular positions include a new procurement officer position that will assist the existing procurement officer hired in fiscal 2025 to address procurement needs and to resolve procurement audit findings noted in **Appendix 2**. There are also 7.0 long-term contractual FTEs that are being converted to regular positions.
- Of the 7.0 contractual conversions, an administrator I position and an agricultural marketing specialist II position are being used to convert contractual FTEs that were implementing the Maryland Market Money Program – supported by the Maryland Farms and Families Program – at SMADC. These 2.0 FTEs are now working for MDA per Chapters 39 and 40 of 2025, which allowed MDA to manage the Maryland Market Money Program instead of routing funding through MARBIDCO and then having SMADC run this statewide program. The other contractual conversions are 3 positions in the Forest Pest Management Program and 2 positions in the Plant Protection and Weed Management Program.
- MDA’s vacancy rate has decreased from 10.56 to 7.08% between December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2025, which is a substantial improvement. MDA had 30.5 regular positions that were vacant as of December 31, 2025, of which 3 positions had been vacant for more than a year.
- MDA contractual FTEs decrease by a net of 7.0 FTEs in the fiscal 2027 allowance. There are decreases of 3.0 FTEs in Forest Pest Management, 2.0 in Plant Protection and Weed Management, 1.0 in Marketing and Agriculture Development, and 1.0 in Animal Health. All but the 1.0 FTE decrease in Animal Health correlate with the contractual conversions.
- The MDA budgeted turnover rate increased from 4.58% in the fiscal 2026 working appropriation to 6.08% in the fiscal 2027 allowance. Therefore, MDA must hold open 26.6 positions throughout fiscal 2027 to meet turnover. MDA had 30.5 positions vacant, or 7.08%, as of December 31, 2025, which means that there are sufficient vacancies for MDA to meet turnover.

## ***Key Observations***

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### **1. Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program Report Not Timely Submitted**

The General Assembly restricted \$100,000 of the fiscal 2026 general fund appropriation for the LEEF Program pending the submission of a program parameter report. The report requests and responses are as follows:

- ***The Program’s Final Parameters:*** the program’s final parameters are forthcoming, pending feedback from the proposed advisory committee that was to have been convened by January 2026, although this seems unlikely as a program manager was only named on January 7, 2026, and a pilot program that is anticipated to be initiated in spring 2026;
- ***A Detailed Spending Plan:*** the spending plan is also forthcoming, pending advisory committee feedback;
- ***The Criteria for Establishing Each of the Proposed Engagement Tiers:*** the four tiers (*i.e.* bronze, silver, gold, and platinum) are evaluated by points for conservation BMP – and eventually community best practices, pending advisory committee feedback – as well as gateway practices such as prerequisites for a nutrient management plan and soil conservation and water quality plan that extend to more advanced practices such as annual soil health testing and a forest management plan at higher tiers, among other practices;
- ***The Incentives Available to Program Participants Under Each Tier:*** the incentive categories are as follows: financial – cost-share bonuses, lower-interest loans, state/federal conservation grants priority access, equipment purchase funding prioritization; programmatic – State program priority access, additional application points, vendor contract prioritization, expedited permitting; market recognition – LEEF label on products, Maryland’s “Buy Local” promotion campaign integration, grocery/brewery/restaurant partnerships, farmers market prioritization; and reputational – good stewardship leveraging, MDA-hosted annual LEEF conference, Maryland State Fair public recognition, and farmer features in outreach campaigns for conservation and community engagement;
- ***The Relationship with Other MDA Policy and Funding Programs:*** the goal of the program is to connect with or support Maryland’s “Buy Local” program, Chesapeake Bay restoration, Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, and the Five Million Tree Program; and
- ***Proposed Managing for Results (MFR) Measures and Goals to Determine Program Success, Including How the Program Is Anticipated to Improve Agriculture Sector Outcomes for Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Increase Farming Profitability:*** a new metric was included in the fiscal 2027 MFR submission for the number of LEEF-certified

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operations with preliminary estimates of 15 in fiscal 2026 and 30 in fiscal 2027, and there is the potential to enhance existing work on Chesapeake Bay restoration through the Watershed Implementation Plan and the 40x40 land preservation goal.

The report was due to the committees by September 1, 2025, but was submitted February 9, 2026, and reflects a program that is yet to set final parameters or commit to a spending plan. **The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that the \$100,000 in restricted fiscal 2026 general funds be released because the required report has been submitted. DLS will prepare a letter to this effect if no objections are raised by the committees during the hearings. DLS further recommends the fiscal 2027 \$900,000 general fund appropriation for the LEEF Program be reduced by \$400,000 to level fund it with fiscal 2026 because the final program parameters and a spending plan have not been provided.**

## **2. Cover Crop Program Overspends Fiscal 2025 Appropriation**

The traditional Cover Crop Program provides funding for voluntary planting of approved plant varieties in the fall that (1) reduce nutrient and sediment runoff that impact local waterways; (2) prevent soil erosion; and (3) improve soil health. The Cover Crop Program is funded by a direct allocation of funding from the Bay Restoration Fund Septic Account and reimbursable funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund. The Bay Restoration Fund Septic Account funding reflects the \$60 annual fee collected from each user served by a septic system and funding is allocated 60% for septic system upgrades and 40% for the Cover Crop Program. In recent years, MDA's special fund appropriation has been \$14,200,000 from the Bay Restoration Fund and \$11,250,000 from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund.

According to the draft January 2026 Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee Annual Report and meeting minutes since last session, fiscal 2025 was a banner year for Cover Crop Program sign-up due to a combination of cooperative weather and lower wheat prices. In addition, the report and meeting minutes highlight that MDA was likely to spend upward of \$31 million, which would overspend the fiscal 2025 Cover Crop Program appropriation. The report and minutes also convey that the additional Cover Crop Program payments needed over the appropriation would be covered by Bay Restoration Fund funding held in reserve and funding from the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program funding. Furthermore, it appears that some Cover Crop Program contract payments may have been pushed into fiscal 2026. The 656,032 initial application acres for fiscal 2025 (crop year 2024/2025) only decreased by 4.8% for fiscal 2026 (crop year 2025/2026). While there is always attrition between initial application acres of cover crops and the final paid acres, the percentage reduction from initial application acres to paid acres has held fairly steady at around 30% for the last couple of years, suggesting that MDA may need to address a Cover Crop Program funding shortfall in fiscal 2026 as well. Of note, the fiscal 2027 reimbursable fund appropriation for the Cover Crop Program from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund decreases by \$2.4 million.

DLS recommends that MDA comment on how much was spent on fiscal 2025 (crop year 2024/2025) cover crop payments, how this compares to the initial Cover Crop Program appropriation, the timing of the payments by fiscal year funding appropriation, and the funding sources and amounts. DLS also recommends that MDA comment on how it anticipates funding fiscal 2026 (crop year 2025/2026) cover crop payments given the similarly high level of interest and the reduction in reimbursable funds from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund.

### **3. Old Audit Findings Not Resolved**

As noted in Appendix 2, the Office of Legislative Audits published MDA’s audit for the December 16, 2019, to November 30, 2023, time period in March 2025. Of the four findings, two are repeat findings.

- ***Finding 3 (Product Registrations):*** Found that MDA did not adequately verify that State Chemist product registration collections (e.g. commercial fee and pesticides) were deposited with the Fiscal Services Office and did not ensure that State Chemist product registrations were subject to supervisory review. The lack of an independent reconciliation of the State Chemist product registrations has been commented upon in five preceding audit reports dating back to calendar 2007, and the lack of an independent supervisory review of product registrations has been commented on in three preceding audit reports dating back to calendar 2013. The audit report notes that, while MDA stated that it established proper controls, reconciliations were not being performed and a new registration system did not require supervisory review and approval.
- ***Finding 4 (Equipment):*** Found that MDA did not conduct required physical inventories of its sensitive (e.g. thermometers and cameras) and nonsensitive equipment and did not maintain complete and accurate equipment records that properly classified sensitive and nonsensitive equipment. The lack of accountability and control over equipment has been commented on in 10 preceding audit reports dating back to 1990. The audit report notes that, while MDA stated that it established the proper controls, MDA could not document that it developed the procedure.

MDA noted in its response to Finding 3 that by July 1, 2025, it would establish a process to reconcile the total value of State Chemist product registrations issued with revenue deposited and implement a new registration system to address the approval of registrations by using the available system output reports to ensure all product registrations are subject to supervisory review.

In its response to Finding 4, MDA noted that it hired a new director of central service who will be the lead on addressing the audit finding. MDA also noted that by December 31, 2025, it would review all procedures for inventory control and write procedures consistent with the Department of General Services’ (DGS) Inventory Control Manual. In addition, MDA noted that

it will coordinate with DGS on establishing, monitoring, and maintaining compliance with the requirements of the Inventory Control Manual.

**DLS recommends that \$100,000 of MDA’s general operating expenditures be restricted until the submission of a report by MDA, in coordination with DGS, certifying that all steps needed to address Findings 3 and 4 of the March 2025 audit have been taken and detail the actual systems and processes implemented to address the findings. The report shall be submitted by July 1, 2026.**

#### **4. MDA Slows Down Electric Vehicle Charger Registration Process**

MDA’s Weights and Measures Program is charged with registering weighing and measuring devices used in commercial transactions. Chapter 604 of 2025 (BRFA) repealed the registration fee schedule for weights and measures used for commercial purposes in statute and authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to set reasonable fees. MDA exercised this authority by increasing fees for commercial weights and measures through regulations submitted June 20, 2025, and published in the July 25, 2025, issue of the Maryland Register with comments open until August 25, 2025. An Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE chargers) fee of \$150 per port was one of three new fees instituted. DLS’ analysis of MDA’s regulations noted that the EVSE charger fee was estimated to apply to 3,900 devices and thus would increase revenues by \$585,000, or approximately 38% of the overall fiscal 2026 estimated revenue increase of \$1,529,970.

On September 22, 2025, MDA’s Weights and Measures Program announced that registration for EVSE chargers would open on October 1, 2025, and run through December 31, 2025. All EVSE chargers used in a commercial transaction were required to be registered by January 1, 2026. After January 1, 2026, any EVSE chargers would be required to be registered prior to customer use. Subsequently, on December 23, 2025, MDA announced that the EVSE charger deadline was extended to July 1, 2026, to allow for greater stakeholder engagement. MDA also provided more information on charging equipment categories not required to be registered, including private residence chargers, single fleet chargers, multi-family dwelling resident chargers, free chargers, and workplace chargers for private use.

The Weights and Measures Program’s fiscal 2027 allowance reflects an increase in Licensing and Registration expenditures, but not of the magnitude suggested by the fiscal 2026 revenue increase estimated in the analysis of the fee increase regulation. The fiscal 2027 Licensing and Expenditure revenue increases by \$426,011 from \$2,130,748 in fiscal 2026 to \$2,556,759 in fiscal 2027, or an increase of 20%, which is well below the \$1,529,970 in fiscal 2026 estimated revenue. Presumably the delay in the EVSE chargers fee would delay this funding increase, but it could be reflected in the Weights and Measures’ fiscal 2027 allowance. This additional revenue appears to be necessary given that the Weights and Measures’ fiscal 2027 allowance includes a \$453,558 expenditure to replace a special truck used for weights and measures purposes. **DLS recommends that MDA comment on the overall plan for the rollout of EVSE charger**

inspections and registrations and when the fee increase revenues will be realized in the Weights and Measures' budget.

## 5. Enforcement and Inspection Position Strength and Maryland Poultry Registration Program Reports Submitted Late

Committee narrative in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen's Report* (JCR) requested MDA to submit two reports, both of which were submitted after the requested date.

- ***Maryland Poultry Registration Program Report:*** The budget committees requested that MDA submit a report on the required registration by backyard flock owners through the Maryland Poultry Registration Program, also referred to as the Backyard Flock Registration Program, by December 1, 2025. The report requests and responses are as follows:
  - ***An Explanation of Current Statewide Registration Requirements and Whether Such Registration is Mandatory:*** any person who keeps poultry is required to register;
  - ***The Total Number of Registrations Recorded in the Program:*** total registrants is 10,257 as of November 17, 2025;
  - ***The Locations of the Registrants by County:*** registrant location is confidential but the statistics by county generally reflect that rural counties have greater registrants per 1,000 people than do suburban and urban counties.
  - ***Whether Each County with Registrants Have Registrations or Permitting Requirements at the Local Level:*** registration or permitting varies by county with Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, and Baltimore requiring a permit;
  - ***The Current Process for Registering Poultry, Including at the Time of Purchase:*** MDA communicates with dealers and is beginning to send notifications of required registration to people who have purchased poultry through out-of-state National Poultry Improvement Plan participants;
  - ***An Explanation of the Enforcement Authority of State and Local Government Animal Control Agencies over Backyard Flocks, Including the State Government's Authority over Local Government Animal Control Agencies That Fail to Enforce:*** most counties do not have any extra requirements beyond State registration;
  - ***Clarification of Current Registration Requirements:*** all poultry are required to be registered apart from situations in which five or fewer birds are housed less than 120 days in a 12-month period and three main groups are already registered (*i.e.* contract poultry growers, layers flock enrolled in the MDA Egg Law program, and poultry tested at state laboratories); and

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- ***Recommendations to Improve and Enhance Registration Requirements and Enforcement, Including Partnerships with Local Jurisdictions:*** MDA has begun outreach for poultry owners and county officials and may use its ability to enforce violations, but some poultry owners are worried about euthanization and the sheer volume of registrants makes enforcing every registration requirement difficult.
- ***Enforcement and Inspection Position Strength Assessment and Vacant Position Filling:*** The budget committees have requested reports on enforcement and inspection position strength assessment and vacant position filling since the 2016 JCR. The 2025 JCR requested that MDE and MDA submit a report by January 1, 2026. Report requests and responses are as follows:
  - ***An Evaluation of the Adequacy of Maryland’s Current Authorized Compliance and Enforcement Positions in the Departments’ Delegation of Authority by the Federal Government and the Role of Technology in Enforcement:*** the Nutrient Management Program’s agricultural inspectors have seen 1 experienced specialist retirement and another specialist’s long-term work injury and are spending substantial time dealing with neighbor complaints. The Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program saw 1 inspector use the VSP in September 2025. The 0.5 reviewer position for certified consultants who write nutrient management plans has been vacant since September 2025. MDE’s overall number of inspectors is little changed for all three administrations between fiscal 2015 and 2025, although there are periods in which inspector levels were much higher than they were in fiscal 2025. The fiscal 2015 to 2025 changes inspectors by administration is as follows: Water and Science Administration – increases from 43 to 45 positions, or 2 positions; Land and Materials Administration – increases from 73 to 75 positions, or 2 positions; and Air and Radiation Administration – decreases from 41 to 36, or 5 positions. MDE’s average vacancy rate from fiscal 2015 to 2025 is fairly low at 7% while the average vacancy rates have been much higher for the Water and Science Administration at 17% and Land and Materials Administration at 18%;
  - ***A Comparison of the Size, Roles, Responsibilities, and Inspection Workload of the Departments’ Compliance and Enforcement Positions to Neighboring or Similar States:*** Chesapeake Bay watershed states (i.e. Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania) have similar agricultural nutrient management requirements but no states implement a mandatory turfgrass nutrient management program. MDE notes that its Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is a national leader and that EPA’s Environmental Compliance Online website ranks MDE as doing as well as or better than the national average on many measures;
  - ***A List of All Inspection Activities Conducted By the MDE Water and Science Administration, the Land and Materials Administration, the Air and Radiation Administration, and the MDA Office of Resource Conservation:*** MDA conducts

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farmer and consultant nutrient plan inspections as well as turfgrass inspections. MDE conducts numerous air, land, and water inspections across its three administrations;

- ***The Number of Regular Positions and Contractual FTEs Associated with the Inspections, Including the Number of Vacancies for Fiscal 2013 through 2025 Actual and Fiscal 2026 Current and Fiscal 2027 Estimated Appropriations:*** MDA’s agricultural Nutrient Management Program inspector positions have generally increased from 8 to 10 inspectors since fiscal 2024. The consultant reviewer position splits time between agricultural and turfgrass inspections and is vacant. There is one turfgrass inspector currently. MDE’s administrations currently are staffed with enforcement positions as follows: Air and Radiation – 31 filled permanent positions and contractual full-time equivalents with 7 vacancies; Land and Materials – 66 filled with 24 vacancies; and Water and Science – 77 filled with 19 vacancies;
- ***A Description of the Use of and Outcomes from Any Next Generation Compliance Techniques to Increase Compliance with Maryland’s Environmental Regulations:*** MDA does not use any such tools for its Nutrient Management Program implementation reviews. MDE is working with EPA on Next Generation compliance tools. The Land and Materials Administration uses aerial photographs via services such as Google Earth to evaluate sites for disturbances and the Air and Radiation Administration uses smartphones to conduct remote inspections by using videos, photos, and live streaming from site owners.

**DLS recommends that MDA discuss why the reports were not submitted by the dates requested.**

## Operating Budget Recommended Actions

- |   | <b>Amount<br/>Change</b> |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Reduce funding for the Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming program to level fund it with fiscal 2026. The final program parameters and a spending plan have not been submitted. | -\$400,000 GF            |

2. Add the following language:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general operating expenses in the Office of the Secretary – Executive Direction may not be expended until the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), in coordination with the Department of General Services, submits a report to the budget committees certifying that MDA has taken the steps needed to address the two repeat audit findings in MDA’s March 2025 audit. The report shall include details about the steps needed to address Findings 3 and Finding 4 and the actual steps taken to address the findings, including the systems and processes implemented to address the findings and evidence of ongoing use of these systems and processes. The report shall be submitted by July 1, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

**Explanation:** MDA’s March 2025 audit included two repeat findings going back many years. Finding 3 (Product Registrations) has been commented upon in 5 preceding audit reports dating back to calendar 2007 and the lack of an independent supervisory review of product registrations has been commented on in 3 preceding audit reports dating back to calendar 2013. Finding 4 (Equipment) concerning the lack of accountability and control over equipment has been commented on in 10 preceding audit reports dating back to 1990. This action restricts funding pending the submission of a report, in coordination with the Department of General Services (DGS), certifying all steps have been taken to address the repeat audit findings.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report certifying all steps taken to address March 2025 repeat audit findings	MDA DGS	July 1, 2026

<b>Total Net Change to Fiscal 2027 Allowance</b>	<b>-\$400,000</b>
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**Appendix 1**  
**2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report Responses from Agency**

The 2025 JCR requested that MDA prepare two reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Maryland Poultry Registration Program Report:*** The budget committees requested that MDA submit a report on the required registration by backyard flock owners through the Maryland Poultry Registration Program, also referred to as the Backyard Flock Registration Program, by December 1, 2025. Further discussion of this data can be found in Key Observation 5 of this analysis.
- ***LEEF Program Report:*** The General Assembly restricted \$100,000 of the fiscal 2026 general fund appropriation for the LEEF Program pending the submission of a program parameter report on September 1, 2025. Further discussion of this data can be found in Key Observation 1 of this analysis.
- ***Enforcement and Inspection Position Strength Assessment:*** The budget committees requested that MDE and MDA submit a report on compliance and enforcement inspections and positions by January 1, 2026. Further discussion of this data can be found in Key Observation 5 of this analysis.

**Appendix 2  
Audit Findings**

Audit Period for Last Audit	December 16, 2019 – November 30, 2023
Issue Date	March 2025
Number of Findings	4
Number of Repeat Findings	2
% of Repeat Findings	50%
Rating: (if applicable)	

**Finding 1:** MDA did not procure certain goods and services in accordance with State procurement regulations.

**Finding 2:** The Rural Maryland Council did not always receive and review grantee reports and did not document approval of grantee extensions requests.

**Finding 3:** MDA did not adequately verify that its product registration collections were deposited and did not ensure that certain product registrations were proper.

**Finding 4:** MDA did not conduct required physical inventories of its equipment and did not maintain complete and accurate equipment records.

\*Bold denotes item repeated in full or part from preceding audit report.

**Appendix 3**  
**Customer Data Modernization Initiative**  
**Major Information Technology Project**  
**Maryland Department of Agriculture**

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing					
<b>Start Date:</b> January 31, 2023			<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> June 30, 2026		
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile					
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$11.530	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$11.530
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11.530</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$11.530</b>

- Project Summary:** This project moves MDA’s programs to the State’s OneStop platform to allow customers and staff to use a uniform web-based system for delivery of programs and to allow staff to a geographic information system for data storage. This project is being developed for the following MDA programs: Turf and Seed; State Chemist; and Nutrient Management.
- Need:** MDA’s existing infrastructure for State-issued licenses and permits is decentralized and based on PDFs that must be filled out by the public and manually categorized by MDA staff. This is a burden for the public and causes tracking challenges for MDA, especially with legacy systems.
- Observations and Milestones:** The Turf and Seed Program, which was divided into two parts, went fully live on March 4, 2024, as projected. The State Chemist Program will provide a phased implementation of the State Chemist’s Tonnage Reporting for Fertilizers reporting and enhancements to existing features. The State Chemist originally was anticipated to go live on May 27, 2024, but the schedule shifted slightly to June 18, 2024, with additional items still being addressed. As of December 12, 2025, the State Chemist Program received an administrative enhancement that enables read-only access to registrant experience data within the Renewal and Report portal, which assists with program oversight and supports compliance review. The Nutrient Management Program work began on May 8, 2024. As of December 12, 2025, the Nutrient Management Program rollout has been delayed by data quality issues stemming from nonunique producer accounts in legacy data.
- Concerns:** Integration with the State’s OneStop platform is a concern because the State is no longer moving toward the OneStop platform. Instead, the State is moving toward the use of Salesforce. It appears that MDA will use OneStop for the time being but will likely need to consider moving to Salesforce at some point. The overall project cost increased from \$6.5 million to \$10.9 million, or approximately \$4.5 million, and the increase occurred in fiscal 2024, which was already closed at the time of the fiscal 2025 analysis, due to how DoIT allocated costs for the project. The overall project cost has increased again from \$10.9 million to \$11.5 million due to cost increases in fiscal 2025. It is also concerning that Nutrient Management Program data issues are delaying completion.

**Appendix 4**  
**Digitization and Modernization Project**  
**Major Information Technology Project**  
**Maryland Department of Agriculture**

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing					
<b>Start Date:</b> July 1, 2024			<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> June 29, 2030		
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile					
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$1.000	\$1.183	\$4.500	\$56.633	\$63.316
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.000</b>	<b>\$1.183</b>	<b>\$4.500</b>	<b>\$56.633</b>	<b>\$63.316</b>

- Project Summary:** This project moves MDA’s programs from Oracle to Salesforce to allow customers and staff to use a uniform web-based system for delivery of programs. This project is being developed in stages and for multiple programs. In last year’s analysis, these programs included the following: Agricultural Fair Board; Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners; Spay and Neuter Grants Program; Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program; International Marketing; Maryland’s Best Program; Forest Pest Management; Mosquito Control; Pesticide Regulation; Plant Protection and Weed Management; Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation; Animal Health; Food Quality Assurance; Conservation Program Planning and Evaluations; Conservation District Operations; and Conservation Grants. Updated information in the fiscal 2026 Major Information Technology Development Project report notes that there are nine programs in total of which several listed appear to overlap with the information reported last year.
- Need:** MDA’s existing infrastructure for State-issued licenses and permits is decentralized and based on PDFs that must be filled out by the public and manually categorized by MDA staff. This is a burden for the public and causes tracking challenges for MDA, especially with legacy systems. The new system will consolidate licensing, permitting, inspection, enforcement, and grant processes into a single platform.
- Observations and Milestones:** The amount of work planned for fiscal 2026 has been substantially reduced. This task reduction was done to focus on the back-end infrastructure and both modernizing the outdated Oracle data platform and consolidating it with the Salesforce platform. The timing of funding has shifted once again. Last year’s analysis programmed \$29.4 million in fiscal 2027, which has been reduced to \$4.5 million in the fiscal 2027 allowance.
- Concerns:** Limiting the scope of the project too early is identified as a concern as well as the identification of sufficient funding, although the justification for the \$63.3 million overall cost does not seem justified. Staff expertise, available time, and buy-in are all concerns, especially given the need to make a mid-course correction since the State is no longer migrating to the OneStop platform. MDA’s Oracle contract became unsupported in

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October 2025, which was mitigated by securing the Extended Support Security Upgrade, but the migration to Salesforce by early calendar 2026 is in doubt. The overall project cost has increased from \$59.9 million to \$63.3 million, and the funding schedule has been shifted out, with only \$4.5 million provided in fiscal 2027 instead of the \$29.4 million programmed. This increases the amount of funding programmed for the out-years.

**Appendix 5**  
**Overview of Agency Spending Details**  
**Fiscal 2027 Allowance**

- ***Office of Resource Conservation (\$61.6 Million, 49.5%):*** The main two largest expenditure categories include \$23.1 million for the Cover Crop Program and \$21.2 million for salaries, most of which is for regular positions in soil conservation districts. Other items include \$3.6 million for Manure Transport Program support and grants; \$2.4 million for incentive payments to farmers for agricultural drainage management, conservation incentive grants, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; \$1.9 million for the contract for UME nutrient management advisors to write nutrient management plans using multiple fund sources; \$1.4 million for Soil Conservation District support grants; \$0.9 million for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program; \$0.9 million from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund for the Watershed Implementation Plan BMP implementation and animal waste technologies on farms; \$0.9 million for Climate Resiliency reimbursable grant funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund; \$0.6 million for Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming program grants to incentivize adoption of outcomes-based conservation programs on agricultural land; \$0.6 million for Small Farm and Urban Agriculture contracts; \$0.5 million for Ecosystem Incentive subprogram grants to farmers to adopt conservation measures; \$0.4 million for Tree Solutions Now Act tree planting on agricultural land; \$0.4 million for the Maryland Healthy Soils Program, accounting for the contingent reduction; and \$0.4 million for the Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program, accounting for the contingent reduction.
  
- ***Office of Marketing, Animal Industries, and Consumer Services (\$32.4 Million, 26.0%):*** The main expenditures include \$13.0 million for salaries; \$5.4 million for grants through the Rural Maryland Council; \$2.0 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for Local Food Purchase Assistance; \$1.4 million for Maryland Agricultural Fair Board grants; \$1.2 million for an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to advertise crop insurance; \$1.0 million for 16.95 contractual FTEs; \$0.9 million for the Spay and Neuter Grants Program; \$0.9 million for a federal grant for Agricultural Marketing; \$0.7 million for motor vehicle operations; \$0.7 million for SMADC for the transition from tobacco production, accounting for the contingent reduction; \$0.6 million in federal funding for Farmers Market Nutrition Program outreach; \$0.4 million in federal grant funding for various agricultural fairs, events, and societies; \$0.3 million for the Maryland Farms and Families Fund; \$0.3 million for a grant from the Food and Drug Administration to implement the State Produce Safety Act; \$0.2 million for U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory and administrative charges and organic fee reimbursement to farmers; \$0.2 million for MARBIDCO; and \$0.2 million for the Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program.
  
- ***Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management (\$16.9 Million, 13.6%):*** The main expenditure categories include \$11.4 million for salaries; \$1.9 million for contracts,

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including \$0.6 million in the State Chemist, \$0.5 million for gypsy moth suppression, and \$0.3 million for nuisance insect control; \$1.3 million for contractual FTEs; and \$0.8 million for motor vehicles.

- ***Office of the Secretary (\$13.6 Million, 10.9%):*** The main expenditure categories include \$6.4 million for salaries, \$2.8 million for DoIT services allocation, \$1.3 million for contractual arrangements related to agricultural easement purchases, and \$0.6 million for fuel and utilities.

**Appendix 6  
Program/Unit Difference Report  
Department of Agriculture**

<u>Program/Unit</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Working Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
01 Executive Direction	\$1,895,456	\$2,207,934	\$1,806,648	-\$401,286	-18.2%
02 Administrative Services	5,993,424	2,486,817	2,849,527	362,710	14.6%
03 Central Services	4,844,233	5,436,674	5,648,762	212,088	3.9%
04 Maryland Agricultural Commission	138,701	118,466	129,218	10,752	9.1%
05 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	3,067,087	3,088,108	3,185,080	96,972	3.1%
01 Office of the Assistant Secretary	330,397	276,618	188,652	-87,966	-31.8%
02 Weights and Measures	2,576,457	2,909,116	3,336,343	427,227	14.7%
03 Food Quality Assurance	3,282,714	3,949,630	4,023,195	73,565	1.9%
04 Maryland Agricultural Statistics Services	0	8,200	0	-8,200	-100.0%
05 Animal Health	6,105,840	5,534,004	5,961,346	427,342	7.7%
07 State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	2,145,786	1,945,918	2,053,635	107,717	5.5%
08 Maryland Horse Industry Board	379,274	407,938	447,769	39,831	9.8%
10 Marketing and Agriculture Development	9,707,198	8,531,119	9,007,488	476,369	5.6%
11 Maryland Agricultural Fair Board	1,052,627	1,460,000	1,460,000	0	0.0%
18 Rural Maryland Council	6,709,858	5,978,064	6,047,464	69,400	1.2%
19 Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund	118,485	118,485	118,485	0	0.0%
20 Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation	4,135,000	300,000	200,000	-100,000	-33.3%
01 Office of the Assistant Secretary	294,882	252,036	272,215	20,179	8.0%
02 Forest Pest Management	2,098,834	2,444,725	2,465,340	20,615	0.8%
03 Mosquito Control	3,588,332	3,725,324	3,855,408	130,084	3.5%
04 Pesticide Regulation	1,515,000	1,756,052	1,669,288	-86,764	-4.9%
05 Plant Protection and Weed Management	2,774,275	3,269,754	3,313,193	43,439	1.3%
06 Turf and Seed	1,489,619	1,401,162	1,473,533	72,371	5.2%
09 State Chemist	3,243,638	3,697,798	3,625,355	-72,443	-2.0%
10 Nuisance Insects	550,850	275,000	275,000	0	0.0%

<u>Program/Unit</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Working Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
01 Office of the Assistant Secretary	358,577	279,112	301,709	22,597	8.1%
02 Program Planning and Development	1,956,240	2,572,047	3,312,261	740,214	28.8%
03 Resource Conservation Operations	16,240,705	16,501,348	17,432,971	931,623	5.6%
04 Resource Conservation Grants	29,716,159	35,704,516	35,188,922	-515,594	-1.4%
06 Nutrient Management	3,012,605	4,537,829	4,609,858	72,029	1.6%
07 Watershed Implementation	1,248,465	930,554	1,003,172	72,618	7.8%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$120,570,718</b>	<b>\$122,104,348</b>	<b>\$125,261,837</b>	<b>\$3,157,489</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
General Funds	\$49,972,462	\$44,189,392	\$45,765,062	\$1,575,670	3.6%
Special Funds	32,824,139	39,448,090	41,004,957	1,556,867	3.9%
Federal Funds	10,541,688	13,564,845	13,303,850	-260,995	-1.9%
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$93,338,289</b>	<b>\$97,202,327</b>	<b>\$100,073,869</b>	<b>\$2,871,542</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Reimbursable Funds	\$27,232,429	\$24,902,021	\$25,187,968	\$285,947	1.1%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$120,570,718</b>	<b>\$122,104,348</b>	<b>\$125,261,837</b>	<b>\$3,157,489</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include contingent reductions or statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.