Maryland Department of Agriculture Update
Comptroller’s Pandemic Spending Workgroup

Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg
Dec. 8, 2021
• 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
Concentration of Dairy Operations in Maryland

Concentration of Poultry Operations in Maryland
COVID-19 IMPACT & MDA’S RESPONSE
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: Maryland’sBest
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
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
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.
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
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
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 grants at $1.98 million
• Includes 45 grants for cold storage equipment
MARBIDCO: Relief Act Grants

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIEF Act Funding Grant Program</th>
<th>No. of Projects Funded</th>
<th>Total Amount Funded</th>
<th>Average Grant Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture Relief Grants</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>$138,500</td>
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<td>Urban Farmer Relief Grants</td>
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<td>Cold Storage Relief Grants</td>
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<td>Livestock Processing Relief Grants</td>
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<td>Wood Products Grant</td>
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<td>Maryland Market Money</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>217</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,000,000</strong></td>
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