

A Look at Maryland Agriculture



Capital: Annapolis

Population: 5,296,000

Founded: April 28, 1788 (7th)

State Bird: Baltimore Oriole

State Tree: White Oak

State Flower: Back Eyed Susan

Number of Counties: 23

Largest City: Baltimore - 651,000

Nickname: Little America

Number of Farms: 12,850

Average Farm Size: 160 acres

Total Farmland: 2 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- The mean annual air temperature is 45°F-48°F, mean annual precipitation 35"-50" and frost free period 160-250 days.
- Sassafras series consisting of very deep, fine-loamy, siliceous, semiactive, well drained, moderately permeable soils formed in sandy marine and old alluvial sediments of the Coastal Plain.
- These soils are categorized as prime farmland and best suited to construction, onside effluent disposal, and recreational development.

Crops & Livestock

- 40% of Maryland's land is in agriculture – over 2 million acres.
- Extensive research and work is done by farmers to implement best management practices that protect our land while providing the food and fiber products necessary for our existence.
- Known as "America in Miniature", Maryland agriculture is as diverse as that of the nation.
- As the state has grown in population, traditional dairy, grain and livestock production, while still active, have given way to products more directly related to consumers.
- Poultry, nursery and turf production, seafood, dairy, corn, soybeans, racing and pleasure horse industries now dominate Maryland agriculture.

General

- Maryland agriculture is the state's largest commercial industry.
- The Maryland agricultural industry contributes more than \$17 billion in revenue annually.
- Agriculture employs 350,000 Marylanders.
- 14% of the state's workforce are involved in Maryland's food and fiber sector:
 - 50% wholesaling & retailing
 - 20% farm production
 - 15% marketing & processing
 - 12% agribusiness 3% farm supply