

Egg Inspection, and Grain Laws. The Office also includes the Agricultural Statistics Service, the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, the Maryland State Apple Commission, and the Tobacco Authority.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

M. Bruce West, *State Statistician*

841-5740

The Agricultural Statistics Service originated as the Statistical Reporting Service in the mid-19th century and received its present name in 1986.

The Service collects, summarizes, and publishes data relating to the production and marketing of agricultural products, agriculture prices and income, and other statistics pertinent to agriculture and agribusiness. State statistics generally are available for acreage, yield, and production of major field crops, vegetables, fruits, livestock, and poultry; and monthly and seasonal or annual average prices, farm expenditures, and labor. For some commodities the Service also compiles county statistics. The Service also issues the following publications:

Maryland Agricultural Statistics (annually)

Maryland Agri-Facts (bi-monthly)

Weekly Delmarva Broiler Report

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MARKETING SERVICES SECTION

Vacancy, *Chief*

841-5770

The Marketing Services Section provides programs and services to help all segments of the economy—from producer to consumer—through the market system. Programs include market improvement projects to enhance quality and presentation of agricultural commodities to the consumer; international marketing; market news and statistics services in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and an active consumer marketing information program (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-101 through 10-204; 10-501 through 10-504; 10-601 through 10-606; 10-701 through 10-708; 10-801 through 10-807; 10-901 through 10-909). The Section also compiles the following publications:

Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Directory

Grain and Livestock (weekly)

Maryland Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Users Guide

Maryland Hay and Straw Directory

Maryland Retail Farmers' Market Directory

Maryland Tobacco Report (radio tape—in season)

Pick-Your-Own Fruit and Vegetable Directory

Wholesale Directory—Maryland Christmas Tree Growers

SEAFOOD MARKETING SECTION

F. William Sieling, *Chief*

841-5770

Formerly under the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Office of Seafood Marketing was transferred to the Department of Agriculture as Seafood Marketing Services in 1987. It was renamed Seafood Marketing Section in 1988. The Section promotes increased distribution and consumption of Maryland seafood. It also seeks efficient methods to reduce cost and improve the quality and marketability of seafood.

SEAFOOD MARKETING ADVISORY COMMISSION

William R. Woodfield, Jr., *Chairperson*, 1993

Appointed by Governor with Senate advice & consent (8 members appointed with advice of Secretary of Agriculture): Douglas C. Burdette, Jr., 1991; Levin F. Harrison III, 1991; Judith Ridinger Pugh, 1991; Robert Brett Meyers, 1992; Andrew Todd Tolley, 1992; Nancy Devine, 1993; William C. King III, 1993; George O'Donnell, 1993; A. Arthur Oertel, 1994; Joseph Sadler, 1994; one vacancy.

Ex officio: F. William Sieling, designee of Secretary of Agriculture; W. Peter Jensen, designee of Secretary of Natural Resources.

841-5770

In 1987, the Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission was created within the Department of Agriculture (Chapter 308, Acts of 1987). The Commission assists the Seafood Marketing Section.

The Commission has thirteen members. The Governor appoints eleven members with Senate advice and consent and eight members with the advice of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture or designee, and the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee are nonvoting ex officio members. Members serve four-year terms (Code Agriculture Article, sec. 10-1101).

GRADING SERVICES & EGG INSPECTION SECTION

Thomas O. Meredith, Jr., *Administrator*

841-5769

The Grading Services and Egg Inspection Section inspects and grades fruits, vegetables, grain, soybeans, and poultry at their production sites. Graders follow U.S. Department of Agriculture grading regulations and affix federal grading stamps to products that meet quality standards (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-501 through 10-909).

The Section is responsible for the quality of eggs produced, distributed, and sold in Maryland. The Salmonella Enteritidis Program, enforced by the Section, requires that all eggs sold in Maryland must come from flocks of chickens which have been