

Robert Wilson, Queen Anne's County, 1996.

Ex officio: Lewis R. Riley, Secretary of Agriculture; David A. C. Carroll, Secretary of the Environment; Torrey C. Brown, Secretary of Natural Resources; Raymond J. Miller, President, Maryland Institute for Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Maryland System; Simpson W. Dunahoo, designee of Chairperson, Maryland Agricultural Commission; George Lechluder, President, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Advisory nonvoting members: Craig S. Oliver, Ph.D., Director, Cooperative Extension Service; Robert Klumpe, State Conservationist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Louise Lawrence, *Chairperson*
 (410) 841-5863

Appointed by Secretary of Agriculture: Frances Flanigan; T. Mark Fuchs; Michael F. Hirschfield; Lynne C. Hoot; Jeffrey Loser; John McCoy; Jack Miller; Fred Samadani; Richard A. Weismüller; William (Billy) Willard; Mitchell Woodward.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
 (31.01.15.03)
 FY1994 appropriation \$3,577,580
 FY1994 authorized positions 75.6
 Royden N. Powell III, *Chief* ... (410) 841-5896

WESTERN MARYLAND
 Daniel Bard, *Coordinator* ... (301) 694-9290

PATUXENT
 John P. Zawitoski, *Coordinator*
 (410) 841-5896

EASTERN SHORE
 Vacancy, *Coordinator* (410) 479-0672

RESOURCE PROTECTION INCENTIVES
 (31.01.15.04)
 FY1994 appropriation \$361,990
 FY1994 authorized positions 4
 F. Gould Charshee, *Supervisor* ... (410) 841-5864

ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

The Department of Agriculture traces its origin to the Maryland Agricultural College, chartered in 1856. After the federal Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 offered each state proceeds from sales of federal lands to fund a college teaching agriculture and mechanical arts, the College became Maryland's land-grant institution in 1864. While certain agricultural duties were assigned briefly to the Superintendent of Labor and Agriculture in 1867, they later became the responsibility of the College (Constitution of 1867, Art. 10). As the State agricultural agency, the College regulated fertilizers (1886), and live stock sanitation (1888), and inspected nurseries, trees, feeds, tobacco, seeds, honeybees, and fruit. The College acquired an agricultural experiment station under the federal Hatch Act of 1887. Professors of the College and Experiment Station served as State Entomologist, State Pathologist, and State Horticulturalist to identify and eradicate insect pests and diseases (Chapter 289, Acts of 1898). Farmers' institutes were held during winter months until replaced by the Agricultural Extension Service, created by federal and State laws in 1914.

In 1908, the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College became *ex officio* the State Board of Agriculture (Chapter 161, Acts of 1908). When the College merged with the University of Maryland in 1920, the University's Board of Regents assumed the responsibilities of the State Board of Agriculture. Although duties of the former trustees of the Agricultural College were solely concerned with agriculture, the Board of Regents became responsible for an entire university of diverse interests. To respond to the special needs of agriculture, the State created the Department of Agriculture in 1972 (Chapter 342, Acts of 1972). All regulatory and advisory functions were reorganized and transferred to the new Department, while agricultural research functions and the Extension Service were retained by the University.

Since agriculture is vital to Maryland's economy, the Department's main purpose is to help farmers produce high-quality commodities. To this end, the Department eradicates disease in livestock and poultry, controls insect pests and weeds which threaten field crops, inspects seeds and fertilizers to ensure maximum yields, and disseminates market reports and statistics to help farmers plan farm production. The Department also protects the environment by regulating the use of pesticides, implementing sound soil conservation methods, and preserving valuable agricultural land. To protect consumers, the Department inspects and grades agricultural commodities, oversees the practice of veterinary medicine, and inspects the weighing and packaging of a wide range of products. In addition, the Department promotes Maryland agriculture, seeks out new markets, and implements new initiatives such as aquaculture.