

Maryland Agricultural Statistics (annually)
Maryland Agri-Facts (bi-monthly)
Weekly Crop and Weather Report
Weekly Delmarva Broiler Report

ANIMAL HEALTH SECTION

Roger E. Olson, D.V.M., *State Veterinarian*
 (410) 841-5810

Duties of the Animal Health Section began in 1884 when the position of veterinary inspector first was created to suppress disease in livestock and prevent epidemics (Chapter 157, Acts of 1884). Today, the Section works to control and eradicate livestock and poultry diseases that have a significant economic impact on producers or pose a threat to human health due to their transmissibility from animals to people (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 3-101 through 3-503).

The Section's work is carried out in five laboratories located in Centreville, College Park, Frederick, Oakland, and Salisbury.

EGG INSPECTION, GRADING, & GRAIN

Deanna Baldwin, *Supervisor*
 (410) 841-5769

In 1992, the Grading Services and Egg Inspection Section merged with the Grain Laws Section to form Egg Inspection, Grading, and Grain. The Section oversees three separate programs of inspection, certification, and licensing.

The *Grading Services Program* conducts a voluntary certification program for producers and processors of numerous agricultural commodities, including poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables, soybeans, and grain. The Program uses standards developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for quality, size, labeling, and packaging. Samples of agricultural commodities are evaluated for conformity with these standards. Graders supervise the official identification of commodities meeting the established criteria (Code Agricultural Article, secs. 10-501 through 10-909).

The *Egg Inspection Program* enforces the Maryland Egg Law. Inspections performed at the processor, wholesale, food service and retail levels ensure that eggs sold in Maryland comply with standards for quality, size, labeling and record-keeping. Wholesalers and packers of shell eggs must register annually with the Program. The Program coordinates enforcement of the Salmonella enteritidis regulations jointly adopted by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Federal Egg Law controlling the movement of inedible and restricted eggs also is enforced by the Program. Restricted eggs are those not suitable for consumption due to cracks, blood spots, leaks, or

other problems (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 4-301 through 4-312).

The *Grain Laws Program* licenses grain dealers, as defined by law. The practice dates at least to 1888 when licenses were granted to Baltimore grain brokers (Chapter 416, Acts of 1888). Now, grain dealers annually must meet financial and insurance requirements. Each year, the Section also publishes the *Directory of Grain Dealers*.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES SECTION

Louis E. Straub, *Chief*
 (410) 841-5790

The first Maryland law to regulate measures was enacted in 1641 (Chapter 2, Acts of 1641). At that time, the county sheriff was entrusted with the responsibility. The Weights and Measures Section continues to maintain and safeguard the State's primary standards as well as secondary standards and equipment for the enforcement of Maryland's Weights and Measures Law. The Section's Metrology Laboratory provides a wide variety of highly sophisticated measurements and calibrations in mass, volume, length, and thermometry.

The Section supervises the use and production of weighing and measuring devices, weights and measures, and packaged commodities offered for sale, sold, or in use in the State. This supervision extends to the methodology used to obtain accurate measurement and provides a means for value comparisons for consumers.

The Section licenses and tests personnel who determine butterfat content for dairies and milk cooperatives and personnel who calibrate farm milk tanks. It administers and enforces State laws for ensuring accuracy, equity, and the prevention of fraud in the sale and measurement of quantities, commodities, goods, or services (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 11-101 through 11-509).

OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES & PEST MANAGEMENT

Charles W. Puffinberger, Ph.D., *Assistant Secretary for Plant Industries & Pest Management*

50 Harry S Truman Parkway
 Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-5870

The Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management originated in 1972 as the Division of Plant Industries. It became the Division of Plant Industries and Pest Management in 1980, and the Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management in 1984. The Office was reorganized in 1987 as the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation and, in 1990, resumed its earlier name.

The Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management supervises programs concerned with plants,