

Look at what the chicken industry is doing for Delmarva.



Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. publishes annual data about the chicken industry in the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. In 2017, the data show, **Delmarva's chicken industry grew at a modest pace, with processing production increasing 2 percent year-to-year.** While chicken house capacity increased 13 percent in 2017, it has grown an average of less than 1 percent a year in the past decade. **Contract payments to chicken growers and the wages of chicken company employees also grew,** indicating a healthy chicken economy — one valued at \$3.4 billion in wholesale value of the goods it produced. We do it all to meet the growing consumer demand for healthy, tasty chicken.

In 2017, the Delmarva chicken industry:

	1-year change	10-year change	20-year change
Raised 605 million chickens.	+2%	+7%	-1%
Processed 4.2 billion pounds of chickens.	+2%	+22%	+34%
Raised in 5,091 chicken houses.	+8%	-5%	-12%
The houses had a capacity of 138 million chickens.	+13%	+7%	+11%
There were 1,549 chicken growers.	+3%	-20%	-41%
They earned \$256 million in contract income.	+5%	+17%*	+30%*
There were 18,500 chicken company employees.	+28%**	+25%	+31%
They earned \$752 million in wages, excluding benefits.	+13%**	+60%*	+59%*
Feed ingredients for chickens were purchased for \$984 million.	-1%	+18%*	-3%*
The wholesale value of chicken produced was \$3.4 billion.	+6%	+43%*	+38%*

*inflation-adjusted **For 2017, one company added a previously uncounted business unit.



Chicken growers and companies planted **8,444 trees and grasses** in 2017 as part of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.'s vegetative environmental buffers program.



Chicken companies purchased **87 million bushels of corn, 36 million bushels of soybeans, and 1.6 million bushels of wheat** for chicken feed in 2017.



Chicken companies purchased **\$240 million** in packaging and processing supplies in 2017.



Delmarva's chicken companies invested **\$152 million** in capital improvements in 2017, including investments in solar energy, hatcheries and processing plants.



What else did Delmarva's chicken industry accomplish in 2017?



We helped the agricultural sector meet benchmarks for improving water quality.

Chicken growers and chicken companies, in partnership with the rest of agriculture, are succeeding in meeting Chesapeake Bay clean-up benchmarks established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Here's one example. By June 30, 2017, one benchmark goal in Maryland was to annually transport 51,000 tons of excess poultry litter or livestock manure from farms that don't need it to farms that can use the manure in accordance with best management practices. As it turned out, **241,900 tons of manure were transported in 2017 — more than four times the benchmark goal.**

Another benchmark the EPA asked us to meet by 2017 was to construct at least 31 new Maryland manure storage structures. Family farms raising chickens more than met that goal, **constructing 149 manure storage structures between 2009 and 2017.** Our farmers' hard work also helped the Bay meet benchmark goals for forest buffers planted, grass buffers planted and cover crops planted.

We gave back to the communities in which our members live, and to people in need around the country.

In 2017, our members donated food and funds to food pantries, churches, and people in need. Chicken companies also stepped up with urgently needed donations to help the victims of floods in Texas, mudslides in California and wildfires in North Carolina.

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.'s college scholarship fund awarded \$16,000 to eight students interested in careers in the chicken industry.

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