Who’s At the Helm for 2020?

In December, our Board of Directors chose those who will help lead DPI in 2020, including our Executive Committee members and our president, vice president, second vice president, treasurer and board members at large.

DPI’s president this year is Dale Cook, the Millsboro Complex Human Resources Manager for Mountaire Farms. Dale served as vice-president in 2019. He previously worked in the law enforcement field before joining Tyson Foods, where he also held a human resources position. In 2016, he received the Chancellors Award from the Eastern Shore Community College for Occupation Specific Instruction and Services. Cook graduated from the University of Arkansas; he and his wife, Natalie, have two daughters, Allison and Madelyn.

Cook says he wants to focus DPI’s attention on the following goals for 2020: advocating for the industry on legislative and regulatory issues; executing the strategic plan, including rebranding; ensuring growers, companies, and allied businesses are all well-represented and have a voice in DPI; collaborating with our partner groups to complete the ambient air monitoring project; and ensuring we are good fiduciaries of DPI’s resources.

DPI’s vice president is Jennifer Feindt, a graduate of the University of Delaware, where she majored in soil science. She also has an MBA from Wilmington University and is a member of Class V of LEADelaware. She has been a loan officer in the Dover office of MidAtlantic Farm Credit since October 2016. Prior to joining MAFC, she was a farm loan specialist with USDA Farm Service Agency, and before that a branch manager for County Bank. Feindt lives in Milford, Delaware.

Continued on page 2
Who’s At the Helm for 2020?

Continued from page 1

The second vice president for 2020 – serving in a new position created in response to our strategic plan – is Far Nasir, a grower in Maryland who began raising chickens in 2012. Before moving to Worcester County, Maryland, he worked for corporate and independent supermarkets in Connecticut. He is a graduate of Seneca College in Ontario, Canada who now enjoys farming with his wife and three children near Pocomoke City.

Andrew McLean is DPI’s treasurer – another new position on our board. A poultry grower for 13 years, Andrew was a banker who served farmers for 28 years before that. He served as DPI’s president in 2012 and is a member of the board of directors of the Harry R. Hughes Center for AgroEcology, Inc. He’s also a leader of the Delmarva Land & Litter Collaborative. Andrew received DPI’s J. Frank Gordy, Sr. Delmarva Distinguished Citizen Award in 2018.

Also serving on DPI’s executive committee are past DPI presidents Jennifer Timmons, a grower and UMES professor, and Bill Massey, with Mountaire Farms.

Composting sheds attract flies and scavengers, including buzzards, foxes, raccoons, birds and feral cats – all known carriers of disease.

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In January, chickens on two broiler farms on Delmarva tested positive for Infectious Coryza, a bacterial disease. This disease is a new challenge for Delmarva’s broiler farms, but it is not new to the region. Infectious Coryza had previously been found in backyard flocks on Delmarva. It also cropped up in a few commercial layer farms on Delmarva last year. And as you may have heard, there were more than 50 cases of it in backyard, layer, and broiler flocks in Pennsylvania in 2019.

Infectious Coryza is more common in older birds than in broilers (which is why it is more commonly found on layer farms and in backyard flocks, whose birds live longer than the typical broiler growout period.) Infectious Coryza mostly causes airsacculitis in broilers, while traditional Coryza causes swelling of the head.

The disease poses no human health risks -- it cannot be transmitted to people. While it can increase mortality in chicken flocks, it is not as dangerous to the birds as avian influenza. Nevertheless, preventing additional cases of Infectious Coryza in broiler flocks is a high priority. That’s why, in an abundance of caution, organizers called off the poultry sessions of Delaware Ag Week last month.

The signs of Infectious Coryza in broilers include respiratory difficulty, head swelling, nasal discharge, less feed and water consumption, and eye inflammation. The bacteria can travel from farm to farm in litter or manure, farming materials or equipment, vehicles, and people who have picked up the bacteria on their clothing, shoes, or hands. Mortality above 3/1,000, or a marked decrease in food and water consumption, should be cues to inform your flock advisor you suspect disease in your houses.

To reduce the risk of a flock being exposed to Infectious Coryza, growers and others who work on farms should take the following steps:

- Restrict farm traffic to essential visits. Avoid unnecessary visits to other poultry farms. Both inanimate objects, like shoes, or living vectors – people, animals – can carry bacteria from farm to farm.

- Do not allow layer manure to be spread near your chicken houses.

- Make sure all farm visitors follow your company's biosecurity rules. Wear dedicated on-farm clothing and boots; if you must visit another poultry farm, change clothes before leaving your farm.

- Don't share equipment that contacts litter with other growers. If you must do so, clean the equipment before it arrives on your farm.

- Unless absolutely necessary, employees of shared service companies (fuel, feed, and other deliveries) should not enter chicken houses. If they must enter houses, they must wear clean, disposable coveralls, boots, and gloves.
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DPI has opened the application period for its 2020 College Scholarship Program. Applications are being accepted for undergraduate and graduate scholarships available in the amount of $1,500 or more.

Since the first DPI scholarship was awarded in 1985, it has helped many students along the way toward careers in the chicken community. One such recipient is Jenelle Eck, who was one of nine to earn a scholarship in 2018. She’s now the programs and public relations director for Maryland Grain Producers.

“Working in the agriculture industry is like working with a big supportive family; everyone is here to help and everything is connected,” Eck told us. “The DPI scholarship helped me continue my path of study at the University of Delaware. Find out what you love to do and stick with it!”

Undergraduate applicants must be a Delmarva resident and a student in good standing at any accredited, degree-granting institution in the United States, or in the case of graduating high school seniors, accepted to an accredited, degree-granting institution within the United States. Individuals must have an academic major in a subject area relevant to Delmarva’s chicken industry, from animal science to business to agronomy or marketing and everything in between, and be planning a career in a segment of this industry. An official transcript must accompany each application.

Graduate student applicants must meet the above criteria, with the exception of Delmarva residency. In addition, the individual must be engaged in research that could positively benefit Delmarva’s chicken industry. DPI membership on the part of the applicant or his/her family is not required and has no effect on the selection process.

"Since 1985, we’ve awarded more than $144,000 to deserving, driven students through our scholarship program," said Holly Porter, DPI’s executive director. "Many of them went on to careers in Delmarva’s chicken community and are contributing to our $3.5 billion chicken economy. We’re excited to offer opportunities to a new set of young people with this year's scholarships."

Applications must be completed and received at the following address on or before 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2020:

DPI College Scholarship Program
16686 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE 19947-4881

Application forms and additional scholarship information are available at dpichicken.org/scholarship or by emailing dpi@dpichicken.com.
The University of Maryland Extension, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, along with Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., invites you to attend an on-farm field day for Delmarva commercial poultry farmers to be held Wednesday, March 4. The event will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Yahya Farm located at 38067 Robin Hood Road in Delmar, Del.

Practical workshops will be offered to help growers improve production practices and maintenance of their farm and equipment. More than 50 vendors and sponsors will also be there exhibiting, demonstrating equipment and supplies, and discussing goods and services. Government agencies will also be present to assist growers. This event is free and nutrient management credits are available. Lunch will be provided.

Register by Friday, February 28 at https://on-farm-field-day.eventbrite.com.

Remember to practice good biosecurity -- leave your farm clothes at the farm.

On-Farm Field Day is March 4
Here’s the link: on-farm-field-day.eventbrite.com

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Now that it’s nearly spring, lawmakers and their staffs are back at work in state capitals – and we’re right there with them. DPI continues to advocate for all our chicken community members in Annapolis, Dover and Richmond and to help educate legislators on topics that may impact our business.

**Delaware**

Delaware is in the second year of its two-year session. Currently, there have been few bills that have a direct impact on our industry.

Senate Bill 136 – **DPI Supports** – This bill would strengthen Delaware’s “right to farm,” protecting growers from nuisance lawsuits. DPI testified last June in support of this bill during the committee hearing. It was voted out of committee but has not been introduced to the Senate chamber yet.

Senate Bill 105 – **DPI Opposes** – This bill will increase the minimum wage to $11 in the first year and by $1 each additional year until it reaches $15 by 2024. **DPI** sent a letter of opposition to the committee members. This bill was voted out of the Labor Committee but reassigned to the Finance Committee.

House Substitute for House Bill 200 – **DPI is Monitoring** – This bill would develop a framework for assessing needs and implementing projects to improve Delaware’s water supply and waterways. A trust would be created using funds proposed in the Governor’s budget to execute those projects, based on a recommendations from a Water Infrastructure Advisory Council. DPI is working with other agricultural stakeholders to ensure that funds and processes already established for agricultural best management practices are not cut.

**Maryland**

At the time this article was written, there was only 1,000 bills that had been introduced in Maryland, with thousands more sure to come. If you’re interested in meeting lawmakers to talk about our issues at Chicken Day in Annapolis on March 17, contact me at 302-856-9037 or porter@dpichicken.com.

Senate Bill 188 – **DPI Supports** – This bill states that if a label identifies a product as meat, it cannot be from a product that contains animal tissue cultured from animal cells outside the animal or is made from plants or insects. **DPI** would prefer labeling to be consistent across the United States and addressed at the federal level. If that is not happening, then we support this bill.

House Bill 229/Senate Bill 300 – **DPI Opposes** – These bills, which have been introduced several times, would prohibit the use of insecticides containing chlorpyrifos. Since this is a pesticide in our growers’ toolboxes for combatting darkling beetles, and is only used by certified pesticide applicators, DPI opposes these bills.

Senate Bill 540 – **DPI Supports** – This bill would allow a member owner electric cooperative to have regulatory flexibility to offer broadband Internet service. Choptank Electric is endorsing the bill, calling it a stepping stone toward providing broadband service to underserved areas of the Eastern Shore.

**Continued on page 9**
**Where the States Stand on Chicken Issues**

*By Holly Porter*

*Executive Director*

Continued from page 8

Senate Bill 841/House Bill 1312 – DPI

Opposes – These bills would impose serious restrictions on the construction of new chicken farms or the expansion of existing chicken farms. They define chicken farms growing more than 300,000 birds per year as an “industrial poultry operation” and ban expansion of existing or new farms that goes over that threshold.

Senate Bill 928 – DPI opposes – This bill would order CAFO permits to not be issued in counties with high recorded phosphorous levels in soils unless the farm develops a manure transport plan requiring the chicken litter to be moved out of the higher phosphorous counties. This is duplicative of the nutrient management law that is already in place and seems to assume that farmers, both chicken and grain farmers, are not following their nutrient management plans.

**Virginia**

Virginia is in the middle of their long session this year, which includes setting a two-year budget. In November, Virginia also saw a shift in their legislature, with the Democratic party having the majority in both the Senate and House. A number of bills have been introduced, but very few directly affecting the chicken industry.

House Bill 1192 – DPI Opposes – This bill directs the State Water Control Board to regulate aboveground storage tanks that measure more than 1,320 gallons in capacity and may contain hazardous substances other than oil. This goes above and beyond regulations, reporting and fees that are already in place at the federal level and is duplicative of regulations by the Department of Environmental Quality.

**DPI** will continue to be your voice, but sometimes the legislators need to hear the voice of their constituents as well. We urge you to help in advocacy by contacting your legislator, attending committee hearings or sending in your letters of support or opposition.

To monitor bills, watch hearings (only in Maryland) or check on who your legislator is, check out the following sites:

- Delaware – legis.delaware.gov
- Maryland – mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite
- Virginia – virginiageneralassembly.gov

![Image of poultry farming equipment](image-url)
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Maryland Department of Agriculture Releases PMT Plans

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced new funding and initiatives for farmers as it moves forward with the implementation of the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT). A proposed one-year delay in implementation was voted down by the PMT Advisory Committee with support from representatives of the agriculture industry, including DPI, and environmental groups.

The department announced a new set of initiatives, laid out in a fact sheet, that it said will help Maryland farmers meet the PMT’s requirements. They included:

• Improvements to the Manure Transport Program, including shorter, more flexible applications and claim forms. The program has set up a new manure hotline (410-841-5864) for farmers interested in moving or receiving manure. Governor Hogan’s budget also includes an additional $1 million for the program from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

• Partnering with integrators to more accurately track the supply and demand for manure and connect farmers who need to move manure with farmers looking to apply manure. “This will greatly improve the efficiency of the Manure Transport Program by identifying farms who need to move litter off their farm and matching with farmers who are able to land apply litter,” the department said.

• Working with the Maryland Environmental Services to identify facilities that can be used as temporary storage areas for manure until it is ready to be moved to a farm or alternative use facility.

• A potential partnership with the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company to haul manure out of Maryland to farmers and growers who have expressed interest in using manure as fertilizer. “In addition to reaching farmers and growers in central/western Maryland, this could provide service to Midwest corn growers who have expressed interest in using poultry litter as fertilizer,” the department’s fact sheet said.

• An outreach campaign to encourage eligible farmers to use chicken litter as a crop fertilizer. Advertisements in trade

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Maryland Department of Agriculture Releases PMT Plans

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publications, social media ads, and banners at grain elevators are part of the campaign.

• A $1 million field science study, working with the University of Maryland on a five-year study on the field science of PMT. The study will be funded in part by a $350,000 United States Department of Agriculture grant, with the remainder coming from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

• Continuing to identify new alternative uses for litter through MDA’s Animal Waste Technology Grant program and industry partnerships.

• Finding new ways to reduce phosphorus levels, including a research project with University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science analyzing the use of aragonite on fields. “Aragonite is believed to absorb phosphorus, changing it into a plant-ready form of the nutrient, which thereby reduces phosphorus levels in the soil,” the fact sheet said.

“To adapt to the PMT, farmers will need help in this growing season, as well as assurances that long-term solutions for phosphorus management are being explored,” said Holly Porter, DPI’s executive director, in a news release. “We’re pleased that the Maryland Department of Agriculture has developed this multi-step plan for assisting livestock producers, including chicken growers, and grain farmers as we make the changes PMT implementation requires of us. It’s especially important that Maryland legislators preserve the additional $1 million being proposed for manure transport in the 2021 budget. Along

with manure transportation funding contributed by chicken companies, those funds represent a cost-effective way to apply the organic, slow-release plant food that is chicken litter to grain fields while improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.”

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3. Defined by Jones-Hamilton Co. over the course of 25 years through the manufacture of PLT® - Poultry Litter Treatment, and the development of best management practices.
   a. A continuous refinement of BMPs led to the development of Precision Litter Management, a program for maximizing performance potential and minimizing environmental challenges.
Maryland’s family farmers raising chickens have played a key role in achieving the state’s well-documented progress in reducing nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay and improving water quality. Maryland has met its water-quality goals for reduced phosphorus seven years ahead of the 2025 deadline, in part because of reduced phosphorus loads from agriculture and despite rising phosphorus loads from cities and suburbs. Farmers in the watershed have reduced their nitrogen contribution to the Bay by 24 percent since the 1980s, even while nitrogen runoff from developed areas has risen.

Late last year, research funded by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and performed by North Carolina State University modeled ammonia emissions from a hypothetical chicken industry that bears little resemblance to Maryland’s actual community of chicken farmers. The researchers, in a paper, estimated chicken farms on Delmarva caused about 11 million kilograms a year of ammonia/nitrogen deposition in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. But as we read through the study, we noticed major ways in which the chicken industry they built a model for doesn’t look like reality.

The research assumes farmers use no litter amendments — particles spread on chicken house litter that soak up ammonia from the air. In reality, as our members know, the use of litter amendments is widespread on U.S. chicken farms because they reduce ammonia, producing a better environment for chickens and farmers. The research also assumes that every Maryland chicken house contains birds 365 days a year, without pause. In reality, all chicken farmers have “layout” periods between flocks several times a year, when the houses are empty so farmers can prepare for the next flock or perform maintenance. The model also doesn’t account for any forested land on Delmarva, assuming all of Maryland’s Eastern Shore is farmland. In reality, forests absorb ammonia, as do vegetative buffers on chicken farms.

“In major ways, the study built a model of the chicken industry that doesn’t look like reality.”

As the researchers acknowledged, these assumptions were “not a realistic approach” and caused their model to overestimate ammonia levels. The researchers did not approach DPI or our members to get data about the use of litter amendments or the frequency of layouts before publishing conclusions based on their incomplete model. We are seeking ways to work with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to correct those flawed assumptions in the model.

Even with these flawed assumptions in place, the model’s predicted ammonia levels on Delmarva fell far short of concentrations noticeable by people, or concentrations with any effect on human health. When the researchers performed limited air monitoring on Delmarva, they recorded the highest levels of ammonia in a city and at a waterfront point close to southern Maryland — not in rural, farmed areas. That’s no surprise to Delmarva family farmers raising chicken who live and work on their farms, right alongside their flocks — after all, you care deeply about air quality, since you breathe the same air your neighbors do.
Our Ambient Air Monitoring Effort Nears Start

**DPI** is pleased to share that two sites have been secured on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland for the new ambient air monitoring stations. You may recall that **DPI** and the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment are partnering with the Maryland Department of the Environment to monitor ambient air quality, including levels of ammonia and particulate matter – both in areas near chicken farms as well as in areas without them. This data will give some baseline information on air quality.

The first site is located on Route 13 in Pocomoke and has five chicken farms located within a one-mile radius, and six farms within a two-mile radius. The other site is located in Princess Anne and has only two farms in a two-mile radius. In addition, stations located at Horn Point in Dorchester County and Oldtown Fire Station in Baltimore City will also be monitoring for the same ammonia and particulate matter.

MDE is working with the landowners to install the equipment, set up the electricity and train students from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to collect the data. By the time you read this, the monitoring stations should be nearly up and running. Whenever they begin, they’ll collect data for one year.

While **DPI** does not believe this will answer all the questions people have about Delmarva’s air quality, this is a good first step in just gathering data about ambient air – the air we all breathe – on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

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We sincerely thank you for your membership in Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. and for your support over the last year. Because of your help and the support of 1,700 other members who, like you, understand the importance of the poultry industry to Delmarva, we were able to achieve many successes that would not have been possible without you.

Below are some things we accomplished in 2019 with your support:

• Our largest-ever electric buying group of over 200 members will save members more than $600,000 over its three-year duration. The rate we negotiated is 11% lower than the previous contract rate, allowing individual members to save an average of $1,000 a year.

• By securing a three-year grant from the Delaware Natural Resources Conservation Services office for our Vegetative Environmental Buffer Program, we were able to offset $90,000 in expenses for technical assistance, marketing materials, mailings and translating services.

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DPI Gets Results For Our Members

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- We convinced Maryland legislators to reject the Community Healthy Air Act after much work, while also engaging new members to testify and become involved. We also began proactively working on state legislative issues for 2019.

As we move into a new year, we look forward to developing more ways to serve you, including hosting new meetings and educational events, while continuing to work aggressively and proactively on government relations, environmental issues, and advocacy. You will also continue to receive the following benefits as a DPI member:

- Our quarterly newsletters DPI in Action – and for growers, Timely Topics – and a weekly email newsletter, Chicken Chatter
- A ticket to the Booster Banquet for every $150 in dues paid
- The opportunity to attend Lunch & Learn workshops, on-farm field day and energy fair
- Invitations to and notifications about chicken-related educational meetings and other events
- Timely updates and calls to action on important legislative and regulatory policy issues
- The benefit of our communication strategies and public relations campaigns to educate, advocate, grow and improve the poultry industry on Delmarva

We encourage you to renew your membership in DPI today at: www.dpichicken.org/membership. If you have questions about membership or suggestions for how we could make belonging to DPI mean more, get in touch with Maureen Duffy: 302-856-9037, duffy@dpichicken.com.

Want to Get More Involved with DPI?

If you want to get more involved with DPI, get to know other growers, and learn things that might help you earn more money, then become a member of DPI’s Grower Committee. It costs nothing and will pay back in many ways.

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The DPI Board of Directors and staff continue to apply our Strategic Plan, adopted in 2018, to the real world of our day-to-day work here. Below are just a few highlights.

Driving Strategy 1 – Improve the image of our organization and industry through rebranding and the use of various communication methods.

• DPI developed an annual communications plan to focus our efforts.

• The DPI Board of Directors, working with an outside consultant, has been working on market research, focus groups, name ideas and logo options to better define who we are, where we came from and where we want to go in the future. Stay tuned for future announcements.

Driving Strategy 2 – Be a strong advocate for both the chicken industry and our organization.

• A subcommittee of members have created some action plans for proactive legislative engagement strategies that will be fully developed later this year.

• An advocacy plan, tools and training will be shared with the Board of Directors and implemented in 2020.

Driving Strategy 3 – Create the most effective organizational and governance structure that will prepare us for the future.

• In September 2019, the Board of Directors approved recommendations that included developing two new officer positions – 2nd Vice President and Treasurer; developing two new standing committees – Finance and Governance; set term limits and number of terms for Board of Directors; modified the Executive Committee to only include officers and one Director-at-Large; and has charged all committees to develop a charter of roles and responsibilities during 2020.

• The DPI Board of Directors held their first Board training in January, facilitated by the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA).

Driving Strategy 4 – Diversify revenue streams for our longevity as an effective organization.

• DPI has seen increased revenue with additional sponsorship opportunities at events such as the National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing and Live Production, Lunch & Learns and the DPI Scholarship Golf Tournament.

• With the development of the Finance Committee, DPI will continue to discuss short-term and long-term budget needs.

All this was just in the first year! We will continue implementation of the five-year plan and will keep you updated as we do it. 

Strategic Planning So Far
By Holly Porter
Executive Director
Mountaire to Pioneer 'One Health Certified' Label

(NIAMRRE) will soon give producers a way to demonstrate to consumers that they follow responsible animal care principles. One Health Certified, a comprehensive animal care program, establishes verified animal production practices in five core areas: disease prevention, veterinary care, responsible antibiotic use, animal welfare, and environmental impacts.

Participating in this USDA Process Verified Program provides an objective, third-party verification that producers fully comply with the guidelines of the program. Millsboro-based Mountaire Farms, the nation’s sixth largest chicken producer, is the first company to adopt the standards for chicken. “It was important to us that we participate in a holistic and ethical program that strives for optimal health outcomes for animals, consumers, and the planet,” said Dr. Don Ritter, director of technical marketing at Mountaire Farms. Mountaire successfully completed USDA audits in November 2019 at all its production facilities including hatcheries, feed mills, grow out and harvest plants, verifying that the company was complying with the strict new guidelines.

Groundbreaking for New Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory

The Maryland Department of Agriculture broke ground this month on a new Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory in Salisbury. The facility will replace the department’s original lab, which was built in 1953, and is in need of major renovations. At 19,178 square feet, the new lab provides larger work areas; public meetings and training facilities; two necropsy suites; a new incinerator; and a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) laboratory for advanced diagnostic work.

Maryland’s agriculture industry against infectious diseases like avian influenza and equine infectious anemia. Specializing in poultry disease, the new Salisbury lab will play a critical role in regional efforts to safeguard the health of millions of birds on the Delmarva peninsula.

“Delmarva’s $3.5 billion chicken community relies on the Salisbury Animal Health Lab, along with Lasher Lab in Delaware, to help us constantly monitor the health of farmers’ flocks for any sign of disease,” said Holly Porter, executive director of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. “It’s dedicated teamwork that brings farmers, chicken companies, and these labs together to keep our food safe.”

A brief speaking program featured remarks from Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder; Maryland Secretary of General Services Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.; Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse; Maryland State Veterinarian Dr. Michael Odian; and Porter.
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Bioenergy DevCo announced it has entered a 20-year partnership with Perdue Farms for the supply of organic material from Perdue processing facilities as well as the purchase and management of the Perdue AgriRecycle organic soil composting facility near Seaford, Del.

Under the terms of the agreement with Perdue Farms, BDC will purchase the existing composting facility and operate it while working within the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Sussex County permit process to construct an anaerobic digester. The proposed facility will be capable of processing a range of organic material from local poultry farmers and processors including dissolved air flotation (DAF) residuals, hatchery byproducts and poultry litter. In addition to the production of natural gas, the process creates a virtually odor-free digestate, a natural soil amendment.

"Our mission is to make sure anaerobic digestion becomes the de facto solution for managing organic material in the United States, and the Perdue AgriRecycle facility, which is already composting at a large scale, is the perfect venue to showcase the potential for this technology," said Shawn Kreloff, founder and CEO of BDC. "The use of anaerobic digestion, combined with enhanced composting of organic material, reinforces Perdue's ongoing commitment to driving economic development in the region and adopting innovative solutions that are good for the environment and the bottom line."
The Maryland Department of Agriculture mailed 2019 Annual Implementation Reporting Forms and instructions in early January to approximately 5,500 Maryland farmers who are regulated under the department’s Nutrient Management Program. These farmers are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure.

Reporting forms are due to the department by March 1 and are also available for download on the department’s website. The forms outline nutrient applications made in calendar year 2019. Failure to submit an Annual Reporting Form may result in fines and loss of eligibility to receive cost-share funds.

As a result of recent legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly, this year’s reporting form will ask additional questions on manure and other organic products, including poultry residuals, sewage sludge, and compost that have been imported, exported, or land-applied in Maryland. The goal of the new reporting requirement is to ensure better compliance with Maryland’s Phosphorus Management Tool regulations.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should submit one combined reporting form along with a manure analysis to the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Program.

- Use the pre-filled reporting form that arrives in the mail.
- Do not leave spaces blank. If nutrients were not applied, place a zero in the box.
- If the information requested does not apply, write N/A in the box.
- Use the pre-printed envelope to mail the report.
- Affix appropriate postage and mail by March 1.

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- A ticket to the April 21 Booster Banquet in Salisbury, Md. for every $150 in dues payments
- Notices about our member-only Lunch & Learns – see the schedule of upcoming sessions at dpichicken.org

- Member-only sponsorship opportunities at the Booster Banquet, the June 3 College Scholarship Golf Tournament, and the Sept. 28-30 National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing, and Live Production

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