



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

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Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

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September 30, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President
Maryland Senate
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Reports Required by EX ORD 01.01.2006.06 – MSAR - # 6028

Dear Governor Hogan, Speaker Jones and President Ferguson:

EX ORD 01.01.2006.06 states, “F. Reporting. The [Governor's Intergovernmental] Commission [for Agriculture] shall report to the Governor by October 1 of each year with recommendations to support a coordinated State agricultural strategy.”

I have included the 2020 annual report. I hope you find the information contained in this report useful. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Government Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5889.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bartenfelder
Secretary, Department of Agriculture



Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture

2020 Annual Report

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Larry Hogan
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The Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) was established by Executive Order under Governor Ehrlich on June 29, 2006, to “promote the economic profitability of agriculture in the state by ensuring that all appropriate state agencies work in a cooperative, coordinated manner with local government and industry groups in planning, implementing, overseeing, and evaluating intergovernmental initiatives related to agricultural affairs of the state.”

The first meeting of calendar year 2020 took place on June 2. A number of things were discussed at the meeting, including: a presentation by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on COVID-19 and the coordinated response across state government; a presentation by the Maryland Department of Planning on the 2020 Census; and a discussion on the Strategic Plan for Maryland Agriculture and the GICA Toolkit for Local Communities.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- As a response to COVID-19 outbreaks at Maryland poultry processing plants, MEMA assembled the Delmarva Poultry Task Force using the Maryland Incident Management Team (IMT) and MEMA SEOC staff. This task force provided incident management support functions along with MDH and other state and federal agencies. Key areas of the response to COVID-19 outbreaks in poultry plants, include:
 - Testing of poultry workers, both at facilities and through community-based locations;
 - Contact tracing;
 - Occupational health and safety walkthroughs and recommendations at poultry plants;
 - Producing communications materials that were translated into multiple languages;
 - Secured and distributed face coverings for workers;
 - Created and distributed take-home care kits; and
 - Expanded the Maryland Department of Aging's Caregiver Service Corps to include Eastern Shore.
- The Maryland Department of Planning talked about the importance of the 2020 Census. Census data is important for apportionment and redistricting; funding for critical, life-saving programs; and for emergency planning, among many other reasons. At the time of the June GICA meeting, Maryland was ranked eleventh in the nation for self-response and second in the region, behind only Virginia.
- During the 2019 General Assembly, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) was asked to work with the Harry H. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology to develop a statewide Strategic Plan for Maryland Agriculture. The plan is intended to analyze the external forces and trends impacting the industry; identify strengths and challenges facing our farmers; and identify initiative areas to secure a bright future for Maryland's agriculture industry. The Harry H. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology brought together a group of agricultural stakeholders, including MDA, in early January 2020 to discuss work already being done to address the priority areas identified in the plan; learn more about what others are doing; identify areas of potential collaboration; and discuss short-term

and long-term action items. This group will continue to work together to determine next steps.

- The GICA Toolkit for Local Communities was first created in 2011. This toolkit aims to provide local communities and officials with a basic understanding of the current state of Maryland agriculture. It suggests tools, methods, and resources that will help farmers, their neighbors, and local officials better work together. Commission members were asked to review and toolkit and provide feedback.

The department anticipates another GICA meeting will be held in late fall or early winter of 2020. The topic of that meeting will be to continue the conversation on the need to update the GICA toolkit and review recommend changes from commission members and interested stakeholders.