



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Win-Win Pathways for Agriculture and the Peninsula's Waterways

- WHO:** Through the *Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge*, a diverse group of organizations representing grain producers, chicken growers, poultry integrators, conservationists, academic partners; along with agribusiness, finance and service providers are joining forces and collaborating in a new way forward for managing poultry related nutrient pollution on the Delmarva Peninsula.
- WHAT:** Despite the substantial progress that has been achieved over the past five years in reducing poultry nutrient pollution, much work remains to be done to accomplish the goals that have been established for the peninsula. In support of these efforts, the *Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge* is uniting stakeholders, who have often been at odds over strategies and pathways for achieving water quality and habitat goals, in an epic quest to achieve a new future- a future where healthy and productive bays, rivers and streams across the peninsula are underpinned and supported by a vibrant and sustainable agricultural economy.
- VISION:** Delmarva farmers and their agri-business partners are respected stewards of the land, guardians of natural resources and champions of the rural cultural heritage in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- GOALS:** By 2025:
1. Delmarva farming and poultry complex becomes a national model as an environmentally friendly and economically sustainable regional agricultural system;
 2. Delmarva agriculture is regionally neutral in importing and exporting nutrients, and wherever possible, nutrients are recycled locally to support sustainable agricultural operations;
 3. Nutrients are utilized in farming operations without negative environmental impacts on land and in adjacent waters; and,
 4. Growers are rewarded for producing high value food, feed, fiber, clean energy, and ecosystem services.
- FOCUS:**
- Responsible land application of animal manure and litter; and
 - Alternative uses and markets for manure/poultry litter
- WHY:** While the policies and practices of the past have produced some positive results, they will not meet the needs to tomorrow. The *Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge* provides a new way forward for addressing water quality challenges from animal agriculture operations: one that embraces landscape scale planning and action (e.g. Delmarva Peninsula); multi-stakeholder collaboration; and integrated policies, practices, and programs.

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INITIAL DELIVERABLES:

1. A **multi-stakeholder, landscape scale, shared leadership platform** where stakeholders addressing nutrient pollution from animal agriculture operations can work across county, state and watershed boundaries, and design and deploy better integrated, and more uniform policies, programs, practices, and projects;
2. An action plan for establishing and funding an **innovation support program** on the Delmarva Peninsula dedicated to animal agriculture nutrient management support;
3. Create a methodology and **calculate the nutrient mass balance** for nitrogen and phosphorous on agricultural lands on Delmarva; and
4. Propose ways manure/poultry litter transport programs can be improved, streamlined and made more “user friendly” while also ensuring environmental improvements.

Friends of the Challenge:

- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chester River Association
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Farm Bureau
- Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
- Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association
- Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.
- Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Maryland Farm Bureau Federation
- Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
- Maryland League of Conservation Voters
- Mid Atlantic Farm Credit
- MidShore Riverkeeper Conservancy
- Mountaire
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Perdue Farms
- State of Maryland (Chesapeake Bay Cabinet)
- Sustainable Chesapeake
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tyson Foods, Inc.
- Virginia Secretariat of Agriculture & Forestry
- West/Rhode Riverkeeper
- Willard Agri-Service

Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge partners believe that significant progress can be achieved in meeting the nutrient reduction goals that have been established for the agricultural sector. Working together they are committed to supporting pathways for land management that will improve the health and productivity of agriculture and the Bay, while strengthening the economy that preserves and protects the region’s rural cultural heritage. All stakeholders who embrace the ***Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge*** goals are invited to join in this grand collaborative to achieve these outcomes.

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