

Commercial Poultry News

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MARYLAND AND DELAWARE COVID-19 RELIEF

Maryland Farmer COVID-19 Relief Program: <https://mda.maryland.gov/pages/farmer-relief.aspx>



The Maryland Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for a new relief program for farmers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland Farmer COVID-19 Relief Program will provide payments for contract poultry producers who were not eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) funds, as well as bonus payments to farmers who received federal relief from the first round of CFAP funding.

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will provide payments for contract poultry producers who were not eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) funds, as well as bonus payments to farmers who received federal relief from the first round of CFAP funding.

Who is eligible?

Contract poultry growers are eligible for direct payments of \$1,000 per poultry house (capped at five houses). Poultry growers whose flocks were depopulated during the pandemic are eligible for an additional \$1,500 per house.

Maryland farmers who received federal funding from the first round of CFAP payments are eligible for a 15% bonus payment.

How to apply: Click the relevant link:

[Maryland Contract Poultry Grower COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

<https://onestop.md.gov/forms/maryland-cares-act-contract-poultry-5f5bbe805d937b00fc64122a>

[Maryland Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 1 \(CFAP1\) Bonus Payment](#)

<https://onestop.md.gov/forms/maryland-cares-act-cfap-bonus-5f5bb7a9274b2e00fb5c9466>

For more information on the program and/or application process, please contact mda.relief@maryland.gov.

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Maryland and Delaware COVID-19 Relief....continued

[Delaware Announces Grant Program for Contract Poultry Growers Impacted by COVID-19:](https://news.delaware.gov/2020/10/19/delaware-announces-grant-program-for-contract-poultry-growers-impacted-by-covid-19/)

<https://news.delaware.gov/2020/10/19/delaware-announces-grant-program-for-contract-poultry-growers-impacted-by-covid-19/>

COVID-19 RELIEF & SUPPORT

Delaware Announces Grant Program for Contract Poultry Growers Impacted by COVID-19

Grant applications available until December 1, 2020

GOVERNOR
JOHN CARNEY

Grant applications available until December 1, 2020

Governor John Carney, along with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, announced a new grant program to assist contract poultry growers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The poultry industry on Delmarva is second to none and it’s because of the long-standing working relationships that we have across state lines, especially when it comes to supporting our family farms,” said **Governor Carney**. “COVID-19 has impacted all of us, but for the poultry growers who take pride in putting safe, nutritious food on your table, many of the roadblocks that COVID-19 threw at them were out of their control. This grant program is

an opportunity once again for both our states to show our support for our family farms.”

“I am pleased to announce that we are immediately launching a new relief program which will provide direct payments to thousands of Maryland farmers, growers, and producers who have been hurt by COVID-19,” said **Governor Hogan**. “Far too often our farmers don’t get the respect or the appreciation they deserve, but I want our entire ag community to know that your commitment to our state and to our ag industry does not go unnoticed.”

Growers are paid on their performance in raising the chickens on contract for our integrated poultry companies, but the actual ownership of the birds remains with the companies. Unfortunately, due to this technicality our poultry growers are not eligible for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistant Program funds.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture is administering the program and will be accepting [applications until December 1, 2020](#).

“Because of the disruption of markets, labor availability for the companies to run at full capacity in the processing plants, and other COVID-19 related impacts, Delaware growers **were** faced with longer than normal layout times and saw a decrease in the number of birds placed,” said Secretary of Agriculture Michael T. Scuse. “In some cases, farms were required to depopulate birds because a company did not have the ability to process the birds. All of these factors created significant reductions in grower pay and hardships for our family farms that are vital to our economy.”

The Delaware Contract Poultry Grower Grant Assistant Program will compensate contract poultry growers who:

- had an active grower contract in force on facilities located in Delaware on March 15 when COVID-19 impacted our state;
- have an approved CAFO permit or have filed a Notice of Intent for CAFO coverage; and
- do not have business interruption coverage for the losses covered by the grant program.

For poultry growers who meet these requirements, the grant program will compensate:

- \$1,000 per poultry house, up to a maximum payment of \$5,000 per farm.
- In addition, any grower that meets the above criteria, and had to depopulate birds remaining in-house for composting related to COVID-19 will receive another \$1,500 per poultry house depopulated without cap.

Applications for the Delaware Contract Poultry Grower Grant Assistant Program are available online at agriculture.delaware.gov/grants-loans and will be accepted by the Delaware Department of Agriculture until December 1. Applicants must complete a W-9 form online (esupplier.erp.delaware.gov) prior to receiving payment.

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Manure Transport Program

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/manure_management.aspx

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/MDABiosecurityprrof3.pdf



The Manure Transport Program helps cover the cost of transporting manure to farms with low phosphorus fields or to alternative use facilities. Payments of up to \$22.50/ton are available to eligible farmers and manure brokers.

NEW: Haul Now, Apply Later FastTrack Option to Transport Poultry Manure
Farmers who want to switch to poultry manure should check out the new and improved *Haul Now, Apply Later Fast Track grants* to move poultry manure. With our new and improved FastTrack grants, farmers can haul poultry manure *now*, and apply for cost-share reimbursement *later*. Download an application and claim form at right.

Standard Option to Transport Poultry Litter

Our standard transport grants to move poultry manure are still available to eligible farmers.

- Farmers apply through the local soil conservation district
- Registered manure brokers apply directly to the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- The applicant submits a current nutrient management plan that contains:
 - Nitrogen-based nutrient recommendations for fields with a soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value that is 100 or less
 - Phosphorus-based nutrient recommendations for fields with soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value between 101 and 150.

Receiving farm fields with a phosphorus Fertility Index Value that is greater than 150 are not eligible to participate in this program.

Requirements for Poultry Litter Transport

Farmers may apply for grants to move poultry litter using either a standard application or the *Haul Now, Apply Later FastTrack* option. In both instances, the following rules apply:

- Qualifying farmers receive up to \$22.50 per ton to transport poultry litter
- The sending farm must be located in Maryland and raise broiler chickens for one of the participating Delmarva poultry companies
- Poultry litter must be transported more than 7 miles from the sending farm
- Transported poultry litter must be land applied as a nutrient source for an agricultural crop, **OR** sent to an approved alternative use facility

Contact Information

Norman Astle

Program Administrator
Phone: 410-841-5864

Saiping Tso

Manure Transport Coordinator
Phone: 410-841-5864

Office Address

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

FastTrack Forms

Please download forms before completing. Mail completed forms to: **Maryland Department of Agriculture**, Conservation Grants, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, RM 207, Annapolis, MD 21401

[Poultry Manure **FastTrack** Application Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Poultry Manure **FastTrack** Claim for Payment Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Current Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form \(pdf\)](#)

More Information: [Grants to Inject Manure](#)

Good Neighbor Relations

By Jon Moyle, UMD, Poultry Specialist



Being a good neighbor is important no matter where you live or what you do. It is even more important when you are a commercial poultry grower as your actions can affect how people view the whole industry. Visiting with neighbors and addressing their issues should be a standard part of your business plan. To help address and prevent issues, consider the following suggestions.

General Upkeep/Appearance

People always judge based on what they see or don't see. Therefore, make sure your farm looks and operates well to help prevent unwanted issues with your neighbors. Maintain the lawns, keep them mowed and trimmed and make sure trash is picked up, especially after live-haul leaves. This also includes sweeping pads and closing end doors. Always clean up any feed spills as soon as possible to prevent the buildup of flies as well as for proper biosecurity (they attract rodents and birds). Keep equipment stored properly and don't leave equipment on the pads between flocks (feedline hoppers and switches), as this is unsightly and can cause equipment to get damaged or lost. Don't leave old equipment laying around the farm and fix broken or damaged fan cones as soon as possible. This will increase the efficiency of the fan as well as improve the farm appearance.

Driveways need to be well maintained and all ruts and pot holes need to be properly filled. When designing a driveway, take into consideration your neighbors, do the lights or dust cause them problems? If so consider using vegetative buffers to help block light and capture dust and feathers.

Plant a Vegetative Buffer

Like the old saying says "out of sight, out of mind", planting buffers can help reduce issues with neighbors. Vegetative buffers are usually composed of a combination of grasses, trees and shrubs and can be planted around the production area to help capture dust as well as beautify the farm. Additionally, planting tall, warm season grasses in front of the fans (at least 2x the fan width away) can help fans operate more efficiently by reducing back pressure, while helping to reduce noise, in addition to capturing dust and other nutrients. Buffers can also help capture any nutrients that may be lost from the production area and help keep them out of local waterways. Finally, buffers can provide an attractive environment for native pollinators, especially when flowering plants are used as part of the buffer.

Mortality Management and Manure Storage Structures

Proper mortality management (composting) can greatly help to decrease complaints from neighbors. Make sure that mortality is not left lying around the farm and is properly placed and covered in the composter. Making

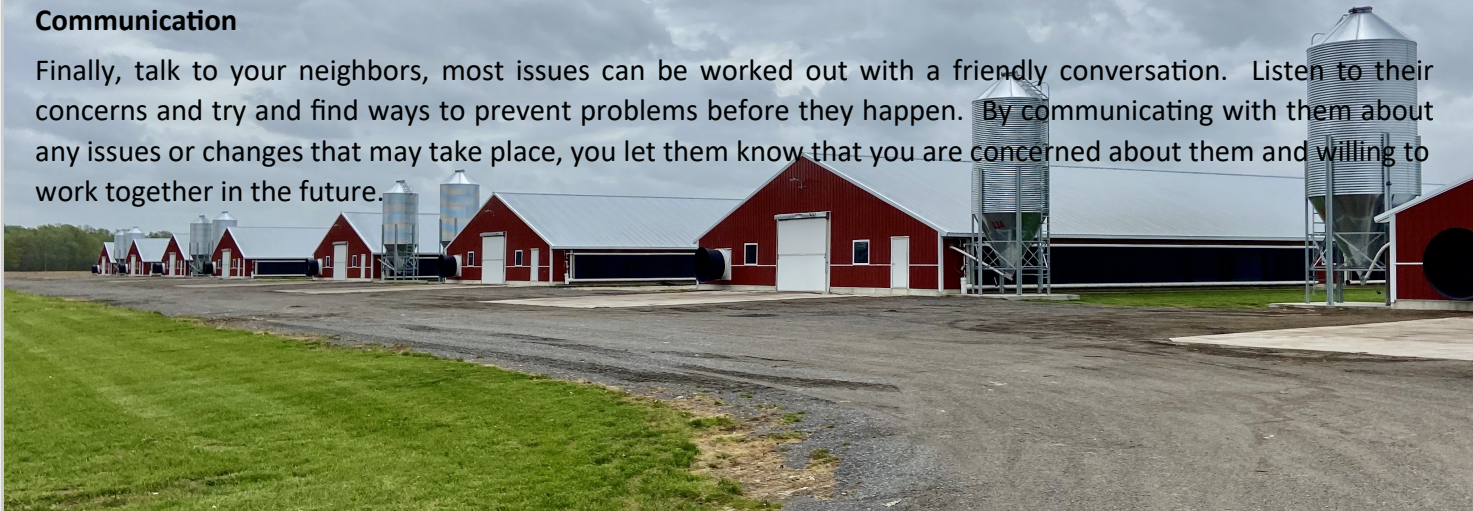
Good Neighbor Relations....continued

sure that composting mortality is properly covered will keep odor to a minimum and help reduce the number of flies.

Controlling flies can be a challenge, especially during wet seasons, but keeping the manure barn and composting area well drained and repairing any structural issues quickly can really help. There are many different kinds of sprays that you can use to help reduce fly numbers, but consider spraying surfaces where flies congregate with a chemical that has a long lasting residual effect. By targeting these areas, you can reduce the amount of pesticide used and maximize your effectiveness. Places to concentrate on are areas where flies congregate in the morning to warm up. Spray the board just above the manure line in your manure shed and composter so that when flies hatch they will come in contact with the pesticide as they climb up to dry.

Communication

Finally, talk to your neighbors, most issues can be worked out with a friendly conversation. Listen to their concerns and try and find ways to prevent problems before they happen. By communicating with them about any issues or changes that may take place, you let them know that you are concerned about them and willing to work together in the future.



Department Announces Grant Funding for Farmers Establishing Healthy Soils Practices

The Maryland Department of Agriculture today announced a **new round of assistance** available for farmers who are interested in obtaining technical support and financial assistance to establish innovative soil health practices on their farms. Funding is available for farmers in **Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties**.

Interested farmers should contact their local soil conservation district by November 20 to apply for this program. Conservation practices eligible for funding and technical assistance through this grant include:

- Adaptive management;
- Conservation crop rotations;
- Residual and tillage management;
- Edge-of-field tools to identify and reduce agricultural sources of excess nutrients;
- Composting;
- Other practices that support soil health.
- Multi-species cover crops;
- Variable rate technology for applying nutrients;
- Precision nutrient management;
- Forage and biomass plantings; and

This special grant opportunity allows farmers to gain experience using the latest technological advances that enhance soil health. This funding was made available through a five-year, \$1 million U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant secured by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

For more information about Maryland's healthy soil initiatives, please contact the department's Office of Resource Conservation at 410-841-5865 or visit their [website](#).

And for Maryland's Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties....



\$1.5 Million Available for Precision Nutrient Management and Soil Health Conservation Practices

Available to MD **EQIP-eligible** farmers in Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester Counties, exclusively

Management practices to be funded include:

- Precision nutrient management
- Multi-species cover crops
- Poultry mortality freezers
- Grassed waterways
- Drainage water management and saturated buffers

Interested individuals should call or visit their local office to confirm eligibility and complete an application by November 20, 2020 to be considered for FY21 funding.

With this RCPP funding the maximum cap for precision nutrient management is \$40,000/year, rather than \$10,000/year through EQIP

This funding is available through USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project Sustainable Chesapeake secured in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Chesapeake 4R Alliance. For more information about RCPP, EQIP, and NRCS, visit www.md.nrcs.usda.gov.

Dealing with LT: When Biosecurity Matters Most

James Fisher, Communications Mgr., DPI

An avian disease the chicken community is familiar with - **laryngotracheitis (LT)**, a highly contagious respiratory disease affecting chickens - is affecting several Delmarva farms this fall. Growers, chicken companies, and allied businesses servicing farms and farmers all have a role to play in preventing the spread of LT, and the current cases underscore how essential it is to practice good biosecurity at all times, not only when an outbreak commands our attention.

What LT is

LT is caused by a herpes virus and can cause very high mortality in broiler flocks. [Chickens infected with LT](#) experience a sudden increase in mortality occurring from 5 to 8 weeks of age. Morbidity is usually high and mortality progresses in a doubling pattern each day and may peak as high as 50/1000 (5%) per day. Death losses may continue for up to two weeks and the feed conversion rate of surviving birds is negatively impacted.

Signs of LT include respiratory distress including coughing, gasping, and swollen wet eyes (conjunctivitis). Birds "crowing" may also be heard. Lesions of necrotic tissue and blood in the trachea are diagnostic for LT.



How LT spreads

Incubation period in the disease process is when the virus is actively replicating and shedding in the bird, but before the appearance of clinical signs. The incubation period for LT is 8 to 14 days - a wide window when birds are sick but don't appear sick.

LT can easily be spread from farm to farm. Two patterns of infection are common: "walk in" or "aerosol". A "walk in" pattern of infection occurs when clinical signs of LT first appear in birds located near the entrance door used by poultry house workers. This is a strong indication of people spread of LT and is most commonly observed. A less common "aerosol" pattern of infection occurs when the first clinical signs of LT are observed in birds located along the sidewall of the house near air inlets, often on the side of the house nearest to the road. This may be an indication of aerosol spread of LT.

Mortality and litter management is key

Birds that have died from LT infection contain large numbers of infectious virus, so proper management of dead birds is critical.

Dealing with LT: When Biosecurity Matters Most...continued

- Dead birds should never leave an infected farm.
- Growers should never have contact with dead birds from other farms. Such contact may occur via shared composters, shared manure sheds, rendering plant pickup sites, illegal feeding to hogs, or at diagnostic laboratories.
- Spreading of fresh poultry litter from flocks known to be infected with LT should be strictly avoided. Aerosol exposure to LT may occur from the spreading of LT-positive litter nearby.

Consistent biosecurity protocols protect the flock

Control of LT is achieved via sound biosecurity practices supplemented with vaccination in the field where necessary. To best protect your farm from LT and other viral diseases, the following procedures should be carefully, consistently followed.

- Do not allow visitors to enter poultry houses.
- Do not visit other poultry farms.
- Require that any equipment used on your farm be cleaned and sanitized prior to arrival.
- Require that necessary visitors wear proper biosecurity clothing and footwear.
- Wear dedicated footwear inside poultry houses. Shoes that are worn inside poultry houses should never leave the farm - simply change into the same shoes prior to working inside the poultry house. This simple footwear policy will prevent you from tracking disease from another location back to your farm on the bottom of your shoes. (Poultry manure may contain millions of virus particles!)
- Never transport dead birds off of your farm or allow anyone onto your farm to pick up and remove dead birds. Dead bird collection areas are highly contaminated with viruses, and the risk of bringing or back tracking a disease problem to your farm is extremely high from this activity.



Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.'s 2021 Membership Campaign

The DPI 2021 membership campaign is officially underway! DPI has spoken with flock supervisors for Delmarva's chicken companies to remind them how DPI membership can benefit the growers they work with. Our newsletters, workshops and educational opportunities, vegetative environmental buffer assistance, and government relations, work to keep the chicken industry on Delmarva strong. All of it is made possible by our members' support.

Growers, your flock supervisors will soon let you know how to renew your membership very soon – if they don't please ask them – or give us a call!

If you are an allied business member, you should receive a direct mail package with your membership renewal materials in the coming weeks. Maximize your membership by increasing your sales presence and exposure through marketing directly to our members. We've made renewal a pretty quick and painless process with our secure website: dpichicken.org/membership. Or, you can call Maureen at **302-841-8203** and I'll take care of it for you.

Perhaps you're neither a grower nor an allied business, but someone who knows how vital this industry is to Delmarva. We welcome your support and membership too. Please support DPI's mission to be the Delmarva chicken industry's voice as the premier membership association focusing on advocacy, member relations and education.

To learn more about DPI membership, our member benefits, promotional opportunities, committees and events, get in touch with **Maureen Duffy, DPI Member Relations**, at duffy@dpichicken.com.

Grower Lunch Breaks with Extension

Your cooperative poultry extension team from UMD, UMES, UD, and DPI are joining together at noon on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month to provide educational information and to discuss whatever you would like to talk about.

JOIN US!

Register one time at: <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kfuyhgjzpGNzp8wlhemiV6PeHRsJpxntO>



Grower Lunch Break on **Wednesday, December 2**, at noon.

Speaker: Dan Bautista, DVM, MS, Senior Technical Services Veterinarian

Topic: ***“Recognition of Common Broiler Diseases”***

We Wish for You and Your Family a Very Happy, Safe & Wonderful Thanksgiving!

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All **Grower Lunch Break Notes** are accessible on the UMD Commercial Poultry **Publication** site.

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