

ID#	#	Iss	Topic Area	Recommendation Text	Status Comments -	Status	Action Type	Implementing Partners
Appendix 3			MD Statewide Agricultural Plan <b>Accomplished Recommendations</b> as of December 1, 2007					
17	1.	P	Biofuels	#40: Participate actively in the Governor's Ethanol Coalition.	Governor office press release announcing that he has joined the Governor's Ethanol Coalition	D	P	Gov's Office
79	2.	L	BMPs Cover Crops	Design a two-tiered cover crop system to allow for harvesting.	Accomplished.	D	P	MDA Resource Conservation
80	3.	L	BMPs Cover Crops	Examine the possibility of adjusting the cover crop program to reflect planting differences across the state.	The program is probably at maximum flexibility.	D	P	MDA Resource Conservation
81	4.	L	BMPs Cover Crops	#8: Grant the \$3,042,000 "Over the Target" request in general funds to fully fund the cover crop program.	The Bay Restoration Fund provides approximately \$4.5 million in dedicated revenue for cover crops and the program continues to receive general fund support, and additional grants funding. Demand, however, continues to outpace resources. In FY 07, farmers' requests exceeded \$17 million for a total available \$8.3 million in program funding. In FY 08, there were requests for \$13 million with the same \$8.3 million available. Farmers continue to fully utilize available cover crop resources. If Bay water quality goals are to be met, new funding sources such as the Green Fund must be developed. MDA has supported recent efforts to pass Green Fund legislation, to this end.	D	L/\$	MDA Resource Conservation
1	5.	P	Business Assistance	Provide funding through MARBIDCO, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), and other agricultural economic development initiatives	MARBIDCO received \$3 million for FY 08. RMC expects approximately \$253,000 for MAERDAF FY 08.	D	\$	MAERDAF (RMC), MARBIDCO
38	6.	P	Business Assistance Costs	Encourage appropriate adjustments to the Federal "adverse wage rate" so Maryland farmers can have competitive access to the H2A program.	This has been raised by MDA with the federal Congressional Delegation on repeated occasions.	D	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
117	7.	L	Farmland Protection	Establish a permanent Commission on Agricultural Land Preservation and Zoning.	Commission has been established.	D	P	GICA
95	8.	L	Forestry	Encourage the Soil Conservation Districts in conjunction with DNR to write a section for forestry when doing a farm plan for their clients.	Already being done.	D	P	MDA, DNR, SCDs
97	9.	L	Mediation	Authorize and encourage all counties to create agricultural reconciliation boards (ARBs) and define their responsibilities.	Law passed directed that ag. Disputes need to go to dispute resolution board before they can go to court and ACRES program is encouraging counties.	D	P	MDA ACRES

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98	10.	L	Mediation	Create a state-level board to mediate cases in counties that elect not to create a county-level board and/or to handle more complicated cases.	Accomplished.	D	P	MDA ACRES
99	11.	L	Mediation	Require aggrieved parties to go through mediation before a suit can be filed.	Accomplished. HB 396/2006 was signed into law and requires that a person filing a nuisance action against an agricultural operation in any county first file a complaint with either a local agency authorized to hear a nuisance complaint or with the state mediation program.	D	L	MDA ACRE
102	12.	L	Right 2 Farm	Create a deterrent against frivolous nuisance suits and illegal ordinances.	ACRES program is in place.	D	P	MDA ACRES
34	13.	P	Wildlife Insurance	Work with insurance companies to help cover crop damage due to wildlife.	Accomplished.	D	P	MDA
<b>Appendix 3</b>			<b>MD Statewide Agricultural Plan <i>Recommendations Done &amp; Ongoing</i> as of 12/1/2007</b>					
14	14.	P	Bio Energy	#35: Maintain the InterAgency Energy Working Group (IAEWG).	Group established and is meeting	D/O	P	MDA, IAEWG
18	15.	P	Biofuel	#41: Support the development of a new crushing facility for soybeans.	DBED has provided funds to conduct a feasibility study for a crushing facility in Washington County and is prepared to provide financial assistance to the project developers.	O	P	MDA, DBED
10	16.	P	Biofuels	#14 Enact a statewide initiative to blend 2 percent biodiesel into entire diesel supply (+14)	MDA supported legislation to do this, but it failed. SB 261 established a Renewable Alternative Fuels Task Force (RAFTF), which began work in July. (As RAFTF is a short term legislative group - there needs to be follow up from IAEWG if these issues are not addressed)	O	L	IAEWG, RAFTF
11	17.	P	Biofuels	Require new state vehicles to be biofuel compatible and use alternative fuels when available.	SB 54 was signed into law and requires that, beginning in FY08, a minimum of 50% of state owned diesel engine vehicles use a blend of fuel that contains at least 5% biodiesel. Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) should take the lead. Logistically difficult as no good vehicle purchase options exist for state agencies. Emphasis should be on push to get E85 pumps throughout state and at MDA. At a briefing at the Board of Public Works about hybrid cars and biodiesel fuel in the state's fleet of 9,000 vehicles, Larry Williams, fleet administrator for the state Department of Budget and Management, detailed plans Wednesday to increase the percentage of biofuel and hybrid cars to 40 percent of new purchases by 2010.	O	P	IAEWG
15	18.	P	Biofuels	#36: Commit to funding the Maryland Renewable Fuels Promotion Act when a project becomes certified	Undetermined time frame - Based on receipt and approval of a qualifying biofuels producer. Provide funding as recommended by the Renewable Fuels Incentive Board per 10-1507 of the Agriculture Article. Evaluate increase in credit pool.	O	L/A	MRFIB

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16	19.	P	Biofuels	#38: Purchase bonds, up to \$10M, to establish a low interest loan program to buy down interest on up to \$10 million to provide low interest loans for farmers to use to invest in biofuels projects. The state will be repaid over a ten-year period as the principal is paid off.	Direct MDA and DBED to identify and/or recommend programs that would support farmer investment in biofuels production plants.	O	L/\$	MGPA
21	20.	P	Biofuels	#46: Embrace methane digester technology for livestock operations.	MDA has had extensive conversations over the past few years with operators of a 10 year old plant for poultry in WVA and are evaluating the potential application of the technology on Delmarva. MDA is actively supporting the development of digesters by executing long term contracts to purchase the energy. A number of companies scouting for viable, privately financed digester projects.	O	P	MDA, Pat McM
83	21.	L	BMP Research	Create a dedicated funding source to fund additional research to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs, develop new BMPs, and support improved implementation of BMS at the farm level. Combine these efforts with expanded water quality monitoring. (73&89)	MDA Resource Conservation has received some USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Funds to evaluate and demonstrate BMPs. MDA is partnering with UMCP on Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). Many projects are underway through federal and private grant funds and partnerships. Example: dairy grazing/nutrition project; ditch nutrient reduction technology being tested at UMES; and many others.	O	L/P	MDA Resource Conservation, UMD, Agro-Ecology, MDA
119	22.	L	BMPs	Fund and re-open soil testing lab or provide similar services.	While HB 2/2006 provided some funding, it was insufficient to re-establish a soil-testing lab on a permanent basis. The Dean is committed to re-opening the lab if a continuing funding source were provided. In the meantime, the University is and will continue to receive soil samples, send them outside for testing, make UMD recommendations and forward them to the farmer.	O	L/P	UMD
70	23.	L	BMPs Cover Crops	Provide sufficient funding for cover crop program.	The FY07 funding for cover crops was \$8M and HB 2/2006 authorizes \$3M more. FY 08 funding is \$8.6 million.	O	L/\$	MDA Resource Conservation
69	24.	L	BMPs Implement	#9: Increase field staffing levels in SCD to 110 positions as required by HB 2.	Requires DBM actions in Budget in next three years to comply. HB 2/2006 required about 35 new positions. For FY08, MDA received approval for initial 12 new PINs These are in the process of being filled, along with 6 vacancies.	O	A/\$	MDA Resource Conservation
74	25.	L	BMPs Implement	Fund implementation and adaptation of newly developed conservation practices that result from the University system and other research.	<b>New tested BMPs are being regularly incorporated into the implementation and adaptation process.</b> MACs funding is used as available.	O	L/\$	Agro Ecology Center, CBT
75	26.	L	BMPs Implement	#11: Maintain adequate funding for the MACS program.	Currently adequate funding but would be inadequate funding if the program grows.	O	\$	MDA Resource Conservation
76	27.	L	BMPs Implement	#12: Streamline the payment procedures for MACS so farmers do not wait as long for payment.	Always looking for ways to streamline the program. Looking for new information management tools.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation

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77	28.	L	BMPs Implement	#24: Work with the Maryland Federal delegation to raise USDA, NRCS funding to support Chesapeake Bay cleanup.	MDA and many ag and environmental organizations are engaged in 2007 farm bill development. This is the biggest chance to influence federal funding and policy to benefit the agricultural economy, nutrition programs, and farm-related conservation efforts in the next 5 years.	O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
90	29.	L	BMPs Implement	#30: Simplify the state's manure transportation program and adequately fund the program at \$750,000 per year. Additionally, seek additional funding (perhaps from EPA or other federal agencies) and target payments to those entities that move excess nutrients out of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	Looking at ways to streamline. Current program is at \$600,000.(GF) Moving nutrients out of the watershed may not be the most cost-effective approach as transportation costs quickly overcome efficiency gains.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation
71	30.	L	BMPs Incentives	Implement ways to reward farmers who already are using good stewardship practices.	Ongoing at MDE. MDE is currently developing a nutrient trading plan which will include point to non-point plans.	O	\$	MDA, MDE
82	31.	L	BMPs Incentives	Take advantage of possible future opportunities for farmers to receive "credit" for nutrient reductions from crop management systems that foster carbon sequestration and from new income streams from alternative funding mechanisms such as nutrient trading.	MDA Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) continues to explore and develop new opportunities for income and incentives for ecosystem benefits from BMPs. This includes nutrient reductions that may ultimately be part of a water quality trading. ORC, with MDE has the lead in developing an ag. non-point source nutrient trading program with a pilot program through a Conservation Innovation Grant from NRCS. MDA is also engaged in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) policy process and Maryland's Climate Change Commission. Practices have been identified that will reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), including Ag BMPs. In order to comply with regional emissions caps, generators of GHG, primarily electric utilities, will create a market for offsetting reductions of GHG elsewhere. Farmers are being positioned to participate in these new markets.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation
72	32.	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	Provide additional funding to encourage maximum compliance with nutrient management requirements.	Funding was cut from \$300,000 to \$160,000, but staffing was increased by \$150,000. MDA is still funding UM for nutrient management planners. Staff is insufficient.	O	\$	MDA
84	33.	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	Provide adequate information and practical training on BMPs to better achieve nutrient management plans to protect the health of Chesapeake Bay and its watersheds.	A recent survey through the Cover Crop Program revealed that 88% of the respondents were satisfied with the information and training provided.	O	P	MDA, MCE
86	34.	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	#26: Review the delivery system for nutrient management plans to ensure that farmers are able to receive low cost plans as efficiently and as sustainably as possible for the state.	Program efficiency and effectiveness is continually evaluated.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation

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87	35.	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	#27: Support "Over the Target" request for ongoing Extension staff for FY08. Dedicate a revenue source specifically to support research to develop additional BMPs needed to meet the nutrient reduction goals for agriculture.	This request was partially provided by DBM in the FY08 budget through a redirection of existing General Funds away from Nutrient Management Cost-Share causing an issue in that program. Management intends an in depth study of Nutrient Management Planning assistance in the FY'08.	O	L/\$	MCE, MDA
73	36.	L	BMPs RSH	E. Provide additional funding for the University system to conduct research on potential new BMPs that address the needs of agriculture and the health of the bay	MDA is partnering with UMCP on Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). MDA and UMD routinely seek grants for improved BMP research. Current MDA total at least \$1.5 million.	O	\$	University, Agro Ecology Center, CBT
7	37.	P	Business Assistance	#17: support expansion of rural broadband.	Governor has announced \$2 million in funding to link lower and western shore.	D/O	L/\$	OBED RMC
2	38.	P	Business Assistance	Identify business planning resources available to assist farmers looking to diversify and implement value-added strategies. If necessary, provide training for Small Business Development Counselors (SBDC) on agricultural business development and lending.	MARBIDCO will provide financial support to help farmers with specialized business development planning needs. MCE is establishing a web- and staff-based program to provide farmers access with business planning assistance.	O	P	MCE, MARBIDCO
3	39.	P	Business Assistance	Support market studies and research on production methods, crops, and agricultural products to improve profit margins and enable diversification.	DBED has recently funded a market sector study which determined that the demand in Maryland for high quality meats like Angus and specialty meat like kosher would be sufficient to economically expand the state's processing facilities. MDA is supportive and various market studies have been undertaken by the University and DBED.	O	\$	MCE, DBED
6	40.	P	Business Assistance	#13: Ensure that issues of importance to the horse industry are given careful attention, especially 1. legislation authorizing the construction of the Maryland Horse Park (MHP), 2. continued support of the activities of the MHIB, 3. establishing a federally certified international import/ export facility for equines near BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport, and 4. continued support of the racing and breeding industry.	The Governor could communicate to the MHIB his support for the concept of a Maryland Horse Park, and direct them to solicit proposals for appropriate sites which have the support of the local jurisdiction and property owners. 2. Support activities of MHIB Legislation currently in for horse rescue licensing. 3. July. Import/Export feasibility study underway should be complete by July. MDA to make recommendations based on outcome of study. 4. Bills in for breeding fund incentives, i.e. lottery, etc. if they pass	O	L	MHIB
33	41.	P	Business Assistance	Undertake a business development initiative to attract underwriters who will provide affordable liability coverage.	Some attention has been given to this issue. The MD Insurance Administration produced a brochure designed to help farmers access liability coverage. The Direct Marketing Association is doing a market study to determine need, availability, and costs.	O	P	Insurance Commissioner

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64	42.	P	Business Assistance	Convene an ongoing statewide working group to ensure transparent health regulations, consistent among local jurisdictions, that are most advantageous to the farming community.	Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) has been established.	O	A	RMC, GICA
134	43.	P	Business Assistance	Study the feasibility of a business cluster for agricultural and nutraceutical research and development, production, and distribution in Maryland.	UMD has such a cluster proposal under review by the Board of Regents.	O	L	UMD
65	44.	P	Business Assistance Costs	Review and adjust inter- and intra-state weight limit restrictions for agricultural products.	HB 420 passed, creating an exceptional hauling permit pilot program for milk. MDA will work with the federal delegation on federal transportation issues.	D/O	\$	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
121	45.	P	Business Assistance PIng	Establish the Center for Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development (CBFED) to provide concept development and business planning assistance to agricultural operations in the areas of marketing, business and financial planning, cultural practices, and policy implications that affect agriculture across the broad range of land-based enterprise	The School of Agriculture and Natural Resources is moving forward with a "virtual center," rather than "bricks and mortar." The focus will be on young and beginning farmers but extension will not turn anyone away that has a serious proposal. In Phase 1 (Feb 2008) all Extension staff will be briefed on plans, internal contacts, etc.. A planning handbook on business, marketing, and succession will be developed as a general tool for staff and handed out. In Phase 2, staff with an interest business, estate and marketing planning will receive training. They will then offer assistance on a regional basis. Staff are currently available for marketing plans (Ginger Meyers) and business planning (Dale Johnson). Web-based tools, will provide farmers with basic information and serve as an initial screening tool. The next level of assistance will be from regional staff in a group setting with others who have expressed a similar need. Those still requesting assistance will then be able to access one-on-one staff time. At all stages, outside partners with specific skills will be brought as needed.	D/O	P	UMD, CBFED
35	46.	P	Business Develop.	Develop and implement ways to reduce health insurance costs and increase availability for agricultural businesses and farm families.	MDA is supportive and will write to the Insurance Commissioner; Farm Bureau already offers health insurance to its members, but due to the advanced age and health needs of the state's farmers, insurance costs continue to rise. Encourage insurance commissioner to look at ways to pursue. MDA will write the commissioner.	O	P	MDA, Insurance Commissioner
36	47.	P	Business Develop.	Streamline the application and approval process for H2A and H2B workers and expanded temporary worker programs.	Federal issue. Was included in the MDA list of federal priorities.	O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
39	48.	P	Business Develop.	Find affordable housing solutions for farm employees	MDA supported a bill to do this in the last session, but it failed.	O	L	Farm Bureau
45	49.	P	Business Develop.	B./#50 Waive amusement tax for agri-tourism enterprises.	MDA supported legislation to do this; it failed last session.	O	L/P	ATITF

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58	50.	P	Business Develop.	#49: Support continued exemption of sales tax on agricultural input products.	The repeal of the exemption comes up every so often in the legislature. Support from the administration for maintaining the exemption is welcome.	O	L	Farm Bureau
47	51.	P	Farm Processing	Reform policies to vertically "harmonize" federal, state, and local inspections and other standards-based regulations at the legislative and departmental levels, particularly with regard to on-farm processing and meat products.	The Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA) was created in 2006 to promote the economic profitability of Maryland agriculture 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 the agricultural affairs of the State. The issues addressed by this group will include zoning, health regulations, and right-to-farm laws. GICA is up and running.	D/O	A	GICA
49	52.	P	Farm Processing	Change <b>state regulations</b> so they honor the intent of existing regulations while developing alternative approaches that scale to farm-based and community-based processing systems.	GICA is continuing to work on clarifying on-farm processing regulations throughout the State.	D/O	L/A	GICA
50	53.	P	Farm Processing	#45: Due to seasonal changes in milk production and the MD Health Department's desire to have all milk removed at each farm pick-up, weight restrictions on milk hauling trucks should be more flexible per the example of Western MD's timber hauling trucks.	SB 733 passed and was signed into law. MDA will work with federal delegation to change restrictions at the federal level.	D/O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
63	54.	P	Farm Processing	Encourage modification of <b>local regulations</b> so they honor the intent of existing regulations while developing alternative approaches that scale to farm-based and community-based processing systems.	GICA continues to provide examples of effective interpretation of existing regulations which achieve the dual goals of protecting public health and enhancing economic opportunities for rural residents. Dialogue among elected and regulatory officials is also useful and identifying and modifying problematic issues.	D/O	P	GICA
46	55.	P	Farm Processing	Enact a state food policy that encourages on-farm processing, training, and certification of farmers in on-farm food processing safety. This policy should encourage certification of food safety inspectors who specialize in on-farm and small-scale processes and innovation in small batch food processing.	HB 865 passed, allowing for a 5-year pilot project to produce cheese on a farm in Maryland Also, DHMH now has an ombudsman for the agriculture sector.	O	L/P	MDA, DHMH
48	56.	P	Farm Processing	Expedite value-added permitting and outline an easy process "roadmap".	HB 239 was signed into law and designates an Agricultural Ombudsman at DHMH to serve as the primary contact for individuals involved in agriculture and to provide information regarding DHMH regulations relating to on-farm processing, food preparation, and other on-farm activities.	O	A	MDA, DHMH, GICA

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132	57.	P	Farm Transition	Establish and fund the "next generation land acquisition" effort (111).	HB 2/2006 authorizes up to \$5M for MARBIDCO to establish a Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program. The Young Farmers Advisory Board has made this its top priority.	D/O	L/\$	MARBIDCO, MALPF, Young Farmers Advisory Board
109	58.	L	Farm Transition	Fully fund and implement a state-level Critical Farms program (110, 111).	Included in HB 2, but no funding. Under development by MALPF and being considered in the Governor's budget..	O	L/\$	MALPF
4	59.	P	Farm Transition	Create a Center to provide assistance for Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development (CBFED).	One-on-one business planning in the field is critical need. UMD is seeking funding.	O	L/\$	MCE, DBED
###	60.	P	Farm Transition	Establish the CBFED to offer specialized services to young and beginning farmers in the areas of marketing, business and financial planning, cultural practices, and policy implications that affect agriculture across the broad range of land-based enterprises.	See Recommendation 121	O	P	UMD CBFED
31	61.	P	Farm Transition Cost	Provide working capital grants for farms in transition, demonstration projects.	MARBIDCO provides low-interest loans for working capital and equipment purchases as well as small grants for certain value-added activities.	O	P	MARBIDCO
131	62.	P	Farm Transition Cost	Support reduced capital gains tax rates for land sold to young or new farmers.	GICA, Tax Incentives Task Force.	O	L	ATITF, GICA
114	63.	L	Farmland Protection	Prioritize the use of state land preservation funding to encourage the preservation of large contiguous blocks of productive farmland.	Occurring at the county level now.	D/O	P	MALPF
113	64.	L	Farmland Protection	Improve MALPF's flexibility on what agricultural uses are allowed on preserved farms.	Ongoing	O	L/P	MALPF
115	65.	L	Farmland Protection	Develop TDR and new farmland preservation programs through state and county collaboration.	GICA meeting on 6/13 focused on this. Ongoing GICA goal.	O	P	GICA
116	66.	L	Farmland Protection	Monitor the issue of transferring water rights on MALPF protected farmland. This issue will have an impact on growth constraints of towns located close to protected farmland and on future operations of the protected farm	MALPF task force on this.	O	P	MALPF
118	67.	L	Farmland Protection	Establish an Executive Order for state agencies to minimize the extent to which they contribute to the conversion of productive agricultural land.	MDA to request from Governor.	O	P	MDA, Governor's Office

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55	68.	P	Farmland Protection	Enact state tax credits for preserving land.	ATITF working on this.	O	L	ATITF, MDA
44	69.	P	Farmland Protection	Encourage all counties to offer tax credits for preserving land.	HB 2/2006 addressed this. In practice, some counties already do this.	O	L	MACO, GICA
51	70.	P	Farmland Protection Cost	Encourage the elimination of capital gains taxes on the sale of development rights.	MDA will include this in its priorities for the Farm Bill.	O	L fed	ATITF, MDA
104	71.	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Ensure full funding for Maryland's land protection programs by dedicating the real estate transfer tax and the agricultural transfer tax for their intended uses.	Received full funding for FY 08.	D/O	L	MDA
106	72.	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Establish a revolving fund for MALPF to buy agricultural land in fee and then sell the land at auction to farmers subject to an easement. (The program could be targeted to beginning or young farmers as appropriate).	MALPF has issued is Critical Farms port which recommends \$4 million annual funding to a total of \$16 million.	D/O	L/4	MALPF
105	73.	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Explore and adopt new funding sources for agricultural land preservation.	The "self-funded" Installment Purchase Agreement program, a major incentive for landowners and the purchaser, will be ready for the 2008 easement cycle. The "leveraged" IPA Program needs dedicated revenue source authorization from the General Assembly.	O	L/\$	MALPF, MARBIDCO, MD Legislature
107	74.	L	Farmland Protection Funding	#4: Seek a legislative change for MALPF to receive additional POS funding.	Governor could direct independent review of current allocation of POS dollars and recommend changes to make more effective use relative to state goals. Also, MALPF Task Force recommended additional revenue options including increasing the Ag Transfer Tax.	O	L/\$	MALPF
108	75.	L	Farmland Protection Funding	#5 Increase MALPF funding for more easement acquisitions by a further \$20 million with general funds, bond funds or other designated funding sources, such as revenues from slots.	Maryland has the 6th highest farmland prices in the nation, development pressure is increasing, and a recent survey says that 97% of respondents think it is at least somewhat important for the state to preserve land for farming. An analysis should be undertaken to determine how much additional funding would be needed This was also a HB 2/2006 from the 2006 Session.	O	L/\$	MALPF
91	76.	L	Forestry	Create a task force to examine ways to ensure that state programs and regulations are more consistent between forestry and farming.	There is a forestry rep on the ag commission, on GICA and on the MALPF board.	D/O	A	DNR Forestry
92	77.	L	Forestry	Include forestry as part of any agricultural outreach or marketing campaign by the state.	Ongoing as appropriate.	O	P	MDA, MD Legislature

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32	78.	P	Insurance	Increase funding levels, participation and types of crops eligible for crop insurance including funding for technical assistance and outreach to the agricultural community	HB2 asks for subsidies for crop insurance premiums, but there is no funding. Support HB1389 (done) Sign HB1389 if passed by General Assembly. Was not included in the Budget, but MDA would like to see it included in the future. Adjust funding request based on HB1389.(possible that it could be implemented with 1.25 – 1.5 million).	D/O	L/\$	MDA
23	79.	P	Local Mktg	Establish an ongoing statewide working group on agricultural marketing and branding issues.	There are several groups working on marketing and branding issues. The Ag Awareness group meets regularly, consisting of 15 reps from different industry groups. Marketing also created an ad hoc advisory board in 2006 to assist MDA in responding to HB.2.	D/O	P	MDA Mktg's Ag Awareness Group, Ad Hoc Advisory Board
24	80.	P	Local Mktg	Initiate a "buy local" promotional campaign with a method to measure results. (64)	MDA is relaunching MD's Best program this year; promoting and advertising farmer's market week; publicizing a buy local campaign. Marketing is working with MDA PIO on events and press releases promoting local products. Marketing is working with Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Del. Dept. of Ag to increase sales of locally grown watermelons in local chain stores. This initiative will be a model for apple sales in the fall.	D/O	P	MDA Mktg.
25	81.	P	Local Mktg	Improve product availability in Maryland grocery stores and markets.	Meetings were held with local supermarket chains to encourage purchase of more local produce. MDA also facilitated a meeting between Whole Foods and local growers. MDA will also be attending the Produce Marketing Association annual meeting to help MD producers cut deals with buyers within Maryland and in the region. This year MDA is relaunching the Maryland's Best brand; other initiatives include a Mar-Delicious watermelon promotion campaign and fall Maryland apple promotion, etc.	O	P	MDA Mktg.
26	82.	P	Local Mktg	Increase funding for state marketing programs.	HB 2/2006 requested that MDA submit a report to the legislature on the funding that Marketing would need for such improvements. MDA submitted an FY08 OCSB request, which was not funded.	O	L/\$	MDA Mktg.
27	83.	P	Local Mktg	Increase contracts with government institutions to purchase Maryland agricultural products.	HB 883/2006 was signed into law and requires the BPW to establish a 5% price preference for locally grown foods purchased by state institutions under specified circumstances. Much of this action item must be from private initiatives. State institutions have not been responsive, in part because they need year round supplies. Marketing continues to sponsor the Buyer/Grower meetings. MDA will push for an MOU with the Department of Corrections to procure local produce in times when supply exceeds demand.	O	P	MDA Mktg.
28	84.	P	Local Mktg	Encourage establishment of an Agricultural Marketing Professional (AMP) position with economic development focus in those counties that currently do not have this position.	MDA is hiring a new marketing professional to work on MD's Best program; that position also interfaces with county AMPs. Currently, Karen Fedor and Jane Storrs in marketing work with AMPs.-Presently, about 10 counties have AMPs, in addition to the work of the TriCounty Councils. This is a local decision, though MDA is supportive. The Mid Shore Regional Council hired an a Ag specialist in August 2007.	O	P	MDA Mktg., DBE Counties

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29	85.	P	Local Mktg	#53: MDA needs to aggressively market Maryland grown and produced products – both in the U.S. and abroad.	MDA is supporting Specialty Crop Promotion Fund in 2007 Farm Bill (included in Governor's federal priorities). Implement Over CSB for marketing activities per # 2. Continue plans to utilize federal grants to promote domestically and internationally. Summer 2007 planned activities: Re-launch Maryland's Best brand with federal specialty crop funds; Buy Local Week late July; farmers' market week, Aug 5-10; Mar-Delicious Watermelon Promotion, Aug. 9-10; Apple Promotion, October. Representing Maryland value-added food companies in Korea; Hosting Filipino delegation for Preakness and Fasig Tipton Horse Sales; Hosting Chinese food buyers.	O	p	MDA Mktg.
60	86.	P	Planning For Ag	Develop a state guide to planning for agriculture that includes mechanisms, such as reverse setbacks, for reducing land use conflicts, and a model right-to-farm ordinance with guidelines for county officials	This is an ongoing GICA goal. Certain information has already been compiled and published on the MDA website. Additional information will continue to be added, and may be published in hard copy at a later date.	D/O	P	GICA
61	87.	P	Planning For Ag	Develop a technical assistance toolbox for local officials on zoning and regulations that both support traditional agriculture and allow for alternative agricultural uses	GICA	D/O	P	GICA
62	88.	P	Planning For Ag	Convene an ongoing statewide working group to discuss zoning issues related to agriculture and develop tangible action items.	GICA	D/O	A	GICA
122	89.	R	Plant & Animal Protection	Establish a Plant Protection Center at the University of Maryland.	There is an MOU between UMD and USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine. MDA is a member of the Steering Committee and considered a partner with UMD and USDA. As a partner, MDA will provide in kind contributions.	O	P	UMD
123	90.	R	Plant & Animal Protection	#18: Support and fund advancements in agriculture and food, e.g. avian influenza, food safety to continue ensuring that Maryland's products are safe and economically viable around the world. Maryland should be a leader in Avian Flu research and response capability. Get a lab in Salisbury.	FY09 - continue development of capital budget plan for new poultry health diagnostic lab - Provide \$100K funding support for MDA food quality assurance to conduct Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) audits to reduce risk of microbial contaminants. Continue voluntary, industry supported food safety programs including Egg Quality Assurance and Crab Meat Quality Assurance.	O	L/\$	MDA, UMD, Ctr, for Food Safety and Security

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128	91.	R	Promote Ag	Develop a public relations campaign promoting the benefits of Maryland agriculture.	The Agricultural Awareness Campaign (AAC) was established to include a broad range of organizations interested in supporting the viability of Maryland farming by initiating an umbrella public relations effort. The intent of the campaign, which is under development, is to improve the perception of agriculture and its importance to the general public with the goal of ultimately improving demand for, and profits from, the sale of Maryland products. While supporting marketing efforts, the campaign also will build public understanding of agriculture that will support policy initiatives, farmland protection, careers in agriculture and more. The group's plan is for this program to be multi-year and budgeted.	D/O	P \$	MDA Marketing, MDA AAC
129	92.	R	Promote Ag	Encourage MHAA to fund projects that promote and present the historic agricultural focus of Maryland.	MHAA receives \$3 million in funding.	D/O	P	MDA, MHAA
135	93.	P	Promote Ag	Leverage the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) to build corporate partnerships that encourage research and product commercialization.	MDA is supportive of enhanced funding for BARC. Also, a major push is underway to bring a new federal research facility to BARC.	O	P	TEDCO
136	94.	P	Promote Ag	#54: Expand the Cooperative Extension Program to include adequately support staff for a changing agriculture.	While MDA supports this, it is not an MDA Program. Cooperative Extension is a program of the University of Maryland.	O	P	MCE
120	95.	R	Promote Ag	Fund LEAD Maryland program to continue to provide agricultural leaders to advance agriculture in Maryland.	MDA supports LEAD. This year, MDA contribution was \$15,000.	O	L/\$	MAEF
124	96.	R	Promote Ag	Strongly support those university programs where agriculture and suburban/urban markets merge: turf, nursery, horticulture, landscaping.	The Agro Ecology Center has required that RFPs for grant awards address these issues. Baywise Landscape and Horticulture course for nursery and landscape industry. Exploring new program MD Master Naturalist Program.	O	P	UMD
127	97.	R	Promote Ag	Continue Funding MAEF as a vehicle to increase agricultural education in the K-12 school system.	MAEF receives \$75,000 from horse racing, plus proceeds from the Ag tags and money from the Fair Board.	O	L/\$	MAEF. Farm Bureau
100	98.	L	Right 2 Farm	Mandate notification at the front end of real estate transactions and also make this notification legally binding as part of the closing contract.	This has been discussed but not yet implemented.	O	P	GICA
40	99.	P	Wildlife	Extend the deer and geese hunting seasons throughout the state.	A bill passed that expanded Sunday hunting to Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties; a similar bill for Harford failed. Goose hunting is under federal control.	O	L	Farm Bureau, DNR Wildlife
43	100	P	Wildlife	#55: Establish an interagency committee to help farmers with wildlife issues, including crop destruction, predation orders for geese, etc.	Wildlife is growing problem for farmers. DNR is lead agency. MDA will work with DNR on solutions and does not see a need for a committee. The two agencies and GICA can discuss.	O	P	MDA, DNR Wildlife

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Appendix 3			MD Statewide Agricultural Plan <b>Recommendations No Action or Unsuccessful</b> as of 12/1/2007					
12	101	P	Biofuels	Provide tax credits/exemptions for biodiesel and ethanol use and production.	MEA should take the lead on this.	N	L/\$	IAEWG, RAFTF, MEA, MGPA
19	102	P	Biofuels	#42: Support tax credit incentives for home heating oil at \$0.01 for each percent of biodiesel included.	Refer to the Interagency Energy Working Group for consideration and support.	N	L/\$	IAEWG RAFTF
88	103	L	BMPs Implement	#28: Additional funding should be allocated to the State Revolving Loan Fund to support the LILAC program.	This is a popular program that sells out quickly. Leveraged against MDE's SRF funding that has seen a 50% reduction in federal funds, limiting funds available for LILAC. MDA initiated a reprioritization of allowable practices to target most cost-effective practices.	N	L/\$	MDA, MDE
53	104	P	Business Assistance	Increase threshold for agriculture from \$600 to \$2,000 for reportability and filing of Form 1099 Misc relating to contract labor.	MDA to discuss with federal delegation.	N	L fed	MDA
30	105	P	Farm Processing	Create model "agricultural enterprise zone" incentives that jurisdictions can use to attract value-added and processing businesses.	Counties need to take the lead on encouraging more processing businesses and, when there is a shortage, need to expand the local raw materials available to process.	N	A	GICA, MCE
52	106	P	Farm Transition Cost	Eliminate part or all of the federal estate tax for agricultural enterprises.	HB 2/2006 required that a study group look at tax issues as related to agriculture. This group is finalizing their report.	N	L/A	MDA, Farm Bureau
56	107	P	Farm Transition Cost	Eliminate part or all of the state estate tax for agricultural enterprises.	HB 2/2006 established the Incentives for Agriculture Task Force whose mission is to review and evaluate the overall state tax structure as it impacts agriculture and the feasibility of modifications or alternatives to the current structure that would enhance the profitability of Maryland farming.	N	L	ATITF, Farm Bureau
20	108	P	Biofuels	#43: Promote the use of biodiesel in school buses.	MDA supported but HB 47 failed.	U	L	RAFTF, MGPA, MEA
8	109	P	Business Assistance	#52: Maintain an agricultural position within DBED to serve as a liaison between DBED, MDA and the agricultural community to ensure DBED financial and business support programs are made available to farmers.	Position has been recently eliminated.	U	P	MDA (Hance), DBED