



Michael T. Scuse
Secretary of Agriculture

JFC BUDGET PRESENTATION

FISCAL YEAR 2022



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



PROMOTING GROWTH, PROTECTING CONSUMERS



AGRICULTURE

DELAWARE'S #1 INDUSTRY

FAMILY FARMS

On 525,000 acres of farmland, Delaware's 2,300 family farms produce a wide variety of agricultural products. These include corn, soybeans, wheat, poultry, fruits, and vegetables.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Agriculture provides more than 20,000 jobs and \$8 billion in economic activity to the state, including \$1.5 billion in direct sales.



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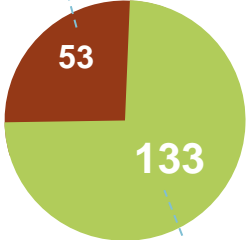


THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MISSION

- Delaware Department of Agriculture supports farmers and consumers alike, working to sustain and grow our industry, promote fresh and seasonal products, and build consumer trust in Delaware.
- 186 dedicated staff in 13 sections strive to effectively and efficiently protect and enhance the environment, health and welfare of the general public.

CASUAL/SEASONAL EMPLOYEES



FULL TIME EMPLOYEES



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Delaware Department of Agriculture Sections		
Aglands Preservation & Planning	Standardbred Breeders' Fund	Plant Industries
Agricultural Compliance	Food Products Inspection	Poultry & Animal Health
Communications & Marketing	Nutrient Management	Thoroughbred Racing Commission
Delaware Forest Service	Pesticides	Weights & Measures
Harness Racing Commission		



FARM AND FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

REQUEST: \$64.0

BACKGROUND

Formed in 2018, the Council seeks to develop a Healthy Food Retail Program to support and promote food options in neighborhood retail outlets throughout Delaware.

FUNDS REQUESTED WILL...

Allow the Council to hire a consultant to help guide this work by providing insights and expertise regarding effective methodologies, data, and staff support.



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AGRICULTURAL COMPLIANCE

REQUEST: \$15.0

BACKGROUND

The section's contractual services budget can no longer meet the increasing costs of the laboratory. Over 70% of the section's current contractual budget (\$37.5) is used for recurring annual costs. The remainder cannot cover repair costs and preventative maintenance of lab equipment.

FUNDS REQUESTED WILL...

Help the lab properly maintain and repair instruments, which provide vital information to Delaware's Nutrient Management Program and all consumers.



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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

REQUEST: \$5.2

BACKGROUND

The current \$500 travel budget does not cover the Nutrient Management Commissioners' expenses to attend monthly meetings or for program staff to travel to training and out-of-state conferences, such as those related to Chesapeake Bay water quality.

THESE FUNDS WILL...

Address the current budget shortfall related to travel expenditures.



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ANIMAL HEALTH DIGITAL APPLICATION

REQUEST: \$85.0

BACKGROUND

Currently used in many other states, animal health digital applications help to improve efficiency and accountability in tracking:

- Poultry/livestock illnesses and mortality
- Farm animal welfare complaints and cases
- Stray livestock investigations
- Laboratory specimen testing
- Animal traces into/out of Delaware
- Licenses and Permits
- Emergency responses to disease outbreaks

THESE FUNDS WILL....

Allow DDA to purchase the enterprise management software and annual maintenance fees.



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

HOW IT WORKS

Two step process:

1. Landowners voluntarily enroll their farm into a **10-year Preservation District agreement**.
2. The following year, landowners can apply to sell their farm's development rights, known as a **preservation easement**, keeping the farm preserved for perpetuity.



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS

Delaware has permanent preservation easements on:

- More than 1,000 farms, totaling 139,000 acres
- Approx. 26 percent of Delaware farmland

County-Level Data:

- Kent County: 503 easements on 70,406 acres
 - 38 percent of county farmland
- New Castle County: 105 easements on 14,664 acres
 - 21 percent of county farmland
- Sussex County: 453 easements on 53,800 acres
 - 18 percent of county farmland



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Total Easement Costs:	\$245.0 million
State funds:	\$166.0 million
Federal funds:	\$ 60.0 million
County funds:	\$ 15.0 million
Other funding:	\$ 4.0 million
Total Landowner Discount:	\$349.0 million





FARMLAND PRESERVATION

UPCOMING ROUND 25

Farms eligible for **Round 25** easement selection, using FY21 funding, expected to be announced in May:

- Kent County: 74 easements on 6,126 acres
- New Castle County: 12 easements on 870 acres
- Sussex County: 99 easements on 9,371 acres
- Total: 185 farms on 16,367 acres

New 2020 district applications:

- Kent County: 19 farms on 1,587 acres
- New Castle County: 1 farm on 283 acres
- Sussex County: 20 farms on 1,305 acres
- Total: 40 farms on 3,175 acres



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION YOUNG FARMER LOAN PROGRAM

- Helps young farmers purchase farmland, one of the obstacles to getting starting in farming.
- 30 year, no-interest loan
- 37 young farmers have received \$9.0M in loans
- Farms are placed in permanent preservation easement
- 2,858 acres of land permanently preserved through Young Farmer Loan Program



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

FUNDING PARTNERS

In 2020, the American Farmland Trust ranked Delaware's Aglands Preservation Program the 2nd most effective farmland preservation program in the country.

Our funding partners help leverage additional funds to purchase easements. Preserving farmland would not be possible without:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New Castle County Council, Kent County Levy Court, and Sussex County Council
- United States Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)

Full funding of Delaware Aglands Preservation for FY22 at \$10.0M would ensure that DDA is able to match any potential funding sources from our partners.



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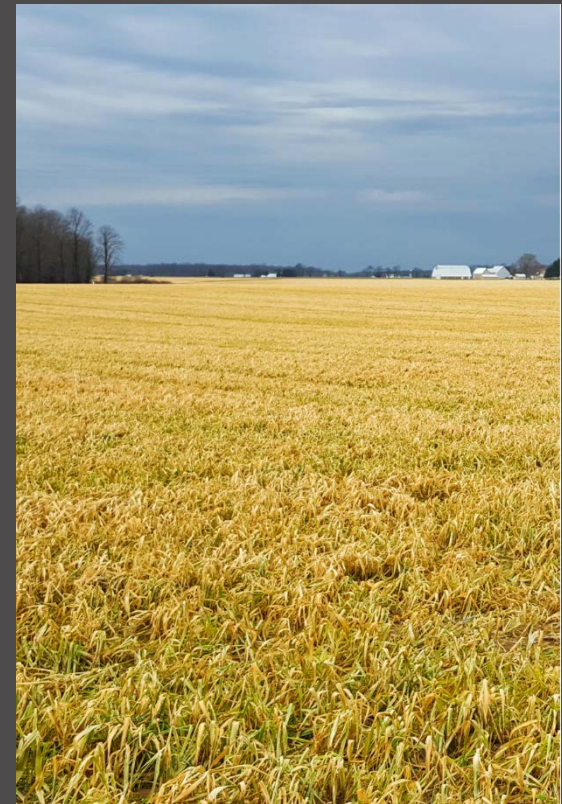


COVER CROP INVESTMENT

\$2,900.0 BOND BILL REQUEST

BACKGROUND

Research shows that cover crops are the best tool in Delaware – environmentally and economically – to reduce agricultural nutrient runoff and improve water quality. Cover crops help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon, improving soil health, improving the resiliency of fields to pests, and reducing the amounts of fertilizers and pesticides required.



THESE FUNDS WILL...

Offset the costs for farmers to plant cover crops. These crops are not harvested; therefore, they do not provide any income for the farmer, but they help Delaware reach its nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay.



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