

Extension Service

The Extension Service was established by Federal and State laws in 1914. The service is represented in each county of the State by a County Agricultural Agent and a Home Demonstration Agent. The Extension Service is supported by Federal, State and county funds. Scientific and economic agricultural information for rural people, assistance in promoting better marketing conditions, cooperation with rural groups and associations and the encouragement of the marketing of home supplies by rural women are all a part of the work of the Extension Service. In addition to work with adults, the agency works with rural boys and girls through the 4-H clubs. Short courses in various fields are also conducted by the service (Code 1939, Art. 2A, secs, 11, 12).

Agricultural Experiment Station

The Agricultural Experiment Station was established in 1888. It is an enterprise of the State with extensive Federal grants. The work of the station centers at laboratories located at College Park where studies of insects and diseases, soil fertility, botanical and other problems are undertaken. The livestock and dairy barns with their experimental herds are also located at College Park. Research in soil fertility, plant breeding and general horticultural problems is conducted at a plant research farm located near Beltsville. An experimental farm, located near Upper Marlboro, is given over to the problems of tobacco growing and curing. Near Ellicott City, there is a farm which is devoted to livestock problems. Research in the problems of broiler producers and the growing of various vegetable crops is conducted at a farm near Salisbury (Code 1939, Art. 2A, secs. 13-15).

Maryland State Department of Markets

The State Department of Markets was established in 1924. It operates as an agent of the State Board of Agriculture under State laws and the Federal Research and Marketing Act. It functions in four fields: (1) Extension Education, (2) Marketing Services, (3) Statistical and (4) Regulatory. The activities of the Department include grading and inspection services, market price reporting, market surveys, a marketing information and service program, extension marketing and consumer information.

The agency is responsible for the enforcement of the following laws: (1) The Maryland Apple Grading Law, (2) The Maryland Fresh Egg and Egg Grading Law, (3) The Poultry Sale and Transportation Law, (4) The Cantaloupe Maturity Law, (5) The Trademark Law, and (6) The grading and inspections laws (Code 1939, 1947 Supp., Art. 2A, Secs. 22-40; Art. 48, secs. 144-150, 168-173).

The Department is also authorized by law to perform certain functions concerning the inspection and regulation of weights and measures (1951, Ch. 666).

State Inspection and Regulatory Service

The State Inspection and Regulatory Service is responsible for the enforcement of the State Laws relating to feed, fertilizer, agricultural liming material and agricultural insecticides and fungicides. These laws are classified as the "Correct Labeling Acts". The agency's work in the enforcement of these laws is divided into five parts: (1) registration of brand names, (2) collection of samples, (3) chemical analysis and examination of samples, (4) publication of results of tests and (5) prosecution of violators (Code 1939, Art. 48, secs. 103-128; Art. 61).