

Measures Law. It maintains supervision over weighing and measuring devices, weights and measures and packaged commodities offered for sale, sold or in use in the State. This supervision is extended to the methodology employed relative to obtaining accurate measurement and providing a means for value comparisons.

This Section is also charged with the supervision and licensing of personnel engaged in the handling and transportation, as it relates to accurate and proper measurement, of fluid dairy products. It is charged with the administration and enforcement of Title 11, Agricultural Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which is designed to ensure accuracy and equity in the sale and measurement of commodity and similar transactions (Agriculture Art., secs. 11-101 to 11-509).

Staff: 1975, 51; 1976, 52; 1977, 54.

DIVISION OF MARKETING

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The Marketing Division provides programs and services designed to serve all segments of the economy through the market system from producer to consumer. Programs include: Federal-State market improvement projects, inspection and grading of agricultural commodities, market news and statistical reporting service in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and an active consumer marketing information program (Agriculture Art., secs. 10-101 to 10-204; 10-501 to 10-504; 10-601 to 10-606; 10-701 to 10-708; 10-801 to 10-807; 10-901 to 10-909).

Staff: 1975, 38; 1976, 33; 1977, 32.

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRIES

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PEST MANAGEMENT SECTION

There are five major programs included in this Section. The Mexican Bean Beetle

Parasite Program; to control the Mexican Bean Beetle by rearing and releasing insect predators of the beetle. The State Mosquito Control Program; to control mosquito populations by temporary (adulticiding and larvaciding) and permanent (water management) methods. The Gypsy Moth Control Program; to prevent and control the spread of Gypsy Moth by conducting surveys, applying pesticides, releasing parasites and enforcing quarantines. The Forest Pest Management Program; to identify, by survey, forest pests and manage their populations, and the Pesticide Applicators Law to regulate the use and application of pesticides and to license or certify pesticide applicators.

The Chief of the Section provides general supervision to the Program Supervisors and coordinates the activities of his Section with other programs in the Division and with other state and federal regulatory officials (Agriculture Art., 1976 Supp., secs. 5-201 through 5-211; 1975 Supp., secs. 5-301-5-313 and secs. 5-401-5-405).

PLANT PROTECTION SECTION

This Section is responsible for administering the state plant protection and quarantine programs, the Interstate Pest Control Compact and for inspecting and registering all honeybee colonies in the state. The Chief of this Section provides general supervision to the programs and serves as the State Plant Pathologist. Personnel in this Section serve as the state authority on plant protection and agricultural quarantines and provide liaison for the Department with other state and federal regulatory officials (Agriculture Art., secs. 5-301-5-313; secs. 5-501-5-507; 1976 Supp., secs. 5-701-5-716).

WEED CONTROL SECTION

The primary goal of the Weed Control Section is to control and prevent the spread of the undesirable and noxious weed Johnsongrass within the state. The Johnsongrass Control Program is basically designed to assist landowners to bring the Johnsongrass under control through their own efforts and through the joint efforts of the County and