

State as provided in Cooperative Agreements with the various counties. Landowners are encouraged to file Johnsongrass Control Plans with the Department outlining methods and procedures for controlling Johnsongrass on their land. The Department is authorized to take regulatory actions against landowners who allow Johnsongrass to set seed on their property.

The Secretary of Agriculture has legislative authority to declare other noxious weeds and place them under a control program (Agriculture Art., secs. 9-401-9-405).

TURF AND SEED REGULATORY SECTION

The objective of this Section is to provide regulatory activities to assure accurate and complete labeling of seed and sod at marketing, thus, enabling the consumer to determine what he is purchasing prior to planting or installation. A State Testing Laboratory is operated for both service and regulatory testing to assure compliance with label claims. The regulatory phase involves inspection, testing, reporting results and corrective actions relative to each turf and seed lot found to be in noncompliance with the provisions of the seed law (Agriculture Art., secs. 9-101-9-110; secs. 9-201-9-213; secs. 9-301-9-307).

TURF AND SEED CERTIFICATION SECTION

The objective of this Section is to assure the availability of sufficient quantities of certified seed by directing and conducting certification programs in which seed is produced to meet certain standards for purity, germination and other quality factors and to certify the production of turfgrass under certain standards involving purity, variety and other quality factors. Participation in the Programs by growers is voluntary. Unacceptable fields of seed or sod are rejected as a result of field inspection or laboratory testing (Agriculture Art., secs. 9-101-9-110; secs. 9-201-9-213; secs. 9-301-9-307).

Staff: 1975, 60; 1976, 64; 1977, 63.

DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

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ANIMAL HEALTH SECTION

The Animal Health Department is responsible for the control and eradication of those diseases of livestock and poultry which are of significant economic importance to the producer, as well as those contagious diseases of livestock and poultry which pose a significant threat to the human population of Maryland due to their transmissibility from animals to humans (Agriculture Art., secs. 3-101 to 3-503).

MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION SECTION

The Meat and Poultry Inspection Section has the responsibility of assuring the Maryland consumer with a wholesome supply of meat and poultry. This is accomplished by a staff of 52 meat and poultry inspectors assigned to 97 slaughtering and processing plants located throughout the State. Fifty percent of the cost of the State Meat and Poultry Inspection is provided by the federal government (Agriculture Art., secs. 4-101 to 4-131; 4-210 to 4-230).

Staff: 1975, 122; 1976, 127;
1977, 127.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: W. Mitchell Digges

Ex officio members: Young D. Hance, *Secretary, Department of Agriculture;* Frank L. Bentz, Jr., *Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, University of Maryland;* Allie Messer, *Maryland Agricultural Commission;* Herbert M. Sachs, *designee of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources;* Wilbert R. Paul, *President of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts.*

Advisory non-voting members: Dr. John M. Curtis, *Director, Cooperative Extension Service;* Graham T. Munkittrick, *State Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.*