

sumer of a wholesome supply of meat and poultry products, properly labeled and prepared under sanitary conditions. This is accomplished with a staff of fifty-eight inspectors, supervisors, and administrative personnel. Inspection personnel are assigned to ninety-four slaughtering and/or processing plants located throughout the State. Fifty percent of the cost of the State meat and poultry inspection is provided by the Federal government (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 4-101 through 4-131; 4-201 through 4-230).

GRADING SERVICES AND EGG INSPECTION SECTION

This Section inspects and grades fruit, vegetables, grain, soybeans, and poultry at their production sources. Graders carry out USDA grading regulations and affix federal grading stamps on products meeting quality and condition standards (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-501 through 10-909.)

This section is also responsible for the quality of eggs produced, distributed, and sold in Maryland, as well as for the Maryland Fresh and Maryland Fancy Egg Programs. The Egg Inspection Section is charged with enforcing the federal Egg Law and removing from sale any eggs that do not meet Federal and State standards (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 4-301 through 4-312).

STATE CHEMIST SECTION

The State Chemist registers, examines the labels of, samples, and chemically tests and analyzes commercial fertilizers, feeds, pesticides, soil conditioners, and liming materials sold in the State to determine if they conform to standards established under Maryland laws governing quality, contents, and labeling. Appropriate measures are taken to protect the consumer and the dealer from unscrupulous or careless manufacturers.

The Section cooperates with the Federal Food and Drug Administration in the inspection of feed manufacturing facilities that produce medicated feeds and the Environmental Protection Agency in the implementation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Additionally the laboratories analyze meat and toxicology samples for the Office of Animal Health, test fruits, vegetables, commercial feeds, and soils for chemical residues, and make other determinations as required by Departmental activities (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-101 through 5-114; 6-101 through 6-117; 6-201 through 6-220; 6-301 through 6-310).

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SECTION

The Weights and Measures Section has custody of, maintains, and safeguards the State's primary standards as well as secondary standards and equipment for the enforcement of Maryland's Weights and 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 in 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 of fluid dairy products as it relates to accurate and proper measurement. It is charged with the administration and enforcement of Title 11, Agriculture Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which is designed to ensure accuracy and equity in the sale and measurement of commodity and similar transactions (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 11-101 through 11-509).

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRIES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

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The Assistant Secretary for Plant Industries and Pest Management supervises all phases of those programs related to plants, plant pests, pest management, and pesticides for which the Department is responsible.

MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION

A Statewide cooperatively funded program is conducted out of the Annapolis Office that provides routine services to 1,400,000 residents in 1,600 communities in 20 counties. Branch offices are located in College Park, Salisbury, and Clements. Environmentally compatible temporary (adulticiding and larvaciding) and permanent (water management) methods are used to control the mosquitoes. In addition to implementing control measures, efforts are also directed toward determining the environmental impact of the program, developing more efficacious control methods, and conducting epidemiological investigations of mosquito borne diseases.