

counties, in accord with a competitive formula provided by law and subject to local recommendation and appraisal. Easements, thus acquired, are perpetual but may be repurchased after twenty-five years if certain procedures and requirements are met.

In addition, the Foundation may receive by gift, devise, bequest, or grant easements in gross or other rights to restrict the use of agricultural land and woodland.

The Foundation is governed and administered by a Board of Trustees composed of two ex officio members and nine at large members appointed by the Governor. At least five at large members must be farmer representatives from different areas of the State, and one must be a non-farm representative from the Department of State Planning. The chairperson of the Board of Trustees is appointed by the Governor from among the nine at large trustees. Upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees at large, the Secretary appoints the Executive Director (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-501 through 2-515).

OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Dr. Charles W. Puffinberger, *Assistant Secretary*

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Formerly the Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management, the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation received its present name in 1987. The Assistant Secretary for Plant Industries and Resource Conservation supervises all phases of Departmental programs related to plants, plant pests, pest management, and pesticides. The Assistant Secretary also supervises the section chiefs and coordinates Office activities with other Department programs and with local, State, and federal officials. In addition, the Assistant Secretary manages active cooperative agreements with local, county, State, and federal agencies.

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Known as the Gypsy Moth Control Section until 1987, the Forest Pest Management Section works to protect forests by stopping insect, particularly gypsy moth, infestation.

The gypsy moth is the most destructive forest pest of the eastern United States. It causes serious problems for trees in wooded residential areas, parks, and recreation areas. Consequently, the moth is the subject of a State and a national quarantine program. This pest has been present in Maryland since 1971. Despite an active suppression program, the gypsy moth continues threatening unprotected trees. The cooperative local, State, and federal program to manage the moth is coordinated by the Annapolis Office. Branch offices are located in Cheltenham, Cumberland, Mt. Airy, and Bel Air.

MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION

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This Section conducts a statewide cooperatively funded program to provide mosquito control services. Branch offices are located in College Park, Salisbury, and Clements. Environmentally compatible temporary methods (adulticiding and larvaciding) and permanent methods (water management) are used to control mosquitoes. In addition to implementing control measures, this Section determines the environmental impact of the program, develops more effective control methods, and conducts epidemiological investigations of mosquito-borne diseases (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-401 through 5-405).

PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION

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Formerly the Pesticide Applicators Law Section, the Pesticide Regulation Section received its new name in 1987. The Section regulates the use of pesticides in the State. The Section licenses businesses engaged in commercial application of pesticides; trains and certifies commercial and private pesticide applicators; and enforces the Pesticide Applicators Law and Regulations. The Section also provides technical information on the proper and effective use of pesticides.