

The Department of Agriculture traces its origin to the Maryland Agricultural College, chartered in 1856. (The College was consolidated in 1920 with the University of Maryland.) Trustees of the College served as the State Board of Agriculture (Chapter 326, Acts of 1888). This board was abolished when the Department of Agriculture was created in 1972 (Chapter 342, Acts of 1972). In the same year, the following agencies were abolished and their functions transferred to the Department: the State Horticultural Department, the State Entomologist, the State Pathologist, the State Horticulturist, the Department of Drainage, the State Drainage Engineer, and the Maryland State Department of Markets (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-101 through 2-107). Regulatory and advisory functions previously overseen by the University of Maryland's Board of Regents also were transferred to the Department. The University's role in agricultural research, development, and educational outreach, however, was left intact. Although the Department of Agriculture does conduct some research projects, it focuses on broader public responsibilities.

The Department protects the consumer by regulating commodity quality and standardized weights and measures. It preserves the environment through soil conservation methods that reduce nonpoint source pollution and by creating agricultural preservation districts. Agricultural yields increase as the Department eradicates livestock diseases, insect pests, and noxious weeds. Additionally, the Department promotes Maryland agricultural products and develops new markets for them.

Under the Secretary of Agriculture, the Department is organized into four main Offices: Administrative Services; Animal Health and Consumer Services; Plant Industries and Resource Conservation; and Marketing and Agricultural Development. The Department also is served by the Board of Review and the Maryland Agricultural Commission. The Secretary of Agriculture appoints the State Chemist, State Veterinarian, and the Chief of Weights and Measures.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Office of the Secretary provides executive direction for the Department. The Secretary is the chief executive officer and is appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent. Responsible for day-to-day operations, the Deputy Secretary is appointed by the Secretary with the Governor's approval.

The Office of the Secretary includes the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, internal audit, intergovernmental, and public information functions, Office of Aquaculture Programs, and Office of Administrative Services (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-101 through 2-108).

OFFICE OF AQUACULTURE PROGRAMS

Bradley H. Powers, *Aquaculture Coordinator*

Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

841-5861

The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 set forth the federal policy of encouraging development of an aquaculture industry. Maryland's interest in aquaculture culminated in 1988 when the Department of Agriculture was designated to promote development of aquaculture and coordinate State efforts in this field (Chapter 534, Acts of 1988).

In Maryland, aquaculture has been defined as an agricultural activity—the controlled cultivation and harvest of aquatic plants and animals. Potentially viable aquaculture crops in the State include striped bass and hybrids, oysters, and soft-shell crabs.

The Office of Aquaculture Programs was established by the Department in 1988.

The Office coordinates the aquaculture programs of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Maryland.

AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ernest F. Tresselt, 1991

Appointed by Governor: George Kimble Horn, 1989; Michael R. Leedy, 1989; Michael C. Rubino, Ph.D., 1989; Calvert Brice Tolley, 1989; James M. Banagan, 1990; Max E. Chambers, 1990; Frank P. Palmer, Jr., 1990; Francis J. Russell, 1990; John F. Tucker Brown, 1991; Reginal M. Harrell, Ph.D., 1991; James A. Perdue, Ph.D., 1991.

Appointed by Senate President: Lewis R. Riley
Appointed by House Speaker: John F. Slade III

Agency representatives: William F. Sieling, *Dept. of Agriculture*; Frederick W. Wheaton, Ph.D., *University of Maryland College of Agriculture*; Lt. Col. W. C. Willing, *Dept. of Natural Resources Police*; W. Peter Jensen, *Dept. of Natural Resources Tidewater Administration*

The Aquaculture Advisory Committee was created in 1988 (Chapter 534, Acts of 1988). In consultation with the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House of Delegates Environmental Matters Committee, the Committee will propose legislation to promote a major aquaculture industry for Maryland's tidal waters. Recommendations may include aquacul-