

Forerunners of the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board include societies for the promotion of agriculture which flourished in Maryland, beginning in 1807 with the creation of boards of agriculture in twelve Maryland counties (Chapter 169, Acts of 1807). These boards were authorized to award premiums or medals for the promotion of agriculture. Other county societies and fair boards were created and, from time to time, the General Assembly appropriated money to them for agricultural fairs.

The Maryland Agricultural Fair Board was established as the State Fair Board in 1937 (Chapter 463, Acts of 1937). It received its present name in 1980 (Chapter 85, Acts of 1980). The Board encourages and fosters agriculture through the promotion and assistance of bona fide agricultural fairs and exhibits. It extends financial assistance to qualifying organizations for premium awards to exhibitors of agricultural displays. Annually, the Board issues *Maryland Fair & Show Schedule*, available upon request.

The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor to five-year terms (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-301 through 10-303).

#### TOBACCO AUTHORITY

Earl F. Hance, *Chairperson*, 1996

Raymond E. Hutchins, *Executive Secretary*  
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Created in 1947, the Tobacco Authority investigates and studies phases of tobacco marketing or production in the State (Chapter 61, Acts of Special Session of 1947). The Authority provides information about the tobacco price structure and recommends legislation to provide more efficient handling of tobacco. Along with buyers and commission agencies, the Authority has a voice in fixing marketing periods, and it assures the accuracy of weights and measures used by tobacco commission selling agencies. The Authority also licenses commission agencies and purchasers and collects a fee from the owners of tobacco sold at a commission agency. To develop markets for Maryland tobacco, a representative of the Tobacco Authority visits manufacturers in foreign countries, as well as in the United States.

The Authority is composed of eight members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Authorization for the Authority continues until July 1, 2001 (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 7-201 through 7-209, 7-401 through 7-418).

#### MARYLAND WINERY & GRAPE GROWERS' ADVISORY BOARD

Vacancy, *Chairperson*

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The Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board was organized in 1987 (Chapter 507, Acts of 1987). The Board advises the Secretary of

Agriculture on the allocation of funds to promote the production of Maryland grapes and wines.

The Board consists of nine members. Eight are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture. The ninth member is the Secretary of Agriculture who serves *ex officio* (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-1001 through 10-1007).

#### MARKETING

Errol Small, *Chief*

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The Marketing Services Section was reorganized as Marketing in 1992. Marketing helps everyone in the economy—from producer to consumer—through the market system. Programs include projects to improve quality and enhance presentation of agricultural commodities to the consumer; international marketing; market news and statistics services in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and a consumer marketing information program (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-101 through 10-204; 10-501 through 10-504; 10-601 through 10-606; 10-701 through 10-708; 10-801 through 10-807; 10-901 through 10-909).

The Section compiles the following publications:

*Choose & Cut Christmas Tree Directory*  
*Grain and Livestock* (weekly)  
*Maryland Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Users Guide*  
*Maryland Hay and Straw Directory*  
*Maryland Retail Farmers' Market Directory*  
*Maryland Tobacco Report* (radio tape—in season)  
*Pick-Your-Own Fruit and Vegetable Directory*  
*Wholesale Directory—Maryland Christmas Tree Growers*

#### AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT & SEAFOOD MARKETING

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

Aquaculture, in Maryland, 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 to coordinate the aquaculture programs of the Department of Agri-