

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN COMMITTEE

Irving E. Herling, D.V.M., *Chairperson*
(410) 841-5862

In 1984, the Veterinary Technician Committee was organized as part of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Chapter 640, Acts of 1984). Subject to Board approval, the Committee registers and regulates veterinary technicians. It determines the qualifications for applicants, recommends the content and form of examinations, and establishes continuing education requirements for veterinary technicians. The Committee also defines duties and responsibilities of registered veterinary technicians.

The Committee consists of seven members appointed by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture.

**STATE BOARD OF INSPECTION OF
HORSE RIDING STABLES**

Virginia B. Thackeray, *Chairperson*, 1996
Robin Miller, *Inspector*
(410) 841-5861

Created in 1968, the State Board of Inspection of Horse Riding Stables was transferred from the Department of Licensing and Regulation to the Department of Agriculture in 1980 (Chapter 474, Acts of 1968; Chapter 618, Acts of 1980). The Board licenses all horse riding stables where one or more horses or ponies are let for hire to be ridden or driven. It also licenses sales barns, establishments that stable five or more horses for pay, and establishments where annually five or more horses are sold.

With the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Board may appoint a qualified inspector and designate officers of county humane societies, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and licensed veterinarians to act as its agents and make inspections.

The Board consists of five members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Agriculture. One member is a licensed veterinarian, two are officers of county humane societies, one is an owner of a licensed stable, and one is a public member. Authorization for the Board continues until July 1, 2001 (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-701 through 2-719).

EGG INSPECTION, GRADING, & GRAIN

Deanna Baldwin, *Supervisor*
(410) 841-5769

In 1992, the Grading Services and Egg Inspection Section merged with the Grain Laws Section to form Egg Inspection, Grading, and Grain. The Section inspects and grades fruits, vegetables, grain, soybeans, and poultry at their production sites.

Graders follow U.S. Department of Agriculture grading regulations and affix federal grading stamps to products that meet quality standards (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-501 through 10-909).

The Section is responsible for the quality of eggs produced, distributed, and sold in Maryland. The Salmonella Enteritidis Program, enforced by the Section, requires that all eggs sold in Maryland must come from flocks of chickens which have been registered and tested. Inspections made by inspectors from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene are reviewed by the Section. The Section developed the first program in the United States to trace eggs from flock to consumer, a program now copied by other states.

The Section enforces the restricted egg sections of the federal Egg Law. Restricted eggs are those not suitable for consumption due to cracks, blood spots, leaks, or other problems. All restricted eggs removed from consumer packs of eggs must be documented as to disposition. The Section removes from sale any eggs that do not meet federal and State standards (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 4-201 through 4-312).

The Section also licenses grain dealers. All bona fide grain dealers in the State, as defined by law, are required to register and secure an annual license (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 13-201 through 13-215).

WEIGHTS & MEASURES SECTION

Louis E. Straub, *Chief*
(410) 841-5790

The first Maryland law to regulate measures was enacted in 1641 (Chapter 2, Acts of 1641). At that time, the county sheriff was entrusted with the responsibility. The Weights and Measures Section continues to maintain and safeguard the State's primary standards as well as secondary standards and equipment for the enforcement of Maryland's Weights and Measures Law. The Section's Metrology Laboratory provides a wide variety of highly sophisticated measurements and calibrations in mass, volume, length, and thermometry.

The Section supervises the use and production of weighing and measuring devices, weights and measures, and packaged commodities offered for sale, sold, or in use in the State. This supervision extends to the methodology used to obtain accurate measurement and provides a means for value comparisons for consumers.

The Section licenses and tests personnel who determine butterfat content for dairies and milk cooperatives and personnel who calibrate farm milk tanks. It administers and enforces State laws for ensuring accuracy, equity, and the prevention of fraud in the sale and measurement of quantities, commodities, goods, or services (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 11-101 through 11-509).