

facturing facilities that produce medicated feeds. To implement the federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Section also works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, Section chemists analyze meat and toxicology samples for the Office of Food Safety and Consumer Services; test fruits, vegetables, commercial feeds, and soils for chemical residues; and make other determinations as required by the Department (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-101 through 5-114, 6-101 through 6-117, 6-201 through 6-220, 6-301 through 6-310).

TURF & SEED SECTION

Malcolm L. Sarna, *Chief*

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As early as 1888, the General Assembly enacted legislation to protect farmers from unscrupulous seed salesmen making fraudulent claims. Today, the Turf and Seed Section works to assure the availability of sufficient quantities of certified turf and seed. It directs and conducts certification programs by which turf and seed are produced to meet standards of purity, variety, germination, and other quality factors. From the evidence of field inspections or laboratory analysis, the Section rejects seed or sod not meeting certification standards.

The Section also regulates the labeling of seed and sod at the time of marketing to help consumers determine what to purchase. A State testing laboratory is operated for both service and regulatory testing to assure compliance with label claims. The regulatory phase involves inspection, testing, reporting results, and corrective actions for each turf and seed lot found not to comply with provisions of the Turf Grass Law or the Seed Law (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 9-101 through 9-110, 9-201 through 9-213).

WEED CONTROL SECTION

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The Weed Control Section administers the Maryland Noxious Weed Law. This law requires landowners or those who possess and manage land infested with Johnsongrass, shattercane, or thistles to eradicate or control these noxious weeds by practices prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The noxious weed control program helps individuals manage noxious weeds through their own efforts and through a cooperative agreement between the State and participating counties. The Department encourages individuals to file a Noxious Weed Control Agreement, outlining methods and procedures for controlling noxious weeds on their land. Regulatory action may be taken against those who fail to control noxious weeds. The Weed Control Section also investigates complaints of multiflora rose-infested land used for agricultural production.

The Secretary of Agriculture has authority to declare other weeds noxious and place them under a control program. The Section Supervisor serves as the State's authority on weed control matters (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 9-401 through 9-405, 9-701 through 9-705).

OFFICE OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION

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The Office of Resource Conservation began in 1985 as the Office of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation. In 1987, it was restructured as the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation and received its current name in 1989.

The Office works to control soil erosion and agricultural nonpoint source water pollution through agricultural soil conservation and water quality programs. The Office coordinates its efforts with other Department programs and with county, State and federal agencies. This includes managing interagency cooperative agreements. For Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Programs, the Office serves as agency liaison and facilitates State and local agricultural involvement in tributary strategies.

The Office consists of three sections: Program Planning and Development; Resource Conservation Grants; and Resource Conservation Operations.

PROGRAM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Louise Lawrence, *Chief*

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Program Planning and Development supports the work of the State Soil Conservation Committee and the Office of Resource Conservation by planning, developing, and coordinating policy, programs, and public information. The soil and water conservation work of the Office is coordinated with soil conservation districts, and agencies and organizations with related programs.

Under the *Agricultural Water Management Program*, Program Planning and Development helps public drainage associations maintain agricultural drainage projects through a cost-share maintenance program and interagency review of plans for construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance. Program Planning and Development also coordinates the *Nutrient Management Program*, which helps individual farmers plan nutrient management of animal waste, sludge, and commercial fertilizers. The Program trains, certifies and licenses persons who provide this service.