



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge

Chesapeake Bay Commission

**Lancaster Marriott Penn Square
Lancaster City, Pennsylvania**

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Ernie Shea, Project Facilitator



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

A multi-stakeholder, landscape scale,
shared leadership platform for developing

SOLUTIONS

to poultry related nutrient pollution.



Delmarva Project: Phase One

Project Overview

- Identify economically viable agronomic, technological and market based strategies, solutions and management models that can be deployed to abate agricultural nutrient pollution and utilize poultry litter that can no longer be applied on phosphorous saturated soils.
- Funded by the Campbell Foundation for the Environment.
- Led by a self directed steering committee composed of respected agricultural and conservation leaders.



Delmarva Project: Phase One

Key Findings

- Land application is still the primary method of managing manure in the watershed;
- Long term application of manure and poultry litter has resulted in the accumulation of nutrients in excess of plant requirements (Phosphorous);
- Two Solution Pathways
 - *Responsible land application*
 - *Alternative uses and markets*



***“Business as usual
will not be enough”***





Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Win-Win Pathways for **Agriculture** and the Peninsula's Waterways

August 2015



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Vision:

“A healthy and productive Bay is underpinned by a vibrant and sustainable agricultural economy.”



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

2025 Goals:

1. Delmarva agriculture is regionally neutral in importing and exporting nutrients, and wherever possible, nutrients are recycled locally to support sustainable agricultural operations;
2. Nutrients are utilized in farming operations without negative environmental impacts;
3. Growers are rewarded for producing high value food, feed, fiber, clean energy, and ecosystem services.



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Partners:

- Campbell Foundation for the Environment
- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chester River Association
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Farm Bureau
- Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
- Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association
- Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.
- Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Maryland Farm Bureau Federation
- Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
- Maryland League of Conservation Voters
- Mid Atlantic Farm Credit
- Mountaire
- Perdue Farms
- State of Maryland (Chesapeake Bay Cabinet)
- Sustainable Chesapeake
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tyson Foods, Inc.
- Virginia Secretariat of Agriculture & Forestry
- WestRhode River Keeper
- Willard Agri-Services



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Focus:

- Responsible land application of animal manure and litter;
- Alternative uses and markets for manure/poultry litter.



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Initial Deliverables:

1. Innovation Support Program
2. Nutrient Mass Balance Analysis
3. Transport Program Improvements



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Why Focus on Transport?

Preliminary Data for MD's Eastern Shore

312,393 - Tons Litter Collected

156,196 - Acres needed for Application (2 ton/acre)

469,767- Available Acres



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Why Focus on Transport?

PMT will likely result in excess litter but MD Transport Program not widely used by farmers.

57,700 - Tons of Poultry Litter Transported

6,000 - Tons of Poultry Litter to Farms



Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

Ideal Program Elements

- Online Application
- Pre-Certification
- Rapid Approval
- FIV and Soil Test Data
- Compliance Checks thru Annual Audits



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Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

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