

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

CONTACT US

Dr. Jon Moyle
University of Maryland Extension
Poultry Specialist
jmoyle@umd.edu

Jenny Rhodes
Principal Agriculture Agent
Queen Anne's County
jrhodes@umd.edu

Maegan Perdue
Agriculture Agent Associate
Lower Eastern Shore
mperdue@umd.edu

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AFFILIATION, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, RELIGION, PROTECTED VETERAN
STATUS, GENETIC INFORMATION, PERSONAL APPEARANCE, OR ANY OTHER
LEGALLY PROTECTED CLASS.

Our goal is to help Delmarva's poultry industry and growers with general practical knowledge about poultry production practices in order to continue to develop, maintain, and operate economically viable and environmentally responsible poultry operations in the state.

Commercial Poultry Production

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POULTRY FACTS

Poultry is the largest agricultural industry in Maryland. Poultry accounts for 47.8% of farm sales.

Meat-type chickens currently grow to market weight in six to seven weeks. This is due to genetic selection and nutritional modifications. The poultry industry does not use growth hormones, which are illegal for use in poultry in the US.

As part of their environmental stewardship, Maryland commercial poultry farms maintain a nutrient management plan and are registered as Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) with the Maryland Department of the Environment. Maryland poultry farms also maintain several best management practices including vegetative buffers, Heavy Use Area pads and storm water management.

PROTECTING OUR FLOCKS

- Limit visitors on your farm
 - Post Biosecurity signs
 - Essential visitors must wear protective clothing that is disposed of on the farm
 - Monitor any visitors on the farm
- Use separate clothing for the farm
 - Separate boots for each barn
 - Do not wear the same clothing on the farm that you've worn to town
- Do not visit other poultry farms
- Keep wild birds and pests out of poultry barns
 - Keep end doors shut between flocks
 - Have a good rodent and insect control program
 - Maintain vegetation and keep debris cleaned up around barns
- Properly dispose of dead birds
- Clean and disinfect all equipment before it enters the farm and as it leaves
- Contact your flock supervisor if experiencing higher than usual flock mortality
 - Do not visit other farms or places other growers frequent if experiencing high mortality