



DELMARVA LAND AND LITTER COLLABORATIVE

A partnership approach to sustainable chicken agriculture on Delmarva

DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net

The Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC) brings a diverse group of stakeholders together to work on finding environmentally sound approaches to chicken farming on the Delmarva Peninsula. DLLC members believe that a constructive, consensus-building approach is the best way to develop broadly supported solutions that address chicken-related issues. DLLC supports solutions for land management that will improve the productivity of agricultural lands, protect water quality in our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, and strengthen the economy to preserve and protect the region's rural and cultural heritage.

DLLC works to understand current challenges around chicken litter management and collaboratively identify new approaches, including beneficial uses, transportation alternatives, and treatment options. If applied incorrectly, excess chicken litter can lead to nutrient runoff to our local waterways; however, used wisely, it is a valuable commodity for crop fertilization and an important component in restoring soil health.

Our members recognize that new and emerging technologies may offer promise on the Delmarva. This is why our membership looks for innovative solutions that can reduce nutrient runoff related to chicken production. Perhaps just as importantly, we also look toward each other and commit to working collaboratively to identify the most sustainable path forward.

"DLLC is a much needed forum that brings together diverse interests around the poultry industry. This allows us to really talk with each other, explore the issues in depth, and form consensus-based recommendations for a sustainable future."

**- Andrew McLean,
Poultry Grower and
former DLLC Chair**

DLLC MISSION AND VISION

Members are committed to a collaborative process that addresses our shared vision and mission.

Vision: Farming and poultry production on Delmarva are economically viable, environmentally sound and serve as a national model.

Mission: DLLC is a forum for diverse partners to identify solutions that support both healthy and productive ecosystems and farming and poultry on Delmarva.

"Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative provides us a unique opportunity to work with agriculture to address mutually beneficial water quality issues. It provides an intersection of meaningful and credible conversation to develop solutions to our pollution issues."

**- Jeffrey Horstman, ShoreRivers
and past DLLC Chair**

GOALS

- Convene a forum of a diverse group of respected members and create a collaborative approach to achieve DLLC's mission.
- Engage with stakeholders to learn about both the needs and possible solutions that will support both healthy and productive ecosystems and farming and poultry on Delmarva.
- Craft and vet credible solutions that address regional issues related to the mission.
- Share information, solutions and recommendations with stakeholders and decision makers.
- Diversify and leverage resources to support the mission.

SUCCESS TO DATE

DLLC has published an overview of the last 30 years in Delmarva chicken farming. The *“Exploring Chicken Farming on Delmarva” Storyboard* provides data and maps illustrating changes over time and corresponding environmental protection practices. Online at: bit.ly/DelmarvaChicken

We have published *recommended methods for the creation of a mass balance of nutrients on Delmarva*. Mass balance calculations are necessary to identify soil nutrient levels and guide nutrient management plans, as well as larger scale solutions for beneficial uses, transportation guidelines, and more. Online at: bit.ly/LitterMassBalance

Maintained a *landscape-scale, shared leadership platform* where diverse stakeholders address nutrient pollution from animal agriculture operations and work across political and geographic boundaries to design and deploy robust and consensus-based solutions.

“The leaders around the table at DLLC have made a bold and courageous commitment toward realizing a mutual vision of prosperous agriculture and a healthy Chesapeake Bay.”

- Robert Frazee, MidAtlantic Farm Credit (retired) and DLLC member

A DIVERSE PARTNERSHIP

DLLC is an all-volunteer group supported through generous donations from members and partners. Current members include:

Chesapeake Bay Commission	Perdue Farms
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Relief Farm
Delaware Center for Inland Bays	ShoreRivers
Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.	Sussex Conservation District
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	Sustainable Chesapeake
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology	The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment
Hutchison Brothers Farm	The Nature Conservancy
Maryland Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts	Tyson Foods, Inc.
Maryland Department of Agriculture	US Environmental Protection Agency
Maryland Farm Bureau Federation	University of Delaware Extension
Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board	University of Maryland Extension
Maryland League of Conservation Voters	Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
MidAtlantic Farm Credit	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Mountaire Farms	Virginia Tech Ag. Research & Extension
Nanticoke Watershed Alliance	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	



DLLC appreciates the generous support of The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment and other supporting organizations. Please visit DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net for more information about our partnership and activities.