

Soil Conservation Districts

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Washington	(301) 797-6821, ext. 3
Wicomico	(410) 546-4777, ext. 3
Worcester	(410) 632-5439, ext. 3

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**Maryland Department of Agriculture
Manure Transport Program**
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**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**
Office of Resource Conservation

Maryland's Manure Transport Program

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Introduction



Maryland's Manure Transport Program helps poultry, dairy, beef and other animal producers cover the

costs of transporting excess manure off their farms. Under the program, animal producers with high soil phosphorus levels or farmers who have inadequate cropland to fully utilize their manure may apply for grants to transport excess waste to other farms or alternative use facilities that can use the product safely.

Established in 1999 as a pilot program for poultry producers, the program has expanded over the years to serve all types of animal producers with excess manure. Most recently, program changes make it easier for animal operations to transport manure within their own operations while providing increased flexibility for brokers and alternative use facilities.

Cost-Share Highlights

Maryland's Manure Transport Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. The following guidelines apply:

- Cost-share grants of up to \$20 per ton are available to help cover transportation, loading and handling costs associated with moving manure from poultry, dairy, beef or other animal operations.
- Delmarva poultry companies will provide 50 percent of the cost to transport poultry litter.
- Grants associated with the transport and handling of manure may not exceed 87.5 percent of eligible costs.
- To support Maryland's goal of transporting 20 percent of the poultry litter produced on the Lower Eastern Shore to other areas of the state, cost-share mileage rates to transport poultry litter from Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico or Worcester counties to other areas of the state may be provided at higher rates.
- Funds provided are not calculated against the per-farm allowable limit for MACS assistance.



Who Can Apply

■ The program is open to any Maryland animal producer who 1.) has insufficient land to use all the manure produced on the farm for crop production as determined by a nutrient management plan, or 2.) has land that has been identified as being phosphorus over-enriched.

■ Receiving farmers are eligible to participate in the program if they can use the manure safely as a nutrient source. Manure must be applied according to a nutrient management plan prepared by a certified nutrient management consultant.

■ Recipients who have an approved alternative use for manure are also eligible for this program and should apply to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) directly for cost-share assistance.

■ Manure brokers who meet certain requirements may be eligible to participate in the program. MDA can provide farmers with a directory of approved brokers.



Requirements for Manure Producers

■ Poultry operations seeking to transport litter within their own operations are required to transport the waste a minimum of seven miles from their poultry house or storage facility.

■ Other animal producers may be eligible for grants to transport manure within their own operation, as long as the manure is moved more than one mile from their production or storage facility.

■ Manure must be analyzed to determine nitrogen and phosphorus levels before transporting.

■ Applications from a sending farmer or broker must be made under a "pooling agreement" to assure that the receiving farmer uses a certified nutrient management plan and is in compliance with other program requirements.

■ A "chain of custody form" must accompany the manure during transport.

■ Biosecurity measures outlined by MDA must be followed for all transported manure.

■ Vehicles used to transport manure—including any application equipment—must contain the manure within the cargo area without loss while operating on a public road.

■ A separate application form is required for each poultry producer under contract with different poultry companies.

Requirements for Receiving Farms and Operations

■ Receiving farms may apply manure according to a nitrogen-based nutrient management plan for soil that tests less than 101 for phosphorus according to the Fertility Index Value (FIV). The FIV is used to determine the availability of nutrients to plants or crops.

■ A phosphorus-based nutrient management plan is required for soil registering 101-150 on the FIV.

■ Fields measuring over 150 on the FIV are not eligible to participate in the program.

■ The receiving farm must provide a safe off-loading site that does not pose an undue risk to water quality, as determined by MDA.

■ If the receiving farm does not apply the manure upon receipt, the manure must be stored safely or stockpiled to prevent nutrient movement.

■ The receiving farm is required to re-test the manure for nutrient content if it is not land applied within six months.

■ Spot checks for compliance may be performed by MDA.

■ Brokers or alternative use facilities stockpiling manure are required to post a bond or other form of security with MDA.

■ The bonding requirement may be waived for operations stockpiling less than 500 tons of manure, however, these operations must have an MDA prior-approved contingency plan in case the manure cannot be used for its intended purpose.

How to Apply

Farmers interested in participating in Maryland's Manure Transport Program should contact their local soil conservation district or call the Maryland Department of Agriculture's toll free hotline at 1-877-7MANURE. An approved agreement must be signed before the manure is transported.

