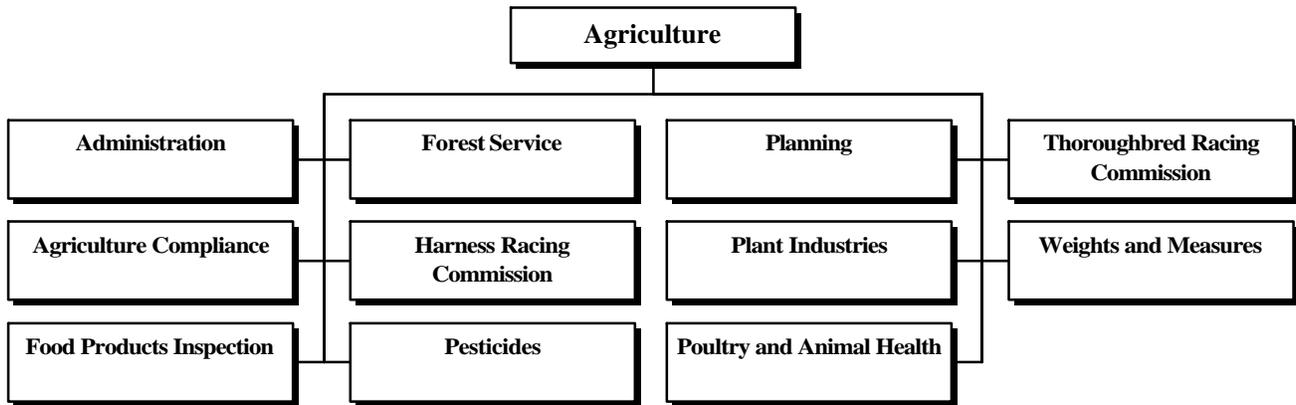


AGRICULTURE

65-00-00



MISSION

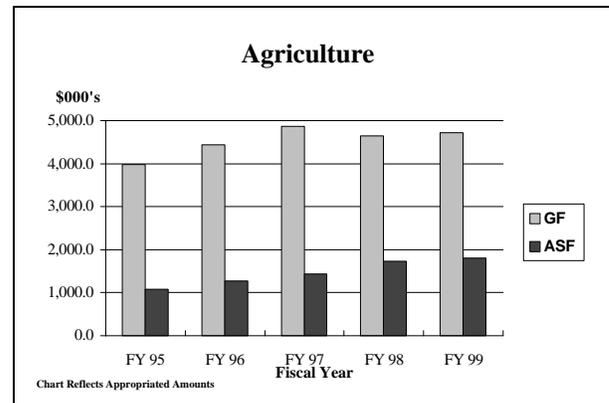
The mission of the Department of Agriculture is to advance the economic viability of the food, fiber and agricultural industries of Delaware; to promote the sound utilization of resources; and to provide services that protect the health and welfare of the general public.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The most efficient use of limited resources to carry out mandated responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- Ensure that meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled. Also, continue to educate the public on how to properly handle, prepare and store meat and poultry products to minimize the growth of food-borne pathogens.
- Provide equity in the marketplace for all transactions involving weight, measure or count.
- Maintain regulatory and educational programs for the safe and effective use of pesticides.
- Protect the health and viability of the livestock and poultry in Delaware and prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases, including those transmissible to humans.
- Maintain the health and viability of the food and fiber crops. Control both domestic and foreign plant and insect threats to food and fiber industries or to the environment.

- Conserve, manage and enhance Delaware's rural and urban forest resources through education, demonstration, analysis and technical assistance.
- Participate in statewide land use planning and growth management efforts in order to enhance agricultural production and preserve open space.
- Preserve permanently 37,500 acres of Delaware farmland by the year 2000.
- Promote the export and statewide consumption of food and fiber crops grown or processed in Delaware.
- Administer a regulatory program for livestock feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, liming materials, soil conditioners and frozen desserts.
- Continue to be the primary resource for agriculture and environmental education for Delaware educators.



AGRICULTURE 65-00-00

BUDGET

	FY 1997 ACTUAL	FY 1998 BUDGET	FY 1999 GOV. REC.
GF	4,546.9	4,839.0	4,722.6
ASF	1,234.7	1,648.8	1,805.8
TOTAL	5,781.6	6,487.8	6,528.4

POSITIONS

	FY 1997 ACTUAL	FY 1998 BUDGET	FY 1999 GOV. REC.
GF	84.5	80.3	80.3
ASF	18.5	23.0	23.0
NSF	17.0	16.7	16.7
TOTAL	120.0	120.0	120.0

FY 1999 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend \$15.0 for computer software licensing.
- ◆ Recommend \$8.5 for avian influenza training and E. coli and Salmonella pathogen testing.
- ◆ Recommend \$8.0 for industrial contamination training and hazardous waste disposal.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend \$129.0 in Minor Capital Improvement funds for Forest Service Fire Equipment.
- ◆ Recommend \$59.5 in Minor Capital Improvement funds for Agricultural Compliance Lab Equipment.
- ◆ Recommend \$28,000.0 from the Infrastructure Investment Plan for the preservation of agricultural land.

AGRICULTURE 65-01-00

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Administration. The Office of the Secretary serves as the contact point between the largest industry in the State—agriculture—and state government. The Secretary of Agriculture represents the agricultural community and the related sectors of the economy in all facets of state government. Under the direction of the Office of the Secretary, the department has conducted an aggressive program to inform the public of both the contributions made by the agricultural community, and the services and protection provided by the department to the consumers of the State. Combined with this educational effort, the department has also sought to develop better lines of communication with those it regulates, in order to obtain full compliance with the laws, rules and regulations enforced by the department, without the need to resort to administrative or criminal hearing procedures.

Agriculture Compliance. The programs of the Agriculture Compliance Section are totally state-funded. The Agriculture Compliance Section monitors commercially available products offered for sale in the Delaware marketplace. Products are examined for accurate labeling and nutrient content to ensure that consumers get what they pay for. Not only is the Delaware consumer protected, but the program also promotes fair competition among the industry.

Food Products Inspection. Food Products Inspection is pursuing a broad, long-term, science-based strategy to improve the safety of meat and poultry products and better protect public health.

The strategy will address food safety issues from the farm to the table, including proposed requirements for all federally and state-inspected meat and poultry plants, to reduce pathogenic microorganisms that can cause foodborne illnesses such as salmonella and E. coli 0157:H7.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains cooperative grading agreements with state Departments of Agriculture and other state agencies.

Under these federal-state agreements, federal-state licensed graders perform their work throughout the State at point of origin, grading various commodities. The

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS) establishes basic grading policies and procedures.

Forest Service. The DDA Forest Service provides a wide range of services to the citizens of Delaware. These services are divided among eight major categories: urban and community forestry, watershed protection, rural forest landowner assistance (also referred to as traditional forestry assistance), state forest management, wildland fire, natural resource education, forest health and biomass utilization.

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program, which is entirely federally funded, is the most rapidly growing program. DDA Forest Service personnel provide tree planting and tree care recommendations to cities, towns, communities and homeowners throughout Delaware. This program also provides competitive grants, funded through the U. S. Forest Service, for tree planting and tree care on public property. The program has recently expanded to include land use assistance as well. During the past year, the Urban and Community Forester provided educational workshops and one-on-one assistance to developers and land use planners to promote the wise use and conservation of urban forest resources as a means to reduce storm water runoff, moderate temperate extremes and improve air quality. In 1996, a new urban grant category was established to help governments purchase Geographical Information System (GIS) technology which their personnel can use to review proposed subdivisions in order to maximize the use of forest resources. Future goals include increasing community forestry programs, by working with community representatives and volunteers, to develop street tree inventories and management plans for their urban forest resources.

The Forest Service manages three State Forests totaling 9,800 acres: Blackbird Forest near Smyrna, Taber Forest near Harrington and Redden Forest near Georgetown. These forests are managed to demonstrate a variety of multiple resources including timber production, wildlife habitat enhancement and recreational opportunities.

The DDA Forest Service's Wildland Fire Program consists of suppression and prevention activities. The DDA Forest Service works with the Delaware Fire School, the State Fire Marshal, volunteer fire companies and the U. S. Forest Service to provide wildland fire prevention and educational activities.

Accomplishments of the DDA Forest Service during Fiscal Year 1997 include:

- **Urban Forestry.** Awarded 14 urban forestry grants totaling \$40,233. Reviewed 35 proposed developments as a member of the New Castle County Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC). Distributed three *Evergreen* newsletters through funding from Delmarva Power.
- **Watershed Protection.** Issued 139 permits for forest management activities totaling 6,392 acres. Conducted 170 site inspections; potential/minor water quality problems were found at 17 sites, while only one site contained a serious problem. All problems were resolved without legal action.
- **Landowner Assistance.** Provided forest management plans to 101 landowners for 4,265 acres. Also supervised the planting of 684,100 tree seedlings on 37 privately-owned tracts totaling 1,078 acres, and timber stand improvement activities on 472 acres.
- **State Forest Management.** Approximately 20,500 visitors spent 20,600 user days (eight-hour day) at state forests in Fiscal Year 1997. Work has begun on new offices for both Blackbird and Redden State Forests.
- **Wildland Fire Program.** Responded to ten wildland fires totaling 205 acres. Provided 36 volunteer fire fighters with advanced training, including western fire fighting training, at the annual Fire Camp on May 16-18. Provided six additional wildland fire courses to 287 individuals, in cooperation with the Delaware Fire School.
- **Natural Resource Education.** Provided 174 forestry educational programs to 12,000 students and adults including 76 fire prevention programs. Received over 300 entries to Arbor Day poster contest for grades K-5, and the winners were honored at a ceremony with Governor Carper.
- **Forest Health.** Provided 67 forest insect and disease diagnoses for landowners and homeowners. Conducted aerial and ground surveys for the southern pine beetle and gypsy moth, and continued the project to analyze the impacts of the 1994 ice storm on forest health. Published two editions of *Forest Health Highlights* newsletter.
- **Biomass utilization/economic initiatives.** Continue to maintain an experimental biomass plantation at Taber State Forest in cooperation with

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

Delmarva Power. Also conducted a workshop to promote the use of wood chips as an energy source.

Harness Racing Commission. The Delaware Harness Racing Commission regulates and oversees the sport of harness racing within the state. Its primary objective is to do this with regard to the protection of the betting public. In addition, the Commission oversees the conduct of the entire racing industry and may, from time to time, hold hearings to thoroughly investigate any perceived wrongdoings.

Pesticides. The Pesticides Section, under the authority of the *Delaware Pesticide Law* and the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act*, provides the framework for regulating the sale and use of pesticides in the State. There are many stakeholders involved in this process, ranging from large chemical corporations applying for the registration of their products to the small homeowner or tenant with a complaint about the application of pesticides by a lawn care firm.

The strong educational component of the Pesticide Section's activities is evidenced in the pesticide applicator certification and training program. Over 2,577 individuals have successfully completed the examination requirements to become certified as a private or a commercial applicator of restricted use pesticides in Delaware. In addition, the Pesticides Section monitors or directly participates in over 225 continuing education sessions annually, for applicators to maintain their credentials.

Coupled with the educational program is an on-going compliance assistance and enforcement program of inspections and sampling at the various levels of pesticide distribution and use. Complaint investigation and resolution are given a high priority, and the Pesticide Section has been very successful in prosecuting both civil and criminal violations of the statute.

The Pesticides Section is pursuing a pollution prevention goal of monitoring for the possible contamination of the state's ground water from pesticide use. The section is working closely with the Division of Public Health (Safe Drinking Water), the Ground Water Section of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the Delaware Geological Survey and the U. S. Geological Survey on water quality issues. The statewide monitoring network for pesticides consists of approximately 120 private wells. The section is planning to expand the network through a U. S. EPA grant to include 30 additional wells.

Planning. Planning is a technical enterprise within the department which includes land use planning, computer operations and agricultural lands preservation.

Farmland loss in Delaware remains a serious public concern. A May 1997 survey by the University of Delaware reported it as one of the four most serious concerns of Delawareans. Combining farmland preservation and planning coordination has helped to stem the loss of the best farmland in Delaware. The work of this section is closely tied to the Secretary's membership on the Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues.

- Since March 1996, the Aglands Preservation Foundation has received over 400 applications to preserve farmland.
- There are now 101,697 acres in 332 Agricultural Preservation Districts and District expansions in Delaware. These lands are owned by 460 different families and organizations (title holders).
- With the initial appropriations to date of \$19 million, 65 properties with almost 16,000 acres have been permanently protected through the purchase of development rights (PDRs). The Foundation recently selected another 69 properties to be appraised and some will be permanently protected in the near future.

Plant Industries. Plant Industries is the plant and plant pest regulatory enforcement authority in the State. The programs conducted deal directly with various groups, private industry and people in the State. Farmers, beekeepers, nursery growers and dealers, fruit growers, University of Delaware and DuPont Co. researchers, grain mill operators, stores that sell seed, exporters of Delaware agricultural products, people with gypsy moth problems, people moving house plants out-of-state and people wanting pest identification services are some of the many types of people and businesses served by Plant Industries in Delaware.

The Nurseries and Nursery Stock Law was rewritten in 1996 to increase its clarity and allow those to whom it is applicable a better understanding of what is expected under the law. The Nurseries and Nursery Stock Law is designed to keep unwanted plant pests out of Delaware, and helps to ensure that nursery stock being sold in the State is pest-free. The nursery industry is one of the fastest growing areas of agriculture in the country and in Delaware. The number of nursery dealers in Delaware has increased from 99 dealers in 1990 to 321 in 1997; and the number of growers has increased from 81 to 143

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

during the same time period. All nursery businesses are required to be licensed and inspected annually. Additional certification inspections are required for nursery stock shipped interstate.

The Plant Pest Law was rewritten in 1996 to clarify and promote understanding of Plant Industries regulatory authority. The Plant Pest Law gives this section the responsibility to detect and suppress insects, diseases and other pests that threaten plants, crops and the environment. Plant Industries has the authority to quarantine certain products and/or pests as necessary to carry out the task of preventing the spread of economically or environmentally important pests. In addition to enforcing federal and state plant/pest quarantines, this section reviews several USDA permits submitted by private industry, universities and the public to move plants and pests into the State from other countries or other states. Other permitting responsibilities include biotechnology permits dealing with transgenic plants; post-entry quarantine permits; soil permits; state phytosanitary permits and house plant permits and inspections for people moving to another state. A total of 178 federal and state permits were issued in 1997.

Another program conducted with the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit is the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). Exotic pests and pests of export significance are surveyed for and data is entered into the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS). To ship Delaware agricultural plants or plant products, pest information must be available to the country of destination. Plant Industries took over this program as lead agency in the State from the University of Delaware in Fiscal Year 1995. In 1997, six pest survey projects were conducted and three biological control initiatives. As a result of CAPS activities, 337 data sets were entered to NAPIS. Plant Industries personnel also conduct export certification inspections and issues phytosanitary permits in order to facilitate Delaware businesses that export agricultural plant products.

Delaware's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is a cooperative program between the USDA Forest Service and Plant Industries to help landowners deal with the impacts of the gypsy moth. The program is voluntary, whereby, landowners request assistance from the Delaware Department of Agriculture. For the 1997 program, 56,119 acres of rural woodlots, residential developments and state-owned forests and wildlife areas were surveyed for the gypsy moth. A total of 313 block coordinators signed up to be surveyed last year. A total

of 982 acres were treated in 1997, which is down from almost 37,000 acres treated in 1996. In 1997, no moderate to heavy defoliation by the gypsy moth was detected for the first time since 1980. A total of 534 acres of moderate defoliation occurred in the State in 1996. In 1995, Delaware experienced the most defoliation ever by the gypsy moth, with 65,462 acres moderately to heavily defoliated. Though federal cost-share funds are most likely available for 1998, funds for 1999 might be reduced or eliminated by Congress. Federal funds are used to help pay for treatment costs. If these funds are eliminated or reduced, the current program cannot be conducted without being replaced by the State or cost-shared by the landowners.

The Noxious Weeds Law and regulations requires that four species of noxious weeds be controlled in Delaware. It is estimated that over 200,000 acres of land are infested to some degree with one or more of the following weeds: johnsongrass, canada thistle, burcucumber or giant ragweed. Between 300 and 500 Noxious Weed Compliance Agreements are signed each year by landowners and people responsible for tilling fields. The agreements specify control measures to be taken during the growing season regarding control of the four noxious weeds. In 1997, 1,278 people were contacted about noxious weed control and 351 compliance agreements were signed. In the past year, there has been more acres put under a compliance agreement. However, there are fewer compliance agreements due to large farms getting bigger, and small farms going out of business or being merged with larger farming operations.

The Beekeeping Law requires anyone who plans to keep bees must annually register their colonies along with their location with the Department of Agriculture. There are a total of 3,400 registered bee colonies in Delaware and 1,230 colonies were inspected in Fiscal Year 1997. Bees and equipment are inspected annually for disease, mites and Africanized bees. Before shipping or transporting into Delaware any colonies of bees or used beekeeping equipment, an entry permit must be requested by submitting an inspection certificate from the state of origin. Plans have been developed to deal with stinging insects and for the arrival of the Africanized bee. Africanized bee traps are placed each year along the Delaware coast and at the Ports of Wilmington and Delaware City to provide a monitoring mechanism for possible Africanized bee swarms coming ashore from ships that have been to South and Central America. A Technical Advisory Group has been formed to address public education issues and training for state

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

and local authorities, including fire company personnel. The State Apiarist conducts numerous educational programs in schools and at other public events. Honey bees are responsible for the pollination of over \$10 million worth of fruits and vegetables.

Poultry and Animal Health. It is the responsibility of the Poultry and Animal Health Section to be completely familiar with the disease status of all classes of animals - livestock, pet and exotic, as well as commercial poultry and pet birds. This applies, not only to the local situation, but also regionally and nationally as well. If there is a serious disease in another state or section of the country, the state veterinarian may place severe importation restrictions or a total embargo on the affected species in an attempt to prevent the introduction of the disease into this State.

This section is charged with preventing the introduction and spread of contagious and infectious diseases into and within the animal and poultry population of the State. It accomplishes this by maintaining a diagnostic laboratory of its own, as well as cooperating with the poultry diagnostic laboratory of the University of Delaware. Section personnel respond to reports of actual or potential disease problems from veterinarians as well as from livestock, poultry and pet owners. Personnel visit farms, dairies, livestock auctions, etc. to collect various biological specimens for analysis and diagnosis of disease. In most instances, the veterinarian or owner is informed of the diagnosis, control and/or treatment for the disease. When certain serious, highly contagious diseases are diagnosed, however, the state veterinarian, through the authority given to the Secretary of Agriculture, may quarantine or even destroy the animal, herd or flock to prevent the spread of that disease to other premises.

Thoroughbred Racing Commission. The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission regulates and oversees the sport of thoroughbred and Arabian racing for the protection of the betting public. The Commission is also responsible for assuring that the State and the betting public receive their fair percentages of the wagering dollar by overseeing periodic accounting audits. In addition, the Commission oversees the conduct of the entire racing industry and may, from time to time, hold hearings to thoroughly investigate any perceived wrongdoings.

Weights and Measures. The Weights and Measures laboratory was officially established on January 26, 1968 with the installation of the state standards adopted by the National Bureau of Standards. However, the

Weights and Measures Section today does much more than test package contents and fuel pumps.

Training programs are also an important aspect of the Weights and Measures Program. Since the adoption of the USDA Rule on March 2, 1992, that required scales in federally inspected meat and poultry establishments to meet National Institute of Standards and Technology guidelines, the Department of Agriculture has conducted both in-house and off-site training for scale technicians.

Since the establishment of the Commercial Weighing and Measuring Licensing Program, over 200 scale and liquid measurement people have been trained and licensed.

ADMINISTRATION

65-01-01

ACTIVITIES

- Participate in and monitor strategies designed to protect agricultural lands in Delaware through the creation of Agricultural Districts and the purchase of development rights.
- Represent agriculture on councils and committees addressing natural resource projects, such as the Governor's Cabinet Planning Committee, the Open Space Council and the Center for the Inland Bays.
- Oversee department budget development, presentation and administration, as well as personnel management.
- Provide direction and leadership to the department and seek the input of the agricultural community in policy development. Act as a focal point for the discussion of topics from various groups and organizations representing segments of the agricultural community.
- Develop, present and provide information for various legislative initiatives that affect agriculture in Delaware.
- Serve Delaware farmers and agribusiness with leadership and education in the areas of marketing and promotion, in order to increase the sales and value of their products.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# days required to fill a vacancy	60	45	45
# teacher workshops held	28	30	22
# teachers using Ag in Classroom or Project Learning Tree	383	411	260

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

AGRICULTURE COMPLIANCE

65-01-02

ACTIVITIES

The Agriculture Compliance Section protects the consumer by administering a regulatory program consisting of:

- Registration and label review,
- Inspection; and
- Laboratory analysis.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# products registered	7332	5800	7500
# product inspections	684	650	750
# samples analyzed	113	500	850
# product/sample violations	68	150	100

FOOD PRODUCTS INSPECTION

65-01-03

ACTIVITIES

- Implement new regulations that will require meat and poultry establishments to implement Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems as a means of controlling their processing operations in order to prevent microbial contamination such as salmonella and E. coli 0157:H7.
- Inspect the slaughter of certain domestic livestock and the domestic processing of meat and poultry for diseases, adulteration and contamination to protect public health (16 plants inspected).
- Review enforcement activities and insure that domestic meat and poultry operations meet established legal and regulatory standards.
- Conduct laboratory analyses to prevent meat and poultry that contain illegal amounts of drugs, chemical residues or other contaminants from entering the food channel.
- Conduct systematic statewide monitoring of businesses engaged in food marketing and distribution of both domestic and imported products.
- Implement and enforce federal regulations and policy changes for meat and poultry inspection to achieve maximum efficiency and compliance.

- Provide assistance to state agencies in contract specifications and new food technology processing.
- Supply resident graders upon request for one shell egg plant and five poultry processing plants.
- Provide, upon request, fruit and vegetable graders to Delaware brokers, growers and processors.
- Make mandated surveillance visits to five hatcheries to assure proper handling of "restricted eggs."
- Provide retail store inspection of shell eggs for external and internal quality.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
Meat and poultry products inspected/condemned**: (millions lbs.) inspected	7.0	7.2	7.4
(thousands lbs.) condemned	21.0	21.2	21.4
Compliance enforcement, trucking companies, retail stores, state agencies**:			
# reviews (thousands lbs.)	746	780	800
product condemned	92.0	92.5	93.0
Laboratory samples**:			
# compliance	574	600	630
# non-compliance	3	6	9
Processed poultry and shell eggs graded* (billion lbs.)	1.0	1.1	1.2
Fruit and vegetables inspected/graded (million lbs.)	174.0	179.0	184.0
Retail shell egg inspection and violations**			
# reviews	615	630	645
# violations	82	85	88

* Voluntary
** Mandatory

FOREST SERVICE

65-01-04

ACTIVITIES

- **State Forest Management.** Provide forest management demonstrations, recreational opportunities and environmental education opportunities at Blackbird, Redden and Taber State Forests.
- **Urban and Community Forestry Program.** Provide technical assistance to counties, cities, towns, and communities statewide for long-range planning issues affecting urban natural resources.
- **Forestry Best Management Practices.** Minimize the impact of erosion and sedimentation on water quality from all forest management activities.
- **Landowner Assistance.** Provide technical assistance to forest landowners.

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

- **Wildland Fire Program.** Provide wildland fire prevention education and wildland fire suppression assistance for the protection of Delaware's residents, property, and natural resources.
- **Natural Resource Education.** Provide forestry educational programs to Delaware schools, civic clubs, communities, and organizations.
- **Forest Health Program.** Monitor and evaluate forest health, and recommend forest insect and disease control measures for forested lands throughout Delaware.
- **Biomass Utilization and Forest Industry Promotion.** Promote alternative uses for wood, including waste wood, and promote new forest industries to increase the economic contribution of the forest industry

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# communities assisted	36	38	40
% proposed major subdivisions reviewed by Forest Service staff for urban forestry advice	N/A	N/A	60
% forest management sites reviewed by Forest Service personnel complying with Erosion & Sediment Law	99	97	98
Technical assistance to private forest landowners (acres of tree planting, timber stand improvement and management plans)	5,945	6,000	6,200
# educational programs for forest landowners, forestry operators and homeowners	17	18	20
# state forest acres	9,400	9,800	9,900
# state forest user days	20,650	15,000	16,000
% wildland fires responded to upon request within 1 hr	100	100	100
% Delaware fire companies with at least three members fully trained in wildland fire suppression	N/A	N/A	35
# participants in forestry education programs	12,000	18,000	13,000
# forest health (insect and disease) visits	67	70	70

HARNES RACING COMMISSION

65-01-05

ACTIVITIES

- In accordance with the Delaware Harness Racing Commission and United States Trotting Association guidelines, 2,426 licenses were issued during Fiscal

Year 1997 in order to maintain a complete database on all participants at Delaware harness racing meets.

- To better serve the racing industry, a public hearing was held to discuss all changes proposed in the Model Rules of Racing and the Delaware Rules of Racing. The new Rules of Racing were published and distributed. This update of a complete rulebook had not been done in more than ten years. There were five rule changes made to the Rules of Racing bringing them more in line with those of surrounding racing jurisdictions.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# impartial appeal hearings held	33	15	15
# hearings held within the next month	23	10	10

PESTICIDES

65-01-06

ACTIVITIES

- Register pesticide products distributed within the State.
- License commercial pesticide application businesses.
- Provide and monitor educational programs for certifying pesticide applicators (both private and commercial categories).
- Investigate complaints of pesticide use/misuse, agricultural operations (odor, dust, noise, etc.) and conduct routine monitoring inspections of pesticide sales and use.
- Provide compliance assistance to the regulated community and, as needed, prosecute violations of state and federal pesticide statutes. A penalty assessment policy is used in administering enforcement actions.
- Provide inspection and logistical support of pesticide container recycling program.
- Provide laboratory support and sample analysis for pesticide residues or contaminants in soil, water, food, animal and other matrices.
- Evaluate and assess the state's ground water quality in respect to pesticide contaminants.
- Cooperate with EPA on pesticide cancellations/recalls of products; enforcement of the Worker Protection Standards; producer

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

establishment inspections; and other federal pesticide program initiatives.

- Petition EPA for special state pesticide labels and emergency exemptions to control pest outbreaks.
- Provide the public with a readily available source of information for registered pesticide uses, personal protective safety measures and environmentally sound application practices.
- Cooperate with the USDA in the implementation of the federal pesticide record keeping requirement.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# investigations initiated	70	80	80
# samples submitted and analyzed	112	125	150
Sample turn-around (days)	20	17	15
% licensees in compliance	85	90	95
# education events	224	250	260

PLANNING 65-01-07

ACTIVITIES

- Operate the Farmland Preservation Program of Agricultural Districts and the Purchase of Development Rights.
- Review all development projects in Delaware, assess the impacts to agriculture and advocate for mitigation of negative impacts.
- Provide computer network and communications services for the department.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
Reduce the rate of farmland loss by 5% of the current rate	--	5%	(5%)
Place 10,000 acres of Priority Class I land into Ag districts	--	65,000	10,000
Purchase development rights on 9,000 acres of Priority Class I farmland	--	15,994	7,000

PLANT INDUSTRIES

65-01-08

ACTIVITIES

- Provide on-going public education activities for all of Plant Industries programs.
- Administer gypsy moth survey and suppression program.
- License and inspect all nursery businesses and conduct certification inspections for nursery stock shipped interstate.
- Detect and control noxious weed infestations through implementation of compliance agreements. Provide specialized spray equipment to the public for the application of herbicides.
- Register and inspect all honeybee colonies for diseases, mites and Africanized bees. Assist the beekeeping industry with promotion and education programs.
- Assist and cooperate with USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine regarding: export certification of plants and plant products, processing permits for the interstate movement of plant pests, inspections of fields and facilities for agricultural biotechnology permits, post-entry quarantine inspections, processing permits for the interstate movement of soil, enforcement of federal and state quarantines and administer the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program.
- Survey and monitor other insect and plant disease pests that threaten Delaware's agricultural, horticultural, forestry and environmental resources.
- Provide grain inspection and grading services to grain mills throughout the state as requested.
- Operate the Seed Certification program.
- Test all types of seed offered for sale to determine compliance with the Seed Law.
- Examine and license operators of Moisture Testing Devices.

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
Acres infested with gypsy moth	1,516	1,292 est.	1,600
Acres surveyed for gypsy moth	56,119	44,087	45,000
Acres surveyed that qualify for spraying	982	1,000 est.	1,000
Acres treated for gypsy moth	982	1,000 est.	1,000
Treated acres defoliated	0	0	0
Statewide acres defoliated	0	<1,000	<1,000
Nursery Certification and Inspection Program	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
# nursery business licensed	464	500	540
# nursery businesses inspected	280 60%	375 75%	405 75%
# nursery businesses certified for interstate shipping	152	164	177
# certification inspections	187	202	218
Noxious Weed Control Program	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
Acres requiring inspection for noxious weeds	541,291	550,000	565,000
Acres noxious weeds covered by compliance agreements	126,764 23%	135,000 25%	140,000 25%
Apiary Inspection & Registration Program	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
Registered honeybee colonies	3,400	3,500	3,600
Honeybee colonies inspected	1,230 36%	1,400 40%	1,584 44%
Seed Laboratory Programs	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
Grain trucks inspected	35,313	37,000	37,000
Grain railcars inspected	349	400	400
Official seed samples tested	240	400	400
Service seed samples tested	369	400	400
Certified seed samples tested	333	400	400
Certified acres inspected	6,745	7,000	7,000
Certified seed tags issued	198,968	230,000	230,000
Moisture meter operators licensed	46	30	45
Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
Pest survey projects	6	7	8
Biological control projects	3	3	4
NAPIS data entry	337	370	410

Federal and State Permits	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Request
Biotechnology permits	52	105	210
PPQ Form 526 - movement of plant pests	50	75	100
PPQ Form 530 - limited nursery stock permit	0	5	10
PPQ Form 236 - post-entry quarantine permits	9	9	9
PPQ Form 597 - import permit plants & plant products	4	4	8
PPQ Form 546 - agreement for post-entry quarantine	4	4	6
State phytosanitary permits	45	60	100
House plant interstate movement permits	5	10	20
PPQ Form 540 - Domestic quarantine certification	9	15	20

POULTRY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

65-01-09

ACTIVITIES

- Promote the prevention of the spread of infectious and contagious diseases, including those transmissible from animal to man through testing.
- Protect the health status of our state's multimillion dollar poultry industry through sampling
- Ensure proper permitting to safeguard the public from the dangers of exotic pet animals.
- Testing to assure the safety of the milk supply from Delaware dairy herds. To help safeguard the public from Salmonella contamination, 1,712 bacteriology samples were completed.
- Assist Delmarva broiler companies in placing healthier and less contaminated baby chicks in the field, 30,816 hatchery sanitation samples were collected and completed.
- In an effort to provide competent diagnostic services for animal and poultry diseases, 44,034 procedures were completed in the diagnostic laboratory during Fiscal Year 1997.

AGRICULTURE

65-00-00

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# Avian influenza salmonella monitor samples (A)	2,489	2,500	2,500
# positive rabies cases (B)	71	--	--
# suspicious rabies cases completed (C)	244	300	350
% competency level on USDA diagnostic check tests (D)	95	>95	>95
# combined diagnostic lab proc. completed (E)	44,034	48,000	50,000

- A) *If any avian influenza, pullorum disease, or Salmonella enteritidis outbreaks occur, there will be a great influx of samples to collect and test. Fortunately, during the past year, there were no serious nearby threats of avian influenza to our poultry industry. Therefore, the same monitoring and surveillance schedule was followed in 1997.*
- B) *In Fiscal Year 1997, there were 71 positive cases of rabies. This is a nine percent reduction from 1995. This may be due in part to the distribution of rabies information pamphlets and the appearance of DDA personnel at civic and service group meetings on the subject of rabies. There has not been a case of human rabies in Delaware during this century.*
- C) *Because rabies is a disease of extreme public health significance, 100 percent of the suspicious cases will always be investigated and completed.*
- D) *A 95 percent competency level must be maintained by the DDA laboratory in order to retain accreditation status by USDA, Veterinary Service.*
- E) *This figure is greatly affected by whether or not there are significant poultry or livestock disease outbreaks. A disease outbreak will greatly increase the number of samples collected and completed.*

THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMISSION

65-01-10

ACTIVITIES

- The Delaware State Thoroughbred Rules and Regulations were published. All of the changes and updates made within the past five years were incorporated into the new document.
- There were no appeals brought before the Commission for adjudication.
- In accordance with recently passed legislation, 3,145 licenses were issued during 1997 in order to maintain a complete data base on all participants at the Delaware Thoroughbred racing meet.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
# impartial appeal hearings held	0	6	8
# hearings held within next mth	1	4	6

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

65-01-11

ACTIVITIES

- Testing of commercially-used small and medium capacity scale testing Commercial Petroleum device testing
- Testing of commercially-used vehicle scales (feed, fertilizer, grain, livestock, poultry, landfill, logging and salvage)
- Testing of commercial fuel oil and propane home delivery meters.
- Investigation of complaints of consumer fraud
- Laboratory certification of ISO 9000 test weights
- Laboratory certification of volume, length and thermometers
- Laboratory certification of law enforcement scales
- Commercial weighing and measuring license training programs

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Budget	FY 1999 Gov. Rec.
Total # scales	3,759	3,796	4,000
Scales tested	3,401	2,620	3,000
% total	90.4	69	75
Total # petroleum devices	7,400	7,548	8,000
Petroleum devices tested	3,646	4,000	4,000
% total	49.3	53	50
Total # F O/propane meters	557	370	400
F O/Propane meters tested	557	370	400
% total	100	100	100
Total # packages	52,023	50,000	50,000
Packages tested	52,023	50,000	50,000
% total	100	100	100
Grain moisture meters tested	104	104	104
% total	100	100	100
Cash register scanner tests	1,614	2,000	4,000
Metrology laboratory tests	0	0	3,000