



Customer Focus

In 1998, Mr. Larry Swift's family farm in Monkton in northeastern Baltimore County was enrolled into FPP. Mr. Swift put 153 acres – his family's grain farm—into FPP's permanent conservation easement. Funding provided by FPP and the County's matching farmland preservation program kept this land in agriculture.

"...Without FPP and the county's ag preservation program, I would have had no choice. I would have had to leave farming and sell my land to developers. Now, I know that my land will remain as farmland even as the rest of the area develops around us. FPP helped me save the family farm," says Mr. Swift.

In addition to the obvious benefits provided by FPP in sustaining, small family farms, this ag land is near the Gunpowder River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Conservation on the farm helps to decrease erosion and improve water quality.

This land also has historical significance as it is in the vicinity of "My Lady's Manor", a 10,000 acre land grant deeded from the King of England to Lord Baltimore III and his wife in 1718. Additional benefits provided through the preservation of the farmland include enhanced wildlife habitat and recreational bicycle trails in the area.

Farmland Protection Program Maryland Summary

Overview The USDA Farmland Protection Program (FPP) helps farmers keep their productive land in agriculture. The program assists States, Tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations by purchasing conservation easements for the purpose of limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses. NRCS provides up to 50% of the fair market value of the conservation easement to the cooperating entity, which acquires, manages, and enforces the easement. Landowners participate voluntarily, and protected farms remain in private ownership. Every protected farm operates under a conservation plan approved by the local Conservation District. Nationally, over \$52 million have been obligated to state and local entities since establishment of the program in 1996. Proposals were accepted in 1996, 1997, 1998, and 2001.

Accomplishments In Maryland, over \$3.6 million in FPP funds have been awarded to over 80 Maryland farmers to protect 10,484 acres. Since the FPP was established in 1996, applications for funding were received in each of the four years that funds were available; and Maryland programs have requested over \$33.6 million to protect 27,463 acres on 173 farms. Proposals are selected through a competitive process to protect the most strategic farms that will help accomplish FPP and local land use goals. The easements also protect entire working farms, woodlands, wetlands, important natural areas, and cultural resources.

Outlook Although agriculture remains the top industry, with approximately one-third of the state's 6.8 million acres used for farming and livestock operations; development pressure is intense as urban sprawl increases between the Baltimore-Washington corridor and along the Chesapeake Bay waterfront communities. According to an economic study being conducted by the University of Maryland, it is projected that 5,900 farm acres will be converted out of agriculture each year due to development pressures. Between 1997 and 2020, it is expected that six percent of the state's total farmland will be lost. Farmland that remains will be centered on the Eastern Shore (Kent, Queen Annes, Talbot, and Caroline Counties) and in Western Maryland (Frederick and Carroll Counties). Because of the increasing development pressure, funds requested from the FPP have in-



State Contact:

Thomas Heisler
FPP Manager
Phone: (410) 757-0861
ext. 339

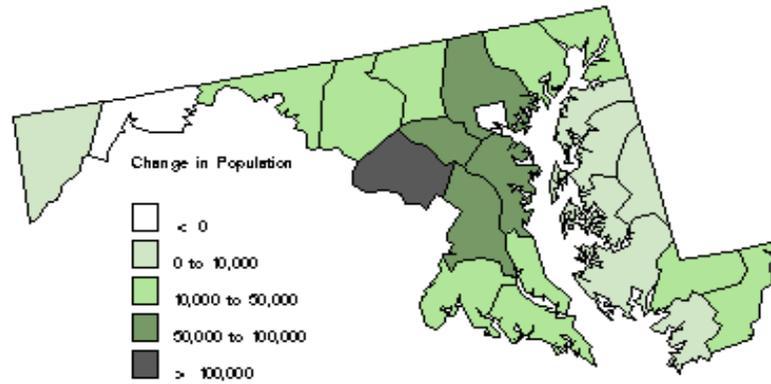
Farmland Protection Program

**Maryland Easements
(As of December 2001)**

County	Acres	Easement Cost		Federal Payment	
		Total (\$)	Average (\$/acre)	\$	%
Anne Arundel	471	\$1,789,660	\$3,800	\$230,410	13%
Baltimore	484	\$1,550,328	\$3,203	\$264,879	17%
Calvert	931	\$867,558	\$932	\$177,778	20%
Caroline	765	\$678,248	\$887	\$242,780	36%
Carroll	815	\$1,591,687	\$1,953	\$446,412	28%
Cecil	727	\$1,047,000	\$1,440	\$111,709	11%
Charles	232	\$324,524	\$1,399	\$77,778	24%
Dorchester	430	\$382,620	\$890	\$102,958	27%
Frederick	400	\$558,100	\$1,394	\$221,658	40%
Garrett	103	\$153,435	\$1,490	\$52,632	34%
Harford	126	\$278,300	\$2,209	\$139,150	50%
Kent	486	\$831,969	\$1,712	\$227,096	27%
Montgomery	849	\$2,827,340	\$3,330	\$305,881	11%
Queen Anne	1,237	\$966,010	\$781	\$303,541	31%
Somerset	433	\$206,590	\$477	\$84,049	41%
St. Marys	434	\$789,054	\$1,818	\$148,348	19%
Talbot	755	\$793,466	\$1,051	\$215,450	27%
Washington	434	\$847,123	\$1,952	\$180,736	21%
Wicomico	245	\$203,635	\$831	\$52,632	26%
Worcester	127	\$113,967	\$897	\$52,632	46%
TOTAL	10,484	\$16,800,614	\$1,602	\$3,638,509	22%

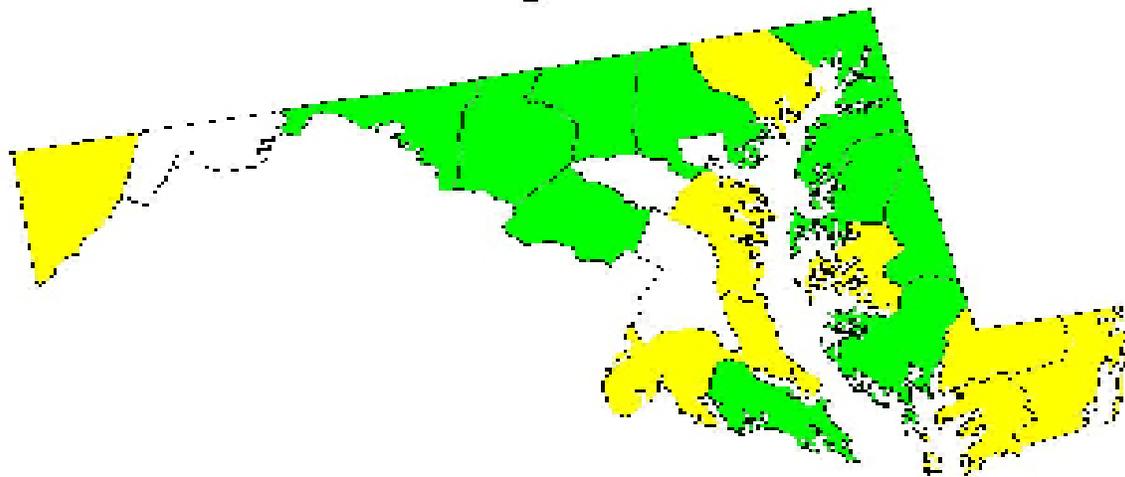
Difference in Population between 1990--2000

Maryland



Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population 2000

Maryland



Yellow Counties with acquired FTIP acreage
Green Counties with both acquired and pending FTIP acreage



U.S. Department of Agriculture
 National Resource Conservation Service
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20250-9410

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