Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference

November 30, 2011
2011 Session

- Passed
  - Fertilizer Act of 2011

- Failed
  - Maryland Livestock and Poultry Care Advisory Board
  - Arsenic Prohibition
  - Marcellus Shale Drilling
  - Regulation of Atrazine Study
  - Regulation of Atrazine – Ban
  - Pesticide Use, Release, Sale, and Purchase Reporting
  - Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act
  - Estate Tax
Legislative Priorities

- Bay Related VS Non-Bay activities
- Role of Agriculture
- Budget Issues
  - Funding for Ag Land Preservation
  - Funding for Conservation
2012 Session
All Tentative

Non-Bay Issues
- Agricultural Estate Tax
- Deer hunting
- Copper Wire Theft
Manure to Energy

- Credit Multiplier
- Bay Farm Power
- Long Term Purchase Agreements
- Tax Credit for Thermal Heat
- Carve out for Litter & Manure
- Poultry Contracts

All Tentative
Nutrient Management

- Subtraction Modification for Equipment
- Technology Fund revival
- Slow down of Regulations
- Fine increases

All Tentative
Pesticides

- Pesticide Use, Release, Sale, and Purchase Reporting
- Regulation of Atrazine

All Tentative
Smart Growth & Septic Systems

- Governor’s Task Force
- Four Tier Approach
  - Priority Funding Area (PFAs) – based on 1997 Law
  - Designated Growth Area Outside PFA
  - Areas not planned for Public Sewer or Preservation
  - Areas Designated as protection Areas
- Nitrogen Offsets for new Development
- Best Available Technology (BAT)
- Increase Bay Restoration Fee (Now $30 to $90)
  - Cover Crop Funding?
- Extend WIP Implementation Date to 2025

All Tentative
Smart Growth & Septic Systems (cont.)

- Ag Subcommittee Recommendations
  - (BAT for new Systems, Definition of Major/Minor, State Review, & Cover Crop Funding)
  - Nutrient Trading Credits for Development Rights
  - Timing for Minor/Major Subdivision Decision
  - Estate Tax
  - Establish a Pilot TDR Program
  - Study of Offset requirements on Prime Ag Land

- Lots of Decisions Left to Debate – Legislation is expected

All Tentative
Other Issues

- Gas Tax increase
- WIP II Process
- Stormwater – Impervious Surface Fee
- Law Clinic Funding
- Certainly
- Marcellus Shale Drilling
2012 Session

- Given:
  - There will be a session, Jan 11th – April 9th
  - The biggest issue will be the Budget
  - New Option – Couch Lobbyist
    - “Up to the Minute”
    - Profile
    - Listen to/watch Committee Hearings
    - All Bills and Fiscal Notes on line
  - More bills will Fail than Pass