



# Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge

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**Choptank River Symposium**

**Todd Center for the Performing Arts,  
Chesapeake College**

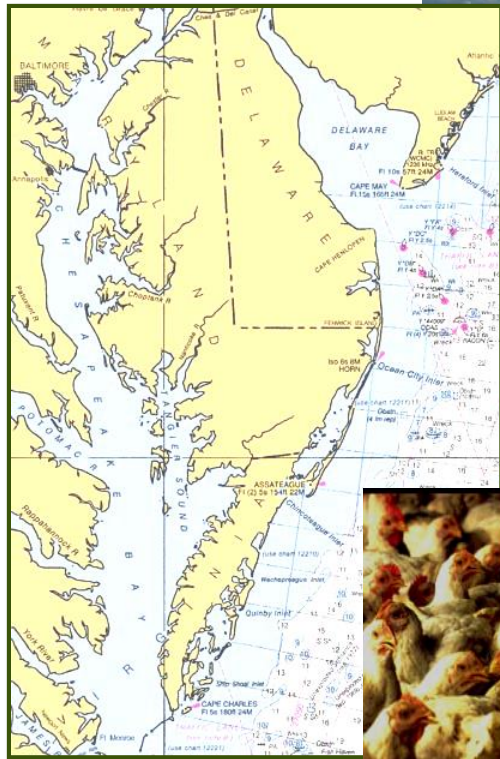
**August 9, 2016**

**Ernie Shea, Project Facilitator**

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# Chesapeake Bay by the Numbers



- Land-to-water ratio is 14:1; largest of any coastal water body in the world. Average depth of 21 feet.
- Supports more than 3,600 species of plants, fish and animals.
- Home to almost 17 million people. About 170,000 new people move into the watershed each year.
- Tens of thousands of streams, creeks, and rivers are resources for communities throughout the watershed.
- 83,775 principally family farms and 13 million acres of farmland.
- 4.2 million animal units.



# Delmarva Project: Phase One

## Project Overview

- Identify economically viable agronomic, technological and market based strategies, solutions and management models that can be deployed to abate agricultural nutrient pollution and utilize poultry litter that can no longer be applied on phosphorous saturated soils.
- Funded by the Campbell Foundation for the Environment.
- Led by a self directed steering committee composed of respected agricultural and conservation leaders.



# Delmarva Project: Phase One

## Key Findings

- Land application is still the primary method of managing manure in the watershed;
- Long term application of manure and poultry litter has resulted in the accumulation of nutrients in excess of plant requirements (Phosphorous);
- Two Solution Pathways
  - *Responsible land application*
  - *Alternative uses and markets*



***“Business as usual  
will not be enough”***





# Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

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## Win-Win Pathways for **Agriculture** and the Peninsula's Waterways

**August 2015**



# Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

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## Vision:

***“A healthy and productive Bay is underpinned by a vibrant and sustainable agricultural economy.”***



# Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

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## 2025 Goals:

- 1. Delmarva agriculture is regionally neutral in importing and exporting nutrients, and wherever possible, nutrients are recycled locally to support sustainable agricultural operations;**
- 2. Nutrients are utilized in farming operations without negative environmental impacts;**
- 3. Growers are rewarded for producing high value food, feed, fiber, clean energy, and ecosystem services.**





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## Confirmed Partners:

- **Campbell Foundation for the Environment**
- **Chesapeake Bay Commission**
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**
- **Chester River Association**
- **Delaware Department of Agriculture**
- **Delaware Farm Bureau**
- **Delaware Nutrient Management Commission**
- **Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association**
- **Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.**
- **Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology**
- **Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts**
- **Maryland Farm Bureau Federation**
- **Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board**
- **Maryland League of Conservation Voters**
- **Mid Atlantic Farm Credit**
- **Mountaire**
- **Perdue Farms**
- **State of Maryland (Chesapeake Bay Cabinet)**
- **Sustainable Chesapeake**
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **Tyson Foods, Inc.**
- **Virginia Secretariat of Agriculture & Forestry**
- **WestRhode River Keeper**
- **Willard Agri-Services**



# Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

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## Focus:

- Responsible land application of animal manure and litter;
- Alternative uses and markets for manure/poultry litter.



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## Initial Deliverables:

1. A multi-stakeholder, landscape scale, shared leadership platform where stakeholders addressing nutrient pollution from animal agriculture operations can work across county, state and watershed boundaries, and design and deploy better integrated, and more uniform policies, programs, practices, and projects;
2. An action plan for establishing and funding an innovation support program on the Delmarva Peninsula dedicated to animal agriculture nutrient management support;



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## Initial Deliverables:

3. Create a methodology and calculate the nutrient mass balance for nitrogen and phosphorous on agricultural lands on Delmarva;
3. Propose ways manure/poultry litter transport programs can be improved, streamlined and made more “user friendly” while also ensuring environmental improvements.



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## Next Steps:

1. Complete Mass Balance and Transport Solutions Work
2. Construct a framework and operating guidelines to coordinate the Challenge's efforts going forward; and
3. Develop a communication platform and strategy



# Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge:

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## Vision:

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