



# DELMARVA LAND & LITTER CHALLENGE

*A partnership approach to sustainable agriculture on Delmarva*

Online at [DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net](http://DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net)

The Delmarva Land and Litter Challenge (DLLC) brings a diverse group of stakeholders together to work on finding environmentally sustainable approaches to poultry farming on the Delmarva Peninsula. The DLLC members believe that a constructive, consensus-building approach is the best way to develop broadly supported solutions that address poultry-related issues on the Delmarva Peninsula. DLLC supports solutions for land management that will improve the productivity of agricultural lands, protect water quality in our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, and strengthen the economy to preserve and protect the region's rural and cultural heritage.

The DLLC is currently working toward finding new approaches to poultry litter management. Poultry litter is a valuable commodity for crop fertilization, though excess litter has the potential to pollute our local waterways. Our Mass Balance report, identifying counties with litter surpluses and deficits will be released in 2018. This work is the result of thorough expert analysis, peer review and member input.

Our members recognize that new and emerging technologies may offer promise on the Delmarva. This is why our membership looks for innovative solutions that can abate pollution created as a result of poultry production. Perhaps just as importantly, we also look toward each other and commit to working collaboratively to identify the most sustainable path forward.

*"DLLC is a much needed forum that brings together diverse interests around the poultry industry. This allows us to really talk with each other, explore the issues in depth, and form consensus-based recommendations for a sustainable future."*

**- Andrew McLean,  
Poultry Grower and  
DLLC Chair**

## DLLC GOALS

DLLC members have committed to a mission and vision that includes both a vibrant and sustainable agricultural industry on Delmarva and a healthy and productive Chesapeake Bay.

**DLLC Mission:** The Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge is a knowledge sharing and problem-solving platform where collaborating partners work together to develop strategies to abate poultry related nutrient pollution on the Delmarva Peninsula without exacerbating problems in adjacent regions.

**Vision:** Delmarva farmers and their agri-business partners are respected stewards of the land, guardians of natural resources and champions of the rural cultural heritage in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**By 2025, our members commit to the following:**

- Delmarva farming and poultry complex becomes a national model as an environmentally friendly and economically sustainable regional agricultural system.
- Delmarva agriculture is regionally neutral in importing and exporting nutrients, and wherever possible, nutrients are recycled locally to support sustainable agricultural operations.
- Nutrients are efficiently utilized in farming operations without negative environmental impacts on land and in adjacent waters.
- Growers are rewarded for producing high-value food, feed, fiber, clean energy, and ecosystem services.



# CURRENT PRIORITIES

## DLLC Accomplishments to date include:

- Maintained a landscape-scale, shared leadership platform where diverse stakeholders address nutrient pollution from animal agriculture operations and work across political and geographic boundaries to design and deploy robust and consensus-based solutions.
- Developed “Model Poultry Litter Transportation Program Attributes” and distributed these recommendations throughout Delmarva, specifically to each state's Department of Agriculture. These are available on our website.
- Created a methodology to calculate the nutrient mass balance for nitrogen and phosphorous on agricultural lands across Delmarva and conducted a technical review of our methods and findings to ensure the integrity of our work.
- Generated an action plan for establishing and funding an innovation program on the Delmarva Peninsula dedicated to animal agriculture nutrient management support.

*“The leaders around the table at the DLLC have made a bold and courageous commitment toward realizing a mutual vision of prosperous agriculture and a healthy Chesapeake Bay.”*

**- Robert Frazee, MidAtlantic Farm Credit (retired) and DLLC member**

## 2018 Priorities for DLLC:

- A report synthesizing our nutrient mass balance methods and findings is expected in 2018.
- An analysis of how the poultry industry has changed over time on Delmarva is expected in late 2018.
- Creating a communication plan to ensure stakeholder engagement and awareness of DLLC activities and products.
- Developing a clearly-defined strategic plan to guide our efforts in meeting our 2025 goals.

*“The Delmarva Land and Litter Challenge provides us a unique opportunity to work with agriculture to address mutually beneficial water quality issues. It provides an intersection of meaningful and credible conversation to develop solutions to our pollution issues.”*

**- Jeffrey Horstman, ShoreRivers and DLLC member**

# A DIVERSE PARTNERSHIP

The DLLC is an all volunteer group supported through generous donations from members and “Friends of DLLC”. Current members include:

Chesapeake Bay Commission  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Delaware Department of Agriculture  
Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.  
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology  
Hutchison Brothers Farm  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
MidAtlantic Farm Credit  
Mountaire Farms  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Old Mill Farms

Perdue Farms  
Relief Farm  
Rich Levels Grain  
ShoreRivers  
Sustainable Chesapeake  
The Campbell Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tyson Food, Inc.  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
University of Maryland Extension  
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper  
West / Rhode Riverkeeper

The DLLC appreciates the generous support of The Campbell Foundation and other supporting organizations.



Please visit our website [DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net](http://DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net) for more information about our partnership and activities.