

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 was another busy year for the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC), a forum for diverse partners who work together to address challenges and identify solutions around chicken litter management on the Delmarva Peninsula. DLLC supports solutions that improve the productivity of agricultural lands and protect water quality in our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

30 YEARS OF CHANGE ON DELMARVA: MORE PEOPLE AND CHICKENS, FEWER AND LARGER FARMS AND CHICKEN HOUSES

DLLC members developed a data-based tool to describe how the chicken industry on Delmarva has changed over time. There was previously no single, widely-trusted reference source that characterized these changes, including the number of chicken houses, capacity of chicken houses, bird weights, environmental practices, and more.

DLLC worked with Salisbury University's Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to publish the data rich storyboard, "Exploring Chicken Farming on Delmarva." This tool uses reliable and unbiased data to illustrate changes in the characteristics of chicken farming on Delmarva over the last 30 years. For example, the number of people on Delmarva increased by nearly 35% between 1980 and 2017. During that time, the number of chicken houses has declined, while capacity of individual houses has increased, following similar national trends. Explore the online storyboard to see more information on those and other changes. [Online at: bit.ly/DelmarvaChicken](https://bit.ly/DelmarvaChicken)



GUIDELINES FOR CALCULATING HOW MUCH POULTRY LITTER EXISTS ON DELMARVA

DLLC developed and published recommended methods for the creation of a mass balance of nutrients on Delmarva. This report provides background material on the need for a mass balance calculation, methods, assumptions, data sources and a discussion of unresolved issues to inform future work. [Online at: bit.ly/LitterMassBalance](https://bit.ly/LitterMassBalance)

ADDITIONAL 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Our members conducted an extensive review of available research pertaining to litter storage to inform our future recommendations.
- DLLC advocated for the expansion of poultry litter transport programs throughout Delmarva. Thanks in part to our efforts, Virginia expanded its program to Accomack County in 2019.
- DLLC members collectively advocated for more funding for litter transport programs and for regional conservation districts.
- DLLC began a formal process to work with the Chesapeake Bay modeling team to support data improvements for Delmarva agriculture.
- DLLC established a Policy Workgroup to facilitate open communication among members, external stakeholders and decision makers about environmental and agricultural policies that relate to the mission of DLLC.
- DLLC members met with Virginia policy makers and regulators to brief them about DLLC, our priorities, and identify opportunities for collaboration.



FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

DLLC updated its five-year strategic plan, mission, vision and name. Our name change from “Challenge” to “Collaborative” reflects our organization’s transition from bringing diverse partners together to now working together as a united group. DLLC's mission is to be a forum for diverse partners to identify solutions that support both healthy and productive ecosystems and farming and poultry on Delmarva. Our members identified the following goals as the means to accomplish that mission:

CONVENE a forum of a diverse group of respected members and create a collaborative approach to achieve DLLC’s mission.

ENGAGE with stakeholders to learn about both the needs and possible solutions that will support both healthy and productive ecosystems and farming and poultry on Delmarva.

CRAFT and vet credible solutions that address regional issues related to the mission.

SHARE information, solutions and recommendations with stakeholders and decision makers.

DIVERSIFY and leverage resources to support the mission.



GOALS FOR 2020

Using the progress we made in 2019 as a foundation, DLLC has established an ambitious list of goals for 2020:

COORDINATE with the Chesapeake Bay Program to identify ways to improve the accuracy of the model results for the Delmarva region.

STRIVE to improve the efficiency and impact of manure transport programs across Delmarva.

WORK toward Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) implementation solutions in Maryland and apply lessons learned in other areas.

ENGAGE stakeholders across Delmarva to increase awareness of DLLC and understand priority issues facing farming communities.

PROMOTE partnerships, funding, and technical support to achieve sustainable agriculture, ecosystem health, and implement Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) across the region.