

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

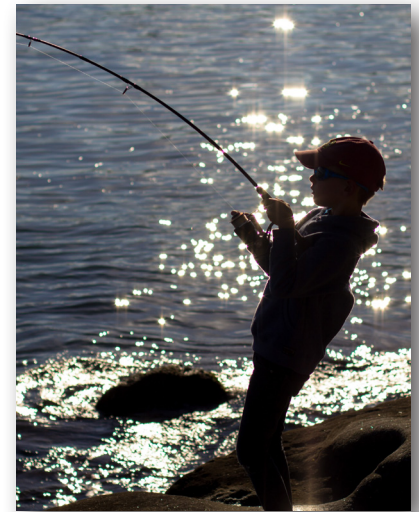
The COVID-19 pandemic forced us all to change behaviors, move to virtual platforms, and realize how interconnected we all are. It also underscored the importance of continuing to convene the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC), a forum for diverse partners who work together to identify solutions in support of healthy ecosystems, farming, and chicken production on the Delmarva Peninsula. Through our work, we recognize the distinct character of this region and our collective need for clean water.

DLLC is the only group of its kind, bringing together representatives from chicken companies, farmers, regulatory agencies, academia, and environmental groups in a collaborative and mission-driven manner. The complex relationships between food production, environmental protection, jobs, and more cannot be solved by any one entity alone. Our members come together to learn from each other and others, identify needs, design solutions, and seek support for solutions for a more resilient and sustainable Delmarva.

LITTER TRANSPORT AND PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT

Chicken litter is rich in phosphorus, a nutrient needed for plant growth but also one that fuels algal growth and results in other water quality problems for local waterways. This year, DLLC members successfully advocated for the implementation of Maryland's Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT). We also worked to expand access to litter transport cost-share programs in Virginia.

To facilitate the transport of chicken litter to suitable receiving lands, DLLC worked with the Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA, formerly Delmarva Poultry Industry) to define needs, secure funding, and develop a new application that connects litter suppliers with end users. The new *littr*. app is being launched across the region and is a model for similar programs in other regions.



THREE-DECADE REVIEW OF CHICKEN PRODUCTION

DLLC members developed a data-rich storyboard to describe the chicken industry on Delmarva: "Exploring Chicken Farming on Delmarva." This tool uses reliable and unbiased data to illustrate trends. Explore the online storyboard to see more information on those and other changes. [Online at: bit.ly/DelmarvaChicken](https://bit.ly/DelmarvaChicken)

ADDITIONAL 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- DLLC held its 2nd Annual Policy Committee meeting to facilitate open communication among members, external stakeholders and decision makers about environmental and agricultural policies that relate to the mission of DLLC.
- DLLC hosted three webinars this year to educate ourselves and others on timely and relevant topics. The webinars were focused on Planet Found's manure to energy model in Pocomoke, Maryland, updates on the Bioenergy manure to energy viability on the Lower Shore, and a presentation from Shore Rivers on how conservation drainage practices can be used to manage water and nutrients on farmland.
- In March, DLLC coordinated with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to host a webinar on manure and litter matching services. This webinar was the result of DLLC staff and members work identifying existing litter matching services in use around the country. The *littr*. app recently developed through DCA, with DLLC members, is the only one to leverage technology and a mobile application to connect users.



FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Last year, 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 chicken production 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 grain and chicken farming and 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 2021

As we head into our sixth year as a group, we will build on our progress to pursue the following goals for 2021:

ENGAGE with a broad range of community members, including regional policy makers, to share consensus supported recommendations to promote agricultural sustainability and ecosystem health.

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.

UPDATE our website to increase transparency and access to DLLC materials and information.

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