



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC) brings together representatives from chicken companies, farming, regulatory agencies, academia, conservation and environmental groups in a collaborative and mission-driven manner. We come together to learn from each other within the group and integrate external knowledge to define issues of concern, facilitate solutions, and share information with others leading to a more resilient and sustainable Delmarva.

Though DLLC began with a focus on poultry litter management and transport, over the past seven years the Collaborative has evolved to expand its focus on efforts that promote whole system nutrient reduction that achieves profitable chicken and grain farming, clean water, and thriving ecosystems on the Delmarva Peninsula. Our new [2023-2025 Strategic Roadmap](#) provides additional information about our goals and objectives.

DLLC 2023-2025 PRIORITIES

1. Expand communication to support meaningful cross-sectoral dialogue.
2. Promote a whole-system watershed approach on Delmarva that supports and recognizes practices on agricultural lands.
3. Explore and support emerging conservation strategies and practices that increase nutrient management on agricultural land.
4. Understand emerging market-based opportunities and how they can directly benefit farmers. Expand the diversity and sustainability of DLLC.

AMMONIA EMISSIONS FROM POULTRY PRODUCTION

DLLC members spent two years reviewing and synthesizing information related to the management of ammonia in the chicken houses, modeling of ammonia emissions and identifying where information gaps still exist. The culmination of this work is a [publicly available document](#) which summarizes what we learned. DLLC's governance protocols required that all voting members approve the release of this document. The result is information that is scientifically backed and thoroughly vetted by our diverse membership. An overview of this paper was presented by the lead author, Dr. Richard Snyder, Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, Eastern Shore Laboratory, through an online public [webinar](#).

DELMARVA AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION FUNDING

DLLC hosted a webinar on February 28, 2022, to highlight the various funding streams available for [agricultural conservation work across Delmarva](#). The forum helped Delmarva organizations, who work to connect with landowners, producers, and farmers at the local watershed level, understand the range of funding programs available to implement conservation priorities. DLLC provided proposal review and letters of support for these organizations that applied for USDA Climate Smart and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) proposals.



Photo credit: Rachel Rhodes

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RESEARCH ON POULTRY MANURE MANAGEMENT

The DLLC hosted a February 2022 webinar on the latest research on [poultry manure management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#). Researchers presented about the economics and design of field-scale dry manure injectors, barriers faced by regional grain farmers that limit the efficient distribution and use of poultry litter, and efforts at the national scale to manage the sustainable use of manure using the manureshed framework. Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits were available to certified nutrient management professionals.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

- One of DLLC's long-time members, Kim Coble, served as the Co-Chair for Maryland Governor Wes Moore's Climate and Environment Executive Policy Committee and was able to help us share our priorities with the incoming administration.
- Our Chair, Josh Hastings (Maryland Forever, Policy Director) and our Vice-Chair, Holly Porter (Delmarva Chicken Association, Executive Director) presented to the LEAD Maryland class on the value of collaboration.
- Many of our DLLC members were instrumental in the reauthorization of the [Clean Water Commerce Act \(CWCA\)](#) during the 2021 Session (CH694/695) of the Maryland General Assembly. This expands the uses of the Bay Restoration Fund to include the costs associated with the purchase of cost-effective nitrogen load reductions and includes dedicated funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices.
- DLLC's Program Assistant, Michele Drostin, presented about the DLLC at the [September 2022 Chesapeake Research Consortium Roundtable webinar](#) to share perspectives on our collaborative process.
- DLLC staffed a booth at the June 2022 Delmarva Chicken Association's Booster BBQ.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2023

DLLC offers a place to understand the issues at the cross-section of thriving agriculture and healthy ecosystems. Our members work on these issues from different angles and then come together to identify where we can find successful solutions. If you are a decision-maker, a practitioner, or community member who is interested in successful on-the-ground strategies, please read about [our work](#), [the issues](#) and [follow us](#).

In 2023, we will expand our communication efforts, including speaking engagements and more interaction with local media outlets, to share what we learn. A diverse, cross-section of our membership will reach out to meet with leadership in Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware to discuss priority concerns and possible solutions. DLLC will rotate our meetings around Delmarva so that it is easier for stakeholders to attend.

DLLC'S FOCUS FOR 2023

- Support regional conservation partnerships and advocate for consistent and accessible funding that sustains meaningful results for conservation on Delmarva.
- Enhance connections between farmers and the groups that offer financial and technical agriculture conservation assistance.
- Focus on a whole-systems, local watershed approach to restoration.
- Continue to bring diverse and knowledgeable partners together to produce online educational programming.