

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC) members work together to understand connections between agricultural cropping systems, poultry production, and healthy waterways. We build cross-sector relationships to identify science-based solutions and support their adoption to achieve profitable chicken and grain farming, clean water, and thriving ecosystems on the Delmarva Peninsula.

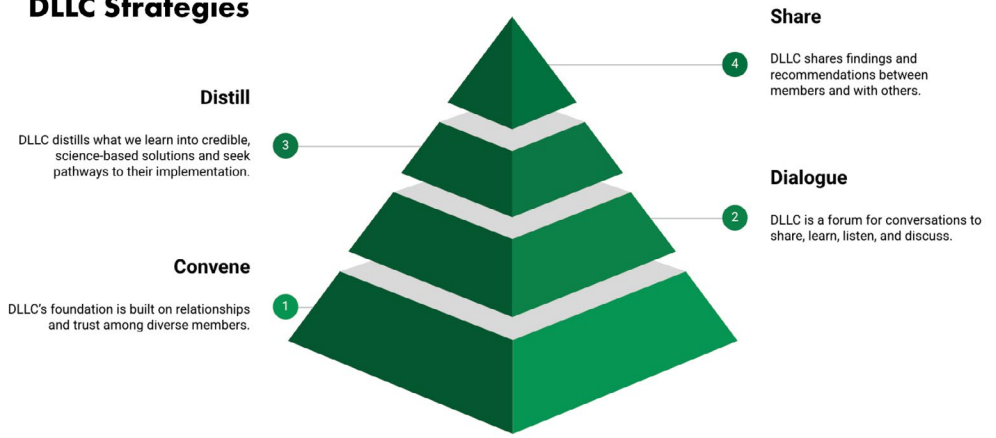
APPROACH

The diagram to the right represents the strategies that guide our work. First and foremost, DLLC **convenes** members of the agricultural, poultry production, environmental, academic, regulatory, and nonprofit communities. No other ongoing regional forum brings together such diverse individuals for **dialogue** around solutions.

Members expand their collective knowledge of key topics by engaging experts and stakeholders. DLLC then **distills** credible science

into accessible products and possible solutions. The outcomes are promoted and **shared** through our members' networks and a variety of public-facing products. DLLC strives to be flexible enough to adapt to dynamic changes in science, farm innovation, and learned experiences, while also doing the work of getting conservation on the ground.

DLLC Strategies



"I want to be part of a ground-up effort to develop solutions that serve the interests of the Bay, agriculture and the citizens in the watershed. I invested my organization in DLLC because I wanted to change the model of engagement from combative confrontation to one of finding common ground, building solutions, and fostering a culture of constructive, productive engagement."

- Bob Frazee, Retired CEO of MidAtlantic (Horizon) Farm Credit.

LEADERSHIP

Each year, the DLLC Chair alternates leadership roles between agriculture and environmental representatives. In October 2024, Holly Porter, Executive Director of the Delmarva Chicken Association, passed the gavel to Alan Girard, Maryland Director of Advocacy for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Bob Frazee, one of the founding members of DLLC, was elected Vice Chair.

We work to ensure a balance of agriculture and environmental interests, and invite any individual, organization, business, agency, or institution that embraces the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative vision, mission and operating procedures to reach out to us.



WHOLE WATERSHED RESTORATION

DLLC led a shift in focus from conservation on individual farms to advancing conservation from a whole watershed perspective. Several of our members were involved in developing the Maryland Whole Watershed Act legislation that directs comprehensive environmental planning and investment in targeted watersheds, based on models DLLC analyzed in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. DLLC worked closely with farmers, environmentalists, and others to identify and promote key recommendations for conservation on working lands.

"I have been a member of the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative since the beginning. I've learned that many of the environmental groups have similar goals to mine."

- Dave Lovell, Chicken Farmer VA Eastern Shore

ENGAGEMENT

- Hosted a farmer Breakfast at Delaware Ag Week;
- Hosted the Delmarva Conservation Funders Forum;
- Tabled at the Delmarva Soil Summit;
- Tabled at the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference;
- Presented at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum;
- Delivered a keynote at the Wandering Delmarva Waterways Bus Tour for elected officials from Maryland, Virginia and Delaware;
- Met with EPA Region 3 leadership;
- Presented at the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting;
- Hosted a panel discussion with Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Eastern Shore AREC, and the Accomack County farming community to better understand the state of agriculture conservation on the Virginia Eastern Shore;
- Hosted discussions with Congresswoman Sarah Elfreth and Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks;
- Produced a [DLLC promotional video](#); and
- Distributed four quarterly [newsletters](#) highlighting DLLC and partner projects.



PRIORITIES IN 2025

- Seek to understand nutrient dynamics on Delmarva and why water quality has been slower to respond to practices on Delmarva than in other regions of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Continue to strengthen regional conservation and agriculture partnerships to bring meaningful results for conservation and water quality while sustaining agriculture on Delmarva.
- Continue to work directly with farmers and large landowners to identify initiatives that most effectively advance ecosystem improvements on Delmarva.
- Release a newly updated StoryMap, "Our Changing Delmarva: Trends in Chicken and Grain Production, Water Quality, and Life on Delmarva."



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](#).

Visit DelmarvaLandAndLitter.net for more information and to sign up for our quarterly newsletters.