

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Photo credit: Green Fin Studio

The Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC) is a forum for learning and identifying science-based solutions that support profitable chicken and grain farming and healthy land and water on the Delmarva Peninsula. The DLLC builds trusted cross-sector relationships through meaningful conversations among representatives from chicken companies, farmers, regulatory agencies, academia, and environmental groups.

In November, the DLLC met to discuss and reaffirm our [Strategic Roadmap](#). Through 2029, the DLLC will continue to convene stakeholders and decision-makers across Delmarva to build trusted relationships, share learnings, and collaborate on implementing solutions.



Photo credit: Delmarva Chicken Association

NEW INTERACTIVE, VISUAL, DATA EXPLORER FOR DELMARVA

It has historically been difficult to find trusted information specific to Delmarva on farming, chicken production, and environmental quality. So, the DLLC pulled together the best available regional data between 1985 and 2023 and incorporated personal stories from those at the forefront of Delmarva’s farming and environmental communities. The new, interactive StoryMap, “[Our Changing Delmarva](#),” can be used by researchers, environmental advocates, policymakers, residents, farmers, and others to gain insights into local trends and make informed decisions.

Following a consensus-based collaborative structure, the DLLC’s diverse membership provided rigorous input and final approval on all the components of the tool. Since launching in May 2025, the StoryMap has gained nearly 2,000 views and has been used in many presentations and outreach efforts. DLLC members also developed a [one-page overview](#) of the Storymap to enhance outreach.



Our Changing Delmarva

Trends in Chicken and Grain Production, Water Quality, and Life on Delmarva

Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative
November 13, 2025

TAKING A DEEP DIVE INTO A COMPLICATED TOPIC

In June, the DLLC convened a workshop to better understand why water quality in some areas has been slow to respond to sustained on land conservation practices. Nearly 70 people representing various backgrounds and disciplines participated in this immersive forum. Presenters included chicken growers, farmers, regulators, scientists, modelers, environmental monitoring professionals, and technical service providers. Several themes emerged during the workshop including long lag times in groundwater movement, shifts in hydrology across our landscape, and evolving nutrient management practices. The DLLC continues to explore this and other topics to deepen understanding of the complex, interconnected challenges of managing watersheds in a system as dynamic as Delmarva's.



LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Each year, the DLLC Chair alternates leadership roles between agriculture and environmental representatives. In October 2025, Alan Girard, Maryland Director of Advocacy for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, passed the gavel to Bob Frazee, retired CEO of MidAtlantic (Horizon) Farm Credit and current CEO of J.R. Frazee Strategic Consulting. Bob is one of the founding members of the DLLC and has been actively involved in the group's strategic planning, development, and more for over a decade. Steve Kline, President and CEO of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, was elected Vice Chair.

The DLLC welcomed five new members to the collaborative this fall representing environmental, policy, and agriculture affiliations. See our website for a [complete list of our members and their affiliations](#).



PRIORITIES IN 2026

- Increase understanding of, and barriers to nutrient use efficiency technology, soil phosphorus remediation, bioremediation, and other innovative solutions.
- Continue to strengthen regional conservation and agriculture partnerships to bring meaningful results for conservation and water quality while sustaining agriculture on Delmarva.
- Communicate agriculture conservation success stories and progress to demonstrate the impact of public and other investments.
- Commit to continued ongoing learning around priority topics to make informed recommendations.



If you are a decision-maker, a practitioner, or community member who is interested in innovative nutrient management, please read about [our work](#), [the issues](#) and [follow us](#).

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