

Agriculture is a Major Land Use and Industry in the County

Agriculture continues to be a major land use and the primary industry in Cecil County. Cecil County's total land area is 222,284 acres. Of the total land area, eighty thousand acres are devoted to tillable production farmland. Livestock operations include beef cattle, dairy, hogs, poultry, and sheep. Common crops grown here include corn, hay, soybeans, wheat, and barley. Other agricultural operations include horse, nursery crop, mushroom, and orchard operations.

Agriculture is a preferred land use to conserve our natural resources and protect the water quality of the Bay. Farmers use many Best Management Practices to increase farm productivity, reduce soil erosion, and protect the water quality of the Bay. Best Management Practices include cover crops, buffers, diversions, grass waterways, manure storage structures, and constructed wetlands. Other agricultural methods include pest scouting, forest conservation, and the management of nutrients, crop residue, soils, and wildlife habitat.

Through state and county agricultural land preservation programs, farmers may choose to sell or donate their development rights in exchange for placing permanent restrictions on property deeds that prohibit any future residential, commercial, or industrial use of the land.

