

foreword

We are pleased to present the 2006 edition of the *Agriculture in Maryland Summary*. This publication represents the collaborative efforts of the Maryland Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). It contains current statistics covering a wide range of subjects relating to crop production, livestock and poultry numbers, and general economic information.

USDA has a rich history of collecting and distributing agricultural statistics, dating back over 140 years. Each year, the employees of NASS conduct hundreds of surveys and prepare reports that impact every facet of Maryland's agricultural sector. Our mission, *to provide timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture*, would not be possible without the voluntary cooperation of Maryland farmers that took valuable time over the past year to respond to our surveys. We are grateful to the continued support provided by our farmers.

Special thanks to the dedicated employees of our county extension offices, Farm Service Agency offices, Natural Resource Conservation Service offices, and employees of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Appreciation is also expressed to the office staff of our Maryland Field Office for their hard work and dedication in compiling the statistics included herein. Last, but certainly not least, we owe many thanks to our "front-line", our field and office enumerators, for their perseverance and skill in collecting survey data throughout the year.

Please visit our Web site at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Maryland/ to view this publication and other reports. If you would like additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail, telephone, or personal visit; your comments regarding our programs and publications are always welcome. Our staff is dedicated to serving the Maryland farm community and providing the highest quality service possible for our data users.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Rater".

Barbara Rater
Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale P. Hawks".

Dale P. Hawks
Deputy Director