



National Agricultural
Statistics Service

News Release

Maryland Field Office • 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway • Annapolis, MD 21401 • www.nass.usda.gov/md

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Maryland Farmers Estimate \$10.5 Million in 2005 Wildlife Related Crop Losses

The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently reported that Maryland farmers lost \$10.5 million in potential crop production income due to wildlife damage in 2005. The survey results were collected and tabulated from the agency's fall acreage and production survey; with nearly 1,500 reports tabulated. Damage statewide was attributed to the following wildlife species with the corresponding estimated percent loss due to each species: deer, 83.8%; resident geese, 6.4%; migrant geese, 5.8%; groundhogs, 2.1%; bear, 0.9%; and other wildlife species, 1%.

Estimated economic loss was greatest in North Central Maryland, with crop losses reported at \$4.2 million, 39% of the state's total estimated losses. Most of these losses were due to deer damage (86.6%) followed by resident and migrant geese. Other regional losses in order of magnitude were as follows: Northern Eastern Shore, \$2.8 million, Southern Maryland, \$1.7 million; Southern Eastern Shore, \$1.5 million; and Western Maryland, \$0.3 million. Crop farmers across Maryland spent nearly \$1.1 million in 2005 on preventative measures such as fences, frightening devices, and repellents, with North Central growers spending the most, at \$0.4 million.

Region	Estimated Economic Loss	Percent of Loss by Species						Amount Spent on Preventative Measures
		Deer	Resident Geese	Migrant Geese	Bear	Ground-hogs	Other Species ^{2/}	
	<i>dollars</i>	<i>percent</i>						<i>dollars</i>
Western (Allegany, Garrett)	336,524	68.6	0.7	^{1/}	27.3	^{1/}	3.1	82,061
North Central (Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington)	4,164,077	86.6	6.9	3.8	^{1/}	1.9	^{1/}	354,658
Southern (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)	1,742,486	81.9	4.5	6.5	^{1/}	6.8	^{1/}	271,851
Northern Eastern Shore (Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)	2,788,214	85.4	4.2	8.9	^{1/}	0.8	^{1/}	265,324
Southern Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)	1,517,523	78.7	12.4	5.8	^{1/}	^{1/}	1.0	86,542
Maryland	10,548,824	83.8	6.4	5.8	0.9	2.1	1.0	1,060,436

^{1/} Data not published due to insufficient number of reports.

^{2/} Other Species include fox, beaver, muskrat, squirrel, vole, other birds, raccoon, and coyote.