



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
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Maryland Farmers Estimate \$9.9 Million in 2009 Wildlife Related Crop Losses

The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently reported that Maryland farmers lost an estimated \$9.9 million in potential crop production income due to wildlife damage in 2009. The survey results were collected and tabulated from the agency's fall acreage and production survey; with nearly 1,000 reports tabulated. Damage statewide was attributed to the following wildlife species with the corresponding estimated percent loss due to each species: deer, 74 percent; resident geese, 8 percent; migrant geese, 5 percent; and groundhogs, 10 percent.

Estimated economic loss was greatest in North Central Maryland, with crop losses reported at \$3.2 million, 32 percent of the state's total estimated losses. Most of these losses were due to deer damage (72 percent) followed by groundhogs. Other regional losses in order of magnitude were as follows: Southern Eastern Shore, \$2.3 million, Northern Eastern Shore, \$2.1 million; Southern Maryland, \$2.0 million; and Western Maryland, \$0.31 million. Crop farmers across Maryland spent an estimated \$0.69 million in 2009 on preventative measures such as fences, frightening devices, and repellents, with North Eastern Shore growers spending the most, at \$0.195 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)	310,000	79	1	1	12	4	3	25,000
North Central (Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington)	3,200,000	72	11	3	1/	12	1/	195,000
Southern (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)	2,000,000	71	7	8	1/	12	1/	180,000
Northern Eastern Shore (Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)	2,100,000	73	4	12	1/	8	1/	175,000
Southern Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)	2,300,000	82	6	3	1/	7	1/	115,000
Maryland	9,910,000	74	8	5	1/	10	1/	690,000

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

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