



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
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Maryland Farmers Estimate \$10.0 Million in 2011 Wildlife Related Crop Losses

The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently reported that Maryland farmers lost an estimated \$10.0 million in potential crop production income due to wildlife damage in 2011. The survey results were collected and tabulated from the agency's acreage and production survey, with nearly 400 reports tabulated. Damage statewide was attributed to the following wildlife species with the corresponding estimated percent loss due to each species: deer, 77 percent; groundhogs, 10 percent; migrant geese, 6 percent; and resident geese, 5 percent.

Estimated economic loss was greatest in North Central Maryland, with crop losses reported at \$4.3 million, 43 percent of the state's total estimated losses. Most of these losses were due to deer damage (77 percent) followed by groundhogs. Regional losses in order of magnitude were as follows: Southern Maryland, \$3.4 million; Northern Eastern Shore, \$1.2 million; Southern Eastern Shore, \$0.90 million; and Western Maryland, \$0.20 million. Crop farmers across Maryland spent an estimated \$0.410 million in 2011 on preventative measures such as fences, frightening devices, and repellents, with North Central Maryland growers spending the most, at \$0.175 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)	200,000	70	4	1	14	7	4	10,000
North Central (Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington)	4,300,000	80	5	1	1/	13	1/	175,000
Southern (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)	3,400,000	80	3	5	1/	11	1/	50,000
Northern Eastern Shore (Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)	1,200,000	65	10	19	1/	5	1/	125,000
Southern Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)	900,000	80	7	4	1/	5	3	50,000
Maryland	10,000,000	77	5	6	1/	10	1/	410,000

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

^{2/} Other Species include fox, beaver, muskrat, squirrel, vole, black bird, other birds, raccoon, and coyote. Data do not include potential crop losses due to stink bugs or other insects.