



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 \$9.6 Million in 2008 Wildlife Related Crop Losses

The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently reported that Maryland farmers lost an estimated \$9.6 million in potential crop production income due to wildlife damage in 2008. 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, 80 percent; resident geese, 3 percent; migrant geese, 7 percent; and groundhogs, 8 percent.

Estimated economic loss was greatest in North Central Maryland, with crop losses reported at \$3.0 million, 32 percent of the state's total estimated losses. Most of these losses were due to deer damage (80 percent) followed by groundhogs. Other regional losses in order of magnitude were as follows: Southern Maryland, \$2.2 million, Southern Eastern Shore, \$2.1 million; Northern Eastern Shore, \$2.0 million; and Western Maryland, \$0.3 million. Crop farmers across Maryland spent an estimated \$0.7 million in 2008 on preventative measures such as fences, frightening devices, and repellents, with North Central growers spending the most, at \$0.2 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)	300,000	82	1 ^{1/}	1 ^{1/}	13	3	1	20,000
North Central (Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington)	3,000,000	80	5	1 ^{1/}	1 ^{1/}	14	1 ^{1/}	230,000
Southern (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)	2,200,000	80	1 ^{1/}	15	1 ^{1/}	2	1	176,000
Northern Eastern Shore (Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)	2,000,000	81	2	7	1 ^{1/}	8	1 ^{1/}	160,000
Southern Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)	2,100,000	86	4	1 ^{1/}	1 ^{1/}	6	1 ^{1/}	148,000
Maryland	9,600,000	80	3	7	1^{1/}	8	1^{1/}	734,000

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

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