

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY ON DROUGHT CONDITIONS FOR MARYLAND FARMERS

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 7, 2010) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on the drought conditions being experienced by Maryland farmers:

"This summer's lack of rainfall has left many areas of the State in rainfall and soil moisture deficits that are impacting agricultural crops significantly. In some areas, farmers are reporting total loss of their corn crop as well as other un-irrigated crops. We are very concerned about the situation and are closely monitoring the situation through our Department of Agriculture, so we can request a disaster designation if it becomes appropriate.

"In the meantime, I've asked the Maryland Department of Agriculture to begin providing free testing service for grain that may be affected by drought-related toxins. In addition, we encourage farmers to be in touch with their crop insurance agents so they can receive indemnities to which they're entitled. Farmers should also familiarize themselves with U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster assistance programs, which may become available through their local Farm Service Agency offices if crop conditions continue to deteriorate.

"While agriculture appears to be the most significantly affected group at this time, it is important for all of us to try to reduce water consumption. There are many ways to do this in your gardens, homes and businesses. With no rain in sight and extreme temperatures further evaporating any moisture available to plants, we need to continue common sense conservation measures, until this drought is behind us."

For more information, visit the Department of Environment (www.mde.state.md.us) and the Department of Agriculture (www.mda.state.md.us).