

# OPERATING A PROFITABLE SMALL FARM

## FACT SHEET 2

### *Sources of Technical Assistance, Education, and Support for Farmers in Frederick County Maryland*

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#### **I. Introduction**

There are federal, state, and local government agencies that have been established to assist farm operators with a wide variety of services. While most small farm operators are unaware of the services provided by these agencies, veteran farmers who have utilized these agencies often mix up what services are provided by which agency. Services provided among these agencies include financial, technical, and educational. While some services overlap between some agencies, the farmer needs to go to the correct agency to insure that he/she receives the maximum benefit.

The list below identifies and describes the resource agencies for farmers in Frederick County, however these same agencies are available to farmers in the other Maryland counties. In fact every farmer in the country has access to most of these agencies in some form. They can be found in the government pages of the telephone book. The county office of the Maryland Cooperative Extension is listed in the county government section.

#### **II. Sources of Assistance for Farmers in Frederick County**

- University of Maryland Extension (UME)  
Frederick County  
330 Montevue Lane  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Telephone 301-600-1594

The University of Maryland Extension is the outreach branch of the University of Maryland System. University of Maryland Extension provides educational programs in the areas of agriculture, family and consumer sciences (nutrition, family finance), and youth (4-H). UME is an excellent source of fact sheets, bulletins, and other reference materials.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Telephone 301-695-2803 ext. 3

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, provides technical assistance on farm practices that reduce soil erosion and benefit water quality. These practices include grass waterways, diversions, crop strips, ponds, watering troughs, manure pits, and many more. NRCS also handles the state water quality cost-share program.

- Soil Conservation District (SCD)  
92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 230  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Telephone 301-695-2803

The soil conservation and water quality efforts in the county are channeled through the Soil Conservation Districts. The District Boards are made up of farmers from the county. Working with NRCS, FSA, MCE, the Districts also develop conservation demonstrations and promote environmental conservation to the non-agricultural sector. Frederick County has two District Boards (Frederick & Catoctin).

- Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 240  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Telephone 301-662-1321

The Farm Service Agency handles the government cost-share and price support programs. Disaster programs for drought, freeze, and hail are also handled by them. FSA also includes the Farmers Home Administration which provides loans to those who are unable to obtain a loan elsewhere. FSA will provide an aerial map of your farm upon request.

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

Forestry Division  
8602 Gambrill Park Road  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Telephone 301-473-8417

Wildlife Division  
14038 Blairs Valley Road  
Clear Spring, MD 21722  
Telephone 301-842-3355

The Forestry Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources can assist landowners with the establishment, management, and harvesting of trees on their property. The Wildlife Division of DNR manages the wildlife in the state. They handle complaints dealing with wildlife damage to crops and issue control permits. They also work with landowners to develop wildlife management plans.

- Frederick County Weed Control  
330 Montevue Lane  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Telephone 301-600-1586

Frederick County Weed Control operates through a joint partnership between the county government and the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Weed Control enforces the State Weed Control Law which regulates johnsongrass, shattercane, thistles, and in some instances multiflora rose. Weed Control also offers weed spraying services.