




		
<p><b>Wm. Donald Clifton II</b> Secretary of Agriculture</p>	<h1>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION</h1> <p><b>FISCAL YEAR 2027</b></p>	
	 <p><b>WE WORK FOR YOU EVERY DAY</b></p>	
 <p>DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF <b>AGRICULTURE</b></p>		

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	<h2>AGRICULTURE – DELAWARE’S NO. 1 INDUSTRY</h2> <h3>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION</h3>	
 <p>DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF <b>AGRICULTURE</b></p>	<p><b>LIFEBLOOD OF THE FIRST STATE</b></p> <p>On 520,000 acres of farmland, Delaware’s 2,150 family farms produce a wide variety of agricultural products. These include corn, soybeans, wheat, poultry, fruits, and vegetables.</p> <p>For livestock, the First State is home to more than 276 million broiler chickens and 10,500 head of cattle.</p> <p>Sussex County is the nation’s top producer of poultry (176 million, 50 million more than No. 2).</p>	 


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## AGRICULTURE – DELAWARE’S NO. 1 INDUSTRY

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION




DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**


Food and agriculture industries provide 76,243 direct jobs (*1 in 8 of all First State jobs*) and billions of dollars in total economic activity to the state.



In 2025, registered First State farmers markets **topped \$5 million** in sales for the first time.

**40-50 percent of the U.S. population** is within a day’s drive of Delaware, providing an abundance of customers for First State products.




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## AGLANDS PRESERVATION & PLANNING

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION




DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

**Overall**



Since the **Aglands Preservation Foundation’s** inception in the mid-1990s, more than 1,250 farms and almost 160,000 acres have been preserved.


**Round 30 - 2026**

- **350 farms** undergoing appraisal, including **90-plus** new applications, the highest number since the late 1990s.
- **Popular program throughout the state:** A portion of the 2025 easements were boosted by contributions from each county:
  - Sussex County: \$1,917,156**
  - New Castle County: \$225,769**
  - Kent County: \$100,000**




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## AGLANDS PRESERVATION & PLANNING

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE**



Funding


Since 2005, Aglands has been funded through an annual \$10 million transfer from Realty Transfer Tax revenue.  
*That model has not changed in more than two decades.*

2005 vs. 2025

Year	Transfer Tax Revenue (\$M)	Aglands Funding (\$M)	Aglands % of Transfer Tax
2005	\$113.6 million	\$10 million	9 percent
2025	\$235.8 million	\$10 million	4 percent

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## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

\$10.45

Million

Recommended Budget


Delaware Department of Agriculture Sections

Administration (Office of the Secretary, Communications & Marketing, Finance)	Standardbred Breeders' Fund	Plant Industries
Aglands Preservation & Planning	Food Products Inspection	Poultry & Animal Health
Agricultural Compliance	Nutrient Management	Thoroughbred Racing Commission
Delaware Forest Service	Pesticides	Weights & Measures
Harness Racing Commission		

Between 192-200 FTE and casual/seasonal employees in 11 sections and two commissions.

**VISION:** The Delaware Department of Agriculture supports farmers and consumers alike, working to sustain and grow our industry, promote fresh and seasonal products, and build consumer trust in Delaware.

**MISSION:** The staff of the Delaware Department of Agriculture strive to effectively and efficiently sustain and promote the viability of food, fiber, and agricultural industries in Delaware through quality services that protect and enhance the environment, health, and welfare of the general public.



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE**

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## FY26 AND FUTURE YEAR REQUESTS

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

**Project Summary Chart – State Capital Funds**

Project	FY 2026	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Recommended	FY 2028 Request	FY 2029 Request
Cover Crop Investment	\$6,400,000	\$10,000,000	\$3,800,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Minor Capital Improvement**	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Critical Equipment for Operations	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,850,000</b>	<b>\$10,450,000</b>	<b>\$4,250,000</b>	<b>\$10,450,000</b>	<b>\$10,450,000</b>



\*\* Funds authorized to the Office of Management and Budget

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## COVER CROP INVESTMENT - \$3.8 MILLION

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

**BACKGROUND**

Research shows that cover crops are the best tool in Delaware—environmentally and economically—to reduce agricultural nutrient runoff, improve water quality, and mitigate climate change. Cover crops improve soil health, increase the resiliency of fields to pests, and reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.

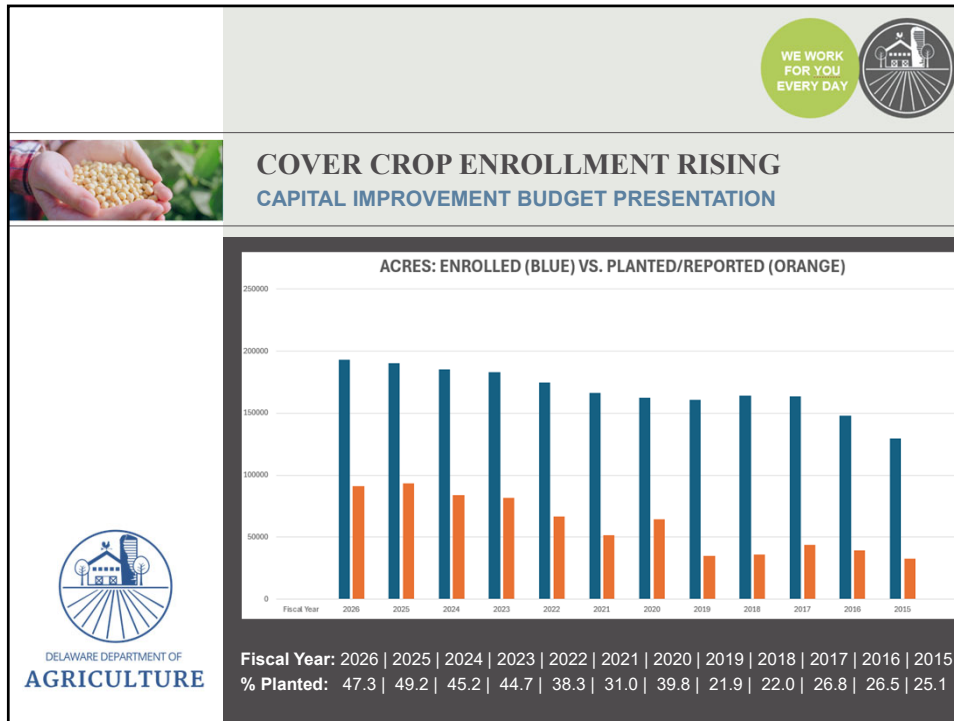
**THESE FUNDS WILL...**

Offset costs for farmers to plant cover crops. These crops are not harvested and do not provide any income for the farmer, but they help Delaware reach its nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay.





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**AG PRODUCTION INSURANCE ASSISTANCE**  
**RECOMMENDED: \$2 MILLION**

- First year complete after HB 87 was signed into law in July 2024 to assist producers with acquiring adequate coverage of crop insurance to ensure the viability of Delaware's agriculture production.
- This program has been well received and beneficial to many First State farmers with 420 participating farms obtaining more than 1,400 active policies. Delaware's \$2 million helps leverage over \$7 million in Federal assistance. The coverage obtained exceeded over \$160 million in 2025.

AG Production Insurance Assistance Program	
New Castle	104,876 Acres
Kent	32,867 Acres
Sussex	129,814 Acres
Kent/Sussex Bee Colonies	791 Colonies

- The new MOU was completed to make programmatic improvements to ensure that the program reached more qualified farmers.

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	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECOMMENDED: \$200,000 (MCI) &amp; \$250,000 (CRITICAL EQUIPMENT)</b></p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF <b>AGRICULTURE</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>MINOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p>Requested to continue renovations within our main building, laboratories, state forests, and replace infrastructure at the end of its useful life. This funding is managed by the Division of Facilities Management.</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>CRITICAL EQUIPMENT FOR OPERATIONS</b></p> <p>Will fund acquisition, replacement and repair of equipment for our agricultural and consumer protection operations. This equipment protects livestock and crop health, guards against fraudulent sales, protects water quality, provides laboratory services, and supports 21,000 acres of Delaware State Forests.</p> </div> 

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