



HERE'S HOW THE CHICKEN COMMUNITY IS WORKING FOR DELMARVA.

In 2024, the Delmarva chicken community raised 613.2 million chickens, produced 4.6 billion pounds of chicken and generated \$4.8 billion in sales. These annual figures, compiled by Delmarva Chicken Association, measure the broad, stabilizing contribution that chicken makes to Delmarva's economy.

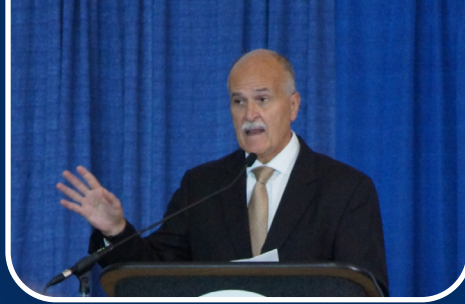
Delmarva's chicken companies spent \$1.3 billion on corn, wheat, soybeans and other feed ingredients in

2024, and paid their employees \$902 million in wages, excluding benefits. The family farmers who contract with the companies to raise chickens earned \$327 million in contract payments, or 1.8 percent more than in 2023 on an inflation-adjusted basis. Altogether, 1,206 broiler farm families and 17,947 chicken company employees worked hand-in-hand to produce delicious Delmarva chicken.

In 2024, the Delmarva chicken community:	1-year change	10-year change	20-year change
Raised 613.2 million chickens .	2.0%	7.8%	9.3%
Processed 4.6 billion pounds of chicken.	3.4%	22.2%	38.8%
Operated 4,986 chicken houses on independently owned farms.	1.6%	4.7%	9.3%
The houses had a capacity of 146 million chickens .	6.1%	12.8%	14.0%
There were 1,206 chicken growers .	-0.6%	-22.9%	-41.2%
They earned \$327 million in contract income .	1.8% *	16.5% *	24.1% *
There were 17,947 chicken company employees .	-5.0%	28.2%	27.7%
They earned \$902 million in wages , excluding benefits.	0.0% *	25.4% *	61.2% *
Feed ingredients for chickens were purchased for \$1.3 billion .	-14.8% *	-9.0% *	31.4% *
The wholesale value of chicken produced was \$4.8 billion .	3.4% *	22.2% *	38.8% *

* Inflation-adjusted

- Chicken companies purchased \$392 million in packaging and processing supplies in 2024.
- Chicken companies purchased 94 million bushels of corn, 41 million bushels of soybeans, and 561,000 bushels of wheat primarily from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia grain farmers for chicken feed in 2024.
- Delmarva's chicken companies invested \$187 million in capital improvements in 2024, including investments in wastewater treatment, hatcheries and processing plants.



HERE'S WHAT DCA ACHIEVED IN 2024.



Taxpayer Advocacy We cautioned our Delaware members to be prepared for a property value reassessment process that in Kent County caused some farm properties to face substantial year-over-year property tax increases. DCA collected assessed value and tax data for several dozen farm properties and found that many of them were hit with 2024 property tax bills substantially higher than their 2023 taxes. We pressed counties and their reassessment contracting company to justify these changes. Our advocacy continues in 2025, as we lobby the General Assembly for a more fair property assessment formula for chicken growers and all farm owners.



59th National Meeting Our popular scientific conference for the U.S. poultry industry, the 59th National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing and Live Production, drew more than 430 attendees to Ocean City, Md. The conference took place at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, a new, more modern venue. In a keynote address, USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Emilio Esteban laid out the department's plans for improving food safety by reducing Salmonella presence in poultry products, and speakers talked trends in stopping and detecting highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), including a French vaccination campaign.



Conservation Cost-Sharing DCA continued implementing a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) for almost \$1 million over three years through NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction program. The grant makes Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed eligible for assistance in cost-sharing many types of conservation practices, including planning and planting of tree buffers, grasses, and pollinators, as well as other conservation projects on farms. DCA is partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, and the program supports the chicken community's commitment to sustainable farming practices on Delmarva and help growers achieve bold, productive conservation goals on their farms.



Booster BBQ More than 750 DCA members and friends attended the third annual Booster BBQ in June at the Delaware State Fairgrounds. This year's event featured dozens of vendors, kid's activities, delicious chicken and dessert, and recognition of Outstanding Growers. At the event, we also honored three recipients of DCA awards: Mary Lou Brown, Calvin Keeler, and Delaware Gov. John Carney.



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