

Here's how the chicken industry is working for Delmarva.



In 2019, the Delmarva chicken industry produced **609 million chickens** and generated **\$3.5 billion** in value — a **3.8 percent increase** in the chicken community's value to Delmarva. Through efficient, conservation-minded farming and processing, we did this without growing the number of active chicken houses in the region.

Compared to the previous year, chicken house capacity fell **3.2 percent**, and the number of active chicken houses fell **1 percent**. However, the number of growers raising chicken on Delmarva increased slightly to **1,325 farm families**. Contract payments to chicken growers increased **4.3 percent** in 2019, with farm families earning a combined **\$280 million**. Our chicken company workforce of **20,391 jobs** contracted slightly from the prior year.

In 2019, the Delmarva chicken industry:

	1-year change	10-year change	20-year change
Raised 609 million chickens .	0.6%	7.1%	0.4%
Processed 4.3 billion pounds of chickens.	0.2%	23.9%	34.9%
Growers owned 5,114 chicken houses .	-1.0%	4.1%	-12.1%
The houses had a capacity of 145 million chickens .	-3.2%	14.1%	10.8%
There were 1,325 chicken growers .	1.8%	-20.5%	-47.6%
They earned \$280 million in contract income .	4.3%	27.1% *	18.4% *
There were 20,391 chicken company employees .	-0.2%	38.7%	45.7%
They earned \$780 million in wages , excluding benefits.	-0.5%	47.5% *	42.9% *
Feed ingredients for chickens were purchased for \$1.01 billion .	-0.3%	-3.2% *	36.2% *
The wholesale value of chicken produced was \$3.5 billion .	3.8%	39.8% *	50.7% *

*inflation-adjusted



Chicken growers and companies planted **17,025 trees and grass plugs** in 2019 as part of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.'s vegetative environmental buffers program.



Chicken companies purchased **89 million bushels of corn, 38 million bushels of soybeans, and 427,000 bushels of wheat** for chicken feed in 2019.



Chicken companies purchased **\$262 million** in packaging and processing supplies in 2019.



Delmarva's chicken companies invested **\$159 million** in capital improvements in 2019, including investments in wastewater treatment and processing plants.



Here's what DPI achieved in 2019.



We advocated for the chicken community at every turn.

DPI convinced lawmakers to reject legislation that could have added onerous, expensive air quality monitoring requirements for Maryland farmers; the bill did not pass for a third straight year. Through lobbying and conversations with lawmakers and their staffs, we secured several favorable amendments to an bill signed into law that changed nutrient management requirements. In Virginia, we stayed on top of regulations affecting water withdrawal permits, securing an outcome favorable to chicken growers.

By expanding sponsorship opportunities, we diversified our revenue.

Heeding our strategic plan's call to diversify DPI's revenue, we added new sponsorship opportunities to our College Scholarship Program golf tournament and the National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing, and Live Production. We also introduced banner advertising opportunities in Chicken Chatter, our weekly e-newsletter. In 2020, a newly appointed finance committee and treasurer will explore even more ways to diversify DPI's revenue — giving us added resources to put to work helping our members.

We collaborated with other groups invested in agriculture.

- In cooperation with the National Chicken Council, we added a virtual reality tour of a chicken farm to our display at events like the Delaware State Fair, giving consumers a richer picture of how chickens are raised.
- Working with The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment and the Maryland Department of the Environment, we forged ahead with an innovative partnership to monitor ambient air quality on Maryland's Eastern Shore.
- We also collaborated with the Delmarva Land & Litter Collaborative (DLLC), a forum for diverse partners to identify solutions that support both healthy and productive ecosystems and farming and poultry, to help the DLLC publish the "Exploring Chicken Farming on Delmarva" online storyboard. See it at bit.ly/DelmarvaChicken.