



# Calvert County Environmental Commission

## Calvert County Farmland

1. How many acres of prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance in Calvert County?

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the county has 20,370 acres of prime farmland (9.1% of county) and 25,568 acres of farmland of statewide importance (11.4% of county).

The [2017 Census of Agriculture](#) states there were 25,152 acres of farmland in the county.

2. What are the five most dominant soil types in the county that are classified as prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance?

The five dominant soil types (map unit names) classified as prime farmland in Calvert County are: Ingleside loamy sand (2-5% slopes), Marr-Dodon complex (2-5% slopes), Dodon-Crosiadore complex (0-2% slopes), Matapeake-Beltsville complex (2-5% slopes), and Woodstown sandy loam (2-5% slopes).

The five dominant soil types classified as farmland of statewide importance in the county are: Dodon-Marr complex (5-10% slopes), Ingleside-Woodstown complex (5-10% slopes), Annemessex silt loam (0-2% slopes), Piccowaxen loam (2-5% slope), and Woodstown sandy loam (5-10% slopes).

For more information, go to [Soil Survey of Calvert County, Maryland \(1971\)](#).

3. Are we losing or gaining forests and farmland?

According to Maryland Department of Planning, Calvert County lost about 3,000 acres of forest and 1,600 acres of farmland from 2002 to 2010 ([Calvert County Land Use](#)).

The Calvert County Critical Area Program, implemented in December 1988, requires the county to maintain 100% of existing forest cover within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area (land within 1,000 feet of tidal waters).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's [2017 Census of Agriculture](#) stated that there were 25,152 acres of farmland in the county--a decrease from 32,901 acres reported in 2012 and 26,443 acres reported in 2007.

4. What is a Nutrient Management Plan, why is it important, and who/what does it affect?

Nutrient management plans determine the amount, form, placement, timing, and application of animal manure, commercial fertilizer, bio-solids, and other plant nutrients used in the production of agricultural products to prevent water pollution, maintain soil productivity, and achieve realistic yield goals.

A nutrient management plan is a document that combines soil test results, yield goals, and estimates of residual nitrogen to generate field-by-field recommendations. The purpose of nutrient management plans is to help producers reduce nutrient pollution (going into the

Chesapeake Bay and other watersheds) by balancing nutrient inputs with plant nutrient requirements, while at the same time optimizing farm profits.

This document was written by the Environmental Commission for informational purposes only and is not official Calvert County policy.