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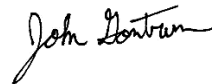
William Morgante, PWS
Wetlands Administrator

Dear Chairs Pinsky and Peña-Melnyk,

Pursuant to Section 14-703(f) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the Board of Public Works is submitting the following report authored by the Department of Agriculture on waivers requested and granted under the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program.

In Fiscal Year 2022, no waiver requests were made to the Department of Agriculture under the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program.

Sincere Regards,



John Gontrum
Executive Secretary



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing,
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agriculture and Seafood Marketing

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Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

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To: Lisa Grigsby, Board of Public Works

From: Mark S. Powell, Chief of Agriculture and Seafood Marketing

Date: September 2, 2022

Re: Report on Waivers from the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program (CLFEP)

Background:

State agencies have an overall goal of purchasing 20 percent of their food from certified local farm enterprises per *Agriculture Article, §2-103; State Finance and Procurement Article, §§14-701—14-707, Annotated Code of Maryland*. State agencies need to report on purchasing from certified farms and/or request a waiver.

No State Agency has requested waivers from the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program.

To date the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program has accomplished the following:

- The Certified Local Farm Enterprise Directory is now on Maryland's OneStop. Producers can apply to the program, receive notification of their eligibility and certification, and update their product information on an annual basis on OneStop. There are more than 70 producers who are certified with an additional 14 producers who applied and are under review as of this date.
- The Board of Public Works approved a 5-year contract for Aramark to provide food products and an inventory management system capable of tracking and managing delivery and inventory for all 22 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services facilities throughout the State. The contract incorporates a goal to support Maryland farms under the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program. Aramark has committed to meeting the goal of 20% of its total food spend going to Maryland Certified Local Farm Enterprises.
- UMD College Park Dining Services sent out a survey to all the Certified Local Farm Enterprises to determine their interest and capability to provide products to the University. UMD College Park Dining Services also noted some important information to the producers: 1. Liability insurance required with UMD College Dining Service: All University Vendors must carry and maintain general commercial liability insurance (with general and product liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage) in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate limit. The policy shall name "The University of Maryland, its successor(s), assign(s) and any other related entities," as additional insureds. 2. Products must be delivered onto the Dining Services loading dock(s) Monday through Friday between 6:00 am - 1:30 pm, 3. Credit card payment available for small purchases and W-9, State, and University paperwork required for other payments, 4. Payments from the State of Maryland typically net 30 days.

- MDA is working with Baltimore City based Old Line Meats to have their farms certified through the program. One Baltimore County farm, Albright Farm, started to sell shell eggs to UMD College Park as of 8/29/2022

- Department received no public comment regarding the program regulations. The program is now operating under the current regulations.
- MDA Marketing has trained MDA's Nutrient Management team on the program legislation and regulations. Work with the Nutrient Management staff on a weekly basis on various applications coming in through the program. Apiarists and aquaculture producers are eligible to be a part of the program.
- MDA Marketing trained more than 60 producers on institution procurement through schools and the use of eMMA. Encouraged producers to sign up as a vendor on eMMA to receive notifications from the county and state agencies on Request for Proposals for food.
- Presented "*Opening Wholesale Doors: MD's Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program*" at the 2022 Future Harvest Conference.
- Presented "*Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Law and Policy: The Role of Food Policy Councils and the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program*" at the 2021 Annual Agriculture and Environmental Law Conference resulting in a news story at RFD TV.
- Presented "*How does the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program Work with MD's Nutrient Management Program*" at the 2021 MDA's Nutrient Management Update.

MDA will be reaching out to state agencies to determine their use of Certified Local Farm Enterprises as well continue to ensure staff at those agencies understand the new program.