



**Maryland Certified Local Farm
and Fish Program Report**
to the
**Senate Committee on Education,
Energy and the Environment**
and
**House Committee on Health and
Government Operations**

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**Certified Local Farm and Fish Program Report
to the
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
House Health and Government Operations Committee**

Fiscal Year 2023

Program Overview

The Maryland Department of Agriculture created the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program (CLFF) in 2021 to encourage state agencies, including public four-year universities, to achieve an overall goal of purchasing 20% of their food from Certified Local Farm and Fish Directory per Agriculture Article, §2-103; State Finance and Procurement Article, §14-701 14-707, Annotated Code of Maryland. The purpose of the program is to increase economic opportunity and participation of qualified Maryland farms in State government procurement. State agencies and universities shall report on purchasing from providers listed in the Certified Local Farm and Fish Directory and/or request a waiver.

In accordance with §2–1257 of the State Government Article on Program Implementation and Participation, 2023 Chapter 576 states that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) shall submit a consolidated report to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 31 of every year.

The program is referenced as the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program (CLFF) for purposes of this report. 2023 Chapter 576 took effect on July 1, 2023 which included “Fish” in the program’s name. A certified local farm is a farm that meets the State’s nutrient management requirements and can become certified with the program. There are 106 farms in the CLFF Directory as of FY 23. There is no cost to obtain CLFF certification, and once certified, farms must renew annually. Registration and renewal of certification takes place through the State’s OneStop portal.

Maryland Department of Agriculture identified the following agencies which procure food with state funds through the review of the agency’s mission: Maryland Dept of Health, Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Dept. of Juvenile Services, Dept. of Veteran Affairs and 10 Universities.

No state agency or university requested waivers from the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program for FY 2023.

The primary data point used to measure the state entity's food purchasing goal is payment dollars. During FY2023, total expenditures to Certified Local Farm and Fish providers across the state agencies/universities was \$522,334 while approximately \$71 million was spent on food from 94 food vendors (Appendices 1 and 2). Only the work of a certified CLFF, performing as either a prime contractor or a subcontractor, was counted toward the food procurement goal. The following Comptroller Expenditure Object Codes was used to determine food procurement: OBJ 0811 and OBJ 0920 while credit card payments used Merchant Category Codes: 5300, 5411, 5422, 5441, 5451, 5462, and 5499.

Producer participation is a key element of the CLFF Program's success. The Maryland Department of Agriculture will continue to build the program to implement marketing, outreach, and training to increase the number of certified farms and Chesapeake Invasive Species Providers.

Program Highlights for the Fiscal Year 2023:

- The Certified Local Farm and Fish directory increased the number of providers by 51%.
- The Maryland Secretary of Agriculture sent a letter on June 2, 2023 to Governor Moore's Cabinet Secretaries and to the University of Maryland System's Presidents on October 10, 2023 about the program and the need to report their food purchases to MDA by September 30.
- MARBIDCO Certified Local Farm Aggregation Grant Fund: The Bay Farmers' Alliance in Somerset County and Garrett Growers in Garrett County received a MARBIDCO Certified Local Farm Aggregation Grant Fund to help aggregate from farms. The Certified Local Farm Aggregation Grant yielded an 11% increase in certified farms in the directory.
- MDA Nutrient Management staff develops protocols on nutrient management for urban agriculture producers to be listed in the Directory.
- Maryland State Department of Education's assessment of Title 14, Subtitle 7 concludes that the Certified Local Farm and Fish program does not directly apply to the Local Education Agencies procurements for food for students. The Program applies to "units of state government and 4-year state universities." Local Education Agencies are not considered "units of state government."
- The following state entities requested Certified Local Farm and Fish language to include into their Request for Proposals on the program: :
 - Frostburg State University
 - Towson University
 - University of Maryland College Park
 - Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services
- A promotional video was developed to highlight the University of Maryland College Park efforts in purchasing locally-grown products through UMD Dining Services.
- Developed a working diagram on the State's food supply chain (Appendix 3).
- Geolocated the state institutions facilities and universities affected by the program to see how demand is distributed in the territory visually (Appendix 4).

APPENDIX 1

| State agencies | Total Food Purchases | Total \$ Payments to Certified Local Farm | % CLFF Purchases | Report status |
|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Dept. of General Services | \$0 | \$0 | 0 | Reported |
| Dept of Health | \$5,531,029.00 | \$0 | 0 | Reported |
| Dept. of Juvenile Services | \$3,588,504.00 | \$0 | 0 | Reported |
| Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services | \$40,380,709.00 | \$400,612 | 1 | Reported |
| Department of Veteran Affairs | \$0 | \$0 | 0 | Does not need to report for FY 23*1 |
| University System of Maryland | | | | |
| University of Maryland Eastern Shore | \$1,900,000 | \$121,722 | 6.4 | Reported |
| University of Maryland College Park | \$21,935,994 | \$149,833 | 0.7 | Reported |
| Towson State University | \$0 | \$0 | | No response |
| TOTAL | \$71,436,236 | \$522,334 | 0 | |

University System of Maryland not required to report*1:

| University | Contract Start Date | Contract End Date |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Frostburg State University | Before 3/14/2021 | 6/2024 |
| Coppin State University | Before 3/14/2021 | 7/31/2030 |
| Morgan State University | 6/1/2020 | 6/1/2025 |
| Salisbury University | 1/3/2017 | 6/30/2025 |
| Bowie State University | 7/1/2019 | 6/30/2029 |
| University of Maryland Baltimore Co. | 7/1/2018 | 6/30/2033 |
| St. Mary's College of Maryland | 7/1/2020 | 6/30/2027 |
| Morgan State University | 6/1/2020 | 6/1/2025 |

**1 State agencies or universities that had signed a food service contract before the law went into effect on March 14, 2021 does not need to request a waiver or submit a report until the contract ends or renewed.*

Universities that do not have dining halls or cafeterias:

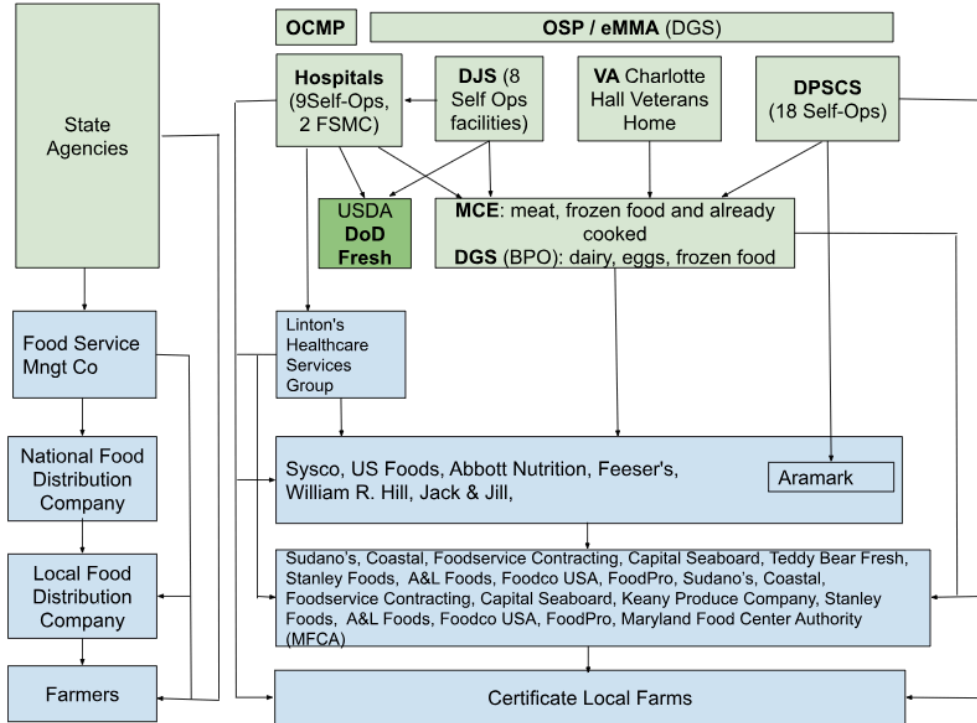
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- University of Baltimore

APPENDIX 2
Food Vendors to State Agencies and Universities

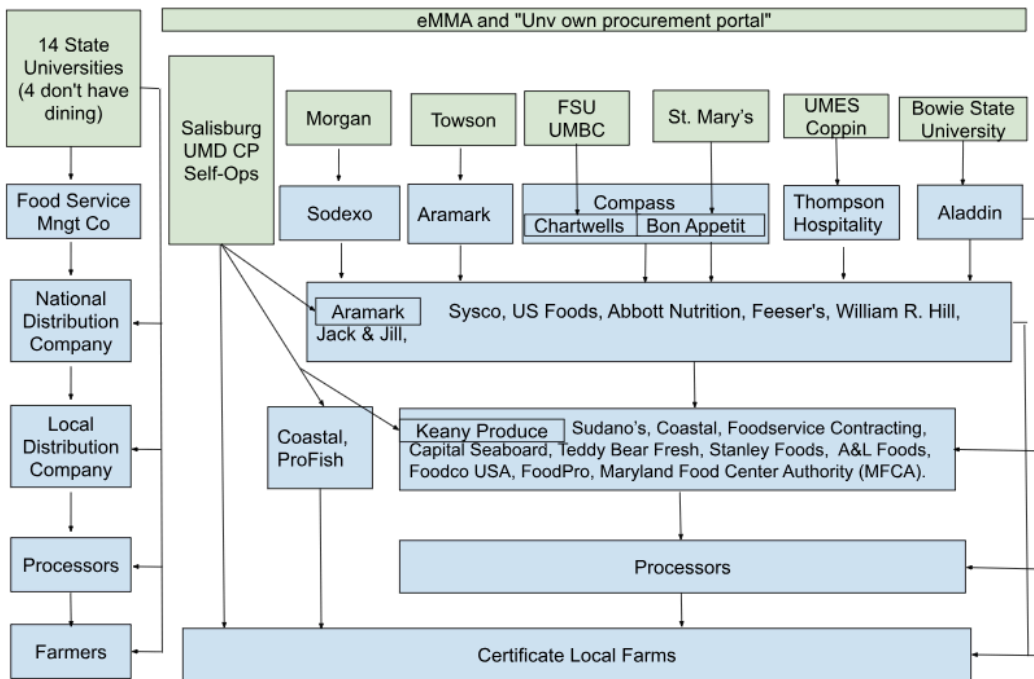
| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Ahold Financial Services dba Giant of Maryland | Galliker Dairy Company | Nuts.Com | Wagner Meats |
| Albert Uster Imports | Garber Ice Cream Co | Old Line Custom Meats | Webstaurant Store |
| Albright Farms | George R Ruhl & Son | Otterbeins Bakery | Whats A Bagel Inc |
| Apollo ICE Company | Glacierpoint Enterprises | Pepsi Cola | Whats A Bagel Donut |
| Aramark Correctional Services LLC | Glacierpoint Enterprises, Inc. | Performance Food Service Maryland | WM R Hill & Co., Inc. |
| Asmar Med Foods | Gold Star Foods, Inc. | Performance Food Vistar | |
| Barcelona Nut | Good Source Solutions, Inc. | Prime Foods | |
| Bernard Food Industries | Gourmet Kitchen | Profish/Ocean Pro | |
| Bfree Bread Products | Greensburg Farm Market | Reinhart Foodservice | |
| BISM | H & S Bakery | Restaurant Technologies Inc | |
| Blue Can Company, LLC | Herr Foods | Rhee Brothers | |
| Blue Triton Brands, Inc. | Hill and Dale | Schmidt Baking Company | |
| Buckhead Meat & Seafood | Hillandale Gettysburg LP | Shalom Strictly Kosher | |
| Canada Dry Distributions | International Gourmet Foods | SIMCO Logistics, Inc. | |
| Captain Dans Crabhouse | Jeppi Nut | Simply Thick, LLC | |
| Carbon's Golden Waffle | Just Candy | Sonoma Farm | |
| Cardinal Health 110, LLC | Keany Produce Co | Spectrum Foods, Inc. | |
| Chefs Warehouse | Ledos Pizza College Park | Stanley Foods, Inc. | |
| Chieftan Wild Rice Co | Lilar Corporation | Sudano's Produce | |
| Choc Arts LLC | Lyon Bakery | Sushi Co | |
| Cloverland Green Spring | MCE | Sutherland Cooper, LLC | |
| Coastal Sunbelt Produce | Mclane Foodservice | Sysco Eastern MD | |
| Cooper Booth Wholesale | Mid Atlantic Coca Cola | Teddy Bear Fresh | |
| Dairy Maid Dairy | MIK Industries, Inc. | UNFI United Natural Foods Inc | |
| Dover Foods, Inc. | Mister Fish | University of MD Central MD Research & Education | |
| Feesers, Inc. | National Food Group | US Foods, Inc. | |
| Food Authority | Nature Seal | US Foodservice | |

APPENDIX 3 Draft State Food Supply Chain

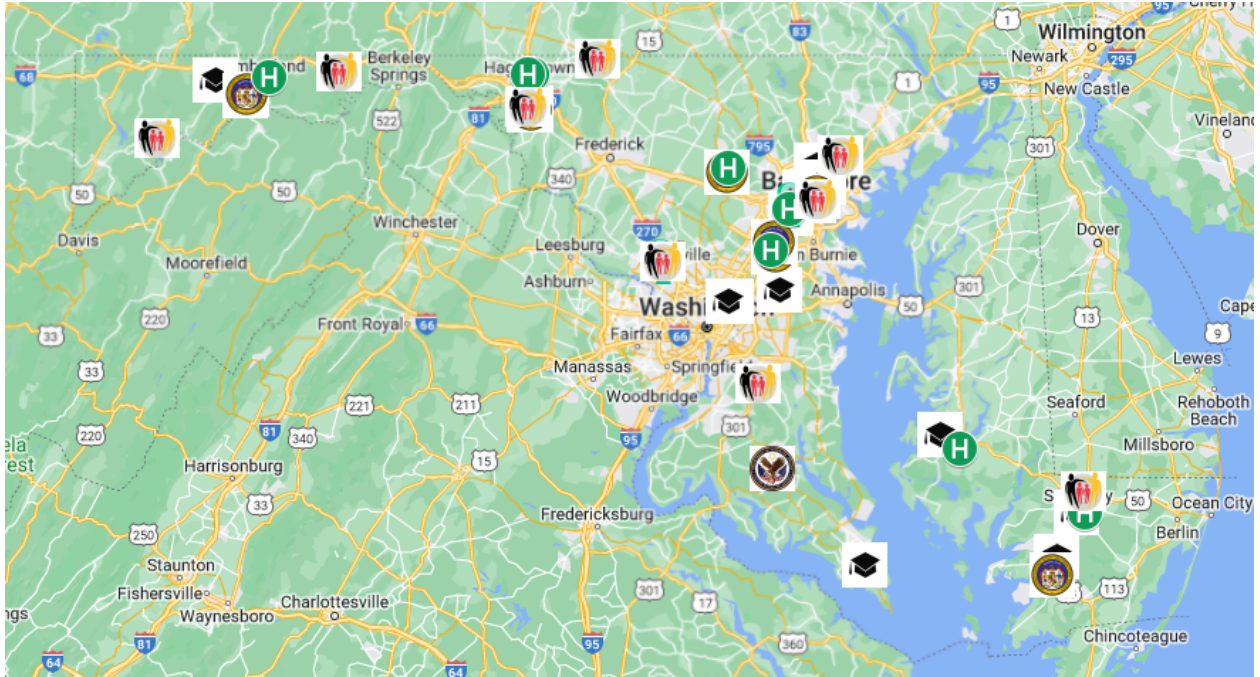
State Agencies









Universities



Appendix 4 Geolocation of state agencies and universities



-  Hospital
-  University
-  Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
-  Dept of Juvenile Services
-  Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
-  Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents