Greater Baltimore’s rich climate and varied landscapes have made it an agricultural leader for centuries. In a state that was the “bread basket” of the early United States, the Region is home to a diverse array of farm, ranch, and value-added agricultural products. The tradition of Maryland agriculture combined with the promise of new technologies positions Greater Baltimore as an innovative leader in the sector. Maryland’s commitment to preserved farmland ensures that this industry will continue to thrive for centuries to come.

Agriculture in Greater Baltimore: Jobs for Many, Quality of Life for All

Agriculture is the number one employer in Maryland, with positive economic and aesthetic impacts in rural and urban environments alike. Greater Baltimore has over 3,750 farms, spanning 430,000 acres. They produce over $400 million in output each year, benefiting communities with fresh, farm-to-table produce (Census of Ag., 2017). The Region is also a global leader in the equine industry, with the nation’s largest family-owned breeding farm (Winbak Farm), one of only seven “Five Star” eventing courses worldwide (Fair Hill), and, of course, the middle jewel of the Triple Crown: the Preakness Stakes.

State of the Art Research & Development

The Region’s STEM capabilities have important spillover benefits for agriculture. Howard County is home to the headquarters of Bioenergy DevCo and W.R. Grace, two global leaders in bio-fuel. Baltimore City’s City Hydro is an innovator in vertical urban farming. Meanwhile, Carroll County is a national leader in agricultural uses for drone technology. Agricultural Extension offices throughout the Region help farmers implement the latest innovations.

Additive Uses for Greater Baltimore Agriculture

Across the Region, farmers and local businesses are developing unique products and farm-to-table offerings, from national operations like Hungry Harvest to smaller, family-owned businesses across a wide variety of sub-sectors: