



2001 Wildlife Damage Survey

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7.7 Percent of Crop Value Lost to Deer and Geese

Maryland farmers lost \$17.2 million of corn, soybeans and wheat to deer or geese during 2001. This translates to Maryland farmers losing 7.7 percent of the crop value to deer and geese. Soybeans accounted for the greatest economic loss, totaling \$9.1 million, 11 percent. Corn losses were \$6.6 million, 5.8 percent and wheat \$1.5 million, 5.6 percent. Deer damage resulted in losses of \$13.6 million, 6.1 percent, while geese losses were \$3.6 million, 1.6 percent.

Production losses totaled 6.0 million bushels. Corn losses were 3.2 million bushels, soybean losses totaled 2.2 million bushels and wheat accounted for 0.6 million bushels. Production losses to deer were 4.7 million bushels and geese 1.3 million bushels.

In terms of yield, losses to deer were most severe in Central and Western Maryland, while geese damage was greater on the Eastern Shore. Corn yield losses of 9.6 bushels per acre and 7.4 bushels per acre were reported in Central and Western Maryland, respectively. The Lower Eastern Shore reported the highest soybean losses of 6.1 bushels per acre.

Sixty-two percent of farms reported deer or geese damage to one or more crop. Damage was reported on 61 percent of farms raising corn, 58 percent of farms growing soybeans and 27 percent of farms with wheat.

Maryland 2001 Crop Loss from Deer

Region1	Crop	Acres Harvested	Harvested Yield (bu/acre)	Average Yield Loss (bu/acre)	Production Loss (bu)	Economic Loss (\$)
Western Maryland Allegany, Garrett	Corn	5,500	104.9	7.4	40,700	83,435
	Soybeans	300	36.7			
	Wheat	200	45.0	2.3	460	1,127
Central Maryland Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington	Corn	125,200	98.2	9.6	1,201,920	2,463,936
	Soybeans	92,500	34.0	3.9	360,750	1,479,075
	Wheat	38,300	63.3	3.3	126,390	309,656
Southern Maryland Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's	Corn	29,800	132.7	4.9	146,020	299,341
	Soybeans	43,200	38.0	3.3	142,560	584,496
	Wheat	16,000	57.0	0.9	14,400	35,280
Upper Shore Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot	Corn	157,000	159.2	5.1	800,700	1,641,435
	Soybeans	232,000	39.9	2.4	556,800	2,282,880
	Wheat	86,500	64.0	1.1	95,150	233,118
Lower Shore Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester	Corn	92,500	150.7	4.1	379,250	777,463
	Soybeans	147,000	41.0	6.1	896,700	3,676,470
	Wheat	34,000	63.0	0.9	30,600	74,970
Maryland	Corn	410,000	136.0	6.4	2,624,000	5,379,200
	Soybeans	515,000	39.0	3.6	1,854,000	7,601,400
	Wheat	175,000	63.0	1.5	262,500	643,125
	All Crops				4,740,500	13,623,725

Maryland 2001 Crop Loss from Geese

Region	Crop	Acres Harvested	Harvested Yield (bu/acre)	Yield Loss (bu/acre)	Production Loss (bu)	Economic Loss (\$)
West of the Bay	Corn	160,500	104.8	2.4	385,200	789,660
	Soybeans	136,000	35.3	0.3	40,800	167,280
	Wheat	54,500	61.4	1.7	92,650	226,993
East of the Bay	Corn	249,500	156.1	0.4	99,800	204,590
	Soybeans	379,000	40.3	1.0	379,000	1,553,900
	Wheat	120,500	63.7	2.2	265,100	649,495
Maryland	Corn	410,000	136.0	1.4	574,000	1,176,700
	Soybeans	515,000	39.0	0.7	360,500	1,478,050
	Wheat	175,000	63.0	2.1	367,500	900,375
	All Crops				1,302,000	3,555,125

Survey Procedures

A random sample of Maryland farmers was surveyed to provide data for this report. Results are based on 1,100 reports from farm operators. Data were collected during November 2001 by mail and telephone.

Farmers were asked to report "Grain yield (per acre) loss due to deer damage?" by crop. The same question was repeated for geese.

Production loss was calculated by multiplying Average Yield Loss by Acres Harvested. Economic Loss is Production Loss multiplied by Marketing Year Average Price.