

Certification of County Agricultural Land Preservation Programs
Re-Certification Request – Queen Anne's County
(Summary of Certification Letter dated May 13, 2002)

The Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation would like to thank you for submitting Queen Anne County's annual report for 2000 for the Agricultural Certification Program. This brief interim report was the first from Queen Anne's since the County's farmland preservation program was certified in 1999.

The County's preservation effort made substantial progress in FY 2000:

- 2,600 acres of easements were preserved by MALPF, by far the highest total of any County in the State for FY 2000;
- The rate of conversion of farmland to development is small in absolute terms, and even smaller when compared to acreage preserved (eight acres preserved in FY 2000 for each acre converted);
- Revisions to the comprehensive plan have the potential to strengthen the program.

The County did not allocate and spend enough funds to meet its qualifying expenditures in FY 2000, but we understand from talking to your predecessor, Joy Levy, that the County allocated and spent enough in FY 2001 to meet the requirement for qualifying expenditures for the certification period as a whole.

The next annual report requires an evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses, and future direction of the County's farmland preservation program to address weaknesses. It also serves as your application for recertification. (It was actually due last October, but given the delay in our response to the FY 2000 report, we can extend the grace period until October 1, 2002.)