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# Understanding the Diverse Legal Needs of the Maryland Agricultural Community

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
**AGRICULTURE LAW  
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MPOWERING THE STATE

# Understanding the Diverse Legal Needs of the Maryland Agricultural Community

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## Executive Summary

Agriculture's total impact on the Maryland economy was \$8.25 billion in 2010, accounting for over 22,000 jobs. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, Maryland had over 12,000 agricultural operations producing a diverse range of agricultural commodities: poultry, dairy, grain, equine, nursery, greenhouse products to name just a few. This article highlights results from a University of Maryland's Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) needs assessment in 2013. The assessment provided the legal community a deeper understanding of the legal needs of the state's agricultural producers. The assessment consisted of 23 structured interviews and a survey of University of Maryland Extension (UME) agricultural faculty.

Legal issues related to environmental regulations, land use, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) programs, business planning, and marketing and diversification ranked near the top on both the UME survey and the structured interviews. UME survey results show potential regional differences among the top legal issues. For instance, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, legal issues related to the environment, divorce, and debt were important, whereas in Southern Maryland legal issues related to the environment, estate planning, and business planning were seen as important. Finally, the survey results suggest the appropriate form of outreach on many of these issues.

Results from the structured interviews and UME survey provide ALEI a wealth of information and understanding on the legal issues that impact the Maryland agricultural community. The information in this initial needs assessment will also aid attorneys, state agencies, members of the Maryland General Assembly, and other groups working with the state's agriculture community in understanding the agricultural community's legal issues.

## Introduction

Agriculture's total impact on the Maryland economy was \$8.25 billion in 2010, and accounted for over 22,000 jobs (Lynch & Ferris, 2013). According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, Maryland had 12,256 agricultural operations producing a diverse range of commodities including poultry, dairy, grain, equine, nursery, and greenhouse products (2012 Census of Ag, 2014).

At the same time, Maryland's agriculture sector operates near two large urban centers totaling 5.7 million people (Census Bureau, 2014). Maryland borders the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay (NOAA, 2014). Large non-agricultural populations, concerns about water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, and new social movements related to animal welfare, local foods, and sustainability have added complexities for the agricultural community. These complexities have manifested themselves as new laws and regulations to protect and improve water quality, land use planning and zoning regulations, and as the need for strategies to co-exist with non-farm neighbors.

Laws affect agriculture just like any other business. Farmers enter into contracts for goods and services and need a basic understanding of contract law. Like other family businesses, passing along a family farm or transitioning it to the next generation of owners necessitates legal instruments. Developing an understanding of the laws and risks that can impact agricultural operations will allow Maryland agricultural producers—like other small businesses owners—to make informed decisions and develop business plans that keep up with changing laws and regulations.



**The ALEI assessment sought to determine those areas of the law most affecting agricultural producers.**

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This report highlights results from a University of Maryland's Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) needs assessment conducted in 2013. The purpose of the ALEI assessment was to illuminate those areas of the law which most affect producers and their operations, and to address the pressing legal concerns facing the Maryland agricultural community. Few other studies have addressed the legal needs of agricultural producers (Endres, 2010). The ALEI legal needs assessment consisted of structured interviews with leaders in Maryland's agricultural, natural resource, and environmental communities as well as a survey of University of Maryland Extension (UME) faculty.

## Motivations for the Study

In 2011, the Maryland General Assembly directed the Maryland University System to assist the state's agricultural producers with trusts and estates issues, compliance with environmental laws, and

other issues necessary to preserve Maryland family farms. The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Agriculture and Natural Sciences (UMES) formed ALEI to address this directive.

Understanding the issues surrounding preservation of Maryland's family farms is a very broad directive. In initial work, the ALEI group decided to conduct a needs assessment to determine the issues relevant to preserving Maryland farms. In reviewing previous work on the legal needs of agricultural producers, ALEI determined few substantial reviews and analyses. To date, only the University of Illinois has published an article detailing the legal needs of producers in that state (Endres, 2010).

The ALEI group first conducted structured interviews of leaders from Maryland's Departments of Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources, as well as environmental groups, watermen, and representatives from various Maryland commodity and producer groups. Based on responses from the structured interviews, ALEI next decided to survey UME faculty regarding the most pressing legal issues facing the state's agricultural producers. The UME faculty survey sought to verify the results of the structured interviews. ALEI plans to conduct a survey of Maryland agricultural producers as was done in Illinois if funds become available. (Endres, 2010).

These results provide ALEI with information that environmental issues, land use, state and federal programs, etc., are legal issues of concern to Maryland's agricultural community. Developing educational opportunities around these top issues will provide ALEI with an opportunity to be unique among agricultural law programs in the nation.

Producers in other states do not face the level of environmental regulations and land use restrictions as Maryland's producers. Focusing on these issues will allow ALEI the opportunity to develop a unique program and differentiate itself from other agricultural law programs in the nation.

## Interviews Background

In the spring of 2013, ALEI conducted 23 structured interviews with representatives from the agricultural community, environmental community, and state government, to ascertain the legal needs of the Maryland agricultural community (appendix 1). Each of the 23 interviewees were asked the same eight questions ranging from general background on the interviewee and their organization, to how the interviewee and organization work with agricultural producers in Maryland, and their opinions as to the legal challenges facing Maryland producers (Structured Interviews, 2013). Interview responses were reviewed using a process known as "content analysis," which allows for "a systematic and objective means to make valid inferences from verbal, visual, or written data in order to describe and quantify specific phenomena" (Downe-Wambolt, 1992). While there is no single set of fixed rules for content analysis, the general consensus is to use the following steps:

- 1) Selecting the unit of analysis and sampling method;
- 2) Creating and defining categories;
- 3) Pretesting categories;
- 4) Assessing reliability and validity;
- 5) Revising coding rules (if necessary);
- 6) Pretesting revised coding rules (if necessary);

*Results of the interviews illustrate that the top legal concerns of Maryland agricultural producers are environmental regulations, nuisance actions/right-to-farm, land use (such as zoning limitations), estate planning, and land leasing.*

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- 7) Coding all the interviews; and
- 8) Assessing the reliability and validity of the data coded. (Downe-Wambolt, 1992).

In analyzing the structured interview results, ALEI members randomly numbered all the interviews. To code the legal issues represented in the structured interviews, ALEI members utilized the same list of legal issues appearing in the University of Illinois's legal needs survey (Endres, 2010). After a pretest, ALEI members decided to include an additional category of "Right-to-Farm/Nuisance" because ALEI members found reliability for these issues was low with the existing categories. ALEI members then coded the structured interviews.

## **Interview Results**

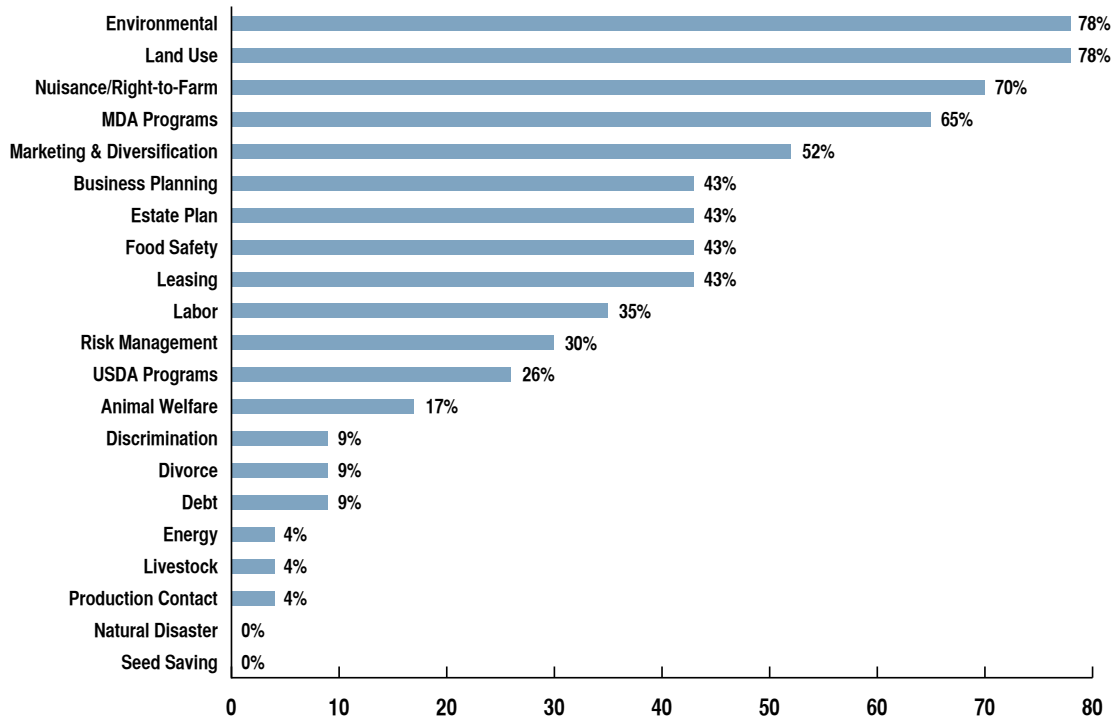
Of the 23 interviewees, 13 interviewees represented agricultural producer groups, five interviewees represented Maryland state government agencies, and the remaining interviewees represented other agricultural interests. Each of the interviewees represented diverse viewpoints on Maryland agriculture, the environment, and resource issues. The interviewee list is missing some representatives from Maryland's agricultural industry. ALEI reached out to other groups representing Maryland agriculture (see appendix 1), but representatives from the equine, greenhouse, and nursery industries did not respond to requests for interviews. Inclusion of these groups could potentially change any results from the structured interview process.

Results of the interviews illustrate that the top legal concerns of Maryland agricultural producers are environmental regulations, nuisance actions/right-to-farm, land use (such as zoning limitations), estate planning, and land leasing (chart 1). Responses related to environmental regulations were focused on those aimed at cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. Responses related to nuisance actions/right-to-farm centered on concerns of neighbors filing nuisance suits and the state's right-to-farm law being inconsistently applied across counties in the state.

Legal concerns surrounding issues such as seed saving, natural disasters, production contracts, livestock, energy, debt, divorce, and discrimination were not mentioned by many interviewees as legal

Chart 1

Percentage of Interviewees Responding A Legal Issue Was A Challenge Facing Maryland Agriculture



challenges facing agricultural producers. In the case of divorce, interviewees only mentioned it when discussing legal challenges in rural communities, such as not having access to attorneys to represent rural residents in issues such as bankruptcy and divorce (Structure Interview Results, 2013). As will be discussed later, UME faculty respondents considered each of these issues as concerns.

Production contracts and livestock issues were rarely mentioned (only 4% of respondents) as legal challenges even though Maryland is home to 2,519 poultry operations and 573 dairies (2012 Census of Ag, 2014). Interviewees were not asked for an explanation why these issues were not challenges to Maryland livestock producers. These could be adequately addressed through private companies and attorneys and as such people do not perceive them as challenges. However, given the widespread use of production contracts and livestock entities,

further research on why these issues are not thought important, or what types of education or legal practices have been used to prevent issues within this sector, would be of interest.

Forty-three percent of interviewees mentioned food safety as an issue facing agricultural producers. A follow-up question asking if the food safety concerns related to vegetable production or to on-farm slaughter and meat processing laws would allow ALEI to focus on the specific issues of concern.

Interviewees were asked what had helped Maryland farm producers meet legal challenges. Half of the interviewees (11 out of 22) responded that UME’s educational programming and materials helped. Other groups, such as Maryland Farm Bureau, Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service, and Soil Conservation Districts, were also mentioned.

Future structured interviews would be



strengthened with consistent methods of recording responses. These 23 interviews were conducted by six members of the ALEI group. While the interviews were structured to be open-ended, even if each of the six interviewers had consistently recorded the responses, no instrument existed to verify this. A consistent method or standards for recording the interviews would have enabled more consistent recording of responses. However, audio recording may have inhibited interviewees, resulting in less candid responses.

While the consistency of recording interview responses may be unverified, the members of ALEI did not limit their needs assessment to the structured interviews. ALEI team members followed up the interviews with a survey of UME faculty to gather their input. The UME survey responses confirm many of the top issues mentioned in the structured interviews.

## **UME Survey**

Given that almost half of the structured interviewees mentioned UME programming as helpful to the agricultural community facing legal

challenges, ALEI conducted an Internet survey of UME faculty. The survey sample included UME county agriculture educators and all UME state-wide agricultural specialists. The survey was emailed to 109 UME agricultural faculty; 53 individuals (48 percent) responded.

The survey consisted of nine questions to gauge UME agricultural faculty's thoughts on the legal issues impacting Maryland agriculture. The survey was designed for the faculty members based on their experience working with the state's agricultural community. They were asked on which issues they receive the most phone calls from producers, legal issues they thought were the most important to the agricultural community, outreach methods that would benefit producers, and risk management tools producers used. Respondees indicated in which region of the state they operated and the likelihood they would participate in a master's program or a certificate programs in agricultural law (Extension Survey, 2013).

## **Combined Survey Results**

The online survey utilized the same 17 categories outlined earlier for coding the structured interviews, including Land Use, Land Leasing, Marketing and Diversification, Production Contracts, Seed Saving, Livestock, Food Safety, USDA Programs, MDA Programs, Labor, Environmental Energy, Debt, Estate Planning, Business Planning, Divorce, Discrimination, and Animal Welfare. Each category included examples of issues. Faculty members were asked the number of calls they had received on each of the categories. Responses were "no calls," "1 to 4 calls," "5 to 9 calls," or "10 or more calls." Faculty members then answered how important the issues were using "not important," "important," "very important," or "do not know."

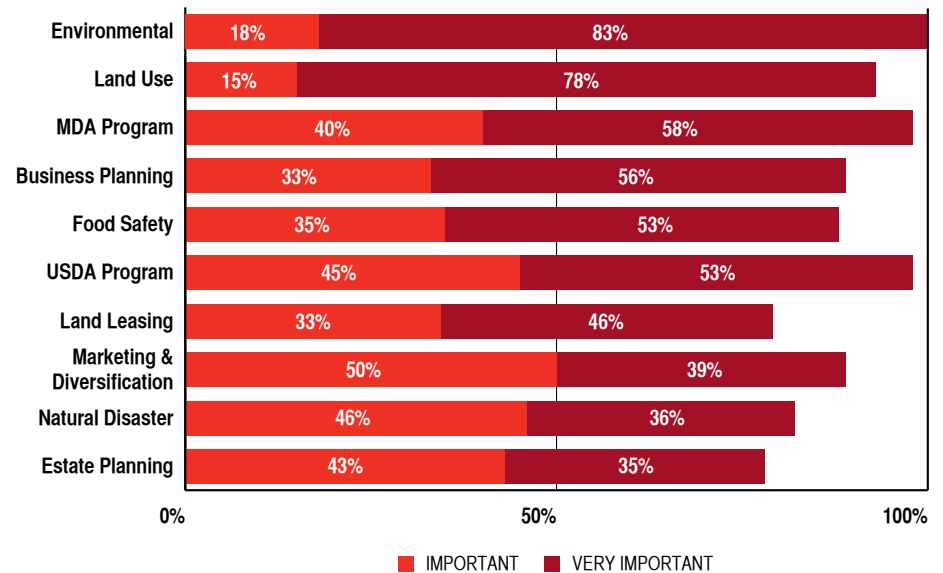


Charts 2 and 3 illustrate the top legal issues on which UME faculty receive calls and that they viewed as important. These issues follow the same pattern identified by producer groups, state government agencies, and others in chart 1; UME faculty identified many of the same top issues. Recall that in the structured interviews, Nuisance/Right-to-Farm ranked as a top issue, but this category did not appear in the UME survey results. When coding the structured interviews, the ALEI team created a right-to-farm category. In the UME survey, right-to-farm was included as an issue under Land Use.

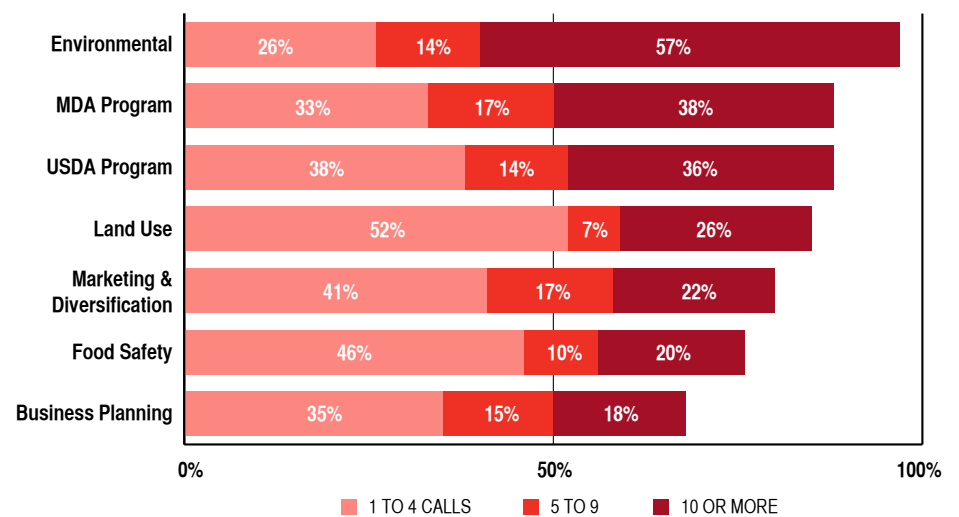
The number of phone calls indicates legal issues related to the environment ranked as very important, aligning with the findings in the structured interviews. Some 57 percent of respondents reported receiving 10 or more calls on environmental issues in the last year, and another 40 percent of respondents received 1 to 9 calls. In addition, all UME faculty stated that environmental issues were either a “very important” or “important” issue facing Maryland farmers.

As in the ALEI structured interviews, UME respondents identified land use as the second most important legal issue. Land use was described as issues related

**Chart 2**  
**Extension Educators’ Perceptions About The 10 Most Important Legal Issues Facing Farmers**



**Chart 3**  
**Top 7 Legal Issues On Which Extension Educators Received the Most Phone Calls Last Year**



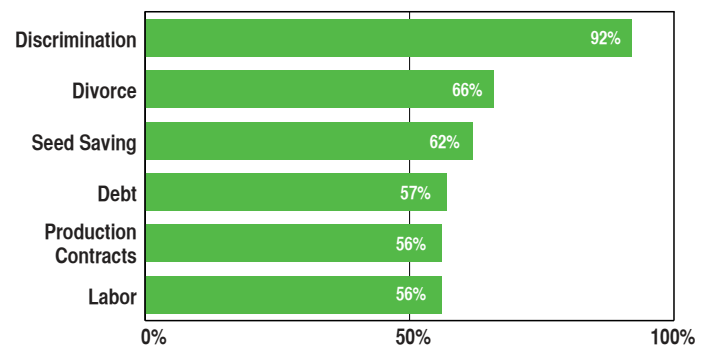
to zoning, right-to-farm, liability for third parties on farms, property rights, and compliance with land preservation easements. Over three-quarters of respondents considered land use issues to be very important to Maryland agriculture and an additional 15 percent considered it an important issue. In total, over 80 percent of the UME respondents had received phone calls on this issue.

However, survey respondents identified issues which did not always align with those of the structured interviewees. UME faculty considered legal issues related to USDA programs, such as eligibility for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and compliance issues, to be important. Eighty-eight percent of UME respondents identified receiving at least one phone call on USDA programs in the previous year. Only one-quarter of the structured interviewees, on the other hand, said USDA programs were an important legal issue facing Maryland producers. Recall that structured interviews were open-ended discussions and as such the interviewees were given no prompting on issues. Nor were interviewees provided with a list such as the UME faculty respondents were given in the survey (Structured Interview Questions, 2013). If prompted and given the option of USDA programs as a legal challenge, individuals in the structured interviews may have said these programs were a legal challenge. This may explain the difference in the two groups' responses. This issue was not predominant in their thoughts, however, when the structured interviews occurred.

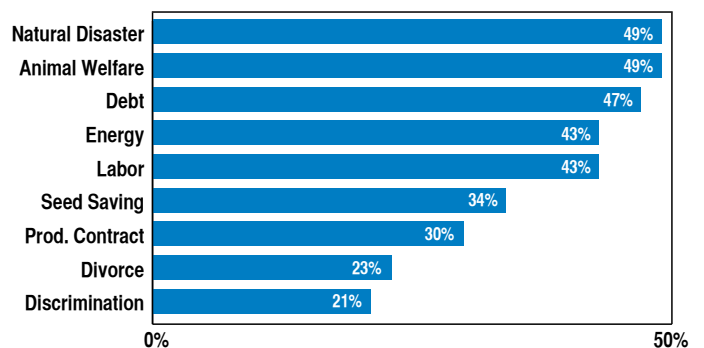
Many respondents had not received phone calls on various issues (chart 4). Almost 92 percent of UME faculty responded that they had received no calls in the past year on discrimination issues, defined to include discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, race, disability, and so on by landlords or

by the state or federal government. A majority (over 50 percent) had received no phone calls on divorce, seed saving, debt, production contracts, and labor issues, and a majority of respondents also suggested that these issues were not “very important” or “important” (chart 5). This suggests that either these issues are not important to agricultural producers in the state or that producers turn to sources other than UME faculty for answers. For example, a producer facing an issue with a poultry production contract may seek assistance from an attorney or another poultry producer rather than UME faculty. Producers

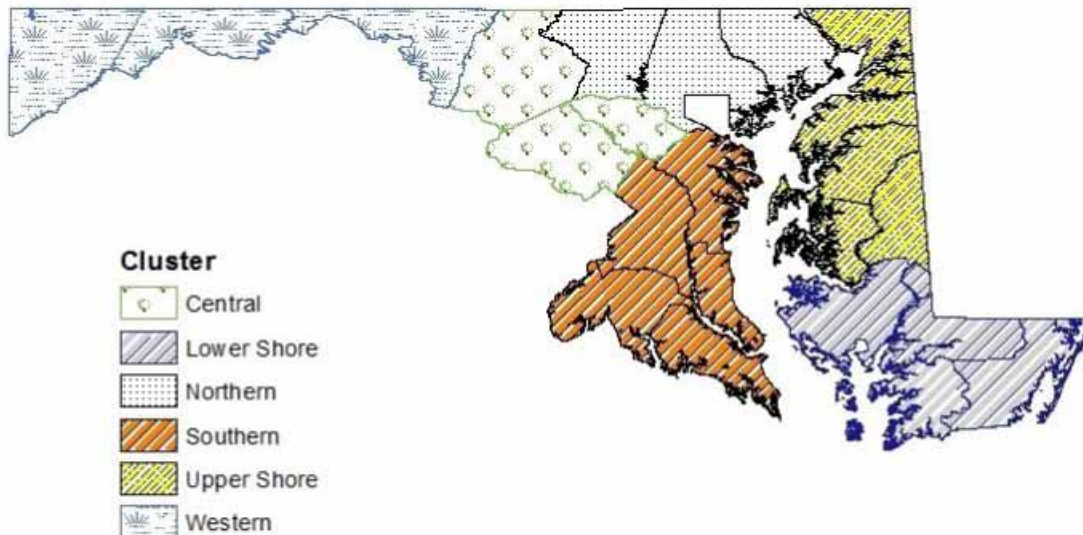
**Chart 4**  
**Top 6 Legal Issues On Which Extension Educators Received No Phone Calls Last Year**



**Chart 5**  
**Issues Viewed by Less than a Majority of Respondents to Be Important to Very Important**



**Figure 1**  
**Maryland Counties by UME Cluster**



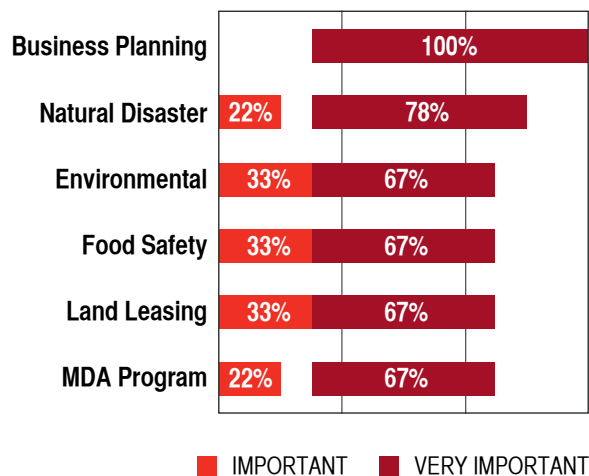
having legal challenges with divorce may seek advice from a lawyer specializing in family law. Therefore, UME faculty may provide education on certain legal issues, but other groups may need to be included in any outreach efforts to cover the full spectrum of the legal challenges facing the agricultural community. Further research could demonstrate how important divorce, seed saving, debt, production contracts, and labor issues are to the farm community.

## Survey Results by UME Programming Cluster

In 2013, UME organized Maryland’s counties into six programming clusters (figure 1). The use of clusters facilitates the allocation of resources and provision of educational services within these groupings. Each survey respondent identified which of the six clusters he/she worked within or whether he/she was a statewide specialist. An analysis of the responses by cluster demonstrates many similarities, but also differences in what legal issues are important based on geographic area.

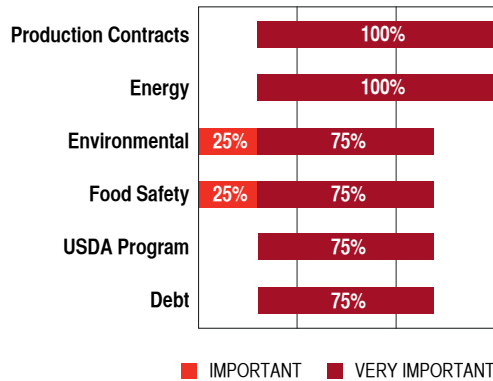
Many of the top issues remain the same as identified earlier. Environmental, MDA programs, USDA programs, and business planning consistently ranked in the top 10 issues for each of the six clusters (charts 6 – 11) which mirrors the combined survey results (chart 2). Food safety and estate planning

**Chart 6**  
**Selected 6 Important to Very Important Issues for Dorchester, Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties (Lower Shore Cluster)**



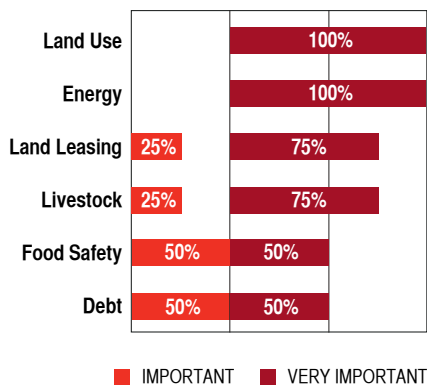
**Chart 7**

**Selected 6 Important to Very Important Issues for Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s & Talbot Counties (Upper Shore Cluster)**



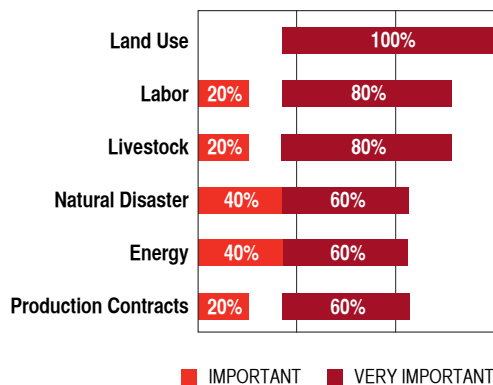
**Chart 8**

**Selected 6 Important to Very Important Issues for Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s, & St. Mary’s Counties (Southern Cluster)**



**Chart 9**

**Selected 6 Important to Very Important Issues for Baltimore, Carroll, & Harford Counties (Northern Cluster)**



also ranked in the top 10 issues in five out of the six clusters. The remaining four issues were not considered “important” to “very important” in some of the six clusters.

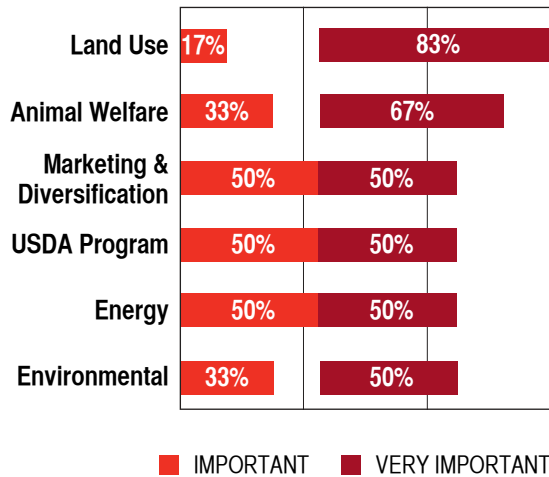
In the Lower Shore cluster, 78 percent of the UME faculty responded that discrimination was an “important” to “very important” issue for producers in their cluster (Appendix 2). Debt issues were “important” to “very important” issue for producers in the Lower Shore Cluster (89 percent; chart 6), in the Upper Shore cluster (75 percent; chart 7), and in the Western cluster (100 percent; chart 11), compared to 47 percent of all respondents (chart 5). Divorce was seen to be “important” to “very important” to their producers by 100 percent of respondents in the Upper Shore cluster (appendix 2) compared to less than a quarter of all respondents (chart 5).

Legal issues related to natural disasters, such as crop insurance claims processing, non-insurable assistance program, and federal disaster programs were seen as “important” or “very important” by 100 percent of the respondents in the Northern and Southern clusters (charts 8 and 9) compared to 49 percent of all respondents (chart 5). In the Central and Western clusters, all respondents said legal issues related to animal welfare, such as pen/cage size and production practices, were “important” or “very important” (charts 10 and 11) compared to 49 percent of all respondents (chart 5).

An interesting follow-up to this survey would be to look at why some issues rank higher in certain regions than others. For instance, the Lower Shore cluster had a majority of respondents say legal issues related to discrimination were “important” to “very important” (appendix 2). In the Central cluster, energy ranked as an “important” to “very important” issue by respondents in that cluster. A follow-up survey may help ALEI understand the context of these concerns.

**Chart 10**

**Selected 6 Important to Very Important Issues for Frederick, Howard, & Montgomery Counties (Central Cluster)**



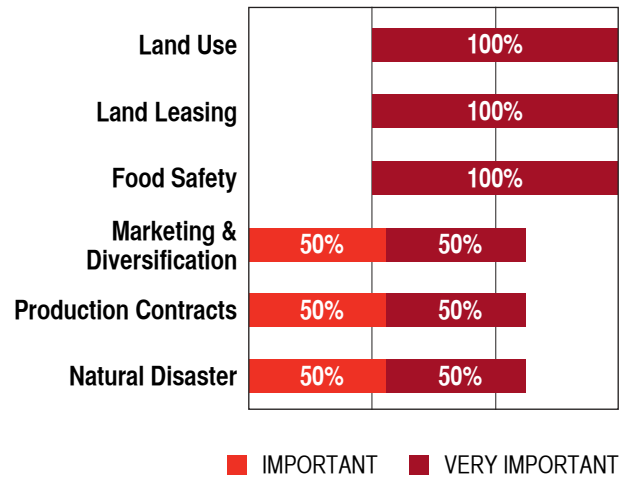
Maryland is a small state with a diverse set of agricultural industries across the state. We should expect to find top issues differing across the state. ALEI can develop educational outreach programs for issues common to all of Maryland’s agricultural producers, and tailor educational programs to specific regions of the state using the information provided by cluster.

## Understanding the Appropriate Form of Outreach

UME survey respondents also indicated which method of outreach/educational program would work best in reaching producers in the respondent’s county for their top five legal challenges (Extension Survey, 2014). Educational program options included downloading a fact sheet, watching an online video, participating in a webinar, attending a workshop within 75 to 100 miles of their home, or attending a workshop in their home county. These options mirror current methods of outreach and education in Extension programs in Maryland as well as other states.

**Chart 11**

**Selected 6 Important to Very Important Issues for Allegany, Garrett, & Washington Counties (Western Cluster)**

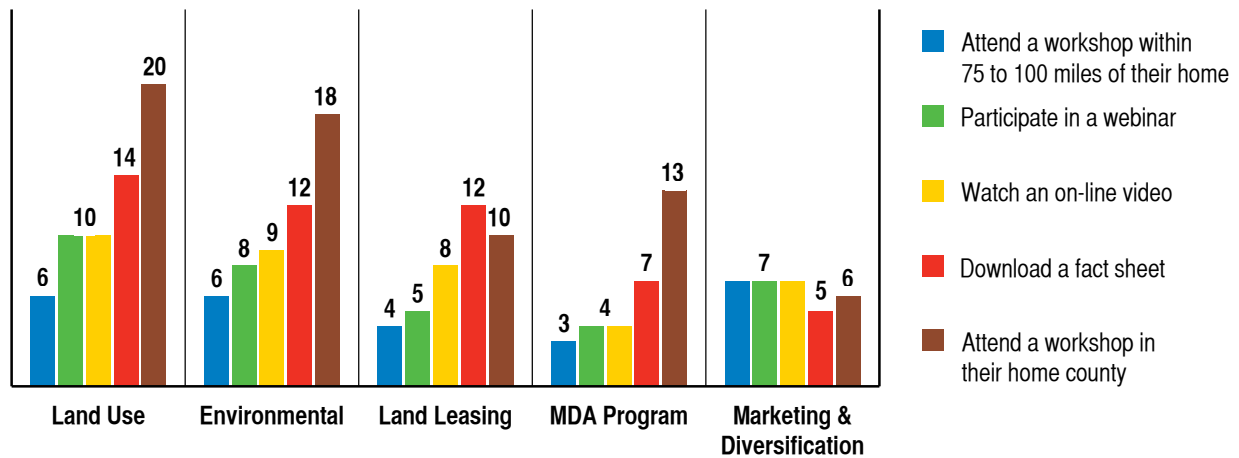


Given the top five statewide issues from the survey—land use, environmental, land leasing, MDA programs, and marketing and diversification—most survey respondents indicated that attending a workshop in their home county would be the best method to disseminate information (chart 12). ALEI could use this method to convey information and answer questions producers in Maryland have about a legal issue. However, for some producers, workshops will not be effective. For example, a workshop could be scheduled for the day a producer cannot attend. Similarly, a producer may not consider the issue being presented important at the time of the workshop but will need the information at a future time.

Respondents also suggested downloading a fact sheet or watching an online video as effective methods. These methods allow producers to access the information when relevant to their situation and to utilize it in a timely fashion. Respondents did not believe that webinars or regional conferences are effective methods of conveying information to producers.

Chart 12

### Extension Educators' Perceptions About The Best Method Of Conveying Information About Following Legal Issues



For marketing and diversification issues, respondents said county workshops were not the most effective method of conveying information. Respondents were evenly split between the five options of outreach for marketing and diversification issues. Further investigation may determine why this category is different than the others. If other methods work for these issues, understanding why and replicating the success may help Maryland

producers' willingness to accept more non-traditional methods of outreach for the other categories.

Many clusters mirror the results for all respondents combined (chart 13), with a county workshop considered the most effective method of outreach, followed by downloading a fact sheet, watching an online video, attending a webinar, and attending a workshop within 75 to 100 miles of their homes. However, attending a local workshop was not considered the best method of outreach in the Upper Shore cluster. There, downloading of a fact sheet was considered the most effective method, followed by watching an online video, attending a workshop within 75 to 100 miles of their homes, attending a workshop in their home county, and participating in a webinar. The Upper Shore cluster was without a UME agriculture educator for a period of time, which might help explain why residents in these counties appear to be more willing to accept alternative forms of outreach (Fultz, pers. comm.). ALEI may find opportunities to try new outreach methods in this area.

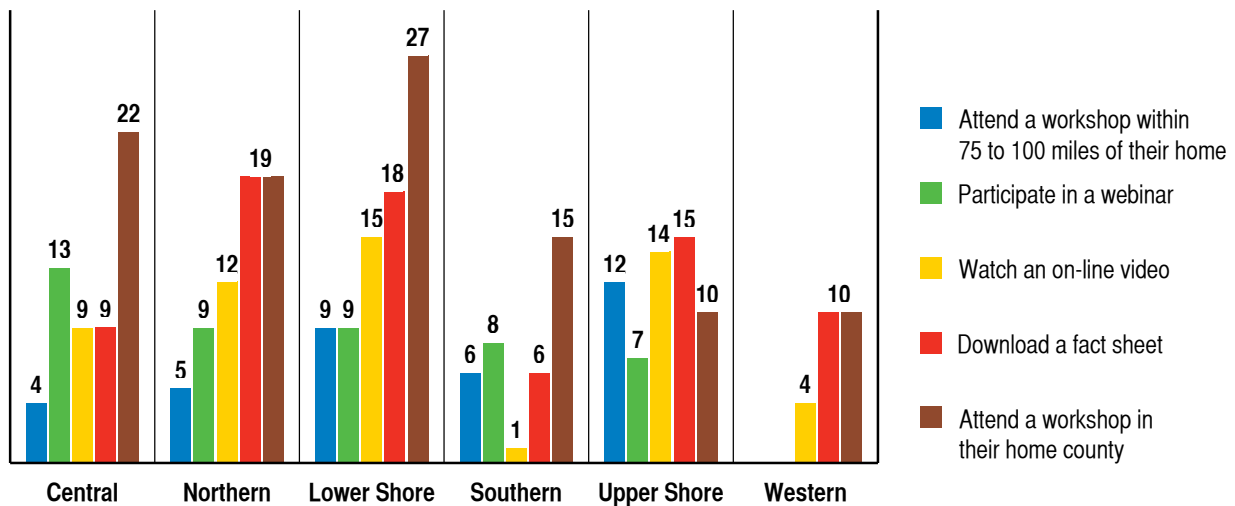


Many clusters mirror the results for all respondents combined, with a county workshop considered the most effective method of outreach, followed by downloading a fact sheet.

Similar opportunities may exist in the Central cluster as well. Central respondents found that

**Chart 13**

**Extension Educator’s Perceptions About the Best Method of Conveying Information About Legal Issues By Clusters**



participating in a webinar ranked as the second most effective method after participating in a county workshop. Why respondents in this cluster believed webinars would be more effective requires further investigation. This cluster potentially provides another area where ALEI could try new outreach methods.

A survey of Maryland agricultural producers is planned for early 2015. This survey will look more in-depth at the forms of outreach preferred. This would give ALEI an understanding of the best outreach methods to utilize.

**Moving Forward**

The structured interviews and UME survey results demonstrate how ALEI can have an impact on the Maryland agriculture community moving forward. Many of the interviewees mentioned that UME had been effective in helping the Maryland agriculture community meet legal challenges through outreach and education. UME has a developed system for providing information and outreach to the Maryland

agriculture community. By working with the local UME educators and other UME specialists, ALEI will find informed and experienced partners using an effective method to reach a large number of individuals in the Maryland agriculture community.

ALEI can also partner with other agriculture groups in Maryland, such as Maryland Farm Bureau, Delmarva Poultry Industry, and other specific clientele who may not typically attend UME educational activities. In addition, ALEI can explore other opportunities to partner with new groups and provide outreach and education on legal issues important to their members.

Results from our structured interviews and the UME survey identified the top legal issues facing farmers in the state. Consensus emerged that legal issues related to the environment were of the greatest concern to the Maryland agriculture community. Other legal issues ranking high were MDA programs, business planning, land use, and marketing and diversification. A survey specifically focusing on Maryland agriculture producers could help

*Consensus emerged that legal issues related to the environment were of the greatest concern to the Maryland agriculture community.*

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reinforce these top issues. Until the farmer survey is completed, these results from structured interviews and UME survey will give ALEI members a priority list for developing educational materials.

Additionally, this priority list will allow ALEI to focus on these legal issues in partnership with existing UME programs. For example, the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center (MREDC) is “a one-stop shop for the 21st century agricultural/natural resource entrepreneur, provides successful rural business innovation strategies for your farm business plan, and your production and management techniques” (MREDC Homepage). ALEI members can work with the MREDC’s director to provide with legal information to post on MREDC’s website. Such partnerships will direct Maryland producers to existing and new legal materials on a popular UME website already utilized by many in the state.

Another potential partner is the Small Farms Initiative at UMES. The Small Farms Initiative’s goal “is to improve the economic condition of small-scale, limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers by providing educational programs and training that improve their farm management skills and expedite their access to and participation in USDA farm programs. Technical assistance, training, and other outreach activities are provided in group as well as in individual settings.” (Small Farm Outreach and Technical Assistance Home Page.) ALEI could work with this program to provide legal outreach and education to small-scale, limited-resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers to help with their decision making processes.

In early 2015, ALEI plans to conduct a survey of



**An ALEI survey in 2015 will allow agricultural producers to rank top legal issues and indicate preferred outreach methods.**

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Maryland agriculture producers, which will provide additional information on the legal issues facing the Maryland agriculture community. Agricultural producers will rank which legal issues are priorities, providing another gauge of the top legal issues facing Maryland. Agricultural producers could also provide information on the educational outreach methods they prefer. Demographic information would also allow ALEI members to develop tailored outreach methods for diverse audiences. Additionally, this survey will allow ALEI to collect information on which issues impact different regions of the state.

ALEI may also use a survey of Maryland attorneys to determine the knowledge base of licensed attorneys about legal issues facing the agricultural sector. With the recent creation of an agricultural law section of Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA), a survey of MSBA members done in partnership with the new agricultural law section could provide information on the needed outreach and educational programs for general MSBA members as well as those in the new agricultural law section. If



the importance of agriculture in the state was understood, Maryland attorneys may be able to expand their practices to areas that would service the agricultural community in the state.

## Conclusion

Results from the structured interviews and UME survey provide a wealth of information ALEI can use on the legal issues impacting the Maryland agricultural community. These needs assessments will aid attorneys, state agencies, members of the Maryland General Assembly, and other groups working with the agriculture community in knowing which legal issues are important to the agricultural community. Using these results, ALEI and others can tailor outreach and services to meet the needs of agriculture producers in the state. ■

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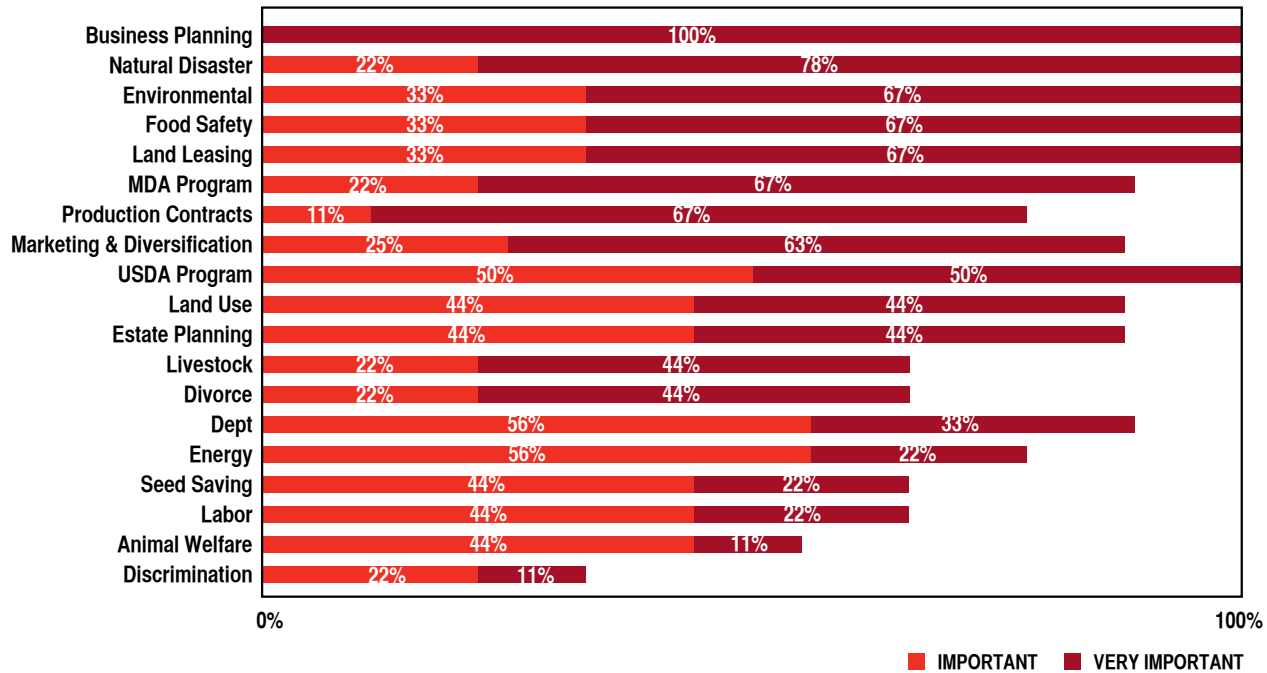
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## **Appendix 1: Organizations ALEI Contacted to Participate in Structured Interviews**

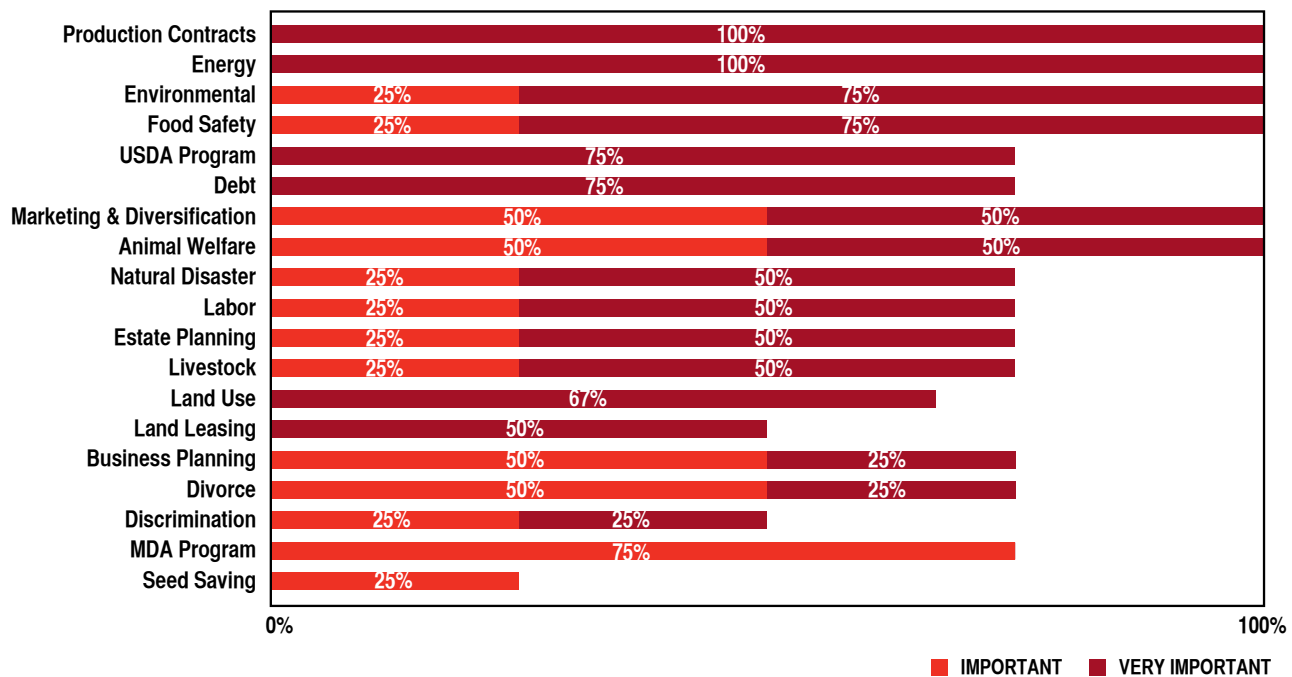
1. Chesapeake Bay Foundation
2. Delmarva Poultry Industry Association
3. Department of Natural Resources
4. Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
5. Farm Bureau Women
6. Future Harvest – Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture (CASA)
7. Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Association
8. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
9. Maryland Agriculture Council
10. Maryland Aquaculture Advisory Committee
11. Maryland Association of Counties
12. Maryland Beef Industry Council
13. Maryland Cattle Organization
14. Maryland Christmas Tree Association
15. Maryland Crop Improvement Association
16. Maryland Department of Agriculture
17. Maryland Department of the Environment
18. Maryland Department of Natural Resources
19. Maryland Farm Bureau
20. Maryland Grain Producers Association
21. Maryland Grape Growers Association
22. Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association
23. Maryland Pork Producers Association
24. Maryland State Beekeepers Association
25. Maryland Vegetable Growers Association
26. Maryland Watermen’s Association
27. Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association
28. Victor Laws III
29. Young Farmers of the Maryland Farm Bureau

## Appendix 2: Complete Results for Each Cluster

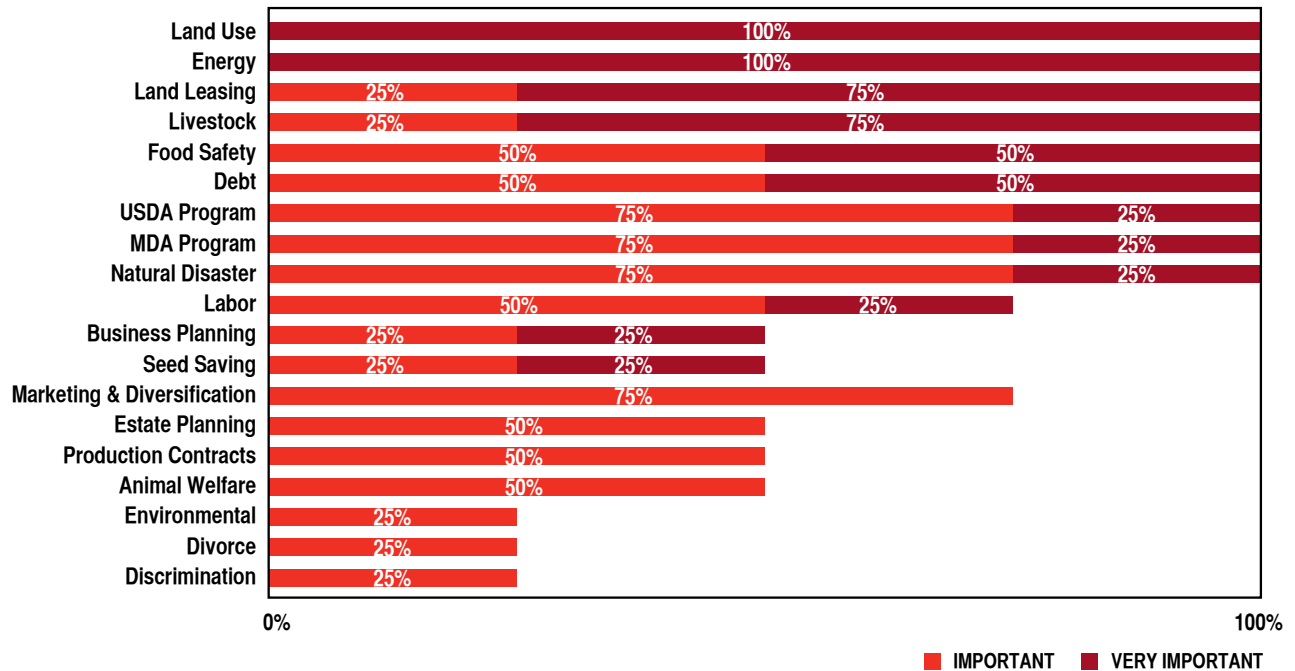
### Complete Important to Very Important Survey Results For Lower Shore Cluster (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)



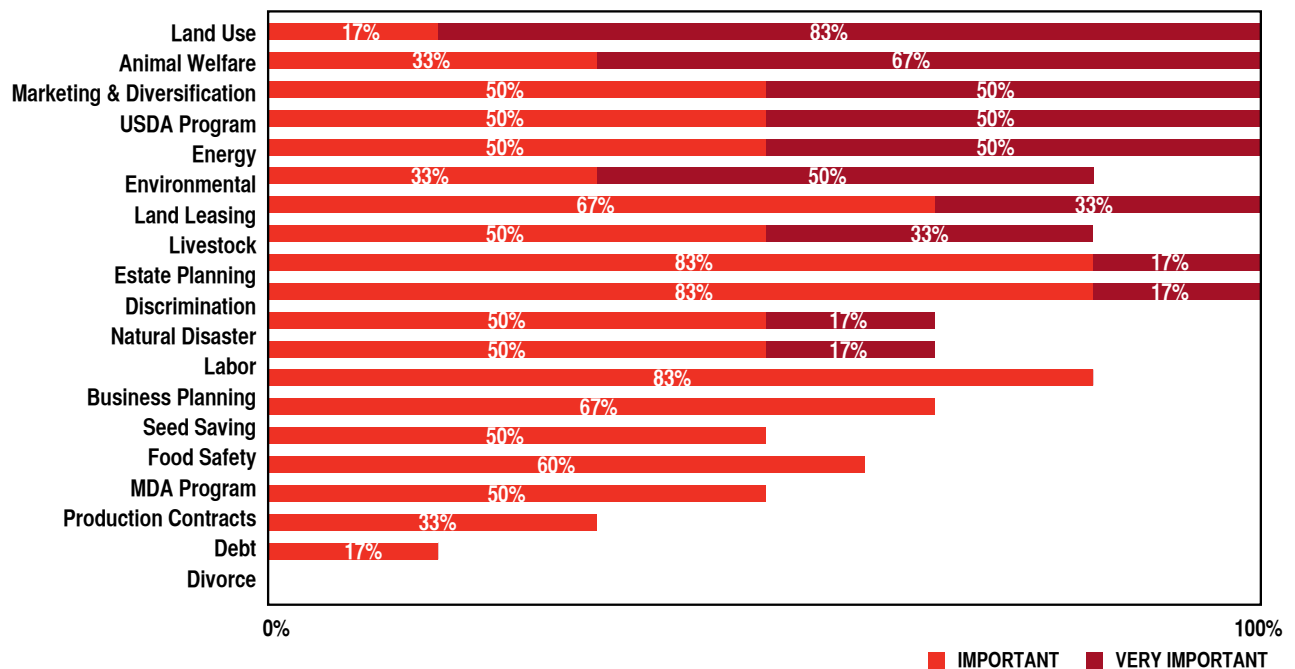
### Complete Important to Very Important Survey Results For Upper Shore Cluster (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties)



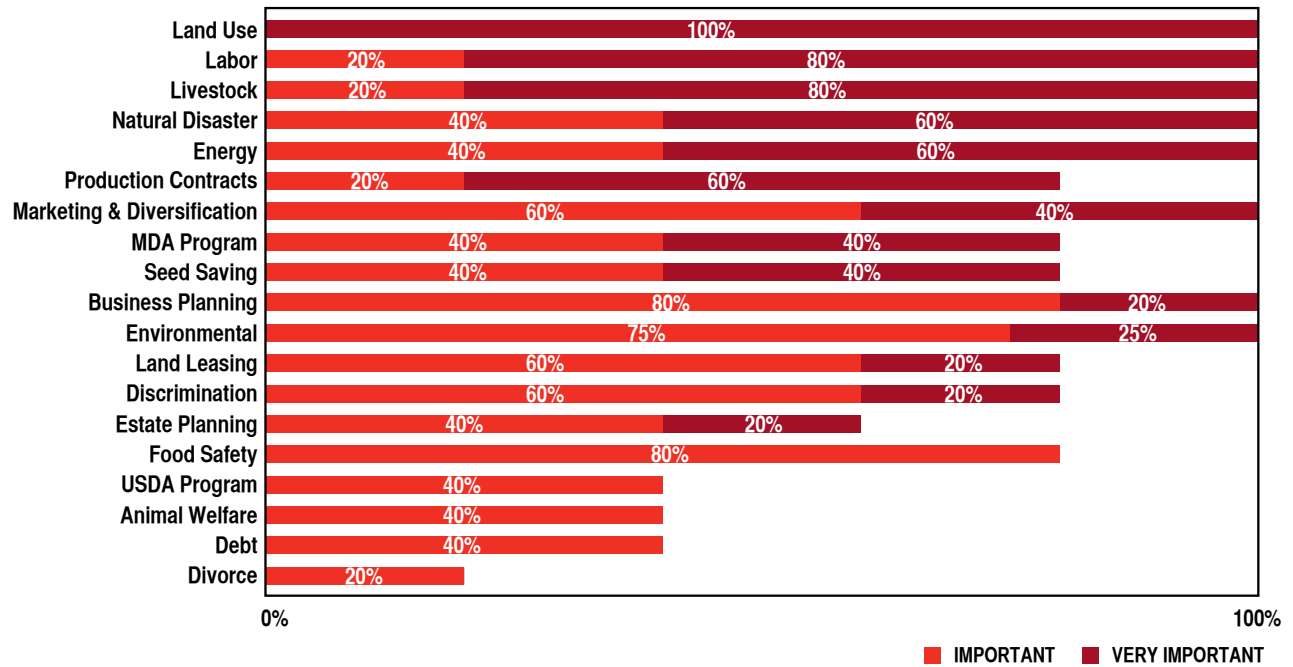
### Complete Important to Very Important Survey Results For Southern Cluster (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties)



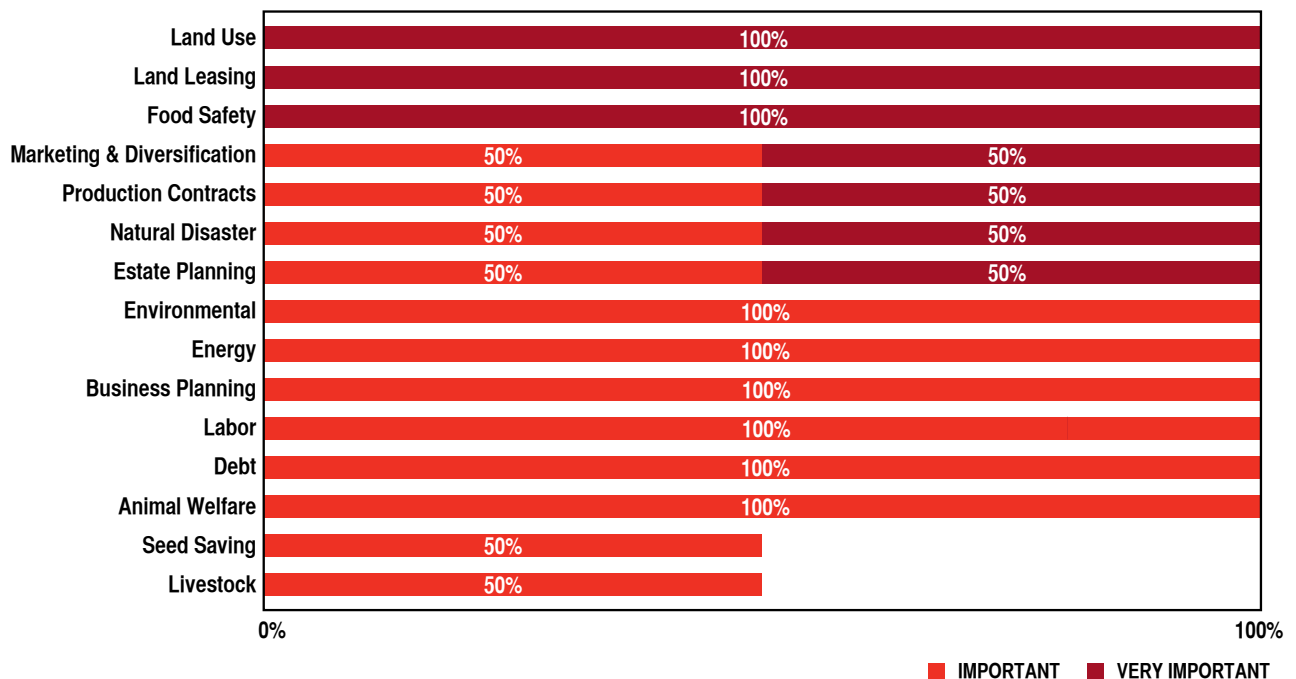
### Complete Important to Very Important Survey Results For Central Cluster (Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery Counties)



### Complete Important to Very Important Survey Results For Northern Cluster (Baltimore, Carroll, and Harford Counties)



### Complete Important to Very Important Survey Results For Western Cluster (Allegeny, Garrett, and Washington Counties)



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