

Meeting Summary  
StateStat website, August 25, 2009

**Agency:** BayStat

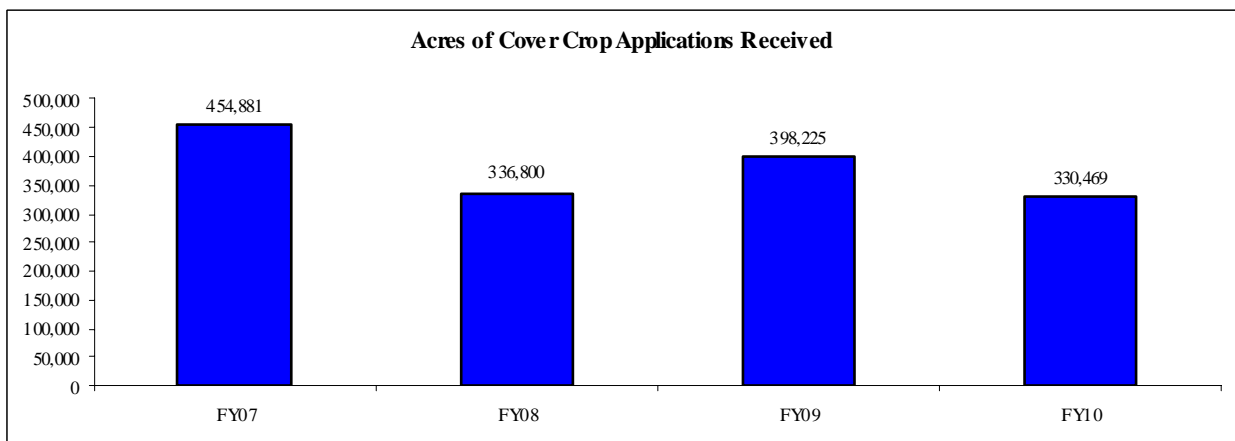
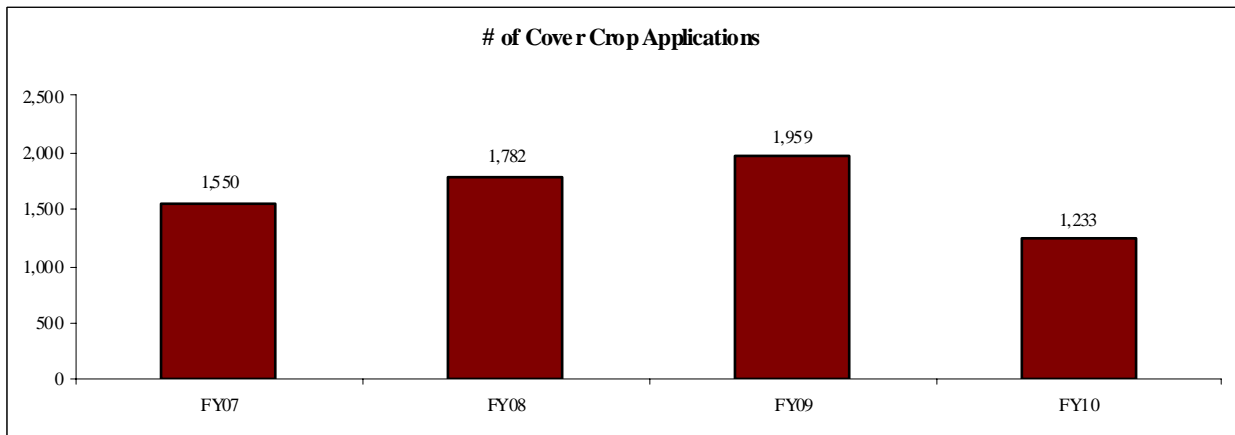
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**Template:** Vol III, No. 2

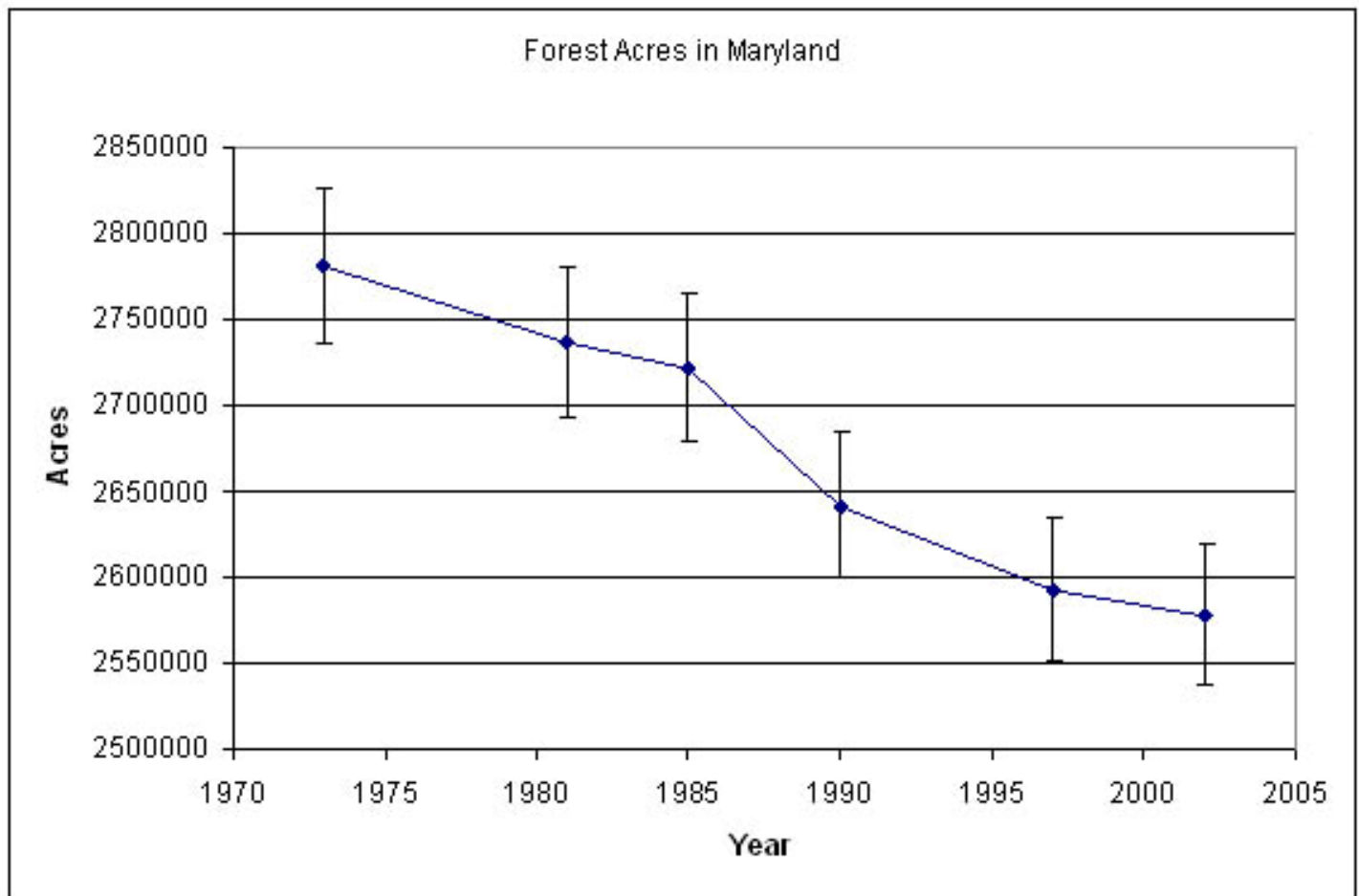
Following is a summary of the issues that were discussed at BayStat on August 25, 2009. Analysis is provided by StateStat and the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU).

### General Discussion

- **MDA Cover Crop Enrollment** At the August BayStat meeting, the Maryland Department of Agriculture informed the BayStat team that cover crop applications for the Fall 2009 planting season have dropped by 17% from 2008. The reasons for the decline were attributed to slightly lower State cost-share amounts and higher seed costs. Cover crops provide more nutrient reductions than any other solution in Maryland's 2-year milestone strategy. To date, Maryland has reduced 1.1 million pounds of nitrogen, or 27% of its first 2-year milestone goal.



- **No Net Loss in Forest Lands Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Historic forest loss in Maryland was considerable. Implementation of the original Forest Conservation Act beginning in the early 1990's slowed that loss significantly. Implementation of SB 666 this past Session is expected to slow loss even more, but will not achieve no net loss.



- DNR met in July with local government planning and zoning staff to discuss required local changes to annual reporting requirements, submittal of mapped easements, and changes to the roadside tree law.
- Amendments to local forest conservation ordinances are due October 1. To date, DNR has received amendments from Cecil, Prince George's and Washington Counties as well as the Town of Bel Air and City of Rockville. DNR is working with the remaining jurisdictions. Those that do not provide amendments by the October 1 deadline will function by policy until the amendments are officially changed.