

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER 60

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SELECT PANEL
ON THE FUTURE OF DELAWARE AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Industry of our State is one of those most significant to the economic welfare of the State of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, during recent years the combination of a distressed agricultural economy and adverse growing conditions in the State of Delaware have combined to add greatly to the distress of the agricultural industry in Delaware and concerns for its future; and

WHEREAS, the economic distress to this key industry has had significant negative impacts to the general economy of the State of Delaware, affecting all of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the current distress being felt by Delaware's agriculture is resulting in diminished land values and the acceleration of the conversion of our valuable agricultural lands to other uses; and

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WHEREAS, these significant circumstances prompt our State to embark on the development of a long-range plan to ensure the continued economic viability of this key industry by examining those ways that the businesses and government of Delaware can enhance economic opportunities for, and assist in the continued expansion of, this vital sector; and

WHEREAS, the conclusion of such long-range planning will require the participation and advice of those various sectors of the Delaware community most vitally effected by the future of the agricultural economy in Delaware, and most knowledgeable regarding the means for bringing about continued growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. Establishment

The Governor's Select Panel on the Future of Delaware's Agriculture (the "Panel") is hereby established.

2. Membership

Members of the Panel shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

- a. one representative of the Delaware Development Office,
- b. the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Delaware,

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- c. one representative of the Delaware State College,
- d. one representative of the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.,
- e. one representative of the agricultural industry,
- f. the Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Agriculture,
- g. the President of the Council of Farm Organizations,
- h. the President of the Delaware Farm Bureau,
- i. the Master of the Delaware State Grange,
- j. the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture,
- k. four members of the public with interests in production agriculture or agri-business.

3. Chairman

The Chairman of the Panel shall be the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

4. Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman of the Panel shall be selected from its members by a majority vote.

5. Duties

The Panel is hereby charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. To gather such facts as it shall deem necessary in order to document the current status of the agricultural industry in the State of Delaware and to make reasonable projections concerning its future;

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- b. To examine new opportunities to market Delaware farm products domestically and overseas and evaluate the potential benefits, obstacles to, and future growth potential of such opportunities;
 - c. To evaluate the opportunities for the processing of farm commodities within the State of Delaware and report on potential obstacles, benefits and future growth opportunities;
 - d. To evaluate the potential for diversification within the State's agricultural base and to examine the full range of these opportunities and analyze potentially beneficial and detrimental effects of such diversification, reporting on those areas presenting the greatest opportunities for enhancing the profitability of Delaware farmers, while meeting available or potential market demands;
 - e. To evaluate and report on the most effective means for private industry and the State of Delaware to aid and abet the successful implementation of the recommendations in the areas of marketing, processing and diversification, also reporting on organizational and budgetary recommendations;
 - f. To propose appropriate legislative or administrative action designed to expedite the implementation of the Panel's recommendations;
 - g. To develop a statement analyzing the possible effects of marketing, processing and diversification initiatives on the promotion of a strong agricultural economy, the State's overall economy and the protection and retention of the State's prime agricultural lands
5. Committee Support

Such staff and facilities support as is deemed reasonably necessary and available by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall be provided to the Panel in cooperation with other affected state agencies.

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6. Panel Report

The Panel shall make its recommendations and proposals to the Governor no later than January 1, 1989.

7. Expiration

The provisions of this Executive Order shall expire on January 1, 1989.



APPROVED this 25th day of August, 1988.

Michael N. Castle

Governor

ATTEST:

ryu/b

Secretary of State