



**MARBIDCO**  
*growing rural ventures™*

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource -  
Based Industry Development Corporation

## A New Kind of Rural Development Agency Serving All of Maryland



**P**roviding low-interest loans, business assistance referrals, and other financial services for land- and water-based enterprises throughout Maryland.



**H**elping family-run businesses to prosper, rural communities to thrive, and pastoral scenic vistas to endure for generations to come.



Supporting rural working landscapes, safe and healthy local food supplies, and clean air and water in Maryland.

## Who We Are

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, better known simply as “MARBIDCO,” opened for business in 2007, ushering in a new era of economic development support for farming and natural resource-based businesses.

A quasi-public corporation governed by a 17-member Board of Directors, MARBIDCO is a uniquely chartered financial intermediary and business development agency that brings together resources from the federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to help Maryland’s farming, forestry and seafood businesses be profitable and sustainable.

MARBIDCO also helps keep farmland in production by helping young and beginning farmers acquire increasingly expensive agricultural land, and by helping state and local rural land conservation agencies with their farm and forest land preservation efforts.



For our latest offerings, visit: [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org)

**MARBIDCO’s Rural Business Service Partners:** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Food Center Authority, Rural Maryland Council, Maryland Energy Administration, Federal agencies (including USDA - RD, NRCS and FSA), local economic development agencies, commercial banks, Farm Credit Associations, rural industry associations, rural regional councils, farm and commodity groups.

Committed to supporting rural and urban-edge entrepreneurship and the long-term sustainability of Maryland's agricultural, forestry and seafood businesses.



## What We Offer

**M**ARBIDCO offers three types of financial assistance programs to support Maryland's resource-based industries. They are:

**Core Rural (and Urban-Edge) Business Development Programs:** MARBIDCO has several loan and grant programs that are typically used for farmland purchases, facilities construction or renovation, equipment acquisition, or working capital. Loans range from \$10,000 to \$400,000 and must be fully collateralized. Grant programs have helped provide producers with matching funds for farm energy efficiency and value added projects, and offered local governments matching economic development cost share funds. Commercial food and fiber processing investments can be made virtually anywhere in Maryland.

**Rural Land Preservation Facilitation Programs:** MARBIDCO offers several financing programs in conjunction with other agencies that help permanently preserve important farm and forest land. (MARBIDCO serves as a conduit financing agent.) These includes an Installment Purchase Agreements Program that MARBIDCO offers with the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to help with purchasing agricultural land conservation easements. A Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program is both a young farmer land purchase assistance program and a land preservation program. MARBIDCO also plans to use its revenue bond issuing capabilities to aid county governments with local land preservation programs.

**Higher Risk or Micro-Credit Rural Lending:** Some MARBIDCO lending programs are funded by partnering organizations for targeted purposes and are usually made for smaller, unsecured amounts. The Rural Business Energy Efficiency Improvement Loan Program, for instance, uses regional greenhouse gas initiative funds provided by the Maryland Energy Administration.



*MARBIDCO and USDA-Rural Development awarded Chapel's Country Creamery in Talbot County grants to manufacture their own on-farm "value-added" farmstead cheese. Pictured above: Holly Foster, co-owner, with one of the bovine help.*



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# What We've Accomplished

(between 2007 and 2010)

**Capital and Credit:** MARBIDCO closed 48 loans worth nearly \$7.6 million. Those loans leveraged more than \$13 million in commercial and private lender money -- representing almost a 2-to-1 leverage ratio for private project financing. MARBIDCO loan amounts typically ranged between \$10,000 and \$400,000, with an average loan of about \$160,000.

**Grants:** MARBIDCO awarded 56 Rural Business Grants totaling \$719,247, with an average grant of about \$12,800. These grants were aimed at farm energy efficiency, farm or producer viability, value-added processing, and supporting county and regional rural economic development efforts. About half went to farm value-added processing projects (27 projects worth \$435,613).

**Jobs:** As a result of MARBIDCO's rural business investments, 543 full-time or part-time jobs were created or retained in Maryland. To date, 20 counties in every region have benefitted from MARBIDCO investments.

For the latest about MARBIDCO offerings, visit : [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org)



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Top photo on front: Black Ankle Vineyards received a MARBIDCO loan to construct a LEED-certified straw bale building from materials found or grown on site.