

**Full Report on MCA Reserve Value and Protection Survey(written comments and tabulated multiple choice answers) 46 Respondents**

Written responses:

**Question 4:“What are the most serious threats to the Reserve?”**

- The rural economy also needs to be viable and there should be tax breaks for land used for farming purposes, especially for human food production.
- my son goes to Monocacy
- Basically economic issues. It has to be economically feasible to use the land for agricultural and recreational purposes. Traditional land uses have to be upgraded to more economically viable agricultural uses.
- Apathy and indifference, not listed, is a serious threat.
- there needs to be more ways for urban/suburban residents to enjoy the reserve, other than driving through and buying local produce. Think of ways to increase hiking/cycling/canoeing opportunities
- lack of awareness/personal experience with the Reserve among down county residents and decision makers
- Are people who think they know how best to farm. They have never worked on a farm. Most of them have made their money by public or private employment. These people want to promote The Ag Reserve, but live in a new house or a new farmette. A farmette was once apart of a large tract of land only to be divided into small horse farms. You moved to the Ag Reserve but want no development! Has anyone really talked to a AG FARMER that grows local food? Have you asked, "How can we help?"
- Its value has not been properly appraised by those who govern or those who vote. Large priceless diamond cut up into 1/4 carat junk jewelry. Developers greed for land more important than future of the county.
- The ag reserve viability is inextricably tied to the horse racing industry. This connection has been but should not continue to be ignored. Racing must be overwhelming supported in Maryland
- We have to be sure that we allow for kids to get outdoors and have programs that ensure they will be good stewards of this natural heritage area.

- However, I do support development that could be called "Agri-tourism." These are ventures that enhance and support all that things that we value about the Reserve: scenery, local food production, recreation, environmental benefit, and historic preservation. Agritourism can help preserve and contribute to the regional economy.
- All these issues are important but become mute if the highway becomes a reality.

**Question 5: "What are the most important actions MCA should take to address the threats?"**

- spreading the county wealth up-county
- Make the reserve indispensable and inviolable. Must step up current efforts.
- Actively and vigorously oppose airstrips for recreational use
- Promote the local grain, dairy, beef, vegetable, swine, sheep farmer.
- Ad Campaign - Sell the Vision. Save the Future.
- promoting education for our children of the value of these areas

**Graphs on next pages....**

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### Have you visited the Ag Reserve within the past year? If so were you.... (please check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Visiting a farm to see animals or purchase local food/fiber/plants			<a href="#">27</a>	61.3%
Hiking, Biking or Boating			<a href="#">21</a>	47.7%
Attending an event (Artisans Tour, Poolesville Day, an MCA event, etc)			<a href="#">16</a>	36.3%
Visiting Historical Landmarks			<a href="#">14</a>	31.8%
Enjoying the Scenery			<a href="#">25</a>	56.8%
I live in the Reserve			<a href="#">22</a>	50.0%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

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### On MCA's Website and Newsletter, which stories interest you most? (check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Local food information			<a href="#">32</a>	71.1%
Issue updates			<a href="#">30</a>	66.6%
Events			<a href="#">26</a>	57.7%
Calls to action on issues			<a href="#">17</a>	37.7%
Other ( <a href="#">View all</a> )			<a href="#">5</a>	11.1%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>










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### What do you value most about the Ag Reserve?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Scenery			<a href="#">23</a>	51.1%
Local Food Production/Family Farms			<a href="#">35</a>	77.7%
Recreation			<a href="#">18</a>	40.0%
Environmental Benefit (air, water, wildlife habitat)			<a href="#">31</a>	68.8%
Contribution to the Regional Economy			<a href="#">16</a>	35.5%
Historic Preservation			<a href="#">18</a>	40.0%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>







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#### What are the most serious threats to the continued viability of the Ag Reserve? (check up to three)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
The difficulty of maintaining or starting new farms in the Reserve			<a href="#">13</a>	28.2%
Encroaching Residential Development			<a href="#">28</a>	60.8%
Large Scale Non-Residential Development (Mega Institutions)			<a href="#">23</a>	50.0%
Zoning issues (Sand Mounds, Child Lots, Zoning Text Amendments to allow new non-Ag uses)			<a href="#">20</a>	43.4%
A lack of enforcement of current zoning			<a href="#">12</a>	26.0%
The proposed bridge crossing and highway bisecting the Reserve			<a href="#">17</a>	36.9%
Public perception			<a href="#">7</a>	15.2%
The cutting back of rural community resources, such as proposed rural school closures			<a href="#">7</a>	15.2%
Other ( <a href="#">View all</a> )			<a href="#">7</a>	15.2%
<b>Totals</b>			<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>

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#### What are the most important actions that Montgomery Countryside Alliance should take to address the threats to the Ag Reserve? (check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Supporting current and new farmers on the ground to grow the local food system			<a href="#">28</a>	62.2%
Educating area residents and elected officials about the importance of the Reserve			<a href="#">37</a>	82.2%
Promoting better zoning enforcement			<a href="#">27</a>	60.0%
Fighting new inappropriate development that threatens the Reserve through grassroots campaigns			<a href="#">36</a>	80.0%
Weighing in against the overdevelopment of Downcounty communities to reduce strain on the Ag Reserve			<a href="#">13</a>	28.8%
Other ( <a href="#">View all</a> )			<a href="#">6</a>	13.3%