

Puffinberger accepts MDA assistant secretary position

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Charles W Puffinberger has been named by Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley Jr. to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management. He assumed the post July, replacing Robert M. Altman who retired.

A native of Little Orleans, Allegany County, Md., Puffinberger joined MDA in December, 1973, starting as an entomologist in the Department's pesticide regulatory programs.

In 1974, he was named State Plant Pathologist, responsible for conducting plant disease related

programs and enforcing state and federal plant quarantines. In 1975, he also became acting Chief of MDA's Plant Protection Section and assumed full responsibility for that post in 1978.

Puffinberger is a graduate of the University of Maryland where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Extension Education, a Master's degree in Plant Pathology and, eventually, his Doctorate in that field. While studying at the University of Maryland, he worked for the USDA's pesticide education program in Washington, D.C.

Since joining MDA, he has been particularly active in developing

and enhancing the Department's ornamental plant pest control programs and virus-free plant certification program which has helped Maryland fruit and bramble plant producers achieve worldwide quality stock reputations.

The office Puffinberger now heads for MDA carries out a wide range of pest management and

regulatory functions of benefit to consumers and production agriculture. From the regulatory standpoint the office includes administration of Maryland's Pesticide Applicator Law, the State's seed laws, the Department's Turf Certification and Certified Seed programs, Nursery Inspection, and Apiary Inspection Pest Management activities of the

Office are wide ranging taking in the State's Mosquito Control, Gypsy Moth and Mexican Bean Beetle Control programs and Nuisance Bird Control, Weed Control, and Forest Pest Management programs.

Puffinberger is married to the former Betty Tollefson, a native of Minnesota. They reside in Bowie with their three-month-old son, Jason.



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