



## THE BUSHWACKER

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau News

Website: <http://stmarys.mdfarmbureau.com/>

Volume 22, Issue 1

February 2022

### Banquet

Our banquet will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. Doors open at 5:00 pm with dinner starting at 6:00 pm. See the form in this newsletter to order tickets. Deadline to order and pay for ticket(s) is February 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see y'all there!

### The President's Message

Dear Farm Bureau Members,

The Board of Directors continues to promote the mission of farm bureau, which is "To protect and grow Maryland agriculture and preserve rural life," in several innovative and exciting ways.

In 2021, St. Mary's Farm Bureau collaborated with the bureaus of Calvert and Charles counties to host a radio advertisement for membership development, which was funded primarily by Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB). The goal of the advertisement was to solicit new members and raise the profile of farm bureau in the Southern Maryland region. The project was successful in developing new members and encouraging reenrollment of current members.

As part of their fiduciary responsibility, the Board of Directors made several changes to the management of the bureau's investment portfolio. An investment policy was developed and adopted by the board to mitigate income loss due to market volatility. The board also moved all investments from Nationwide to the Infinex Financial Group, which is managed locally through Community Wealth Advisors.

Some of the income from investments funded four scholarships, totaling \$2,500, which were awarded last year from the Raley Scholarship Program. This year, using income from the investments, the bureau has offered to partner with the St. Mary's Board of Education to bring the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation's mobile labs to public elementary schools in the county. The bureau will pay for 75% of the cost of the lab's services for one week at a school. The goal

is for the labs to visit every elementary school over a five-year period. Private elementary schools will also be invited to participate in the program. The objective is to teach elementary students about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives

In the upcoming year, the bureau will continue to be an advocate for you, our members. Our goal is to increase net farm income and improve the quality of life for everyone in the agricultural community. Thank you for being a member of farm bureau!

Sincerely,  
*Jamie Raley*  
President  
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau

### Legislative Update

The 2022 legislative dinner was cancelled due to inclement weather. The MDFB Day-In-Annapolis will be held virtually this year, due to the ongoing pandemic. The bureau will be monitoring bills introduced during the 2022 legislative session and working in cooperation with MDFB on legislation that may impact your business.

At the county level, the bureau is working with stakeholders on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for solar siting in the county. The draft text proposed by the county commissioners would permit utility-scale, commercial solar in all zoning districts, without any protection for prime agricultural land, forested land, or environmentally sensitive areas. The bureau will be proposing language to address these issues.

### Annual Meeting Report

The St. Mary's County Farm Bureau held its 74<sup>th</sup> annual membership meeting on October 12, 2021, at the Agricultural Services building in Leonardtown, Maryland. The meeting was held to elect directors for 2022 and to transact other corporate business. There were 27 persons in attendance, 24 of them were voting members.

The membership approved the report of the audit committee, and were given a report by Farm Bureau President Jamie Raley on activities for the preceding 12 months. Members also reviewed and voted on issues of concern to the agricultural community, state policy proposals, and the selection of county delegates to the 105<sup>th</sup> Maryland Farm Bureau annual convention, held the week of December 5, 2021, in Cambridge, Maryland.

Mr. Merl Evans, Jr., was elected Vice President to fill the remaining term of outgoing Vice President Joe St. Clair.

Incumbent directors Stanley Boothe, Brian Oliver, Thomas P. Trossbach, Susan Vallandingham, and Rita Weaver were reelected to serve two-year terms. Farm Bureau members Gabrielle Cory and John D. "Jay" Raley, IV were elected as new directors. Former Vice President Joe St. Clair was appointed in December by the board of directors to fill an open director vacancy.

Please read further in this newsletter for information about our new directors.

### **Farewell to Former Directors**

Farm bureau thanks Mr. Wes Cory for his six years of service as a director and Mr. Talmage Petty for his four years of service as a director of farm bureau.

### **Welcome New Directors**

Welcome to new directors Gabrielle Cory and Jay Raley.

Ms. Cory is a former Miss St. Mary's County Farm Bureau. She was the winner of the 2013 Miss Maryland Agriculture contest. Gabrielle is a graduate of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She is employed as a science teacher at Huntingtown High School in Huntingtown, MD.

Mr. Raley and his family reside on their farm in Mechanicsville, MD. In his youth, Jay worked in tobacco with his grandfathers. Jay had an extensive career in international manufacturing before returning to the family farm. He is presently affiliated with ExteriorPros of Waldorf, MD.

These new directors bring a diverse set of skills to our board, which will be of great benefit to the corporation over time. Thank you to our new directors and to all returning directors for their service.

### **Seeking Candidates for 2022 Farm Bureau Ambassador Program**

The Miss Farm Bureau and Miss Maryland Agriculture programs have been changed to the Maryland Farm Bureau Ambassador program. The Ambassador contest is open to young men and young

women. The program focuses on advanced leadership and professional development. No one volunteered to be the Ambassador for our farm bureau last year. We will continue in 2022 to seek candidates for Ambassador, Junior Ambassador, and Little Ambassador for our farm bureau.

Anyone interested in applying for the program should contact Ms. Gabrielle Cory at (301) 609-0988 for more information.

### **Young Farmers Committee**

Mr. Charles A. Sasscer III is chair of the Young Farmer's Committee (YFC). If you would like more information about the YFC, please call Charlie at (240) 587-9780.

### **Floyd Raley Scholarship**

The Raley Scholarship application for farm bureau member dependents is available through the Business, Education, and Community Alliance (BECA) website at [www.smcbeca.org](http://www.smcbeca.org). The deadline to submit an application is February 18, 2022. The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau will make the award selection.

### **Women's Leadership Committee**

The St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Chairperson is Ms. Abigail Sivak. For information on how you can become a member of your local Women's Leadership Committee, contact Ms. Sivak at (240) 538-3072.

### **Flip Tabs**

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau continues to collect aluminum flip tabs to support the work of the Ronald McDonald Foundation. The Foundation, in turn, supports the Children's Hospitals that serve our area by providing respite and housing services for the families of seriously ill and injured children in the hospital. Flip tabs can be dropped off at the Farm Bureau Office in the Ag Services Center Building on Radio Station Way in Leonardtown or at Forrest Hall Farm, Mechanicsville, MD.

## NATIONWIDE INSURANCE

Contact Nationwide Agent J. Patrick Haley II at OakPoint Insurance to check on the discounts still offered to regular, voting members on car, homeowners, and farm insurance. Patrick's phone number is: (301) 475-2866.

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau  
26737 Radio Station Way, Suite G  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-0050

### 2022 Officers

James K. Raley, Jr., President  
Merl Evans, Jr., Vice President  
Marbeth Raley, Secretary  
Nicole C. Belkov, Treasurer  
Abigail Sivak, Chair, Women's Committee  
Charles A. Sasscer, III, Chair, Young Farmers

### 2022 Board of Directors

Thomas P. Trossbach 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Jos. "Sonny" Trossbach 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Stanley Boothe 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Tommy Norris 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Jay Raley 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Gabrielle Cory 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Brian A. Oliver 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Donnie Braun, Jr. 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Joan H. Bearden 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Joe Wood 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Sarah Hayden 6<sup>th</sup> District  
Vacant 6<sup>th</sup> District  
Susan Vallandingham 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Michael P. VanRyswick, Sr. 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Rita Weaver 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Joseph A. St. Clair 8<sup>th</sup> District



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**2022 ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU BANQUET  
ORDER FORM FOR TICKETS TO BANQUET**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022  
RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SOCIAL HALL  
5:00 P.M. SOCIAL  
6:00 P.M. DINNER**

**MENU**

Baked Ham  
Baked Chicken  
Fried Oysters  
Parsley Potatoes  
Macaroni Salad  
Green Beans  
Corn  
Rolls  
Dessert  
Coffee/Tea

**\$28.00 PER TICKET**

The Women's Committee will hold a food drive at the annual banquet. American agriculture continues to provide the cheapest, safest food supply in the world. Please help us support our local food pantry systems by bringing a non-perishable item to the banquet. Containers will be provided at the door. Thank you for your help.

This is a BYOB event. Please, no glass containers. Setups will be available.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Request and payment for ticket(s) must be PAID IN ADVANCE  
and received by MONDAY, February 28.**

Please return form with payment for ticket(s) payable to St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.  
26737 Radio Station Way Ste. G  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
ATTN: BANQUET.