

Maryland Farm Bureau
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Chesapeake Bay Farm & Food

A Maryland Farm Bureau Publication

Winter 2017

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Celebrating Maryland Farm Bureau's 101st Annual Convention

Maryland Farm Bureau held its 101st Annual Convention from December 4-6, 2016 at The Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City with over 500 voting delegates, members and guests in attendance.

“Our members reflected on our accomplishments and planned for the next year of promoting and protecting Maryland agriculture and rural life,” said Chuck Fry, President of MFB. “We welcomed new county Farm Bureau Presidents and state Board members and gave thanks to outgoing county Presidents and state Board members.”

The three-day convention featured presentations, awards, elections and discussions to educate members on Farm Bureau activities and the agricultural industry. MFB President Chuck Fry, Nationwide Insurance Board member Ken Davis, the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder, Dean of the University of Maryland's College of AGNR Dr. Beyrouy, and Miss Maryland Agriculture Megan Millison addressed the members. Comedian and magician Lyndy Phillips gave the keynote address about why we need to laugh more and stress less to live a better life. Johnna Miller of AFBF spoke to the MFB Young Farmers Committee about social media advocacy. Chris Fresko of Fresko Enterprises spoke to the MFB Women's Leadership Committee about giving children in school effective messages about agriculture.

Breakout sessions were held Monday on topics from solar energy and nutrient trading to wildlife management and family firearms trusts. During the business sessions on Monday and Tuesday, Farm Bureau voting delegates from all 23 counties reviewed the organization's policy on issues pending before government. The 2017 policy positions adopted by the delegate body will provide direction for the Farm Bureau lobbying team in Annapolis and Washington.

MFB held a live auction on Monday night to benefit Farm Bureau's Scholarship Fund. There were 23 items, one donated from each member county. The live auction raised a total of \$7,900 for the Scholarship Fund. Bidding also included the “Featured Farm” in the lobby of the new Davidsonville office. Chuck and Paula Fry of Rocky Point Farm and Creamery won the bidding for Featured Farm at \$2,000, which will go toward retiring the building's mortgage debt.

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Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau awarded to Earl Griffith



Discussion Meet Final 4: Jessica Flores, Bret Bucci, Gabrielle Cory, Danielle Bauer

A Message from the President

Dear Farm Bureau Member,

Our Board of Directors had a very productive meeting with Governor Larry Hogan. We were invited to the State House to discuss general concerns and to outline our priorities for the General Assembly session that recently got underway.

Board members raised the issue of wildlife crop damage as a primary concern for members. Crop damage from deer, geese, bear, and ground-hogs is on the rise and the economic impact is unsustainable. The Governor pledged to work with us to identify new management opportunities. Farm Bureau identified a few bills that will need attention during the current legislative session.

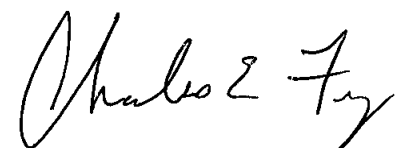
On budget issues, our Board emphasized the importance of BMP cost-share, cover crop and agland preservation funds. We expressed our disappointment that MACs funds were tied up and restricted during last year's budget process. Our goal is to make sure ag funding does not get caught up in a budget standoff again this year.

We discussed dairy prices. We urged funding for the Dairy Farmer Trust Fund, a mechanism we helped pass in 2008 to aid farmers during cycles of low prices. It has never been capitalized. Several northeast states use dairy funds to protect the land as well as the farm business. The Governor pledged to work with us to try to identify a funding source.

We thanked him for the Executive Order mandating the post-Labor Day school start. He said more than 70% of students, parents and teachers support the change and he does not expect it to be overturned. Board members also asked for help in getting ag education classes in schools in every county. And, we learned that the Governor recently record a PSA to promote Ag Tags, which help fund MAEF.

We also covered Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts, the Conowingo Dam and storm water regulations during our 45-minute visit. Overall, Governor Hogan was gracious and truly appreciative of our farm community. And best of all, he invited us back to continue the conversation.

Sincerely,
Charles E. Fry
President, Maryland Farm Bureau



Maryland Farm Bureau Officers

Chuck Fry, President
Wayne Stafford, First Vice President
John Draper, Second Vice President
Valerie Connelly, Executive Director

District Directors

District 1

(Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Washington)
Billy Bishoff
Larry Howard

District 2

(Carroll, Howard, Montgomery)
Jason Myers
Paula Linthicum

District 3

(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's, St. Mary's)
Milly Welsh
James Raley, Jr.

District 4

(Baltimore, Cecil, Harford)
Jonathan Quinn
William Amoss

District 5

(Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)
Thomas Jackson
Tom Mason

District 6

(Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)
Bill Edwards
Larry Thomas

Women's Leadership Committee

Jennifer Cross, Chair
Prince George's County

Young Farmers Committee

Jamie Tiralla, Chair
Calvert County

Newsletter Editor

Katie Ward
kward@mdfarmbureau.com
410-922-3426 x 402

Upcoming Events

February

2/06: Cecil County Legislative Breakfast, Calvert Grange, 7:30 am
2/08: Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis, Calvert House, 8:30 am
2/10-13: AFBF Young Farmer's FUSION Conference, Pittsburgh, PA
2/11: Frederick County Farm Bureau Legislative Day, New Midway Fire Hall, 9 am-3 pm
2/20: Worcester County Farm Bureau Fundraiser, Burley Oak Brewery, 5-8 pm
2/21: Eastern Shore Trucking Forum, Wicomico County Extension Office, 9:30-11:30 am
2/23: Southern MD Trucking Forum, Charles County Fairgrounds, 9:30-11:30 am
2/24: Caroline County Farm Bureau Banquet, Greensboro Fire Hall
2/24: Cecil County Estate Planning Seminar, Calvert Grange Hall, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
2/27-3/01: Farm Bureau Advocacy Conference, National Harbor

March

3/04: Charles County Farm Bureau Banquet
3/11: St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, 5 pm
3/17: Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Sudlersville Fire Hall
3/18: Prince George's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Baden Volunteer Fire Department, 5 pm
3/22: Talbot County Farm Bureau Banquet, Easton High School
3/24: Cecil County Farm Bureau Banquet, Rising Sun Fire Hall
3/24: Frederick County Farm Bureau Spring Banquet, Jefferson Ruritan Club, 7 pm
3/25: Maryland Farm Bureau Women in Ag Conference, Davidsonville, 8:30 am

Grain Bin Safety a Priority for Maryland Farmers

Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) has partnered with Nationwide Insurance to promote Grain Bin Safety Week from February 19-25, 2017. This annual observance increases the awareness of grain bin hazards and brings visibility to the safe work practices and procedures to help reduce the number of preventable injuries and deaths associated with grain handling and storage.

Grain Bin Safety Week 2017 is focused on the critical need for first responders to acquire the specialized rescue training and equipment needed to rescue someone entrapped in a grain bin. The chances of surviving an engulfment are greatly increased if a rescue tube is available to fire departments nearby.

The Nominate Your Fire Department Contest, running from Jan. 1 through May 31, will award grain rescue tubes and specialized hands-on training to help first responders save lives when farmers and other workers become dangerously entrapped in grain bins and other grain storage structures.

"While accident prevention is our No. 1 goal," said Brad Liggett, president of Nationwide Agribusiness, "we're committed to helping equip first responders with the necessary grain rescue equipment and training."

According to Nationwide, 19 grain rescue tubes were awarded in 2016 across 14 states. It takes only seconds to become helplessly trapped in flowing or moving grain, which acts like quicksand and can quickly pull a worker under and cause suffocation. Accidents in grain bins often result in multiple deaths when other workers attempt to rescue co-workers and become trapped as well.

Maryland Farm Bureau and Nationwide Insurance have a strong partnership based on similar organizational goals to protect farmers and those who live in rural areas. MFB is dedicated to training its farming members and local firefighters on the dangers of entering grain bins and what to do if you or someone is trapped inside. Thanks to the training materials and guidance of Nationwide, MFB has been able to conduct grain bin safety courses throughout the state and will continue to train our members in the future.

Along with educational and training materials, the partnership between Nationwide and Maryland Farm Bureau provides MFB members with auto, home and life insurance discounts. Nationwide and MFB have been partners since 1928 and have a program designed specifically for Farm Bureau members to insure their farming practices and equipment.

For more information on grain bin safety, visit: www.ws4u.com/home/audience/farmers-ranchers/safety/grain-bin-safety-week. Thanks to the support of CHS, West Side Salvage, KC Supply Co., the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety and other partners who make this contest possible.

Maryland had a Strong Presence at the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Phoenix, AZ

Over 40 Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) officers, members and staff attended the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Convention in Phoenix, AZ from January 6-10. More than 5,000 Farm Bureau leaders from all 50 states collaborated to vote on national policy, learn about new Ag trends and technologies, compete for Young Farmer & Rancher awards and celebrate agriculture in the U.S.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall reflected on his first year as president during the General Session. He pointed to policy wins in getting a GMO labelling bill passed and a Supreme Court victory over the EPA releasing farmers' private information under the Freedom of Information Act. He says the AFBF Annual Convention theme, unity, highlighted the importance of everyone in agriculture coming together.

"I think our biggest challenge is going to be being unified when we go forward with a farm bill," said Duvall. "And we have to find common ground in that to make sure everyone has that safety net that covers them."

Chuck Fry, president of Maryland Farm Bureau, was re-elected to the AFBF Board for a two-year term, representing the Northeast Region. He was also nominated to the AFBF Executive Committee and addressed convention attendees at the Closing Session on Monday.

"In a demonstration of the power of a unified effort, President Duvall challenged members to use mobile devices to contact members of Congress on the need for regulatory reform," explained Chuck Fry. "In just 5 minutes during the General Session, over 1,000 emails were sent to Capitol Hill, setting the stage for what our farmers hope is a productive year in Congress."

Jessica Flores of Wicomico County represented Maryland in the Young Farmers Discussion Meet Competition and made it to the Sweet 16 round. The discussion meet topics in the first round were about ensuring farmers are driving the management of natural resources instead of government agencies and how farmers can maintain ownership of intellectual and proprietary information. The topic in the Sweet 16 round was about the purpose of food labels and how Farm Bureau can work to ensure that consumers understand the labels.

We are happy to have recommended the University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative as a resource for workshops at the convention. Extension Legal Specialist Sarah Everhart and Research Assistant Mayhah Suri lead a workshop titled, *Utilizing a Farm Business Organization to Limit Liability and Plan for the Future*. Extension Legal Specialists Ashley Ellixson and Paul Goeringer lead a workshop titled, *Preparing to Manage the Crisis Before the Crisis*.



Maryland Farm Bureau President Chuck Fry addressing more than 5,000 members at AFBF.



More than 40 Maryland Farm Bureau members after dinner at The Stockyard in Phoenix, AZ.



Jessica Flores of Wicomico County in the Sweet 16 round of the Young Farmer's Discussion Meet competition.

How the National Veterinarian Feed Directive Rule is Effecting Maryland Livestock Producers

We published an article in October 2016 about how Maryland was going to implement the new Veterinarian Feed Directive (VFD) rule when it goes into effect on January 1, 2017. Now two months into 2017, we have received many questions about the early effects of the rule. Director of Government Relations at MFB, Colby Ferguson, explains how the VFD rule is effecting Maryland livestock producers:

Commercial Poultry and Swine industries were the primary target of this new rule. After talking to several producers in these two industries, I've found that the transition has been fairly seamless. These producers had already started taking steps to prepare for the change months before the start of the new year. The only issue several of them had was getting the proper paperwork completed to cover the existing feed in the feed bins on January 1 as the new rule said that all medicated feed must have a VFD written for it to be allowed on a farm. For the most part, this has been addressed.

However, like with all new rules, there are a few wrinkles that need to be ironed out over the next few months. FDA was well aware of these transition issues and built in a grace period to allow for proper transitions. So for the most part, the new rule has been fairly easy for the commercial producers to transition.

As for the small producers, this is where the most significant changes have been made. Many small producers have most likely not experienced the changes yet because they just started the lambing, kidding and farrowing season and the new babies are not quite old enough yet to be on feed. However, there are significant changes in Maryland.



The vast majority of small producers and 4-H/FFA exhibitors purchase their feed by the bag. Last year, several of these feeds (primarily swine) were medicated with necessary antibiotics. These drugs were being used for several reasons such as disease prevention, feed efficiency and growth promotion. Because the new rule removes 'to use for growth promotion and feed efficiency' from the label, these drugs have been removed from the feed.

Maryland feed dealers have also decided to not offer feeds with these medically important antibiotics unless the producer special orders that feed. The feed that they are offering by the bag is either medicated with a non-medically important antibiotic or not medicated at all. This change will significantly reduce the amount of essential antibiotics that are fed to livestock in Maryland as the vast majority of Maryland's livestock producers are considered small-scale producers.

In addition to the changes to the feeds, the VFD rule removed the over-the-counter sale of medically important antibiotics for feed and water. This removes the ability to go to the feed store and buy a bag of Aureomycin crumbles to top dress calves after weaning without getting a Veterinarian to write you a VFD first. It also removes the bags of Chlortetracycline from being sold without a Vet prescription now.

As you can see, the changes are significant due to the new rule. It is critical that farmers work with their Veterinarian to make sure the transition doesn't disrupt animal husbandry practices. Removing over-use and misuse of necessary antibiotics makes sense and helps prevent antibiotic resistance. Agriculture is doing its part to address this issue. Now it's time for human medicine to do the same!

Maryland Farm Bureau Membership Benefits



Remove snow like a champ with a Cat snow attachment and new Skid Steer Loader with your Maryland Farm Bureau discount.

Eligible Farm Bureau members in Maryland can now receive a \$500 discount on all GM models they purchase or lease.

FarmBureau members get FREE shipping and up to 30% off at Grainger. Be prepared for the next storm & save on supplies.



Visit www.mdfarmbureau.com/benefits to see all current discounts.

Continued from front page...

The Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee raised over \$150 for the Maryland Food Bank through the "Freezin' for a Reason" fundraiser on Monday night. Zach Evans of MidAtlantic Farm Credit raised the most money and took a swim in the ocean on Monday night to show his appreciation to the donors.

Awards were presented to the following members and Nationwide agents at the annual convention:

- 2016 Young Farmer Discussion Meet: Jessica Flores of Wicomico County
- 2016 Young Farmer Collegiate Discussion Meet: Gabrielle Cory of St. Mary's County
- 2016 Silver Bowl Awards: Calvert County and Anne Arundel County
- 2016 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award: Earl Griffith of Anne Arundel County
- 2016 Nationwide Agent: Robert Stastny of Baltimore County
- 2016 Nationwide Farm Agencies: William Staples Insurance Agency Inc. in Wicomico County and Nelson Insurance in Somerset County

Jessica Flores traveled to the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) annual convention in Phoenix, AZ from January 6-11, 2017 to represent Maryland in the national Young Farmer Discussion Meet. Jessica made it to the Sweet 16. Read the AFBF article on page 4 to hear more. Gabrielle Cory will travel to the AFBF Young Farmers conference in Pittsburgh, PA from February 10-13, 2017 to represent Maryland in the national Collegiate Young Farmers Discussion Meet. Both Young Farmers received a YETI cooler from Maryland Farm Bureau and have the opportunity to win a GMC truck or a Case IH tractor at the AFBF competitions.

The Silver Bowl Awards were presented to the counties with the best overall programs for 2016 based on the judge's scores for the County Awards of Excellence in all 7 program areas. We recognized two counties this year; a winner in the smaller county Farm Bureaus with less than 900 members and a winner in the larger county Farm Bureaus with 900+ members. Calvert won in the smaller county category and Anne Arundel won in the larger county category.

The Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award is presented to a dedicated member of MFB who helps on both the county and state Farm Bureau levels with events, membership, legislative issues, and more. Earl Griffith was nominated for this award by members of the Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau.

The 102nd Annual Maryland Farm Bureau Convention will be held in Ocean City from December 3-5, 2017.

County Farm Bureau Membership Report

As of January 23, 2017.

Based on Membership year July 1, 2016-June 1, 2017

County Farm Bureau Membership Goals are based upon voting members, represented in the second column. The third column reports the total members paid, including both voting and associates.

If you need to renew your Farm Bureau membership, call 410-922-3426, ask your regional field representative for a form to mail in, or go online to www.mdfarmbureau.com.

When you join your county Farm Bureau, you are also becoming a member of the Maryland Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF represents more than 6.2 million member families in over 2,800 counties.

As a member of Maryland Farm Bureau you have access to many discounts, services and programs. We invite you to take full advantage of all your Farm Bureau membership has to offer!

County	YTD Voting Members Paid	YTD All Members Paid
Allegany	53	85
Anne Arundel	422	2,236
Baltimore	147	2,954
Calvert	134	418
Caroline	241	425
Carroll	398	989
Cecil	183	490
Charles	110	614
Dorchester	142	353
Frederick	475	1,153
Garrett	92	151
Harford	202	960
Howard	109	740
Kent	133	182
Montgomery	148	2,144
Prince George's	118	1,523
Queen Anne's	165	334
St. Mary's	172	425
Somerset	117	209
Talbot	151	361
Washington	130	346
Wicomico	184	473
Worcester	123	298
Maryland Totals	4,149	17,863

Maryland Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference: "Speak Up & Speak Out!"

Learn about food labeling, hands-on Ag in the classroom, leadership, telling your Ag story and being an "Ag-vocate."

March 25th

8:30am-4pm

Maryland Farm Bureau Office

3358 Davidsonville Rd.

Davidsonville, MD 21035

8:00 am Doors Open & Breakfast

8:45 am Welcome

Reservation deadline March 21, 2017.

\$30/person, \$20 refunded upon arrival. Breakfast & Lunch included in fee.

Visit www.mdfarmbureau.com to print the registration form.

For questions and sponsorship opportunities, contact Chris Catterton at 410.279.7452 or scbwcatterton@comcast.net or Trish Hildebrand at 410.404.4724 or phildebrandmdfarmbureau.com



Women in Agriculture Conference