

Maryland Farm Bureau
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Chesapeake Bay Farm & Food

A Maryland Farm Bureau Publication

Fall 2018

Chesapeake Bay Farm & Food

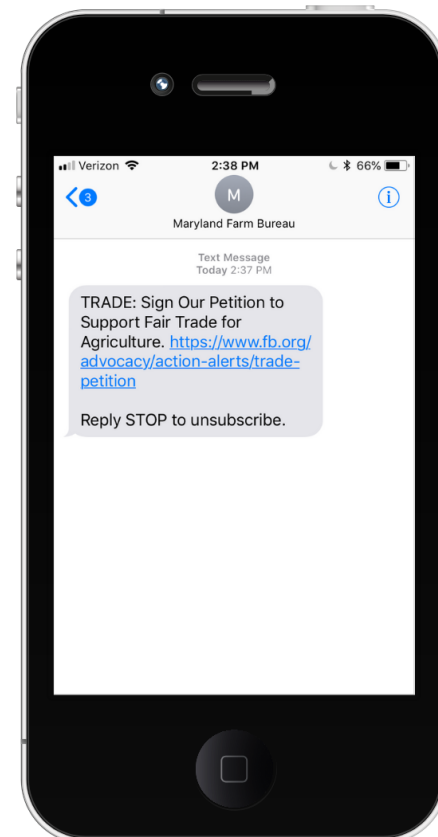


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Bailey Riggs Named 2018 Miss Maryland Agriculture

Emily Solis, Communications Specialist

On Thursday, August 23rd, Maryland Farm Bureau, in partnership with Maryland State Fair, held their 79th annual Miss Maryland Agriculture contest. Representatives from 19 counties across the state competed for the title to become Maryland's next young face of agriculture.

After earlier rounds of interviews, round-table discussions, first impression scenarios, and various other contest activities, the county Misses ventured on stage for their final round of competition - public speaking. Each competitor had 90 seconds to give an introduction of themselves, along with answering a fishbowl question about their involvement in the agriculture industry.



See **Miss Maryland Agriculture**, page 5

Zipline: Trade Horizon Looking Brighter for Ag

Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

Agriculture has been desperate for good news on the trade front this summer, and many of us breathed a sigh of relief when we saw a bit of that good news this week. While there are still serious issues to resolve and markets to open, U.S. agriculture can see a light on the horizon.

The Agriculture Department's relief package, released just this week, promises to give many farmers the extra help they need to hold on through ongoing trade disputes with China and the EU. The package is not a fix-all, and we wouldn't expect it to be. It will buy a little time, however, as the Administration takes a tough stance at the negotiating table—and that's a goal we can all get behind. Farmers and ranchers want to see fair trade deals hammered out, and export opportunities expanded for American-grown products.

See **Zipline**, page 15

Apply Now for Young Farmers Competitive Events

Parker Welch, Director of Organization

We are now seeking contestants for our annual Young Farmers competitive events - Achievement Award, Excellence in Agriculture Award, and Discussion Meet.

The winner of each competitive event will receive an expense-paid trip to New Orleans, LA in January to compete at the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention. The winner of the Collegiate Discussion Meet will earn an expense-paid trip to the 2019 FUSION Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

Applications for the Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture Award should be emailed to Parker Welch (pwelch@mdfarmbureau.com) by 4pm on Friday, November 16th.

See **Competitive Events**, page 10

A Message from the President

Maryland Farm Bureau Officers

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

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Anne Arundel County

Young Farmers Committee

Marshal Cahall, Chair
Kent County

Newsletter Editor

Emily Solis
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Fall harvest is upon us again, and it has been another year for the books. With all the challenges we face in agriculture, hats off to the farmer! I am humbled by the passion my fellow Maryland farmers have shown in spite of low grain and milk prices, uncertain trade, untold amounts of rain, and environmental challenges. Difficulties aside, we here in Maryland have still managed to plant record cover crop acreage, address Chesapeake Bay health, and lead the way in environmental health.

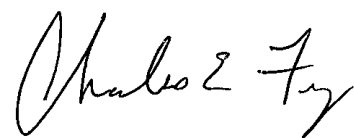
The Maryland Farm Bureau Board of Directors met with the Ohio Farm Bureau Board at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) facility this summer. Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at CBF stated that we are at a positive tipping point after 35+ years of working towards better Bay health. Through nutrient management, cover crops, best management practice implementation and more, we are about to see major results. Myers illustrated this with the analogy of adding drops to a pool to see when it's clean. Our drops are the aforementioned practices, and we are so very close to seeing the results. Maryland farmers need to pat themselves on the back!

Other states have always looked to Maryland for the information and resources that we use to achieve such high water quality and environmental health. In addition to Ohio, Pennsylvania is in constant contact with us, and more recently, so is Iowa. The Racoon River in Polk County, Iowa has major problems. This community is faced with changing the way they grow corn - traditionally this has included deep ripping, fall fertilization, and ultimately, erosion into the river. Since their runoff issues have come to the surface, we have shared a wealth of information with options for managing water quality health. Again, I am so very proud of our state's farmers and the work they do. It's been a long battle.

With fall harvest in full-swing, please be safe on the roads. Too many stories have been told over the years of cars crashing into or unsafely passing large and slow-moving farm equipment as farmers travel between fields to bring in the crops.

This year, with the support from Governor Hogan, the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) are with us to carry out a Caution Campaign. SHA will deploy 17 to 20 mobile electronic signs on shoulders around the state to warn motorists of farm equipment on the roadways. This is a pilot project that we hope will expand over time.

We will kick off the campaign with a press conference at the end of September to draw attention to this issue and our Caution Campaign. Look for SHA Administrator Greg Slater, MDA Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder, local Farm Bureau leaders and yours truly on the local news working to keep motorists, farmers, and our equipment safe during harvest season.



Charles E. Fry
President, Maryland Farm Bureau



Zipline

continued from page 1



We are encouraged that one of the pillars of the relief package is market facilitation. USDA is doubling down on its commitment to expand markets for U.S. ag products with \$200 million earmarked for programs that help farmers and ranchers find new markets. We cannot rely too heavily on one market if we want to help protect our industry from these kinds of hits down the road. There is no doubt that America's farmers and ranchers have been successful wherever we have a fair playing field, so it's time for us to get in the game in more markets around the world.

Looking at the initial list of products qualifying for tariff relief programs, it's a good reminder of the wide variety of ag products we export as a nation—everything from pork and dairy to cranberries and almonds. This trade war continues to have a real impact than from coast-to-coast, and we must continue to work together to keep our industry moving forward as a leader in the global marketplace. Of course, some sectors have been hit harder than others this year, and we know a variety of forces are at work eating away at farmers' bottom lines in this down farm economy. Our priority continues to be trade over aid, and this USDA package plays a key role in getting us closer to achieving that goal.

That light on the trade horizon got even brighter with the news of an updated agreement with Mexico this week, and we're excited for how this will set the stage for more successful negotiation outcomes down the road. Although we must address seasonal import surges, which can devastate U.S. fruit and vegetable growers, the proposed agreement with Mexico includes many positive updates, such as new biotechnology language that protects the latest in ag innovation from traditional biotechnology to new breeding techniques like gene editing—for the first time in a U.S. trade deal. This is the kind of deal we need to protect the advancements American agriculture is making in sustainability. The agreement also addresses geographic indicators, which will protect U.S. dairy products from unfair discrimination in the Mexican marketplace.

We cannot and do not expect to stop here. A fully successful and modernized NAFTA must include Canada, and we are hopeful that this proposal will bring us all back to the negotiating table to see that achieved. It's time for Canada to address long standing issues like unfair dairy pricing schemes and grain grading standards, and America's farmers and ranchers have great confidence in U.S. negotiators as they work to bring about a comprehensive deal that benefits all three countries.

Trade deals, like farming, are hard work. You must have the soil of ready markets to work with, plant the seeds of diplomacy, weed out anything harmful, tend and grow areas of agreement, and finally produce a deal that yields plentiful benefits overall. This work may be slow and hard at times, but it is worth the effort and will bring a harvest in rural America that boosts our economy and strengthens our nation.



MFB Offers 5 Scholarships to Students

The Maryland Farm Bureau will offer five \$2,000 scholarships. Applicants must be high school seniors starting college in the fall of 2019 or full time college students at any community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Three of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and two scholarships will be offered to non-agricultural or agricultural curriculum majors. To download the application, visit www.mdfarmbureau.com/scholarships.

AFBF Hosts 100th Annual Convention in New Orleans



You're invited! Join us in New Orleans this January for the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation. This centennial celebration is an opportunity to meet farmers from around the country, participate in worthwhile workshops, hear some great speakers, and debate issues that will impact our ability to farm far into the future. Registration opens October 1st. Book early to get the best ag tour options!

The Maryland Farm Bureau group usually numbers around 60 for the national conference. This includes Young Farmers who compete in competitions, Women's Leadership representatives, our two Voting Delegates, and many other farm couples who enjoy the fellowship of traveling with friends.

The travel package we are offering allows you to specifically customize your trip. The only required charges are for hotel, convention registration, and the Maryland group dinner. You can also purchase tickets for ag tours, the leadership luncheon, or one of the fundraising events to support the AFBF Foundation for Agriculture. These include the Foundation Night Out and the flapjack breakfast. This year's ag tours include:

- Oak Alley Plantation & Laura Plantation
- Covey Rise Farms & Bracy's Nursery
- Insta-Gator Ranch & Hatchery & Abita Brewing Company
- Louisiana Sugar Refining, LLC & Zen-Noh Grain Corporation
- John Deere Thibodaux, Inc. & Bayer (formerly Monsanto)
- Clear Creek Stud & Duncan Acres Organic Farm

We suggest traveling to New Orleans on Friday morning and home on Tuesday. We look forward to your company for as long as you can join us in the Big Easy - New Orleans! Visit www.mdfarmbureau.com/afbf-convention for more information.

FUSION Conference Heads to Milwaukee

Join Maryland Farm Bureau in Milwaukee, WI for the 2019 AFBF FUSION Conference from March 15th-18th! There will be great speakers, breakout sessions and evening events to bring together volunteer leaders from the Promotion & Education, Women's Leadership and Young Farmers & Ranchers programs. You'll leave the conference with new friends, new ideas and new energy for your farm and Farm Bureau.

FUSION provides value for people of all ages with a variety of different activities including local tours in Wisconsin, Collegiate Discussion Meet, hands-on learning sessions, and so much more! Registration and information for booking hotel rooms will be available this fall. Mark your calendars now! More information is available at <https://www.fb.org/events/2019-fusion-conference/>.



A Message from the Executive Director

I recently sat in on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals as it heard arguments in a case out of Montgomery County to regulate and limit the use of pesticides. The case stems from a county law to prohibit the "cosmetic" use of pesticides on lawns, ballfields, and other open spaces.

Maryland law gives the Maryland Department of Agriculture sole authority to regulate the sale, possession, and use of pesticides. State law calls for uniformity and wants to avoid a confusing and conflicting patchwork of pesticide rules, which is exactly what the Montgomery County law creates if it is allowed to stand.

Farmers are not currently covered in the county law, but could be added. At this time, consumers can own pesticides, but can only use them if they have an invasive species, certain disease vectors, biting or stinging insects, or a handful of other conditions that qualify for exemptions. "Cosmetic" use, which is the purpose of the prohibition, is not defined in the county law. Montgomery County residents and lawn care professionals are restricted by local law, even when federally-approved labeling instructions allow the use if proper licensing and certification requirements have been followed. In addition, retailers in Montgomery County would be required to post signs advising consumers that they cannot follow label instructions, but must follow county rules.

MFB strongly supports state and federal regulation of pesticides. We believe the rules should be uniform, clear, and based on the best scientific expertise. We joined two farmers and 10 other state level farm, nursery, and lawn care organizations in filing a Friend of the Court brief for today's hearing. We urged the Court to uphold state preemption and reject a patchwork of county-by-county rules on the use of important crop protection products. A ruling is expected in early 2019.

Valerie P. Connelly

Executive Director,
Maryland Farm Bureau



County Farm Bureau Membership Report

As of August 31, 2018.

Based on Membership year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

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 MFB 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	105	160
Anne Arundel	659	3,368
Baltimore	287	4,077
Calvert	221	634
Caroline	417	718
Carroll	666	1,508
Cecil	312	815
Charles	191	948
Dorchester	224	563
Frederick	847	1,729
Garrett	153	231
Harford	354	1,427
Howard	196	1,208
Kent	253	328
Montgomery	262	3,154
Prince George's	215	2,127
Queen Anne's	256	554
St. Mary's	317	653
Somerset	200	350
Talbot	228	562
Washington	248	592
Wicomico	361	750
Worcester	194	478
Maryland Totals	7,166	26,934

County policy development sessions are in full-swing! Here are Maryland Farm Bureau's State Issues of Concern for the upcoming legislative session:

#1: Air Quality

Current MFB Policy - AIR QUALITY

- Although the Maryland Department of the Environment is charged with promulgation of air quality standards, we encourage MDE to consult with the Department of Agriculture when considering regulations that impact the agricultural community. '05
- We ask that the Maryland Department of the Environment when formulating its clean air (state) implementation plan, consider agriculture's inability to pass on costs incurred in reducing equipment emissions, dust, or odors associated with normal farming practices. '05
- We support a healthy environment, including good air quality, but we are opposed to emission control rules and standards for farm equipment that would require the retrofitting of our equipment to meet those standards. '05
- We oppose exhaust emissions from farm machinery along with dust and particulate matter generated from agricultural activity being subject to the federal Clean Air standards instituted in 1997. '05
- We oppose regulations dealing with exhaust of ammonia or methane gases from agricultural activities. '09
- We recommend MDE allow the burning of agricultural use buildings. Buildings to be burned should meet safety standards for burning set by county codes. Burning should be supervised by the local fire company. '11
- We encourage MDA to assemble an ag air quality expert panel with the mission to review, vet and validate regional ag emissions research & publications to ensure pertinence to real world conditions. This panel should consist, at minimum of the MD and DE state climatologists, MD and DE extension animal science specialists and representatives from the dairy and poultry associations. '17

Maryland Air Quality Background:

This area of concern comes on two fronts. One is a movement in a few counties on the Eastern Shore to prevent further construction of commercial poultry houses by blaming possible air quality issues on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's). During the 2018 legislative session, there was a bill introduced that would have mandated all CAFO's install air quality monitoring devices to test for any pollutants coming out of the confined areas. This bill failed but could be brought back next year. MDE has air quality monitoring stations around the state (including the Eastern Shore). However, these stations don't monitor for ammonia. There has been discussion around asking the administration to not only add another monitoring station on the lower shore, but also retrofit the existing stations to monitor for ammonia. On another front, there is a big push to have Maryland create a Carbon fee/tax to help cover the cost of further Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions in the state while also creating a deterrent to using fossil fuel-based energy and fuel sources. There was a preemptive bill this last session that would have prevented Maryland from creating a carbon tax, but that bill failed as well. There will most likely be a bill to create a carbon tax in next year's legislative session.

Questions:

1. Looking at MFB's current policy on Air Quality, are there any revisions and/or additions needed to properly address these concerns, especially the carbon tax one?
2. Should MFB join in and ask the administration to fund adding another monitoring station on the lower shore and also retrofitting the existing stations to monitor ammonia?

#2: Equine Industry

Current MFB Policy: EQUINE INDUSTRY

- We support the inclusion of inventories of the various classes of equine in the state in future MDA and NASS agriculture statistical surveys. '07

PAL

continued from page 5

The PAL program is broken up into four modules, each focused on a different aspect of communication and advocacy. Our first module was in New York City and focused on media and consumer relations. New York City wasn't so different for me being close to Washington D.C. and having a farm that deals directly with consumers. But, it was eye opening to see how the other members of my class reacted and dealt with things. The AFBF staff threw us in the fire right away with mock media interviews and candid critiques of our performance. We also evaluated our own strengths and learned how we can use those to our advantage. Personally, a highlight was meeting Jay Poole who was with Philip Morris during the tobacco lawsuits. That event redefined what agriculture looked like in Southern Maryland and is an important piece of my farm's agricultural history. It was incredible to hear the perspective of "Big Tobacco," how they handled being vilified in the media, and how the people who worked for the company behind the scenes managed to recover their sense of pride and reputations.



Jamie and her "PALs" in New York City

Our second module was in Washington D.C., another familiar place for Maryland farmers. We are fortunate that our state is located so close to the nation's capital and legislative leaders from around the country. With that comes responsibility. It is even more important that Maryland farmers understand and practice good advocacy. Many of us have neighbors, family members, and friends who work in D.C. and shape national policies. Our farms are close enough for any legislator to visit on a day trip. And people look to our farms to see how we are handling environmental regulations and best management practices. We are fortunate to have many leaders in national positions from our state, but we need more and we need to make sure we're turning out more young leaders to follow in those footsteps.

The PAL program includes an international study model and our class went to Europe. Our class has been concentrating on the new Farm Bill and the European trip gave us a unique perspective as the United Kingdom is rewriting its entire agricultural policy in preparation for Brexit. We had the chance to hear both sides of the story from the UK's perspective and from that of the European Union. Brexit is imminent and even now, there are questions about what the new policies will look like. While we were in Europe, we had a chance to visit several farms. And like ours here, they were multi-generational and highly diversified. Farmers in Europe are embracing new technologies, creating new market opportunities and implementing best agricultural management practices.

The last module was in St. Louis at Monsanto's headquarters. We were among one of the last groups that toured the facility under the Monsanto name. Two weeks after our visit, Bayer leadership took over, ending a lengthy merger process between the two corporate giants. As expected, the Monsanto facility was impressive and the research being conducted is both remarkable and meaningful. The St. Louis module centered on stakeholder engagement and the Monsanto headquarter was an ideal setting. Monsanto may not have been 100% successful in changing consumer opinion on genetically modified organisms, but it certainly wasn't for lack of trying. The types of engagement and innovative communication strategies they have taken are useful models.



In the end, the PAL program put a fine point on an important leadership skill: collaboration. There will always be uncertainty in agriculture. But it will persist through collaboration and innovation. The lesson I've learned over and over is that being able to listen with an open mind is one of the most important skills a leader can develop.

AFBF is accepting applications for the next PAL class, which will begin in Spring 2019. Maryland has the opportunity to put forth two candidates for consideration in the highly competitive application process. I would encourage anyone between the ages of 25 and 45 who is interested to contact Maryland Farm Bureau for more information. This was a tremendous opportunity and I thank the entire MFB Board and Staff for their support as well as fellow Calvert County Farm Bureau Board members and agricultural "pals" from across the state.

Farmers Need Trade - Advocacy Toolkit Now Available

Trade—particularly exports—is critical to U.S. agriculture. A full quarter of U.S. farm products (by value) is exported. For some commodities, the percentage is even higher. In wake of the current trade war, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has developed a toolkit for advocating about tariffs and trade - particularly their impact on American agriculture. The toolkit provides key messages about trade, statistical figures, tips for attending town hall meetings and community forums, a sample opinion article to submit to local newspapers, sample social media posts, trade myths, and additional resources.



The complete Trade Toolkit can be found on Maryland Farm Bureau's "Advocating for You" page of our website: www.mdfarmbureau.com/top-trending-initiatives/. Click "Trade Advocacy Toolkit" to view.

PAC

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Following the Primary election, the PAC Board met in August to review candidate endorsements to determine if additional support was needed in any areas. There were 4 more endorsements made at this meeting - totaling 97 endorsed candidates for the General election this fall. As part of our "Get Out the Vote" drive, a Voter's Guide will be mailed to Maryland Farm Bureau members in October with each endorsement made by the PAC Board.

An endorsement is recognition of a candidate's commitment to the issues important to the agricultural community in Maryland. Our support highlights the strong working relationship between farmers and endorsed candidates, both in the halls of Annapolis and back at local farm community events.

The Maryland Farm Bureau PAC is non-partisan. The endorsement process is intended to draw attention to farm issues in an election year, increase voter turnout, and build a stronger relationship between local farmers and their elected officials. Be on the lookout for your Voter's Guide in the mail!



Gov. Larry Hogan with Chuck Fry, MFB President at the 2018 Buy Local Cookout

Upcoming Events

October

10/6: Women in Ag Conference
10/10: UMD Dairy Field Day
10/25-11/1: Early Voting

December

12/1: Young Farmers Conference
12/2-12/5: MFB Annual Meeting

March

3/15-3/18: Farm Bureau FUSION Conference

November

11/6: Election Day
11/8: Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference

January

1/9: MD General Assembly Reconvenes
1/11-1/16: AFBF Convention

Reflections on AFBF's Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) Program

Jamie Tiralla, PAL Fellow



PAL Fellows visiting Monsanto headquarters in St. Louis, MO

If there's anything a farmer can be certain about, it's uncertainty. From weather to market volatility to consumer trends, there is practically no end to the things that could go wrong. Rather than dwell on the uncertainties, most farmers I know push through, planning for the worst and praying for better. Planning can't be limited to physical boundaries of the farm, though. While things like the weather are out of our control, many things that affect agriculture can be shaped by farmers and more importantly, agricultural advocates.

Last year, I was selected as one of ten farmers from across the United States to participate in American Farm Bureau's Partners in Advocacy Leadership program, better known as PAL. My classmates are farmers in Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Washington state. It has been a tremendous honor and humbling experience to be the first PAL from Maryland. My role in this journey has not been to simply further my own advocacy plans, but to glean information that I can share with my fellow Maryland Farm Bureau members.

See PAL, page 13

Miss Maryland Agriculture

continued from page 1

Several distinguished guests were in attendance that night including Maryland Farm Bureau President, Chuck Fry; Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, Joe Bartenfelder; and Maryland State Fair Board Chairman, Gerry Brewster.

Before announcing the winners, 2017 Miss Maryland Agriculture, Mackenzie Underwood gave her farewell address. "I had an amazing year running around Maryland educating consumers about agriculture," said Underwood. When asked if she had any advice for the Misses as they continue their year as Farm Bureau ambassadors, she answered, "Continue. Continue to educate, continue to talk about agriculture."

After several minutes of tabulation, Bailey Riggs of Queen Anne's County was selected as the 2018 Miss Maryland Agriculture! As the newest representative, Riggs shared with the audience, "I'm really proud to represent an awesome industry and an awesome group of people in this upcoming year." Residing in Centreville, MD., she is the daughter of William and Doreen Riggs. She grew up helping on her grandparents' farm that eventually became a trucking company for agricultural goods. She's an active 4-Her, showing pigs, beef, and rabbits, and she's spent the last few years working at a local produce stand. Bailey is the President of her high school senior class.

This year's runner-ups were: 1st Runner-Up, Tiffany Lenhart of Thurmont, MD., the daughter of Jerry and Tina Lenhart; 2nd Runner-Up, Jordyn Griffin of Union Bridge, MD., the daughter of Wyatt and Jennifer Griffin; 3rd-Runner-Up, Alana Harman of Frostburg, MD., the daughter of Ben and Michelle Harman; and 4th Runner-Up, Lexy Droz of Oxford, PA., the daughter of Jason and Rachel Droz.



2018 Miss Maryland Agriculture Contestants

Kylee Cessna, <i>Allegany</i>	Eliza Freeman, <i>Harford</i>
Cassie Bell, <i>Anne Arundel</i>	Makenzie Hereth, <i>Howard</i>
Emme VanFossen, <i>Calvert</i>	Caitlyn Gardiner, <i>Montgomery</i>
Mackenzie Covey, <i>Caroline</i>	Kaylin Nichols, <i>Prince George's</i>
Jordyn Griffin, <i>Carroll</i>	Bailey Riggs, <i>Queen Anne's</i>
Lexy Droz, <i>Cecil</i>	Brooke Beauchamp, <i>Somerset</i>
Georgia Bowling, <i>Charles</i>	Annette Braun, <i>St. Mary's</i>
Grace Brinsfield, <i>Dorchester</i>	Kara Hutchison, <i>Talbot</i>
Tiffany Lenhart, <i>Frederick</i>	Morgan Thompson, <i>Washington</i>
Alana Harman, <i>Garrett</i>	Elizabeth Williams, <i>Wicomico</i>

NEW Maryland Farm Bureau Membership Benefit

DUNGAREES

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



We're excited to be offering Maryland Farm Bureau members a BRAND NEW member benefit. Dungarees carries a massive inventory of premium men and women's workwear brands. As a member, you can save 10% on orders under \$200, 15% on orders over \$200, and FREE shipping on all orders over \$55! Visit www.mdfarmbureau.com/dungarees/ to learn more.

Visit www.mdfarmbureau.com/a-z-savings to see all current discounts.

Farm Equipment, Depreciation, and the New Tax Law



The following information is provided by Nationwide®, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.

Buy, lease or hold the old? The changes in tax law will impact decisions you as a farm operator make over the next several years. These decisions may center around farm equipment, livestock and other assets that depreciate.

The new law revised the rules around depreciation and it will allow full and immediate expensing for purchases over the next several years. The new law, however, ended like-kind exchanges (the replacing of a depreciating asset without paying the taxes on the new item) and that can affect the way you approach your personal property, such as equipment and livestock and the taxation of these assets.

- **The nitty gritty.** The rule on expensing and bonus depreciation was changed to permit full expensing of most newly purchased depreciable property used in a farming operation through 2022. Arguably one of the largest changes to depreciation is the expansion of Internal Revenue Code section 179 to allow used equipment to receive the same treatment as if it were "new".
- **Questions to ask yourself.**
 - What type of depreciation makes sense for my operations?
 - Should I consider utilizing a mixture of bonus depreciation and straight-line depreciation?
 - What are the tax implications if I have highly depreciated equipment that I need to sell?

See **Nationwide**, page 7

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU'S 103RD ANNUAL MEETING

December 2-4, 2018 | The Clarion Resort Hotel | 101st Street, Ocean City, MD

Saturday, December 1, 2018

11:30am - 4:30pm	Young Farmer Conference
4:30pm - 5:00pm	YF Discussion Meet - Round 1
6:30pm - 9:00pm	YF Dinner & Social <i>BJ's on the Water</i>

Sunday, December 2, 2018

8:30am - 12:00pm	YF Achievement Award Interviews (<i>Closed Program</i>)
8:30am - 11:15am	YF Excellence in Ag Interviews
10:00am - 11:45am	YF Committee Meeting
10:00am	Registration Desk Open
12:00pm	Exhibitors Begin Setting Up
12:00pm	Women's Hospitality Room Open
12:15pm	General Luncheon
1:00pm - 1:30pm	YF Discussion Meet - Round 2
1:30pm	WLC Silent Auction
2:00pm - 4:30pm	WLC Meeting
2:00pm	YF Discussion Meet Final Four Announced
2:30pm - 3:00pm	YF Discussion Meet - Final Four
3:00pm - 3:30 pm	PAC Board Meeting
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Cookies & Milk Reception <i>Exhibit Hall</i>
7:30pm	Vespers Program
8:00pm	Ice Cream/Dessert Social
8:30pm	Membership Recognition Program
9:00pm - 10:15pm	Poolside President's Reception
9:00pm	Miss MD Agriculture Program

Monday, December 3, 2018

8:30am	Opening Ceremony
8:50am	Welcome from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen
9:00am	President's Address

9:20am	Nationwide Address
9:40am	Audit Committee Report
10:00am	Miss MD Agriculture Address
10:45am	Breakout Sessions - Round 1
12:00pm	General Luncheon
12:00pm	County President's & GOAL Luncheon
1:00pm	Nominations Committee Report
1:10pm	Keynote Address from Jerry Carroll - Farmer/Comedian
2:10pm	MFB Policy Resolution Session
3:00pm	Address from Dr. Craig Beyrouty <i>Dean, UMD AGNR</i>
3:15pm	LEAD Maryland Presentation
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Breakout Sessions - Round 2
5:30pm	Reception
7:00pm	Banquet & Awards Ceremony
8:30pm	Live Auction

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

7:00am - 8:00am	Board of Directors Breakfast
7:00am	Exhibit Hall Opens
8:15am - 9:15am	District FB Caucus Meetings
9:30am - 10:30am	MFB Policy Resolutions (cont.)
10:35am	2017 Census of Agriculture
	<i>Dale Hawks, USDA NASS</i>
10:45am	Roll Call before Elections
10:50am	Election of Officers
11:15am - 11:45am	Address from Joe Bartenfelder <i>MD Secretary of Agriculture</i>
12:00pm	General Lunch
1:30pm - 3:45pm	MFB Policy Resolutions (cont.)
3:45pm	Finalize State & National Policy
3:50pm	Closing Remarks from Chuck Fry, MFB President
4:00pm	Adjournment



You are cordially invited to register for our 103rd annual convention and participate in the many discussions, debates and social activities that are planned. The convention will include an impressive array of exhibits from businesses, associations and government agencies involved with the farm community in Maryland. We will convene our delegates for formal business on Monday and Tuesday. Our annual awards banquet and fundraising live auction will be held on Monday evening.

Registration paperwork must be submitted to your county secretary by October 12, 2018. All reservations at the hotel must be made through Maryland Farm Bureau. Registration forms and additional information about our annual meeting can be found on our website at www.mdfarmbureau.com/convention.

Competitive Events

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Interested in participating in one of our events? Here's a glimpse of what they entail.

Achievement Award

The Achievement Award recognizes Young Farmers who have excelled in their farm and have honed their leadership abilities to superiority. Participants are involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks. Judges evaluate competitor's excellence in management, growth and scope of their enterprise and self-initiative that have been displayed throughout the farm or ranch.

Excellence in Agriculture Award

The Excellence in Agriculture Award spotlights young Farm Bureau members who are agricultural enthusiasts but have not earned a majority of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in the past three years. Competitors are evaluated on their understanding of agricultural issues, leadership experiences and achievement, and their ability to communicate their agricultural story.

Discussion Meet

The Discussion Meet competitive event simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a predetermined topic. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues, and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems. This event includes a Young Farmers competition and a Collegiate competition.



*Wade and Shelby Hampton,
2018 Excellence in
Agriculture Winners*



*Kayla Griffith, 2018
Discussion Meet Winner*

PAC Makes General Election Endorsements

Michael Calkins, PAC Chairman

The Maryland Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (PAC) recently made endorsements for the 2018 Maryland Primary and General elections. Endorsements included state candidates in the House, Senate, Attorney General, Comptroller, and Governor's race.

The endorsement process truly exemplifies the grassroots nature of Farm Bureau. Through the use of each county's Candidate Evaluation Committee (CEC), members have the opportunity to share their opinions on candidates of each district. The CEC's review candidate surveys, discuss year-round interaction with incumbents, discuss the qualifications of challengers, and make endorsement recommendations. The PAC Board uses the information from the counties, along with voting records of incumbents and the political acumen of challengers or open-seat candidates, to determine who to support.

Of the 585 candidates seeking office for the upcoming term, 188 completed our candidate survey with interest in receiving a Maryland Farm Bureau's support. A total of 107 candidates were endorsed during the PAC Board's April meeting. The candidates endorsed at this time were running in the Primary election. A Voter's Guide was sent to media outlets throughout the state and posted on Maryland Farm Bureau's website. We're proud to announce that 88% of the candidates that we supported were successful in the Primary election.

See PAC, page 12

Dairy Bar Success at MD State Fair

Parker Welch, Director of Organization

The Maryland State Fair Dairy Bar wrapped another successful 11 days earlier this September grossing over \$55,000 for the Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers program. Throughout the 11 days of the Fair, the Dairy Bar served over 11,000 people! Dairy Bar customers were able to choose from seven flavors available every day from Hershey's – Vanilla, Chocolate, Green Mint Chip, Peach, Moose Tracks, Butter Pecan and Cookies N Cream. In addition to those flavors, each day the Dairy Bar featured a flavor from a Maryland creamery. Those flavors and creameries were:

- Goose Feathers & Cappuccino Crunch – Keyes Creamery
- Snallygaster & Dirt Road – South Mountain Creamery
- Black Cherry & Cappuccino Chip – Prigel Family Creamery
- Cookie Monster & Snickers – Kilby Cream



The MFB Young Farmers Committee thanks the 13 county groups who committed to fill the 22 different shifts that happen over the 11 days of Fair. As always, any suggestions for improving the Dairy Bar in future years is appreciated!

Nationwide

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- **What it means for you.** From a tax standpoint, farmers will now need to think more strategically when buying and selling farm equipment and other farm items. They may consider alternative methods like using a charitable remainder trust to sell a property to avoid paying tax on the sale.

When thinking about using a charitable remainder trust or other business planning strategies it's important to enlist the help of qualified professionals who don't have a stake in the final decisions. Qualified professionals may include your banker, your accountant, your personal attorney or a financial or estate planner.

If you would like to help in finding a qualified professional to speak with, contact the Nationwide® Land As Your Legacy® team at LAYL@nationwide.com or toll-free at 1-855-529-2729.

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State Issues of Concern

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- We support the recognition of equine as part of the agricultural industry and not as companion animals. Riding lessons, boarding or training given on a farm should be considered a part of the normal agriculture practices. We support measures to improve the Maryland Bred Program within the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Industry. '05
- We support the creation of state debt to fund the Maryland Horse Park. '13

Current MFB Policy: GAMBLING

- We support that a portion of gaming proceeds continue to be utilized to supplement the purse and bred fund accounts. We support licensed video gaming and gambling at racetracks and/or other facilities and that a minimum of 25% of the total net revenue from these sources be used to supplement the purse and Maryland Bred Fund accounts to equal the average dollar value of the three highest states in the Purse and Breeding bonus accounts. Any expansion into other forms of gambling such as table games and sports book similar to Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) should benefit the equine industry and agricultural education programs. '15
- We urge the state legislature to designate a portion of the education funds generated from the VLT's to Ag Education programs and be administered by MAEF. '15

Maryland Equine Industry Background:

The Maryland equine industry is one of the fastest growing Ag industries in the state. The industry is very diverse and covers many different sectors of breeding, racing, riding, showing and tourism. Maryland equine industry has had many wins over the last few years including receiving a portion of the casino money to greatly improve the Maryland Bred program, to getting a 5-Star event in Cecil County. The Preakness continues to be an annual tourism attraction and symbol of relevance of the Maryland racehorse industry. Yet, there have been talks of that race being moved. As Maryland agriculture continues to diversify to remain viable, the equine industry looks to play a strong role in that diversification. Maryland Farm Bureau needs to make sure this sector of agriculture is properly covered and represented in both the public and in Annapolis.

Questions:

1. With such limited policy on equine, is there policy needed to better represent the equine industry in Maryland?
2. What additional areas of concern are on the horizon for Maryland's equine industry and what can MFB do to either prevent them or greatly reduce the negative impact of these areas of concern? What MFB policy is needed to address these solutions?
3. Are there any potential opportunities for Maryland's equine industry and what can MFB do to help facilitate these opportunities? Is their MFB policy needed to address these solutions?

#3: Noxious Weeds

Current MFB Policy: NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious Weed List

- We strongly urge the Maryland Department of Agriculture to have phragmites, siatic tearthumb, kudzu, multi-flora rose (except when used as rootstock by the nursery industry), Japanese stiltgrass, Palmer Amaranth and mile-a-minute placed on the noxious weed list. '15

Compliance on Government-Owned Land

- We insist that local, county, state, and federal governments control invasive species and abide by the noxious weed control laws on lands owned or controlled by them. '16

Enforcement

- We urge the Maryland Department of Agriculture to enforce the law pertaining to the control of noxious weeds with court action when necessary. We urge county governments, county weed control committees and other agricultural organizations to cooperate with MDA's efforts to maintain a viable noxious weed control program. '07
- We recommend adequate funding to provide proper enforcement of the noxious weed law and maintain a viable prevention and treatment program. '17

- We recommend that county weed control committees, along with county coordinators make every possible effort to cooperate with farmers and/or landowners in good faith, who are making a reasonable effort to control noxious weeds in crop and non-cropland. Furthermore, it must be accepted by the enforcement personnel that 100% control of noxious weeds in crop or non-crop land is not realistically achievable by any or all of the control methods outlined by the Maryland Noxious Weed Law, which are as follows: "mowing, spraying and cultivation." '05
- MDA should annually evaluate grasses and other seeds used in buffers and other conservation programs so they are managed to keep them from spreading to farmed fields. Ornamental grasses sold and planted in Maryland should also be carefully evaluated. '09

Public Education

- We recommend that the State of Maryland increase efforts to inform and educate the general public concerning the value of and requirements for continuing control of thistles, multi-flora rose, johnsongrass, poison hemlock, shatter cane and autumn olive. '07

Weed Control Methods

- We support and will work with the University of Maryland, Maryland Department of Agriculture and Chemical Companies to step-up efforts to develop new materials to reduce and eliminate these noxious weeds. '15
- At present, seeds for bird feed are not regulated, and some mixtures contain noxious weed seed from both domestic and imported sources. We recommend legislation that will require all bird feed (seeds) be free of noxious weed seeds that are capable of germination.'05

Noxious Weeds Background:

Current Maryland Noxious Weed Law only includes (1) Thistles belonging to the asteraceae or compositae family, including Canada, musk, nodding, plumeless, and bull thistle; (2) Johnsongrass (sorghum halepense) or hybrids that contain Johnsongrass as a parent; and (3) Shatter cane and wild cane (sorghum bicolor). With the hard look at adding Palmer Amaranth to Maryland's noxious weed list this past session, it is very evident that adding another invasive species weed to noxious weed list might not be the correct way to go to address the rising problems with invasive species weeds. The fiscal note that was included with the bill was well over \$3 million in cost, with most of that cost coming from State Highway Administration. The noxious weed list creates an impossible task for affected landowners/farmers to achieve. In addition, the program in place to properly control these weeds in Maryland is greatly under-funded. Maybe something between doing nothing and listing on a noxious weed list should be created to address these invasive species weeds. Farmers need assistance addressing the infestation, not fined for not getting rid of it in a timely manner. As more and more herbicides become ineffective at killing some of these invasive weeds, farmers will either have to change tillage practices or stop growing crops in fields infested by these weeds. Also, there is no process to start addressing up and coming invasive species (like water hemp) at Maryland Department of Agriculture either.

Questions:

MFB policy only asks to have weeds like Palmer Amaranth added to the Noxious Weed list, but this looks to be a cost ineffective way of addressing the issue. Is there a different way to go about addressing these invasive species weeds? If so, how would that program be structured to control the cost and create the most bang for the buck? Is there any other policy needed to improved MFB's stance on finding a way to address control of these weeds?

