

**SaveFarmFamilies.org Launched to Raise Funds for Maryland Family Under Attack by Waterkeepers Alliance  
Wicomico County Young Farmers, Maryland Farm Bureau, and Perdue Highlight Reckless Litigation by Extremists**

Willards, MD (9/15/2011)–The Wicomico County Young Farmers & Ranchers, the MD Farm Bureau, and Perdue announced the launch of *SaveFarmFamilies.org*, a group of Ag. interests who have come together to raise much-needed funds for legal defense of a Berlin, MD farm family involved in a protracted and crippling lawsuit with the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance since March 2010. The Waterkeeper Alliance filed a federal lawsuit against Alan & Kristin Hudson accusing them of violating the MD Clean Water Act. At the heart of this suit is a pile of fertilizer, believed by the Waterkeepers to be poultry litter, which activists identified from a small plane they flew over Hudson’s property. The MD Dept. of the Environment (MDE) confirmed the pile was actually biosolids, which Hudsons obtained from nearby Ocean City, as part of a successful environmental program to recycle municipal waste for agricultural purposes. MDE determined that no action was required other than to spread the biosolids on the farm’s crops. However, the Waterkeepers—as part of their campaign to end contemporary animal ag.—have persisted with the suit, which has put a massive financial strain on the Hudson family and could force a settlement or bankruptcy while they wait to make their arguments in court sometime in 2012. In their suit, the Waterkeeper Alliance contends the Hudsons are a “factory farm,” despite the fact that they have only two chicken houses and has been farmed by members of the Hudson family for four generations. SaveFarmFamilies.org is concerned because, if successful, the Waterkeepers’ bankruptcy-by-litigation tactic could be a damaging precedent for America’s family farmers, who could be dragged into court just for following every-day farming practices. “The Waterkeepers litigation is a job killer for MD,” said Lee Richardson, a member of the Wicomico County Young Farmers and Ranchers and SaveFarmFamilies.org. “If this extremist group succeeds in forcing the Hudson family to settle or declare bankruptcy before arguments are even heard in court, they’ll do it to other family farmers here and across the country, just because we don’t conform to the Waterkeeper image of how animals should be raised.” The lawsuit marks a watershed moment for the agriculture community, particularly in MD, where the farming industry plays a large role in the state’s economy and is responsible for 14 percent of its workforce, the largest percentage of any sector in the state. Many local farmers believe that if this lawsuit proceeds it would open up the flood gate for more frivolous litigation. “By pursuing this malicious lawsuit, this extremist group is sending a message to American farmers: if you raise chickens, hogs or cattle—and don’t do it their way—then the Waterkeeper Alliance is willing to use the courts to force you out of business,” said Val Connelly, with the MD Farm Bureau and SaveFarmFamilies.org. SaveFarmFamilies.org encourages members of the ag. community and those who care about sustaining family farming to visit [www.savefarmfamilies.org](http://www.savefarmfamilies.org), to learn about the threats and consequences of misguided environmental litigation and to make a donation to the Hudsons’ legal defense fund. (Continued Inside)

Baltimore County  
Farm Bureau

P.O. Box 188  
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# Baltimore County Farm Bureau Newsletter

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*October 2011 Edition*

## Important Dates

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### Board Meetings

October 17, 2011

November 21, 2011

January 23, 2012

February 27, 2012

March 19, 2012

Cockeysville, MD - Baltimore County Ag. Center 7:00 P.M.

### Young Farmers Meetings

November 12, 2011

December 10, 2011

January 14, 2012

February 11, 2012

March 10, 2012

Parkton, MD - Corner Mill Farm 7:00 P.M.

### November Citrus Sale

Orders Due - October 30, 2011

Delivery Date - November 14-18, 2011

Timonium, MD - Maryland State Fair Admin. Bldg.

### State Farm Bureau Convention

December 4-6, 2011

Ocean City, MD - The Clarion Resort Hotel

### December Citrus Sale

Orders Due - November 27, 2011

Delivery Date - December 12-16, 2011

Timonium, MD - Maryland State Fair Admin. Bldg.

### National Farm Bureau Convention

January 8-11, 2012

Honolulu, Hawaii - Hilton Hawaiian Village

## HIGHLIGHTS ON THE INSIDE...

- November and December Citrus Order Forms
- See schedule of upcoming events above.
- Miss Baltimore County Farm Bureau
- Young Farmers
- SaveFarmFamilies.org Launched to Raise Funds for MD Family Under Attack by Waterkeepers Alliance.

### SaveFarmFamilies.org Launched to Raise Funds for Maryland Family Under Attack by Waterkeepers Alliance (Cont.)

"The Hudsons can't do it alone, they need help," said Richardson. "This lawsuit is just the start and we need to send a loud and clear signal to these radical groups, otherwise there will dire consequences for family farms across the state of Maryland and around the country. We need to act now, or we could lose a great American asset - our farming community."

For more info visit [www.savefarmfamilies.org](http://www.savefarmfamilies.org), call Ryan Stanton at (410) 449-4641 or email [info@savefarmfamilies.org](mailto:info@savefarmfamilies.org).

### Young Farmers!!!

Young Farmers meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 7pm @ Corner Mill Farm (3015 Lieb Road, Parkton, MD 21120). For more info on joining us or speaking at a meeting, please email [baltimorecountyyoungfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:baltimorecountyyoungfarmers@gmail.com) or call Jason Armacost at 410-357-0606.



**SAVE THE TREES!!!**



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### 2011 Miss Baltimore County Farm Bureau

There were several outstanding young ladies that participated in the County contest. Congratulations to each and every one of them; they did an outstanding job! Ms. Deedra Suchting went on to win the title of Miss Baltimore County Farm Bureau. Deedra Suchting competed at the State Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Maryland State Fair, where she promoted Baltimore County and Agriculture. Anyone wishing Deedra to speak to their group or during an event, can contact the Baltimore County Farm Bureau office to set up a date and time.



