

## **Ag Advisory Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to interface with members of the County Commission to discuss current issues of importance to Dorchester County agriculture.

Members: William Layton, Bill Edwards, Brinsfield Lowe

### **June 10 Meeting**

Topics discussed:

Dorchester County Water Resources Element amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan. FB members stressed the importance of continuing to have access to water for agricultural use.

Maryland Young Farmers retreat scheduled for January 2010 will be held at the Cambridge Hyatt.

Enforcement of CAFO / MAFO regulations that have recently been enacted. FB members explained how these regulations will be especially rigorous for poultry operations.

### **Recent Meeting Topics**

Mid Atlantic Power Pathway – Discussed known and unknown info regarding the route this project would take across Dorchester county and the possible effects it may have on agriculture. Dorchester Farm Bureau registered its opposition to this project in its current form.

Bestpitch Ferry Bridge – This bridge is due for replacement in the near future. Dorchester Farm Bureau indicated we would like to see a flat bridge that will be wide enough to safely transport farm equipment over.

Dorchester Water Resources – The county Comprehensive Plan is being updated to include a “Water Resources Element”. This will guide the county in making future decisions regarding future water conservation and use. We discussed the current irrigation types and uses and stated that agriculture must be a critical part of this plan and that no restrictions should be in place to prohibit agricultural irrigation.

Land Development – Many county farmers are concerned about residential development taking ag land out of production. Discussion centered around our concern that several large developments that had been planned and then, for various reasons, were purchased by conservation easements or state agencies and then the land was taken out of production.