



Dorchester County Farm Bureau

October, 2009

Fall Newsletter dorchesterfarmbureau@gmail.com

Board of Directors

*Brinsfield Lowe-
President*

*William Layton-
Vice President*

Dale Collins

Max Schnoor

Balvin Brinsfield III

Bill Edwards

Laura Layton

Jeff King

Paul Jackson

*Valarie Brinsfield-
Women's Committee
Chairman*

*Jamie Wolf- Young
Farmers-Chairman*

*Barbara Edgar- Secre-
tary - Treasurer -
410-228-3314 or
410-228-6252*

**To submit informa-
tion for the next
newsletter contact
Laura Layton at
laura@laytonschance.com**

Dorchester Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Scheduled

The annual membership meeting of the Dorchester County Farm Bureau will be held on October 21, 2009 at 7:30 in the County Council room of the county office building.

This annual meeting serves several purposes, the most important being the voting of resolutions-local, state, and national- for the coming year. Also at this meeting a complete financial report for the organization is presented by the auditor, Vernon Phillips III, CPA. Business for the past and coming year is discussed and important dates for members are announced.

Dorchester County Farm Bureau has many important issues to discuss at this meeting. The months ahead hold great challenges for all farmers. Some issues that should be addressed at the annual

meeting include:

- MAFO/CAFO regulations
- Accuracy of farm data in Bay analysis
- Septic tank management
- Regulation of sewage sludge
- Farmers' markets
- Defining "locally produced"
- County comprehensive plan—including water resources element
- Biotech vs. conventional seed
- Progress of MAPP project and its impact on Dorchester County farmers
- Public and animal health

- Traceability and labeling

It is imperative that all Dorchester County Farm Bureau members take part in this decision making process. Farm Bureau is a grass-roots organization in which decisions start on a local level. To be a part of this process, farmers need to attend the annual meeting where the discussion and voting begin.

From this meeting, state and national resolutions are sent directly to the state to be voted upon at the state convention in Ocean City in December. National resolutions which are passed by the state are sent on the AFBF for consideration at the national convention in Seattle.

Local resolutions are enacted within the county as directed by the local board of directors of the county Farm Bureau.

Annual meeting—October 21, 2009

7:30 p.m.

County Council Room 110

Farm Bureau Picnic Held at Horn's Point in July

On July 21, 2009, nearly two hundred farmers gathered at Horn's Point to enjoy crabs, fried chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, and good farm-cooked food. Young Farmers provided home-made ice cream.

This annual event has grown tremendously over the years since Dorchester County reinvented the Farm Bureau picnic in the mid-1990's.

Catching up with old friends and sharing farm news was just a part of the business of the day.

One of the highlights of the day was the selection of Selby Elliott, daughter of Mary Ann and Mark Elliott as Miss Dorchester County Farm Bureau. Shelby represented Dorchester County in the Miss Maryland Agriculture contest at the state fair in Timonium.

Also selected at the picnic were Little Miss Farmer Shay Reid, daughter of April and Dennie Reid, and Little Mr. Farmer, Kyle Jackson, son of Paul and Kelly Jackson.

Several representatives from Maryland Farm Bu-

reau attended the picnic and updated the group on the events at the state level.

Did you know.....?

Agriculture is the leading industry in Maryland and the single largest land use.

Maryland's agriculture industry generates over \$17.6 billion to the state's economy.

Maryland's agriculture provides over 400,000 individuals with employment throughout the state.

AFBF Annual Meeting To Be Held in Seattle

The AFBF annual meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington this year from January 8-12 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. The theme for this year's meeting is "Passage to Success."

All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend this annual event. This year the keynote speaker for the event is former NFL player Terry Bradshaw. Also included in registration are seminars on conference issues, address by AFBF president Stallman, and the Maryland delegation dinner on Saturday night.

To register for this event—call Dorchester Farm Bureau secretary Barbara Edgar.

YOUNG FARMERS LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING STATE RETREAT

Dorchester Young Farmers News from Jamie Wolf, Chairman

Next meeting—October 13, 2009@Jason Spicer residence, Golden Hill @ 7:30 p.m.

- The chicken dinner fundraiser profited over \$650—not bad for the first time! We made enough to cover our scholarship for Miss Dorchester Farm Bureau and savings bonds for the Little Miss and Little Mr. Farmer.
- MD State YF Annual Meeting—Young Farmers will meet in Ocean City during the state convention. Luncheon and guest speaker - Let Jamie know if you plan to attend.
- MD State YF Retreat—January 22-24, 2010 @Hyatt Regency Chesapeake in Cambridge. We need volunteers to help get sponsors, contact tour locations, and work as tour guides. With the event being held in Dorchester County, it would be great to have a good showing from our county Young Farmers.
- All members are still collecting photos for future coloring book. Photos should focus on Dorchester agriculture. The coloring books will be distributed to elementary schools in county to educate children and promote agriculture.

NEWS FROM MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

By David Willoughby, Regional Director, Maryland Farm Bureau

Here is your opportunity to reach the beach and attend the Maryland Farm Bureau convention from Sunday, December 6 through Wednesday, December 9. We have made some changes to our schedule this year.

First the convention will begin on Sunday at 11 a.m. with our state Young Farmer meeting followed by a joint luncheon for Young Farmers and the Women's Committee. After lunch the Young Farmers and Women's Committee will join together in a session presented by Margee Wolff from American Farm Bureau. After this program the Women's Committee will hold their annual business meeting. Our vesper service and the Nationwide dessert reception will take place that evening. We understand that some young farmers and women work off the farm, so it is not always convenient to take off during the week. We hope you can take advantage of these changes this year.

Throughout the convention, you will have the opportunity to meet with fellow farmers, young farmers and women in leadership from all across the state to discuss the business of agriculture. Our keynote speaker this year is Walter Bond, an ex-professional basketball player from the Midwest. I had the opportunity to hear Mr. Bond speak at last year's AFBF convention, and he will have us all rolling with laughter, as he talks about his life experiences.

A few other changes to note about this year's convention include the timing of our sessions. We will start our general session on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday night's banquet and awards program will conclude this year with a silent auction. Then we wrap up on convention on Wednesday with policy and election of our state officers. This year Dorchester County has the opportunity to fill seven delegate seats. If you haven't had the chance to attend our convention, and would like to do so, please contact your county Farm Bureau secretary, Barbara Edgar at 410-228-6252. She will be glad to answer any questions you have about the convention, and get you signed up.

Registration dead line is the end of October, so don't wait, don't sit back and think other farmers will attend. Make your vote county, and your voice heard, as the delegates of our organization set the policy for Maryland Farm Bureau.

Hope to see you in Ocean City, December 6-9, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center.

Dorchester Farmers Win State Conservation Award

At the 2009 annual meeting of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, held July 26-29, at the Holiday Inn, Solomons, Jeff and Terri King were awarded the Outstanding Cooperator Award for this year. The award was given at the awards breakfast program on July 29. Jeff and Terri operate a poultry and vegetable farm outside Hurlock.

MASCD president Lee McDaniel presented the award after an introduction by Jim Newcomb, director of the Dorchester County Soil Conservation District.

In his introduction, Jim outlined the ways that Jeff and Terri have protected the natural resources of their farm in order to become better stewards of the land.

Congratulations, Jeff and Terri !!

Did you know....? Maryland's agriculture is as traditional as cows and grain, but as diverse as turf grass, greenhouses and vineyards.

**CHECK OUT THE MARYLAND FARM BUREAU
WEBSITE AT
WWW.MDFARMBUREAU.COM
FOR NEW MEMBER BENEFITS,
INCLUDING A PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD
AND DISCOUNTS ON BUDGET TRUCK RENTALS.
LET FARM BUREAU WORK FOR YOU!**

Dorchester County Farm Bureau

4786 Maple Dam Road

Cambridge, MD 21613

News from the Women's Committee

By Valarie Brinsfield, Chairman

September 19-25 was Maryland Home Grown Produce Week. Celebrations took place in schools across the state of Maryland. Dorchester County women, Miss Dorchester FB, and Little Miss all assisted in making this celebration possible at Vienna Elementary School. Shelby Elliott, Miss Dorchester Farm Bureau, provided her state table top display for Vienna Elementary, in addition to some activity sheets.

Little Miss Farmer Shay Ann Reid attended with her mother April Reid, who is also a member of the Dorchester County FB Women's Committee. Shay talked to students about how to select a good watermelon versus a not so good one. Dorchester Women's Committee chairperson Valarie Brinsfield talked to students about selection of edible tomatoes and allowed the students to match up home grown produce with their respective seeds and plants. This will be an annual celebration for the schools, and perhaps next year the schools will request local home grown produce for their menus. Thanks to all who helped make this a success in 2009.

The Maryland Farm Bureau convention will be held December 6-9 in Ocean City. The Dorchester Women's Committee needs five women to serve as delegates for the women's business meeting on Sunday, December 6. Please call Valarie Brinsfield at 410-376-3811 before October 23 if you are interested.

As a 4-H volunteer leader of the 4-H Leprechauns Club of Hurlock, I would like to thank the Dorchester County Farm Bureau for making a donation to the Caroline/Dorchester Fair in August where several of Dorchester 4-H youth participated. Farm Bureau's contribution to the fair helps to ensure kids are aware of farms, farming, and agriculture. Members of the Caroline/Dorchester Fair Board expressed many thanks to all who helped make the fair possible by participating, serving, or volunteering.

Congressman Kratovil Meets with Dorchester Farmers

On August 5, Congressman Frank Kratovil met with local farmers and other interested constituents. In a meeting sponsored by state and county Farm Bureaus, Congressman Kratovil listened to concerns ranging from MAFO/CAFO issues to health insurance to increased government regulation. The meeting was guided by Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance who made sure that farmers had the first opportunities to speak. The Congressmen listened patiently to farmers explain their positions on controversial issues. He explained in detail his vote on the "cap and trade" bill, and he also answered the accusations that he has not acted independently and told why these accusations are incorrect. He said that he was committed to tort reform, and he commented on a wide variety of issues.

Dorchester Farmer Represents Maryland at Nationwide Conference

Dorchester Farm Bureau vice-president William Layton was chosen by Maryland Farm Bureau to attend a two day conference in Columbus, Ohio, sponsored by Nationwide Insurance. Three representatives from Maryland attended Nationwide 's National Policyholder Conference on June 29-30.

According to Layton, the purpose of the trip was two-fold. Nationwide Insurance, a long-time sponsor of Farm Bureau, wants to inform Farm Bureau members of Nationwide 's benefits to farmers and how they can help farmers. In addition, Nationwide needs feedback from farmers, and this meeting provided a forum for farmers all across the county to discuss with Nationwide Insurance the changing needs of farmers. The farmers told company officials how the public 's perception of agriculture is changing, how agriculture uses technology, and how Nationwide' s policy and customer service can be improved to better fit the needs of farmers. The group discussed how legislation also changes the needs of agriculture .

Whitten Agency Certified as ON YOUR SIDE Nationwide Agency

Whitten Insurance and Financial Services with offices in Cambridge and Easton has become a certified " On Your Side " Farm Certified Agency. The agribusiness experts in this agency who are available to help specifically with agriculture are Jacki Blake and Mark Nagel.

There are many benefits that Farm Bureau membership gives to those with Nationwide Insurance.

- 10% discount off of the final premium on the Farmowner policy
- Additional coverage endorsement—only available to Farm Bureau members which includes increased limits for household personal property, gold, trailers, business property on the insurance location, and increased limits for theft.
- Debris removal
- Coverage extension for trees, lawns
- Removal of fallen trees
- Credit card fraud

For more benefits call 1-800-931-7484 and ask to speak to Jacki Blake or Mark Nagel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 13, 2009 – Young Farmers meeting at home of Jason Spicer at 7:30 p.m.

October 21, 2009—Annual Membership meeting—Dorchester County Farm Bureau—7:30 p.m. County Council Room

October 24, 2009 – " Take Charge of your Legacy " -A free workshop for Maryland woodland owners – 8:00 a.m. Thendara 4-H Center – call 410-267-5723 for more information

November 6-7, 2009 – Small Farm Conference—UMES—\$25—Call 41-651-6206 for more information

December 6-9, 2009 – Maryland Farm Bureau annual meeting in Ocean City—Clarion Hotel and Conference Center—Call Barbara Edgar for more information

January 8-12, 2010—American Farm Bureau Convention—Seattle , Washington—Sheraton Seattle Hotel—Call Barbara Edgar for more information

January 22-24, 2010 — Young Farmer MD State Retreat—Hyatt Regency Chesapeake in Cambridge

February 3, 2010 — Maryland Private Pesticide Applicator Exam Review - 6-8 p.m. ESHC—English Hall

February 10, 2010 - Maryland Private Pesticide Applicator Exam - 6 p.m. - ESHC—English Hall

March 5, 2010- Dorchester Farm Bureau banquet at Suicide Bridge Restaurant - Save the date on your calendar.

July 18, 2010 - Dorchester County Farm Bureau picnic at Horn 's Point—2:30 p.m.

DORCHESTER FARM BUREAU WILL PARTICIPATE IN FARM BUREAU FRUIT SALES THIS WINTER. LOOK FOR INFORMATION IN THE MAIL, OR CALL FB SECRETARY BARBARA EDGAR AT 410-228-6252.
