

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Members Attend Maryland Farm Bureau 96th gathering

The following members represented Montgomery County Farm Bureau at the 96th Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Ocean City, MD: Tyler Butler, Jane Evans, Henry Hamm, Tom Hartsock, Ed Irons, Carolyn Lechlida, George Lechlida, Paula Linthicum, Tom Linthicum, Lonnie Luther, Mina Luther, Pam Saul, and Eric Spates.

Over 400 attended the gathering December 4 to 6, 2011, where members celebrated record-high membership and program achievements, took time to learn and share ideas and established policy for the coming year. Patricia Langenfelder of Kennedyville (Kent County) was re-elected president of the state's largest general agriculture organization. Re-elected in the vice president roles were First Vice President Chuck Fry of Tuscarora (Frederick County) and Vice President Jim Steele of Woodbine (Carroll County).

County delegates reviewed and voted on policy resolutions as well as by-law amendments. The group was addressed by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, MD Secretary of Agriculture Honorable Earl F. Hance, Dean of UMD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dr. Cheng-I Wei and Miss MD Agriculture Casey Miller.

Cameron Irons of Laytonsville received a \$2,000 Maryland Farm Bureau scholarship. Cameron is a Junior at University of Wyoming studying Meat Science and Food Technology.

Tyler Butler represented Montgomery County at the Young Farmers meeting. The future of agriculture rests in the hands and hearts of the Young Farmers. To assist in the development of their leadership skills, both personally and professionally, the Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation provided members with the opportunity to participate in four areas of competition – the Achievement Award, Excellence in Agriculture Award, Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet.

Carolyn Lechlida, Paula Linthicum, and Mina Luther represented Montgomery County at the Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee meeting. This committee is an important part of the organization, planning and coordinating many agriculture education and legislative events throughout the year. Elaine Moreland of Caroline County and Jennifer Cross of Prince George's County were re-elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively. The meeting featured nationally known speaker Jane Jenkins Herlong. The Montgomery County Women's Leadership Committee donated three items for the Silent Auction. These items raised over \$100 for agriculture education.

Maryland Farm Bureau is a private, non-profit membership organization. It is controlled by its members through the democratic process and is financed by voluntary membership dues. Its strength comes from the active participation of over 37,000 member families that belong to the state's 23 county Farm Bureaus.

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