

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

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Contact: Pam Saul  
Cell: 301-520-3937  
E-mail: [pamsaul@verizon.net](mailto:pamsaul@verizon.net)

LOCAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY LEADERS MEET WITH SEC. OF AGRICULTURE  
Rockville is “Capital For A Day” under Governor’s Program

Local agricultural leaders from Montgomery County met with Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance in Rockville as part of Maryland’s “Capital For A Day.” The monthly program brings the state capital to various localities of Maryland through a series of events.

Meeting with Secretary Hance were Charles Schuster, Extension Educator, University of Maryland Extension; Jeremy Criss, Agricultural Services Manager, Department of Economic Development, Montgomery County; Pam Saul, Vice President, Montgomery County Farm Bureau; George Lechliger, President, Montgomery County Farm Bureau; Jaime Jamison, Maryland Grain Producers Association Board Member; Bob Stabler, Montgomery County Soil Conservation Board Member; and David Plummer, District Manager, Montgomery Soil Conservation District

Secretary Hance detailed for the group the impact that current state budget cuts would have on agricultural programs at the agency. He also warned the group that additional cuts would be coming. Secretary Hance answered questions from the group on various subjects such as immigration, cover crops and deer damage.

While there was grim budget news, there were some bright spots. Secretary Hance spoke about the popular “Buy Local” program through the Maryland’s Best branding initiative. The recent Buy Local Challenge Week kick-off picnic at the Governor’s Mansion with local farmers teaming up with chefs to showcase local Maryland products was a huge success. The Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program to provide public schools with the ability to buy local produce has been in place for a year and there are plans to expand the program.

Secretary Hance thanked the agricultural leaders for their hard work during these difficult times and that the agency would continue to strive to support agriculture in Montgomery County.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Pam Saul, please call 301-520-3937 (cell) or e-mail [pamsaul@verizon.net](mailto:pamsaul@verizon.net)