

# spotlight

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A PUBLICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

## Young Farmers retreat to Wisp Resort



*The Frederick County Young Farmers donated the most food and monetary donations for the Harvest for All feeding the hungry campaign.*

Over 100 members of the Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers gathered at the Wisp Resort in Garrett County from February 27 to March 1, for their annual leadership retreat.

Friday night skiing kicked off activities and events began early Saturday morning with orientations and concurrent sessions. Local Issues and Updated Trucking Regulations were discussed by Kurt Fuchs, Maryland Farm Bureau Assistant Government Relations Director, and Hannah Amoss, MFB Young Farmer leader, led workshops on Accurate Ag Books and Addressing Misconceptions. Young Farmers William Layton and Joe Sam Swann walked members through a session on Defining the Future of your Organization.

During Friday's banquet luncheon, the Excellence in Agriculture Award was presented to Jason Watt of Carroll County and the Achievement

Award went to Brooks and Katie Long of Washington County. The afternoon was filled with discussion meet competitions, with Jamie Beckley of Washington County capturing the collegiate division and Curt Kleinsorg of Carroll County winning the open division.

***Partnering with the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers Harvest for All campaign, young farmers brought their food and fund donations to the retreat to battle hunger. Members donated 397 pounds of food and held a silent auction with all of the proceeds given to the Maryland Food Bank.***

Hypnotist Brian Imbus was a huge hit during  
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## Farm Bureau Wins Major Protections in Nutrient Management Lawsuit

By Valerie Connelly  
MFB Government Relations Director

Farm Bureau members should be pleased with the outcome of the recent court action to deny the Waterkeepers Alliance and other environmental groups full access to private farm documents.

"The unprecedented decision by Maryland Farm Bureau to enter into a lawsuit to ensure that our farmer's private business plans - nutrient management plans - would remain confidential was affirmed by Judge Mulford's decision," explains Mike Phipps, Maryland Farm Bureau President.

"While we were not granted 100 percent of what we had petitioned for in the decision, we did receive reinforcement of the privacy provisions found in the 1998 Water Quality Improvement Act - something that would not have happened had we not intervened. On behalf of the Board of Directors of MFB, I would like to thank all those individuals and organizations who supported this effort with your thoughts, suggestions and financial contributions," he said.

The judge ruled on February 10<sup>th</sup> in the case of Maryland Farm Bureau, et al. v. Maryland Department of Agriculture. In his ruling, Judge William Mulford II, of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, wrote that the statute (WQIA '98) does provide for the protection of the identity of the individual for whom a nutrient management plan was written. However, the protection is limited to three years.

He ordered that MDA must release nutrient management plans if requested under the Public Information Act with three specific instructions: (1) Any and all identifying information that may allow for the identification of an individual for whom a NMP was written must be redacted (crossed out) for plans

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## Maryland Farm Bureau

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By Kurt Fuchs  
 MFB Assistant Government Relations Director

As a sign that our state's wine and grape growing industry continues to develop and expand, a number of counties are seeking legislation to create a specific liquor license tailored to the unique needs of Maryland's homegrown wine industry. Bills currently being debated in the state legislature would create the new Class W Winery License in 10 counties, including Calvert, Carroll, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Frederick, Harford, Baltimore, Washington, St. Mary's and Talbot.

These bills would create the new license in each of their respective counties for issuance to a holder of a Class 4 Manufacturer's License (Limited Winery

License). The annual fee proposed in each bill varies, but generally would be set not to exceed \$200 and be determined by the local licensing authority. The license holder would be authorized to: a) provide samples of their wine; b) sell wine and other products they produce; c) hold public and private events on the designated premises; d) sell and serve food incidental to the sampling of wine; and e) maintain tables and chairs appropriate for indoor/outdoor consumption of food and wine. These provisions would enhance the opportunity to get folks in the winery, sampling the wine and generally harbor a relaxing atmosphere in which to enjoy the facility and purchase some value-added agricultural products.

The Class W would be a seven-day license, enabling it to fully realize the tourism opportunities on Sundays and it would be exempt from any quotas established regarding maximum numbers of licenses in a given election district. Additionally, holders of a Class W license may locate the operation on the premises designated on the license, the same address as another Class W license or at another location approved by the Board of License Commissioners.

This new license would bring regulations in the line with the current needs of Maryland's nascent, but rapidly growing, wine industry. The number of grape growers in the state continues to expand, as farmers continue to pursue avenues to diversify their operations, produce high returns on smaller acreage or even to create a new facet of the operation to broaden the opportunities for family members to return to the farm. As of printing, nearly all of the Class W license bills had been heard in their respective legislative committees, but no further action had been taken.

## Farm Bureau Wins Major Protections in Nutrient Management Lawsuit

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on file for less than three years; (2) For plans older than three years, the identifying information must also be redacted if it would allow for the identification of someone with documents on file that are less than three years old; (3) And finally, all information on file with MDA related to nutrient management plans (annual inspection reports, plans summaries and more) must be redacted prior to release if the document would reveal identifying information about the holder of a Nutrient Management Plan Summary that has been maintained for three years or less.

MFB attorney Maggie Tindall of Gordon Feinblatt firm in Baltimore and the Maryland Farm Bureau Board of Directors reviewed the ruling and deter-

mined that the judge provided meaningful protection for farmers. Environmental groups seeking copies of nutrient management plans for the purpose of filing lawsuits against individual farmers will not be accommodated. Individuals seeking to discover the confidential business practices of competitors will not be able to do so. MDA may not release a plan if requested about a specific farm or farmer since that would allow someone to identify the individual for whom the plan was written.

The press release issued by the Waterkeeper Alliance in March did not reflect the Judge's order to protect the identities of farmers as intended by the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998.

We believe this case is a victory for the farm families of Maryland.

## County Farm Bureau Final Membership Honor Roll (As of March 18, 2009)

*County Farm Bureau Membership Goals are based upon Regular Members, represented in the first two columns. The last column reports the total members paid, including both regular and associates.*

County	YTD Regular Members Paid	Needed for goal	YTD All Members Paid
Allegany	91	39	121
Anne Arundel	688	251	2592
Baltimore	385	14	3484
Calvert	215	65	688
Caroline	303	79	686
Carroll	645	284	1327
Cecil	222	77	621
Charles	177	67	817
Dorchester	185	45	561
Frederick	638	263	1717
Garret	109	74	152
Harford	347	110	1518
Howard	148	53	902
Kent	180	79	272
Montgomery	231	87	2935
Prince George's	145	82	1777
Queen Anne's	247	76	496
St. Mary's	256	89	628
Somerset	170	66	363
Talbot	212	69	535
Washington	213	65	672
Wicomico	254	87	626
Worcester	207	61	501
<b>Maryland Totals</b>	<b>6,268</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>23,991</b>

## WASHINGTON DRIVE-IN



*Over 100 Maryland Farm Bureau members converged on the nation's capital for the annual Washington Drive-In. The day included legislative briefings from AFBF, speeches from five of the state's Congressional representatives during lunch, office visits, a tour of the Capitol and dinner at the District ChopHouse and Brewery.*

## YOUNG FARMER WINNERS

Presenting each honor at left is Brian Johnson, MFB YF chair, and Hannah Amoss, MFB YF vice chair.

### Discussion Meet Winner



*Curt Kleinsorg of Taneytown won the annual Discussion Meet at the MD Farm Bureau Young Farmers Retreat and will represent Maryland next year at the American Farm Bureau Convention. He is an operations manager for Synagro Central LLC and works primarily in Maryland and Pennsylvania with farmers and ag specialists to enhance soil fertility using organic waste materials. He enjoys hunting, skiing and fishing and has also coached high school football. He is also an active member of the Carroll County Young Farmers as well as a member of the county Farm Bureau Board of Directors.*

### Collegiate Discussion Meet Winner



*Jamie Beckley captured the Collegiate Discussion Meet title at the MD Farm Bureau Young Farmers Retreat. She is the 20-year-old daughter of Steve and Karen Beckley and grew up on a 64-acre farm in Hagerstown, which is part of the family's 3500-acre grain operation. Jamie is a junior at Virginia Tech majoring in agriculture economics and minoring in horticulture. She serves on the Young*

*Farmer Executive Committee representing District 1 and is a former Miss Maryland Agriculture.*

### Award of Excellence



*Jason Watt of Keymar captured the Award of Excellence from the Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers. His parents, Jerry and Barbara Watt, own and operate MD Cedar Knoll Farm where he works part time along with his brother Justin. Jason also works for the Office of Resource Conservation at the Maryland Department of Agriculture where he is a soil conservation technician. He serves on the Maryland FFA Foundation Board of Directors,*

*Maryland 4-H All-Star Executive Board, is president of the Carroll County 4-H All-Stars, serves on the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair Board as a superintendent and is a National Holstein Association member.*

### Achievement Award



*Brooks and Katie Long operate Long Delite Farm in Williamsport. Brooks recently took over the operation from his father; however his father continues to work with him. They milk about 60 cows on their 160-acre rotational grazing operation. Brooks is the seventh generation to farm Long Delite Farm which has been in the family for 178 years. Brooks and Katie have two children, Kaleb, 3, and Brielle, 1 1/2. They hope to continue*

*building a successful farm to pass on to their children.*

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## March

- 27 **Somerset County Farm Bureau Banquet**  
 28 **Prince George's County Farm Bureau Banquet**, Baden  
 Vol. Fire Department

## April

- 2 **Allegheny County Farm Bureau Spring Banquet**,  
 Fairgrounds  
 4 **Cecil County Farm Bureau Banquet**  
 19 **Cecil County Young Farmers Annual Sporting Clay Shoot**  
 21 **MFB Board of Directors Meeting**

## June

- 7 **Worcester County Farm Bureau Picnic**,  
 Sturgis Park, 4 p.m.  
 28 **Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau Picnic**, Quiet Waters  
 Park, 1 p.m.

## July

- 14 **MFB Board of Directors Meeting**

## August

- 3 **Miss Maryland Agriculture Orientation**, Maryland State  
 Fairgrounds, Timonium  
 28 **Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest**, Maryland State  
 Fairgrounds, Timonium  
 28-Sept. 7 **Maryland State Fair**

## November

- 5 **Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Dinner**  
 10 **MFB Board of Directors Meeting**

## December

- 6-9 **Maryland Farm Bureau Convention**, Ocean City

*(To get your county's activities listed on the calendar,  
 please send the date, event, place and time to  
 Susan Summers at [ssummers@comcast.net](mailto:ssummers@comcast.net).)*

## Young Farmers Retreat to Wisp Resort

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Saturday evening's entertainment and Young Farmers spent the night enjoying a bonfire, snow making tours and sleigh rides from Farm Bureau member Ray Miller of Pleasant Valley Dream Rides.

Sunday morning's breakfast was followed by nationally known speaker Dr. Ron Hansen of the University of Nebraska who gave his "Fence Posts Talking to Each Other" presentation. More skiing and snow tubing completed the retreat's events.



## 50 years of service

*Fred and Jeanette Schmick were presented an award for 50 years of service to the Caroline County Farm Bureau during its recent banquet in Denton. Presenting the honor at left is Roger Schmick.*

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## FB WOMEN hold workshop



*The Maryland Farm Bureau Women recently held a statewide Ag in the Classroom workshop to update and familiarize interested members about new programs from the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation. Over 30 attended the day-long seminar at the MFB Office in Randallstown. MAEF educators Jeanne Mueller and Peggy Eppig organized and led the workshop.*