

spotlight

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A PUBLICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

New leader elected at MFB Convention

By Susan G. Summers
Spotlight Editor

Patricia Langenfelder of Kennedyville (Kent County) became the first female president of the state's largest general agriculture organization during the 94th Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Convention at the Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City. She will lead almost 33,000 member families, along with First Vice President Chuck Fry of Tuscarora (Frederick County) and Vice President Jim Steele of Woodbine (Carroll County.)



Patricia Langenfelder, center, was elected president of Maryland Farm Bureau during its recent annual meeting. With her are Chuck Fry, left, first vice president, and Jim Steele, vice president.

Over 350 attended the gathering December 6 to 9, 2009, where members celebrated record-high membership and program achievements, took time to learn and share ideas and established policy for the coming year. Outgoing MFB President W. Michael Phipps of Owings (Calvert County) presided over the event and was honored for his leadership over the past three years.

Silver Bowl

The event was also highlighted with the annual awards banquet where Baltimore County took the coveted Silver Bowl award for its outstanding program work in the past year. President Keith Wills accepted the honor.

Baltimore County was one of eight counties to receive gold ratings in all six of the program areas. The honors are given for member benefits/membership, legislative affairs, women's leadership/agriculture education, young farmers, leadership development, and outstanding county Farm Bureau

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Marylanders attend national meeting AFBF Convention held in Seattle



Maryland Farm Bureau's delegation of 37 enjoyed a dinner out together as the AFBF Convention began in Seattle.

The 91st American Farm Bureau Federation Convention and Annual Meeting was held January 10 to 13, in Seattle, Washington, and 37 Marylanders made the trip west.

Maryland Farm Bureau was among the top honorees for its membership growth, recognized for making its membership quota and also receiving the Navigator Award for "exceptional membership growth."

The Free State also took the spotlight during the Awards of Excellence program, capturing gold in three of the five categories where state Farm Bureaus focus their energies. Honors were won for Leadership Development, Policy Implementation and Public Relations and Information.

Stallman to Ag Critics: Circumstances Have Changed

In his annual keynote address, American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman issued a call to action to Farm Bureau members and a stern warning to critics that farmers and ranchers will no longer tolerate opponents' efforts to change the landscape of American agriculture.

Calling on Farm Bureau members to rally as one during these challenging times, Stallman said there are already too many external forces tugging at agriculture's seams without farmers and ranchers being divided amongst themselves.

"Emotionally charged labels such as monoculture, factory farmer, industrial food and big ag threaten to fray our edges," said Stallman. "We must not allow the

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 Pat Wathen, Charles
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**Maryland Farm Bureau
 Spotlight**

Susan G. Summers, Editor
 12221 Fingerboard Road
 Monrovia, MD 21770
 (301) 865-1045 • Fax (301) 865-1057
 e-mail: ssummers@comcast.net

Designed by Jennifer C. Hankey
 HDI Corporation
 PO Box 3583 • Frederick, MD 21705
 (301) 668-3333 • (301)668-3334 fax
 e-mail: jhankey@hdicorporation.net

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Marylanders attend national meeting

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activists and self-appointed and self-promoting food experts to drive a wedge between us.”

Stallman said that Farm Bureau continues to represent all farmers and ranchers, no matter their size of farm, commodity raised or political philosophy. Farmer’s missions of feeding the nation and the world, caring for the environment and respecting neighbors’ rights has not changed from when AFBF was founded in 1919. But the ways in which farmers and ranchers carry out their mission have changed, said Stallman, which is not understood or respected by critics of modern agriculture.

“A line must be drawn between our polite and respectful engagement with consumers and how we must aggressively respond to extremists who want to drag agriculture back to the day of 40 acres and a mule,” said Stallman. “The time has come to face our opponents with a new attitude. The days of their elitist power grabs are over.”

Stallman said curtailing such “power grabs” has never been as critical as it is now because of the poor economy, a growing population and legislative and regulatory efforts that threaten agriculture’s ability to feed the world.

“At the very time we need to increase our food production, climate change legislation threatens to



Howard County’s Howie Feaga and Christina Marchetti, left, visit with Calvert County’s Elaine and Harry Moreland at the delegation dinner.

slash our ability to do so,” said Stallman. “The world will continue to depend on food from the United States. To throttle back our ability to produce food—at a time when the United Nations projects billions of more mouths to feed—is a moral failure.”

Climate legislation currently in Congress would shift as much as 59 million acres of food production into forestry, which is equivalent to setting aside every acre of land used for crop and food production in

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Baltimore County Farm Bureau President Keith Wills, second from right, accepts the Silver Bowl as his county captured the top award for county Farm Bureau program work. With him from left, are state officers, Chuck Fry, Pat Langenfelder and Mike Phipps.

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program. The other seven top-rated counties were Anne Arundel, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Queen Anne’s and Talbot.

In order to earn an award in any of the six program areas, county Farm Bureaus must submit an essay explaining how the program is communicated to members, what is the member involvement, what are the goals and planning activities and what were the results of the program and activities. The awards were judged and given a score and ranked gold, silver or bronze.

The top-scoring counties in each of the program areas were presented President’s Awards for their results and innovation. Honored counties were Baltimore for leadership development; Frederick for women’s leadership/ag education and outstanding county program; Cecil for young farmers; Dorchester for legislative affairs; and Queen Anne’s for member benefits/membership.

Distinguished Service

The Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award was presented to Mildred Darcey of Prince George’s County. A Farm Bureau member since 1958, the honoree and her late husband, Roland, had farms in four counties – Prince George’s, Anne Arundel, Charles and St. Mary’s. In nominating Mildred, Prince George’s Farm Bureau Board members said she was the backbone of the county organization from 1972 to 1990, during Roland’s tenure as county president.

Young Farmers

The future of agriculture rests in the hands and hearts of the Young Farmers. To assist in the development of their leadership

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2010 MFB Policy Available

The Delegates at the Maryland Farm Bureau annual meeting debated and adopted policy for 2010. The policy document contains our positions on over 100 issue areas covering everything from Agriculture Land Preservation and Chesapeake Bay Cleanup to Land Use and Zoning and Wildlife Management. The 2010 policy is posted on the website at www.mdfarmbureau.com. If you would like a hard copy of the policy, please call Helene Pendleton at 1-800-248-9012 and she will mail a copy.

Come speak your mind Day in Annapolis is February 9th

On Tuesday, February 9th the Young Farmers' and the Women's Committees will jointly sponsor the annual Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis. Briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The event is timed to bring you to the State House at a critical time during the 90-day session – a time when committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

The day will begin with a legislative briefing by MFB Government Relations staff, followed by a chance to sit in on the legislative session. A luncheon at the Calvert House will bring together farmers and legislators as all legislators are invited to attend. In the past, more than half of the General Assembly has stopped by during the lunch, so let your representatives know you'd like to see them there.

- 8:15 a.m.** Meet in Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle
- 8:30 a.m.** Legislative Briefing by MFB Government Relations Staff
- 9:45 a.m.** Gather in lobby of State House to greet legislators arriving for session
- 10 a.m.** Sit in on Senate or House sessions
- 11:45 a.m.** Lunch back at the Governor Calvert House
- 1 p.m.** Visit committee hearings, stop by legislative offices or head home

Participants can either park in one of the garages downtown for about \$16 per day or the Naval Academy Stadium lot for \$5. A shuttle to downtown stops at Lawyer's Mall in front of the State House and runs every 15 minutes from 6:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. To get to the Naval Academy Stadium parking lot, take Route 50 to Annapolis and use Exit 24/Rowe Blvd. toward downtown Annapolis. Turn right onto Taylor Avenue just after the courthouse. Use the third entrance on the right.

Spend the day in the Nation's Capital Washington Drive-In is March 9th

Maryland Farm Bureau's annual Washington Drive-In will take place on Tuesday, March 9th, with a day-long trip to our Nation's Capital. We will spend the entire day on Capitol Hill, beginning with a light breakfast and legislative briefings from senior AFBF staff. We will have lunch with and hear from members of the Maryland delegation. Finally, we will visit Congressional offices and meet with members or their staff and let them know how our farms will be impacted by bills they are considering. We will not have dinner in D.C. this year.

Tentative Schedule

6:45 a.m.	1 st Bus departs from Salisbury
7:30 a.m.	2 nd Bus departs Frederick
7:45 a.m.	1 st Bus stops in Easton
8:15 a.m.	2 nd Bus stops in Gaithersburg
8:45 a.m.	1 st Bus stops in Davidsonville
9:30-9:45 a.m.	Buses arrive at Capitol Hill/Continental breakfast Rayburn B339
10 a.m.	Legislative Issue Briefings by AFBF Staff
Noon	Lunch with Maryland's Congressional Delegation
2-3:30 p.m.	Meetings in Congressional Offices
4 p.m.	Buses depart Washington, D.C.
5 p.m.	Buses drop off at Annapolis & Gaithersburg
6 p.m.	Buses drop off at Easton & Frederick
7:45 p.m.	Bus drops off at Salisbury

Registration Form

Registration Deadline – Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

County Farm Bureau: _____

Check the location where you will catch the bus:

- Salisbury** @ the Cooperative Extension Office **Frederick** @ the Fairgrounds
- Easton** @ the Ag Center off Rt. 50 **Gaithersburg** @ the Montgomery County Fairgrounds
- Davidsonville** @ the Park & Ride Rt. 50/ Rt. 424 I will be driving to **Washington**

The Registration Fee for each participant is \$65 and covers roundtrip bus transportation to Washington, breakfast and lunch on Capitol Hill. Maryland Farm Bureau has contributed 40% of the cost per participant to reduce the rate to \$65. *If you are not taking the chartered bus to D.C. the fee will be \$45.*

Total Number of Participants: _____ Total Registration Fee Due: \$ _____

Please enclose a check for registration or include your Visa or Mastercard account information below:

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____

Signature if charging: _____

Mail registration form to: Maryland Farm Bureau, 8930 Liberty Rd., Randallstown, MD 21133. All participants will receive confirmation information with exact bus pickup directions approximately 1 week prior to the event. *For more information, call Val Connelly at (443) 690-2411.*

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February

- 9 Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis
20-22 American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma

March

- 5 Dorchester County Farm Bureau Banquet, Suicide Bridge Restaurant
12 Charles County Farm Bureau Banquet
13 St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Hall
20 Prince George's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Baden Volunteer Fire Department

(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.)

Food Check-Out events slated for February

Food Check-Out Week 2010 will be held February 21 to 27, using the theme "Stretching Your Grocery Dollar with Healthy, Nutritious Food."

County and state Farm Bureau committees will hold events throughout the week to educate consumers about the affordability, abundance and safety of the food supply – thanks to the agricultural community.

The Maryland Farm Bureau Women will celebrate with a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore, a major benefactor of the national event, and present them with food and financial support.

Again this year, Food Check-Out collateral materials for use by county and state Farm Bureaus will be available through AFBF. This will include an event planning kit, news release, logo, stickers, posters and banners.

Information on downloading and ordering the materials are available through Cyndie Sirekis at cyndies@fb.org or 202-406-3649.

Marylanders attend national meeting

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California, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

Stallman concluded by recalling a quote by General George Patton: "Make your plans to fit the circumstances."

"Our adversaries are skillful at taking advantage of our politeness. Publicly, they call for friendly dialogue while privately their tactics are far from that," said Stallman. "To those who expect to just roll over America's farm and ranch families, my only message is this: the circumstances have changed."

Farm Bureau Delegates Send Strong Climate Message

Farm and ranch delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting unanimously approved a special resolution to strongly oppose "cap and trade proposals before Congress" and strongly support "any legislative action that would suspend (the Environmental Protection Agency's) authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act."

The 369 delegates, reiterating the theme of a successful campaign kicked off this fall, said: "Don't cap our future." The resolution asserted that proposed cap and trade legislation would result in significantly higher production costs for farmers, and that potential benefits of agricultural offsets are far outweighed by the costs.

"The administration's economic projections show that the proposed cap and trade legislation would result in planting trees on 59 million acres of crop and pasture land thereby damaging the capability of U.S. agricultural producers to feed a growing world population and create the conditions for (hiking) consumer food prices," according to the resolution. "Cap and trade legislation would

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skills, both personally and professionally, the Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation organized four areas of competition.

The winners of the 2009 Young Farmer Achievement Award were Brooks and Katie Long of Washington County and Jason Watt of Carroll County captured the Excellence in Agriculture honor. Curt Kleinsorg of Carroll County won the Discussion Meet honor. Jamie Beckley of Washington County was the winner of the Collegiate Discussion Meet. Capturing the Outstanding Young Farmer County Group was Frederick County. Chair Becky Burrier accepted the honor from MFB Young Farmer Chair Brian Johnson.

Farm Bureau Women

The Farm Bureau Women are an extremely important part of the organization, planning and coordinating many agriculture education and legislative events throughout the year. Outgoing state chairperson, Evelyn Wilcom of Frederick County, was honored for her dedicated service and new officers were elected. New leaders are Elaine Moreland of Caroline County, chairperson; Irene Harper of Dorchester County, first vice chairperson; and Jennifer Cross, second vice chairperson.

Incorrect Parking Violation Notices Alert

The Maryland Department of Agriculture was alerted to a possible scam regarding parking violation notices from the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles being sent to owners of vehicles with Maryland farm K-tags. These violation notices were for vehicles that were not in Washington on the violation date. This is not a scam, rather an issue related to records. The ticket must be resolved. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration is concerned about the issue and has worked with the D.C. Department of Transportation to help get tickets resolved.

If you received a parking violation from the District of Columbia for a farm K-tag in error, contact Damon Brown with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation at 202-741-8918, cell 202-423-6762 or via email at damon.brown@dc.gov. He will need the information from the notice including the location, date and time of the violation and the citation number. Please include your contact information in an e-mail or voice mail.

This information is only for Maryland K-tag parking violations.