

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### JUNE

6 - Worcester County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Contest, Sturgis Park, Snow Hill, 4 p.m.  
22-27 - National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Baltimore  
27 - Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau Picnic, Quiet Waters Park, Red Maple Pavilion, Annapolis, 1 p.m.

### JULY

14 - Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Contest, 4-H Park, Centreville  
15 - Caroline County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Contest, 4-H Park, Denton, 6:30 p.m.  
18 - Dorchester County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Contest, Horn Point, Cambridge  
20 - Maryland Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting, Randallstown  
25 - Talbot County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Contest, Talbot Ag Center, Easton

### AUGUST

2 - Miss Maryland Agriculture Orientation, Timonium  
7 - Blessing of the Combines, Snow Hill  
27 - Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest, Timonium  
27 - Sept. 6 - Maryland State Fair, Timonium

*(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).)*

## New Law Authorizes Definition for 'Locally Grown' and 'Local' Products

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examinations, registration of pest control employees with MDA and late fee payments for license, certificate or registration renewal under the Pesticide Applicator's law.

- SB198, which changes the definition of "food service facility" to exclude the sale of raw farmers' market products from regulation as a food service facility. It also requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a producer mobile farmers' market license.

- SB199, which authorizes a county to establish a seasonal farmers' market producer sampling license to allow a producer to prepare and offer samples of the product at farmers' markets in the county for a specified time period for a single fee.

- SB858, which reforms 20 issues documented in a report by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine & Grape Growing, titled "Impediments to Growth." The new law clears up inconsistent and confusing laws, and provides a clear path for winery development and growth.

- SB 1128, which authorizes the Board of Public Works to issue a license to dredge and fill on state wetlands for a development project that would expand a marina to support aquaculture or seafood operations.

- HB 420, which expands the activities and ways that the MDA Mosquito Control program can work in order to make it a more effective and efficient program.

- HB 421, which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt standards to regulate the use of the terms "locally grown" and "local" to advertise or identify an agricultural product and prohibits a person from knowingly advertising or identifying an agricultural product in violation of standards.

- HB 89/SB3, which exempts aquaculture activities for which the Department of Natural Resources has issued a specified permit from a requirement to pay application fees under the Wetlands and Waterways Program.

- HB 611/SB 477, which expands a provision of law that prohibits mobile seafood vendors from operating on a state highway right-of-way without a state lease to include mobile produce vendors and expands restrictions in certain situations and locations.

- HB 974, which authorizes MDA to implement a nutrient credit trading program and facilitating transactions between participating parties.

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- HB 1571, which provides for a specified payment deferral under specified circumstances for Maryland estate tax imposed on specified agricultural property.

To see a full listing of bills signed, visit [www.gov.state.md.us](http://www.gov.state.md.us) and to see all bills considered by the 2010 General Assembly log onto [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us). The "90-Day Report" on the Maryland General Assembly's website is organized by subject area for easier reference.

## Know Someone who Would be Great for YF&R?

Know a great young farmer or rancher? Someone who cares about his or her work and rural lifestyle? They're the ones who are always willing to go the extra mile to help someone out? Now it's your turn to help them - and the whole agriculture industry - by introducing them to Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers program.

The Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers Program helps young producers prepare for their future with leadership development and personal growth. Opportunities such as leadership conferences, held annually at the state and national levels, allow young agricultural leaders to serve the industry, build their skills and have fun. More than 700 young farmers and ranchers gather during the national conference every year to network and learn from the best of the best.

On top of all that, YF&R members have a chance at winning a new Dodge Ram pick-up truck. Three national winners this year will receive a Dodge Ram, courtesy of Ram Trucks, to showcase top competitors in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag contests. National winners will also receive paid registration to the 2011 YF&R Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL, February 5-7.

National runners-up in the Achievement Award will receive a CASE IH Farmall 31 tractor courtesy of Case IH. National finalists in the Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag each will receive a \$6,000 savings bond and a Stihl Farm Boss, courtesy of Stihl.

So, go ahead and recommend Farm Bureau's YF&R Program to your favorite young farmer or rancher and watch them grow into an even better leader than you already see.

# spotlight

June 2010 • ISSUE 0004

A PUBLICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

## The Quest for Death Tax Reform

By Valerie Connelly  
MFB Government Relations Director

For as long as I have worked at Maryland Farm Bureau, death tax reform has been a priority for the farm community. One of the first lobbying campaigns I worked on was the 1997 Death Tax letter drive. The goal was to get 1 percent of our membership and 50,000 farmers across the nation to write letters to Congress asking for the repeal of the death tax or at least a \$2 million exclusion for family farms and small businesses.

The 1997 campaign was fairly successful. Our President at the time, Bill Knill, delivered hundreds of letters written by Maryland farmers to Capitol Hill with 49 other state Farm Bureau presidents. We exceed our goal of 1 percent member participation and collected many poignant letters detailing family anguish over how to afford to pass the farm on to the next generation. One month later, Congress wrote legislation that increased the unified estate tax credit from \$600,000 to \$1 million over 10 years. A few years later, Congress further reformed the tax code by phasing in a \$3.5 million estate tax credit and then repealing the estate tax altogether.

The problem is that the estate tax reform expires. The \$3.5 million exemption ran through the end of 2009. Now, in 2010, there is no estate tax at all. However, because Congress has failed to extend the tax credit (and/or the repeal), at the beginning of 2011 the estate tax credit goes back down to \$1 million - and the tax rate increases from a maximum of 35 percent up to 55 percent. Paradoxically, the value of farmland, machinery and livestock has continued to increase in value - meaning as many as 10 percent of farms and ranches will owe estate taxes in 2011, compared

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## K-tag false citations finding resolution

By Kurt Fuchs  
MFB Assistant Government Relations Director

Over the winter and into the spring, farmers all over the state began racking up traffic citations in our nation's capital for vehicles that had not even left the farm in 15 years. Some of the vehicles in question hadn't even run in 15 years, let alone got caught spinning wheels outside President Obama's driveway!

So what brought on this sudden wave of speeding and parking violations? The simple answer: Through their contractor, Washington's Department of Motor Vehicles has been issuing tickets to K-tag Farm Area Vehicles (restricted to operation in a 10-mile radius of the farm) registered in Maryland whose same tag numbers were assigned to Maryland temporary tags. To make matters worse, farmers' attempts to rightly question the veracity of the citations were almost universally fruitless.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture quickly attempted to resolve the issue with the Maryland DMV and DC DMV, establishing a point of contact and agreeing that these erroneous tickets needed to go away. Unfortunately for those farmers involved, it did not take long for the DC DMV to forget about the resolution they had agreed to. In fact, several farmers reported being bounced from one desk to the next, with each successive staff person insisting it was the previous person's responsibility. In some cases, voicemails, emails and faxes were simply ignored, apparently under the impression that our farmers would simply give up and pay the fines. Not so.

Farmers continued to contact Maryland Farm Bureau and MDA to let folks know the resolution that all thought had been worked out, was no longer viable. Working with sister agencies, MDOT and MD MVA, the MDA continues to seek complete resolution to the issue. They have advised farmers to contact **Carla Chester at the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration at 410-787-7828**. She will assist farmers in

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## New Law Authorizes Definition for 'Locally Grown' and 'Local' Products

Governor Martin O'Malley recently signed into law 12 agriculture-related bills as the culmination of a positive legislative session for the farm community. The bills define the terms "locally grown" and "local" for agricultural product sales, reduce the regulatory burden for farmers selling at farmers markets, reform Maryland winery laws, authorize a nutrient credit trading program and provide more opportunities for landowners to preserve their farmland.

"Working closely with the General Assembly this session, we passed key legislation to expand and enhance Maryland's agriculture industry and keep it strong and profitable in the long-term," said Governor O'Malley. "When our agricultural businesses are profitable, the next generation will see farming as a viable career opportunity, and Maryland will preserve its open space and locally grown food industry for a smart, green and growing future."

"We are very pleased by this year's legislative session and have started the process to define 'locally grown' and 'local' for the benefit of Maryland farmers, consumers and retailers," said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. "We thank Governor O'Malley, the General Assembly, the farm community and the citizens who pushed for passage of these bills. Their support for bills addressing nutrient trading, estate taxes, licensing fees, market opportunities and land preservation shows that more people are recognizing how important farming is to their lives."

### **Agriculture-related bills signed are:**

- SB 59, which alters MALPF funding methods and adds flexibility to the acquisition of easements using a settlement option the landowner prefers through a partnership with MARBIDCO.

- SB 93, which alters and increases the fee structure for pesticide applicator certification

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**Maryland Farm Bureau Officers**

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*From the Desk of our President*

Pat Langenfelder



As I travel around the state I continue to be amazed by the forward thinking, progressive farmers who make up Maryland Farm Bureau. Wherever I visit, farmers are proud to tell me about new practices they've installed on their farms and about meetings they are holding with local citizen groups to educate others about farm best management practices.

While we in the agriculture community have been making progress with local citizen groups and legislators to find a middle ground on Bay clean up initiatives, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been working to take more control over our farmland through Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) regulations and federal legislation.

The recent lawsuit settlement between the EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation promises to bring even stronger CAFO regulations to Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay region. In the agreement announced in May, EPA pledged new CAFO rules in 2012 that will "expand the universe" of CAFOs by requiring even smaller livestock operations to come under the federal permit. They also want CAFOs to report offsite manure use and will propose more stringent limits on land application of manure. The settlement also addresses construction permits and stormwater management systems separately. EPA has agreed to meet with CBF regularly to discuss the progress on Bay restoration.

What concerns me most is that EPA is making major environmental decisions through a closed-door settlement process, rather than a transparent open-government process that would allow all citizens to participate in the discussion.

Farm Bureau's goal is to give members an opportunity to discuss pending regulations and voice your concerns. You can be assured that Maryland Farm Bureau will continue keep you advised as the CAFO rules are proposed and will work hard to get your concerns heard at all levels of government. Please "stay tuned" so that we may call on you to take action and speak out for Maryland agriculture. Thank you for all you do to make Farm Bureau a better organization!

**The Quest for Death Tax Reform**

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with 1.5 percent in 2009.

American Farm Bureau Federation has reissued the challenge for farmers to contact Congress. This time the target is 100,000 farmers from across the nation by the end of June. We are asking for a \$5 million exemption, a 35 percent maximum tax rate and stepped-up basis. The key to the "Put Death Taxes to Rest" campaign is to convey the family level stories that demonstrate the true danger of the estate tax. The stories of families who had to sell farms or livestock or equipment just to keep a multi-generation farm need to be heard. The stories of money being spent on expensive estate planning year after year instead of reinvesting to preserve the viability of the farm need to be heard. The emotional stories that will move Congress to act this summer need to be heard.

AFBF has setup a "Share Your Story" feature on the FBACT Insider website (www.fbactinsider.org). This site serves as a one-stop website to collect the stories that will have an influence with members of Congress. Log on at: [http://www.fbactinsider.org/involved\\_share.jsf](http://www.fbactinsider.org/involved_share.jsf) to share your story and to get additional information about the campaign.

Whether through the AFBF website or directly from your pen or your computer, please take a few minutes to consider how your farm has been affected by estate taxes because of a death in your family or by the high cost of estate planning. Consider the impact of a \$5 million or \$3.5 million exemption versus a \$1 million exemption. You can send your letter directly to your member of Congress and Senators or you can send them to our office and we will deliver them to Capitol Hill for you. Our address is Maryland Farm Bureau, 8930 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD 21133. Email letters to [valeric.mdfb@verizon.net](mailto:valeric.mdfb@verizon.net). Let's put death taxes to rest once and for all in 2010!

**MD General Assembly Heeds Call for Death Tax Reform**

For the first time in a dozen years we made progress in the fight to reform the estate tax law in Maryland. Although incremental in nature, a bill pushed forward by Senator Mac Middleton and Delegate Norm Conway in Annapolis takes the first step toward relieving farmers of the death tax burden.

The four-year pilot project will allow farmers to defer paying the Maryland estate tax for three years and then in year four begin paying the tax due in three annual installments. Farm Bureau and other proponents like MARBIDCO, Farm Credit, MD Grain Producers and 1000 Friends of Maryland believe this bill will prevent the immediate sale of farms when a parent dies and will give the next generation time to secure an agland preservation easement or otherwise acquire the funds to pay the tax.

**Trees planted for 'paperless' customers**

On behalf of customers who have opted for paperless billings, Nationwide Insurance Foundation is contributing funds to American Forests – the nation's oldest nonprofit citizens' conservation organization – to plant some 16,000 trees this year.

Nationwide and American Forests kicked off the initiative on Arbor Day, April 30, by planting buffer trees around poultry farms on the Delmarva Peninsula in Delaware and Maryland.

Two tree-planting events took place on farms owned by customers of Nationwide who also are Farm Bureau members – Rantz Purcell of Princess Anne, MD, and Carla P. Short of Georgetown, DE. Nationwide provides insurance benefits to members of eight state Farm Bureaus including Ohio, which founded Nationwide in 1926.

"Nationwide customers elect to go paperless to save trees and plant new ones," said Scot Zajic, Nationwide's chief policy officer. "This partnership allows us to plant these trees where they can prevent pollution from entering the Chesapeake Bay – which provides drinking water to 14 million people. The trees also beautify the area and help preserve the farms and jobs of families raising poultry," he said.

American Forests selected the Delmarva Poultry Industry (DPI) program to plant tree buffers that will capture emissions to reduce ammonia and carbon dioxide from the poultry farms.

Rantz Purcell, whose farm is located in Maryland, said, "From a policyholder's standpoint, I appreciate Nationwide putting money back into the agricultural side, and helping the farmer with his environmental issues. That means a lot to me



*Pictured at the Arbor Day tree-planting event at the Purcell farm from left, are Karen Bemis, Nationwide sales manager, John-Paul Purssord, Nationwide Associate Vice President of Sales, Rantz Purcell, farm owner, and Melody and Rick Nelson, Nationwide agents.*

**County Farm Bureau Membership Report**

(As of May 14, 2010)

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

| County       | YTD Regular Members Paid | YTD All Members Paid | County                 | YTD Regular Members Paid | YTD All Members Paid |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Allegany     | 104                      | 213                  | Howard                 | 175                      | 1199                 |
| Anne Arundel | 766                      | 3516                 | Kent                   | 230                      | 345                  |
| Baltimore    | 405                      | 4782                 | Montgomery             | 294                      | 3920                 |
| Calvert      | 252                      | 819                  | Prince George's        | 176                      | 2498                 |
| Caroline     | 262                      | 831                  | Queen Anne's           | 293                      | 615                  |
| Carroll      | 795                      | 1635                 | St. Mary's             | 307                      | 793                  |
| Cecil        | 273                      | 822                  | Somerset               | 201                      | 422                  |
| Charles      | 155                      | 1040                 | Talbot                 | 244                      | 674                  |
| Dorchester   | 219                      | 643                  | Washington             | 238                      | 831                  |
| Frederick    | 815                      | 2256                 | Wicomico               | 340                      | 818                  |
| Garrett      | 145                      | 231                  | Worcester              | 225                      | 579                  |
| Harford      | 423                      | 1811                 | <b>Maryland Totals</b> | <b>7,340</b>             | <b>31,293</b>        |

and I'm proud to be part of this program."

"The commitment to this program through our partnership with Farm Bureau is exceptional," said Kurt Ely, vice president of Nationwide. "When we put trees in the ground, protect the environment and continue to help farms thrive and prosper, that's how

we want to be involved," he said. Ely spoke at both Arbor Day events to farmers, local officials and Farm Bureau leaders in attendance.

Farm organizations in other states and countries are studying DPI's ongoing buffer program. "We're delighted Nationwide recognized our vegetative environmental buffer program," said DPI President Blair Rannaneberger.

Dan Smith, vice president of communications for American Forest, said the organization is doubling its efforts to plant more trees through the help of committed sponsors like Nationwide. "This project is a great example

of planting where it matters most, because forested buffers create a huge benefit, and have long been identified as one of the most cost effective ways to improve water quality," Smith noted.

**K-tag false citations finding resolution**

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resolving their false-tickets/citations on a case by case basis and from the feedback we have received to date, farmers have been pleased with how helpful and effective she has been.

Additionally, a more permanent fix has been agreed upon between the Maryland and DC DMVs which will hopefully take care of the current erroneous tickets that are pending and help prevent them in the future. Additionally, legislation that passed during the recently concluded General Assembly Session and due to go into effect in October, will require much greater information to be submitted to MVA on the day a dealer issues a temporary registration plate.

If you have further questions, contact Kurt Fuchs at 410-922-3426 or [kurtf.mdfb@verizon.net](mailto:kurtf.mdfb@verizon.net) or Sue duPont, Maryland Department of Agriculture, at 410-841-5889.

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