

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March

- 1 - Estate Planning Seminar, Allegany County Fairgrounds, Cumberland, 6 p.m.
- 5 - Charles County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 8 - Maryland Farm Bureau Executive Committee Meeting, Randallstown
- 9 - Farm Risk Management Seminar, Baltimore Ag Center, Hunt Valley, 9 a.m.
- 12 - St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall
- 19 - Prince George's County Farm Bureau Banquet, Baden Volunteer Fire Department Hall
- 29 - Washington Drive-In

April

- 5 - Maryland Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Meeting, Randallstown
- 12 - Maryland Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting, Randallstown
- 15-19 - National Women's Leadership Conference, Baltimore

June

- 14 - Maryland Farm Bureau Executive Committee Meeting, Randallstown

(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.)

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spotlight

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A PUBLICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

FARMERS CONVERGE IN ANNAPOLIS

Over 100 Maryland Farm Bureau members gathered in the state capital on February 15, for the annual Day in Annapolis. Sponsored by the Young Farmers' and Women's Leadership committees, the event included legislative briefings and lobbying opportunities at a critical time in the 90-day General Session.

"While we have a presence in Annapolis every day, it is vitally important that our legislators hear from our farmer members," said Patricia Langenfelder, MFB President. "This event gives them a chance to explain how particular bills can and will affect the very important business of producing food and fiber in Maryland."

The day began with briefings on pending bills important to the agricultural community. MFB Government Relations Director Valerie Connelly discussed support for Senate Bill 254 that would establish the Maryland Livestock and Poultry Care Advisory Board.

She also explained the controversial Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2011 that mandates no new major subdivisions with traditional on-site sewage disposal systems. "We have not taken a position on the act yet, however, we are very concerned that this would seriously affect farmers' private property rights," Connelly explained.

With a number of bills filed for Maryland estate tax reform, the director said MFB recommends that the estate tax exemption be increased to \$5 million and supports the elimination of the Maryland estate tax on farmland and on property encumbered by conservation easements.

MFB Government Relations Assistant Director Kurt Fuchs discussed the organization's opposition to Senate Bill 304 which would cause the electricity consumption by a residential retail electric customer that exceeds 1,000 KWh in a month to be subject to a "renewable energy surcharge." This surcharge could reach almost \$400 per month for many livestock and poultry farmers that run cooling systems almost continuously in the summer months for the comfort and well-being of their animals.

Fuchs also discussed MFB's support for Senate Bill 422 and House Bill 411 that could lead to the safe extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation in Western Maryland.

After the briefings, members gathered in the lobby of the State House to greet legislators as they arrived for session. Many members also made office visits to their local representatives and concluded the day with lunch with many of the delegates and senators at the Governor Calvert House.



Delegate Jay Jacobs, left, meets up with MFB President Patricia Langenfelder in the State House.



Maryland Farm Bureau First Vice President Chuck Fry, left, talks with former county Farm Bureau president and freshman Delegate Charles Otto.



Delegate Maggie McIntosh talks over issues with MFB Government Relations Director Valerie Connelly, left, and MFB Vice President Jim Steele, right.

COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP REPORT (As of February 15, 2011)

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
Allegany	82	179
Anne Arundel	651	2772
Baltimore	209	3768
Calvert	216	640
Caroline	303	595
Carroll	620	1317
Cecil	234	646
Charles	130	780
Dorchester	181	500
Frederick	663	1728
Garrett	112	192
Harford	354	1350
Howard	146	918
Kent	184	267
Montgomery	260	2881
Prince George's	160	2099
Queen Anne's	232	481
St. Mary's	246	602
Somerset	165	328
Talbot	197	505
Washington	183	597
Wicomico	270	6363
Worcester	192	504

Maryland Totals **5,990** **24,285**

Several Baltimore area legislators take a seat at lunch with MFB President Patricia Langenfelder to discuss issues affecting agriculture during this General Session.



Farm Risk Management Seminar slated

A free Farm Risk Management Seminar, hosted by Nationwide Agribusiness and Maryland Farm Bureau, will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at the Baltimore County Agriculture Center, 11114 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley. Lunch will be provided but registration is required.

Topics will include safety on the road, general farm safety, DOT compliance, preventing grain dryer fires and safe bin entry.

To register, contact Laura Ruhlman at 1-800-248-9012 or email laurar.mdfb@verizon.net.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU OFFICERS

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 Chuck Fry, 1st VICE PRESIDENT
 Jim Steele, VICE PRESIDENT
 Mel Hollingsworth, ADMINISTRATOR

DIRECTORS

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 Jennifer Cross, FB Women
 Hannah Amoss, Young Farmers
 Brian Johnson, Young Farmers

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April 15-19 in Baltimore

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE COMES TO MARYLAND

"CHANGING PERCEPTIONS, UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES"

is the theme of the fourth National Women's Leadership Conference, sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. The conference will be held April 15-19, at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel on the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. Join over 600 Farm Bureau women from across the nation to learn, laugh and tour.

REGISTRATION

must be received by Friday, March 18, to Maryland Farm Bureau's David Willoughby and include the \$255 registration fee. Contact David at 1-800-248-9012. Hotel reservations must be made on your own by calling the hotel at 1-800-266-9432 and using the code AFBF2010. Hotel rates are \$189 per night plus local and state taxes for a single or double room and \$209 per night for a triple or quad. Parking is \$26 per night or \$36 per night for valet.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

1-5:30 PM REGISTRATION

4-4:30 PM STATE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR/COORDINATOR UPDATE

5:30-6:30 PM WELCOME RECEPTION -- DRESSING FOR SUCCESS PROVIDED BY MACY'S

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

8:30-10 AM OPENING GENERAL SESSION
 Terry Gilbert, Chair, AFB Women's Leadership Committee
 Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

10-10:30 AM BREAK

10:30-11:45 AM WORKSHOPS

Busy Woman's Guide to a Healthy Heart
 Eliz Greene, d.b.a Red Dress, LLC
 Yes Lives in the Land of No
 Kyle Perry, Director, Leadership Development, AFBF
 Tough Questions in Tough Situations
 Jolene Brown, CSP
 Activism 101©
 Betty Wolanyk, AgLiteracy Works
 Make the Media Work for You
 Johnna Miller, Director, Media Development, AFBF
 Rural Development
 Sabrina Matteson, Director, Rural Affairs, AFBF
 Assertive Communication
 Jill Casten, Director, Training and Development, AFBF
 Annie's Project
 Ruth Hambleton, Founder

NOON-1:30 PM NETWORKING LUNCH

Speaker – Ranger Scott Sheads, National Park Service, Fort McHenry

2-3:15 PM WORKSHOPS REPEATED

3:15-3:45 PM BREAK

3:45-5 PM WORKSHOPS REPEATED

6:30-9 PM BANQUET

Wrinkles of Wit and Wisdom
 Jolene Brown, CSP

Sunday, April 17

7:30-8:15 AM MORNING DEVOTIONS

Speaker: Rev. Mernie Crane, Centenary United Methodist Church, Shady Side, MD

8:30-9:15 AM General Session

Turning the Tide©
 Betty Wolanyk, AgLiteracy Works

9:15 AM 9:45 AM BREAK

9:45-11:00 AM WORKSHOPS REPEATED

11:15-NOON MINI SESSIONS: COMMUNICATING OUR STORY

Farm Safety & Health
 Speaker TBA
 National Ag Day/Farm City
 Holly Fritz, H.B. Fritz & Associates
 Food Check Out Week
 AFB Women's Leadership Committee
 Ag Literacy
 Curtis Miller, Director of Education, AFBFA
 Communications Boot Camp
 Panel of Graduates
 Grassroots Advocacy
 Cody Lyon, Director, Grassroots & Political Advocacy, AFBF

NOON-1:15 PM LUNCH

Business Meal Etiquette
 Margee Wolff, Executive Director, Organization Department, AFBF
 Silent Auction & Exhibits Close at 1:25 PM

1:30-2:15 PM MINI SESSIONS REPEATED

2:25-3:10 PM MINI SESSIONS REPEATED

3:10-3:40 PM BREAK

3:40-4:30 PM GENERAL SESSION

Women's Impact on Public Policy Issues
 Mary Kay Thatcher, Director, Agriculture Policy Team, AFBF
 Tara Smith, Director, Congressional Relations, AFBF

4:30-6 PM AUCTION ITEM PICK UP

EVENING FREE

Monday, April 18

7:30-8:30 AM BREAKFAST FOR STATE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

9 AM-4 PM TOURS WITH LUNCH INCLUDED

6 PM-8 PM CLOSING DINNER

Overcoming Obstacles, Breaking Barriers, Doing More Than You Think You Can
 Patrick Hughes



DISCUSSION MEET WINNERS
 Becky Burrier, left, of Frederick County and Mike Amoss, right, of Harford County captured the top Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet titles, respectively, during the Young Farmers' Leadership Conference.



ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE
 Jason Scott, right, of Dorchester County was awarded the Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers Achievement Award during festivities at the leadership conference in Hershey, Pa. Congratulating him is MFB Young Farmers' Chairperson Hannah Amoss. Wicomico County's James Adkins captured the Excellence in Agriculture Award but was unable to attend and receive it.



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE VISIT
 Several Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers made a visit to the local Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, Pa., to visit with children and families and deliver donated agriculture books.



ORLANDO LEADERSHIP
 The AFBF Joint Leadership Conference in Orlando brought together state leaders with Young Farmer leaders. From left, are, MFB First Vice President Chuck Fry, Frederick County Young Farmer Chair Becky Burrier and MFB Young Farmer Chair Hannah Amoss.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
 Maryland Farm Bureau's leadership participated in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Joint Leadership Conference in Orlando in early February. MFB First Vice President Chuck Fry, left, visited with speaker Ken Schmidt from the Harley Davidson Motor Company.

MARYLANDERS GATHER
 Several Marylanders traveled to Orlando for the American Farm Bureau Federation's Joint Leadership Conference. Catching up on activities from left, are, MFB President Patricia Langenfelder, MFB Vice President Jim Steele, MFB Young Farmer Chair Hannah Amoss and Matthew Schnebly.



COLLEGIATE PARTICIPANT
 Abbey Linthicum, left, of Montgomery County represented Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers in the national Collegiate Discussion Meet during the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida.



MFB AT HORSE EXPO
 Hundreds of current and potential members visited the Maryland Farm Bureau booth during the recent Horse World Expo at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. MFB Administrator Mel Hollingsworth and other staff and leaders greeted visitors during the three-day event.

THE JOINT YF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN HERSHEY, PA

THE AFBF JOINT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO, FL

Nationwide® Agribusiness Insurance & Maryland Farm Bureau Working Together to Protect What Matters