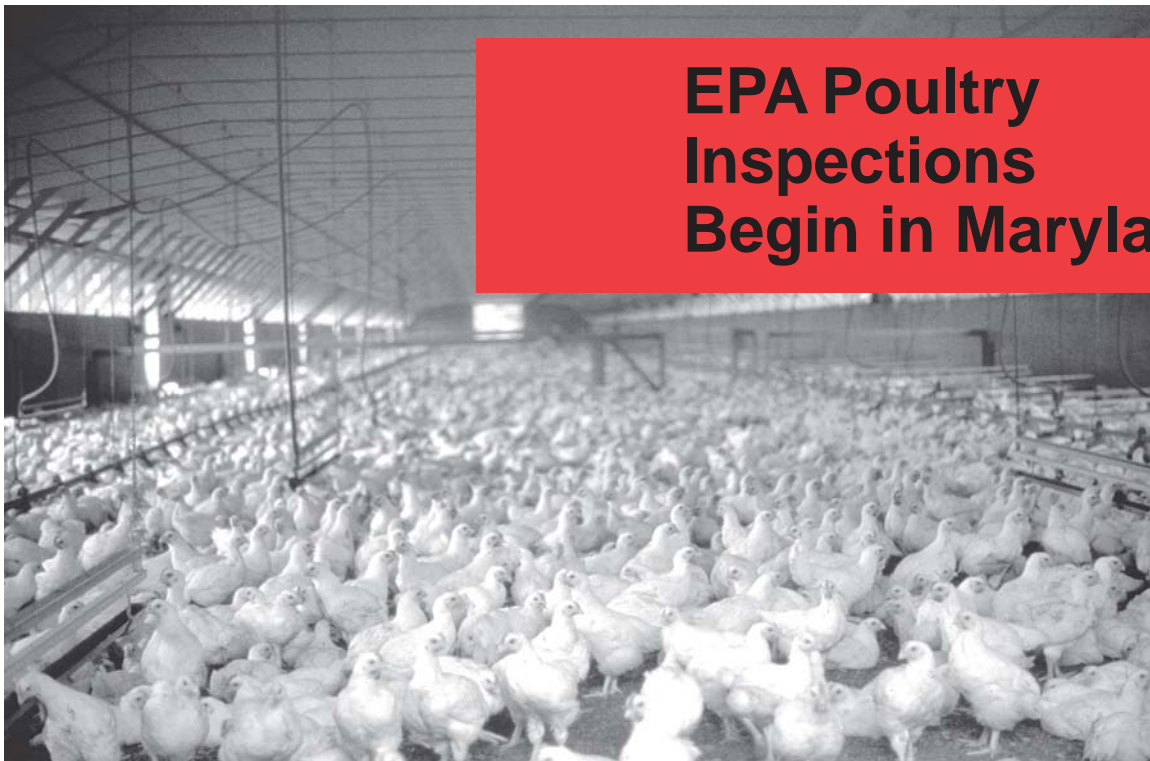


# spotlight

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A PUBLICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF MARYLAND FARM BUREAU



## EPA Poultry Inspections Begin in Maryland

By Valerie Connelly

At least four poultry farms on Maryland's lower eastern shore have been inspected by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials from the Region III office out of Philadelphia since mid-May. Farmers who have been inspected have reported very short notice of the inspection, confusion over the intent and concern that inspectors are taking a lot of samples and providing very little feedback to the grower.

Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) officials have been in contact with Congressman Kratovil and officials at EPA, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to convey the very serious concerns expressed by members about the inspections. The three agencies have since begun a dialogue to work out a set of standards for all future poultry farm inspections. MFB leaders will continue to ask questions to determine the intent and the legal authority for the farm visits.

EPA is inspecting poultry farms that did not file a Notice of Intent form with MDE to seek a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit under the

new regulations. They are targeting farms that they believe should have filed for the permit because of size or potential discharge issues. Staff from all three agencies has been on hand at each inspection and the inspections are very similar to the 40 or so conducted in Delaware over the last two years.

In a letter to Delaware farmers, EPA's national staff said that they had "identified CAFOs as a Clean Water Act compliance and enforcement national priority for Fiscal Years 2008-2010." They said further that "CAFOs have substantial rates of noncompliance with requirements under the CWA."

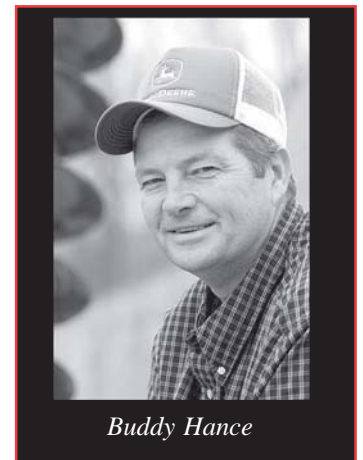
EPA advises that in most cases they have given farmers 48 hours notice of a planned inspection. However, they are not legally required to give any notice. The Clean Water Act gives inspectors the authority to conduct unannounced inspections in order to evaluate a facility's normal operating conditions.

With regard to the Maryland inspections, the Agriculture Counselor at the EPA Region III office says that he was advised by inspectors that feedback

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## Former MFB President named Maryland Ag Secretary

Earl "Buddy" Hance, the former president of the Maryland Farm Bureau, has been appointed secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Hance replaces Secretary Roger Richardson who retired May 5th.



Buddy Hance

A fourth-generation southern Maryland farmer, Hance was selected as deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture in February 2007. Prior to this appointment, he served most as president of the Maryland Farm Bureau, chairman of the Maryland State Tobacco Authority and as chairman of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Commission among other farm and community activities.

## Plan now to be a Candidate in 2010

It may seem early to think about the 2010 elections – but if you are a potential candidate now is the time to plan your campaign. Retirements over the next year will create several open delegate and senator seats. Local county races are opening up as well. If you are not a potential candidate, now is the time to recruit candidates who share your goals and concerns.

The key to a successful bid for any elective office is the candidate's ability to build a sound organization and execute an effective strategy. From start to finish,

(continued on page 4)

**Maryland Farm Bureau**

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W. Michael Phipps, *President*  
 Patricia Langenfelder, *1st Vice President*  
 Chuck Fry, *2nd Vice President*  
 Mel Hollingsworth, *Administrator*

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 Brian Quinn, Kent  
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 Daniel Holland, Worcester  
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 Elaine Moreland, FB Women  
 Brian Johnson, Young Farmers  
 Hannah Amoss, Young Farmers

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**GROVE MILLER  
 RECEIVES  
 UM TOP  
 HONOR**



Cecil County Farm Bureau member and agricultural leader F. Grove Miller recently received the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Medalion of Excellence. The honor was bestowed during the May 22<sup>nd</sup> graduation ceremonies – when Grove's grandson Robbie was graduating from the college. This honor is the highest award that AGNR presents to a committed and loyal individual for service to AGNR in its diversity of programs through research, Extension and academic programs.

A retired dairy farmer, Grove served on the Board of Regents from 1967-1975; he was chairman of the UM Advisory Board to the Vice President for Agriculture from 1976-1982 and has served on the Dean's Leadership Council. He served as the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources representative on the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) for nine years. In his current role as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Maryland State Fair he has been an advocate for 4-H programs at the fair and a facilitator of expanded educational programs.

Grove was a founding member of the Maryland 4-H Foundation Board of Directors and is currently Chairman Emeritus. He has received personal commendations from Maryland's Governors over the past four decades and, in 2001 he and his extended family were inducted into the Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame. His wife, Arlene, is always by his side and is also committed to his passions and endeavors.

**Win a new Dodge Ram at Young Farmer & Rancher competitions**

Most accolades come in the form of flimsy ribbons or cheap pieces of plastic. The American Farm Bureau Federation's® Young Farmer and Rancher competitions give you the chance to win a legendary Dodge truck. Show off your agricultural know-how at the National Convention in Seattle, WA, January 10-13, 2010, and you could win a brand new Dodge Ram. The contest is open to all Young Farmer & Rancher members, so contact your local Farm Bureau® for all entry details. For more information about Dodge Ram trucks, visit [dodge.com](http://dodge.com) or call 800-4ADODGE.

Farm Bureau is a federally registered collective membership and a registered service mark of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Dodge is a registered trademark of Chrysler LLC.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Women's  
 Leadership Committee  
 Bi-District Spring Fling**

**Talbot Ag Center, Easton**  
**June 4, 2009**  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Shannon Dill, Agriculture Educator**  
*Introduction, Annie's Project and Farm Business Planning*

**Jenny Rhodes, Extension Educator**  
*Landlords & Lease Agreements*

**Susan Marseilles, Master Gardener**  
*Heather Buritsch, Talbot Extension – Grow It and Eat It*

**Crystal Terhune, Family & Consumer Sciences Education**  
*Communicating with Your Family & Starting Estate Planning*

**Nan Stenzel, Regional IT Coordinator**  
*Update Computer*

**Kathie Kaye, Health Department**  
*Cancer Prevention & Sun Protection*

**Wendy Crofts, Denton**  
*Sea Glass*

**Come for Information and Education**  
**RSVP by June 1 to Shirley Boyle at 410-822-6915**  
**Sign in from 8:30 – 9 a.m.**

## County Farm Bureau Final Membership Honor Roll *(As of May 20, 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	112	18	148
Anne Arundel	835	104	3346
Baltimore	431	95	4438
Calvert	260	20	853
Caroline	365	17	825
Carroll	807	122	1584
Cecil	284	15	780
Charles	210	34	1025
Dorchester	224	6	690
Frederick	777	124	2159
Garrett	148	35	192
Harford	411	46	1848
Howard	183	18	1151
Kent	242	17	342
Montgomery	277	41	3731
Prince George's	175	52	2323
Queen Anne's	286	37	588
St. Mary's	322	23	770
Somerset	208	28	451
Talbot	255	26	674
Washington	247	31	848
Wicomico	317	24	756
Worcester	234	34	591
<b>Maryland Totals</b>	<b>7,610</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>30,113</b>

## On Your Farm Certified Agents Program

Farming is a complex, high-risk business. And farmers should expect their insurance agent to provide a high quality farm policy, exceptional service and most of all an in-depth understanding of the risks and challenges of farming.

Nationwide Agribusiness' new *On Your Farm* Agency Certified Program helps assure that agents representing Nationwide Insurance achieve these skill levels. The program focuses on how to determine customers' real needs, and how to identify the right insurance coverages to protect against each individual farmer's specific risks and exposures. The program reinforces the unique challenges of agriculture, enhances farm insurance policy knowledge, provides a solid understanding of basic risk assessment analysis and develops related computer systems proficiency.

Nationwide Agribusiness recently began offering the *On Your Farm* Agency Certified Program to Nationwide agents. It provides agents with a series of computer-based training modules that cover subjects from Nationwide's agricultural heritage through new farm coverages.

The majority of the training focuses on Nationwide Agribusiness and its 100-years of service to agriculture. (Nationwide acquired the company in 1982.) It features a foundation in risk identification and management techniques, as well as a thorough review of farm policy coverages. It features Nationwide Agribusiness' AgriChoice farm policy. AgriChoice includes coverage advantages that distinguish it from other companies' standard personal and commercial policies.

Face-to-face training then takes agents through the farm sales process, reinforcing an agent's skills at identifying and analyzing hazards, preparing risk assessments, determining coverages that align with customers' needs, reviewing insurance-to-value concepts and establishing a series of key questions to ensure that the customer's insurance needs are met.

Nationwide Agribusiness has had a positive response to the new program from agents across the country. "Agents are excited about the opportunity to become specialists at providing high quality farm protection," said Jerry Hillard, Director at Nationwide Agribusiness.

Agents who successfully complete the program will be recog-

nized for their *On Your Farm* certified agency. The designation helps farmers identify

agents who have a commitment to being skilled at farm agencies. Farmers can depend from a certified agency to understand their farming operation, and to provide a risk assessment of their farm to help reduce expenses. Certified farm agents can also help educate farmers about their risk exposures and match the correct coverage to meet their needs, while providing professional service.

*(Since 1928, Maryland Farm Bureau has sponsored and endorsed Nationwide's family of companies and Nationwide Agribusiness. For more information about farm insurance, contact a local Nationwide agent, or visit [www.nationwide.com/mfb](http://www.nationwide.com/mfb).)*

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## June

- 7 Worcester County Farm Bureau Picnic, Sturgis Park, 4 p.m.  
28 Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Ag Contest, Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, 1 p.m.

## July

- 14 MFB Board of Directors Meeting  
16 Caroline County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Ag Contest, Horn Point, Cambridge, 2:30 p.m.  
19 Talbot County Farm Bureau Picnic and Miss Ag Contest, Ag Center, Easton, 5 p.m.  
30 Kent County Farm Bureau Picnic, Worton Park

## August

- 3 Miss Maryland Agriculture Orientation, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium  
11 Caroline County Farm Bureau Resolutions Meeting, Denton Library, 8 p.m.  
28 Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium  
28-Sept. 7 Maryland State Fair

## September

- 10 Caroline County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Williams Building, 4-H Park, Denton, 6:30 p.m.

*(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).)*

## EPA Poultry Inspections Begin in Maryland

*(continued from page 1)*

was provided during the inspections and that the inspection reports would be completed within 45 days. Plans for an "enforcement response" would be confidential. During the inspection each producer was given verbal information about the CAFO regulations and encouraged to take steps as necessary for their operations. As the report is completed it will be sent to MDA, MDE and the producer.

Maryland Farm Bureau officers and staff will continue to work with officials at all levels of government to address the inspection-related issues raised by our members. Let us know if you are contacted by MDE or EPA for inspection or if you have additional information. Contact Valerie Connelly at (410) 922-3426 or [valeriec.mdfb@erols.com](mailto:valeriec.mdfb@erols.com).

## Loss of a Leader

Past Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau President Allen H. Cohey Sr., 85, died on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Centreville. He owned Cohey Farms and served on the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Board, the Rural Legacy Board and the Maryland Milk Cooperative. Memorial contributions may be made to Queen Anne's County Hospice House, 25 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

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## Plan now to be a Candidate in 2010

*(continued from page 1)*

a candidate must know the issues, build coalitions, raise money and work to bring his or her supporters to the polls on election-day. This can be a daunting task if you are a candidate who is not fully prepared with the most up-to-date information on voter trends and media relations.

Maryland Farm Bureau is making available the highly effective seminar, "How to Win an Election." This seminar is a two-day intensive training workshop that prepares a potential candidate for all aspects of the race for elective office. The seminar instructor is a political education professional on staff with the American Farm Bureau Federation. She will lead participants through exercises using DVDs, case studies and computer models to test a candidate's campaign techniques, tools and methods.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, an organization known for its understanding of the political process, developed this seminar with the help of professional political consultants and staff members of the Democratic and Republican parties. Over the last 20 years, the nationwide "win" rate of candidates attending the program has been outstanding.

Participants in the last four Campaign Management Seminars held in Maryland rated it an overwhelming success. All indicated they found the information to be new and informative and some indicated they would attend again just to be sure they learned all there is to know about running an effective campaign.

"The 86/14 theory was the most helpful part of the seminar," said one candidate. "I thought the instructor was very positive and I liked that the program addressed smaller campaigns," said another. All of the participants said they would recommend the seminar to others who are thinking about running for the first time. They also recommended that seasoned campaigners attend the workshop to hear about the new ad techniques and current voter attitudes.

The Campaign Management Seminar is scheduled for October 7-8, 2009, at the Double Tree Hotel in Annapolis. For registration information, log onto the MFB website at [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com) or contact Valerie Connelly at (410) 922-3426 or [valeriec.mdfb@erols.com](mailto:valeriec.mdfb@erols.com). Enrollment is limited to 25 so make your plans to attend now.