

spotlight

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A PUBLICATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS OF MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

Why I Support Maryland Farm Bureau Political Action Committee

By Pam Saul
Rolling Acres Farm
Brookeville, MD



My daily life is no different than anyone else today. There are household tasks, school functions and work chores that are part of my everyday life. Add to that my farm duties, and life is running at full steam! So why do I care about and support Maryland Farm Bureau PAC? Because I realize, all to well, that what is done in the political arena will influence every facet of my life and I want to make sure that I support the one group that has my best interest at heart – Maryland Farm Bureau PAC.

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Maryland hosts largest-ever Young Farmer event



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Over 66 Young Farmers from Southern Maryland gathered for an organizational meeting of their own during the Baltimore event. Members from five counties gathered at a dinner sponsored by Allen Swann and Colonial Farm Credit. Another meeting for the newly formed group is set for March 3rd.

Over 870 from 44 states attended the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership conference at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in February. The record-breaking crowd included 103 from Maryland as they welcomed their Farm Bureau friends to the Free State.

Marylanders were also in the spotlight during competitions at the national event. Brooks Bachtel made the Sweet 16 round in the Collegiate Discussion Meet – a first for Maryland.

Harford County's Hannah Amoss also received accolades as she retired from the AFBF Young Farmer and

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Matt Schnebly, left, accepts congratulations from Brian Johnson when he is presented the Excellence in Agriculture award for Maryland.



Record-breaking Ag Dinner

Over 800 agricultural leaders and lawmakers gathered for the annual Maryland Agriculture Dinner at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie. Sponsored by the Maryland Agriculture Council, the event celebrated agriculture and gave industry leaders the opportunity to discuss issues with legislators. The Council presented nine grants for agricultural education and promotion projects totaling \$9,000 and the Maryland Department of Agriculture inducted the Patrick Family of Howard County and the Schmidt Family of Queen Anne's County into the Governor's Agricultural Hall of Fame. Both Gov. Martin O'Malley and Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown attended the event, along with several members of the Cabinet and General Assembly.

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Julie Roop captured the Maryland Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet competition.



Maryland Farm Bureau

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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

USPS 012-269-ISSN1080-3556
(410) 922-3426 mdfb1@erols.com
website: www.mdfarmbureau.com

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Day in Annapolis

Maryland Farm Bureau members came out in support of agriculture during the annual Day in Annapolis on January 30th. The day included a legislative summary, luncheon with legislators and office visits.



Food Check-Out Day

Leaders from the Maryland Farm Bureau Women gathered on February 6th to celebrate Food Check-Out Day at the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore. The state organization presented \$250 and 207 pounds of soda tabs to assist the program in its efforts to help families in need while their children are being treated at area hospitals. County Farm Bureau Women programs also donated soda tabs, many bags of food for residents and money to the program. The women also provided lunch for the Hope Lodge facility across from the Ronald McDonald House that assists adult cancer patients.



Wildlife Briefs

Another successful black bear management season took place in Western Maryland this past fall with 51 bears harvested in three days, including a 615-pound male harvested by Coty Jones of Fishing Creek, MD. The past year's hunt opened Monday, October 22nd with a goal of taking 50 to 70 bears set by the Department of Natural Resources and was closed by officials on Thursday, October 25th at 9 p.m. to avoid surpassing their harvest objectives.



According to a DNR press release, 43 bears were harvested in Garrett County and the remaining eight from Allegany County, with 74 percent of the bears being taken on private land a strong indication of the success of DNR to pair permittees with farmers and landowners experiencing property damage from nuisance bears. According to a survey conducted by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS), farmers in Garrett and Allegany counties experienced nearly \$120,000 worth of economic loss to crops and livestock as a result of bear damage last year.

The Department of Natural Resources also reports a slight increase in the deer harvest numbers for opening weekend. Citing fair weather as a key factor, DNR estimates that approximately 18,099 deer were taken during the opening weekend of the two-week firearm season. That number is roughly 5 percent higher than last year's two-day opening weekend number of 17,231 deer. The ability of hunters in many counties to take advantage of legal Sunday hunting opportunities helped bolster the harvest numbers with 3,707 deer taken across the state that day.

Strong opening weekend numbers are a positive sign for farmers experiencing crop depredation resulting from local overpopulated deer herds. The 2006 MASS report estimated our state's farmers suffered over \$8 million in economic losses as a result of deer damage to crops and nursery stocks.

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Why I Support Maryland Farm Bureau Political Action Committee

The PAC has a system to evaluate the candidates who are running for local races – those that have a direct effect on my family and my way of life. This system allows for evaluation and to recommend whether or not to endorse a candidate. The PAC can determine if a candidate is in line philosophically with Farm Bureau's views and whether or not that candidate has been supportive of the farming community.

The Candidate Evaluation Committee conducts candidate interviews, tracks incumbents and challengers running in my area, and collects information on the candidates. They look at voting records, receive candidate surveys and make informed endorsements. Because when it comes down to it, that's what is most important to me and I don't have the time to do it!

By supporting the PAC financially, I know that my contribution will be used to further the candidacies of those in the political arena who will promote the goals and objectives that are important to me.

Seems to be a bargain to me.

County Farm Bureau Membership Honor Roll

(As of February 15, 2008)

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	35	106
Anne Arundel	673	295	2116
Baltimore	433	129	2844
Calvert	216	74	622
Caroline	293	72	615
Carroll	628	229	1128
Cecil	221	88	518
Charles	185	49	679
Dorchester	174	62	455
Frederick	645	236	1438
Garrett	107	71	127
Harford	345	94	1241
Howard	154	53	755
Kent	194	55	264
Montgomery	251	74	2134
Prince George's	181	55	1358
Queen Anne's	246	66	434
St. Mary's	262	83	525
Somerset	167	61	340
Talbot	224	67	471
Washington	196	74	556
Wicomico	249	110	516
Worcester	208	64	446
Maryland Totals	6,343	2,197	19,688

Spotlight by Email?

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March

- 5- Washington Drive-In
- 7- Dorchester County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 8- St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 13- Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 14- Talbot County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 14- Charles County Farm Bureau Banquet, Isaak Walton League
- 15- Wicomico County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 20- Worcester County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 21- Somerset County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 27- Frederick County Farm Bureau Spring Meeting, Jefferson Ruritan Center, 7 p.m.
- 29- Cecil County Farm Bureau Banquet
- 29- Prince George's County Farm Bureau Banquet

April

- 10- Allegany Spring Dinner, Fairgrounds
- 12- Frederick County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Bingo
- 15- Allegany County Legislative Luncheon, Fairgrounds
- 22- Frederick County Farm Bureau Women's Spring Luncheon

July

- 18- Frederick County Farm Bureau Miss Contest, Old Woodsboro Fire Hall
- 20- Allegany County Farm Bureau Miss Contest, Fairgrounds
- 26- Anne Arundel Get Fresh...Buy Local 2nd Annual Agricultural Education Day

September

- 23- Allegany/Garrett Policy Meeting, Allegany Fairgrounds

October

- 7- Allegany County Farm Bureau Banquet, Fairgrounds
- 9- Frederick County Farm Bureau Banquet, New Midway

(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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Maryland hosts largest-ever Young Farmer event



Brooks Bachtel
competes in the
National
Collegiate
Discussion Meet
competition.



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Capturing the state honors were Brian and Sarah Johnson of Somerset county, Achievement Award winners; Matt Schnebly of Frederick County, Excellence in Agriculture Award winner; William Layton of Dorchester County, Discussion Meet winner; and Julie Roop of Frederick County, Collegiate Discussion Meet winner.

All of the state honorees will represent Maryland at the national competition next January in San Antonio, Texas, except for Ms. Roop who will compete in February 2009 in Sacramento, California.

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William Layton
won the Maryland
Young Farmer
Discussion Meet.

Amy Priest, left, is
thanked for her service
as the Maryland Farm
Bureau Young Farmer
Chair by incoming
leaders, Brian Johnson.



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