

Maryland Farm Bureau  
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Davidsonville, MD 21035

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# Chesapeake Bay Farm & Food

A Maryland Farm Bureau Publication

Fall 2017

## Chesapeake Bay Farm & Food

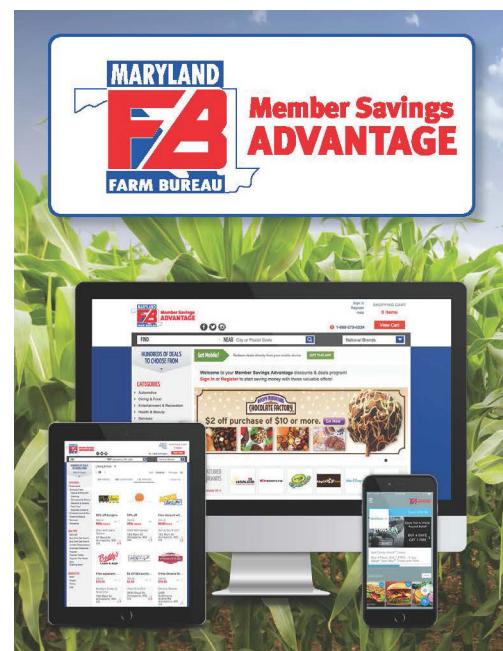
A Maryland Farm Bureau Publication



Fall 2017

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Maryland Farm Bureau has invested in Member Savings Advantage, an exclusive discount program for our members! The program offers unique member-only deals on everyday purchases at thousands of popular restaurants and retailers. Download the FREE MyDeals app and log in with your Farm Bureau ID to start saving.



[facebook.com/mdfarmbureau](https://facebook.com/mdfarmbureau)



[twitter.com/farmbureaumd](https://twitter.com/farmbureaumd)



[instagram.com/mdfarmbureau](https://instagram.com/mdfarmbureau)

### Creative County Farm Bureau Programs Recognized Nationally

Twenty four county Farm Bureaus nationwide were recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation for innovative program ideas in this year's County Activities of Excellence Awards program. This year's winners come from 12 states: Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin. In Maryland, Frederick County Farm Bureau was recognized for its Farm Safety Camp and Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's County Farm Bureaus were recognized for the Wildfire Relief Effort.

The winners will be highlighted during AFBF's 99th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show, Jan. 5-10, 2018, in Nashville. The CAE program acknowledges and shares successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities. The awards are based on county Farm Bureau membership. Counties compete for recognition in five different groups. Those groups are county Farm Bureaus with membership of less than 1,000 members, 1,001-3,000 members, 3,001-5,000 members, more than 5,001 members, and for collaborative multi-county activities regardless of membership size.

### Frederick County Farm Bureau Safety Camp

"This July, Frederick County Farm Bureau hosted a three-day Safety Camp for kids ages 8-13. It was held at a National Park in the county with a dormitory, gymnasium, classrooms and dining hall. The goal of Safety Camp is to educate our state's youth and promote safe habits both on the farm and in everyday life. We believe if we can prevent just one accident, we have succeeded in our job. The campers enjoyed a variety of lessons and demonstrations. We were able to secure excellent speakers from many professional agencies and associations, such as the Department of Natural Resources, Extension Service, tractor and equipment dealers, fire departments and a local beekeeping association."



### Southern Maryland Wildfire Relief Effort

"In March and April 2017, wildfires devastated thousands of acres in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Farmers lost everything; homes, buildings and livestock. Our Farm Bureaus felt the need to take action and help our unfortunate brothers and sisters out West. A Wildfire Relief Auction was conducted which, combined with other donations from our participating county Farm Bureaus, resulted in a total donation of \$89,990 to the relief effort. Promotional efforts for the auction and publicity about its success raised the public's awareness of the plight of the farmers out West and showed how local Farm Bureaus rallied to support the relief effort."



## A Message from the President

### Maryland Farm Bureau Officers

Chuck Fry, President  
Wayne Stafford, First Vice President  
John Draper, Second Vice President  
Valerie Connelly, Executive Director

### District Directors

#### District 1

(Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Washington)  
Billy Bishoff  
Larry Howard

#### District 2

(Carroll, Howard, Montgomery)  
Jason Myers  
Paula Linthicum

#### District 3

(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,  
Prince George's, St. Mary's)  
Milly Welsh  
James Raley, Jr.

#### District 4

(Baltimore, Cecil, Harford)  
Jonathan Quinn  
William Amoss

#### District 5

(Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)  
Thomas Jackson  
Tom Mason

#### District 6

(Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)  
Bill Edwards  
Larry Thomas

### Women's Leadership Committee

Jennifer Cross, Chair  
Prince George's County

### Young Farmers Committee

Jamie Tiralla, Chair  
Calvert County

### Newsletter Editor

Katie Ward  
kward@mdfarmbureau.com  
410-922-3426 x 402

As always, this harvest season Maryland farmers give thanks. We are thankful for family, homes, food and more – just like most people. We also give thanks for the land, animals and technology that allow us to produce the harvest and help feed our community. I am particularly thankful for a few specific things this year:

**THANKFUL** for the farmers in our state who have been working hard all spring to plant their crops and all fall to reap their harvest. Many farmers spend 15+ hours a day in the combine or trucks during the fall to complete harvest before the cold winter months. As one of those farmers myself, I am thankful for your dedication and commitment to produce the food, fuel and fiber for our state.

**THANKFUL** for the consumers in Maryland who support Maryland farmers by purchasing local produce, visiting farmers markets and participating in agri-tourism events. Agriculture would not be Maryland's number one industry if it wasn't for our appreciative customers.

**THANKFUL** for our local, state and national leaders who support Maryland agriculture. Governor Larry Hogan and his team have been advocating for Maryland farmers since he was elected in 2014. There are also many state legislators in Annapolis and Maryland Representatives in Washington, D.C. who are fighting for Maryland's rural landscape and agricultural heritage.

**THANKFUL** for the Farm Bureau organization as a whole and its strong grassroots process. We have made such an impact at the county, state and national levels in the last few years with issues that real, local farmers have brought to the table. I've had the pleasure of representing all Northeast farmers on the American Farm Bureau Executive Committee this year, where I've seen positive change for agriculture happen in D.C. that started at the county level.

**THANKFUL** for the Maryland Farm Bureau members who work together to achieve more for agriculture. It warms my heart to continue seeing our farmers step up and make a difference in the community as a Farm Bureau family. From donating supplies and raising money for disaster relief efforts, to supporting agriculture education in high schools in each county, MFB members have contributed so much to agriculture in Maryland and the U.S.

During this holiday season, take a moment to reflect on what you are thankful for. As you eat meals with your family and friends, remember to appreciate the farmers who grew the delicious food on your tables.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Fry  
President  
Maryland Farm Bureau



## Buy-Sell Arrangements for Farmers

Provided by Nationwide Insurance

Planning for the future of your farm or ranch can be complicated enough without the bumps in the road life tends to throw at us. Now imagine that bump being a roadblock. There is however, planning that can still be done for those instances. For the prepared business owner, they come in the form of buy/sell agreements.

A buy/sell agreement is a contract that provides for the sale of a business interest (including a farm or ranch) when a triggering event occurs like the death, disability or retirement of a farmer. Let's layout the specifics so you can determine if you should consider a buy/sell agreement.

- The benefits.** When a triggering event occurs, the buy/sell agreement enables those in the arrangement to continue the operation in harmony since the event has already been planned for. The agreement allows everyone to maintain ownership and control, and safeguards against someone now being forced into the farm operation that doesn't have an interest in participating, like a child or widow. Also, depending on how the agreement is structured, it provides sufficient cash to be immediately available to carry out necessary transactions or to provide liquidity for estate expenses.

- Questions to ask yourself.** To better help you determine if you should consider a buy/sell agreement here are some questions to ask yourself:

- With no agreement in place might your family or partner's family make unreasonable demands?
- Are you concerned about your family being neglected if you aren't in the picture and there is no agreement in place?
- Do you want to be in business with your partner's spouse or child?

- How else these agreements are used.** In addition to using buy/sell agreements for farms or ranches with multiple owners, these arrangements are also utilized in sound business and estate planning when the single owner (or married owners) of a farm or ranch would like to pass on their land and operation to their heirs so that they may carry it on. This method has proven to be effective in providing widowed spouses with income in retirement or to aid in the transition or a farm or ranch to the next generation.

When thinking about buy/sell agreements or other business planning strategies it's important to enlist the help of qualified professionals who don't have a stake in the final decisions. Qualified professionals may include your banker, your accountant, your personal attorney or a financial or estate planner. If you would like to help in finding a qualified professional to speak with, contact the Nationwide® Land As Your Legacy® team at LAYL@nationwide.com or toll-free at 1-855-529-2729.



**Nationwide®**  
is on your side

## Maryland Farm Bureau Membership Benefit



# JOHN DEERE



Maryland Farm Bureau members can now receive special access to John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program, providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership. It's easy to become a GreenFleet member too! Just sign up for the John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid member ID and zip code for membership verification, and become a Platinum 2 level by visiting [www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau](http://www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau).

Visit [www.mdfarmbureau.com/benefits](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/benefits) to see all current discounts.

### Upcoming Events

#### November

- November 2: Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation Dinner, Glen Burnie
- November 8-9: GOAL Session, Western MD Locations
- November 11: Harford County Farm Bureau Banquet, Level Fire Hall, 6:30 pm
- November 14: MFB Board of Directors and Resolutions Meeting, Davidsonville, 9:30 am
- November 16: Baltimore County Farm Bureau Banquet, Baltimore Ag Center, 6 pm
- November 17: Ag & Environmental Law Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Annapolis, 8 am
- November 18: Farm Succession Workshop, Washington County UME Office in Boonsboro
- November 28: Farm Succession Workshop, Caroline County 4-H Park in Denton
- November 29: Farm Succession Workshop, Wicomico County Extension, Salisbury

#### December

- December 2: Young Farmer's Meeting, Ocean City
- December 3-5: MFB 102nd Annual Convention, Ocean City
- December 12: Ag Outlook & Policy Conference, Annapolis, 8 am

#### January

- January 5: Harford County Legislative Dinner, The Bayou Restaurant, 6 pm
- January 5: St. Mary's County Legislative Dinner
- January 5-9: AFBF Annual Convention, Nashville
- January 16: Farm Succession Workshop, Kent County UME Office in Chestertown
- January 17: Farm Succession Workshop, Deer Creek Overlook, Harford County 4-H Camp
- January 20: Harford County Bull Roast, Jarrettsville Gardens
- January 30: Farm Succession Workshop, Frederick County UME Office

Visit [www.mdfarmbureau.com/about/events](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/about/events) for more details and an updated schedule of events.

## A Message from the Executive Director

What is our Why? Our unique proposition? Why are members part of our club? Who do we want to be? What do we want to accomplish? What works? What must change? These and more are the topics of the 2018 Strategic Planning focus for Maryland Farm Bureau.

The SP18 Workgroup will be appointed by President Chuck Fry before the end of the year. A handful of new and seasoned Farm Bureau leaders working at the state and county level will be drafted.

Experts from AFBF's Organization division will facilitate multi-day meetings in February and March to hammer out the answers. The recommendations will be reported to our Board of Directors in the Spring and put into action to build and improve our Farm Bureau.

The other organizational focus over the winter will be on perfecting the concept of "Closing the Deal." We are all committed to our Farm Bureau. We talk about the accomplishments. We even identify potential new members. But most of us are uncomfortable closing the deal – asking for – *and getting* – the new membership payment.

As our relationships with partners like Nationwide, Grainger, John Deere and Access Development continue to change and improve, we want to be the most effective *salesmen* for Farm Bureau. We want to learn from the best deal-closers out there about what techniques work. We want to coach grassroots Farm Bureau members so we all become comfortable at identifying the potential new member, selecting the Why statement that will make him or her want to be part of our club, and then walking away with the membership in hand.

Closing the Deal combined with all the other talents of Farm Bureau members will sustain us well into the future. Join us in Ocean City in December as we begin the conversation!

Valerie Connelly  
Executive Director  
Maryland Farm Bureau



## County Farm Bureau Membership Report

As of October 22, 2017.

Based on Membership year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

County Farm Bureau Membership Goals are based upon voting members, represented in the second column. The third column reports the total members paid, including both voting and associate.

If you need to renew your Farm Bureau membership, call **410-922-3426**, ask your regional field representative for a form to mail in, or go online to [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com).

When you join your county Farm Bureau, you are also becoming a member of the Maryland Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF represents more than 6.2 million member families in over 2,800 counties.

As a member of MFB you have access to many discounts, services and programs. We invite you to take full advantage of all your Farm Bureau membership has to offer!

County	YTD Voting Members Paid	YTD All Members Paid
Allegany	16	37
Anne Arundel	103	822
Baltimore	43	1,013
Calvert	33	125
Caroline	55	125
Carroll	80	308
Cecil	51	163
Charles	19	212
Dorchester	34	116
Frederick	101	365
Garrett	28	49
Harford	58	327
Howard	35	257
Kent	34	55
Montgomery	46	802
Prince George's	24	544
Queen Anne's	33	104
St. Mary's	44	122
Somerset	22	60
Talbot	29	114
Washington	41	131
Wicomico	55	154
Worcester	25	100
<b>Maryland Totals</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>6,105</b>

## The Maryland Farm Bureau – 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

**December 3-5, 2017**

The Clarion Resort Hotel  
101st Street, Ocean City, Maryland

### DRAFT SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, December 2, 2017

11:30am - 4:30pm	Young Farmer Conference
4:30 - 5pm	YF 1 <sup>st</sup> Round of Discussion Meet
6:30 - 9:00pm	Young Farmer Dinner / Social at BJs on the Water

#### Sunday, December 3, 2017

8:30am - 12:00pm	YF Achievement Award Interviews (closed program)
8:30 - 11:15am	Young Farmer Excellence in Ag Interviews
10:00 - 11:45am	Young Farmers' Committee Meeting
10:00am	Registration Desk Open
12:00pm	Exhibitors begin setting up displays
12:00pm	Women's Hospitality Room Opens
12:15pm	General Luncheon
1:00 - 1:30pm	YF 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round of Discussion Meet
1:30pm	Women's Leadership Committee Silent Auction
2:00 - 4:30pm	Women's Leadership Committee Meeting
2:00pm	Announcement of Final 4 – YF Discussion Meet
2:30 - 3:00pm	YF Final Round of Discussion Meet
3:00 - 3:30pm	PAC Board Meeting
3:30 - 5:00pm	Cookies & Milk Reception in Exhibit Hall
7:30pm	Vespers Program
8:00pm	Ice Cream Social/Dessert Reception
8:30pm	Membership Recognition Program
9:00 - 10:15pm	Pool Side President's Reception
9:00pm	Miss Maryland Agriculture Program

#### Monday, December 4, 2017

8:30am	Opening Ceremonies of Annual Meeting
9:00am	President's Address
9:20am	Nationwide Address
9:40am	Audit Committee Report
10:00am	Miss Maryland Agriculture Address
10:45am	Break Out Sessions – Round 1 Land as Your Legacy Healthy Soils Workshop Starting with Why, AFBF
11:45am	General Lunch
11:45am	County Presidents & GOAL Lunch
1:00pm	Delegates Reconvene
1:05pm	Nominations Committee Report
1:10pm	Keynote Address - Jerry Carroll Farmer/Comedian
2:10pm	MFB Policy Resolutions Session
3:00 pm	Address by Dr. Craig Beyrouty Dean, UMD AGNR
3:15pm	LEAD Maryland Presentation
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Break Out Sessions – Round 2 Wildlife Management, DNR UMD ALEI – Legal Advice Closing the Deal on Membership
5:30pm	Reception
7:00pm	102 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony
8:30pm	Live Auction
9:30pm	Freezin' for a Reason YF Fundraising Activity

## Slow Moving Vehicle Signs Intended for Farm Equipment

According to numerous reports around the State, Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs have been placed at the end of driveways or along the side of the road to mark entrances. Maryland Farm Bureau would like to remind the public that the orange, six-sided triangular Slow Moving Vehicle signs are intended ONLY for vehicles moving at a slow pace, like most farm equipment. These signs are NOT permitted to be placed along roadways, near driveways or for other purposes.

Maryland Transportation Code 21-805 states that SMV signs are only for use on vehicles that move slower than 25 miles per hour. This important hazard prevention instrument protects the operators of slow moving equipment by warning other motorists as they approach from behind. The use of SMV signs on the road or on a vehicle that moves faster than 25 miles per hour is illegal.

"It is an important safety measure for drivers in Maryland to recognize the sign when it is properly affixed to a tractor or other farm equipment," stated the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau President, Jamie Raley. "Display of these signs anywhere other than farm vehicles is a violation of the transportation law."

Farm Bureau members have also observed SMV signs on the back of trailers that are pulled down the highway at posted speeds, or as reflectors on fences and poles along roadways. This defeats the purpose of the signs because motorists become confused as to the true meaning of the SMV sign.

"Please help protect the men and women who work hard every day to produce your food, fuel and fiber by not placing SMV signs where they do not belong," said Maryland Farm Bureau President Chuck Fry, "especially during this harvest season when there are more combines and farm trucks on the roads."

Sharing the road with motorists unfamiliar with large, slow-moving farm equipment makes for a very dangerous situation. According to the National Safety Council, accidents involving a farm vehicle are five times more likely to produce a fatality than any other type of motor vehicle accident. Maryland farmers are taking every safety precaution available to protect motorists and themselves while traveling in equipment on the roads, including SMV signs, flashing lights and raising all equipment attachments.

If you currently have a SMV sign at the end of your driveway or on a vehicle that moves faster than 25 miles per hour, please consider removing the sign and replacing it with reflective strips/tape, circular metal signs or yellow diamond signs available for purchase at [www.Grainger.com](http://www.Grainger.com) or at your local hardware store.



## Governor Hogan's Team Offers Relief to Farmers Suffering Crop Damage

Preventing bear and deer damage to crops was the topic at a recent meeting between Farm Bureau members and DNR officials. At the direction of Governor Larry Hogan, DNR staff have been meeting regularly with Farm Bureau's Wildlife Management Committee to hammer out more efficient control options.

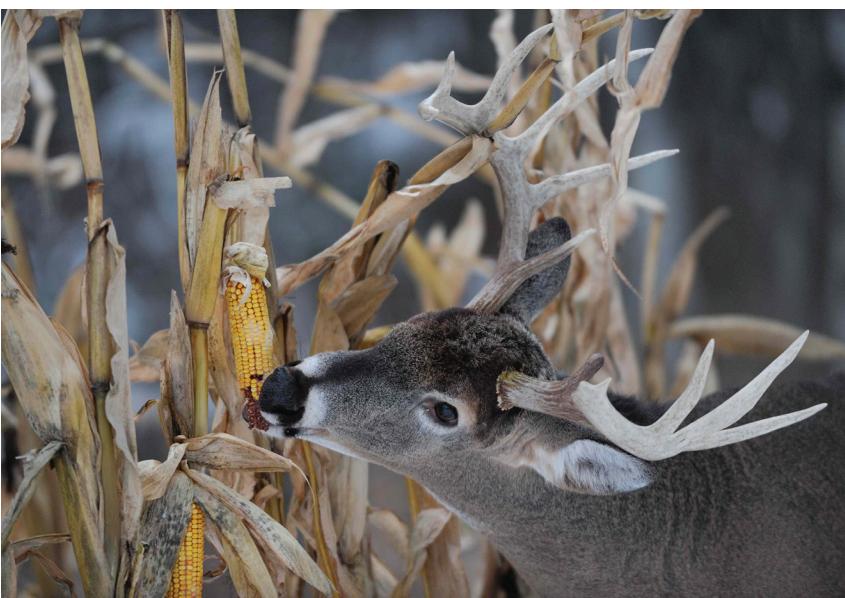
At last month's meeting – the second of three hosted by MFB this fall – DNR unveiled draft plans for a Bear Crop Depredation Permit, night control options under the Deer Depredation Permit, a streamlined Cooperators Permit for farmers and DNR Managed Hunt opportunities for maximum deer herd reduction.

The Bear Permit is available this fall for farmers who work with the regional DNR office. The other programs will be finalized and rolled out before the end of the year. DNR staff will answer questions at Monday's breakout session during Farm Bureau's convention on December 4 in Ocean City.

Governor Hogan pledged to work with us on better wildlife control options in January while meeting with our Board in his State House offices. He reiterated his promise during a summer visit with the MFB Board and County Presidents. Farm Bureau leaders are pleased with the attention paid to the number one complaint of members around the state – the unreasonable loss of crops to under-managed deer, bear and other wildlife populations.

The October meeting included farmers from the lower Eastern Shore with concerns about Sika deer and mid-shore farmers battling whitetail deer. Garrett and Allegany producers discussed bear problems and deer challenges, particularly on farms surrounded by state owned land. Frederick and Carroll farmers outlined the steps they are already taking, which maximize current control methods allowed by the state, but are just not providing enough relief. Anne Arundel and Prince George's farmers expressed frustration over trying to manage deer in heavily populated areas and the need for cooperation and flexibility by DNR police.

As the new deer and bear control options are rolled out this fall, Farm Bureau will weigh in on behalf of our members. We will share the draft plans through the Government Relations Bulletin and on our website as they are unveiled. Please contact Colby Ferguson at Farm Bureau for more information. He can be reached at [cferguson@mdfarmbureau.com](mailto:cferguson@mdfarmbureau.com) or 1-800-248-9012.



### Tuesday, December 5, 2017

7:00 - 8:00am	Board of Directors Breakfast
7:00am	Exhibit Hall Opens Continental Breakfast
8:15 - 9:15am	District Farm Bureau Caucus Meetings
9:30am	Delegates Reconvene
9:45 - 10:30am	MFB Policy Resolutions Amendment Session - Continued
10:35am	2017 Census of Agriculture Dale Hawks, USDA NASS
10:45am	Roll Call before Elections

10:50am	Election of Officers
11:15 - 11:45am	Address by Joe Bartenfelder MD Secretary of Agriculture
12:00pm	General Lunch
1:30pm	Delegates Reconvene
1:40 - 3:45pm	Policy Resolutions Session Continued
3:45pm	Finalize National & State Policy
3:50pm	Closing Remarks - Chuck Fry
4:00pm	Final Motions Delegate Session Concludes Adjournment

We will hold the annual live auction to benefit the MFB Scholarship Fund immediately following the Awards Banquet on Monday evening. Each county is invited to donate one item for the auction. All items will be part of the live auction.

The Women's Leadership Committee will hold a silent auction on Sunday afternoon and through lunch on Monday to benefit the leadership development and education programs. County Women's Leadership Committees are invited to bring one item for the silent auction.

To apply for the Young Farmer Competitive Events, visit our website [mdfarmbureau.com/committees/young-farmers](http://mdfarmbureau.com/committees/young-farmers) or contact Parker Welch at [pwelch@mdfarmbureau.com](mailto:pwelch@mdfarmbureau.com)



YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

**Now Seeking Applicants!**

**MFB YF&R COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

**Discussion Meet • Collegiate Discussion Meet • Excellence in Agriculture • Achievement in Agriculture**

State winners will receive an expense-paid trip to the AFBF National Convention in Nashville, TN & to the AFBF YF&R Convention in Reno, NV, PLUS \$200 credit towards Maryland Young Farmer apparel from LandsEnd.

## 2018 Maryland Farm Bureau Scholarships

Maryland Farm Bureau is offering **five \$2,000 scholarships** to high school seniors starting college in the fall of 2018 or full time college students at any community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Three of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and two scholarships will be offered to non-agricultural curriculum majors.

Selection will be made by a committee designated by Maryland Farm Bureau. To apply, students must return the application form (on our website) and answer the following essay question:

**"WITH 3 TO 5 GENERATIONS REMOVED FROM THE FARM, HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE TO MINIMIZE THE KNOWLEDGE GAP BETWEEN FARMERS AND CONSUMERS AND PROMOTE A MORE POSITIVE IMAGE FOR AGRICULTURE?"**

Essay should be limited to 2 pages, typed, 12-point font, double spaced with normal margins. (NO identifying information! For example, no college names, no 4-H club names, no town or county names, etc.) Any identifying information appearing in the essay will disqualify the application. The selection committee will evaluate each essay anonymously. No student can receive this scholarship more than four times.

Maryland Farm Bureau MUST receive applications and photos by 4:00pm February 1, 2018. Applications and photos should be emailed to [scholarship@mdfarmbureau.com](mailto:scholarship@mdfarmbureau.com). A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of the scholarship application. Scholarships will be awarded to winning applicants in conjunction with high school graduation programs or prior to the beginning of the fall semester. The winner's scholarship check will be made out to the student and the college. The committee reserves the right to interview scholarship applicants if they feel it necessary for determination of winners. Family members of MFB Staff and Officers are ineligible.

**Application deadline is February 1, 2018. Visit [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com) to fill out the application.**

## Hurricane Relief Funds in Texas and Florida

### Hurricane Irma Relief Fund for Agriculture in Florida

Hurricane Irma significantly impacted Florida agriculture throughout the state. Florida Farm Bureau Women's Fund is accepting tax-deductible donations to aid in relief to Florida agriculture devastated by Hurricane Irma.

Checks should be made and sent to:

**Florida Farm Bureau Women's Fund**  
**Memo: Hurricane Irma Relief for Agriculture**  
P.O. Box 147030  
Gainesville, FL 32614

### Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund for Farmers in Texas

Texas Farm Bureau's Agriculture Research and Education Foundation is accepting tax-deductible donations to aid in the relief effort following the devastation from Hurricane Harvey. **This fund will collect and distribute monetary contributions only.** One hundred percent of the donations to this fund will be dispersed via an application process directly to farmers and ranchers located in counties designated as disaster areas by the federal government.

Checks should be made out and sent to:

**Texas Farm Bureau Agriculture Research and Education Foundation**  
**Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund**  
P.O. Box 2689  
Waco, TX 76702-2689  
**Attn: Cyndi Gerik**



#AFBF18

We hope you will join us in Nashville this January for the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The annual conference is an opportunity to meet farmers from around the country, participate in workshops, hear great speakers and debate issues that will impact our ability to farm far into the future. The keynote speaker for this year is country music star Reba McEntire. She will participate in a Q&A session with AFBF President Zippy Duvall on stage. There will also be more than 40 educational workshops to attend that teach about the outlook for agriculture, business acumen, leadership and more.

Visit [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com) to print the registration form.  
Call Valerie Connelly at 410-922-3426 for more information and to reserve your hotel room.

We usually travel with around 60 Maryland Farm Bureau members to the national conference. This includes Young Farmers who compete in competitions, Women's Leadership representatives, our three Voting Delegates and many other farm couples who enjoy the fellowship of traveling with friends.

The travel package we are offering this year allows you to specifically customize your trip. The only required charges are for hotel, convention registration and the Maryland group breakfast. You can also purchase tickets for bus tours, the leadership luncheon or one of the fundraising events to support the AFBF Foundation for Agriculture. These include the Foundation Night Out and the Flapjack Breakfast. You can arrange travel to and from Nashville on your own to build airline points and plan with friends. We recommend arriving on Friday and leaving on Tuesday.



**Gaylord Opryland Resort**  
2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

The Maryland delegation will stay at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. According to the Resort website, you should "Expect an extraordinary experience at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, boasting stylish rooms, modern meeting spaces and a location less than 10 miles from Nashville International Airport. While you can find shopping and dining right under our roof, you'll also want to explore nearby attractions including the Grand Ole Opry, Opry Mills, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the General Jackson Showboat. Our hotel's indoor and outdoor pools and 9 acres of lush, indoor gardens and cascading waterfalls will impress all visitors. When it's time to unwind, return to deluxe accommodations with pillow top mattresses, flat-panel TVs and room service. Start planning your Nashville adventures at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center."