



# The Maryland Farm Bureau Hotline

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**#3 January 31, 2019**

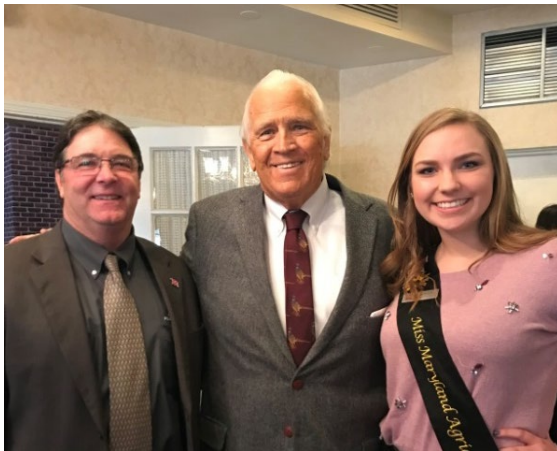
## ***Dates to Remember:***

### **Maryland Taste of Agriculture Dinner**

Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Michael's Eighth Avenue, 7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

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This week in Annapolis nearly 100 farmers from across the state participated in Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis. The morning event on Wednesday featured briefings on issues and breakfast with 60 legislators. We would like to thank all of the farmers who met with legislators over breakfast and in their offices on our priority issues. Several dozen farmers stayed to listen to the Governor's State of the State address before heading home. Finally, we'd like to thank the many legislators on both sides of the aisle who took time to attend our event.

The bills scheduled for hearing next week include:

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

**SB0099 - Anne Arundel County - Public Safety - Buildings Used for Agritourism**

*Senator Elfreth, EHEA, at 1:00pm in 2 West Miller*

This bill adds Anne Arundel County to the list of counties that exempt existing Ag structures that are going to be used for Agritourism from being required to retrofit the structure with bathrooms, sprinklers and other high occupancy requirements. This exemption allows up to 200 people in the structure. The structure must still adhere to the structural integrity standards as well as entrance & exit requirements. The counties already exempt are: Carroll County, Cecil County, Garrett County, and Howard County.

Maryland Farm Bureau policy defines Agritourism as activities conducted on a farm and offered to the public or to invited groups for the purpose of education, recreation, or active involvement in the farm operation. Directly related to this bill, MFB policy reads: We further support the inclusion of specific language in the building code to permit public access to existing, structurally sound, nonresidential buildings without mandated upgrades to the full current codes.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 99**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**HB0050 - Department of Agriculture - Maryland Produce Safety Program**

*Chair of Environment and Transportation Committee on Behalf of Maryland Department of Agriculture, E&T at 1:00pm in 250 HOB*

This legislation would establish the Maryland Produce Safety Program in the Department of Agriculture and give the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct inspection, compliance and enforcement activities for the Produce Safety Rule instead of FDA. As MDA is familiar with Maryland farmers, agricultural practices, agricultural water sources, nutrient management and other relevant state regulations, we are better equipped to assist farmers with compliance while taking into account other state regulations. The legislation does not contain any provisions that would place an additional burden on Maryland farmers.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 50**

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Maryland Farm Bureau members are urged to contact their legislators and members of the relevant committees in support of Farm Bureau's positions on the bills listed above. To contact legislators, log on to the Maryland General Assembly website at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov> and select the "Legislators" Tab at the top.

## Committees & Room Numbers:

Senate: Budget & Taxation (B&T), 3 West Miller; Education, Health & Environmental Affairs (EHEA), 2 West Miller; Finance (FIN), 3 East Miller; Judicial Proceedings (JPR), 2 East Miller

House: Appropriations (APP), 120 HOB; Economic Matters (ECM), 230 HOB; Environment & Transportation (E&T), 250 HOB; Health & Government Operations (HGO), 240 HOB; Judiciary (JUD), 100 HOB; Ways & Means (W&M) 130 HOB

## In Other Ag News

### Delmarva Poultry Adds Air Monitoring Station to Eastern Shore

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI) and the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment are partnering on a first-of-its-kind project to monitor ambient air quality, including levels of ammonia and particulate matter, on Maryland's Eastern Shore and central Maryland. Working with the Maryland Department of the Environment, DPI and the Campbell Foundation have jointly committed more than \$500,000 to this effort. For more information, visit [dpichicken.org](http://dpichicken.org).

### Registration Now Open for Mental Health Workshops



Registration is now open for the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) Mental Health Workshops. These workshops will be targeted towards, but not limited to, agribusiness professionals, crop consultants, extension agents, Farm Bureau leaders, nutrient management planners, agricultural lenders and soil conservation district employees. To register for the workshops, please visit <https://mascdmentalhealth.eventbrite.com> or contact Danielle Bauer at 443-262-8491.

### DNR Seeking Comments on Deer Management Plan

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on the state's management of white-tailed deer. The input will be used to help revise the state's deer management plan for the next 15 years, establishing long-term goals, and identifying specific objectives and strategies for achieving them. Please visit <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/01/28> for more information.