



# NEWSLETTER



## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 27, Issue 1

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### Message to Members

By: *Howie Feaga, President Howard County Farm Bureau*

I hope everyone had a great Christmas, and a Happy New Year. It's always great to get together with family and friends as we put another year behind us. The year overall was a good one, the weather was average (except for a blizzard, tornado, and a flood) markets have been bearable and production was better than many years past.

I want to thank you all for re-electing me as your president for another year. It is an honor to serve as your president and I will do my best to work hard for every one of you, even though we are so diversified we all need to have our voices heard. I want to congratulate Zack Brendel on being elected Vice President, I know he will do his best to help guide the group through the ever-changing challenges that we all face. I also want to welcome the new board members that were elected. They are Michael Calkins, Keith Ohlinger, and Kenny Warfield III, and I know they all bring another perspective to the board to help with all the decisions we need to make. Our nominating committee worked hard to come up with enough nominees to have you all as our members, and elect your new board members. It was the first time in a long time.

The MD Farm Bureau Convention went well. We added lots of policy about Ag Education thanks to Barb Glenn and help from Paula Linthicum and Mike Calkins. The MFB also looked at Solar Energy and Nutrient Trading as how they can be used in our daily lives on the farm. They are both very controversial and need to be looked at carefully. Meanwhile we will have our Annual "Day in Annapolis" in February and that will give us the opportunity to talk to our legislators about all the upcoming legislation. So, as we move into 2017 I wish you all the best of luck and as always, "Keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you"

Howie Feaga, your president

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## Grow Maryland

By: *Kelly Dudeck, Grow & Fortify/Grow Maryland*

Grow Maryland is a new non-profit organization formed to support and promote Maryland's value-added agricultural producers, agritourism operations and small food businesses utilizing Maryland-grown ingredients. We provide resources to streamline the regulatory process, conduct educational outreach activities to county and state level agencies and elected officials, promote value-added enterprises, and work for better laws that support our agricultural and food communities.

Please visit our Facebook page and our website at: [www.growmaryland.org](http://www.growmaryland.org)



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## Extension Launches New Research-Based Initiative for UMD Grown Hops

By: *Graham Binder*



*Mt. Airy's Milkhouse brewery creates limited edition rye pale ale*

Mt Airy, MD. -- University of Maryland Extension had a very proud moment on Wednesday night as

its first ever hop trials were featured in a limited edition rye pale ale, brewed by Milkhouse Brewery, Maryland's first farm brewery located on the outskirts of Frederick. In the words of Tom Barse, Milkhouse Brewery owner, "this was the best first-year hop yard I've ever seen." From 4-6 pm, local brewers, hop producers, state legislators, University of Maryland employees and other special invitees mingled on the Milkhouse property in celebration of Extension's successful effort, one that will lay the groundwork for future research-based work with hops.

This is a distinct point of pride for Extension, the College of AGNR and the University as a whole as it demonstrates the quality of UMD grown products and positions UMD as a major resource for the brewing industry in Maryland. Aside from the excitement surrounding the first-ever beer produced with UMD grown hops, the event was predominantly a celebration of Bryan Butler, UME Extension Agent, and his highly reviewed hop trials at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center for the future benefit of MD hop producers and brewers.

In 2017, Butler plans to yield 24 new varieties of hops, as well as barley. Brewers will have the opportunity to examine and provide feedback on the hops prior to being sent to labs for more scientific data. Butler envisions a highly collaborative relationship with MD brewers to support their production needs. The educational component is the underlying mission of this project and is at the core of the University's land-grant mission to serve as a top-tier resource for state residents.

This opportunity afforded through Extension also has profound implications for farm brewers. With the rapid expansion of the brewing industry throughout the state, local farms have been able to take advantage of a 2012 law allowing on-site brewing, which also mandates the use of locally grown hops. This is a huge win-win for farmers looking for additional avenues of sustainability and for tourists who want a tighter glimpse into farm life.

*Published November 17, 2016*

Research conducted by UME faculty is supported by the Maryland Ag. Experiment Station (MAES) Research and Education Center, which funds and fosters College of AGNR research at all levels. MAES research is conducted both on campus, within the academic units and off-campus in four Research and Education

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## **NEW Concentration in University of Maryland's Certificate of Applied Ag Program**

*Source: Maryland Farm Bureau*



The University of Maryland expanded its undergraduate Certificate of Applied Agriculture program by introducing a new concentration in Agricultural Leadership and Communication. Housed in the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA), the new concentration is accepting incoming freshmen for the Fall 2017 semester. Information about the application process is available at [www.iaa.umd.edu/apply](http://www.iaa.umd.edu/apply). This new academic track is part of a revived certificate program that boasts a job placement rate of more than 90% for program graduates.

The new concentration is designed for students who want to develop their leadership and communication skills in addition to learning how to manage various agricultural enterprises and ecosystems. It brings together knowledge from multiple disciplines, including animal science, plant science, business and communication. Over the course of two years, students complete 60 credits that prepare them for careers in agricultural public relations, advocacy or marketing; agribusiness start-up, management and consulting; or management of agriculture-related associations and nonprofits.

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## **USDA News Release:**

### **USDA Invests \$225 Million in Innovative Conservation Partnerships**

***Addition of 88 projects brings federal, partner investment to over \$2 billion since 2014***

*Source: United States Department of Agriculture Release No. 0269.16*

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2016 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that 88 high-impact projects across the country will receive \$225 million in federal funding as part of the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). In addition, partners have proposed to contribute up to an additional \$500 million to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.

With today's announcement, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is investing a total of \$825 million in 286 projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have committed an estimated \$1.4 billion in financial and technical assistance. By 2018, NRCS and its partners, including Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, private industry, water districts, universities and many others, will have invested at least \$2.4 billion through RCPP, which was created by the 2014 Farm Bill.

"RCPP plays a critical role in connecting partners with producers to design and implement conservation solutions that benefit both natural resources and agriculture," Vilsack said. "The Farm Bill is the largest source of federal funding for private lands conservation, and RCPP is contributing innovative conservation solutions to communities across the country."

RCPP offers new opportunities for the NRCS, conservation partners and agricultural producers to work together to harness innovation, expand the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value

and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation. The [program](#) is increasing investment in conservation from a diversity of partners, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, improved soil and air quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, and stronger rural economies.

Water quality and drought are dominant themes in this year's RCPP project list with 46 of the 88 projects focusing on water resource concerns. More than a fourth of the projects are focused on improving fish and wildlife habitat. See the full list of 2017 projects spanning the country, impacting almost every state in the nation and Puerto Rico.

In California, NRCS is investing \$10 million in the Black Rascal Creek Project, which is proposed by the partnership of Merced County, Merced Irrigation District, and City of Merced. The project will provide flood protection to the communities of Merced and Franklin/Beachwood, as well as surrounding prime agricultural lands, in an area that has seen frequent and severe flooding. In addition to flood control, this multi-benefit project will address drought, water quality, soil quality, and inadequate wildlife habitat. Partners expect to triple the federal investment in the project.

NRCS is also investing \$6 million in the 25,000-square-mile Maine Aquatic Connectivity Restoration Project, which will restore some of the state's highest-value aquatic networks that have been impacted by habitat fragmentation and degradation caused by road-stream crossings. Led by The Nature Conservancy and 18 other partners, the project will use Stream Smart design and installation to improve habitat and aquatic organism passage and reduce the impacts of increasingly volatile storm-water flows. The tribal, state, federal, nonprofit, and private landowner partnership will more than double the NRCS investment.

In Iowa, NRCS is investing \$900,000 in the Fox River Water Quality Project, one of the longest running watershed projects in Iowa. The river has been on Iowa's and Missouri's impaired waters list for many years. In its 18th year, the project is committed to continued conservation efforts improving the health of the Fox River by addressing water quality, conservation, protection, and

development of natural resources using voluntary programs, while providing economic opportunity. The eight partners, led by the Davis County Soil and Water Conservation District, will help producers improve water quality through conservation practices like installing grade stabilization structures, water and sediment control basins, tile outlet terraces, and cover crops.

Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect over 400 million acres nationwide, boosting soil and air quality, cleaning and conserving water and enhancing wildlife habitat. For an interactive look at USDA's work in conservation and forestry over the course of this Administration, visit <http://medium.com/usda-results>

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## **Farmers, Ranchers Welcome Selection of Scott Pruitt to Lead EPA**

*Source: American Farm Bureau Federation*

Farmers, ranchers and many others cheered President-elect Donald Trump's choice of Scott Pruitt to lead EPA. In his position as attorney general in Oklahoma, Pruitt has stood up for common-sense, effective regulation that protects the environment and the rights of the regulated community, according to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

Trump's selection of Pruitt "is welcome news to America's farmers and ranchers—in fact, to all who are threatened by EPA's regulatory overreach—and should help provide a new degree of fairness for U.S. agriculture," Duvall said in a statement.

Noting farmers' appreciation for Pruitt's effective legal work in response to EPA's overreaching Waters of the U.S. rule, Duvall said AFBF anticipates that as EPA administrator, Pruitt will pay attention to the concerns of farmers and ranchers and others who work with the nation's natural resources on a daily basis.

*Agriculture is a profession based on a solid ethic of conservation. It helps guide everything we do, and we expect that Pruitt will understand that in regulatory matters dealing with agriculture and the environment.*

— AFBF President Zippy Duvall

Pruitt led attorneys general from several states in filing one of a number of lawsuits challenging EPA's WOTUS rule.

The EPA administrator must be confirmed by the Senate.

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## **24 Restaurants from Across State Become Members of Maryland Department of Agriculture Maryland's Best Restaurant Promotion**

*Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture*



ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 31, 2016) – Twenty-four restaurants from 12 Maryland counties and Baltimore City have signed up for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Maryland's Best 2016-2017 program. *Maryland's Best* is the source to find the best local food and products from Maryland farmers. The current promotion, "*Maryland's Best Restaurants*" runs through the end of the year.

With so many restaurants already sourcing locally, the campaign recognizes and promotes them for supporting local farmers. *Maryland's Best* encourages restaurants to source, purchase, prepare with and promote local Maryland specialty crops on their menus and online.

Current member restaurants include the following. Go to [www.marylandsbest.net/marylands-best-restaurant-members-eat-local/](http://www.marylandsbest.net/marylands-best-restaurant-members-eat-local/) for details about each:

- Allegany County – Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant
- Anne Arundel County – Boatyard Bar & Grill, Founder's Tavern, Preserve, Severn Inn, Miss Shirley's Cafe
- Baltimore City – Artifact Coffee, The Brewer's Art, Gertrude's, Miss Shirley's Café, Parts & Labor, Woodberry Kitchen
- Baltimore County – Conrad's Seafood Restaurant, Grill at Harryman House
- Carroll County – Brick Ridge Restaurant, Salerno's Restaurant & Catering
- Frederick County – Wine Kitchen on the Creek
- Howard County – AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar
- Kent County – K-B Market and Kitchen School
- Montgomery County – Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain
- Prince George's County – Franklin's Restaurant Brewery and General Store
- Queen Anne's County – Annie's Paramount Steak and Seafood House
- St. Mary's County – Blue Wind Gourmet
- Washington County – Carmine's Creative Italian Cuisine



Follow Maryland Department of Agriculture on Twitter @MdAgDept

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## **FY17 Mathias Ag Program**

By: **Heather D'Arcy, Program Operations Director, EnSave, Inc.**

As announced in the last Newsletter issue, the FY2017 Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program was launched to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the agriculture sector.

MEA will provide grants up to \$150,000 on a competitive basis to farms/businesses in the agricultural sector. Eligible projects include energy efficiency measures and renewable energy measures when done in conjunction with energy efficiency. For the further information, the program

application and other documentation, please visit the 2017 Mathias Ag Program webpage:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/incentives/MathiasAg.aspx>

Even though the program is closed to new applications, please continue to send inquiries. There is information about the program for next year and regarding other funding opportunities.

You may also e-mail [heatherd@ensave.com](mailto:heatherd@ensave.com) for more information.

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## **Maryland Farm Bureau's Day in Annapolis**

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017, the Young Farmers' and the Women's Leadership Committees will jointly sponsor our annual Day in Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The Day in Annapolis is timed to bring you to the State House at a very critical time during the 90 day session – a time when Committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

With so many new legislators in the General Assembly, we need now more than ever to educate our representatives on the value of agriculture to this state. This is a great opportunity to talk to the Senators and Delegates from your area and to help folks from the city districts better understand your farming business. With so many new faces and so many significant issues facing our industry, your attendance this year is as important as ever!

Please see the attached Registration form on page 8! There are more details about this event as well as the schedule of events.

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## **Announcements**

### **❖ Get Involved in Ag Literacy**

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is reaching out to get people involved with helping others learn more about where their food comes from, how farmers and ranchers steward the land, how agriculture is everywhere, and how farmers & ranchers feed the world! These are crucial pieces in creating Ag literacy!

We are working hard to create excellent educational resources that help build awareness and understanding of agriculture. We would like to offer even MORE resources for free, but we can't do it alone - we need YOU! Consider donating to help support our educational efforts.

**Please visit our website:**

<http://www.agfoundation.org/>

### **❖ 2017 Howard County MID-Winter Ag Meeting**

The 2017 Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting will be held at the Gary J. Arthur Glenwood Community Center on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 6:00 PM, with the meeting itself starting at 6:15 PM. Topics include Soil Health, Beneficial Use of Gypsum in Crop Production & Soil Management and updates from Maryland Department of Agriculture on Nutrient Trading and Nutrient Management. Please join us for this informative meeting. The meeting is FREE but it is requested that attendees pre-register by calling the Howard Soil Conservation District at (410)313-0680 before 2/13/17. If special accommodations are needed please contact us by 2/2/17. The Mid-Winter Ag Meeting is sponsored by the Howard Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

# Calendar of Events

\*\*\*2017\*\*\*

## JAN 6-11 AFBF ANNUAL CONVENTION

Place Phoenix, AZ  
Contact: John Hawkins (jhawks@fb.org)

## JAN 10 FINCH SERVICES SPRAYER CLINIC

Place Carroll County Extension Building  
700 Agricultural Center Drive  
Westminster, MD 21157  
Time 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Contact: Bryan Butler ([bbutlers@umd.edu](mailto:bbutlers@umd.edu))  
410-386-2760

## JAN 10 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER & PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

Place Carroll County Extension Building  
700 Agricultural Center Drive  
Westminster, MD 21157  
Time 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Contact: Bryan Butler ([bbutlers@umd.edu](mailto:bbutlers@umd.edu))  
410-386-2760

## JAN 12-14 CASA FUTURE HARVEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Place Marriott, College Park, MD  
\*Early bird registration extended through 1/5

## JAN 14 2017 4-H WINTER WORKSHOP

Place Baltimore County 4-H Office  
Time 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

## JAN 15 MARYLAND 4-H GALA

Place MD State Fair  
Timonium, MD  
Time 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## JAN 24 FARMER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION: UME-HOWARD COUNTY

Place University of Maryland Extension – Howard County Office  
Time 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## JAN 31-FEB 2 MIDATLANTIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONVENTION

Place Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

## FEB 8 MD FARM BUREAU DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Place Calvert House, Annapolis, MD  
Time 8:30 a.m.  
\*Call 410-922-3426 or e-mail  
[abuehler@mdfarmbureau.com](mailto:abuehler@mdfarmbureau.com) to register  
\*See Attached Flyer

## FEB 8 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MIDATLANTIC WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Place Dover Downs Hotel and Casino,  
Dover, DE

## FEB 10 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION EXAM

Place Maryland Department of Agriculture  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## FEB 10-13 2017 FUSION CONFERENCE

Place Pittsburg, PA

## FEB 13 GAP TRAINING FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS

Place Carroll County Extension Office  
700 Agricultural Center Drive  
Westminster, MD 21157  
Time 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Contact: Bryan Butler ([bbutlers@umd.edu](mailto:bbutlers@umd.edu))  
410-386-2760

## FEB 16 HOWARD COUNTY MID-WINTER AG MEETING

Place Gary J. Arthur Glenwood Community Center  
Time 6:00 p.m.  
\*To Register: Call the Howard Soil Conservation District at (410) 313-0680 before 2/13

## FEB 27-MAR 3

### 2017 FARM BUREAU ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Place Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center  
National Harbor, MD  
\*To register, contact your State Farm Bureau

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, if you need special assistance to participate, please contact the



## **Maryland Farm Bureau's Day in Annapolis**

*Sponsored by the MFB Women  
& Young Farmer Committees*



**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017, the Young Farmers' and the Women's Leadership Committees will jointly sponsor our annual Day in Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The Day in Annapolis is timed to bring you to the State House at a very critical time during the 90 day session – a time when Committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

The day will begin with a legislative briefing by the MFB Government Relations staff, followed by a chance to sit in on the legislative session. A hot luncheon at the Calvert House will bring together farmers and legislators from across the state as all legislators will be invited to attend. With so many new legislators in the General Assembly, we need now more than ever to educate our representatives on the value of agriculture to this state. This is a great opportunity to talk to the Senators and Delegates from your area and to help folks from the city districts better understand your farming business. With so many new faces and so many significant issues facing our industry, your attendance this year is as important as ever!

**Please join us for a very valuable day in our state capital. Our goal is to have representation from every county in the state. We look forward to seeing you in Annapolis on February 8, 2017!**

### Schedule of Events

8:15am - Meet in Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle

8:30am - Legislative Briefing by MFB Government Relations Staff

9:45am - Gather in lobby of the State House to greet legislators or visit their offices to meet their staff

10:00am - Sit in on Senate or House sessions or make office visits

11:45am - Lunch with legislators back at the Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle

1:00pm - Visit Committee hearings, stop by legislative offices or head back to the car

**Parking and Directions on Reverse**

----- clip & mail -----

### **Day in Annapolis Registration Form**

*Deadline - January 30, 2017*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

County Farm Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is \$30 per person, which partially covers the cost of the event. Please include the payment with your registration.

If you are registering your entire county delegation, please list a primary contact person with address and the names of the other participants. All confirmation information will be sent to the primary contact.

**Please mail or fax your registration to:**

Maryland Farm Bureau  
3358 Davidsonville Road  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

Fax: 410-798-4800  
Phone: 410-922-3426