

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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March 2017

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Message to Members

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

This year is flying by, when you read this it will already be March. A lot has happened, we have been to Phoenix Arizona to the AFBF convention. Our new president Zippy DuVall, spoke to us and he is optimistic that better times are ahead; he has done a great job so far as our president. We also heard from Peyton Manning and his father Archie Manning, they both talked about the importance of family and hard work, something we can all relate to. We also had the opportunity to tour an open pit copper mine. They mine three quarters of a million dollars of copper every 3 days. The equipment is huge and very costly, and safety is stressed at every level; speaking of levels, we were able to go one level from the bottom of the mine floor. It was a real memorable tour.

Farm Bureau went to Annapolis in February, we saw the Ho. Co. Delegation at work, as well as the Senators and Delegates in session. We had a luncheon for all our representatives to meet and talk with them about current bills that are being introduced this year. Senator Gail Bates and Delegate Warren Miller both came by to let us know they were there for us. I want to thank all the men

and women in Annapolis for all their hard work during the year to keep us moving forward.

At the local level, we have been working to get some legislation for “reverse setbacks” and to strengthen our “Right to Farm” law. In addition to that, the “Tier Legislation” is back once more, we will see where it goes. I don’t want to have any farmer not be able to use their land to its fullest value. But I also don’t want those of us that have promised not to develop and have preserved our farms, to not have the rights that we deserve, such as zoning to help us be more sustainable, and protection from people that want to keep us from doing what we need to do on our farms. Then with no compensation, be used to add value to those land owners who want to develop their land.

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February was the warmest I think we have ever had. I only hope we don't have to pay for that warm weather in March. You know how spring can be real cold some years. Let's hope things will be as normal as possible. When the weather does let us get out in the fields, be safe and take your time as we begin the busy season ahead. So, like I always say "Keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you"

Your President, Howie Feaga

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship

The Howard County Farm Bureau will offer one \$2,000.00 scholarship for someone in the 14 to 16 age range and another \$2000.00 scholarship to someone in the 17 to 19 age range. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be a member of the Howard County Farm Bureau to be eligible. To apply, students must return the attached application form and write an essay. The essay is to be written on:

“What can we do as farm bureau and as farmers to create a better relationship with our neighbors and the community that we live and grow in?”

The winners will receive \$2,000.00 to be used for what they need to buy for school or trade school, such as books, or a laptop computer etc....

The deadline for applications and essays is April 1, 2017

The Scholarships will be awarded at our Legislative Dinner

All decisions on the winner will be made by the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Essays are to be written in number 12 pt. font and be no longer than 2 pages with one inch margins. Entries or questions can be sent to Michael Calkins at Clakins16@gmail.com. If you would like to send

a hard copy please send to the attention of: Michael Calkins, 1626 Daisy Road, Woodbine, MD 21797

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance® Offers Unique 360° Look at Farming During South Beach Wine & Food Festival

Source: *U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance*



360 Degree Video about Food Production Technology Brings the Farm Directly to Consumers

Miami Beach, Fla. (February 21, 2017) – At the upcoming South Beach Food & Wine Festival, a national event showcasing the talents of some of the world's most renowned chefs and culinary personalities, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance® (USFRA®) will share a one-of-a kind experience with event goers. Through USFRA's new 360-degree video, which utilizes a virtual reality (VR)-style headset, booth visitors will have a chance to experience life inside an Illinois pig farm - from the beaches of south Florida. This effort is a part of USFRA's "SMART Farm" initiative aimed at bridging the gap between acceptance of everyday innovation in consumer's lives with science and technology on today's farms.

At its booth in the North Grand Tasting tent, USFRA will be giving away VR viewers to those who watch the 360° video, which highlights several of the many ways farmers are using technology to grow and raise food sustainably. Farmers will also

be on hand to talk about modern food production on today's SMART Farm.

SMART Farms use data and technology to help farmers and ranchers become more efficient, nimble, and more equipped to protect the planet's resources, while producing food. While at South Beach Food & Wine Festival, USFRA will showcase examples of tech innovations that allow for better care for animals, increased sustainability and more efficient resource management on farms and ranches across the nation as they produce food for consumers.

"U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance is excited to be here at South Beach Food & Wine Festival for the first time ever," said Randy Krotz, USFRA Chief Executive Officer. "Because the event ties back to food, it's a great venue for us to showcase the innovation and technology farmers and ranchers are using to produce food in a sustainable way, without compromise on cost, quality or taste."

For more about SMART Farm and other topics in agriculture, visit fooddialogues.com.

About U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance® (USFRA®)

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) consists of about 100 farmer and rancher led organizations and agricultural partners representing virtually all aspects of agriculture, working to engage in dialogue with consumers who have questions about how today's food is grown and raised. USFRA is committed to continuous improvement and supporting U.S. farmers and ranchers' efforts to increase confidence and trust in today's agriculture. To learn more, visit our website at fooddialogues.com. You can also find USFRA on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Article Source:

<http://www.fooddialogues.com/headlines/other/u.s.-farmers-ranchers-alliance%C2%AE-offers-unique-360%CB%9A-look-at-farming-during-south>

Press Release: **Don't Duplicate Antibiotic Regulations in Maryland**

By: Chuck Fry, President, Maryland Farm Bureau

Source: Maryland Farm Bureau

February 14, 2017

Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland's livestock producers recognize the serious problem of antibiotic resistance due to over-prescription. Our farmers have been voluntarily cooperating with veterinarians and public policy makers in developing policies and procedures to address the use of antibiotics in livestock production.

Two Food and Drug Administration regulations addressing this problem took effect on January 1, 2017. One rule removes the usage of antibiotics for animal growth-promotion purposes. The other regulation requires veterinary oversight of drugs designated as medically important that are used to treat sick animals. Maryland's livestock producers are moving forward cooperatively to address this serious health care challenge.

The transference vectors in livestock production have been addressed by regulations through the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Our livestock producers comply with all requirements of their concentrated animal feeding operation permits, including sanitation and the proper management of wastewater and manure disposal.

The "Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017" is proposed legislation intended to make Maryland law more restrictive than the new FDA regulations. Maryland Farm Bureau opposes these bills (HB 602 and SB 422) as they would create several direct conflicts with the FDA regulations. Furthermore, the FDA regulations have only been in effect for six weeks, which is insufficient time to expect measurable results that would warrant the development of additional regulations.

This Act creates a conflict with the definition of disease prevention and will restrict a livestock producer from using common disease prevention methods to administer proper animal husbandry and maintain a healthy herd. Because the federal regulation eliminates over-the-counter antibiotic use, these bills are not necessary and if enacted would actually cause more livestock sickness outbreaks. These additional outbreaks would also increase antibiotic resistance as more sick animals would have to be treated thus leading to more opportunities of resistant bacteria to enter the food chain.

USDA Agricultural Research
News:
Smart Phone App Balances
Conservation and Production

By: Jan Suszkiw

January 25, 2017

New mobile phone applications ("apps") are helping farmers and land managers balance productivity with conservation. Known as the "Land-Potential Knowledge System" (LandPKS), the suite of apps identifies and delivers information about specific soils to anyone with a mobile phone, according to Jeff Herrick, a soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

LandPKS, which includes the LandInfo and LandCover modules, combines cloud computing, digital soil-mapping data, and the Global Positioning System (GPS) to provide information about the sustainable potential of land under current and future climate, adds Herrick, who is with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service's Jornada Experimental Range in Las Cruces.

Herrick and his collaborators developed LandPKS because of the unique challenges that today's producers and land managers face in feeding a

world population of seven billion people while also protecting soil, water, and other natural resources.

The current version of the LandInfo module allows the user to collect soil and site-specific topographic data, while the LandCover module can document ground cover, vegetation height, plant density, and spatial patterns of vegetation affecting soil erosion. The collected information is stored in a centralized, open access database and becomes part of a data system that in the future will identify management options for sites having similar topography, soils, and climatic conditions, Herrick said. The app is available for free at LandPotential.org, the Google Playstore, and the iTunes App Store (by searching "LandPKS").

Herrick is part of an international team that developed, tested, and released the apps as part of a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development. His domestic collaborators include ARS ecologist Jason Karl; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service soil scientists Joel Brown and Skye Wills; and Jason Neff, director of the Sustainability Innovation Lab at University of Colorado, Boulder.



USDA-NRCS rangeland scientist Emilio Carrillo tests the new LandPKS mobile app on his smartphone.

For access to the full magazine article and more information, go to:

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2017/smart-phone-app-balances-conservation-and-production/>

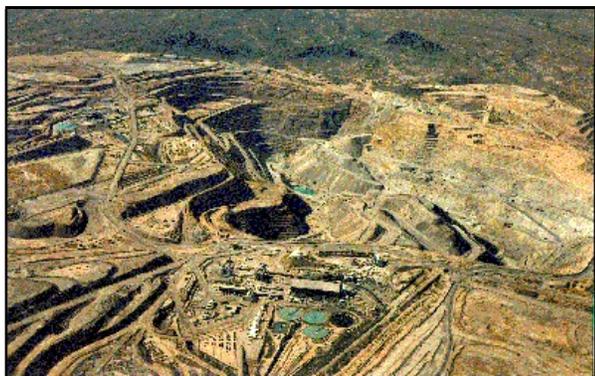
2017 Convention Tour: Open-Pit Copper Mine

Source: ASARCO LLC

This year was the 98th Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The convention was held in Phoenix, Arizona, and members could go on a tour to an open-pit copper mine and visit The Asarco Mineral Discovery Center.

ASARCO was organized in 1899 as **American Smelting And Refining Company**. Originally a consolidation of a number of lead-silver smelting companies, the Company has evolved over the years into an integrated producer of copper, and other metals.

The Company is a fully integrated miner, smelter and refiner of copper in the United States. ASARCO's domestic mines annually produce approximately 350 – 400 million pounds of copper. Significant copper mines include the Mission, Silver Bell and the Ray open-pit mines, all three in Arizona.



Open-Pit Viewpoint on the south rim of the Mission Mine

ASARCO has solvent extraction/electrowinning product at their Ray and Silver Bell mines. ASARCO operates a copper smelter in Hayden, Arizona, which produces almost half a billion pounds of anodes annually. The Company's Amarillo Copper Refinery in Texas and the SX/EW plants at the Ray and Silver Bell mines produce about 375 million pounds of refined copper per year.

A growing collection of historic mining equipment is located on the grounds of the Mineral Discovery Center. The equipment helps tell the story of mining from the perspective of the size of the tools that were used in the past. One of the largest trucks on display is the Komatsu 830-E with a loading capacity of 240 tons! Also on display are two retired haul trucks that carried only 75 and 170 tons of material. The largest trucks now used at ASARCO can carry up to 400 tons! An Insley shovel with a one-cubic-yard bucket and a towed Galion grader are also on display. The grader is notable in that it still bears the dealer nameplate of the Ronstadt dealership that originally sold it in the early 1900's.



Photo Credit:
<http://www.billcaid.com/2013/TucsonVisit29131126/Part6/Part6.html>

ASARCO recognizes and believes that all operations and activities of the Company should be conducted responsibly and in a manner designed to protect the health and safety of its employees, its customers, the public and the environment. ASARCO's operations interact with the environment daily, and consideration of these concerns must be a way of life within the Company. ASARCO is committed to a responsible management of their natural resources.

You can find more information on the ASARCO website: <http://www.asarco.com/>

Farm Bureau News Release: From Trade to Regulations, American Farm Bureau President Urges Farmers and Ranchers to Engage on Full Range of Issues

Source: Maryland Farm Bureau

February 24, 2017

The American Farm Bureau Federation's public policy agenda shares much in common with the Trump administration on issues like regulatory reform and tax reform. But even harder issues such as farm labor and trade should present opportunities to engage with Congress and the White House, alike, AFBF President Zippy Duvall told participants at the USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum.

Duvall, who farms in Georgia, said America's farmers and ranchers have to make their voices heard on "all of these issues."

Duvall expressed optimism over President Trump's nomination of former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to lead the Agriculture Department.

"You couldn't ask for a finer gentleman or a stronger champion for our farmers and ranchers," Duvall said. "I believe he could be one of the all-time great Secretaries of Agriculture. And we need him confirmed so he can get to work."

Duvall called for a measured regulatory regime. "We should not allow regulations to strangle our economy or strangle the innovation and optimism our nation needs," he said. "Many of our farmers are at a breaking point in terms of generating income to cover the cost of production. Increased regulation raises that cost of production, and farmers and ranchers simply cannot bear that burden in today's ag economy."

Duvall cited the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule as an example of federal overreach.

The AFBF President said tax reform is another area where Farm Bureau sees opportunities for positive changes.

"Lowering the business tax rate will go a long way toward helping our economy. But we can't stop there," he said. "We need a tax code that recognizes the financial challenges farmers and ranchers face -- a tax code that encourages the next generation to stay in agriculture."

Duvall recommended caution on immigration policy.

"If we can't get the labor to harvest our crops here in the U.S., we will be importing more fruits and vegetables and other commodities from other countries," he said. "Farm Bureau supports protecting our borders. But we can't just do enforcement and leave our farmers holding the bag. We also need a way for the workers who have been on our farms for years and know their way around a farm to get an adjustment in status and stay here, helping us feed America with American-grown food."

Trade -- a source of roughly one quarter of all U.S. farm production -- remains a matter of serious concern to farmers and ranchers. What's more, Duvall reminded his audience, Mexico remains one of America's largest trading partners. He said AFBF would work to address concerns in NAFTA and TPP, and announced that AFBF would be working with other farm groups to outline how Congress and the administration might address those issues and develop a plan to continue expanding trade.

Agricultural trade policy is yet another reason why Agriculture Secretary Nominee Perdue needs to be confirmed, Duvall added.

Duvall said that as the nation begins consideration of the 2018 farm bill, U.S. agriculture is in a much different place than it was in 2014, when Congress drafted the last version of the measure.

"Commodity prices are obviously much lower," Duvall said. "Farm incomes are down. Farmers

have pulled hard on their cash reserves and cut back on buying new equipment.”

Money remains the greatest challenge facing the new farm bill.

“The Congressional Budget Office baseline for the farm bill has gone down,” Duvall said. “It will be very challenging to find the money to make adjustments in areas such as dairy supports and ARC payments. But we are going to keep reminding Congress and the White House that our farm economy is hurting. Agriculture has given back when we can. In fact the last farm bill made \$23 billion in cuts.”

American agriculture has only asked for help when it was needed, Duvall said, and “Now,” he added, “we need it.”

Article Source: <http://www.fb.org/newsroom/from-trade-to-regulations-american-farm-bureau-president-urges-farmers-and>

Do You Know About Nontraditional Irrigation Water?

Source: University of Maryland Extension



Image Credit: Edwin Remsberg

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers possible nontraditional sources of irrigation water to include recycled, brackish, desalinated, fracking, agricultural runoff, aquaculture, livestock wastewater, and process

waters. With funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, CONSERVE: A Center of Excellence at the Nexus of Sustainable Water Reuse, Food, and Health, a multi-partner project, is focusing on multiple types of nontraditional irrigation water in the Mid-Atlantic and Southwest regions of the United States. The CONSERVE team of researchers, Extension professionals, and educators aim to provide effective on-farm irrigation solutions.

To help steer the future of the center, Extension professionals from the University of Maryland and the University of Arizona are conducting a joint needs assessment survey (<https://go.umd.edu/q5n> (link is external)) among the agricultural community with three goals: 1) assessing prior knowledge of nontraditional water sources; 2) determining concerns; and 3) understanding the most effective outreach methods.

The results of this survey will be used to inform priority areas for CONSERVE researchers as well as direct future educational programming and resource development for farmers in the study areas. The survey will be distributed in several ways, including at a variety of agricultural meetings and electronically through Extension and other networks. If you are a farmer in the Mid-Atlantic or Southwest and would like to take the survey, you can find it here: <https://go.umd.edu/q5n> (link is external).

This survey is open to all individuals who are at least 18 years old. To learn more about CONSERVE, please visit the website at: www.ConserveWaterForFood.org

Published on: February 20, 2017

Announcements

❖ Septic Rebate Bill

Septic Savers is a new Howard County program that aims to promote proper septic maintenance. We offer a **\$100 reimbursement** (about 40% of the cost) to residents who pump their septic tanks every 3-5 years. **Apply for your reimbursement online at:**

<http://www.cleanwaterhoward.com/what-is-your-role/residential-properties/septicsavers>

Hurry--we have limited funds available, as we are just beginning to phase in this program.

Requirements:

- You must have your tank pumped by a licensed septic hauler (there is a complete list on the application)
- Submit proof in the form of an invoice attached to the application
- You must be a residential or agricultural¹ property owner
- You must have pumped no earlier than February 6, 2017

❖ Farm Bureau News – February 2017 Crop Market Update

In his latest crop market report, Record Crop Consumption Could Move Even Higher, AFBF economist John Newton notes that USDA's projections for increased corn and soybean consumption could give farmers a boost.

A more rapid pace of consumption would imply that ending stocks for new crop corn and soybeans could ultimately be lower and would provide a bullish undertone for prices in advance of the 2017/18 planting season and during this key crop insurance spring price discovery period.

Also in this month's report, Newton delves into corn and soybean export projections.

Download the full February 2017 Crop Market Update from the Farm Bureau website:

<http://www.fb.org/news/afbf-econ-team-delivers-february-2017-crop-market-update>

Calendar of Events

2017

MAR 1 PRECISION DAIRY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Place Carroll County Ag Center
706 Agricultural Center Drive
Westminster, MD 21157

Time 9:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Contact: Bryan Butler (bbutlers@umd.edu)
410-386-2760

MAR 4 MARYLAND 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST

Place Hagerstown, MD

Time 8:00 a.m.

MAR 9 POULTRY FARM MANAGEMENT FOR NEW & EXISTING GROWERS

Place Kent County Extension Office

Time 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MAR 10 PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING- HARFORD COUNTY

Place Harford County Extension Office

Time 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MAR 10 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST 2017

Place Baltimore County 4-H Office

Time 6:30 p.m.

MAR 12 SWINE WORKSHOP

Place UME Carroll County
700 Agricultural Center Drive
Westminster, MD 21157

Time 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Becky Ridgeway (bridgewa@umd.edu)
410-386-2760

MAR 18 LEAD MARYLAND GRADUATION/WELCOME/REUNION

Place Annapolis, MD

Time 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MAR 19 MARYLAND 4-H STATE COUNCIL MEETING

Place Maryland 4-H Center

Time 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MAR 25 MFB WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Place Maryland Farm Bureau Office
3358 Davidsonville Road
Davidsonville, MD 21035

Time 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Register by March 21st

Contact Chris Catterton: (410) 279-7452 or

Trish Hildebrand: (410) 404-4724

MAR 31 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER TRAINING - HARFORD COUNTY

Place Harford County Extension Office

Time 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

APR 7 ONLINE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER RECERTIFICATION

Place Online

Time 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

APR 13 ANNUAL HCFB LEGISLATIVE BANQUET

Place Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall

Lisbon, MD

Time 7:00 p.m.

*Banquet Reservation attached! Please complete and mail in

APR 21 ONLINE PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION

Place Online

Time 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

[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

