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#8: March 13, 2020



This will be the last weekly edition of the Hotline for the 2020 General Assembly session, but keep an eye out for a short weekly update email on our priority bills. You can also visit the "[Action Center](#)" on our website and click "Key Legislation" for more information or an update on bill progress.

With the bill crossover deadline Monday, remaining bill hearings will be scheduled on a much shorter notice, sometimes only a day in advance. At this point, most of the hearings will be on bills that have already been heard in their house of origin and have crossed over to the opposite chamber. In addition, many of the remaining bill hearings will be "Sponsor

Only," which means the public may not provide oral testimony but may file written testimony.

We want to thank, Johnathan Quinn, Billy Bishoff, Jo-Ann Chason, Mary Lou Brown, Charles Wright, Lisa Gaver, Frank Bauerlein, Deana Tice, Patrick Hess, Ellie Feaga, Mark Mullineaux, Keith Ohlinger, Susanne Zilberfarb and Doug Lechluder for coming down to testify on priority bills this session.

You will receive the final hotline soon after the close of the Maryland General Assembly on April 6th. Thank you for your support and interest in Maryland agriculture!

In Other Ag News

WYE Mills Trucking Forum Canceled

In light of public health concerns related to COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution, the Maryland Farm Bureau has decided to cancel our final trucking forum at Chesapeake College on the Eastern Shore. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause you.

Community Film Screening of "SILO"

Maryland Farm Bureau and Nationwide are sponsoring a free screening of the film "SILO". SILO is the first ever feature film about a grain bin entrapment. Inspired by true events, SILO follows a harrowing day in an American farm town. Disaster strikes when teenager Cody Rose is entrapped in a 50-foot-tall grain bin. The movie screening is on March 26, 2020 from 6-9 PM at North Caroline High School. [More here.](#)



Webinar: Long-Term Care



Did you know that 7 in 10 Americans age 65 or older will need some form of long-term care (LTC) services during their remaining years? What can you expect and how will you pay for it? Learn more from Nationwide about how, as a farmer, you can better estimate your potential LTC expenses in your community and begin building a plan to fund it. [Register here.](#)

Seeking Nominations for "Dairying for Tomorrow" Awards

Nominations are now open for the annual "Dairying for Tomorrow" awards, presented by the American Dairy Association North East (ADA North East). The awards recognize farmers' production practices that will help sustain the dairy industry now



and into the future. Awards are presented in three categories: animal care, community outreach and environmental stewardship. [More here.](#)

2020 Maryland Farmers Market Conference Postponed



In light of public health concerns related to COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution, the Maryland Department of Agriculture has decided to postpone the 2020 Maryland Farmers Market Conference, originally scheduled for March 18. The department is planning to offer webinars at a later date and will reach out to those who have already registered for the event. Registration fees will be refunded. [More here.](#)

USDA Announces \$37 Million in Grants Available to Local and Regional Food Systems

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service today announced the availability of \$37 million in competitive grant funding under the 2018 Farm Bill's Local Agricultural Marketing Program (LAMP). These grants support the development, coordination and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and enterprises and value-added agricultural products. [Read more here.](#)



2019 Sign-ups for Farm Bill Safety Net Programs Close Monday!



You still have time to contact your local FSA office to enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, two popular safety net programs, for 2019 and 2020 crop year. The deadline for 2019 signup is Monday, March 16 and the 2020 deadline is Tuesday, June 30. All participating farms need to be enrolled no later than these dates. [Sign up today!](#)

Member Benefit: Farm Bureau® Healthcare

Enrolling in Farm Bureau Healthcare is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Click "Let's Get Started" and follow the steps to choose the best healthcare coverage plan for you. Upon completion of plan choice, you will receive an email with a link to your employer dashboard. There you can manage your plans, team members, and billing information. Your team members will receive an email link to a separate portal where they will be asked to begin their own enrollment process. It's as simple as that! [More here.](#)



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