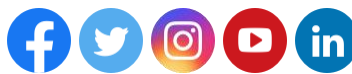




www.marylandfb.org | Contact: [Colby Ferguson](#) or [Pat Wolff](#)



Hotline #2

January 27, 2023



Wednesday, February 8, 2023 | Maryland Farm Bureau Members Only!

8:15 a.m. – Morning Reception

8:30 a.m. – Legislative Briefing

9:45 a.m. – Walk over to the Statehouse / Legislative Offices

11:45 a.m. – Lunch with Legislators – Governor Calvert House

1:00 p.m. – Continue Legislative Meetings / Head Home

Registration: Deadline to register is Sunday, January 29, 2023.

[Register Here](#)

Welcome to the second Hotline of the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session. This week we testified on a pre-filed bill to create an Ombudsman within the Maryland Department of Ag to assist farmers and landowners seeking to start/build a value-added food or meat processing facility. During a summer study of this issue, it was found that farmers need help navigating all the local, state and federal regulations/permits and fees required to start an operation like this. Because of so many new legislators, the bills being introduced this year are slowly coming in.

On Thursday, we had five farmers from around the state join us in Annapolis to offer the “State of Maryland Agriculture” briefing to the House Environment & Transportation Committee. We want to thank Calvert County Farm Bureau member, Jamie Tiralla for representing Maryland Farm Bureau on the panel; Howard County Farm Bureau member, Justin Brendel for representing the MD Grain Producers on the panel; Worcester County Farm Bureau member, Far Nasir for representing the Delmarva Chicken Association; Frederick County Farm Bureau member, Steve Black for representing Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association; and Baltimore County Farm Bureau member, Richard Francis (AKA Farmer Chippy) for representing the Urban Ag sector for representing Maryland farmers on our State of Maryland Agriculture Briefing.

We have another busy week coming up with a few bill hearings and reviewing many more introduced bills. The House bill introduction deadline is February 10 and the Senate bill introduction deadline is February 6, so the legislators will be scrambling to introduce their final bills with the limited time left.

Just a reminder, if you are interested in signing up to testify on a bill or submit written testimony, you will need to do this one day in advance of the bill hearing. If you want to learn how to sign up for bill hearings to either submit written testimony or to testify orally, watch this [video tutorial](#). After watching this video, if you have issues, then reach out to Colby Ferguson for additional assistance. We will not be able to sign you up this year because of the new system.

The Hotline will be posted on the [MDFB website](#) each week. Maryland Farm Bureau members are urged to contact their legislators and members of the relevant committees in support of Maryland Farm Bureau's positions on the bills. Visit Maryland Farm Bureau's [action center](#) to stay up to date on bills we have taken a position on.

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

HB11: Private Well Safety Act of 2023

Delegate Stewart, E&T at 1:00 PM

This bill establishes the Private Well Safety Program and the Private Well Safety Fund, administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), to address and manage the contamination of private wells in the State. The purpose of the special fund is to award grants to “eligible counties” and “covered households” in “ineligible counties” for costs associated with water quality testing and remediation. MDE may adopt regulations to implement the program. The bill also establishes related reporting and outreach requirements as well as requirements for contracts for the sale of real property. MDE must also establish a private well water quality database utilizing an existing online portal to receive water quality tests, as specified.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

HB32: Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Delegate Charkoudian, E&T at 1:00 PM

This bill tweaks the current law to create the Office of Resilience within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. This department will provide the staffing for the council.

MARYLAND FARM
BUREAU SUPPORTS

Thursday, February 2, 2023

SB158: Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing - Requirements

Senator Hettleman, EEE at 2:00 PM

This bill, beginning January 1, 2024, would prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from registering a pesticide for use against mosquitoes in the state of Maryland unless the distributor of the pesticide submits to the Department test results indicating the pesticide has passed the PFAS test and an affidavit attesting to the legitimacy of the PFAS test results. Additionally, the bill, beginning January 1, 2026, would prohibit the Secretary from registering any pesticide for use in the state unless PFAS test results and a certain affidavit are submitted by the distributor.

Currently, there are no PFAS tests available for accurately testing pesticides. The bill allows for the use of drinking water tests and these tests are inaccurate on pesticides as they generate many false positives and negatives.

MARYLAND FARM
BUREAU OPPOSES

Committees & Room Numbers:

Senate: Budget & Taxation (B&T), 3 West Miller; Education, Energy and the Environment (EEE), 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