



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **AFBF President Zippy Duvall Visits Maryland Farms**

Davidsonville, MD (August 23, 2017) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) was honored to host Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), on August 22 to visit various Maryland farms. Mr. Duvall met with more than 40 Maryland farmers and shared his excitement for the future of agriculture in America.

“The most important aspect of our organization is you, our members,” said Duvall to a group of Maryland farmers in Kennedyville, MD. “The grassroots process of Farm Bureau is what makes our policy and actions so effective. This is the most crucial time to be engaged in Farm Bureau. We can make positive changes with an ag-friendly administration in Washington.”

Mr. Duvall spoke to Maryland Farm Bureau members about the top three issues AFBF is hearing from farmers across the country: agricultural labor, regulatory reform and trade. He also discussed the 2018 Farm Bill Workgroup at AFBF and the areas of focus for the next farm bill, including dairy revenue protection, crop insurance funding, the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and keeping nutrition in the farm bill.

“Zippy promised that he would visit all 50 state Farm Bureaus in his first two years as President in order to truly understand all of American agriculture and have real stories to tell our leaders in D.C.,” said MFB President Chuck Fry. “He’s already spent time on farms in 47 states and will visit the last three before the end of the year. This proves his dedication to fighting for farmers and the mission of AFBF.”

During his tour of Maryland farms, Zippy Duvall visited Little Bohemia Creek Farm in Kennedyville, owned and operated by Jonathan Quinn, Cecil County Farm Bureau President. More than 20 Maryland farmers joined Mr. Duvall on this tour and shared how Maryland has been “ahead of the game” in precision agriculture and best management practices to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Jonathan Quinn serves on the Technology Advisory Committee at AFBF and was able to show Mr. Duvall some of the latest agricultural equipment he uses on his farm. Dave Wharry of Hooper, Inc. demonstrated how he collects crop data from a drone to be more specific in the application of water, fertilizer and pesticides on Mr. Quinn’s crops.

Mr. Duvall also visited Seneca Ayr Farms in Laytonsville, owned and operated by Tom and Paula Linthicum, Montgomery County Farm Bureau Vice President and Maryland Farm Bureau

Board member. More than 20 Maryland farmers joined Mr. Duvall on a wagon tour of the grain operation, seeing over 1,000 acres of corn and soybeans.

Tom Linthicum pointed out their new waterways in between fields to decrease erosion and move water from sitting on the crops. The group enjoyed a dinner prepared by Paula Linthicum and other Montgomery County FB members and discussed some of Maryland's specific agricultural issues.

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Maryland Farm Bureau is a private, non-profit membership organization. It is controlled by its members through the democratic process and is financed by voluntary membership dues. Its strength comes from the active participation of over 36,000 member families that belong to the state's 23 county Farm Bureaus. For more than 100 years, Maryland Farm Bureau has served to promote and protect Maryland agriculture and rural life.