



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

For Immediate Release

Contact: Katie Ward kward@mdfarmbureau.com (443) 786-1053

Maryland Farm Bureau Hosted 100th Annual Meeting

Davidsonville, MD (December 14, 2015) – The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) held its 100th Annual Convention from December 6-8 at The Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City with over 500 voting delegates, members and guests in attendance.

The three-day convention featured presentations, awards, elections and discussions to educate members on Farm Bureau activities and the agricultural industry. MFB President Chuck Fry, Nationwide Insurance Board member Sparky Weilnau, Secretary of Ag Joe Bartenfelder, Dean of the University of Maryland's College of AGNR Dr. Beyrouy, and Miss Maryland Agriculture Jenell Eck addressed the members. Trent Loos of Rural Route Radio's "Loos Tales" gave the keynote address about the divide between urban and rural America.

Breakout sessions were held on Monday for members to choose between presentations on topics from energy and agriculture to wildlife issues and aquaculture. During the business sessions on Monday and Tuesday, Farm Bureau voting delegates from all 23 counties reviewed the organization's policy on issues pending before government. The policy positions that were adopted by the delegate body will provide direction for the Farm Bureau lobbying team in Annapolis and in Washington.

"Our members celebrated 100 years of Maryland Farm Bureau during convention," said Chuck Fry, President of MFB. "We reflected on our century of accomplishments and planned for the next century of promoting and protecting Maryland agriculture and rural life."

MFB held a live auction on Monday night to benefit Farm Bureau's Scholarship Fund. There were 23 items, one donated from each member county. The live auction raised a total of \$6,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Bidding also included naming rights for the East Wing Conference Room in the new Davidsonville office. Baltimore County Farm Bureau President Jo-Ann Chason won the bidding of the conference room at \$15,000, which will go towards retiring the building's mortgage debt. The Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee raised \$1,000 for the Maryland Food Bank through the "Freezin' for a Reason" fundraiser on Monday night.

Awards were presented to the following members and Nationwide agents at the Centennial Convention:

- Young Farmer Achievement Award: Jeremiah and Janelle Weddle of Washington County
- Young Farmer Excellence in Agriculture Award: Jamie Tiralla of Calvert County
- 2015 Young Farmer Discussion Meet: Michael Calkins of Howard County
- 2015 Young Farmer Collegiate Discussion Meet: Jenell Eck of Queen Anne's County
- 2015 Silver Bowl Award: Baltimore County Farm Bureau, Jo-Ann Chason, President
- 2015 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award: Dick Price of Baltimore County

- 2015 Top Nationwide Agent: Kelly Coorigan, Prince George's County
- 2015 Top Nationwide Farm Agency: William Staples Insurance Agency Inc.

###

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 the last 100 years, Maryland Farm Bureau has served to promote and protect Maryland agriculture and rural life.