



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Farmers Visit State Capital to Discuss Agricultural Issues

February 9, 2017 (Davidsonville, MD) – More than 120 Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) members traveled to the state capital on Feb. 8 for MFB’s annual Day in Annapolis event to talk with Senators and Delegates about agricultural bills. Sponsored by the Young Farmers and Women’s Leadership Committees, the event featured a legislative briefing by our Government Relations staff and a sit-down lunch with more than 60 legislators at the Governor Calvert House.

“The interaction between farmers and elected officials was extremely valuable,” said Chuck Fry, President of Maryland Farm Bureau. “Many don’t realize how effective it can be to simply share your story with legislators. The more they understand why and how you operate the way you do, the more they will consider your operation and the agricultural industry when drafting and voting on bills.”

Maryland farmers gathered in the State Capitol and at lunch to meet with legislators on issues regarding transportation, wildlife, tax assistance, the environment, dairy and livestock. Members discussed their support of transportation bills for live hauling poultry up to 88,000 pounds GVW on a 5-axel truck (HB 768 and SB 917) and re-establishing the Exceptional Milk Hauling Permit to allow up to 88,000 pounds on a 5-axel truck for the first four months of the year (SB 558). They also shared their support for a bill that authorizes a person to hunt deer under a Deer Management (Crop Damage) Permit on any Sunday throughout the year (HB 788 and SB 844) and for a bill that would exempt an individual who kills or wounds a black bear in defense of a bee colony from DNR penalties (HB 177).

Maryland Farm Bureau members spoke to their legislators about opposing the Maryland Clean Energy Incentive Act (SB 174) because it eliminates the agricultural renewable energy process from qualification for Maryland’s Clean Energy Tax Credit. They also talked about their opposition to the Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017 (SB 422 and HB 602) because it would duplicate the restrictions that were implemented on January 1 of this year through FDA’s regulation (prohibits the use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion and routine, non-Veterinarian approved disease prevention).

Miss Maryland Agriculture Megan Millison of Frederick County was recognized on the Senate floor for her dedication to Maryland’s number one industry. Jennifer Cross, Chair of the MFB Women’s Leadership Committee, and Chuck Fry, MFB President, were also recognized by President of the Senate Mike Miller.

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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.