



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

Grain Bin Safety is a Priority for Maryland Farmers

Davidsonville, MD (January 30, 2017) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) has partnered with Nationwide Insurance to promote Grain Bin Safety Week from February 19-25, 2017. This annual observance increases the awareness of grain bin hazards and brings visibility to the safe work practices and procedures to help reduce the number of preventable injuries and deaths associated with grain handling and storage.

Grain Bin Safety Week 2017 is focused on the critical need for first responders to acquire the specialized rescue training and equipment needed to rescue someone entrapped in a grain bin. The chances of surviving an engulfment are greatly increased if a rescue tube is available to fire departments nearby.

The Nominate Your Fire Department Contest, running from Jan. 1 through May 31, will award grain rescue tubes and specialized hands-on training to help first responders save lives when farmers and other workers become dangerously entrapped in grain bins and other grain storage structures.

“While accident prevention is our No. 1 goal,” said Brad Liggett, president of Nationwide Agribusiness, “we’re committed to helping equip first responders with the necessary grain rescue equipment and training.”

According to Nationwide, 19 grain rescue tubes were awarded in 2016 across 14 states. It takes only seconds to become helplessly trapped in flowing or moving grain, which acts like quicksand and can quickly pull a worker under and cause suffocation. Accidents in grain bins often result in multiple deaths when other workers attempt to rescue co-workers and become trapped as well.

Maryland Farm Bureau and Nationwide Insurance have a strong partnership based on similar organizational goals to protect farmers and those who live in rural areas. MFB is dedicated to training its farming members and local firefighters on the dangers of entering grain bins and what to do if you or someone is trapped inside. Thanks to the training materials and guidance of Nationwide, MFB has been able to conduct grain bin safety courses throughout the state and will continue to train our members in the future.

Along with educational and training materials, the partnership between Nationwide and Maryland Farm Bureau provides MFB members with auto, home and life insurance discounts. Nationwide and MFB have been partners since 1928 and have a program designed specifically for Farm Bureau members to insure their farming practices and equipment.

For more information on grain bin safety, visit www.ws4u.com/home/audience/farmers-ranchers/safety/grain-bin-safety-week. To learn more about Maryland Farm Bureau and become a member, visit mdfarmbureau.com. Thanks to the support of CHS, West Side Salvage, KC Supply Co., the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety and other partners who make this contest possible.

###

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.