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Grain Bin Safety is a Priority for Maryland Farmers

February 22, 2016 (Davidsonville, MD) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) has partnered with Nationwide Insurance to promote [Grain Bin Safety Week](#) from February 21-27, 2016. 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 2016 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 hands-on training to help first responders save lives, thanks to the support of KC Supply Co., the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety and our other [partners](#).

“Grain bin accidents can tragically impact individuals, families and entire communities,” said Brad Liggett, president of Nationwide Agribusiness. “Accident prevention means everyone working together, and Grain Bin Safety Week provides a forum for the agricultural community to help keep people safe.”

According to Nationwide, during the last two years, the national contest awarded tubes and training to 13 fire departments in 12 states. One of those winners, The Westphalia Fire Department in Kansas, used their new skills in 2015 to [rescue a man](#) who became entrapped in some grain. 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, follow Nationwide Agribusiness on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#). To learn more about Maryland Farm Bureau and its relationship with Nationwide, visit mdfarmbureau.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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