



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Ward

[kward@mdfarmbureau.com](mailto:kward@mdfarmbureau.com)

(443)786-1053

### Maryland Farmers Plan for Land Transition

Davidsonville, MD (March 7, 2016) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) participated in a “Breakfast & Business Seminar” with MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Redmer Financial Group and the Maryland Agriculture Resource Council last week to teach farmers the importance of planning for their land’s future.

Speakers at the seminar included Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder, Maryland Farm Bureau Executive Director Valerie Connelly, Vice President of Nationwide Financial Don Schreiber, Jason Wisecarver of Farm Credit and Maryland State Veterinarian Dr. Mike Radebaugh. This seminar is such a relevant and significant topic to Maryland farmers because **over the next 20 years, 70 percent of farmland will change hands.**

Secretary Bartenfelder shared how he transitioned his farming operation to his children when he was appointed by the Governor last year. “I didn’t want to be a crutch for them to lean on anymore when it came to taking care of the farm,” said Sec. Bartenfelder. “I felt confident in their skills and knew they were ready for the responsibilities.”

Valerie Connelly updated the group on agricultural bills Maryland Farm Bureau is fighting and supporting in Annapolis during the 90 day Session. Favorable agricultural bills include increases in gross vehicle weights, income tax subtraction modification, encouraging Ag education in all county schools, and dairy manure transport. Unfavorable agricultural bills include banning antibiotic use in livestock, the use of neonicotinoids, the Poultry Litter Management Act, and the Farmers Rights Act.

Don Schreiber stressed the importance of Nationwide having nine active farmers on its Board of Directors during his *Land as Your Legacy* presentation at the seminar. *Land as Your Legacy* is a transition program free to Nationwide policy holders to create specific plans to pass their farm along to the next generation. This program provides security to families engaged in the agricultural community so the land and businesses they’ve worked for to build will be preserved and remain a legacy for generations to come. “Let the farm speak the loudest when you are succession planning,” said Schreiber. “Listen to the farm when deciding who will take over your operation.”

Jason Wisecarver discussed the different types of crop insurance and causes of loss. “It’s never too early to talk to someone about protecting your crops,” said Wisecarver.

Dr. Mike Radebaugh shared an update on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) across the world and United States. “The best form of prevention for HPAI and LPAI is biosecurity practices to keep your flock safe this year,” said Dr. Radebaugh.

###

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.