



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Farmers Support the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Davidsonville, MD (February 26, 2016) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) supports the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade and investment agreement with 11 other countries in the Pacific Rim. The TPP is a multi-lateral agreement with all 12 members signing agreements with each other.

“Maryland Farm Bureau encourages Congress to ratify this agreement because it has the potential to have a significant, positive impact on Maryland agriculture and the national industry,” said MFB President Chuck Fry. “With Maryland having one of the largest ports in the country in Baltimore, global trading is even more significant to our state.”

In 2014, Maryland exports reached a record **\$12.2 billion**. Accessible through the Chesapeake Bay and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, the Port of Baltimore is the closest East Coast port to the Midwest. Cargo leaving the Port of Baltimore by truck is within an overnight drive of two-thirds of America's population, keeping agricultural imports fresh with quick delivery.

The intellectual property and technology companies in Maryland would also benefit from the TPP because of the increase in trading. With 178,300 workers in 2014, Maryland tech employment density is the fourth highest in the nation.

The TPP is expected to increase cash receipts from Maryland by **\$43.7 million** per year and net exports from Maryland by **\$19.3 million** per year respectively. It is estimated that the increased marketing opportunities for Maryland's farmers and ranchers will add nearly **150 jobs** to the Maryland economy.

Eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers on Maryland's agricultural exports to TPP-partner countries will increase trade for a range of Maryland agricultural products, including poultry, vegetables, soybeans and processed food products. Export sales make an important contribution to Maryland's farm economy, which had total cash receipts of **\$2.4 billion** in 2014.

Maryland's broiler industry leads all other agricultural industries in the state with more than **\$989 million** in cash receipts in 2014. TPP passage is expected to increase poultry cash receipts by **\$13.6 million** per year, which is driven by a \$3.6 million per year increase in direct exports to TPP countries.

Maryland's corn industry produced **\$277 million** in cash receipts in 2014. As a result of TPP, Maryland's net trade of corn declines slightly by \$459.5 thousand, but overall use domestic increases and corn cash receipts rise to **\$3.4 million** as higher feed use is needed to provide for the additional beef and pork exports, rather than being exported as raw commodities.

In 2014, Maryland exported **\$83.2 million** of processed foods to TPP countries. As of 2012, there were **12,328 employees** in Maryland’s food manufacturing sector, with the largest percentage employed in the bakeries and tortilla manufacturing subsector.

“While our farmers and ranchers have a lot to gain with passage, the consequences of not approving the deal would be harmful,” AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. “Every day we delay means lost markets as other TPP countries implement the deal’s advantages with each other. We are already arriving at the party late because, right now, expanded trade due to TPP is going on across the Pacific Rim – just without us.”

GAINS FROM FULL TPP IMPLEMENTATION		
MARYLAND		
Agricultural Product	Cash Receipts	Net Exports
Corn	3,431.4	-459.6
Soybeans and Products	3,672.2	2,059.1
Wheat	205.3	-92.3
Cotton	0.0	0.0
Rice	0.0	0.0
Fruits and Nuts	640.4	570.0
Vegetables	1,977.7	1,760.1
Beef	1,040.5	959.6
Pork	0.0	0.0
Poultry	13,558.7	3,648.8
Dairy	1,453.7	692.5
Other Ag	17,714.4	10,209.8
TOTAL	43,694.2	19,348.0

Thousand \$USD

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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.