



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Ward

kward@mdfarmbureau.com

Young Farmers Won Competitions at Maryland Farm Bureau's 101st Convention

December 13, 2016 (Davidsonville, MD) – The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Young Farmers Committee is pleased to announce the following Young Farmer members who won competitions at the 101st Annual Convention on December 4:

- Jessica Flores won the Maryland Young Farmers Discussion Meet
- Gabrielle Cory won the Maryland Young Farmers Collegiate Discussion Meet

“We are proud to have these young farmers representing Maryland at the national level next year,” said Chuck Fry, President of Maryland Farm Bureau. “This is a great leadership opportunity for the future of Farm Bureau that wouldn’t be possible without the sponsorship from Farm Bureau partners Case IH, Chevrolet and Stihl.”

The Maryland Young Farmers Discussion Meet Competition is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each contestant. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems. The competitors in the 2016 Maryland Young Farmers Discussion Meet were Jessica Flores of Wicomico County, Bret Bucci of Wicomico County and Danielle Bauer of Howard County.

Jessica grew up helping out on her grandparent’s commercial poultry farm. She currently serves as an agriculture agent with the University of Maryland Extension. As an educator, she teaches to all age groups - from commercial producers to elementary students - sharing the importance of supporting farmers in addition to serving as a resource to help area farmers to be successful on the farm. An avid outdoorswoman and equestrian, she helps manage her family’s horse farm “Rusted Star Ranch” and competes throughout the east coast in cowboy mounted shooting.

As the winner of the Maryland Young Farmers Discussion Meet, Jessica won a \$50 VISA gift card and a YETI cooler. She will represent Maryland and travel to Phoenix, AZ in January next year to compete in the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers Discussion Meet.

The Maryland Young Farmers Collegiate Discussion Meet is similar to the Young Farmers Discussion Meet, but each competitor must be currently enrolled in college. The competitors in the 2016 Maryland Young Farmers Collegiate Discussion Meet were James Thomas of Harford County, Emily Solis of Charles County, Bethany Meyers of Garrett County and Gabrielle Cory of St. Mary’s County.

Gabrielle is a 19 year old from Leonardtown, MD. She currently attends University of Maryland and is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education. Gabrielle is active in her school's Collegiate Farm Bureau, Block and Bridle, Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority, and Student Agriculture Council. Gabrielle is an Agriculture Ambassador for new and transfer students at UMD. She has been involved in agriculture her whole life growing up as a 4-H member showing market lambs.

As the winner of the Maryland Young Farmers Discussion Meet, Gabrielle won a \$50 VISA gift card and a YETI cooler. She will represent Maryland and travel to Pittsburgh, PA next February to compete in the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers Collegiate Discussion Meet.

###

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.