



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

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Connelly Named Next Administrator of Maryland Farm Bureau

Valerie Connelly, an 18-year employee of the Maryland Farm Bureau, has been named as the organization's next Administrator. Connelly will assume her new role effective Nov. 14, upon the retirement of Mel Hollingsworth, the organization's current Administrator.

Maryland Farm Bureau's Administrator serves as the chief executive officer, manages the staff functions and reports to the Board of Directors.

Connelly, 47, currently serves as Maryland Farm Bureau's director of Government Relations, where she has led the lobbying efforts of the organization since 1998.

A native of Harford County, Maryland, Connelly holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the American University in Washington, D.C. For ten years prior to joining Farm Bureau, Connelly served on the staff of three members of Congress. She currently resides in Cecil County with her husband Steve.

Hollingsworth, a native of Indiana, is concluding a 38-year career with Farm Bureau. He worked for Indiana Farm Bureau for over 30 years and for the past eight years as Maryland Farm Bureau's Administrator. When he officially retires on November 13, he and his wife Sharon plan to return to the Indianapolis area.

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 37,000 member families that belong to the state's 23 county Farm Bureaus.