



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

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Ferguson named Government Relations Director

Colby Ferguson will lead the lobbying efforts for the state's largest general agriculture organization. The Frederick County resident has been named the Government Relations Director for Maryland Farm Bureau, replacing Valerie Connelly who is now the organization's Executive Director. Ferguson will begin his role on December 3, 2013.

Ferguson has been the Agriculture Business Development Specialist for Frederick County for the last nine years. In that capacity, he has worked with elected officials at the state and local level to implement legislation important to the farm community.

"We are very pleased and excited to have Colby on board," said Patricia Langenfelder, MFB president. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. We look forward to working with him in our Farm Bureau family."

Prior to his county position, Ferguson worked with Southern States and the Sinclair Cattle Company. He was a 2006 LEAD Maryland fellow and currently serves on the LEAD Maryland Board of Directors. A graduate of Oklahoma State University, he also attended North Carolina State University in pursuit of his masters. Ferguson is an experienced livestock judge and coach and lives with his wife, Stacy, and two children in Woodsboro.

"I am honored to have been selected to take over this valuable position," Ferguson said. "Maryland Farm Bureau is agriculture's voice in Annapolis. Being able to represent that voice is truly an honor and a privilege.

"My agricultural background and experience, as well as a solid working relationship with some legislators in the state will help me greatly in this position," he explained. "I believe that I communicate very well and have always been very good at explaining what goes on in the agricultural industry to people that don't have working knowledge of

it. Agriculture has been the foundation of my entire youth and working career and is my passion.”

Ferguson is anxious to get “up to speed” on state Farm Bureau issues and policies as the next legislative session begins in a few months. “I want to continue to build solid relationships with the state legislators and be known as their go-to guy for agriculture information. It will also be important to promote the real value of the state’s agricultural industry and why it is so important to be viable in all parts of the state. Agriculture is not the alternative to residential growth – agriculture supplies those three meals a day!”

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.

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