



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Katie Ward

kward@mdfarmbureau.com

410-922-3426

Maryland Farm Bureau Hires Ward and Welch

Davidsonville, MD (November 24, 2014) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) recently hired Katie Ward as Communications Specialist and Parker Welch as Eastern Shore Regional Director. Ward is from Denton, MD and Welch is from Chestertown, MD.

As the Communications Specialist for MFB, Ward will manage all media inquiries, online accounts, publications and newsletters. She will work directly with the Executive Director and Government Relations staff to effectively communicate membership benefits and agricultural policy to MFB families and the community.

Prior to joining MFB, Ward worked as an Account Coordinator for DNA Creative Communications, a public relations agency in Greenville, SC. She graduated from Clemson University in 2012 with a B.A. in Communication Studies and a minor in Parks and Recreation Tourism Management. Ward was the President of Clemson's Public Relations Student Society of America and a member of Chi Omega.

"This is a great opportunity to utilize my experience in public relations and advance the Farm Bureau," said Ward. "I am honored to be part of a team that sees the positive impact farming and agriculture has on Maryland."

As the Eastern Shore Regional Director for MFB, Welch will work with the 9 counties from Cecil to Worcester as both the liaison with MFB and as their local affairs representative. He will work with county Farm Bureau Presidents to recognize county issues and provide leadership development training. Welch will also work to increase membership on the Eastern Shore and track local or regional activities that impact farmers.

Prior to joining MFB, Welch wrote for Holstein World and was an Associate Editor and Marketing Assistant. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Tech to earn a degree in Dairy Science and a minor in Professional Writing. Welch has been active in 4-H and several dairy clubs in Maryland and New York.

"As a native of the Eastern Shore, I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the agriculture community where I grew up," said Welch.

Ward started at MFB on November 3 and Welch joined on November 17. Ward will work at the MFB headquarters in Davidsonville 5 days a week and Welch will travel the Eastern Shore counties, reporting to Davidsonville as needed.

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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.