



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

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Maryland Farm Bureau Hosted 99th Annual Meeting

Davidsonville, MD (December 11, 2014) – The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) held its 99th annual meeting from December 7-9 at The Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City with over 500 voting delegates, members and guests in attendance.

The three-day convention featured presentations, awards, elections and discussions to educate members on Farm Bureau activities and the agricultural industry. Governor-elect Larry Hogan joined the meeting on Monday morning and spoke about his support for agriculture in Maryland. MFB President Chuck Fry, Nationwide Insurance Board member Jack Alphin, Secretary of Ag Buddy Hance and Miss Maryland Agriculture Jordan Mister addressed the members. Ariana Vargas of GiveForward gave the keynote address about crowd funding.

Breakout sessions were held on Sunday and Monday for members to choose between presentations on topics from membership and technology to wildlife issues and Ag law. During the business sessions on Monday and Tuesday, Farm Bureau voting delegates from all 23 counties reviewed the organization's policy on issues pending before government. The policy positions that were adopted by the delegate body will provide direction for the Farm Bureau lobbying team in Annapolis and in Washington.

“The future of agriculture rests in the hands and hearts of our member farmers,” said Chuck Fry, President of MFB. “The annual meeting was a great time to celebrate the success of Maryland Farm Bureau this year, network and learn to grow a better, stronger organization.”

MFB held a live auction on Monday night to benefit Farm Bureau's Scholarship Fund. There were 23 items, one donated from each member county. Bidding also included naming rights for the board room in the new Davidsonville office and for the featured farm of the year to be photographed and displayed in the main lobby. MFB past President Pat Langenfelder won the bid on both items, choosing to name the new board room after her county, Kent. Proceeds from the building-related offerings will go towards retiring the mortgage debt.

Awards were presented to the following members and organizations at the convention:

- Young Farmer Achievement Award - Andy Bachman of Harford County
- Young Farmer Excellence in Agriculture Award - Jarrod & Becky Burall of Carroll County
- Winner of the 2014 Young Farmer Discussion Meet - Kevin Warring of Charles County
- Winner of the 2014 Young Farmer Collegiate Discussion Meet - Sarah Rawlings of Carroll County
- 2014 Silver Bowl Award - Fredrick County Farm Bureau, Charles Brault, President
- 2014 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award - Robert Black of Frederick County

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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.