



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Farmers Attend National Conference in San Diego

Davidsonville, MD (January 15, 2015) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) officers, members and staff attended the 2015 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Convention in San Diego, CA from January 9-13. Farm Bureau leaders from all 50 states collaborated to vote on national policy, learn about new Ag trends and technologies, compete for Young Farmer & Rancher awards and celebrate all the organization does for agriculture in the U.S.

MFB President, Chuck Fry, was elected to the AFBF Board of Directors by the Northeast Caucus during the conference. Chuck will represent mid-Atlantic and northeast state Farm Bureaus at a national level as a Board member for AFBF.

Maryland was well represented in the competitions at the AFBF convention. Kevin Warring of Charles County competed in the Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet. Kevin made it to the Sweet Sixteen round where he discussed GMO's with representatives from three other states. With his wife Lauren and daughter Paige, Kevin currently farms 95 acres of grain, 10 acres of hay, and two acres of produce and sells handmade crafts from repurposed tobacco sticks and barn wood.

Jarrod and Becky Burall of Frederick County received the Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award. This honor is to recognize those Farm Bureau members who do not earn the majority of their income from farming. Jarrod is a fulltime crops manager at Coldsprings Farm and Becky is a Registered Nurse at Frederick Memorial Healthcare System and works part time at her family's 1,000 acre farm. The couple farms 100 acres of row crops and assists their 8 year old son with his Holstein, Brown Swiss and Jersey cows started for 4-H projects.

Andy Bachman of Harford County received the Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award. This honor is presented to one Farm Bureau member from each state who earns the majority of their income from farming. Andy works on his family poultry farm as a fourth generation farmer.

Farm Bureau members from Montgomery County participated in the IDEAg Trade Show. Their booth displayed the Farm to Table program to educate attendees on local Ag issues and initiatives, highlight community farms and products, and raise awareness of buying local.

“Progress in Washington will only come from through real but principled compromise,” said Bob Stallman, President of AFBF. “While America’s farmers and ranchers achieved notable victories on the

farm bill and waterways infrastructure legislation in 2014, agriculture must push harder for important policy reforms in 2015.”

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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.