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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Farmers Talk Ag Issues in Annapolis

February 19, 2014 (Davidsonville, MD) – More than 125 Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) members traveled to the state capital on Wednesday for MFB’s annual Day in Annapolis event to talk with Senators and Delegates about agricultural issues. Sponsored by the Young Farmers and Women’s Leadership Committees, the event featured a legislative briefing by our Government Relations staff and a sit-down lunch with more than 60 legislators at the Governor Calvert House.

“Sharing agricultural concerns and issues with Maryland legislators is an important part of what the Farm Bureau does for its members,” said Chuck Fry, President of Maryland Farm Bureau. “But when we bring in our farming members to share their personal stories with legislators is what really gets our point across and our voices heard.”

Many members gathered in the lobby of the State House to greet legislators as they arrived for session and sat in on the morning proceedings or made office visits to discuss ag-related bills. Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder attended lunch to support Maryland farmers in these vital conversations.

Maryland farmers discussed their support of the Crop Damage Permit bill ([SB748](#)) for farmers to better harvest the deer that are damaging their crops by allowing venison to be processed and sold commercially in Maryland. Members also shared their support of the Beginning School after Labor Day bill ([HB389](#) [SB455](#)) to keep students involved in Maryland’s State Fair, 4-H, FFA programs and farm labor during the last two weeks of August.

MFB members told legislators their concerns about certain ag-related bills as well, such as the Neonicotinoid Pesticide Labeling Requirement bill ([SB163](#) [HB605](#)), which would require a warning label and eventually require a license to sell the neonicotinoid pesticide. Farmers also shared their opposition towards the following bills: Cattle, Swine and Poultry Use of Antimicrobial Drugs ([SB463](#) [HB701](#)), Antibiotic Drug Use in Food-Producing Animals ([SB470](#) [HB1075](#)), Public Information Act - Enforcement, Fees and Exemptions for Nutrient Management Plans ([SB695](#) [HB755](#)), Farmers’ Rights Act ([SB532](#) [HB1019](#)), Bay Tax Equity Act ([SB533](#) [HB886](#)), and Phosphorus Management Tool ([SB257](#) [HB381](#)).

Miss Maryland Agriculture, Jordan Mister of Calvert County, was recognized on the House and Senate floors during the Day in Annapolis and received a resolution for her active work in schools and the community to promote agriculture in our state.

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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.