



A Message from the President

Trade Disruption Assistance on the Way



I am happy to announce that [MFB's letter to President Donald Trump](#) and Zippy Duvall's visit to the White House seeking assistance to farmers to offset trade-war hardship was successful.

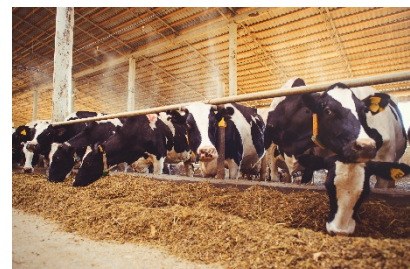
USDA has announced that it will take several actions to assist farmers in response to trade damage from retaliation and trade disruptions. Up to \$16 billion will be available for direct payments to farmers, commodity purchases and promotion programs. \$14.5 billion will be spent on direct payments, with \$1.4 billion being used for food purchase programs and \$100 million for new export market promotion programs. Foreign donations of commodities are not part of this effort. Funds for this program will come from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Payments will be based on a single county rate multiplied by a farm's total planting of those crops in aggregate in 2019. USDA says that payments will be sent to farmers in three phases: the first payment in late July or early August; if conditions warrant, the second and third payments will be made in November and early January. Program payments will not be paid on prevented planted acreage. Per acre or per unit payments are expected for hogs, dairy, tree nuts, fresh sweet cherries, cranberries and fresh grapes.

Misconceptions About Antibiotic Usage in Agriculture

By Colby Ferguson & Emily Solis

There's no arguing that antimicrobial resistance is a concern and something we should be cognizant of. The ability to treat a wide range of diseases and illnesses is an extremely valuable tool that we need to keep effective. Evidence shows that the true cause of antimicrobial resistance is human overuse and misuse. Furthermore, farmers have already taken serious steps to improve antibiotic stewardship. [Read more here.](#)



If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When?

By Randy Dwyer, AFBF Director, Advocacy & Grassroots Development



There's a saying in politics: "If you're not at the table, then you're probably on the menu." Being at the table is extremely important in today's world of politics. While our lobbyists do an excellent job of shaping policy, it's the farmers and ranchers' stories - from the dairy farms, fruit orchards, row crop farms, specialty crop farms and grazing pastures - that need to be heard by legislators. [Read more here.](#)

Crafting a Culture - Farm Bureau 2.0

By Parker Welch, Director of Organization

When you think of Farm Bureau, what is the current perception among members and non-members? Obviously, the response to this question will vary, but it's important that all responses are valued and assessed to craft a plan to be able to communicate and appeal to potential members. There are different motivators for why someone joins and belongs to an organization. Creating a culture where all generations feel they have a voice can be a challenge, but it's a necessity to remain relevant when you are competing for someone's time and money. [Find out more here.](#)



Smart Ways to Save on the Cost of Farm Insurance

The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.



Your farm's or ranch's long-term success is ultimately about profitability. While controlling expenses is one critical component of profitability, so is protecting your farm's or ranch's assets with the right insurance and risk management tools. How can you strike a balance between savings and security? [Here](#) are a few ways to help control costs and risk.

Tire Collection Program a Success

By Ryan Zimmerman, Northern Regional Director

Maryland Farm Bureau partnered with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Environmental Services, as well as county government officials, local landfills, and fairgrounds, to provide tire collection services in Harford, Frederick, Carroll, and Cecil counties. The program was free to any farmer living in one of the designated counties. An estimated 1,700 tons of agricultural tires were collected. We hope to see this



program continue in future years in other counties around the state. We appreciate the support of our members who continue to work for a cleaner environment.

It's Time to Schedule Your Watermelon Harvest Vehicle Inspection

By Valerie Connelly, Executive Director



As you prepare your farm for the harvest season ahead, we want to make sure you include your equipment – particularly your harvest transport equipment – in the preparations. If you use converted school buses or other temporary hauling vehicles to move your watermelons from field to packing shed, you may need the Maryland *Temporary Hauling Vehicle* Tag authorized specifically for that purpose. [Find more here.](#)

Farm Bureau Sets Goal to Raise \$100,000 for RMHC for AFBF Centennial

Helping a sick child fight their illness takes a big toll on a family, and the added financial strain can make it even more difficult. Since 1974 the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) has helped address the needs of these families. The American Farm Bureau Women joined the effort in 1997 with a focus on providing support to local House programs. At the AFBF Annual Convention in New Orleans, the AFB Women's Leadership Committee announced a new goal to raise \$100,000 for RMHC in honor of American Farm Bureau's Centennial. [Donate here.](#)

Member Benefit

Spring is here and it's time to hit the road with the windows down and the radio up! Take advantage of your Maryland Farm Bureau membership, and receive up to 25 percent off Budget car rentals for spring break. Find out more by visiting mdfarmbureau.com/budget.

