

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.



Promoting the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.

Agriculture in Education in Maryland



Briefly About MAEF

- o Established in 1989 - nonprofit, non-governmental
- o Lead by a 25 member Board including 3 ex-officio members:
 - MD State Department of Agriculture - Supt. of Schools
 - University of MD College Park - Provost
 - MD Department of Agriculture - Secretary



Briefly About MAEF

Mobile Science Classrooms
Farm Based Education
High School/Post Secondary
Grants, Facilitation, Advocacy

Teacher Training Workshops
Career Discovery
Maryland FFA



About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

- **Currently**
- 52 High School Programs
- 1 Combination Middle/High School (Hancock)
- 1 Middle School (Hereford)



About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

Maryland FFA

49 Chapters in 19 Counties and Baltimore City
Over 2,400 student members

Counties Without Formal Ag Programs:

- **Allegany** (discussions ongoing future programs)
- **Charles** (recently dropped their program)
- **Howard** (will be starting a new program in 2018-2019 School Year!)
- **Somerset** (will be re-opening the Ag program with the completion of the new Tech Center)



About Agriculture in Education in Maryland



CTE

High school agriculture programs are recognized by MSDE under Career and Technology Education

High school credits earned are CTE credits and not science credits

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Hot Topics

Urban Agriculture

Environmental Literacy

Outdoor Experiences

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Hot Topics

2015 Legislative Task Force

- Student Resources
- Teacher Professional Development
- Career Discovery
- Expand High School Programs

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Hot Topics

2016 Legislation Passed

- Encouraging Maryland school systems to have at least one high school agriculture program
- Del. McKay & Senator Bates

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Hot Topics

Environmental Literacy - became part of COMAR 2011

- Outdoor field-based environmental experience (at least one)
- Inventory and utilize environmental education service providers and resources



About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

Hot Topics

Current Legislation - HB 870

Ambitious bill that defines Agricultural Education in Maryland and requests funding for support of teacher professional development, extended contracts, FFA Affiliate membership for all agricultural education students and more.



About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

Summary

- Not Required - with the exception of 4th grade history, agriculture is not required to be taught in the Maryland public schools
- Integrating Agriculture - taking advantage of the opportunities within the environmental literacy guidelines
for outdoor, off campus and community experiences.
- Why not Agriculture Literacy - as a requirement for graduation?
- Advocacy - continued advocacy for Ag Literacy at all levels
- appears to be making inroads toward a more formal Ag •
literacy standard for education in Maryland



