



**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agricultural Fair Board

Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*
mda.maryland.gov

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-5770 Baltimore/Washington
410-841-5987 Fax

Maryland Agricultural Fair Board

February 20th, 2025 – 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84965038752?pwd=ydhbWddpcKlvSYFMLvThva00htuWN.1>

Meeting ID: 849 6503 8752 Passcode: MAFB

Agenda

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|---|---|
| <p>I. Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions</p> <p>a. David Cavey, Chair</p> | <p>a. Ethics Disclosure Forms</p> |
| <p>II. Approval of November Minutes</p> | <p>IV. Chairperson's Report</p> |
| <p>III. Executive Secretary Report</p> <p>a. Revenue & Funding</p> <p>b. Expenditures (To Date)</p> <p>c. Applications</p> <p>d. Publications & Branding</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. 2025 Brochure</p> <p>e. Animal Health Training, Board Leadership Training</p> <p>f. HB650/SB563</p> <p>g. Regional Fair Distribution</p> | <p>V. Board Member Regional Trends Discussion</p> <p>VI. General Updates & Action Items</p> <p>a. March Meeting Date Reminder</p> <p>b. Board transition plan for 2025-2026</p> |
| | <p>I. Adjourn</p> |

2025 Maryland Agricultural Fair Board			
Harrison Palmer	Executive Secretary		
Name	County	Region	Term
David Cavey, Chair	Baltimore County	Northeast	6/30/2025
Linda Brown, Vice Chair	Talbot County	Mid-Upper Shore	6/30/2025
Carl Hobbs, Vice Chair	Montgomery County	Central-Montgomery	6/30/2026
Annette Braun	St. Mary's County	Southern	6/30/2029
Dr. Stacy Eckles	Anne Arundel County	Central-Howard	6/30/2026
John Murphy	Frederick County	Central-Frederick	6/30/2029
Brittany Nottingham	Wicomico County	Lower Shore	6/30/2029
Becky Stem	Carroll County	Central-Carroll	6/30/2026
Dawn Stiles	Washington County	Western	6/30/2026

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Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

- David Cavey, Chair
- Carl Hobbs, Vice Chair
- Linda Brown, Vice Chair
- Annette Braun
- Dr. Stacy Eckels
- John Murphy
- Bittany Nottingham
- Becky Stem
- Dawn Stiles

Members Absent:

- None

Call to Order:

- The February 2025 Maryland Agricultural Fair Board meeting was called to order by David Cavey, Chair, at 1:04 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve the November 2024 Maryland Agricultural Fair Board meeting minutes was made by Carl Hobbs, second by Becky Stem.

Executive Secretary Report:

- The Executive Secretary updated the board on expenditures from the 2024 grant cycle and outlined starting positions for the board to evaluate for the updating 2025 grants.
 - o HB650/SB563 would move the MAFB funding from the Horse Racing Special Fund into the Maryland Lottery Agency.
- The 2025 brochure is currently in the works and will be prepared for review at the March meeting.
- There were 54 applications for the 2025 MAFB Grants. All applications were received on time with 2 exceptions who had contact with the Executive Secretary before the deadline and were granted extensions.
- The 2024 partnership training with the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Animal Health team was extremely successful, as was the vet/tech accreditation program for

collaboration at the Maryland State Fair. MDA Animal Health & MAFB have gotten approval from the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to pursue a joint program for fairs & shows as well as veterinarians and technicians for continuing education credits that will expand the program.

- The Executive Secretary reached out to the Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows to inquire about collaborating on the Spring Forum to provide the animal health training as well as a board excellence training as components of the Spring Forum event but did not receive positive feedback.
 - o The Board expressed support for MAFB to assist with providing the MDA Animal Health training.
 - o The Board is interested in sending a survey to grant recipients to gauge commitment to a board excellence training in the coming year, but not investing in the training before garnering enough support from the industry.
- All positions on the MAFB are officially appointed, it is a prime opportunity to realign which fairs, shows, and organizations are represented by each member.
- MAFB Board Ethics – all members are appointed by the Governor and must submit a disclosure form to the State Ethics Commission for approval annually to ensure there are no ethical conflicts in operations. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that a supplemental internal ethics policy was not necessary given the State Board of Ethics disclosure was mandatory, but rather a disclosure regarding conflict of interest and agreeing to recuse themselves of decisions involving fairs, shows, or organizations they are involved with would be adequate.

Chairperson's Report:

- David Cavey, Chair, recognized and appreciated the efforts and advancements the board has made over the past 2.5 years with a new Executive Secretary and Secretary of Agriculture.

Regional Trends:

- The board shared trends and observations from their regional meetings for consideration and development.
 - o Fair showmanship and involvement is experiencing a generational growth across the state. Investment into fairs and shows is critical at a time like this to ensure the industry maintains this success.
 - o Some fairs have not had audits in recent years, and some have very basic emergency management plans that are not being followed or promoted to volunteers in the fair/show. This is going to be a continuing focus of the board for the support and protection of the industry.
 - o Social media is one of the most powerful tools for promotion of events regardless of the scale; adoption of social media is a major opportunity for growth.

- Livestock sale prices are on the rise across the state, making it more attractive for youth to get involved.
- Southern Maryland regional fair/show leadership is convening to grow involvement and lean on partnership for success.
- Last years drought had an impact on fruit/vegetable/floral entries.
- Investment into spring shows helps bolster the summer & fall events.

General Updates & Action Items:

New Business:

- The board will meet on Sunday, March 16th 2025 at 2:00 pm, in person at MDA Headquarters in Annapolis.

Dr. Stacey Eckels motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Carl Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison Palmer
Executive Secretary