



Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of Marketing,
Animal Industries and Consumer Services*

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agriculture and Seafood Marketing

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

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5770 Baltimore/Washington
410.841.5987 Fax

Maryland Agricultural Commission Minutes January 11, 2023

Present: Joseph Dymek
Michael Levengood
Cliff Newsome
Paula Linthicum
Rajneesh Kathuria
Frank Allnutt
Amy Crone
Matthew Levi Sellers
Thomas Mullineaux

Absent:

Far Nasir
Benjamin Sowers
Richard Pelz
Gordon Kretser
Dr. Craig Beyrouthy
Mike Pons
Sean Hough

Rebecca Stoecker
Matthew Nielsen
Dr. Marianne Bailey
Benjamin Sowers
Kelly Dudeck
John Murphy

MDA Staff: Steve Connelly
Rich Colburn
Jessica Hackett
Karen Kirksey

Kevin Conroy
Hans Schmidt
Kathy

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 by Amy Crown, who was acting as chairwoman on behalf of Kelly Dudeck.

Approval of Minutes:

After a review of the December minutes and a note was made to correct the spelling of Amy's last name. A motion was made to approve the December minutes, Joe Dymek and seconded by Paula Linthicum.

Staff Updates:**Steve Connelly:**

Announced that Secretary Joe Bartenfelder's last day was January 10th. He has been ask to serve as Acting Secretary in the interim until a new secretary is nominated by the incoming governor-elect and confirmed by the state senate.

Other than initial contact with the transition team in November, there has not been any additional contact. As it relates to the transition, we are in a holding pattern.

The expectation remains for all employees to continue to do good work during the transition and beyond.

The Department of Agriculture is open for business and all employees shall continue to provide excellent customer service.

Joe Dymek personally thanked Steve for being an advocate on behalf of all of Maryland in agriculture.

Rich Colburn:

Nothing to report

Kathy Newhouse

Kelly Value Added Ombudsman

Jessica Hackett:

Taste of Maryland dinner early registration is now open

Commodity Reports:**Agricultural Education in Maryland****Joe Dymek**

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF)

MAEF's Secondary Team will train teachers in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties in February for the "Farm Beats" pilot program, which brings CTE students from computer science and agriculture science together to use technology to inform agricultural decisions (for example, using images captured from drones to identify crop damage, using GIS mapping with harvest data, etc.). This gives the computer science students (and their teachers) experience with agriculture. The Farm Beats program was developed by Microsoft.

MAEF's two scholarships are about to open for application: MAEF Scholarship for college juniors or seniors pursuing an Ag Education or Extension degree; and Seibel Scholarship for students pursuing a degree in Agriculture. More information is available on the website.

MAEF's Velma Clark Award for Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture also is about to begin accepting nominations. If you know a teacher who incorporates agriculture in their classroom, visit the MAEF website to nominate them.

MAEF's Middle School program sent out more than 300 letters to Middle School Counselors in December and is getting ready to send another 500 out. The letters have information about agricultural careers and MAEF and Extension resources. MAEF also ordered kits which incorporate agriculture into middle-school science and will be piloting that with 10 teachers. The kits will have a focus on raising beef.

MAEF's annual calendar has been released! Please visit the website to order to order one!

MAEF's Ag Literacy Week is March 20-24. Volunteer Readers can purchase our selected book, *On the Farm at the Market* for \$10 then schedule a visit to a local K-3rd grade classroom where they read the story, complete a classroom activity, and share their experiences in agriculture. The book is then donated to the classroom library, along with lessons for the classroom teacher to extend the students' learning about agriculture. This program allows YOU to be the face of agriculture for students who may otherwise never know the important role agriculture plays in their daily lives.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

FFA - The State Officers are in Costa Rica January 2-16 for the National FFA International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO).

State FFA Officers continue to support local FFA chapters in supporting their programs.

Maryland 4-H Foundation

This year, 91 4-H youth applied for scholarships offered through the 4-H Foundation, with 47 receiving scholarships totaling \$67,000.

The Maryland 4-H Foundation continues to fund programs that reach more than 47,000 youth who participated in 4-H Livestock programs, STEM education, Camping and Environmental Sciences, and Leadership Development programs.

The Maryland 4-H Foundation has embarked on a fundraising campaign which focuses on providing experiences that go beyond extraordinary to the EPIC. More information can be found on the Maryland 4-H Foundation website.

Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB)

MDFB approved support for a proposal on the future of CTE AG Education within the Maryland Blueprint. MDFB will hold a listening session on January 16 with allied groups to gain support for a draft proposal. MDFB has been working with MAEF and MATA (Maryland Agricultural Teachers Association).

At the MDFB Convention, a Young Farmer Next Generation Summit was held including participation by MD 4-H, FFA and MANRRS. There were several sponsor partners including the Premiere sponsor, Merck Animal Health. Based on its success, MDFB expects to raise this summit to the next level in 2023.

MDFB signed a new MOU with Maryland 4-H at the Convention.

Please contact Barb Glenn if you would like additional information on the MDFB Outreach and Education Committee.

Agribusiness

Tom Millineaux

Dealers are generally "Licking their wounds" after the books have closed on 2022.

Very tight margins on all product groups have resulted on turning over a lot of money but not holding on to much.

Fertilizer transportation is worrisome before 2023 has started.

Although inventories are full, questions remain about availability and prices. Several managers have told me they've found it necessary to request an additional line of credit from their banker. Crop protection suppliers have advised dealers there will be shortages on some products. Those mentioned most Glyphosate and of all things, small grain seed treatments fungicides and insecticides.

Inside sales of tack, clothing etc. are at a standstill. Several dealers reported that feed sales are very low due to prices with horse folks turning to feeding more hay.

Prepay of 2023 inputs have ranged from: OK to Stink to None.

We're waiting on the weather to straighten out, wheat to green up so we can spread fertilizer.

We have to be like our farmer customers ...Looking forward to Spring.

At Large Ag Service I

Frank Allnut

Nothing to report

Bio-Fuel

Rajneesh Kathuria

Nothing to report

Maryland Farm Bureau

Paula Linthicum

Maryland Farm Bureau leadership participated in the American Farm Bureau Federation annual policy review/establishment at the 2023 Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Today is the beginning of the 445th Maryland Legislative Session in Annapolis. [Maryland Farm Bureau Director of Government Relations] Colby Ferguson and team review bills impacting agriculture and determine the course of action as necessary.

Hemp

Matthew Levi Sellers

FDA-CBD Regulation

As the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) carries out a scientific review into marijuana that will inform its federal scheduling status, top officials at the agency say they are months away from releasing a regulatory assessment for hemp-based products like CBD. The FDA was tasked with the responsibility, by Congress, to establish regulations for hemp derived products that might fall under the food and dietary supplement categories since the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law. It's possible that the FDA may ultimately punt back to Congress these responsibilities, as officials have previously said could be necessary in order to forge a regulatory pathway for the plant. After years of inaction by the FDA, the hemp industry has been stifled by regulatory uncertainty. This has led to a patchwork of state regulations in order to fill the regulatory gap, as well as confusion around what hemp-derived products can be sold as hemp.

Summer Study

This is what led to the introduction of SB0788/HB1078 last legislative session. Both bills were amended to a study led by the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) and involving the MDA, Maryland Hemp Coalition, Maryland Healthy Alternatives Association, as well as other cannabis industry stakeholders. The intention of this summer study was to determine appropriate regulations for certain hemp-derived cannabinoids such as delta-8, delta-10 and other THC isomers, most of which are found naturally in the hemp plant.

Throughout the study there were concerns of bias in favor of the medical cannabis industry over the best interests of the hemp industry. Only 27% of the invited participants were directly involved with the hemp industry, while the remainder had a direct involvement with the cannabis industry. This bias has been witnessed nationally with hemp industry claims that large corporations, currently dominating the cannabis industry, are taking steps to control the hemp cannabinoid market established by small family-owned farms.

A final report has been issued by the MMCC to the Maryland state legislature after the conclusion of the study. This report highlights many of the suggestions of reasonable regulations from the hemp industry, but still includes concerning suggestions from the cannabis industry.

The hemp industry looks forward to working with the Maryland state legislature this session for reasonable regulations that allows for the hemp-derived cannabinoids to remain hemp as clearly defined federally.

Fiber and Grain

As the agricultural community looks to other crops to diversify their operations, some have turned their focus to the more industrial side of hemp. A growing topic of discussion, both in the state and nationally, circles around improving hemp regulations to encourage and support hemp grown for fiber and grain. A national movement to establish separate regulations for industrial hemp versus floral hemp is the answer. For the sake of time, I will have more on this topic for the next meeting.

State Grange
Cliff Newsome

According to my MAFE calendar, today is National Milk Day. Drink up everyone!

The Grange is also very interested in proposed bills which will be discussed and voted upon at this year's legislative session. Some of these items are of great concern. They will affect how we farm, our children's' education and environmental conditions.

Carroll County is having their Mid-Winter meetings tomorrow. Frederick County is having a Legislative Day on Feb. 11th at New Midway Fire Hall. We feel that it is necessary that everyone is informed. Contact your local Extension Office to see what meetings are scheduled in your county. Voice your concerns and take action.

Farm Direct
Amy Crone

Wintertime is quiet for the farm direct group; taking time to recharge and plan for the 2023 season. Not much to report other than it is the season of conferences and meetings, as well as a Farm Bill year so some groups are increasing advocacy efforts.

A motion to adjourn was made by Amy Crone and seconded by Joe Dymek. The meeting adjourned at 10:43.