



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of the Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
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Maryland Agricultural Commission

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Maryland Agricultural Commission Minutes February 13, 2019

Present:

Ag Education: Martha Clark
Agribusiness: Tom Fisher
Agritourism: Taylor Huffman
Aquaculture: Talmage Petty
At Large Ag Service: Vanessa Finney
Dairy I: Tim Bishton
Dairy II: David Pyle
Direct Farm Market: Keith Ohlinger

Equine: William Reightler, Jr.
Field Crops: Donald Maring
Food Processing: Cheryl DeBerry
Forestry: Elizabeth Hill
Horticulture: Cole Mangum
Poultry II: Michelle Protani-Chesnik
University: Dr. Craig Beyrouthy
Veterinary: Dr. John Brooks

Absent:

At Large Ag Service: David Roles
Consumer: Carroll Shry, Jr.
Farm Bureau: Jonathan Quinn
Livestock: Scott Barao
Nursery II: Ray Greenstreet

Poultry I: Michael Levensgood
Tobacco: Charles Cox
Turf: Tom Warpinski
Viticulture: Matthew Corey Spies

MDA Staff:

Secretary: Joe Bartenfelder
Deputy Secretary: Julie Oberg
Assistant Secretary: Kevin Conroy
Legislation and Government Relations Director: Cassie Shirk
Director of Communications: Jason Schellhardt
Assistant Secretary: Steve Connelly

Speakers/Guest:

Kevin Sullivan State Director MD/DE/DC USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services

Review of January Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed by the Ag Commission and were approved first by Keith Ohlinger and seconded by Thomas Fisher

Commodity Reports:

Agribusiness- Tom Fisher: The financial challenges in terms of commodity pricing, cash flow, and credit are all creating a perfect storm for growers and dealers this year. Farm income per the Kiplinger Letter has fallen 50% in the last four years and money suppliers such as John Deere Financial and Farm Credit are reducing lines of credit. In some cases John Deere Financial has reduced credit lines 50% even if the customer is paid out. In some cases they are telling customers how to spend money-i.e. on new pick-up trucks. Some growers are not sure how or if they can farm in 2019. Fertilizer pricing has risen about 10-15% and chemicals approximately 2%. Industry people are indicating corn acres could be up and soybean acres could be down. Even though corn costs \$300/acre

generally (excluding land rent, equipment cost, etc.) and soybean about \$175/acre, corn appears to have more upside than beans. (Local corn used up) From the chemistry perspective there is a movement to use more branded glyphosate products (Bayer/Monsanto) at a \$1-\$2/acre premium over generic glyphosate because if there's a weed control issue, Bayer will support the control problems-insurance. Also, there are continuing challenges with Palmer Amaranth control and pressure for farmers to control has increased. The cost of chemicals to control P.A. can easily be an additional \$20-\$30/acre over normal herbicide inputs. In the watermelon world, Maryland and Delaware growers for the last 2-3 years have had it bad with 2018 being terrible. Don't be surprised if 40-50% of these growers stop growing melons.

Ag Education- Martha Clark:

- **New Executive Director Job Announcement** – the MAEF transition committee received over ten applications for this position and have selected several people to interview.
- **Celebrating 30 Years** - MAEF is planning a 30th Anniversary event for May. Stay tuned. Showcase Attendants Needed - the Maryland Agriculture Showcase travels to fairs, festivals, and special events across the state informing the public about Maryland agriculture. MAEF is in search of several attendants, 18 years of age or older, to help manage the Showcase exhibits and activities. The candidates must be flexible with their time and expectations. Some events are just one to three days and others are weeklong. Folks within an easy drive to serve each region including Western Maryland, Central Maryland, Southern Maryland, Lower Shore, and Upper Shore are preferred. Interested people should contact Diana Tyler at 410-939-9030 or dt Tyler@maefonline.com.
- **1 Millionth Student Celebration** - May 15th MAEF will be celebrating the 1 Millionth student to have experienced the mobile science lab programs. The event will take place at Urbana Elementary School in Frederick.
- **Grants** - MAEF has received several very generous grants from various organizations and foundations in Maryland.
- **Supporting Mobile Lab** - Contributions from the Rural Maryland Council and the Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement have been combined to provide \$1,250 reductions in \$1,800 cost of engaging a MAEF mobile science lab for one weekly visit. The sixteen schools this combined grant supports will be responsible for just \$550/ea.
- **Supporting Ag in the Classroom** - a \$25,000 grant from MAERDAF is supporting scholarships for elementary teachers to attend the annual Ag in the Classroom Summer Workshop in June. The grant also funds several important equipment upgrades needed to conduct the five day workshop.
- **Edward Byrd Foundation** - the Byrd Foundation provided \$50,000 to support student access to agricultural experiences, teacher professional development, and other important outreach efforts. This donation is extremely generous.
- **Supporting MD FFA** - MAEF receives a \$40,000 grant each year from the Maryland State Department of Education to help support the leadership of Maryland FFA.
- **MGPUB Grant** - the Maryland Grain Producer's Utilization Board has generously supported MAEF's mobile lab and scholarship programs at varying amounts through the years.
- **Colonial Farm Credit** - generously donates several thousand dollars each year supporting MAEF's outreach and educational efforts. MAEF is very grateful for all the donors and their continued confidence and support for MAEF's educational outreach efforts and successes.

At Large Ag Services- Vanessa Finney: Finished the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. It was the 49th year of the show and has proved to be a strong meeting point. Indicating a strong economy for the nursery industry. MNLGA has worked this past year to develop an economic and statistical survey; expectation is to launch the survey in January 2019 and have a completed report by late fall 2019. The survey includes licensed nurseries, plant dealers, and brokers in state. Wet weather continues to plague retailers. Many landscape contractors, however, continue to report strong business, indicative of a strong economy. MANTS – the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show will be held January 9 – 11, 2019 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Professionals engaged in all aspects of ornamental horticulture are welcome. The LEAD Maryland Foundation board of directors has just selected its fellows for Class XI. Candidates have just received their letters this week. The class will begin its two-year fellowship in February. Meanwhile, Class X has wrapped up its seminar time and is planning its class project, Passport to Twenty Years – A LEAD Maryland Celebration and reflection of the program's first 20 years. This event will be held on April 13, 2019.

Ag-Tourism- Taylor Huffman: There are a few bills in the House and Senate currently that pertain to Agritourism that I thought I would mention. SB0099: Adds Anne Arundel County to the list of counties that exempt agricultural buildings used for agritourism from certain building performance standards; and exempting a building used for agritourism in Anne Arundel County from a certain permit requirement under certain circumstances. The hearing was scheduled for February 5th. HB1271: Expanding the purpose of the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund to include grants to public institutions of higher education for the purpose of promoting the production and consumption of Maryland wine and the production of grapes in the State. A hearing is scheduled for March 7th.

Aquaculture- Talmage Petty: Tal learned this year that oysters really like salt to grow. Low salinity levels caused the oysters to be smaller this year than usual. Good news, there were no mortalities in the larger areas of water. Low salinity levels up in creeks and sanctuaries had high mortalities. Most of the big water areas were ok. The bay is basically full of fresh water. Even lower bay oysters are really sweet right now and it's taking time to fill it back in. The Patuxent River is the deepest river on the east coast and its salinity is currently in the 6% range when it's usually in the 12% range. As for commodity prices, oyster production has doubled on the East Coast for the past 5 years. Every fall think that there is a glut but this time every year people are looking for oysters. Would love to expand the market and start exporting. On the legislative front our issues are not animal rights but "not in my back yard" issues.

Dairy I- Tim Bishton: Governor Hogan announced at the Taste of Maryland \$1.5 million in state funds to help dairy farms participate in the new federal Dairy Margin Coverage Program. These funds will cover the premium cost to sign up for the program. Once in the program, a projected \$17 million of federal funds could be available for distribution to MD dairy farmers. Looking ahead into 2019, milk production is forecasted to grow by 1.03% even with 20,000 fewer cows than the year before. USDA will release the number of licensed dairy herds for each state for 2018 in February. On February 22nd the MD Dairy Convention will be held in Frederick. On Saturday, June 22nd from 9-1 Valley Ho Farm in Middletown, MD will be hosting Breakfast on the Farm.

Dairy II- David Pyle: The biggest highlight to the dairy sector is the state funded aid of \$1.5million. It is my understanding this aid will help MD dairy producers cover the premium associated with the new DMC program when it becomes available. With the chaos in Washington I'm not certain when this program will come available, but the sooner the better. Not a lot of difference in the dairy markets from my last report. But with the government being open for the time being there has been opportunity for good protection with the DRP program at reasonable premiums.

Direct Farm Market- Keith Ohlinger: Accepted for the LEAD MD program. County wide whole scale change in county leadership. Had a legislative breakfast which went really well with full participation from the county council. Soil conservation districts has partnered with the Rural MD Council. There is a Department of Health in the state and some folks have asked if there is a way to borrow a psychologist from them on the basis as needed right now and have them stationed at the Department of Agriculture. CASA Future Harvest had its conference and it went over well. One thing trying to work in a room of 800 people who are under 30 but when you go to farm bureau meeting it is a lot different demographically. Farm bureau had a representative in the vendor area and they have created a new organic and direct marketing committee. In Howard County, they just introduced Howard County Fresh which is a program to get businesses and restaurants to buy local. HB 305 and SB 608 creates the MD Food for MD Institutions Task Force to have local foods supported by local businesses and institutions and MD farm bureau supports that.

Equine- Bill Reightler: In December, the Maryland Stadium Authority released the long anticipated second phase of the study on the future of the Pimlico Race Course. Phase Two of the plan envisions redevelopment of the racetrack and surrounding property. The \$424 million proposal connects the racetrack with the surrounding community with road extensions, mixed use facilities, recreation fields, a park, public events and more. Funding for this project is a huge issue as the Maryland Jockey Club has indicated their resources are focused on Laurel Race Course and the development of Bowie as a future training center. They see Laurel Race Course as the future home of the Preakness Stakes, the second jewel of the Triple Crown. The Maryland Horse Breeders Association is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Since 1929, the organization was founded to encourage, promote, protect and

improve the horse breeding industry in Maryland. Marylanders have been breeding and racing Thoroughbred horses for over 250 years. The Fair Hill Races is celebrating its 85th anniversary. The Elkton Maryland track conducts a spring and fall race meeting. A five-year improvement project is underway with bidding due to the Maryland Stadium Authority in March 2019. Construction of a redesigned race course with an Olympic-sized arena, cross country course, pond, new grandstand, and tunnel under Rt. 273 are to be phased in over 5 years. The five-star, Fair Hill International, a 3-day event is scheduled for October 2020. The Maryland Horse Industry Day was held at the Miller State Office building in Annapolis on February 12. Industry leaders met with in their elected representative's offices to educate and promote the horse industry. Later in the morning, legislators met the gathering for lunch and presentations. Six Maryland-breeds are among early Triple Crown nominees. A total of 632 3-year-old thoroughbreds were made eligible for the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred racing by January 26. six of these are Maryland breeds, Always Mining bred by Avia Pitts, Knicks Go bred by Angie Moore, My Legacy bred by Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Pineau, Our Braintrust bred by Barak Farm, Shazier bred by Dreamtime Stables LLC, and Tritor Gold bred by Copper Penny Stables represent the state in the series beginning in early May.

Field Crops: Donald Maring: Corn in Carroll County is moving good. Most of it goes to Virginia and those mills are looking for it. Grain has had a pretty good bump in price with corn going up a nickel and beans up 10 to 12 cents this is due to the improved export demand. There are signs that the US and China may reach a trade accord that may lead to more purchasing of china's buying corn ethanol and DDG's. President Trump thinking about letting the March 1 deadline slide for the trade agreement with China but would prefer not to do that. Brazil has cut their bean crop due to the dry weather and there can be fines for not paying the minimum freight rates, increasing the freight rates on their grains 100 percent. The lack of the sun caused some of the beans to be smaller. Lower bean yields just due to the lack of sunlight. Hope that the rain pattern is better this year.

Food Processing- Cheryl DeBerry: The Governor helped kick off FeBREWary last week. FeBREWary is Maryland's official month-long celebration of craft beer, with craft brew events on tap across the state. Visit <https://marylandbeer.org/febrewary/> for more information.

Forestry- Elizabeth Hill: I would like to update the Commission on the conversion of Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) from Wood Biomass to Natural Gas. The Maryland Forests Association along with The Association of Forest Industries held a joint legislative reception on February 7th. It was very well attended, and the forest community was able to voice its concerns not only to legislators, but also representatives from the Governor's Office, DNR, and MDA. It is still unclear whether the conversion is set in stone. At the event we appealed to the Governor's Office by not only explaining the impacts, both economic and ecological, but also asked that an alternative advanced wood combustion system be developed and located on the shore to offset any loss due to the conversion of ECI. We also stressed that the timing and scale of these projects is crucial in maintaining the infrastructure of the industry- loggers can't afford to sit idle for long. We are cautiously optimistic that Hogan Administration understands the problem and will assist in finding a solution. Here are some key points from our PERSPECTIVE which was distributed at our luncheon that were not included in my report last month, please let me know if you would like a copy- Direct payments to landowners for wood used to make chips to supply ECI is \$300,000 annually. There are 13 direct jobs to supply chips to ECI - loggers, haulers, and supervisors. These jobs alone account for \$730,000 in payroll annually and 20% in additional benefits. The projected regional economic impact of the conversion would result in the loss of 50 jobs, \$7 million in annual activity, and over \$250,000 in state and local taxes. Readily available data from the US Energy Administration shows that natural gas prices were more than double per BTU when compared to the cost of wood supplied to ECI from 2000-2007. On April 28, 2018 EPA announced its "policy in forthcoming regulatory actions will be to treat biogenic CO2 emissions resulting from the combustion of biomass from managed forests at stationary sources for energy production as carbon neutral". Timing for projects is highly important. Need to have one starting up right after one shutting down so that we don't lose the infrastructure of the industry. Loggers cannot sit still for very long. Would like to take the time to thank Joe for his attendance at the meeting and would like to thank Jonathan for the wonderful article he wrote.

Horticulture- Cole Mangum: Production is ramped up across the state will see peak planting occur over the next 4 to 6 weeks. Toward February and March will see flowers and plants appear at retail. This is a peak time of year for seeing pest from off shore cuttings. As of right now have not seen any but will keep us aware if any appear. As

for 2018 it was the worse year for green house growers for weather as for a financial stand point breaking rain fall records. Everyone is looking forward to a dryer 2019. There is a bill on chlorpyrifos. This is not frequently used anymore in the green house industry. It does however still serve as a tool in the tool box and if you have a resistance pest you still want to have this as an option. The board would also like to thank Cole and his family for the beautiful flowers that were displayed during the Taste of Maryland Event.

Poultry I- Mike Levengood: I have attached some comments that I received from Holly Porter the Executive Director of DPI. There are many pressing issues coming from this year's session. The first attachment is the announcement of the Air Monitoring Partnership and the second is a presentation given to the Republican Caucus on the state of poultry housing and economic impact of chicken on our economy. See Holly's notes below: The press release for the Ambient Air Monitoring Partnership. We are pretty proud of this first-of-its kind adventure, and we think it is a lot more effective in determining if there is an issue with ambient air near poultry houses, than spending millions on a study of all emissions from all CAFOs, as the Community Healthy Air Act bill wants to do. The second attachment is something I shared with the House Republican Caucus, and while we are still assembling the stats for 2018, the important part of these charts is to show the trends. When you present these, along with some of the text below, that I've also been sharing with legislators, it really tells a slightly different story than all the media of "dramatic growth" in the industry. Dramatic Growth – Not true – Rest of economy – in good times we grow, and in recessions we contract. Look at Trends 2008 – 2013 when feed prices were extremely high and other negative factors, the industry contracted; since 2014 we've been growing to make up for that. On the Delmarva Peninsula, we raise about the same number of chickens a year now that we did 20 years ago. With 41% fewer chicken farms and 12% less operational houses - 1990s; which is part of the reason why the new farms on average are larger. Our growth is moderate, and all while the US consumer continues to steadily increase their consumption of chicken, eating on average 92 pounds per year. And this growth has occurred at the same time that the chicken community takes seriously our responsibility to be careful stewards of the land, air and water. We are entering the mid-point assessment of the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland agriculture continues to meet our TMDL requirements, including phosphorous. The issue of industry over supply and working thru a downturn is real and the layouts between flocks for our farmers continue to increase on the shore as some companies are reducing their numbers. This usually occurs in the highest cost growing areas first.

Poultry II- Michelle Protani-Chesnik: The past month has been a chaotic one filled with variable weather; Bills of Insanity are being produced by the Maryland legislature and ups and downs in the actual production of poultry. Out in the field lay out times for a couple of the integrators have greatly improved. Those two have layout times of 14 to 21 days; this is a much needed boost for their growers. There is no way to predict if this is permanent, but it is much welcomed. Two others still have long lay out times. I received a call from a grower in Queen Anne's County looking for help. His integrator has switched for the growing program he is in to a 50 day old bird followed by a 50 day lay out. This gentleman owns several houses and was at that time out of birds for 57 days. People have a difficult time cash flowing, if they can cash flow at all. Another integrator is doing a buy out in attempt to get rid of excess housing. If you grow for them and live in Delaware or Maryland they are offering \$1.50 per square foot of housing to buy out contractual obligations. It is on a first come first serve basis. The company will continue this until those have expended 1.5 million dollars. This may sound like a lot, but you need to consider a new farm with 4 houses on the average would have 158,400 square feet. That would be a payout for the farmer of \$234,600.00. Those houses would have cost the farmer on the low end 2.5 million dollars with land purchase, grading, manure, and composting. This would not consider a residence. As you can see this will not go far and really won't be a solution for new farms, it may help with older farms. Bird health has been good overall and fortunately we have been able to stay away from LT vaccinations. We have been hit with Senate Bill 546 from Senator Pinsky this would cripple all aspects of Agricultural production. This bill would hit and fine those not current with nutrient plans, punish larger farms with fees and monitoring requirements, and play havoc on the ability to move poultry litter from farms. This is basically 3 different bills rolled into one. See attached bill. Senate Bill 542 is the Healthy Air Act. DPI, Keith Campbell Foundation, so we are again facing legislation for air monitoring. Antibiotics are once again an issue with Senator Pinsky and once more after many revisions by MDA he is after more restrictions See attached bill. The cross bill is HB 652. Along with these we are once again looking at a bill to ban the use of Chlorpyrifos. This would be SB 270 and HB 275. One concern is in predatory banking. There are new farmers out here that take out ARMS on housing for 5 and 7 year and you do not buy a chicken house or farm on ARMS. They are not local banks they have come into the area to sell farm loans. When

ARMS come due they try to go to another lender and they are unable to help them. Poultry in Maryland is not far behind dairy. It is very crucial that we continue to focus and address the issue of suicide.

University- Dr. Craig Beyroudy: One of the programs that the university is particularly pleased to work directly with APHIS is called Ag Discovery. This is a program that is offered in the summer time for 9th- 11th graders and is a nationwide program with 20 universities offering such a program. This is a three week program for young individuals that see the possibility of careers in agriculture. They are exposed to the whole suite of opportunities not just from an academic perspective but also from a career perspective. APHIS is heavily involved in that and it is a completely paid for program by APHIS. In terms of student numbers have been trying to increase. They have been hovering around 1,150 or so for the last several years. Last year they were able to increase the number by an additional 60 students. The university is hoping to get student numbers up to 1,700 in the next few years. The university is currently in the commitment stage right now. There are 500 students that have been accepted to the university now the goal is to get them to commit to the university. The average of commitment is around 30-31% need to get at least 31%. Undergraduate population is 75% transfer students and 25% freshman. New person in charge of Ag Alumni Associate is Amanda Clougherty. Amanda started a little less than a year ago and originally worked with the 4H foundation. Currently trying to develop alumni chapters. Students that are not accepted immediately into the university they have worked with the office of admissions so those students will be notified that they have the opportunity to come into the IAA program which is a two year program. They can then move into the Ag forward program after a year which is the 4 yr. program. So they can receive a certificate and a bachelor's degree. Ag education program faculty member, Missy Walsh, has the program up and running with a few students and it is developing a robust curriculum. Investing in a new classroom on campus specifically for Ag education so when individuals come into the program they can experience a classroom setting much like they would experience in the high school setting they would be teaching in. Goal is to get more individuals in the program and have them graduate and then teach the future generations in MD. The university is also implementing an Ag extension program. Also looking at a new program possible a new major but starting as a minor in fermentation/ fermentation science. This will not only focus on alcohol but also in dairy. Need to do a market analysis to see if there is a need for the fermentation program. The Dean of the College of Health and Human Science from Colorado State University and the department head of the fermentation program coming to talk to the university about hurdles they faced and how to get the program up and running. In the area of research working closely with Maryland inner agencies around a water consortium. Working around water to help anticipate salt water intrusion, weather events, and human health. On March 13th the Delmarva University Industry Partnership Poultry Summit. Key note speaker is Dr. Jack Shere, the USDA Chief Officer. There are 8 research facilities around the state having an open house. Building a new facility that will have 22 offices, teaching classrooms, a laboratory, and will house the home garden information center. In terms of biosecurity in poultry doing work with that as well. Have a state of the art poultry house for research. The university has put a offer in for a epidemiologist. In terms of farmer mental health pulled together a solid team of individuals that have developed educational programming around mental health. There are four mental health workshops across MD one on March 5th at the Chesapeake College, March 6th at Harford County Public Library, March 7th at Fredrick Community College, and March 8th at Charles Soil Conservation District. These are programs to reach out to discuss the issues of suicide rates and drug use among the farmers.

Veterinary- Dr. John Brooks: Delmarva Poultry University Industry Partnership Summit March 13th. New Castles disease continues to be an issue in California; however, there has been a report in Utah in a private flock. For primary small pet owners FDA has pulled back some raw meat diets that have a lot of salmonella and listeria complications. Cats and dogs are getting gastroenteritis from salmonella. Raw meat diets are not as glitz and glamour as they carry much higher risk than benefits. Scientist are using a CRISPR gene. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats. This is cutting edge genomic engineering carries with it a services of concerns both from ethics and how it can be affected in human genomic engineering. They are able to create an ability to create and remove and identify specific DNA component that a virus would need to proliferate in a certain animal. They have the first transgenic hatch of chicks that they feel are going to be resistant to avian influenza. The first transgenic chicks will be hatched at Roslin Institute and they have altered the DNA using CRISPR to remove parts of a protein which the flu virus normally depends on making the chickens totally flu resistant. They are looking at it as a buffer between wild avian influenza and human population trying to diminish the likely hood of another pandemic flu in humans. There is an increase in the amount of work in the area of prebiotics, probiotics, and symbiotics in their substitution or modification in the use of antibiotics in food animal

and food production. Proven there is a place, prebiotics are high fiber food and are a better environment for naturally occurring bacteria, and probiotics are things that are used to improve resistance to certain types of disease entities. The question is on cost and how to bring the cost down. It has been indicated in a FDA study that the sale of antibiotics that have been deemed medically important for human use has plummeted in the food animal farm area by 33% in 2016 to 2017 and are down 45% in medical important antibiotics from 2015 which was the peak of sales. Pinsky Bill 471

Presentation Notes (Kevin Sullivan, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services)

- Mission is wildlife damage management
- Increase in predation to livestock in Maryland
- Targeting the correct species is highly important, need to identify what is doing the damage and how to control it
- With bear and deer problems contact DNR
- Domestic dogs can be devastatingly inefficient and are found to be more the cause than coyotes in some counties
- What to do about dogs? Check in with the local ordinates, contact neighbors, each county is different
- Turkey vulture and Black vulture are a big threat to livestock primarily the Black vulture
- 750-1,000 Black vultures are collected and removed each year and are euthanized by a permit from the fish and wildlife
- Birds are protected and need a specialized permit in order to collect and euthanize
- Migratory bird deprivation permit
- The permit cost \$100.00 individually but can take several months to get so apply sooner rather than later
- Wildlife damage management, human health and safety
- \$3.5 million program and only \$300,000 comes from federal funds other \$3.2 million is earned by individuals that pay for the services, trapping, partnership with DNR
- November 15th-March 15th is the trapping season
- National Wildlife disease surveillance program includes west Nile disease, New Castles disease, plague, whatever disease on the month
- Monitoring the new longhorned tick with the MDA
- Sampling of Canada geese for toxicology screening
- Protect aircraft, department of defense for protection of aircraft
- A technician or several employees at the air fields, use pyrotechnics, run up and down runway, propane canons to protect the air craft's from wildlife and this is a constant service
- Deer Corporation permit, farmers can sign up and take a test and they will give the farmers tags to be able to take deer off their farms, the hunting season is February and March and included antlerless deer but they must be checked in within 24 hours of hunt
- Donate all the meat from the projects that they do, it is donated to the Maryland Food bank, last year over 27,000 lbs. of meat was donated
- Migratory Bird Permit call
- Last two weeks in June, Canadian geese lose their flight feathers all at once so when managing them this is the best time
- This group has about 31 staff members
- Can get a state permit from DNR. It is for 90 days but can be renewed, this is for all Maryland resident fur bearing species except for bears and bobcats because there is not a season for bobcats
- Can use this permit to take nuisance species year round, some species you do not need a permit but this is different for each county so call and check before you do anything
- Can get a goose permit from March to September, one way to prevent eggs from hatching is cover them in vegetable oil.

Staff Updates

Secretary Joe Bartenfelder: Wanted to thank Julie and Steve for working so hard and quickly about coming up with the proposal for the dairy industry and look at the farm bill and leverage more funds from that. The dairy emergency fund is more efficient. In every single sector I empathize with everyone. This was the worse

year that we have ever seen with the rain and the commodity prices. The commodity prices were down and the yields were down. Being out in the middle of the night and the rain hits, when rain hits you do not get those weekends back when they get rained out there is a loss of money. When you can go from 40 bushel an acre to 200 bushels an acre and then they average out at 150 an acre. When you lose a whole crop due to the rain. Vegetables need water to grow but they do not grow in water. It's going to take a good 2 to 3 years for farms to get back on their feet. Working hard to help everyone with their recovery.

Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg: Last month we inducted members into the Century Farm Program bringing the total to 187 farms having received the Century Farm designation, 26 designated bicentennial and 4 designated as tricentennial. Harford County is putting on their first symposium for the public and for the farmers on March 16th.

Assistant Secretary Kevin Conroy: For MDA hemp received its first application from a farmer in Queen Anne's and partnered with Chesapeake College. Not sure what the schools appetite is to take on more. A lot of the farmers that have approached us have been approaching the colleges as well and have been very proactive in getting partnerships with the schools. It seems with the farm bill passing more and more schools are getting interested in this. Probably going to be operating under our current rules this growing season. There are some regulatory issues that need to be worked out but that will all take time.

Legislative Director Cassie Shirk: Departmental bill establishes the MD produce safety program within the department and gives MDA the authority to conduct enforcement and inspections related to the produce safety rule house bill 50 senate bill 56 is the regulation of poultry to protect animal health and control avian influenza, give secretary and department the authority to regulate live poultry markets to protect animal health, and control AL. The rest are MALF bills which are clean up in nature and bring some statues into alignment with bills passed last year. All bills have had hearing in their original chamber and are expecting to have cross over in March. Department is reviewing bills internally. Department's budget meeting in the house is scheduled and we are just in the process of looking over things that can affect the MDA or our sister agencies such as the DNR, MDE, and planning. All bills that MDA comments on are under the 2019 legislative section of the MDA page.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica O'Sullivan.