



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of the Secretary

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Maryland Agricultural Commission

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Maryland Agricultural Commission Minutes February 10, 2021

Present:

Ag Education: Martha Clark
Agribusiness: Thomas Mullineaux
Agritourism: Kelly Dudeck
At Large Ag Service: Matthew Levi Sellers
Farm Bureau: Jonathan Quinn
Field Crops: Donald Maring
Food Processing: Cheryl DeBerry

Livestock: Sean Hough
Nursery I: James Raley
Organic Farming: Matthew Nielsen
Poultry I: Michael Levengood
Poultry II: Michelle Protani-Chesnik
University: Dr. Craig Beyrouthy

Absent:

At Large Ag Service: Frank Allnutt
Consumer: Carroll Shry Jr.
Dairy II: David Pyle
Direct Farm Market: Amy Crone
Equine: Michael Pons
Forestry: Elizabeth Hill

Nursery II: Ray Greenstreet
State Grange: Clifford Newsome Jr.
Turf: Tom Warpinski
Veterinary: Dr. John Brooks
Viticulture: Matthew Corey Spies

MDA Staff:

Julie Oberg
Cassie Shirk
Kevin Conroy
Joe Bartenfelder
Rich Colburn
Steve Connelly
Hans Schmidt
Jason Shellhardt

Guest/Speakers:

Allison Roe
Sarah Fielder

Approval of Minutes:

January minutes were approved 1st by Michelle Protaini-Chesnik and 2nd by Martha Clark.

Commodity Reports:

Martha Clark- Ag Education:

- Agriculture in education in Maryland schools is essential to developing college and career readiness skills in students as well as developing informed consumers. Providing these learning opportunities can be easily achieved with the integration and implementation of agricultural studies in Maryland curricula and educational programs. With concepts that span all disciplines of education, Maryland has the opportunity to mold the next generation of scientists, farmers, engineers, and policymakers essential to maintaining a healthy economy and sustainable future.
 - PROGRESS IN AG EDUCATION Recommended topic for fulfilling Maryland Environmental Literacy requirements Expanding high school & middle school Career and Technology Education programs Established Maryland Council for Ag Ed Expanded community interest and support of Urban Ag 4,096 students enrolled in Ag Ed courses 80 agriculture teachers employed.
 - WHY AG IN EDUCATION? Agriculture is the largest commercial industry in Maryland, employing some 350,000 people, including nearly 6,000 full-time farmers, and contributing some \$8.25 billion annually to the economy Raising awareness of agriculture issues Cultivating informed consumers & voters Environmental stewardship, resource conservation & sustainability Filling the Ag career job gap.
 - FUTURE GOALS FOR AG IN EDUCATION Ag education in every grade level at every Maryland school Environmental & Agricultural Literacy as a combined standard for graduation Provide robust Career and College Readiness programs supporting agriculture, resource conservation, and environmental stewardship Increase funding and financial support for ag education programs and learning experiences in every school.
 - As Maryland's number one industry, agriculture is the backbone of our economy and the cornerstone of our communities. As consumers, we are responsible for understanding how the choices we make on a daily basis affect our economy, environment, and society. With an increase in the demand for qualified workers in the field of agriculture and related sciences, it is imperative that Maryland students are exposed to agriculture at an early age.
 - www.maefonline.com
- **Anne Arundel County 2020 Program Statistics:**
 - Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 2 weeks of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Anne Arundel County schools.
 - 24 Anne Arundel County Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 137 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - 2 AACPS participated in MAEF's first Infusing Agriculture in the Elementary Classroom professional development workshop.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network conference.
 - High School & Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$19,490 in economic impact in Anne Arundel County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$4,820 provided in grant funding to high school students through Maryland & National FFA.
 - 1,574 student hours invested in the Anne Arundel County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.

- **Prince George's County 2020 Program Statistics:**
- Elementary & Middle School Education Program:
 - 5 weeks of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Prince George's County schools.
 - \$1,600 provided to Prince George's County Public Schools through Urban Garden Grant Program.
 - \$1,612 in grant funding awarded to Prince George's County Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network conference.
- High School and Post- Secondary Education Program:
 - \$1,177 in economic impact in Prince George's County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$5,000 provided in grant funding to high school students through Maryland & National FFA.
 - Over 76 high school students enrolled in FFA.
 - 938 student hours invested in the Prince George's County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Cecil County 2020 Program Statistics:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 7 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Cecil County Public Schools.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$15,932 in economic impact in Cecil County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$7,864 direct SEA investment to county businesses.
 - 56 high school students enrolled in FFA in Cecil County Public Schools.
 - 176 student hours invested in the Cecil County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Caroline County 2020 Program Statistics:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 7 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Caroline County Public Schools.
 - 4 Caroline County Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 37 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$2,722 in economic impact in Caroline County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$1,212 direct SEA investment to county businesses.
 - \$650 in National FFA Awards.
 - 44 high school students enrolled in FFA in Caroline County Public Schools.
 - 1,424 student hours invested in the Caroline County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Kent County 2020 Program Statistics:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:

- 33 high school students enrolled in FFA in Kent County Public Schools.
- 262 student hours invested in the Kent County community through SEA.
- \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **QUEEN ANNE COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 14 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Queen Anne County Public Schools.
 - 1 QACPS participated in MAEF's first Infusing Agriculture in the Elementary Classroom professional development workshop/
 - 2 schools Queen Anne County Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 125 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- **High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:**
 - \$303,845 in economic impact in Queen Anne County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$15,752 direct SEA investment to Queen Anne County businesses.
 - 41 high school students enrolled in FFA in Queen Anne County Public Schools.
 - 944 student hours invested in the Queen Anne County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **CALVERT COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 10 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Calvert County Public Schools.
 - 31 Calvert County Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 105 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 48 high school students enrolled in FFA in Calvert County Public Schools.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **ST. MARY'S COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 1 SMPS participated in MAEF's first Infusing Agriculture in the Elementary Classroom professional development workshop.
 - 1 St. Mary's County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 125 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 12 high school students enrolled in FFA in St. Mary's County Public Schools.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **WICOMICO COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 8 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Wicomico County Public Schools.
 - \$250 in grant funding awarded to Baltimore City Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - 1 Wicomico County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 125 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.

- 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$1,200 provided in Maryland and National FFA grant funding to students.
 - 19 high school students enrolled in FFA in Wicomico County Public Schools.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **BALTIMORE COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 5 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Baltimore County Public Schools.
 - \$565 in grant funding awarded to Baltimore County Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - \$1000 in grant funding provided to Pleasant Plains Elementary to host Mobile Science Labs at the school.
 - 5 Baltimore County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 40 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$2,500 provided in Maryland and National FFA scholarships provided to students.
 - 26 high school students enrolled in FFA in Baltimore County Public Schools.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **CHARLES COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 5 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Charles County Public Schools.
 - 1 Charles County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 103 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 1 new FFA program started at Maurice J. McDonough High School in the 2019-2020 school year.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 145 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Montgomery County Public Schools.
 - \$1,500 in grant funding awarded to Montgomery County Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - 6 Montgomery County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books 33 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$1,613 in economic impact in Montgomery County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$12,251 direct SEA investment to Montgomery County businesses.
 - 44+ high school students enrolled in FFA in Montgomery County Public Schools.
 - 556 student hours invested in the Montgomery County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **FREDERICK COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**

- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 145 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Frederick County Public Schools.
 - \$250 in grant funding awarded to Baltimore City Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - 6 Frederick County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$215,112 in economic impact in Frederick County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$99,200 direct SEA investment to Frederick County businesses.
 - 44+ high school students enrolled in FFA in Frederick County Public Schools.
 - 1035 student hours invested in the Frederick County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **CARROLL COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 45 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Carroll County Public Schools.
 - 1 Carroll County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - \$106,387 in economic impact in Carroll County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$52,107 direct SEA investment to Carroll County businesses.
 - 223 high school students enrolled in FFA in Carroll County Public Schools.
 - 11,643 student hours invested in the Carroll County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **DORCHESTER COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 45 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Dorchester County Public Schools.
 - 2 Dorchester County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 33 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - 2 Dorchester County Public School teachers participated in MAEF's first Infusing Agriculture in the Elementary Classroom professional development workshop.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 22 high school students enrolled in FFA in Dorchester County Public School.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **GARRETT COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 5 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Garrett County Public Schools.
 - \$1250 in grant funding provided to Garrett County Public Schools to host Mobile Science Labs at the school.
 - 2 Garrett County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 150 students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.

- 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 96 high school students enrolled in FFA in Garrett County Public Schools.
 - \$61,005 in economic impact in Garrett County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$127,131 direct SEA investment to Garrett County businesses.
 - 13,725 student hours invested in the Garrett County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **HARFORD COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 39 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Harford County Public Schools.
 - \$2500 in grant funding provided to Harford County Public Schools to host Mobile Science Labs at the school.
 - 1 Harford County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education:
 - 222 high school students enrolled in FFA in Harford County Public Schools.
 - \$17,584 in economic impact in Harford County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$4,300 received in in National FFA Awards.
 - \$5,000 awarded in National FFA scholarships.
 - \$6,800 direct SEA investment to Harford County businesses.
 - 12,825 student hours invested in the Harford County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **WASHINGTON COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 3 Washington County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 502 Washington County Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post- Secondary Education Program:
 - 367 high school students enrolled in FFA in Washington County Public Schools.
 - \$11,556 in economic impact in Washington County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$1,000 received in in National FFA Awards.
 - \$5,559 direct SEA investment to Washington County businesses.
 - 2,748 student hours invested in the Washington County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **WORCESTER COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 1 Worcester County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 46 high school students enrolled in FFA in Worcester County Public Schools.
 - \$4,038 in economic impact in Worcester County through Maryland FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SEA) Program.
 - \$1,925 direct SEA investment to Worcester County businesses.
 - 948 student hours invested in the Worcester County community through SEA.

- \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **HOWARD COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 3 Howard County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 56 Howard County Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 150 Howard County Public School students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - \$350 provided in grant funding to Howard County Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 16 high school students enrolled in FFA in Howard County Public Schools.
 - \$10,312 direct Supervised Experience in Agriculture (SEA) investment to Howard County businesses.
 - \$1,000 awarded in National FFA scholarships.
 - 652 student hours invested in the Howard County community through SEA.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **BALTIMORE CITY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 10 Baltimore City Public School teachers participated in MAEF's first Infusing Agriculture in the Elementary Classroom professional development workshop.
 - \$1,735 in grant funding awarded to Baltimore City Public Schools through the MAEF Urban Garden Grant.
 - 5 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Baltimore City Public Schools.
 - 3 Baltimore City Public Schools received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 103 Baltimore City Public School students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 96 high school students enrolled in FFA in Baltimore City Public Schools.
 - \$2,000 received in National FFA Awards for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **ALLEGANY COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 2 Allegany County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 135 Allegany County students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - First FFA Chapters established at Allegany High School, Fort Hill High School, and Mountain Ridge High School in 2020.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **TALBOT COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 10 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Talbot County Public Schools.
 - \$1000 in grant funding provided to Talbot County Public Schools to host Mobile Science Labs at the school.
 - 2 Talbot County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.

- 30 Talbot County Talbot County Public School students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
- Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
- 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - 20 high school students enrolled in FFA in Talbot County Public Schools.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.
- **SOMERSET COUNTY 2020 PROGRAM STATISTICS:**
- Elementary and Middle School Education Program:
 - 5 days of Mobile Science Lab visits and ag education instruction provided to Somerset County Public Schools.
 - \$1000 in grant funding provided to Somerset County Public Schools to host Mobile Science Labs at the school.
 - 1 Somerset County Public School received Ag Literacy Program books.
 - 50 Somerset County students reached through MAEF's Ag Literacy Program.
 - Over 15,000 students directly impacted with Elementary Education programming in Maryland.
 - 150 secondary educators reached through the Farm-Based Educators Network Conference.
- High School and Post-Secondary Education Program:
 - First FFA Chapter established at Tawes Technology & Career Center in 2020.
 - \$847,537 in total impact to the Maryland community during the 2019-2020 school year.

Thomas Mullineaux- Agribusiness:

- Agribusiness sector of supply is changing.
- Larger companies are taking over. For example; there will be no more hardware in Southern State stores because now they only carry fertilizers, chemistry and seed.
- Fertilizer prices are going up.
- Looking forward to a good planting this year.
- Wheat crop looks really good.
- Barley crop does not look so good.

Kelly Dudeck- Agritourism:

- In the slow part of year with the cold and snow not helping.
- Agritourism operations including tap rooms are particularly hurting right now.
- Hoping spring comes sooner.
- February is FeBREWary meaning it is craft beer lovers' month.
- Breweries and tap rooms around the state are looking and finding creative ways to sell beer to go and to be delivered.
- March has always been wine month so they are gearing up for wine month. Wineries have just finished producing and reporting a seminar series with 8 different workshops.
- Maryland wineries and grape growers are focused on quality right now.
- Major legislation on the alcohol manufactures. This includes allowing for delivery and shipping of products and possibly removing the sales tax.
- This Friday is tourism day and this is a virtual day with a lot of folks calling on legislators.
- Tourism day is focused around making sure funding stays in place.

Matthew Levi Sellers- Ag Service:

- **Hemp Pilot Program Extended:** With the passage of the federal Omnibus Spending Bill (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021; <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th->

- [congress/house-bill/133](#)) which was signed into law on Dec. 27th, the federal regulations from the 2014 Farm Bill (Hemp Pilot Program) have been extended **through Jan. 1, 2022**.
- MDA also announced that they would be extending their pilot program till Jan 2022. This allows the end of the pilot program to fall at the end of the hemp season rather than in the middle (September 2021). The industry is grateful for another season to continue research projects and finding ways to meet the new regulations set forth in the USDA's Final Rule.
 - **USDA's New Regs Offer (Some) Greater Flexibility:** The [USDA has released new regulations for hemp production](#). The new rule:
 - increases the negligence threshold from .5% to 1%;
 - allows for alternative disposal methods for non-compliant plants;
 - allows non-DEA registered labs to test hemp until January 1, 2022;
 - allows sample collection up to 30 days before harvest;
 - greater flexibility in sampling.
 - **Sponsor Announces Restrictive HB249 To Be Withdrawn:** On Friday February 6, Baltimore Co. Delegate Jon Cardin announced he would withdraw HB249, which aimed to prohibit hemp growing near residences, after intense opposition from the Maryland Hemp Coalition, the Maryland Farm Bureau and other state agricultural groups, and hemp farmers. Cardin indicated that if/when health concerns are supported by research, he'll again introduce a bill to restrict hemp production.
 - **Industrial Hemp Workgroup:** Early in December 2020, conversations began happening with a few folks on setting up a team to do a deeper dive into the use and growth of industrial hemp in Maryland, primarily for fiber use and food grade oil production (not CBD oil), and to also research the remediation effects of growing hemp and to clearly define the positive environmental impact it could have. More interest is growing for this aspect of the hemp industry.
 - Leading this new industrial hemp workgroup is Jay Guzzone, Senator Mac Middleton, and Ewing McDowell from Commerce.
 - Other Ag. professionals from around the state have joined various sub-committees as well. Some of those include Colby Ferguson from the MD Farm Bureau, Steve McHenry from MARBIDCO, Andrew Ristvey & Nichole Fiorellino from UMD, Kevin Conroy & Jim Drew's from MDA, Kevin Atticks from MHC, and myself.
 - Next meeting will take place at the end of February.
 - **New Group to Connect MD Hemp Community:** In January I created a new Facebook group called "Maryland Hemp Supplies and Equipment", to create a new opportunity for licensed Hemp producers to share and sell proven hemp genetics (seeds, clones), while also having the ability to rent or sell equipment used in hemp production. This was created in response to a need expressed within the Md Hemp community.

Amy Crone- Direct Farm Market:

- Sales reports: direct farm markets that did well in 2020 are investing in new infrastructure, markets, and products for 2021
- Hope that demand for local continues to be strong in 2021
- Maryland Market Money program is open for farmers markets and also added on-farm markets to the locations that can accept the matching incentive this year (now run by SMADC)
- ALEI released another new resource about online sales platforms, which they will get a free copy of if attend one of meetings here:
<http://umaglaw.org/event/legaldirectmarketing/>

- SNAP redemption by farmers and markets ended up at ~\$33m in 2020; record year of SNAP provided (a total of about \$100b due to Pandemic EBT funding).
 - MarketLink program available to direct marketing farmers and farmers markets to assist in accepting SNAP
- All conferences that would be attended by farmers/farmers markets have been online with varying degrees of success based on the platforms used

Jonathan Quinn- Farm Bureau:

- Maryland farm bureau has contracted with Cornerstone consulting firm to help Colby Ferguson, Director of Government Relations, with lobbying over the 90-day session. Former Senator Thomas M. “Mac” Middleton of Cornerstone will be assisting farm bureau during the legislative session.
- This year’s day in Annapolis will be held virtually on February 15th at 730 am.
- Irrigation wire theft is on the rise again due to the increasing price of scrap metal two suspects have been arrested in Dorchester Co.
- SB 407 Net Energy metering limit increases states net metering cap to 1,500 megawatts to 3,000 megawatts.
- HB 584 Net Energy metering will increase generation capacity from 2 megawatts to 5 megawatts Farm Bureau Opposes.
- Glyphosate ban bill was pulled.

Donald Maring- Field Crops:

- Supply and demand report yesterday.
- Ending stocks and carryover were lowered slightly, but not as much as traders expected, causing grains to go from trading up to the negative side.
- Fertilizer prices climbing with grain prices. If you don’t have a price locked in on what’s already in Baltimore, they won’t quote a price on the next shipment until it arrives.
- Chemical prices mostly stable so far.

Cheryl DeBerry- Food Processing:

- Food processors are hoping employees can be vaccinated soon as part of the 1-C level in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.
- The glass jar & lid shortage seems to be easing a bit but is still a problem for some smaller processors.
- Maple syrup season will be here soon and western Maryland teamed up with organizations in West Virginia and Virginia on a USDA ACER grant last year. It will help expand maple syrup production in the central Appalachian Mountains and expand distribution into the southeast. That project is rolling out now with data collection and market research.
- The scuttlebutt is that the former paper mill in Allegany County is being purchased soon. We have our fingers crossed that whatever happens there will be able use similar forest products to help with that devastated industry.

Sean Hough- Livestock:

- National export numbers for 2020 beef, pork and poultry have record export with 18.8 billion dollars.
- China is our largest purchasers with 28% followed by Mexico and Japan.
- USDA is forecasting in 2021 a slight decline in 2% export due to a large decrease from China bringing stuff in once they get their hog industry back up and running after the swine flu.

- China has a ban on feeding food waste or garbage to hogs in the country which has caused China to increase the amount of corn they are importing which will affect corn prices in the US.
- Looking at year end cold storage levels because of heavy exports and some of lower production due to packing plant issues this year the year end cold storage levels for beef and pork were down 30% from last year.
- National local level prices for beef and pork are increasing and this is a good sign for producers and selling product.
- USDA is projecting that herd levels should stay about the same this year.
- Locally calving and lambing season has started and seems to be going well.
- For cattle and pork producers the farm to market is helping and a big outlet.
- The processing plant concerns can improve and get more out to the markets.
- US processing plants have been getting a better handle on the COVID situation and getting employees back in the facilities.

James Raley- Nursery I:

- The Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium will be held online from February 15 through February 19, 2021.
- The event provides attendees opportunities to earn credits for pesticide recertification and nutrient management CEUs. It also will host discussions on matters pertaining to the nursery industry, both production and retail.
- The event is sponsored by the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association and the University of Maryland Extension.
- The industry is tracking two bills that, if passed, will have an adverse impact on agriculture.
- The bills are SB 486, HB 581, Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act).
- These bills would require an essential worker employer to give a written statement regarding hazard pay paid to their essential workers for each pay period; require an essential employer to take actions related to occupational safety and health during an emergency; authorize an essential worker to refuse to fulfill work responsibilities if the working conditions don't meet the requirements in this bill; prohibits an essential employer from retaliating or taking other adverse action against an essential worker or other worker if they refuse to work.
- These restrictions would be almost impossible for a farm to adhere to and would most likely put them out of business. The retroactive hazard pay would cost every farmer and farm business nearly \$5,000 per employee to cover the days in 2020 where there has been a state of emergency due to the COVID pandemic.
- In addition, MD Department of Labor doesn't have the manpower to inspect these operations in time to meet the limited timelines farmers have to apply for and receive H-2A visa workers. H-2A housing is already inspected annually. Maryland Farm Bureau OPPOSES both bills and has posted an action alert requesting members contact their legislators to oppose the bills.

Matthew Nielsen- Organic Farming:

- Growers are working toward renewing certification through the remainder of the winter season. The organic commodity grain market has picked up steam recently and growers are hearing of higher prices on new crop corn bookings and stable high prices on soybeans. Elevated conventional grain markets are causing some organic growers to consider switching back to conventional while others weigh transitioning more ground to organic with the help of higher prices through the transition period.

- Just yesterday Cargill, Bell & Evans, and the PA based Rodale Institute announced an initiative to transition 50,000 acres to Certified Organic production of corn and soybeans in the Midwest and eastern corn belt into PA. Bell & Evans will invest \$500 million in U.S. grown organic grain, the partnership will provide support to growers to transition through price supports and consulting services. This is another leg of Bell & Evans's recent expansion which will see its current production of 63 million organic birds/year increase by more than 50% in 2022.
- The Organic Trade Association recently published a memo that it sent to the Biden-Harris transition team entitled, "Advancing Organic Agriculture at USDA" that is available on their website. It outlines 12 top priorities that the organization hopes the new administration will support, they include:
 1. Ensure organic has a seat at the table in climate discussions
 2. Restore leadership within the OSEC-MRP mission area
 3. Reinstate the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule
 4. Publish a final rule on the Origin of Livestock
 5. Publish an interim final rule that encompasses the backlog of standards
 6. Establish a new framework for standards development
 7. Restore the Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Policy Advisor role
 8. Embed organic within USDA research programs
 9. Integrate organic into federal nutrition and procurement programs
 10. Restore full funding for organic certification cost-share
 11. Reform Federal Milk Marketing Orders
 12. Improve crop insurance and USDA risk management tools
- -Organic Trade Association, "Biden Harris Transition Memo" 2021
<https://ota.com/transition>

Michael Levensgood- Poultry I:

- **Time to apply for DCA college scholarships**
 We have opened the application period for our 2021 [College Scholarship Program](#). Applications are being accepted for undergraduate scholarships of \$2,000 and graduate-degree scholarships of \$3,000. Complete applications must be received by DCA no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2021.
- **USDA widens CFAP criteria to include contract chicken growers:** In a Jan. 15 announcement, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it will provide additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) by expanding eligibility to include contract producers who were, until now, ineligible for aid under the program.
- **The application window for newly eligible farmers to obtain this assistance opens Jan. 19 and closes Feb. 26.**
- "Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic now are eligible for assistance. Producers could receive up to 80% of their revenue loss, subject to the availability of funds," USDA said in a [statement](#).
- This change means, for the first time, chicken growers on Delmarva can access CFAP to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their farm operations.
- "In addition to the changes being made to CFAP, per language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, FSA will extend 2020 Marketing Assistance Loans to provide additional flexibilities for farmers. FSA is also preparing to move forward on implementation of the remaining provisions of the recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021," USDA said.

- Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so **between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021**, by contacting their local [USDA Service Center](#). New applicants can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364.
- **U-Md. Extension holds 'why use litter?' seminar online:** Thinking about switching to poultry litter as a crop fertilizer and soil amendment? Are you a first time user? Poultry litter makes a great low-cost fertilizer for corn, hay and organic certified field crops. Get the "scoop" on poultry litter from Dr. Nicole Fiorellino, University of Maryland Extension agronomist, along with tips from farmers who use the product. You'll also get an update on Maryland's FastTrack grants to haul poultry litter.
- **Wintertime puts focus on biosecurity:** We're deep in the season that sees winter migration of wild birds across the skies of Delmarva -- which means, of course, that all the biosecurity practices and procedures we follow every day of the year are especially important now, to keep any diseases those wildfowl harbor from being introduced to our flocks.
- *Maryland Farm & Harvest* last week visited DCA member Andrew McLean's Centreville farm for a segment on the careful ways chicken growers and chicken company staff keep chicken flocks healthy, and protected from avian diseases that commonly circulate in wild birds, backyard chicken flocks and pet birds.
- **Delmarva states reach new phases in COVID-19 vaccine plans:** In the past two weeks, many U.S. states have broadened eligibility to sign up for and receive the COVID-19 vaccine, although constrained vaccine supply may still mean not everyone who wants a vaccine can get one yet.
- In Maryland, [this resource](#) leads Maryland residents to a complete list of COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provides other information about getting immunized.
- In Virginia, [this page](#) is your clearinghouse for vaccine information. You can also call a hotline with questions: 877-ASK-VDH3.
- In Delaware, those eligible to receive the vaccine in phases 1a and 1b can [go here](#) to learn where vaccinations are available. The state has held vaccination events for phase 1b residents and workers age 65 and older.
- **Letter to Members of the House Economic Matters Committee From DCA:** See attached letter on HB 581 – Labor and Employment – Employment Standards during an emergency (Maryland Essential Workers Protection Act)

Michelle Protani-Chesnik- Poultry II:

- The period from December 9th through February 10, 2021 has been a busy time for poultry Agriculture.
- To recap the month of December: the final phase of the Phosphorus management tool was moved forward to full implementation as of July 1, 2021
- A memorandum of understanding was signed By MDE and MDA committing up to ½ half of the fees collected for Maryland's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) would be used for additional funding of MDA's Manure transport program. To date I have not seen a copy of the MOU. I have been asked questions from poultry growers regarding these funds Some of those questions are.
- Will this be from all CAFO's or just poultry CAFO's?
- Will Allen Harim growers be eligible for transport money?
- Will the money be used for like kind transport i.e., poultry for poultry dairy for dairy?
- I am happy on a personal basis to see the money go to the best program we have out there to transport manure of all kinds. My concerns are as we see short falls in the State Budget due to the cost of covid will these funds become a substitute of the monies provided by

Maryland to this program? Will we see a continual raise in the cost of transport borne by the farmers?

- January through present has been filled with weather that has been anywhere from spring like to frigid once again. Rain fall has been over abundant, and the ground is once again saturated.
- Poultry health has been stable with most if not all companies vaccinating for LT. The main health problems presenting are vaccine related respiratory problems
- Allen Harim as of the New Year decided to only place 50 percent of their usual capacity on farms. This reduces the weekly kill approximately 900,000 instead of 1.8 million. This will have a devastating effect on poultry farmers with them. Farms are actively being dropped by them based on performance and due to the economic circumstances' clause in the Allen Harim contract. Lay out times (time between Flocks are still however are still long. Growers in my area report between 60 days small birds and 120 days large birds. Many are calling to other companies seeking a home, but with the current housing that others have it is doubtful that they will find new homes.
- Delmarva Chicken Association DCA Passed a board motion to forgive Dues from the Allen Harim growers for the 2021 year. This will allow them to continue to receive the benefits the association provides such as the energy buying group as well as other association benefits.
- Lay out times have gotten better overall 3 to 5 weeks seems to be the average. I was happy to see my birds leave at a normal age in January. Seeing the age of birds moving come down is a definite sign that the plants are healthy, and everything is getting back to normal there.
- I still have concerns as always about the health and welfare of contract poultry farmers. It has been a long haul through the pandemic for most and while we are a resilient sector of agriculture, I worry about the impact Covid has on the farming and rural community. We know this is not over and while we persevere there are many challenges ahead. I have attached an article a positive one about a local poultry farmer and his achievement for our rural community and agriculture. Knowing Lee Richardson personally and how hard he works for all around him I could not be prouder or happier to see him receive this award. See attached. <https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2021/february/worriLOW-award-agriculture-richardson/>
- CPAF monies were finally made available in January to contract growers. This was welcome news as the National Chicken Council, Delmarva Chicken Association and the departments of Agriculture in both Maryland and Delaware have worked tirelessly to bring contract poultry growers into the program.
- The CPAF program was frozen by the Biden administration that however was not necessarily a bad thing for contract growers. Under the current structure very few would be able to take advantage of the program, as written. In Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia the departments of Ag and DCA are outing forth ideas to make this a more feasible plan.
- The major concern out here is the current legislative session in Maryland. There are many bills that are harmful to Agriculture and small businesses also among them are. I have listed a few below, but there are many more.
- HB 455 and cross file SB 585 This provides a single company with unproven technology to be the company and method for all alternative uses of poultry litter in Maryland. Legislating this would hurt all other possible advances in alternative uses of litter. See attached.
- HB 472 Glyphosate Prohibition. This basically is of banning the use of roundup in Maryland. We don't have any real weed control alternatives to this product.

- HB 581 cross file 486 Labor and Employment. This provides hazard pay for employees in essential businesses such as farming, processing and otherwise. It provides three dollars per hour dating back to the beginning of the pandemic through now if the employee made less than 100,000.00. This would have a devastating impact on not only ag related business, but all businesses see attached.
- Here is a list you may want to look up and get scared by.
- HB 0082/SB 151, SB 375/HB 208 While it is awkward to testify or send written testimony you need to reach out even if it is only a letter to your representatives and the bill sponsors.
- The environmental extremist groups are still hitting hard. Act (Assateague Coastal Trust/ Water Keeper Kathy Phillips) have filed a petition for a judicial review of the 2019 CAFO permit. They did the same thing with 2014 permit. It will be interesting to see what comes of it with the current anti ag atmosphere in Maryland and the fact it is filed in Montgomery County.

Clifford Newsome Jr- State Grange:

- We do not meet as a state organization on a monthly basis but we do have certain state sponsored events throughout the year. We elect an Executive Committee to direct our events during the year and to make any major Grange-related decisions as needed. We plan a leadership meeting to train new officers, to review any forms that are used monthly or quarterly and to plan or change plans for future meetings. We have a Cabin Fever meeting near the end of February for a cooking contest and talent show. During the summer, we have a state wide picnic at a chosen state or county site. These events are topped off with our Maryland State Grange sessions in October. These events were chosen to recognize the farming seasons as they relate to Grange as well.
- My reports are not as long as the rest of you because our interests are closely related to all of the member groups here. Each Grange has an agenda of reports on Agriculture, Education, Transportation, Health and Safety and Legislative. We discuss these items as well as local conditions that affect our local citizens and if we feel any action is needed for attention to these matters, we take action just as all of you do. With the agricultural population declining, we must work and act together to get attention of the public and the government. Covid-19 has brought attention to the importance of Agriculture to both. Now is the time to keep Agriculture in their forefront.

Dr. Craig Beyrouthy- University:

- Number of freshman applications are way up at the university.
- Received an email from the lead recruiter that the numbers are way up.
- Looking at university wide numbers usually had 31-32 thousand freshman applications.
- This year it has jumped 17,000 to almost 50,000 applications.
- This has translated to students that actually decide to come to the college.
- We need to reach out to the students because the application is first step then admitted and then we try to increase our yield.
- Those that have been admitted at least 30% tend to come to the university.
- Our yield over the last two years has ranged between 20 and 30% and the goal is to continue to increase the yield.
- Our undergraduate numbers roughly vacillate plus or minus 1,200 undergraduate student's total.
- We are trying to increase those numbers to a minimum of 1,500 and hope to someday reach 1,700.
- Have one of the highest returns on investment ranking within top 5 in the nation.

- Over 95% of students that seek employment get employment within 6 months of graduation.
- Maryland Day is a highlight of the university this year it will be virtual and usually at the end of April, in process of discussing Maryland Day and make sure have greatest impact as an education perspective.
- Usually, 100,000 people show up to Maryland Day.
- Approached by vet committee to have molecular diagnostic laboratory to identify pathogens that can have wide impact on industry, interested but a host of logistics, strong support for concept of this.

Staff/Guest Updates:

Joe Bartenfelder:

- Legislative update for chlorpyrifos appears they will not override governor's veto. Allows to proceed as regulations are set.
- Big news for today is that Perdue grain facility will remain open and managed by them as a grain facility until a buyer is found and secured. The facility will remain as a grain facility.
- This is good news for southern counties and for ag stability giving farmers a viable market place to get rid of their grain and have a secure place to take it.

Cassie Shirk:

- Almost a month into legislative session, things are moving and have more bill hearings faster.
- Tomorrow, department has its operating budget hearing and then next Tuesday is the capital budget hearing.
- House bill 232, this adds a member to representing the hemp industry on the ag commission. This bill passed out of committee and is currently on second reading in the house.
- House bill 249 prohibited the department from issuing a license to a person to produce hemp if the application is located within 25ft of property or properties with 3 or more residences.
- This bill was withdrawn from the sponsor last week which is really good news.
- MDA's departmental bills have passed out of the senate and are sitting at the house waiting to have bill hearings.
- All public comments are found on MDA website under the 2021 legislation page,
- All hearings and subcommittee meetings can be viewed on the general assembly's webpage.
- Glyphosate ban bill will be a summer study so it will be withdrawn.
- Senate voted to postpone indefinitely overriding the governor's veto on Senate bill 300 which was the chlorpyrifos ban because the department has moved forward with phasing it out through the regulatory process.
- House bill 455 purpose is to establish requirements for the processing of poultry litter for alternative use. MDA and DCA have had several conversations with Delegate Jacobs and are working with all parties involved.
- This seems to be more of an issue with zoning and planning in the counties.
- Delegate Jacobs asked to hold the bill for another week to continue to have conversations and see what needs to be done.

- House bill 581 sponsored by Delegate Davis. He is the chair of the economics matters committee. The bill established numerous benefits and protection for essential workers one being the employer has to provide hazard pay and PPE at no cost to the workers.
- Right now, the department is monitoring the bill.

Kevin Conroy:

- One development for hemp industry, hemp pilot program deadline extended again to the end of the calendar year.
- Market for hemp is developing, had 103 growers last year.
- Jim Drews has received a lot of returning applicants.
- It is a steep learning curve with regulations getting put in place.
- Will follow up with Jim on total number of acreages.
- Market is there for harvested product, more processing plants coming online.

Hans Schmidt:

- Manure transport and poultry litter, we had partnered with extension service and had a virtual meeting to discuss benefits of poultry litter for crop production.
- 98 registered for meeting and Dr. Nicole gave a presentation on the benefits of poultry litter. Also presented a walk-through of the transport program.
- You are able to go right onto the website and have a form to fill out for the fast track.
- Walk through of resources that we offer such as land applicators, brokers.
- Farmers panel with Jon Quinn on their experiences with using poultry litter.
- Get farmers that are not using poultry litter to start thinking about it.
- Actively working with HR department to get soil conservation districts filled.
- We have filled 14 positions and have 5 pending offers that we are waiting on response from.
- Just closed 2nd recruitment and will have 3rd recruitment later this month.

Steve Connelly:

- Corona virus food assistance program number 2 has been reopened.
- Sign up period January 19th and goes through to February 26th
- Include livestock and poultry growers.
- Additional payments to folks that have already signed up.
- Payment coming from CFAP 2 program have a freeze on them right now due to how payments will be calculated specifically.
- Really encourage all contract poultry growers to provide paperwork to apply for this program.
- A lot of poultry growers don't have history working with FFA office and the sooner they get into the office the better.

Jason Shellhardt:

- Published department's annual report for 2020 on the department's website.

Rich Colburn:

- Golf tournament will be September 27th.

Sarah Fielder:

- There is stuff Marbidco is working on and will have available in the future they are just continuing to figuring out how to process and get information out to public.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 am respectfully submitted by: Jessica O'Sullivan