



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of the Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

Maryland Agricultural Commission

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

410.841.5882 Baltimore/Washington
 410.841.5914 Fax
 800.492.5590 Toll Free

Maryland Agricultural Commission

Minutes

September 12, 2018

Present:

Ag Education - Martha Clark
 Agribusiness - Tom Fisher
 Agritourism - Taylor Huffman
 Consumer – Carroll Shry Jr.
 Dairy I – Tim Bishton

Dairy II- David Pyle
 Direct Farm Market - Keith Ohlinger
 Equine- William Reightler Jr.
 Turf – Tom Warpinski
 University- Dr. Craig Beyrouty

Absent:

Aquaculture - Talmage Petty
 At Large Ag Service – Vanessa Finney
 At Large Ag Service – David Roles
 Farm Bureau – Jonathan Quinn
 Field Crops – Donald Maring
 Food Processing – Cheryl DeBerry
 Forestry- Elizabeth Hill
 Horticulture – Cole Mangum

Livestock- Scott Barao
 Nursery II – Ray Greenstreet
 Organic Farming – Marian Fry
 Poultry I – Michael Levensgood
 Poultry II – Michelle Protani- Chesnik
 Tobacco- Charles Cox
 Veterinary – Dr. John Brooks
 Viticulture – Corey Spies

MDA Staff:

Communications: Megan Guilfoyle
 Communications: Jason Schellhardt
 Government Relations: Matthew Teffeau
 Secretary: Joe Bartenfelder
 Executive Secretary: Jessica O’Sullivan

Speakers/Guest:

Assistant Secretary: Hans Schmidt
 Betsy McKennhan
 Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI): Sarah Everhart
 MARBIDCO: Allison Roe
 MARBIDCO: Sarah Fielder
 MARBIDCO: Dan Sweeney
 Watershed Implementation Administrator: Jason Keppler

Review of June Minutes: Unfortunately minutes for June could not be approved due to not having a quorum.

Commodity Reports:

Agribusiness- Tom Fisher: In the Ag chemical world, the big news is that a California jury found Monsanto’s Roundup presented a “substantial danger” to consumers and that Monsanto knew or should have known the potential risks. As mentioned in the WSJ, Monsanto, which was recently purchased by Bayer, was ordered to pay \$289 million to the plaintiff. The verdict surprised many because the active ingredient in Roundup-glyphosate-is allowed by U.S. regulations. There are more lawsuits pending regarding Roundup and the “verdict was at odds with the weight of scientific evidence, decades of real word experience, and conclusions of regulators around the world” per the WSJ. The next trial is set for October in St. Louis. On another note, CPS-Crop Production Services-is rebranding itself a NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS. This was effective July 1, 2018 and notices were sent to all

customers and vendors. On the cropping side of things, Perdue is contracting acres for rapeseed/canola. Canola is a trademark of the oilseed rape first developed in Canada during WWII as a substitute for petroleum-based lubricants and the name Canola stands for Canadian Oil, Low Acid. Yields vary across production areas but the Mid-Atlantic region yields of 2000-3500#/acre are possible. Canola/Rapeseed produces high quality oil for human consumption and contains approximately 40-42% oil compared to soybeans at 18-20%.

Ag Education- Martha Clark: September 12 was the Ag education golf tournament and the money raised from the tournament goes to 5 or 6 scholarships to be given out. During the State Fair Ag Education members were very active having representatives there at all the times. The Ag Education Showcase was also on site. Winter programs and FFE events are coming up including leadership workshops. The next board meeting will be held on September 27th. This year's annual calendar has been sent out to over 3,000 people. The Ag Education was granted \$12,000 from the Rural MD Counsel. The Ag Education banquet will be on November 1st with invitations getting mailed out soon. If anyone is looking to donate something for the auction it would be greatly appreciated. Ag tag sales have increased greatly this year by \$30,000. This year we are happy to report that we started our first ever Ag class in Howard County. [2018 Ag Literacy Program](#) – “See What We Eat!” by Scott Ritchie. Volunteer to read to a school, pre-school, summer school, summer camp as part of the volunteer Ag Literacy program. Contact Jeanne Mueller for more information. 410-848-4745. [2018 Urban Youth Garden Grants](#) School Garden Grants ranging from \$250 to \$500 were awarded to 20 school gardens across Maryland totaling \$6,385. [Seibel & MAEF Scholarship Applications](#). 23 applications were received for (1) \$1K Seibel Scholarship and (10) \$1K MAEF Scholarships. MAEF's annual meeting board elections in May resulted in retaining the current officer team, electing three new Board members; Kathy Johnson, Barb Glenn and C. John Sullivan, III. Amy Hopkins Daney completed her 1st term and elected not to enter a 2nd term due to other obligations. Additional information for all MAEF programs can be found at www.maefonline.com.

Ag-Services- Vanessa Finney: News from the nursery and landscape contracting sectors reports very strong sales and busy seasons, straight through the summer. These sectors look strong moving forward into fall, as well. After an exceedingly wet spring, retailers are optimistic for a better fall season. Applications are now being accepted for LEAD Maryland Class XI. The application period will end on October 1st. Information about the program is at <https://extension.umd.edu/lead-maryland>. The application will be made available on the site, as well. We do seek a class with composition of at least 50% Ag production representatives from a wide spectrum of commodity groups. Class X will be hosting a celebration of LEAD's success in developing leadership for Maryland's agricultural, natural resource, and rural communities on April 13, 2019.

Ag-Services-David Roles: Rain continues to damper some aspects of the business while helping others flourish. August is typically a time for shorter work weeks and less labor. In past years, attrition typically helps us achieve our desired headcount. This August we naturally achieved our desired headcount but unfortunately used a large amount of overtime to stay on schedule due to the wet weather. The rain helped new plantings establish quickly, all while ensuring our annual flower displays reached their full potential. As we head into fall, we have received our tall fescue seed order and started aeration and over seeding operations. The ground moisture is better than past years, allowing equipment to penetrate the soil deeper and pull better cores. In turn, this allows for better soil-to-seed contact and improved germination. Next on our agenda will be fall flower and bulb installation, scheduled to start the first week of October. We will be installing approximately 34,000, 4.5" flowers on commercial properties throughout Frederick County.

Ag-Tourism- Taylor Huffman: This year has seen plenty of rain. It has been a difficult year for all farmers in the state. With hurricane season setting in, there are multiple hurricanes already predicted to add to the record rainfall we have seen over the last few months. For many crop farmers, the fear of crops “drowning out” or becoming overtaken by disease has been a reality. Agritourism will be greatly affected in the coming weeks as farms across the state begin to open for their fall festivals. Pumpkin patches are fighting powdery mildew and downy mildew. Even with disease prevention weekly, it is difficult to keep the pumpkins healthy with days and days of rainy overcast weather. At our farm, our corn maze is lucky to have reached 5-6' in height. It was planted just as the rainy weeks set in and for weeks it seemed to be stunted from the rainfall and lack of sunshine and warm weather. The first year in 19 years that we had to pray for the rain to stop instead of praying for rain! Hopefully the rainfall will subside to

average monthly rainfalls so that the fall season for agritourism farms across the state is not affected as much as we fear it will be!

Consumer- Carroll Shry: Amaranth viridis is a fast growing herb plant that can enhance your salad greens. The seeds of the Amaranth can be cooked down to make a sauce as well. Currently this cultivates in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean. Scotch Bonnet Peppers are an excellent resource of flavorful aroma, spicing favor and color for salads. It is also used in manufacturing medication such as pepper spray and circulatory stimulants. These two crops will help to expand the demand of roadside farm markets for ethnic sales. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is offering a Marketing Workshop of crop production and harvesting of these two Crops. Each year the Maryland Department of Agriculture reaches more than 1 million Maryland and D.C. consumers. As a consumer how are we serving the needs of the EM's and LM's through the Maryland Department of Agriculture? EM stands for early millennial and LM is late millennial. Instead of spending time to make money to buy material things which can make you feel anxious or can be taken away from you, millenials are investing in experiences that improve life and can never be taken away. The world is changing and so are the people being raised in it. With access to unfathomable amounts of technology right in one's pocket, millenials are asking a lot of questions. Millennials are clearly choosing experiences over things. How are we meeting those needs in Today's world? The University of Maryland needs an agronomy weed scientist on staff to assist Maryland agriculturalists.

Dairy I- Tim Bishton: Canada's milk ingredient system is a main point in the trade dispute. Dairy is an issue both countries are drawing a line in the sand with regards to ongoing trade negotiations. (Vancouver Sun, Sept 10). US complain of Canada's class 7 milk pricing was negotiated in 2016 which restricts U.S. exports of ultra-filtered milk. It was not part of NAFTA or other WTO negotiations so Canada could basically treat it as they wished. This policy allows Canada's dairy processors to buy domestic milk at world milk prices instead of higher prices controlled by their national supply management. The U.S. argues that this gives its processors a reason to cut its milk imports. Additionally, argued it's designed to intentionally block imports from the U.S. which would have them in direct violation of Canada's trade commitment. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo of N.Y. wrote a joint letter to Trump in April accusing Canada of its "dairy industry and government of plotting a trade war against our nations dairy farmers." Canada has the slowest growth in milk production since 2016, .04% YOY. Cow cull numbers are up 87,200 cows when compared YOY. August data is suggesting it's even stronger.

Dairy II- David Pyle: For many farmers corn silage harvest is underway or soon to begin. Preliminary reporting sounds like a good crop despite the challenging weather for the year. Some acres have been seeded with cover crop to prepare for winter months. Total dairy cattle numbers have dropped as slaughter has increased and we continue to hear about herd liquidations and operations exiting the business. Most dairies have experienced an income over feed margin of less than \$7 for most of the year. There is some sunshine in the forecast with over a \$9 margin for Q4 2018 and \$9 for Q1-Q3 2019. Spite all the trade war issues we have seen in the recent months it was a huge win for dairy with the agreements with Mexico and hoping to see terms with Canada to finish out NAFTA. As always markets seem to be as volatile as ever. July exports increased 11% by volume over one year ago according to USDEC (United States Dairy Export Council). Meanwhile recent cheese plants expansions in the US have allowed for record cheese production and supplies easily able to match the growth in demand. Like every dairy farmer I am forever hopeful for some better times ahead.

Direct Farm Market- Keith Ohlinger: With all the rain and moisture farmers have not been able to spray their farms which will end up effecting the growth in the future crops and the overall yield. The rain has also affecting the rate of visitation to the farms. The Maryland Soil Conservation District retained grant funding from The Rural MD counsel to do workshops around the state. Soil conservation has its annual conference in August to discuss soil health. Part of Keith's complaint was that there were a lot of environmental representatives at the conference but very few farm representatives. With very few farm representatives the group was unaware of and all good things in agriculture that are already going on. We are continuing to try and get better clarifications on what areas are protected around the state.

Equine- Bill Reightler: The Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS) is moving its office to the Maryland Horse Council/Equiery offices in Lisbon, MD. The service transitions Thoroughbred horses after retirement of their racing careers. New to the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame is European champion El Gran Senor and Caesar's Wish. El Gran Senor, a son of Northern Dancer, was a champion at 2 and 3 in England winning of 7 of 8 starts

earning \$520,969. The colt campaigned for owner Windfield's farm in Chesapeake City, MD. Cesar's Wish, a daughter of Proudest Roman, was born at Doug Small's Strathmore Stud in Monkton, MD. She was bred by Nathan Cohen, a former Pimlico vice-president, and owned by Sally Gibson, trained by Dickie Small. The filly won 11 of 16 starts, 9 of which were stakes races earning \$314,507. She was named Maryland bred champion at 2 and 3 in 1977 and 1978. The Maryland Department of Agriculture confirmed a case of Potomac horse fever in July. A Frederick Country pony died July 30, blood tests results came back positive according to Maryland State Veterinarian Dr. Michael Radebaugh. 3 cases of the disease have been confirmed. Potomac fever is associated with the increased summer rainy weather we have seen in Maryland this year. The 30th anniversary of Fair Hill International Eventing championships are to be held from October 18-21 in Fair Hill, Md. The Maryland State Fair was held from August 24 – September 3 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland. Over 550,000 visitors to the fair experienced many of the state Agricultural commodities produced in Maryland. Governor Hogan attended the "College Day at the Fair" on Saturday, August 25. He presented the trophies of the Inaugural running of the Maryland Distaff Stakes to the winning Thoroughbred owner and trainer. He also awarded 3 of 9 the \$1,000 scholarships raffled to Full Time College students attending Maryland Colleges this fall in attendance for the day of Thoroughbred racing. College Day was designed to introduce a younger audience to experience racing. After participating in this, the Governor toured Horseland and the rest of the fair. October 20 is Maryland Million Day at Laurel Park in Laurel, Md. The day of Thoroughbred horse racing highlights a series of racing by Maryland sired horses competing on the day.

Food Processing- Cheryl DeBerry: Lots of products coming out of fields are being processed now through the fall. MARBIDCO offers competitive matching grants between \$2,500 and \$10,000 for value-added processing capital-asset projects – applications are due 9/27. I am heading to the National Direct Agricultural Marketing Summit in Arlington September 16-18. It's my first time and I am looking forward to learning from some great-sounding speakers. The second Grow Maryland Summit, organized by Grow & Fortify, is a gathering of value-added agricultural producers, agritourism operators and small food producers and will be held on December 6, 2018 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club on Kent Island. The first was an excellent event and I look forward to the second. More info at growmaryland.org

Poultry I- Mike Levensgood: Overall a quiet end to summer with milder temps and damp weather. DPI has been working on the following: they met with representatives of the Maryland Department of the Environment to discuss development of the November 2019 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) general permit to replace the one in effect since November 2014. They celebrated a bipartisan amendment in the Farm Bill with Delaware Senator Tom Carper that would allow new poultry growers to receive United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA-NRCS) cost-share funds for manure storage and composting sheds when a farm is being built, not needing to wait until birds are on the farm. I attended the Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) meetings in Virginia and Maryland to discuss the WIP III that all states are working on and will complete by 2019. I attended a roundtable event with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III Administrator Cosmo Servidio, held at the Delaware State Fairgrounds. Attended the Maryland Commodity Classic and spoke with Maryland grain farmers about the benefits of joining DPI, including the Electric Buying Group. Began outreach to DPI members for enrollment in the money-saving new DPI Electric Buying Group for our Delmarva Power customers. Marketing efforts for the buying group include letters to members, video, social media and email marketing. This has been a very successful program for the DPI members in saving them money with their electric bills.

Tobacco- Charles Cox: With well over 40 inches of rainfall from mid May until the end of August, the tobacco crops have struggled and a lot drowned out. With all the delays to the growing season a lot of the crop is still in the field and the threat of Florence could ruin the rest of the crop.

Turf- Tom Warpinski: This summer's weather has been very challenging for sod growers and turfgrass managers in general. A very wet spring gave way to a drought period in June and then excessive rain in July followed by very dry conditions through most of August. Shallow root systems, caused by the wet spring, increased the level of turfgrass damage from June's drought. Highly stressed turf from the drought was not able to handle the disease pressure brought on by the excessive heat, moisture and humidity in July. Many farms experienced highly damaged fields. This year has been a particularly difficult one for turfgrass managers who have problems with warm season weeds such as crabgrass and nutsedge. Many growers and turfgrass managers have observed that pre-emergent

herbicides that are traditionally very reliable are not providing the control that we have seen historically, again, due to the unusual weather. Additionally, post-emergent herbicides have been relatively less effective this year because crabgrass continued to germinate later into the season and the new seedlings replaced any plants that were controlled. This also has been an exceptional year for sedges. They are perennial species that are favored by warm and wet conditions. Again because of the weather we have observed and the lack of cool season grass competition, nutsedge has been much more prevalent this year. Multiple successive outbreaks have occurred during July and August brought on by the unusual excessive moisture. Labor, specifically the tightening labor pool, continues to be a major issue with the entire industry. The shortage of qualified labor is getting critical, especially CDL drivers and equipment operators. Wages seem to be rising at an accelerated rate. Help wanted signs are popping up everywhere. SB 203 Titled: Agriculture-Nutrient Management - Fertilizer Use on Turf, was passed. This bill removes what the turf industry saw as an inherent duplication by removing the requirement that organic fertilizer on turf meet both the definition of "low phosphorus" and the UMD nutrient management recommendations by striking the "low phosphorus" portion and just requiring them to comply with UMD recommendations. Additionally, it removes the requirement that "water-soluble" nitrogen be used. The phosphorus provision was apparently causing issues with organic lawn care's ability to fertilize.

University- Dr. Craig Beyrouty: The goal is to increase the overall number of students within the college of Ag and Ag Resource. Over the past five years the number of students enrolled has hovered around 1,200. The future goal is to raise that number to 1,700. On average the college takes in 84 freshmen a year making up 25% of the schools population with the other 75% being transfer students. This year 184 freshman enrolled due to a dramatic change in the recruitment efforts and working with the admissions office to better inform them about agriculture as an elective. The majority of students that enroll at the university come from five counties. These counties include Howard, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George. When looking at counties further west the likely hood of getting an application from them is slim. Only about 2 people apply from counties further west and east. The future goal of the university is to extend its recruitment efforts to further counties. The university will have a state wide summit of October 4th focused on Building Healthy Food Systems. This includes the importance of safe and secure food systems and practices. The key speaker will be Gebisa Ejeta, who received the World food prize which is equivalent to the Nobel Prize in agriculture. On October 6th there will be an open house in Clarksville to share information about the efforts going on within research and education centers throughout the county. There will also be a ground breaking for the new extension building. This will be where the home and garden information center will be moved to. Other extension personal will also be located in the building along with educational classrooms. The university is still currently looking for a weed scientist. The university is rethinking if they need to hire someone with a PhD or focus on a team of individuals specialized in different aspects of weed science. Currently they just haven't found the right person for the job.

Presentations:

Sarah Everhart, university of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI)

Hans Schmidt and Jason Keppler, Assistant Secretary and Watershed Implementation Program Administrator

Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff Updates:

Secretary Joe Bartenfelder gave an update on the conclusion of the Maryland State fair and how attendance was up due to schools returning after Labor Day. This allowed the high school students that work on the farms the option to attend and help out before going back to school. There are several county fairs taking place in the upcoming weeks such as Calvert County, Frederick County, St Mary's and Anne Arundel that he will be attempting to get to. Joe has been impressed by the number of 4-H participants and overall youth participation in this year's fairs and shows. Their attentiveness and eagerness to learn and ask questions at such a young age is a positive sign for agriculture in the future. This year's weather has affected several farms significantly especially these last few weeks where rain fall has been over 2-5 in. The rain is affecting planting and harvesting schedules and is affecting the quality of crops. Several farmers that double crop were unable to due to the rain flooding the fields. The rain is also affecting sales at farmers markets. Attendance is dropping which causes the prices on crops to drop. The legislative session is currently taking place and they are going in with a reasonable amount of bills. Joe greatly appreciates all the support from the Ag Commission members and the counties they represent.

Matt Teffeu: There are about 6.5 days to get the farm bill passed before it expires. If things are going to move they are going to move very quickly on the farm bill. Negotiations are at a standstill in a sense that the impasse between the house and the senate is due to SNAP. The structure for SNAP between the bills was completely different. Overall the conservation title and the marketing and other aspects of the farm bill look really good again the impasse is with SNAP. We are going to have 40+ new legislators coming into general assembly after the election. Matt recommends getting to know your local candidates and where they stand on agriculture. Hemp regulations have been approved and will be in Maryland register on September 28th. We are working with state highway administration and farm bureau to hold press conference on September 27th at the farm bureau headquarters focused on tractor safety during harvest season. It will focus on awareness about watching out for farm equipment. There will also be signs to be aware of farm equipment which should help the influx of traffic issues.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica O'Sullivan.