



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

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Maryland Agricultural Commission

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## Maryland Agricultural Commission Minutes September 8, 2021

Present:	Joseph Dymek	Jonathan Quinn	Dr. Craig Beyrougthy
	Thomas Mullineaux	Cheryl DeBerry	Dr. Marianne Bailey
	Kelly Dudeck	Sean Hough	
	Richard Pelz	James Raley	
	Frank Allnut	John Murphy	
	Matthew Levi Sellers	Michelle Protani-Chesnik	
	Amy Crone	Clifford Newsome Jr.	
	Michael Pons	Gordon Kretser	

Absent:	Carroll Shry Jr.	Elizabeth Hill
	Shelby Green	Matthew Nielsen
	Benjamin Sowers	Michael Levengood
	Donald Maring	Matthew Corey Spies

MDA Staff: Joe Bartenfelder  
Julie Oberg  
Cassie Shirk  
Jason Schellhardt  
Rich Colburn  
Steve Connelly  
Kevin Conroy

Guest/Speaker:

Approval of Minutes:

June minutes were approved 1<sup>st</sup> by James Raley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Mullineaux.

### Commodity Reports:

#### Ag Education- Joseph Dymek:

- A 2020 statistical look at CTE Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources (EARN) education in Maryland provided by Dean Kendall, Career Programs and Grants Specialist, MSDE.
- 4,111 students were enrolled in EANR programs, which is 3.71% of all CTE enrollments.
- 53.7% were male.
- 96.3% of EANR students graduated.
- 80.4% of EANR students were either employed, in postssecondary education, in the military, or in national service jobs.
- 53.6% attained a recognized postsecondary credential.

- 46 high schools offered CASE in one form or another.
- 13 high schools offered Certificated Professional Horticulturalist (CPH) certificates.
- There is a significant racial disparity between white and black students represented in EANR programs when compared to white and black students in all CTE programs. White students comprise more than 70% of the enrolled EANR students compared to 40% in all CTE programs. Black students comprise less than 16% of the enrolled EANR students compared to 34% in all CTE programs.
- Statewide articulation agreements exist for both CASE and CPH, allowing college credit to be granted at four postsecondary institutions, (three in MD and one in PA). Secretary Bartenfelder wrote a letter to then State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon on May, 27, 2021 requesting support for agricultural education in Maryland public schools. Highlights of the letter are:
  - Continue Expanding Articulation Agreements.
  - Reduce Barriers to Students to Obtain Credentials and/or Demonstrate Proficiency.
  - Support Career Technical Students Organization to Encourage Hard and Soft Skills.
  - Invest in Existing Agricultural Education.
  - Recognize Agricultural Science as a Science Graduation Requirement.
  - Offer Agricultural Science as Middle School Science Credit.
  - Combine Agricultural Literacy with Environmental Literacy.
  - Secretary Bartenfelder has been a champion in supporting agricultural education and his efforts have been recognized throughout the State.
- MAEF: MAEF's book, AMAZING! MARYLAND AGRICULTURE is in its final stage of production and will be available soon.
- Showcases and mobile labs are being scheduled.
- "MAEF's Back to School with the Ag Bookbag" blog series which showcases MAEF's online resources in lesson form for teachers and students.
- MPT and Maryland Farm & Harvest partnership with MAEF to produce a series of lesson modules geared for middle school what will align with Maryland Farm & Harvest episodes to promote ag careers, ag science, and ways to get involved in agriculture. These lessons will be housed on the MAEF website and PBS ThinkPort website.
- Urban garden grants will be available in September/October to give teachers an entire year to implement and document their projects.
- MAEF's annual calendar "Colors of Agriculture" will be available soon.
- Staff attended the Maryland Principal's Conference to promote the mobile labs.
- Middle school on-line course begins Oct 18.
- Ag Works podcasts will be released starting Oct 1.
- MAEF's strategic plan is near completion FFA.
- 93th Maryland FFA State Convention held virtually June 21-25.
- National FFA Convention scheduled for Oct 26-30 in Indianapolis.
- 50 FFA chapters in Maryland.
- 5 new ag teachers.
- FFA Leadership Conferences scheduled for November on the virtual format.
- State officers assisted at the State Fair and local fairs.
- Joe Dymek's wish list for ag education in Maryland: Agricultural/natural resources coordinators in each Maryland county working through the Economic Development office providing supports to local schools on a rotational basis.
- Agricultural science classes offered in high schools which award a science credit.

- Agricultural science opportunities provided in middle schools where students are made aware of the importance of agriculture in their lives and career opportunities in agriculture.
- Middle school agricultural science programs could provide an excellent pathway for students to consider enrolling in high school agricultural science programs.
- The establishment of a task force to examine strategies to implement or increase middle school agricultural science opportunities.
- Continuing collaboration between the Maryland 4-H and FFA to inform 4-H members of opportunities in agricultural science classes and how each organization can support the other.

#### **Agribusiness- Tom Mullineaux:**

- I have had no travels, only through the phone and the internet. All the content of this report is word of mouth or the "CLOUD".
- I continue to heal. Celebrated 7 months without walking on July 27. Looks like 2 more months until I'll walk and drive. The LORD takes His time.
- The Positive attitudes generated by Commodity markets have been swept away by skyrocketing fertilizer prices. The reasons are many pick one. World politics, US politics, global warming, the Russians, China or my favorite GREED. No end in sight. Growers will undoubtedly do their best to save where they can. Early indications are that Crop protection prices will follow the trend.
- The face of Agri-Business is in the midst of change. Traditional farm stores are going the way of MOM and POP grocery stores. Large retail operations selling everything for the small farmette. Agr-Businesses are moving to specialize. No more dog food, we only sell Seed Fertilizer, Chemicals and apply them.
- After a record breaking wheat and barley harvest (west of the bay) Fall seed sales of wheat and barley have been good. Cover crop rye seed sales have not bounced back even though the Cover Crop program has returned to the bonus for rye. A very large number of farmers have turned to saved Wheat seed from their bins or a neighbors bins for seed for Cover Crop. Hence, a significant back up in the MDA lab testing seed.
- Corn and Soybean crops have been hurt by weather extremes in temperature and rainfall. Corn silage harvest is in full swing.
- Retailers experienced an excellent spring/Summer selling season. Get your Mums Now!
- Bagged feed sales for Horses, sheep, Dairy heifers, Liams etc has been reasonable considering the economy. Feed and supplies for 4-H projects has been flying out the door.
- Don't forget to visit the GREAT FREDERICK FAIR SEPTEMBER 17-25.

#### **Agritourism- Kelly Dudeck:**

#### **Aquaculture- Richard Pelz:**

- I was asked to tell my fellow commissioners a little about myself. Please feel free to share my resume' that I submitted to be considered for the aquaculture position on the Commission with any member who would like to see it.
- Maryland's state owned oyster hatcheries have had serious production problems this year. Piney Point hatchery in St. Mary's County had difficulties with spawning success early in the season due to viability of larvae. There was a 2 month delay in filling some seed oyster requests and the supply has been limited. They were not able to produce any triploid oysters this year. Horn Point Hatchery located in Dorchester County suffered a major die off in the middle of the season. They lost everything algae production was contaminated with a toxic

algae so their entire system had to be purged and cleaned. The toxic algae was being fed to their larval oysters and breeding stock and they lost all of those as well. The timing could not have been worse because it occurred after the natural spawn and oysters that were being held in chilled water for spawning from July 1<sup>st</sup> on were lost as well. As a result of these incidents oyster seed supply in Maryland was greatly reduced this season.

- Maryland has reported it's second case of *Vibrio vulnificus* in a two year period. *Vibrios* are naturally occurring bacteria that can be dangerous in shellfish. We have had *Virbrio hemolyticus* for some time in Maryland waters but this is new. It is usually found in warmer water South of Maryland. *Virbrio hemolyticus* will give someone a stomach ache and if they are immune compromised it can kill them. It's major concern is cuts where an infection can cause blood poisoning and the loss of fingers or worse. *Vibrio vulnificus* is not so picky as to who it can kill but it is not lethal in most cases. Both grow rapidly in temperature compromised shellfish and can become a danger to the consumer. The second occurrence triggers new regulations from the ISSC Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission. New temperature controls will be added to HACCP plans for Maryland shellfish growers and harvesters. HACCP plans will soon require lowering the temperature of oysters to 55 F within 5 hours of harvest during the summer months. This is a change from 50F in 10 hours.
- NOAA maintains a system of buoys throughout the bay that report real time data on water conditions which is like a weather report to a farmer for aquaculture operators using bay water for their farms. They report things like salinity water temperature, oxygen concentration, turbidity which effects the gills on all species shellfish and fin fish. Chlorofil A is also measured. It is an indicator of how much food is available in the water for shellfish to graze on. The buoy near Point Lookout had been down for several months but is now up and running again reporting that data. There are a number of other conditions which it monitors some of which can be gotten from the local weather report. As a side note I check the data daily for my operation.
- St. Mary's County Rotary will be holding it's annual oyster festival in October on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. A number of local oyster growers will have a tasting booth so fair goers can sample their product. Their is also the National Oyster Cook-off and that National Oyster Shucking Contest that draws contestants from across the country and even Canada.
- In my next report I plan to have collected data on the other types of aquaculture that is occurring throughout Maryland as well as production numbers and market conditions.

#### **Ag Services- Frank Allnutt:**

- The Spotted Lantern Fly has been found in the southern part of Washington County. MDA has been notified & involved.

#### **Ag Services- Levi Sellers:**

- September has brought heavy amounts of rain at a critical point in the hemp season. Cooler evenings combined with heavy rains during flowering can cause concern for botrytis or bud rot, at this point in hemp production. But these weather conditions are also a bit of relief from what we have experienced most of the summer with high temps above 90 degrees and no rain, in some areas of MD, for many weeks.
- Weather conditions aren't the main issues affecting hemp producers this season. The biggest issues that I see affecting the development of the hemp industry in MD currently is still the lack of processing plants strategically placed across the state, lack of funding for these facilities by the way of State/Federal grants or lending opportunities from financial

institutions, and the inability for producers to market their products through modern means like social media platforms.

- The USDA announced that \$10 million is available for competitive grant funding in the 2021 Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP), but unfortunately Hemp was listed as one of the many “ineligible” crops. This is one example of many missed opportunities for hemp producers to access the funding needed to assist setting up the critical infrastructure for this industry to get off the ground. Other grants and financial institutions refuse to financially back hemp projects that are focused on CBD production, currently the product from hemp most in demand, but will work with projects focused on fiber and grain. Financial institutions refer to the pending FDA’s approval of CBD for their reason to be reluctant to work with these other projects.
- The 2018 Hemp Farming Act legalized the production and sale of industrial hemp and hemp derivatives, including hemp-derived CBD. However, in order for producers to take full advantage of the 2018 law the FDA must act, which – two and half years later – it has failed to do. Due to the FDA’s failure to act we need Congress to help move this forward and the Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act is a step in the right direction. The Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act would :
  - Give hemp-derived CBD products an opportunity to lawfully be used in dietary supplements, foods and beverages under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.
  - Prioritize consumer safety, requiring manufacturers to comply with all existing federal regulations for the products that contain CBD.
  - Ensure that these products are properly labeled.
- The *Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act*, sponsored by Oregon Senator Wyden, has support from many national trade organizations along with the Oregon Farm Bureau. I strongly urge our MD legislature, MD Dept. of Ag. and MD Farm Bureau to get behind this effort and help to support it as well. This act could help lessen some of these issues currently holding back the hemp industry.
- There was a lot to report on this month but I wanted to keep to the main points. The rest of my report has been submitted to Jessica and can be reviewed more in detail with this meeting's minutes. Please reach out if you have any questions.
- **Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act (S.1698):** The 2018 Hemp Farming Act legalized the production and sale of industrial hemp and hemp derivatives, including hemp-derived CBD. However, in order for producers to take full advantage of the 2018 law and market hemp derived-CBD products in interstate commerce, the FDA must act, which – two and half years later – it has failed to do. CBD remains in a regulatory grey zone, and consumers lack certainty that the products they purchase are of the topmost quality and are meeting standards required of other food and dietary supplement products in the marketplace. Due to the FDA’s failure to act we need Congress to help move this forward and the Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act is a step in the right direction.
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  - Prioritize consumer safety, requiring manufacturers to comply with all existing federal regulations for the products that contain CBD.
  - Ensure that these products are properly labeled.
- The *Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act* has support from the Consumer Brands Association, the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, Hemp Roundtable, American

Herbal Products Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Vote Hemp, and the National Industrial Hemp Council.

- **New Coalition launches “Stop Censoring CBD” campaign:**  
Created [change.org](https://change.org) campaign with hopes for 10,000 signatures by end of August (on 9/7 signature count was up to 12,956 signatures and new goal of 15,000).
- The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association ([CTIA](#)), a non-profit trade organization that monitors S.H.A.F.T. (sex, hate, alcohol, firearms and tobacco) content and reports violations, [recently added CBD](#) to its list of decidedly offensive letters.
- Upon completion of the petition, “Stop Censoring CBD” hopes it will encourage lawmakers to co-sponsor and pass the [Hemp Access and Consumer Safety Act](#) (S. 1698), which will establish legal and regulatory pathways for the nationwide sale of hemp-derived extract products. The coalition also plans to put pressure on the Food and Drug Administration to move forward with regulatory actions that would separate hemp-derived CBD from marijuana and collectively create a framework for companies to ensure compliance and protect consumers with clear guidelines and standards for safety, labeling, potency, growing practices, manufacturing and communications for all products.
- “Stop Censoring CBD” aims to inspire CBD companies to work together to create a clearly defined set of universal criteria for all CBD products to make it easier for consumers to ensure they are getting safe, high-quality CBD products that are grown, formulated, manufactured and marketed responsibly and ethically.
- **House Appropriations Committee Seeks Clarity on 0.3% THC Rule in Hemp Industry:** The draft of a spending bill in Washington, D.C., has garnered feedback from legislators requesting that federal agencies “study and report to Congress on whether there is scientific basis for the current limit of 0.3% THC in hemp and suggest alternative levels if necessary.” HR 4502 includes this verbiage, along with seven other bills, and has passed the House. It still awaits approval in the Senate.
- **Hemp is on the list of ineligible crops for new USDA specialty crop multi-state grant:** The USDA announced that \$10 million is available for competitive grant funding in the 2021 Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP), but unfortunately Hemp was listed as one of the many “ineligible” crops. This is one example of many missed opportunities for hemp producers to access the funding need to assist getting this valuable industry off the ground.

#### **Direct Farm Market- Amy Crone:**

- In August, the first week was National Farmers Market Week – in appreciation for dealing with the challenges of the last year and ongoing ones with the resurgence of the Delta variant and COVID cases.
- Please see Cheryl’s report with regards to the issue of Cottage Foods and latest from the Department of Health.
- Overall sales & foot traffic is down at farmers markets; seems that folks are accustomed to having their food delivered now and are not as concerned about where their food is coming from nor supply chain challenges. Unfortunately, convenience seems to trump local and hopefully this trend will not accelerate to the detriment of local farmers.
- Most farmers markets will be open at least through end of October and most will remain open through Thanksgiving.
- There was a report of the farmers market at UMD opening in person – they had been online, so this is optimistic along with the student returning to campus.

- On-farm markets shifting to fall products (pumpkins, etc.) and hopefully the heat will break so that they have a successful fall.
- Across the country, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is facing the challenge that the paper checks will no longer be printed by the companies that did it before; there is movement towards options for electronic processing, but states are starting to scramble to solve this issue in time for the 2022 season.
- The National Association of Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (NAFMNP) is working on piloting an electronic solution, and their conference happening now via webinars. They are 2-hour sessions on Tuesday/Thursday in the coming weeks, and tomorrow's session will address the FMNP challenges. Anyone interested can register at [www.nafmnp.org/conference](http://www.nafmnp.org/conference).
- USDA updates: the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) & Incentive Program (GUSNIP) grants should be awarded soon, grant to work on online SNAP for farmers markets and direct marketing farmers will be announced next week.
- In Maryland, the MDA Farms & Families applications for funding to provide matching dollars for federal benefits spent at farmers markets is due 9/8 – total of \$100k is available.

#### **Equine- Michael Pons:**

- After a hiatus since mid-April, racing has returned to Laurel Park. The Stronach Group completely rebuilt the racetrack, after underground water issues compromised the racetrack base. Training resumed on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. The new racing surface has been receiving favorable reviews. The turf course also had repairs to its drainage system, as well as being aerated, fertilized and watered all summer long. Both surfaces should be in pristine-shape for fall racing, which resumes on Thursday, September 9, 2021, and continues throughout the winter.
- Maryland horsemen were grateful to the Maryland State Fair for opening their stabling area for more than 550 horses to train for nearly five months. More than 800 horses were relocated during the shutdown of the Laurel Park racetrack, with the balance going primarily to Pimlico.
- Pimlico hosted their first summer-meet of racing in decades. For veteran horsemen and fans, it was a déjà-vous, having several weeks of summer racing over this historic track. Horsemen were fortunate that Pimlico was able to provide a seamless transition when Laurel Park was closed on an emergency basis back in April.
- The Maryland Horse Breeders Association 76 th annual Yearling show was held at Timonium on Sunday, August 1, 2021. The show is usually held in late-June, but Timonium had to provide Covid-19 testing and vaccinations and was unavailable at that time. Fortunately, the weather cooperated with a relatively cool day with slight showers. Longtime New York trainer, Gary Contessa, was the judge. He did a fine job, selecting the top five from a field of nearly 80 horses shown.
- The 2021 Maryland State Fair Meet, which features seven days of racing, was a huge success. Improvements such as a new Jumbotron, to watch races and replays, were well received. Also, the grandstand has been cleaned and repainted, with roof repairs and renovations to the third floor, where the stewards and track announcer rooms were remodeled. Big crowds flocked to the races, including Timonium's first twilight post time on Friday, August 27, 2021, where the first race was at 3:00 pm, two hours later than the usual 1:00 pm start. It was College Night, and eight \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to students attending the races.

- For the first time, Timonium's purses were given parity with the mile-tracks, meaning that an average of \$287,000 was distributed each day. The size and quality of the fields were evident. Timonium is the only fair-meet, east of the Mississippi River, and one of only a handful left nationwide. More than 500,000 visit the Maryland State Fair each year, and it's a wonderful place to introduce fans to our sport.
- On October 4 and 5, 2021, Fasig-Tipton Company will conduct the Mid-Atlantic October Yearling Sales, where approximately 650 horses are consigned to the sales. Prospective buyers travel to Timonium from all over the country, but primarily from the East Coast. More than 200 licensed Thoroughbred horse trainers live within a three-hours drive from this sale, making it one of the most popular and best attended sales of the year.
- Preparations are being finalized for the Five-Star Classic at Fair Hill, on October 14-17, 2021. Hopefully, horses, riders and fans from all over the world will be coming to compete and watch the international competition. More than \$25M in construction of a new grandstand, turf course, three-day event course and numerous upgrades have been completed. Tickets are available at MarylandFiveStar.com.

### **Farm Bureau- Jonathan Quinn:**

#### **Food Processing- Cheryl DeBerry:**

- Cottage Food guidance documents released from the Maryland Department of Health earlier this year listed many new excluded products that home/farm bakers had been selling for years. Most of the new items on the excluded list may be allowed only if that particular baker/farmer can prove the safety of the product/recipe through tests of pH and/or water activity.
- The reason these products were excluded is that the Cottage Food law allows cottage foods to be sold both from the farm, at farmers markets, and retail stores. If sold in retail stores, those products could sit on the shelf for a week or more, and without preservatives unless refrigerated, would likely mold. However, when bakers are selling directly to the customer, there is an assumption that the product is fresh and it'll be eaten soon.
- MDH is concerned about these products because the purpose of the cottage food law is to allow individuals to safely sell foods in a limited capacity and with limited oversight. Recipes for the same product type (e.g. zucchini bread) can vary widely - some recipes may have a water activity and pH that require refrigeration while others do not. The only way to know for each recipe is to have the product tested.
- Testing is costly and per item per vendor's recipe. This is another example of unintended consequences of regulations, hurting the smallest of the businesses in our state.

### **Livestock- Sean Hough:**

#### **Nursery I- James Raley:**

- Producers and retail sales are transitioning from production and sales of perennial stock to fall plants, such as mums, ornamental cabbage, shrubs, grasses, and trees. UM Extension Specialist Stanton Gill reported in late August on hyperactivity of fall armyworm caterpillar damaging turf and other plant species. The fall armyworm is a destructive pest that can feed on 80 different crop species, including corn and more importantly to the horticulture industry, turf. Heavy damage occurring to lawns may be attributable to this insect.
- The Maryland Landscape, Nursery, and Greenhouse Association will be hosting its Field Day 2021 on September 16th at the Fieldstone Nursery in Parkton, MD.



- In October 2020, Mr. Raley reported on the September 2020 meeting of the Maryland Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC). When the Committee met in September 2020, there was a presentation by Mr. Ross Peddicord, Executive Director of the MD Horse Industry Board (HIB), on conservation opportunities for the equine industry. In Mr. Raley's 2020 report on the SSCC meeting to the Ag Commission, he forwarded a suggestion that MDA and the Soil Conservation Districts should consider additional outreach options for the backyard horse owners, with support for renewing MDA's Horse Outreach Workgroup.
- At the Soil Conservation Committee's July 2021 meeting, Mr. Adam Lyon presented a report regarding MDA Equine Conservation Initiatives. Mr. Lyon is the Patuxent Regional Coordinator with MDA's Resource Conservation group. He reported that MDA will reform the Horse Outreach Workgroup (HOW) with the goal of informing equine operators of the conservation resources available to them. Mr. Lyon further reported that MDA will identify the conservation needs and barriers of the industry and create resources to address those needs. Mr. Raley thanked MDA for its efforts in this area.
- Also at the July meeting, the SSCC received a report from Dr. Amy Burk. Dr. Burk is a Professor and the Coordinator for the Equine Studies Program in the Animal and Avian Sciences Department at the University of Maryland. Dr. Burk shared the University's outreach work on equine forage and pasture management. All of these efforts by MDA and the University seek to promote Maryland's Equine Industry while also addressing nutrient management issues.

#### **Nursery II- Jonathan Murphy:**

- The early season sales in the nursery, garden center, and greenhouses were brisk with most businesses finding above average sales. Sales slowed down early in June after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and the consumers hit the roads.
- The plant industry faced challenges from the lack of labor and shortage of materials to produce products.
- The increase in COGS forced many growers to increase prices. Leading Horticultural Economist Charlie Hall forecast a price increase of 7.59% will be needed for nurseries to cover the increasing cost of containers, propagative plants, labor, freight and other COGS for the 2021 season. Another increase of 2.73% is forecast for the 2022 season.
- Traditional vegetable, herb and Ethnic food starter plants are increasingly becoming popular with the increased sales of these products at the food markets in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Greenhouse construction is moving at a fast pace due to growers of Horticultural products and Medical Cannabis.
- MANTS Baltimore has plans to be in person this coming January 5-7. The MANTS board is monitoring COVID-19 closely to make any necessary adjustments for a safe show. A contingency plan will be to have the show online if any COVID restrictions require the show to not be in person.
- American Hort is making plans for its annual trip to Washington DC on September 20-22 to advocate for decisions that will help the landscaper, plant grower, garden retailer, and the green industry as a whole to continue our growth. Members from the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Growers Association will attend along with members from state associations across the nation.

#### **Poultry I- Michael Levensgood:**

- USDA extends CFAP 2 aid to contract growers: On Tuesday, Aug. 24, USDA announced new eligibility for contract chicken producers to receive assistance under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 2 for revenue losses related to COVID-19. The rule makes contract producers of broilers, pullets, layers, and poultry eggs – among other contract commodities – eligible for CFAP 2 assistance for the first time. According to USDA’s [press release](#), this update includes broilers, eligible breeding stock and eggs of all eligible poultry types produced under contract. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set an Oct. 12 deadline for all eligible producers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2.
- Newly eligible producers -- like chicken growers on Delmarva -- who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so by contacting their local FSA office. Producers can find their local FSA office [by visiting this link](#). Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. All new and modified CFAP 2 applications are due by the Oct. 12 deadline.
- The 56th National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing, and Live Production
- The Delmarva Chicken Association, returns to the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel in Ocean City, Md. this year. [Online registration for the Sept. 27-29 event is now open](#). Join more than 400 attendees from across the United States and hear the latest updates on research and policies regarding poultry diseases, processing, and managing bird health and animal welfare on the farm.  
You can register for the full Monday-Wednesday meeting for \$250, choose a Monday-Tuesday registration focusing on poultry health and processing for \$150, or select a Wednesday-only registration focusing on poultry health and live production, also for \$150
- OSHA updates masked-and-vaccinated guidance for meat and poultry processors  
The Department of Labor’s (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on August 13 issued updated guidance to mirror the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that addressed the use of masks for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. OSHA’s updated [guidance](#) recommends that fully vaccinated workers in areas of substantial or high community transmission wear masks in order to protect unvaccinated workers, recommends that fully vaccinated workers who have close contacts with people with COVID-19 wear masks for up to 14 days unless they have a negative COVID-19 test at least three to five days after such contact, and clarifies recommendations to protect unvaccinated workers or workers specifically in manufacturing, meat and poultry processing, or agricultural processing more broadly.  
Specific to meat and poultry processing, the guidance states that barriers do not replace the need for physical distancing and face coverings and that at least six feet of separation should be maintained between unvaccinated and otherwise at-risk individuals whenever possible. Also, if barriers are used where physical distancing cannot be maintained, they should be made of a solid, impermeable material, like plastic or acrylic, that can be easily cleaned or replaced. Finally, the guidance said that there should be adequate ventilation in the facility, or if feasible, move work outdoors.
- The USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on August 4 said that federally regulated meat and poultry processing establishments are expected to follow the latest CDC guidance and require individuals inside establishments to wear masks regardless of vaccination status if an establishment is in an area of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission.
- Transmission levels by area can be found at CDC’s [COVID Data Tracker](#).  
[Washington Report](#), National Chicken.

- Poultry & Egg Sustainability Reporting Framework open for public comment  
The U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry & Eggs has released its draft [US-RSPE Sustainability Framework](#) for chicken, turkey and egg supply chains for public comment. The first public comment period for the US-RSPE Sustainability Framework runs for 45 days, from July 16—August 31, 2021. US-RSPE will make revisions and open a second public comment period for 30 days in the fall, from September 23—October 22, 2021, before public launch in early 2022. Submission instructions and reference documents are available at [us-rspe.org/framework](https://us-rspe.org/framework).
- This assessment will help equip the entire value chain to better assess and communicate with its stakeholders about the overall sustainability of U.S. poultry and create a clearer picture of how these products are produced.
- EPA and Army announce next steps for defining of Waters of the United States  
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army announced plans for upcoming community engagements to inform their efforts to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) to better ensure clean and safe water for all. EPA and Army are committed to developing a reasonable, effective, and durable definition of WOTUS that protects public health, the environment, and downstream communities while supporting economic opportunity, agriculture, and other industries.
- “We are committed to crafting an enduring definition of WOTUS by listening to all sides so that we can build on an inclusive foundation,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Uncertainty over the definition of WOTUS has harmed our waters and the stakeholders and communities that rely on them. I look forward to engaging all parties as we move forward to provide the certainty that’s needed to protect our precious natural water resources.”
- The agencies intend to revise the definition of WOTUS following a process that includes two rulemakings. A forthcoming foundational rule would restore the regulations defining WOTUS that were in place for decades until 2015, with updates to be consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions. A separate, second rulemaking process would refine this regulatory foundation and establish an updated and durable definition of “waters of the United States.”
- For more information on submitting written recommendations or to register for the public meetings, see [www.epa.gov/wotus](https://www.epa.gov/wotus).

#### **Poultry II- Michelle Protani- Chesnik:**

#### **State Grange- Clifford Newsome Jr.:**

#### **Turf- Gordon Kretser:**

#### **University: Dr. Craig Beyroudy**

#### **Veterinary: Dr. Marianne Bailey:**

- The USDA Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) announced confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 in wild white tailed deer in Ohio on 8/27/21. These are the first deer confirmed with the SARS-CoV-2 virus worldwide. Samples were collected between January and March 2021 as part of OSU's College of Vet Med's deer damage management activities. No deer were showing clinical signs of infection. There is still no evidence that animals play a significant role in the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus to people.

- Kansas State, which processes the majority of Rabies titers for international pet travel, will no longer offer STAT turnaround tests due to labor shortages.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a [Federal Order](#) establishing additional requirements that take effect August 16, 2021 for dogs imported into the United States for resale from countries where African swine fever (ASF) exists. The number of dogs being imported for resale from ASF-affected countries is growing, and APHIS is taking this action to continue its efforts to protect the United States' swine industry against this devastating disease.
- Starting August 16, 2021, [importers of dogs into the United States for resale](#) from a region in which ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist, must submit written documentation verifying completion of the following requirements:
  - The dog(s) and their shipping crate/container must be free of dirt, wood shavings, hay, straw, or any other organic/natural bedding material.
  - All bedding that accompanies the dog(s) during transit must be properly disposed of at the U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration.
  - Each dog must have an ISO-compliant microchip implanted, and the individual microchip number must be verified immediately before each animal is bathed.
  - Each dog must be bathed at the U.S. post-entry point(s) of concentration within 2 calendar days of arrival in the United States. Bathing must be documented in the Veterinary Services Dog Import Record.
  - Beginning July 14, 2021, there is a temporary suspension for dogs imported from high-risk countries for dog rabies. CDC has the authority to issue a CDC Dog Import Permit for US citizens and lawful residents relocating from high-risk countries to bring their dogs into the United States. Such permits will be issued on an extremely limited basis.
  - First 90-Day Transition Process From July 14 through October 14, 2021, dogs coming from high-risk countries with CDC Dog Import Permits can enter the United States at one of these 18 airports: Anchorage, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Detroit, Honolulu, Houston (IAH), Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York (JFK), Newark, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Juan, Seattle, and Washington, DC (Dulles).

### **Staff Updates:**

Joe Bartenfelder:

- Still going through some pains with corona virus pandemic but we are just going to keep working our way through it.
- Maryland farmers came together to help in louisiana from hurricane ida, 5 tractor trailer loads of fruits and produce, milk andoultry that was donated and sent down there
- Mount air sent whole truck of chicekns
- Real coming together and pint made at press conference farmers step up to kelp people in need, think when receiving benefits
- If you gonna eat we need our farmers
- Legislative session coming up, cassie will give update on that,
- A couple bills that are bing put in but will have some floating that we will monitor and keep our eyes on.

Julie Oberg:

- Two items one is that the state legislature task hary hues to work together to creat a climate volunerability for agriculture, work to get framework together

- Survey put together to provide input into the topic as we develop strategies
- There are two virtual workshops coming up. Send email to Jessica with information and appreciate participation
- Maryland matters secretary and plans working for Chesapeake Resilience Farms Initiative.
- Farms in the watershed, clean up Mississippi water basin.

Steve Connelly:

- Under COVID-19 assistance program application period reopened in March, contract poultry growers can apply for losses from 2018 to 2020 payment rate is 80%
- Sign up deadline October 12<sup>th</sup> so make sure poultry growers go to local FFA office and get paperwork in
- Timber harvesting and hauling program
- Sign up open July 22<sup>nd</sup> goes through August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Payment limit of 120 thousand dollars
- New Dairy Pandemic program handled through coops and handlers of milk 2 billion dollars
- Dairy Margin Coverage program
- Dog Task Force
- October Horse Month
- 5 Star event take place at Fair Hill second week of October
- Maryland's Best Promotion
- Apple Promotion Month
- Salisbury Health Lab close to completion

Jason Schellhardt:

- July and August busy with social media content and videos with local ingredients
- Farmers Market Week was online
- Governors Luncheon at the State Fair went well

Cassie Shirk:

- Session will begin in a few short months, starting conversations and meetings
- Heard about possible climate related bill
- Will provide legislative updates and a tracking sheet
- Several members on call have been attending tours with state and county legislatures and has been a good opportunity to hear directly from the counties and state agencies
- How we can be helping out each industry.

Kevin Conroy:

- Normal course of business
- Mosquito control program stop spraying
- Pesticide disposal program have had good number of sign ups and around 57 hundred pounds disposed, still time left to sign up

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

