



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of the Secretary

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Maryland Agricultural Commission Minutes April 13, 2022

Present: Frank Allnut
Joseph Dymek
Kelly Dudeck
Sean Hough
Gordon Kretser
Matthew Levi Sellers
Michael Levengood
Paula Linthicum
John Murphy
Clifford Newsome Jr.
Michael Pons
Michelle Protani-Chesnik
Dr. Craig Beyrouty

Absent: Dr. Marianne Bailey
Amy Crone
Cheryl DeBerry
Shelby Green
Elizabeth Hill
Thomas Mullineaux
Matthew Nielsen
Richard Pelz
Benjamin Sowers
Matthew Corey Spies

MDA Staff: Joe Bartenfelder
Steve Connelly
Rich Colburn
Hans Schmidt
Kevin Conroy
Jason Schellhardt
Cassie Shirk

Guest: Jill Kubatko
Steve McHenry
Jonathan Cribbs

Approval of Minutes:

March minutes were approved 1st by Paula Linthicum and 2nd by Frank Allnut.

Commodity Reports:

Ag Education- Joseph Dymek:

- MAEF just wrapped up its first Maryland Agricultural Literacy Summit and, based on feedback, will plan a follow-up this fall. MAEF hopes to create regular meetings, collaboration and educational opportunities for those who conduct Ag literacy work on behalf of Maryland's farm and food community.
- MAEF provided talking points on Ag education to the Maryland Farm Bureau for their annual meeting with the Governor Hogan.
- Assisted with the upcoming BMoreAg Forum, April 22nd, at Green Street Academy in Baltimore, which will bring together stakeholders in Urban Agriculture to discuss needs and active steps toward solutions.
- MAEF's "Infusing Agriculture" professional development courses for teachers are in full swing (both elementary and secondary), and the elementary course's in-person was held on April 2-3 in Westminster, coinciding with Maryland's FFA's Spring Judging on April 2nd.
- Registration is open for 25 high school science teachers or science curriculum coordinators to attend a new professional development course this summer, cohosted by MAEF and the National Ag in the Classroom (NAITCO). This course will address topics including turf and its connection to you, soil health and its importance, turf research plots and turf types, insects and pollinators, careers in turf and landscape industries and more. It is scheduled for July 11-13 and will be held at UMCP and the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Participants will be eligible to receive an \$800 stipend that can supplement travel costs including mileage, hotel and meals. Details can be found on MAEF's website.
- Do you receive a copy of *The Buzz*, MAEF's free monthly newsletter for educators? Visit the MAEF website and sign-up to receive it.
- There are 735,038 FFA members in grades 7-12 with 93% in high schools in the United States. There are 685,087 registered active FFA alumni and supports. Alumni membership is open to all, even if you were not a member of the FFA. Please consider joining an alumni chapter near you! There are 8,817 FFA chapters in every state, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including 24 of the 25 largest cities.
- Maryland FFA Spring Judging was held April 2nd at Westminster High School with over 350 student members competing. The Career Development Events held this year included: Agricultural Technology & Mechanics, Agronomy, Farm Business Management, Floriculture, Food Science, Meat Evaluation Mild Quality and Products, Nursery/Landscaping and Veterinary Science. Sixty six FFA members received new FFA jackets through the Maryland FFA Foundation's Gift of Blue program and the Maryland FFA Alumni provided lunches for all FFA members, Advisors, and volunteers.
- Looking ahead, the State FFA Officers and staff are planning the 94th Maryland FFA Convention to be held on Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29th in Frederick,

Maryland on the site of the Great Frederick Fairgrounds. The FFA welcomes members of the Ag Commission to attend the convention, volunteer to serve as an event judge, timer or host and stay for the evening sessions starting at 6:30pm where FFA members will be recognized for their accomplishments.

- The State FFA Officer team continues to be very busy attending FFA Alumni and FFA Foundation Board meetings along with many chapter visits, judging regional competitions and hosting leadership conferences around the state.
- Maryland 4-H is in the midst of their animal science education and competitive event season. Hundreds of youth across the state participate in events including: Horse Bowl, Horse Communications Contest, Hippology, Dairy Bowl, Dairy Skillathon, Livestock Skillathon, and more! Youth demonstrate their related knowledge and skills through buzzer quizzes, the arts, animal/equipment/etc. identification and judging presentations related to their species or program area. Youth with high scores have an opportunity to represent Maryland at a variety of National 4-H Animal Science competitive events.
- The University of Maryland Extension Career AGsperience and Agsploration team will be offering a FREE in-service training for educators on Tuesday, June 7th at the Howard County Fairgrounds from 9:30AM-3:30PM. Register by Friday, June 3rd at: <https://forms.gle/kMAF7DjUjPAMpnnp6>.
- Maryland 4-H is excited to welcome youth ages 14-18 to the 3rd 4-H Issue Forum at UMCP on June 28-30, 2022. Youth will learn how they can make a difference in their communities and learn more about climate change, environmental sustainability and how to work with legislators, community leaders, and their 4-H program to effect change.
 - The Maryland Farm Bureau board of directors, committee members and staff met with Governor Hogan and his agriculture cabinet on March 28th to discuss the importance of Agriculture Education in Maryland's public schools, with the hopes of adding additional programs in middle schools. With the incorporation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation starting to take effect, MFB hopes to see Ag Education remain part of Career and Technology Education at Maryland Department of Education, but also become part of the overall approved science curriculum.

Ag Tourism- Kelly Dudeck:

- This was a very successful legislative session for Maryland's Agritourism and Value-Added Agricultural Industries.
- HB 550/SB 476 Alcoholic Beverages- Manufacture's Licenses and Off-Site Permits-Sunset Extension. Repealing the termination date for various provisions relating to alcoholic beverages manufacturer's licenses and off-site permits, including provisions repealing specified permits and establishing a manufacturer off-site permit and brewery special event permit; extending the termination date for provisions relating to the authorization of holders of certain manufacturer's licenses to sell and deliver and

- to directly ship their own alcoholic beverages products to certain individuals under certain circumstances; etc.(June 2023)
- **HB 1388/ SB 594 Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program.** Establishing the Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program within the Department of Commerce; authorizing certain individuals and corporations to receive a grant equal to 25% of the qualified capital expenses incurred in connection with establishing new wineries and vineyards or completing capital improvements at existing wineries and vineyards; requiring the Governor each year to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 to be used for grants under the Program; etc.
 - **HB 1282/ SB 567 Property Tax- Agricultural Accessory Use Improvements- Study and Report Passed.** Requiring the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Assessments and Taxation to jointly conduct a study of the assessment of agricultural accessory use improvements to review whether agricultural accessory use improvements should be assessed using a different methodology from improvements located on nonagricultural land; and requiring the departments to submit a joint report of their findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2022.
 - **HB 854/SB 698 Alcoholic Beverages- Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion Passed.** Repealing the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund and the Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing; establishing the Advisory Commission on Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing in the Department of Commerce as the successor to the Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing; establishing the Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing Promotion Fund to provide grants that promote the advantages and attributes of State breweries, distilleries, and wineries and their products; etc.
 - **HB 178 Cottage Food Revenue increase Passed.** Altering the definition of "cottage food business" for the purpose of increasing from \$25,000 to \$50,000 the cap on the annual revenue from the sale of cottage food products that a cottage food business may earn.
 - **SB 296/ HB 558 Glamping/camping on agritourism sites Passed.** Altering the definition of "agritourism" to include camping and incidental stays for the purpose of a certain provision of law authorizing a local jurisdiction to adopt the definition of "agritourism".
 - **SB 489/HB 586 Queen Anne's County- Public Safety- Buildings Used for Agritourism Passed.** Adding Queen Anne's County to the list of counties that exempt agricultural buildings used for agritourism from certain building performance standards; and exempting a building used for agritourism in Queen Anne's County from a certain permit requirement under certain circumstances.
 - **SB 032/HB 012 Worcester County- Public Safety- Building Used for Agritourism Passed.** Adding Worcester County to the list of counties where an existing

agricultural building used for agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit if the subordinate use of agritourism does not require more than 200 people to occupy an individual building at any one time and the total width of means of egress meets or exceeds the International Building Code standard that applies to egress components other than stairways in a building without a sprinkler system.

- HB 924/SB 569 Alcoholic Beverages- Class 4 Limited Winery Licenses- Extension Passed. Extending the application dates of certain provisions related to certain holders of Class 4 limited winery licenses.

Ag Services- Frank Allnut:

- Steady rains last week helped w/ a dry spell west of South Mountain going into spring planting.
- University of MD's Maryland/Ag Day is Saturday April 30 at College Park.
- Maryland Dairy Shrine Banquet is scheduled for July 12 in New Windsor.

Ag Services- Levi Sellers:

- The hemp industry is excited about the outcome of several pieces of legislation from this past session that ended Monday at midnight.
- **HB075:** Passed- Allowing for the addition of a new seat on the Ag. Commission representing the hemp industry.
- **HB1078/SB0788:** Passed- placing both hemp-derived cannabinoids (delta-8 and delta-10) under age restricted sales (21 or older) and a study with the MDA, MMCC, MHA, and MHC to determine the best methods to further regulate.
- The hemp industry looks forward to reaching an agreement on reasonable regulations that allows for the hemp-derived cannabinoids to remain hemp as clearly defined federally
- **SB1006:** A late bill that would have improved the states hemp program, with key features like:
 - A person licensed under the Hemp Farming Program can include the hemp or hemp product in consumable products for sale by the person;
 - Allowing for remediation of hemp that exceeds the Total THC limit through dilution to a legal limit in consumable products;
 - Allows for hemp products to contain a 1% Delta-9 concentration, aligning the state with current federal legislation.
- This bill raised great bi-partisan support from both MD legislature and the hemp industry. The industry is excited about the momentum this bill had receiving unanimously favorable votes heading through both the Senate and the House.
- In the last few moments of session the bill was held up due to a filibuster in the Senate.
- Due to this technicality the MD hemp industry looks forward to working with the MDA to establish the key features of this bill to improve the hemp program in MD, saving the declining numbers of MD hemp farms.

Equine-Michael Pons:

- In March 2022, an Equine Herpes virus, EHV-1 was discovered at a riding stable in Montgomery County. Several horses were stricken, three were hospitalized, and one died. Fortunately, the outbreak was contained, with no other reported cases. Among Thoroughbred racetracks, there was a case at Penn National racetrack in Grantville, PA, and no racing entries from that track were being allowed to run in Maryland. Again, fortunately, the virus did not spread to any other barns at Penn National, or racetracks.
- Plans are being made for the 147th running of the Preakness Stakes, with Maryland Jockey Club officials anticipating large crowds for the two-day racing festival, Black-Eyed Susan Day on Friday, May 20 and Preakness on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Preakness is Maryland's largest sporting day, with attendance surpassing 100,000 fans. It is also a huge economic revenue generator for local hotels and restaurants.
- The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale will be held following the Preakness, on Monday and Tuesday, May 23 and 24, 2022. More than six hundred horses are catalogued in our region's top grossing horse sale. Last year's sale-topper was a \$1.5M colt by Kentucky's Quality Road, the seventh consecutive year the sales topper brought seven-figures. More importantly, the gross sales, average and median prices have showed steady increases over the past decade.
- Foaling and breeding season are well underway, with projections for number of Maryland foals staying steady, but there is another projected decline in the numbers of mares bred to Maryland stallions. This reflects a nationwide trend, as more broodmares are being bred in Kentucky.
- Plans for the rebuilding of Pimlico and Laurel are being pushed back to fall 2023. Construction costs have increased astronomically in recent years, and have necessitated a revamping of the original plans as well as a need to increase funding. This project was originally estimated at \$400M in 2020. However, both the size and scope of the Maryland Stadium Authority's plan will need to be revised, prior to initial construction.
- The Five-Star Classic will be held again at Fair Hill Racecourse this October 13-15, 2022. Horses and people from Europe, South America and North America are planning to attend. The Fair Hill facilities are among the tops in the nation. For anyone who loves horses, this is a terrific event, located right-in-your-backyard.
- Work steadily progresses on the Maryland Horse Library and Research Center, located in downtown Reisterstown, MD. The facility will feature state-of-the-art projections, video and a vast library for anyone who would like to use it. The projected opening is fall 2022.

Farm Bureau- Paula Linthicum:

- Of the MD Farm Bureau 7 priority bills, 5 passed.
- HB558 - Farm Camping added to the Agritourism definition.
- HB 592 - Use of Deer Management Permits on State-owned land Statewide.
- HB 855/SB942 - Urban Ag Water and Power Infrastructure Program.
- SB 582 - Landowner Liability Exemption for allowing Hunting.

- HB 682/SB 427 - Baltimore County Groundhog hunting exemption bill.
- Another bill MDFB worked on was SB567 - Agriculture Accessory Use Improvements.
- Study and Report. This is to look at why SDAT is reassessing farm buildings.

Livestock- Sean Hough:

- From livestock stand point major issue is processing.
- All butchers are already booked through the year and even next year.
- Hard to get livestock in and processed.
- Some grant programs out there to try and help butcher shops get more hooks so they can process more.
- Able to increase capacity but still have labor issues.
- Commodity prices are all continuing to increase.
- Prices are going up and supplies are going down.
- Everyone is feeling the cost.
- Feed and grain cost continue to go up.
- Exports overall are up.
- Mexico is the biggest for beef and pork right now.
- Pork exports to Dominican Republic because they were hit with African swine flu.
- Local markets this time year kids are buying projects for 4h which causes some concern with feeding these animals this summer.
- Hopefully will have some good fairs and shows this year.
- National level to help cattle farmers.

Nursery II- John Murphy:

- April has been crunch month for the industry.
- Green houses in full swing.
- Everyone is busy and labor is hard to find.
- Education committee has a program in April and May.
- Trying to work with Ag personnel on getting Ag buildings exempt from real estate taxes.
- Work with DNR and Chesapeake Bay trust working on native list of trees.

Poultry I- Michael Levensgood:

- **USDA APHIS now mapping HPAI cases across the country**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing the availability of a new [webpage](#) that displays the latest data and information about cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) confirmed in commercial and backyard flocks in the United States. This is the same data APHIS has previously made available about HPAI in the United States, but in a new format that is more visual and easier to navigate.
- The new page displays high-level information about the outbreak including the number of confirmed flocks, affected states, and total birds affected. Visitors to the page may view a

map of birds affected by state and can change the map to view total flocks affected by state, or commercial or backyard flocks by state.

- A new feature in the [data table on the page](#) allows users to see when control areas and surveillance zones have been released for affected counties. The page shows, for example, that for a Queen Anne's County, Md. broiler farm confirmed to have HPAI on March 8, the control area and surveillance zone around it were released on April 1. All cases in commercial and backyard flocks will be listed on this new page, which will be updated by noon Eastern each weekday.
- **Malone Environmental Award carries a \$500 prize.**
- Beginning this year, DCA will recognize a chicken grower who goes above and beyond to make his or her farm environmentally responsible and compatible with neighboring properties with the George 'Bud' Malone Environmental Award.
- This award shines a spotlight on Delmarva chicken growers who integrate vegetative environmental buffers and other conservation measures, ensuring their farms are sustainable and are good neighbors.
- You can nominate a farm for the award by acting before April 25.
- **The winning grower will receive a \$500 prize and public recognition by DCA.**
- **The DE-MD HPAI Joint Information Center** developed a new guide to help poultry farmers understand what to expect in the first 72 hours if they suspect their flock has avian influenza.
- [You can download it here.](#)
- The guide covers what's likely to happen on a presumptive positive farm in the first 12 hours, the first 36 hours, and the first 72 hours after HPAI is detected. In addition to the federal and state responses described in the guide, you should expect your integrator to be closely involved with you in responding to the situation.
- Chicken company employees will be on site to help you with many of these requirements.
- **These biosecurity best practices are imperative to prevent the spread of HPAI between farms:**
- All farm workers must have farm-dedicated clothing and footwear. Different footwear should be worn when entering each chicken house, or a fresh pair of disposable boots should be used when entering each chicken house.
- All essential visitors must wear disposable boots if they must get out of their vehicle and leave the boots for disposal at the farm prior to leaving.
- Anyone entering the line of separation (areas where birds are housed) must wear appropriate PPE as instructed by their company representative and utilize footbaths upon entry to houses.
- Only essential visits to the farm should occur (i.e. urgent repairs to the facility that absolutely must occur during the quarantine or feed deliveries). Limit, monitor, and record any movement of people, vehicles, or animals on or off your farm.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms and any unnecessary travel off the farm.

Poultry II- Michelle Protani-Chesnik:

- High path AI is a major concern for those raising poultry.
- Labor is almost impossible to find.
- Diesel prices keep rising and generators on the farms are being affected.
- Shortage on all supplies continues.
- Delmarva Chicken Association has moved the booster banquet to June 22nd.

State Grange- Clifford Newsome:

- Maryland grange has been busy the last 30 days.
- Attended the Earls Brothers breakfast that was rescheduled.
- On April 2nd helped conduct the Maryland FFA state judging contest at Westminster Maryland.
- 450 FFA members all across the State participated from 9am to 3pm.
- Last week many attended the Frederick County grains meeting.
- Looking forward to helping many county fairs and community fairs throughout the year.
- Looking forward to the tour next month.

University- Dr. Craig Beyrouy:

- Two searches that are actively going on right now one for the Director of the Institute of Agriculture.
- Made number of interviews and in process of deciding who to make offer to.
- The second position is the Associate Dean/Associate Director of the State Wide Extension Program.
- In the middle stages of interview process and hoping by early summer to have identified an individual for that position as well.
- A faculty position is available. The university is looking for a Poultry Extension Specialist in Avian Sciences.

Staff Updates:**Kevin Conroy:**

- Agreement to fund half grain program in Baltimore County.
- Friends from Baltimore are running it and started a mid-spring program.
- Kicked off and go through summer.
- Working with USDA to increase funding for the spotted lanternfly program luckily get \$80,000 more than last year.
- Working with legislature and governor to get general funds for programs.
- NASDA is pushing for funding now that they have seen what the spotted lanternfly can do.

- Hire more staff and try to control it as best as we can.

Cassie Shirk:

- Bill tracker chart was emailed to the commission and is available on the MDA webpage.
- Bills that MDA follows this session and where everything landed.
- Will continue to update as governor passes bills into law.
- See things on Ag side and environmental side.
- Our big priority bill was our bill to extend the termination date for our spay and neuter for 10 years.
- Bill was signed into law.
- A couple bills we consider bad bills luckily didn't last long.
- Pesticide transfer bill that would transfer from MDA to MDE.
- We were assigned several task missions.
- All bills that were passed and will be assigned to the appropriate program.
- Ag tourism bills that passed this session, popular in state and the department continues to support.
- Very thankful for support in budget and supplemental budget including funding for the construction of a new agricultural building.
- Avian influenza situation in Maryland and Delaware.
- Animal health lab in Salisbury is open and staff has moved to new lab which is exciting for the Delmarva Peninsula.
- House bill 75 add a seat for hemp industry to the Ag commission passed.

Jason Schellhardt:

- Working mostly with the bird situation.
- Outreach meetings with producers and veterinarians.
- Materials to understand what the virus is and how to keep it off their premises.

Hans Schmidt:

- Nutrient advisory committee meeting on 19th. Hybrid meeting to talk about proposed regulation on land application food waste.
- Extended the 30 day public comment period to April 26th.
- Proposed regulations and recommendations.
- Department is open to changes.
- 14 day restriction on moving litter, birds must be off for 14 days before that litter moves locations.
- After the 14 days, litter can move as normal.

Steve Connelly:

- Nationwide high path avian influenza there have been positive cases in 26 states.
- This includes 126 commercial operations and 50 back yard flocks.

- Hitting the high plane states hard right now leading to a bad year.
- Dairy margin coverage program sign up closed March 25th.
- Over 84% of farmers that were eligible signed up for calendar year 2022.
- MDA pay premium for those farmer on \$9.50 coverage level for pier one.

Joe Bartenfelder:

- To no one's surprise busy with high path avian influenza issues that have popped up on Delmarva.
- Up in Dover at the Delaware Department of Agriculture building joint command with MDA, Delaware and USDA.
- USDA takes the lead on these issues.
- First outbreak occurred in Delaware and then came over to Maryland.
- Another outbreak in Milford which didn't involve us but still involved the poultry industry.
- Sudlersville in Queen Anne's county was another location.
- The training we have done the past 7 years and the table top exercises have really helped.
- We were not prepared for the first outbreaks being in lane house.
- Lane houses took more time and work.
- Governor Hogan emphasized state agencies working together and silos were down.
- Health Department, DNR, Transportation and MDA are all working together.
- Maryland Environmental service receive a lot of credit.
- Work through issues and Sudlersville is open for birds.
- Only place with restrictions on it as far as placement of birds is the Cecil zone.
- Should be finished up there soon.
- A lot of work involved because of eggs involved and needing to be disposed of.
- Joint effort and thank MDA folks that contribute their time and those that went up and helped out.
- Legislative session we were guiding through the session without too much harm.
- All vets did a tremendous job and the pace that was set was impressive.
- Got through Sudlersville situation in less than a month.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 Respectfully Submitted by Jessica O'Sullivan