

# Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.



Promoting the understanding and  
appreciation of the importance of  
agriculture in our daily lives.

# Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.

## Agriculture in Education in Maryland



# Briefly About MAEF

- o Established in 1989 - nonprofit, non-governmental
- o Lead by a 25 member Board including 3 ex-officio members:
  - MD State Department of Agriculture - Supt. of Schools
  - University of MD College Park - Provost
  - MD Department of Agriculture - Secretary



# Briefly About MAEF

Mobile Science Classrooms  
Farm Based Education  
High School/Post Secondary  
Grants, Facilitation, Advocacy

Teacher Training Workshops  
Career Discovery  
Maryland FFA



# About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

- **Currently**
- 52 High School Programs
- 1 Combination Middle/High School (Hancock)
- 1 Middle School (Hereford)



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## Maryland FFA

49 Chapters in 19 Counties and Baltimore City  
Over 2,400 student members

### Counties Without Formal Ag Programs:

- **Allegany** (discussions ongoing future programs)
- **Charles** (recently dropped their program)
- **Howard** (will be starting a new program in 2018-2019 School Year!)
- **Somerset** (will be re-opening the Ag program with the completion of the new Tech Center)



# About Agriculture in Education in Maryland



## CTE

High school agriculture programs are recognized by MSDE under Career and Technology Education

High school credits earned are CTE credits and not science credits

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## Hot Topics

Urban Agriculture

Environmental Literacy

Outdoor Experiences



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## Hot Topics

2015 Legislative Task Force

- Student Resources
- Teacher Professional Development
- Career Discovery
- Expand High School Programs

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## Hot Topics

### 2016 Legislation Passed

- Encouraging Maryland school systems to have at least one high school agriculture program
- Del. McKay & Senator Bates

# About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

## Hot Topics

- Environmental Literacy - became part of COMAR 2011
- Outdoor field-based environmental experience (at least one)
  - Inventory and utilize environmental education service providers and resources



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## Hot Topics

### Current Legislation - HB 870

Ambitious bill that defines Agricultural Education in Maryland and requests funding for support of teacher professional development, extended contracts, FFA Affiliate membership for all agricultural education students and more.



# About Agriculture in Education in Maryland

## Summary

- Not Required - with the exception of 4th grade history, agriculture is not required to be taught in the Maryland public schools
- Integrating Agriculture - taking advantage of the opportunities within the environmental literacy guidelines  
for outdoor, off campus and community experiences.
- Why not Agriculture Literacy - as a requirement for graduation?
- Advocacy - continued advocacy for Ag Literacy at all levels
- appears to be making inroads toward a more formal Ag •  
literacy standard for education in Maryland



