# Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.



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

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## Agriculture in Education in Maryland



#### **Briefly About MAEF**

- o Established in 1989 nonprofit. non-governmental
- o Lead by a 25 member Board including 3 exofficio 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



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



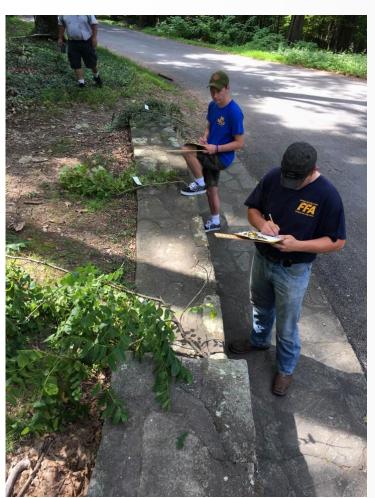


#### **Maryland FFA**

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)



#### 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



**Hot Topics** 

**Urban Agriculture** 

**Environmental Literacy** 

**Outdoor Experiences** 







Hot Topics 2015 Legislative Task Force

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



#### **Hot Topics**

2016 Legislation Passed

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

#### **Hot Topics**

Environmental Literacy - became part of COMAR 2011

- Outdoor field-based environmental experience (at least one)

- Inventory and utilize environmental education service





#### **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.



#### **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





