



THE BUSHWACKER

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau News

Website: www.mdfarmbureau.com/StMary.asp

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Banquet

Our banquet will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department. Doors open at 5:00 pm with dinner starting at 6:00 pm. See the form in this newsletter to order tickets. Deadline to order and pay for ticket(s) is March 6th. We hope to see y'all there!

The President's Message

Dear Farm Bureau Members:

The year 2017 is going to bring some "interesting times" for agriculture at the local, state, and national levels.

The USDA doesn't even have final regulations for some programs and changes from the 2014 Farm Bill in place, yet Congress has already begun to consider writing a new Farm Bill in 2018.

Our new president has formally abandoned the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), plans to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and declared an end to the era of multinational trade agreements that defined global economics for decades. So what do these changes mean for our farmers? According to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duval, AFBF viewed the TPP as "a positive agreement that would add \$4.4 billion annually to the struggling agriculture economy. Approval of the TPP promised American farms, ranches and companies access to nearly 500 million consumers in the Asia-Pacific region." Regarding NAFTA, President Duval said that, "U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico exceed \$38 billion today, due in large part to NAFTA."

President Duval further stated that, "AFBF pledges to work with the administration to help ensure that American agriculture can compete on a level playing field in markets around the world. But we need the

administration's commitment to ensuring we do not lose the ground gained—whether in the Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe or other parts of the world."

Closer to home, Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) continues to be a strong advocate representing our farmers in Annapolis. The 2017 legislative session is under way and already bills are being proposed or introduced by anti-farming elements to further regulate or restrict agriculture in Maryland. The MFB legislative team works very hard to protect agriculture from unnecessary and burdensome laws and regulations so our farmers can do what they do best—feed the world.

Our St. Mary's County farming community is fortunate to have a supportive legislative delegation representing us in Annapolis. Our delegation understands the importance of agriculture to our county and state. We appreciate their efforts on behalf of our farmers.

The Board of Commissioners for St. Mary's County continues to be very supportive of agriculture in our county. We appreciate their continued funding of the Ag Education program at the Tech Center, County Ag land preservation programs, and other pro-farming programs in St. Mary's County. Farm bureau is currently working through the final draft of an update to our County's Right To Farm Ordinance. We look forward to a favorable endorsement of our proposal by the Commissioners.

Your Farm Bureau, currently representing 825 members, is the leading voice for agriculture in St. Mary's County. It is a strong advocate of safe, environmentally responsible and economically sound food and fiber production. Our goal is to increase net farm income and improve the quality of life for everyone in the agricultural community.

Regardless of changes in policies, trade agreements, laws or regulations at the national and state levels, farm bureau will continue to work for our farmers to

protect their best interests, keep farming sustainable, and help farmers to be profitable.

I look forward to continuing to serve you as Farm Bureau president. All are welcome at our monthly board meetings, which are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Agricultural Services Center in Leonardtown.

Best personal regards,

Jamie Raley

James K. Raley, Jr.
President

Legislative Update

The annual legislative dinner was held on January 6, 2017. State elected officials attending were: Senator Steve Waugh, Del. Matt Morgan, Del. Deb Rey, and Del. Jerry Clark. County Commissioners attending were: President J. Randy Guy and Commissioner Tom Jarboe.

Ms. Donna Sasscer provided everyone with an overview of agricultural land preservation programs and activity in our county. She informed the elected officials about some issues pertaining to land appraisals and stressed the need to continue funding for the programs.

Mrs. Jessica Staelens, the Forrest Center Ag Education teacher, gave a briefing to attendees on the Agricultural Education and Technology Program and explained the Curriculum for Agricultural and Science Education course. Two FFA students told attendees about how the FFA Program has enriched their lives and provided them with enhanced educational opportunities.

President Jamie Raley presented farm bureau's position on issues pertaining to the North Farmer's Market. He also informed attendees about the impact of stormwater management regulations on farm operations and the expense incurred by farmers in meeting the requirements of the regulations.

Elected officials shared their thoughts with our directors concerning the 2017 legislative session in Annapolis and about local matters pertaining to agriculture.

Annual Meeting Report

The 2016 St. Mary's County Farm Bureau annual membership meeting was held on October 11, 2016. Sixty-six people attended the meeting, with 52 voting members present. President Jamie Raley was reelected for his final two-year term of office. Director Bryan

Thomas was elected as Vice President. Incumbent directors Bobby Raley, Jeffrey Raley, Sr., Brian Russell, and Tommy Norris were reelected for another two years. Former Vice President Joe Wood was elected as a director. The membership also elected four new directors to the board. Please read further in this newsletter for information about our new directors.

Meeting attendees received copies of financial statements and approved the report of the Audit Committee. Members also voted to recommend the retention of 9 out of 10 Maryland Farm Bureau policies that were slated for sunset. Nine delegates were selected from the membership to represent our farm bureau at the Maryland Farm Bureau convention in Ocean City, MD.

Farewell to Former Directors

Farm bureau thanks Messrs. Bobby Cooper, Richard Hayden, James "Bubby" Norris, Barry Roache, and Johnny Knott for their years of service as directors and officers of farm bureau. Johnny and Bubby are both past presidents and Bobby, Ricky, and Barry were long-serving directors.

Welcome New Directors

Welcome to Messrs. Robert Beale, John Butterfield, David Cullins, and Mrs. Sarah Hayden as new directors. Mr. Beale is the owner of Loveville Timberworks. Mr. Butterfield and his family own the Hole-in-the-Woods Farm where they raise livestock and sell USDA approved meat products. Mr. Cullins owns the Cullins Lime and Fertilizer Spreading Service and is part-owner of the Wicomico Grain Elevator. Mrs. Hayden is a former Miss St. Mary's County Farm Bureau. She works with her spouse in their farming operation.

These new directors bring a diverse set of skills to our board which will be of great benefit to the corporation over time. Thank you to our new directors and to all returning directors for their service.

Seeking Miss Farm Bureau Program Candidates for 2017

Farm Bureau is looking for young ladies between the ages of 16 and 19 who would like to become Miss St. Mary's County Farm Bureau and represent our county in the State Fair competition. We are also looking for young ladies between the ages of 8-11 to compete in the Little Miss Farm Bureau contest and young ladies between the ages of 12-15 to compete in the Junior Miss Farm Bureau contest.

Please contact Mrs. Marbeth Raley at (301) 769-3860 for more information. The Miss Farm Bureau, Junior Miss, and Little Miss will be selected at the 2017 Farm Bureau banquet in March.

FFA Chapter Annual Sale

The Forrest Center FFA will hold its Annual Plant and Vegetable Sale on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center. The sale will benefit the Forrest Center FFA Chapter. Quantity is limited so please come early.

Floyd Raley Scholarship

The Raley Scholarship application for farm bureau member dependents is available through the Business, Education, and Community Alliance, or BECA, website. The essay topic for 2017 is: "Discuss the importance of food security for our state and for our nation."

Farm Bureau will grant one or more awards up to \$1,000 depending on available funding. The scholarship can be renewed for a second year. Eligible applicants must be a graduate of a St. Mary's County public or private high school, accredited Home School Program, or, currently enrolled in an accredited two or four year college. The applicant must be a dependent of a St. Mary's County Farm Bureau member. (Membership will be verified). Recipients must enroll as a student in a two or four year college for the 2017-2018 school year and major in agriculture, horticulture, environmental (water, air or soil) science, biological science, natural resources, or a related field of study. Renewal requests must also be filed through BECA's Common Scholarship Application with a new essay. Renewal applicants must have been awarded this scholarship in the previous year. The BECA due date is March 1, 2017.

The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau will make the award selection.

Women's Leadership Committee

The St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Chairperson is Mrs. Trisha Thomas. We look forward to 2017 being a year of renewed interest and activity for the Farm Bureau's Women's Leadership Committee.

For information on how you can become a member of your local Women's Leadership Committee, contact Trisha Thomas at 301-475-5787.

Southern Maryland Farm Equipment Available for Rent

Farm bureau has nine pieces of rental equipment, funded by grants from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, which are stored at Guy Brothers Implements in Clements, MD. For further information on rentals, contact Joe Wood (H) 301-884-3086, (C) 301-481-5544. For information about renting the meat freezer trailer, please contact Willie Goddard at 301-475-5190. Please leave a message and a return phone number.

Equipment Available for Rent:

- Mater Mac 2 row vacuum seeder
- MT 912 Mulch Planter, 2 row with water barrel
- Ferris Farm Seeder planter
- Plastic Remover, mechanical – 2 pieces
- Rain Flow plastic mulch layer
- Walinga grain vacuum
- Vineyard hedger-trimmer
- Massey Ferguson 70 hp tractor
- Mobile meat freezer trailer

FLIP TABS

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau continues to collect aluminum flip tabs to support the work of the Ronald McDonald Foundation. The Foundation, in turn, supports the Children's Hospitals that serve our area by providing respite and housing services for the families of seriously ill and injured children in the hospital.

Flip tabs can be dropped off at the Farm Bureau Office in the Ag Services Center Building on Radio Station Way in Leonardtown.

Ads – Voting members can place a business card size classified ad in the Bushwacker for free. Non-members can place a business card ad for \$10.00. A one-quarter page business ad is \$25.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. If interested in placing an advertisement, please call 301-475-0050.

NATIONWIDE AGENTS

Contact one of the Nationwide agents to check on the discount offered on your car and homeowners insurance. Nationwide agents for St. Mary's County are:

- Frank Goldbach. 301-862-7283
- Bob Hall, Jr. 301-863-8100
- Celeste Mileto. 301-862-1301
- J. Patrick Haley, II 301-475-2866
- Judi Sterling 301-994-0401

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2017 Officers
James K. Raley, Jr., President
L. Bryan Thomas, Sr., Vice President
Cathy Mattingly, Secretary/Treasurer
Trisha Thomas, Chair, Women's Committee
Susan Vallandingham, Chair, Young Farmers

2017 Board of Directors
David Cullins, 1st District
Wes Cory, 1st District
Sarah Hayden, 2nd District
Michael Hayden, 2nd District
Willie Goddard, 3rd District
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John Butterfield, 4th District
Robert W. Raley, 4th District
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