



THE BUSHWACKER

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau News

Website: www.mdfarmbureau.com/StMary.asp

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October, 2016

Annual Meeting – The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Mary's County Agricultural Services Center meeting room. The Ag Services building is located at 26737 Radio Station Way, Leonardtown, MD. Election of officers and board members will occur. Any voting member interested in being a Board member should contact (301) 769-3860.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Several agenda items will be addressed at the annual meeting. Members are invited to submit policy resolutions for consideration and vote. Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) is a grassroots organization. Policies supporting or opposing various issues are solicited from the county farm bureaus. Resolutions that are passed at the county meeting will be forwarded to MFB for consideration and vote at the annual state convention in December. Participants at the county meeting will be asked to select three priority issues of concern for 2017 from a list of issues supplied by MFB. We are also being asked to review several MFB policies for sunset. We will hold the election of St. Mary's County Farm Bureau President, Vice President and directors for 2017 and also select our county MFB delegates who will attend the annual state convention. Other appropriate business may also be addressed.

Proposed Change to Bylaws

A change to the Farm Bureau's Bylaws was proposed at the 2015 annual meeting. The proposal is to change the term of office of Immediate Past President in order to align this portion of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau bylaws with the bylaws of the Maryland Farm Bureau.

The proposed bylaw change will be presented for vote at the 2016 annual meeting. Please see the insert concerning the bylaw change in this edition of "The Bushwacker" for more information.

Change to Citrus and Nut Program

Maryland Farm Bureau will only be offering the holiday citrus and nuts order once this year. There were complaints from some participating county farm bureaus last

year about the unsatisfactory quality of some of the citrus products. MFB is working with Florida Farm Bureau to address this problem in order to provide uniformly excellent citrus to all farm bureau customers.

Previous patrons of St. Mary's County Farm Bureau will receive an order form in the mail sometime in early November to order their holiday product.

Farm bureau thanks Bubby and Carolyn Norris for their many years of chairing the Citrus Program and for all of their dedication and hard work on behalf of farm bureau for the past 20+ years. Bubby's phone number is (301) 769-3870.

The President's Message

Dear Farm Bureau Members,

Your farm bureau continues to be the leading advocate for agriculture in St. Mary's County. The state legislative session was very challenging this year, but overall agriculture fared well. Please read further on for a report on our legislative efforts.

In the October 2015 Bushwacker, I reported that I was appointed chair of a MFB workgroup exploring a proposal to create an amendment to Maryland's constitution giving farmers a guaranteed right to farm and to make recommendations to MFB on how we should proceed to get the amendment passed. The workgroup determined that there was no support in our state legislature for the proposal. The workgroup recommended that county farm bureaus review their local right to farm ordinances and consider language to make those ordinances broader and stronger in order to protect agriculture in their respective counties.

Your farm bureau has submitted language to the St. Mary's County Commissioners requesting an update to our county Right To Farm Ordinance. A public hearing on the request will be scheduled soon.

Regarding some local matters, we are very pleased to announce that the Ag Education program is doing well at the Tech Center. Twelve 11th grade students have returned for their second year and nine 10th graders are enrolled in the first course of the program. About 20 9th graders have ex-

pressed interest in enrolling in the program in 2017. The existing Future Farmers of America chapter at the Forest Center has been aligned with the new Curriculum for Agricultural Science and Technology Education (CASE) program. Ms. Jessica Staelens is the CASE teacher and the FFA advisor. We thank the Board of County Commissioners and the School Board for funding and supporting this initiative.

St. Mary's Farm Bureau awarded two \$1,000 scholarships this year to two applicants enrolled in college agricultural programs.

Our St. Mary's Farm Bureau has a very robust Young Farmer's Committee that is working to promote the next leaders of agriculture in our county. We are very proud of our young farmers.

Your farm bureau works very hard for all members of our agricultural community. We appreciate your support as members, but we need to hear your questions and concerns about matters pertaining to agriculture. You are always invited to attend our board meetings, which are usually held the 4th Tuesday of every month beginning at 7:00 pm at the Ag Services building in Leonardtown. I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting this year.

Best personal regards,

Jamie Raley

James K. Raley, Jr.
President
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, Inc.

Code Home Rule Proposal

Farm bureau continues its opposition to a proposal by the St. Mary's County Commissioners to change our form of government from county commissioner to Code Home Rule (CHR). Your Farm Bureau Board of Directors has examined the reasons behind the proposal, has researched the law on this change, and some directors have attended public hearings on the matter to gauge public sentiment on the proposal. We have found that changing our government to CHR will not benefit farmers. St. Mary's Farm Bureau does not have anyone who can attend 45 weekly commissioner meetings to monitor legislative proposals. Also, if we found that a law created via CHR would adversely impact agriculture it is highly unlikely that we would be able to gather 6,400 signatures to petition the law to referendum. Taking all matters into consideration, the Board of Directors does not support the change of government to Code Home Rule.

Be sure to vote on November 8, 2016 and just say "no" to Code Home Rule.

State Legislative Review

The Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations staff works tirelessly on behalf of the entire agricultural community in our state. MFB staff reported about several bills that impacted Maryland's farming community.

After early concerns about the introduction of several harmful bills to the Ag community, the 2016 General Assembly session proved quite successful for Maryland farmers. One of the highlights of this session included the passage of the Agriculture Education bill. Maryland Farm Bureau was able to fend off agriculture unfriendly bills such as the Poultry Litter Management Act and the Farmer's Rights Act. In addition, bills to ban antibiotics for disease prevention from livestock and poultry feed along with a bill that would have legalized unregulated raw milk sales died in committee.

There was a movement to improve and secure Program Open Space funding. The Governor's administration worked with the legislature and found common ground to solidify the funding for this program while putting into place payback methods for funds raided over the last decade. Additionally, Maryland Ag Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) funding was secured and MAR-BIDCO's Next Generation Farmland Acquisition program will finally be funded.

Update on rifles legal to harvest deer in St. Mary's

During the 2015 legislative session, Farm Bureau, working with Senator Steve Waugh, was able to secure legislation to change the law regarding Deer Management Permits, (DMP). Farmers in St. Mary's County who harvested antlerless deer under a DMP were authorized to use breech loading center-fire rifles. However, because of a clause in the law, rifle usage under the DMP was restricted to the legal hunting season only. This restriction was corrected during the 2016 legislative session. Farm Bureau, again working with Sen. Waugh, was successful in getting a bill passed that now allows holders of DMPs to use rifles throughout the year, including all hunting seasons, in order to harvest antlerless deer in accordance with their DMPs.

Contact Mr. Peter Bendel, DNR, Southern Region Wildlife & Heritage Service, at (410) 260-8547 for information on DMPs.

Floyd Raley Scholarship Fund Award

Farm Bureau awarded two \$1,000 scholarships from the Floyd Raley Scholarship Fund. The first recipient was Ms. Gabrielle Cory of Leonardtown, MD., who will be a sophomore at the University of Maryland majoring in agricultural education. The scholarship was presented to Ms. Cory in memory of Mr. Robert T. Jarboe.

The second scholarship was awarded in memory of Mr. Floyd Raley to Mr. Charles A. Sasscer, III of Park Hall, MD. Mr. Sasscer is enrolled at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK., and is majoring in veterinary medicine.

Farm bureau partnered again this year with the Business and Education Community Alliance (BECA) to solicit applicants for our scholarship. The online scholarship application for 2017 will be activated on the BECA website on or about January 2, 2017. The deadline to submit an application is usually March 1st.

Miss Farm Bureau Program

Miss Madison Raley of Mechanicsville, MD., was selected as the 2016 Miss St. Mary's Farm Bureau at the annual banquet. Miss Sara VanRyswick of Leonardtown, MD., was selected as the Farm Bureau Junior Miss and Miss Kaylee Bowen of Mechanicsville, MD., was selected as our Little Miss.

The young ladies participated in the Earth Day event held in Leonardtown and they will be attending other events throughout the year.

Madison participated in the Miss Maryland Agriculture program that was held at the 2016 Maryland State Fair in Timonium, MD. She represented her county well and we congratulate her on receiving an award for her educational agriculture promotion board.

Young ladies interested in participating in the Miss Farm Bureau Program should contact Marbeth Raley at (301) 769-3860.

Directors complete terms of office

St. Mary's Farm Bureau thanks Directors Bobby Cooper, Ricky Hayden, Bubby Norris and Barry Roache for serving as members of the board of directors for the past six years. These directors are term-limited. They will complete their term of service at the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting. Farm bureau thanks all of these gentlemen for volunteering to serve on the board.

A Nominating Committee has been appointed to solicit voting members to fill vacancies on the board. Anyone interested in serving as a director may call President Jamie Raley at (301) 769-3860.

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau –Equipment Rental Program:

Agricultural equipment, funded by grants from SMADC, are stored at Guy Implements in Clements, MD. For further information, contact Joe Wood (301) 481-5544.

To rent the mobile meat trailer, contact Willie Goddard at (301) 475-5190. Please leave a message and a return phone number.

Rental Equipment:

Vacuum seeder – 2 row, meter mac
Planter, 2 row 8' with layer poly
Farm Seeder
Mulch Planter
Plastic Remover, mechanical – 2 pieces
Plastic mulch layer
Grain vacuum
Massey Ferguson 70 hp tractor
Vineyard Hedger-Trimmer
Commercial Meat Freezer Trailer

Women's Leadership Committee

The Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) is looking for new members. The WLC carries out a variety of projects that advance agriculture and Farm Bureau goals and provides an opportunity for women to become involved in all aspects of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

For information on how you can become a member of your local Women's Committee, contact Donna Knott at (301) 904-3005 or Mary Wood at (301) 481-5453.

FLIP TABS

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Committee 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 to 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. Call (301) 475-0050 to arrange to have the tabs picked up.

Ads – Voting members can place business card size classified ads in the Bushwacker for free. Non-members can place this size 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
Judi Sterling 301-994-0401
J. Patrick Haley II. 301-475-2866

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2016 Officers

James K. Raley, Jr., President
Johnny Knott, Immediate Past President
Joseph "Wink" Wood, Vice President
Cathy Mattingly, Secretary/Treasurer
Donna Knott – Co-Chair, Women's Committee
Mary Wood – Co-Chair, Women's Committee
Susan Vallandingham, Chair, Young Farmers

2016 Board of Directors

Bobby Cooper, 1st District
Wes Cory, 1st District
Richard Hayden, 2nd District
Michael Hayden, 2nd District
Brian Thomas, 3rd District
John B. Norris, Jr., 3rd District
Willie Goddard, 4th District
Robert W. Raley, 4th District
Joseph "Tony" St. Clair, 5th District
Jeffrey Raley, Sr., 5th District
Joan H. Bearden, 6th District
Brian Russell, 6th District
James Moore, 7th District
James "Bubby" Norris, Jr., 7th District
J. Barry Roache, 8th District
Thomas Norris, 8th District