



**Maryland  
Department of Agriculture**

*Office of the Secretary*

**Wes Moore**, Governor  
**Aruna Miller**, Lt. Governor  
**Kevin M. Atticks**, Secretary  
**Steven A. Connelly**, Deputy Secretary

*Maryland Agricultural Commission*

*Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry*  
mda.maryland.gov

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**Maryland Agricultural Commission  
Minutes  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Present:**

Chris Rhodes  
Dr. Marianne Bailey O'Malley  
Paula Linthicum  
Frank Allnut  
Stefanie Reiser  
Gordon Kretser (Zoom)  
Kellie Hinkle  
Russell Shlagel  
Kelly Lewis  
Rachel Lipman (Zoom)

Joe Dymek  
Hunter Pusey  
Johnny Shockley  
Raj Kathuria (Zoom)  
Tom Mullineaux  
Levi Sellers (Zoom)  
Mike Levensgood  
Amy Crone  
Dr. Darren Jarboe (Zoom)

**Absent:**

Cliff Newsome  
Ann Merryman  
Kelly Dudeck

Far Nasir  
Sean Hough  
John Murphy

**MDA Staff:**

Sec. Kevin Atticks  
Steve Connelly  
Rachel Jones  
Jessica Hackett

Hans Schmidt  
Cassie Shirk  
Harrison Palmer  
Heather Barthel

**Guests:**

Austin Schwartzbeck (Zoom)  
Bill Miles  
Steve McHenry (Zoom)

Sierra Criste  
Brian Cadden  
Brittany Rawlings

## **Call to Order:**

The November 2023 Maryland Agricultural Commission meeting was called to order by Amy Crone, Acting Chair, at 10:05 am.

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes was made by J. Kelly Lewis, second by Paula Linthicum at 10:09 AM

## **Presentation from Michelle Cable, Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.**

## **Presentation from the University of Maryland Chesapeake UAS Route Network.**

## **Commodity Reports:**

### **Ag Education- Joseph Dymek:**

#### **MAEF**

- Annual Banquet will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Champion Event Center (Clarion) in Frederick.
- MAEF is moving forward with plans to purchase and deploy both a new showcase and a new mobile lab. A FUNdraiser was held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Hopkins Farm Brewery where they released a special beer labeled with an Ag Tag. (The canned versions quickly sold out!) A portion of those sales will benefit MAEF's lab fundraising. Additional fundraisers are planned, along with requests for sponsorships/grants. A giving portal is on the MAEF website for private donations as well. The showcases reach more than 50,000 people per year, and the four labs reach over 100,000 students per year.
- MAEF's Middle School program is piloting a project with the Cecil County Public Library system which MAEF hopes to replicate with other library systems across the state. From Tues. Nov. 14 to Thursday Nov. 16, the MAEF showcase will be the "anchor" for activities including Family Story Time: On the Farm; Read Aloud with Junior Miss Agriculture; Cecil County Stories in Ag; and Kids Academy (a homeschool program).
- MAEF is beginning to work on an introductory course featuring agriculture which will pilot next spring at a Montgomery County middle school. The work is funded through a MAERDAF grant from Rural Maryland Council.

#### **FFA**

- 240 Maryland FFA members attended the National Convention this year in Indianapolis. National FFA reported that over 70,000 participants attended this year.

#### **Maryland Farm Bureau**

- The Ag Ed and Extension Committee met on May 18th. Thanks to Tyler Hough MDFB (though@marylandfb.org) for his leadership. Congratulations to Tyler as he steps up to be MDFB Government Affairs director!

- MDFB is focused on the Annual Convention, December 2-5, in Cambridge.
- The MDFB Young Farmers Next Gen Summit, hosted by the Ag Ed and the Young Farmers Committees, will be held December 2-3, 2023. Attendees will build strong partnerships and connections among youth from FFA, 4-H and MANRRS, young professionals, and Young Farmers of MDFB. Participants will network, share successes, and strategize together on efforts to lead and amplify MD Agriculture into the future. If you know of interested FFA, 4-H or MANRRS youth who would like to attend, please let Tyler Hough know.
- There is an opportunity to help sponsor the Next Gen Summit for just \$100. You or your farm or organization will be a huge supporter of our next generation of MD agriculture. Please contact Lisa Storm, [lstorm@marylandfb.org](mailto:lstorm@marylandfb.org), if you would like to sponsor and have your logo displayed during the Summit, please contact Barb Glenn, [glennbarb6@gmail.com](mailto:glennbarb6@gmail.com), chair of Ag Ed Committee or Tyler Hough.

#### University of Maryland – Ag Education

- A virtual open house will be held for those interested in pursuing a Master of Extension Education on November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. You must register in advance for this meeting - Please register at the following link: [https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrfuyqpjstE9yMEC\\_pGyIaA8zVvqQ1KNHJ](https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrfuyqpjstE9yMEC_pGyIaA8zVvqQ1KNHJ)

#### **Agribusiness- Thomas Mullineaux:**

- Retail Ag (Formerly known as “Farm Supply Stores”) are few and far between.
  - Those that continue to operate as independent businesses, or “Local Coops”, are doing well.
  - The owners and managers that I’ve spoken with have said that sales of farm supplies, bagged livestock feed (including llama, dog and cat food, rabbit, fish feed, chicken and duck feed), tack, lawn and garden tools, bag fertilizer and lime and work clothes and shoes and boots are EXCELLENT!
  - Reasons being, Covid is mostly behind us, there seems to be good attitudes and CUSTOMER SERVICE.
- Owners and managers explain to me that folks have questions and want the answers to:
  - How much feed do I feed my hens? How many dozen eggs a day will I get from 6 hens?
  - Can you tell me how to take care of my llama?
  - How do I build a fence?
  - Unlike box stores, customers get answers.
- On the other side of the business,
  - Early order seed corn and soybean seed grower orders are very strong.
  - Fertilizer prices MAY have bottomed out.
    - Growers that have liquid nitrogen storage capacity are filling up.
  - Estimated 80-90% of small grains are planted.
  - Seed Dealers tell me Cover Crop seed Sales are Flat.
  - Grower and Dealer concerns:
    - Credit: Rising rates putting another squeeze on my profits.
    - Nutrient Management: Is it Fixed?
    - The Bay: Will we see results of the Pa. “Save the Bay” program?

- Labor: I need good people inside and out. Where are they?
- Markets: Thanks to? For Lothian Elevator. Is the Baltimore Export Market Dead?
- Frederick County Government has announced that they are forming the Frederick County Department of Agriculture to handle permitting, regulations and enforcement of agricultural relevance. Agriculture preservation will be included within this new department, and there will be a good working relationship between the new department and the soil conservation district.

**Agritourism - Kelly Dudeck:**

- No Report.

**Aquaculture - Johnny Shockley:**

- Our company is Blue Oyster Environmental, designed to take advantage of the opportunities that oysters provide to filter the Bay.
- Hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oyster Science Symposium in Cambridge in collaboration with the Oyster Alliance, had about 500 people, 400 virtually, representing 6 different countries. Showcase what we do in the state of Maryland.
- Received the 2<sup>nd</sup> BMP guidelines for oysters in the field of mitigation banks about 3 weeks ago. Creates a way to privately fund the restoration of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay that are being paid by those who have Phosphorus goals that they cannot meet.
- Oyster shells stand as an opportunity in shoreline restoration and living shorelines.
- Working on developing the first oyster processing facility in Cambridge in conjunction with Cross Street Development, incorporating High Pressure Processing as a way to shuck oysters.

**Bio-Fuel - Rajneesh Kathuria:**

- Soybean oil makes up about 50% of biodiesel feedstock.
- According to MD Soybean board - Maryland farmers grow about half a million acres of soybeans, producing more than 20 million bushels of beans each year.
- With a value of nearly \$200 million to the state's economy, soybeans are one of Maryland's top crops.
- Although Most of the soybean produced in MD is being used as feed for the poultry industry.
- The biodiesel industry supports more than 60,000 U.S. jobs and adds \$12 billion to the U.S. economy.
- The Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit in January 2024 might be a great venue for farmers interested in finding out more about biodiesel from soy or corn.

**Consumer – Kellie Hinkle:**

- Drew comparisons with Burrow Street and London Flower Market abroad to Maryland markets.
- St. Mary's County has 3 markets which are bolstering in growth.

- One market that was seasonal has now transitioned to a year-round, speaking to the pivot to the demand for more local food than we saw during covid.
- There is a continuing population of faithful routine customers who will always show up to markets and drive business.

### **Dairy I – Vacant:**

### **Dairy II- Vacant:**

### **Direct Farm Market - Amy Crone:**

- The cold brings the quiet(er) part of the season for the farm direct sector – shifting to winter planning, organization for next season, and ensuring beds and pastures are in good shape for winter.
- Lots of great produce is still in season in Maryland though; you can see lists [here](#) for inspiration before you shop the farmers market.
- Frost has already affected crops in Western Maryland and with its arrival soon in parts further east the harvest season will be winding down.
- Plan ahead for Thanksgiving & reserve your local Maryland turkey from your favorite farm now! A list of them can be found [here](#).
- Winter CSAs will begin soon; they are [listed](#) on Maryland’s Best for folks to find one near them and inquire if they offer options year-round.
- The majority of farmers markets stay open through Thanksgiving; some closed at the end of October and a few are year-round. Full list is [here](#).
- MDA is seeking in put on the shift to an electronic Farmers Market Nutrition Program; farmers should [respond](#) with their thoughts by November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- [Applications](#) are open for SMADC’s Maryland Market Money program for the 2024 season.
- In Charles County, SMADC has also launched a Community Fridges project – information and application can be found [here](#).
- National news:
  - NAFMNP was awarded the new SNAP equipment grant, which provides direct marketing farmers and farmers markets with equipment and technical assistance to accept SNAP. Applications are available at [www.marketlink.org/apply](http://www.marketlink.org/apply)
  - Part of this new grant will pilot approaches in Maryland to connect direct marketing farmers with SNAP participants
  - Still waiting for USDA to announce grants awards, so will be keeping an eye to see if any Maryland organizations and/or farmers received the [FMPP](#), [LFPP](#), [GUSNip](#), or [Local Meat Capacity](#) grants
  - SNAP Online project now [open to farmers](#) to accept SNAP via an eCommerce site (GrownBy).
- Grants / Opportunities / Conferences (in chronological order):
  - Mid-Atlantic Grain Conference was held in DC on 10/23, with good representation by Maryland farmers, brewers, and distillers.
  - UMES is hosting the Small Farms Conference this week. Information & registration [here](#) (walk-ins accepted).
  - Farm Bureau Convention Registration is [open](#) (deadline Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>). 12/2-5, 2023

- Discrimination Financial Assistance Program is now accepting applications from farmers and ranchers who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending prior to January 1, 2021. Visit [www.22007apply.gov](http://www.22007apply.gov) or call 1-800-721-0970 for more details. The application deadline has been extended to January 13, 2024.
- FutureHarvest Conference Registration is [open](#). 1/18-20, 2024
- MidAtlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention registration will [open](#) early December. 1/30 – 2/1, 2024
- PASA Conference registration is [open](#). 2/8-10, 2024
- MarketLink is hiring an Outreach Specialist – information & application [here](#).
- Ongoing challenges for this sector: processing dates, weather, labor

### **Equine (Horse Breeding) - Ann Merryman:**

- No Report.

### **Farm Bureau - Paula Linthicum:**

- The 2023 MD Farm Bureau Annual Convention & Meeting of Delegates will be held December 2-5, 2023, in Cambridge.
  - The event will kick off Saturday with the Young Farmer NextGen Summits.
  - Delegates will assemble Monday and Tuesday for learning sessions and to vote on policy for the 2024 Legislative Session.
- Tyler Hough leads MD Farm Bureau's 2024 legislative work in Annapolis as the newly appointed Director of Government Relations.
  - Tyler and staff are busy planning for the 2024 session and meeting with as many groups and elected officials as possible.
  - Thanks to partners and stakeholders, including MDA, DCA, Farm Credit, and Grain Producers - a great tour with the House E&T Committee took place on October 23rd.
- Upcoming Dates
  - Maryland Farm Bureau Day-in-Annapolis - February 7th, 2024
  - Young Ag Professionals Conference, Harrisburg, PA - February 16th - 18<sup>th</sup> (partnership with PA Farm Bureau)

### **Field Crops – Chris Rhodes:**

- The weather is abnormally dry for this time of which is good for getting crops harvest but bad for getting wheat out of the ground and some fall growth before dormancy.
  - Corn 70% Harvested
  - Soybeans 40% Harvested
  - Wheat 70% planted.
    - 50% emerged.
- Overall yields have been good across the state with some localized extreme drought in a few Western Maryland counties.
- Grain Price have been all over the place in the last few weeks. Wheat prices are low for 2024 and acres are expected to decline.
  - Dec Corn 30-day trading range \$4.76-\$5.09

- Nov Beans 30-day trading range \$12.50-\$13.18 (60 cent. rally)
- Dec Wheat 30-day trading range \$5.41-\$6.04
- Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board grant proposals are due November 17<sup>th</sup> and scholarships are due January. Applications can be found at [www.marylandgrain.org](http://www.marylandgrain.org)
- Grain handling facilities are getting full with harvest season among us, a lot of corn is being transitioned to be stored in piles versus bins.

### **Food Processing – Vacant:**

### **Forestry – Hunter Pusey:**

- **INCREASED TRUCK WEIGHTS FOR HAULING FOREST PRODUCTS**
  - Industry leaders met with the State Highway Administrator in Spring 2023 for the purpose of discussing the possibility of increasing maximum weight limits for hauling forest products. The intent is to help make Maryland more competitive with our neighboring states which have more friendly industry truck weight limits than Maryland. Under current DOT consideration in Maryland is a blanket hauling permit that would allow for increased weights. Not sure at this time if a statutory change is required or whether it can be accomplished via a regulatory change. AFI is awaiting an update from DOT via SHA.
- **WOODY BIOMASS-FUELED PUBLIC FACILITIES**
  - Maryland’s climate change goals, among other things, identify the importance of solar, wind, thermal, hydro and woody biomass as renewable energy sources worthy of aggressive pursuits as alternatives to fossil fuel energy source dependence. Maryland’s forests products industry – well represented by the Association of Forest Industries – has been promoting the use of woody biomass in publicly-funded facilities, aka, schools, prisons, hospitals, etc. The only publicly funded facility in Maryland using woody biomass is the Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) located in Somerset County...use of about 55,000 tons of wood chips to produce 4 MW of energy.
  - Before leaving office, Governor Hogan announced – in cooperation with Somerset County officials – the conversion of ECI from woody biomass to natural gas. To date, ECI is still relying upon wood chips; but the ink is dry on converting to natural gas. With conversion, Maryland has no woody biomass fueled facilities.
  - Maryland’s forest products industry would most appreciate the Maryland Agricultural Commission helping to convince the Moore Administration to look towards woody biomass-fueled facilities via future planning. Know too the operating capacity of woody biomass far exceeds that of wind and solar b/c wind must blow and sun must shine.
- **2022 REPORT OF THE MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION**
  - The industry is working closely with Maryland’s Department of Commerce per recommendation #24 reflected in the 2022 Report of the Maryland Climate Change Commission. Link below.
  - <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202022/2022%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

- This Report -- to our surprise -- recognizes the unique role played by Maryland's forest products industry in helping to mitigate climate change via sustainable forestry management...something also recognized in 2009 with enactment of Maryland's nationally acclaimed *Sustainable Forestry Act* (Chapter 175, link shown below)
- [https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters\\_noln/Ch\\_175\\_sb0549T.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters_noln/Ch_175_sb0549T.pdf)
- Specifically, MCCC's recommendation #24 reads as follows: “*Incentivize the development of forest products industries that support sustainable forest management and maximize long-term carbon sequestration*”. Accordingly:
  - The Department of Commerce should build a targeted incentive package to attract and grow forest product industries, like structural wood for construction and innovative use of fiber in manufacturing, that support sustainable forest management and utilizes forest products in a way that maximizes long-term carbon sequestration. Doing so would support the Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy and sustainable forest management practices in the state. Incentives should include up to 30% capital of manufacturing investment in new or expanded plants, capped at an amount such as \$10M per applicant.”
- On October 11, 2023, the industry was notified the Commerce Department would soon be talking with us about going forward on this MCCC recommendation. From our perspective, this could be a game changer.
- **GREATER ACCESS TO STATE-OWNED/MANAGED FOREST LANDS**
  - Courtesy of the 2023 Maryland General Assembly, Maryland has enacted a statutory mandate to conserve – now defined too as “preserved” – 30% and 40% of all Maryland’s 6.2 million acres by 2030 and 2040, respectively. The diminishing land base realized by ever increasing State ownership threatens sustainable forestry management from an industry perspective. What is needed is more of these publicly-owned lands available to the industry – instead of being closed to the industry – to effectively manage these forest lands consistent with the nexus embodied in Maryland’s nationally acclaimed *Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009* between a healthy managed forest system and a healthy Bay watershed.
- **MARBIDCO RECOGNIZES ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY**
  - On October 12, 2023, MARBIDCO released a PRESS RELEASE that states the following: “MARBIDCO recognizes the importance of the forests products industry from economic, environmental and consumer perspectives, and thus seeks to assist in growing a strong and diversified wood products industry. Helping to sustain and grow a healthy forestry industry, investment now will yield substantial longer-term benefits for Marylanders. Recognizing this, the Governor and Maryland General Assembly authorized \$500,000 in funding for FY 2024 for MARBIDCO to offer the Maryland Wood Products Industry Equity Incentives Program (WPIEI)...in addition, DNR is providing an additional \$100,000 in funding to target projects that focus value-added products.”
  - Welcome news from the 2023 Session of Maryland General Assembly and MARBIDCO’s help in securing the \$.



## **Hemp- Matthew ‘Levi’ Sellers:**

- **MD Hemp Industry Receives Relief from Monopolistic Cannabis Law**
  - Full article can be found here: (<https://cannabusiness.law/maryland-hemp-industry-scores-big-victory-over-monopolistic-cannabis-law/>)
  - After more than a month since the hearing, the MD hemp industry received much needed relief from the unjust law that nearly shut it down.
  - On October 12th, the Maryland hemp industry obtained an injunction prohibiting the enforcement of the Cannabis Reform Act (CRA)
  - Washington County Circuit Court Judge Brett R. Wilson, found that “the interests of [the hemp industry] Plaintiffs are not ‘merely academic, hypothetical, or colorable’ but rather, they are interests of survival, prosperity and, indeed, of life, liberty, and property.”
  - This is a crucial battle against the corporate interests that seek a monopoly on the cannabis and cannabinoid market in Maryland and throughout the US.
  - In its ruling, the court addressed the issue of “whether the strict and exclusive licensing scheme under the CRA and as applied to the hemp industry is a valid exercise of legislative prerogative.”
  - In finding that it is not, and thus prohibiting enforcement of the CRA against the state’s hemp industry, Judge Wilson ruled that the CRA “creates a monopoly that unfairly excludes many from their right to continue, or enter, a profession of their choosing, all to the detriment of the public.” He went on to state that, “[b]ased on the evidence and argument offered thus far the court cannot find a rational basis to support the exclusive and exclusionary licensing scheme that has put Plaintiffs out of their legitimate businesses.”
  - The “severe” and “draconian” licensing scheme fails to “actually benefit the communities found to have been impacted.”
  
- **Illegal Monopoly**
  - The CRA was enjoined because it clearly creates a monopoly. In Judge Wilson’s own words - “[I]t is clear that the CRA creates an Article 41 monopoly that unfairly excludes many from their right to continue, or enter, a profession of their choosing, all to the detriment of the public... As a further restriction, the overall total number of licenses that may be obtained is capped for the purpose of manipulating, supply, price, and license value. In doing so, the CRA licensing scheme confers a significant benefit on those few who obtain a license while barring many, such as Plaintiffs, from engaging in their chosen field of occupation. The public does not benefit when government intentionally constrains power and wealth in the hands of a few.”
  - Maryland is not the only state to create a monopoly on cannabis, this finding is important and may result in future injunctions, and even the eventual toppling, of state laws that favor a small handful of corporate interests over the rights of individuals and small businesses to participate in the cannabis trade. This is especially the case when those laws also include provisions that prohibit or severely restrict hemp products.
  
- **Violates the Right to Equal Protection**

- The CRA was also enjoined because it violates the MD Declaration of Rights, which embodies similar protections as those found in the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment in the US Constitution.
  - In the ruling Judge Wilson states the CRA "barred many of the plaintiffs from continuing in a legitimate business which continues to be legitimate, albeit with additional regulations for health and safety....The court cannot find a rational basis to support the exclusive, and exclusionary, licensing scheme that has put Plaintiffs out of their legitimate businesses."
  - The court also declared that hemp industry participants were acting lawfully under both federal and Maryland state law prior to enactment of the CRA, which suddenly and unfairly made their operations illegal: "Although their products were still legal under state and federal law, Plaintiffs lost the right and opportunity to sell them solely due to the CRA licensing scheme... Plaintiffs were instantly frozen out of the market, because, as discussed above, they did not need licenses to sell their products."
- **CRA Fails to Achieve Social Justice**
    - The court found that the purported social equity provisions of the CRA fail to rectify the harm done by the war on drugs.
    - The ruling further states: "The CRA licensing scheme is based on an assumption that everyone residing in a community that had a history of a disproportionately high rate of marijuana charges was disproportionately affected and, therefore, entitled to be eligible to apply for a license to the exclusion of all persons not from such a community.... the Defendants did not offer any evidence that this severe scheme would actually benefit the communities found to have been impacted."
- **Hemp Industry Supports Reasonable Regulations**
    - A false narrative, that the hemp industry opposes regulation, had circulated throughout Annapolis for the past two legislative sessions. This can finally be put to rest, as the court emphasized what the MD hemp industry has advocated for years.
    - "[I]t is also important to repeat that Plaintiffs are not seeking relief from the reasonable health and safety regulations requiring testing, labeling, and packaging of intoxicating products. They seek relief from the onerous and questionable licensing scheme that halted their businesses." As evidenced in this case and in hemp industry sponsored legislation throughout the country, the hemp industry supports reasonable regulations.
- **Where Do We Go From Here?**
    - Awaiting the results from the State's Appeal, there are steps that we can take to establish reasonable regulations, but support from the MD Dept. of Ag. is needed.
    - As suggested before, reasonable regulations can be established to promote consumer safety and protect the hemp industry. Establishing regulations for packaging, labeling, testing and age-gating (already in place as of 2022 legislative session) can be achieved by following the leadership of neighboring states like WV.
    - A model established by other prominent industries in MD, like the beer, wine and

liquor industries, can be followed. Products produced by these industries are considered “Value-Added” and raw materials for these products are produced by the diverse MD agricultural community.

- This concept aligns with the fact that hemp, as defined in the 2018 Farm Bill, and its derivatives are considered federally legal agricultural commodities. This has been backed by the courts, both state and federal.

- **Hemp-Derived Products as Value-Added Agriculture**

- It was mentioned in a past Ag. Commission meeting that there are some concerns and reservations from the MD Dept. of Agriculture to support legislative changes as written in the 2023 legislative bill, HB1204, due to the potential “intoxicating” effects of certain hemp-derived products.
- I would like to propose a concept that is not far from other state initiatives that promote other “intoxicating” value-added agricultural products supported by the MDA and its current administration.
- A 2021 presentation by Grow & Fortify, to the Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA), highlights key definitions and concepts to promote value-added agriculture in MD. ([https://mda.maryland.gov/about\\_mda/Documents/GICA-Presentation-June2021-GrowandFortify.pdf](https://mda.maryland.gov/about_mda/Documents/GICA-Presentation-June2021-GrowandFortify.pdf))
- Definition for the purpose of the report: Value-Added Agriculture (VAA) has been defined as altering a raw agricultural product in a way to increase its worth to the consumer, which brings more revenue to the farmer, producer or processor.
- For the purposes of the report, VAA includes all enterprises in which an agricultural business and/ or its products are altered, marketed, produced, or processed in a way that adds income to the farmer, producer or processor.
- Sectors Represented: Included hemp and third party certifications
- As quoted in the report - “Encouragement of the entrepreneurial spirit, as well as supportive policies will help farms and related businesses succeed and thrive for generations to come”.
- This report does a great job of highlighting the opportunities that are provided to MD farmers and ancillary small businesses, when the value-added concept is applied to the creation of reasonable regulations.
- This quote by a global cannabis industry expert and Corporate Attorney, sums it up...
  - “For the world to fully recognize the 50,000 uses of the hemp plant, we need to stand in unity and support for all uses of the plant. Detach yourself from your notion about what the hemp industry is supposed to be, and recognize and respect your fellow entrepreneurs, hustlers, and the like. Respect all uses in hemp’s family of uses. All of them. You don’t send one member of a family, because of controversy and disagreement, into the wilderness to die or jettison them, you must embrace them and work with them or you really do not have a family at all. For hemp to succeed as an industry, the entire family of uses MUST be recognized and respected.” — Robert Hoban

- **Economic Impact of Hemp-Derived Cannabinoid Industry**

- Full report can be found here: (<https://whitneyeconomics.com/reports>)
- **An Important note:** The figures below do not include data from gas stations, convenience stores or grocery stores.
- A comprehensive economic impact analysis of the U.S. hemp-derived cannabinoid industry developed by Whitney Economics, uncovers the tremendous economic contribution the hemp-derived cannabinoid market provides to the national economy.
- Many parts of the hemp supply chain have experienced a boom-and- bust cycle, hemp-derived cannabinoids produced from CBD have expanded significantly.
- While hemp fiber and grain policies are still being debated (which is impacting the development and growth of those markets), policy discussions have centered around hemp-derived cannabinoid products, which have hit the market in a significant way.
- The economic potential of all three hemp sub-sectors (i.e. fiber, grain, cannabinoids) is significant, in fact it is actually larger than the adult-use and medical cannabis industry.
- According to publicly available reports the total U.S. cannabis market size (both medical and adult-use combined) is estimated to have a value of approximately \$13-17 billion in 2022.
- According to the Whitney Economics analysis - Nationally, the total market for hemp-derived cannabinoids is conservatively estimated to be \$28.4 billion.
- Here are some additional highlights from the report:
- Hemp-derived cannabinoid sales nationally were greater than total legal sales of medical and adult-use cannabis in 2022.
- Based on data from the American Brewers Association, total sales of hemp- derived cannabinoids were roughly the same as all of the craft beer sold in the U.S. in the same year.
- Maryland hemp-derived cannabinoid demand:
- Per capita - \$693,557,180
- Another false narrative spread against the hemp industry is that by selling intoxicating cannabinoids that compete directly with cannabis products, hemp operators are not paying taxes. They argue that states are losing out on tax revenues.
- Sales tax alone, excluding excise taxes, are generating in excess of \$1.5 billion in tax revenues for the states.
- Although the retail sale of hemp-derived cannabinoids is banned, this does not mean that consumers no longer have access to these products. Many of these products can be purchased online. This availability may increase public safety issues, enable youth access, divert revenue from Maryland businesses, and divert sales tax revenue from the state.
- Let's work together to support the hemp industry and help it flourish like the craft beer, wine and spirits industry in MD. The hemp industry has the potential to be a greater economic driver for Maryland's economy, surpassing that of the medical and adult-use markets combined.

**Horticulture – Vacant:**

### **Livestock- Sean Hough:**

- No Report.

### **Nursery I- J. Kelly Lewis:**

- Beech leaf disease continues to be a concern for tree growers. Confirmed in 8 Maryland counties. Significant die-back and death. No known treatment.
- Dry summer has transitioned to better conditions with periodic rains. Soil conditions have been good for most field grower harvesting trees this fall.
- Very informal and limited checks show sales for some growers up 10-15% over last year.
- Pricing and supply chain issues have eased in most areas. Pricing remains notably higher than last three-year average.

### **Nursery II- John Murphy:**

- No Report.

### **Organic Farming – Vacant:**

### **Poultry I- Michael Levensgood:**

- **1.- Number 1 issue with poultry is Commercial cases of HPAI found heating up just found in Alabama, Minnesota**
  - Multiple HPAI cases were identified in commercial poultry flocks in Minnesota and Iowa (that state's first fall cases) in the past week, as well as in a commercial turkey flock in California. And on Oct. 27, USDA APHIS confirmed the first commercial HPAI case of the season on the Eastern seaboard -- at a commercial upland game producer, which affected 296,500 birds. As of Oct. 31, USDA had confirmed 39 HPAI cases in commercial flocks in the past 30 days, affecting 14 states.
  - As of November 2, 2023, there have been 886 confirmed HPAI detections in commercial turkeys, layers, broilers, pullets, ducks, game birds, and backyard flocks. The last commercial detection was on November 2, 2023, in Marshall County, Alabama in commercial broiler breeder pullets. These detections represent a total of 60,232,082 birds. In addition, there have been 7,476 HPAI detections in wild birds across the U.S. Commercial and backyard flock detections can be found here: [USDA APHIS | 2022 Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks](#). Wild bird detections can be found here: [USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds](#). A breakdown of detections to date are as follows:

Species	# of Premises	Total # Birds	% of Total
Broiler (including breeders/pullets)	29	3,196,300	5.3%
Turkey (including breeding stock)	252	11,006,060	18.3%
Layer (including breeders/pullets)	37	44,429,700	73.8%
Ducks (including breeding stock)	17	377,000	0.6%
Backyard	534	463,552	0.8%
Commercial Game Birds	17	759,470	1.3%
Totals	886	60,232,082	

- **2. – Final rule has been published for organic production**

- On November 2, 2023, USDA’s Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) issued a Final Rule in the *Federal Register* titled “[National Organic Program \(NOP\), Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards.](#)” All organic operations must comply with the requirements of this rule by January 2, 2025, except currently certified organic broiler operations and broiler operations that are certified before January 2, 2025. Those facilities must comply with the regulations concerning indoor and outdoor stocking density requirements and soil and vegetation requirements by January 5, 2029.

- 90 days and 1 year after the rule is published (early 2025):

- Poultry is going to move from 6 lbs to 5 lbs per sqft, requiring less density for poultry houses and in turn, more poultry houses for the same amount of production.
- Free range access must be allowed for any outside temperature from 32 degrees Fahrenheit to 92 degrees Fahrenheit, increasing the use of fuel to heat the houses in the cold months, and less efficient ventilation in the warm months.
- These new rules are not focused on sustainability.

- **3. - Perdue's Randy Day elected to lead NCC in 2024**

The National Chicken Council [installed](#) Randy Day, retired CEO and special advisor to the Perdue Farms Board of Directors, as its 2023-2024 Chairman. Randy led the company’s senior leadership team, which includes Perdue Foods, Perdue AgriBusiness, and Perdue Farms corporate functions. After 43 years, Randy retired as CEO this past summer and is now serving as special advisor to the Board. He was named CEO in March of 2017, after serving as Chief Operating Officer.

- **4. - Delmarva Chicken Festival brings thousands out to celebrate with us**

The Delmarva Chicken Festival, held on October 7, 2023 at Perdue Stadium in Salisbury, delivered fun, good food, great music and good times to an estimated 5,000 attendees. From the opening ceremony to the last firework's fizzle, we were thrilled to see so many people in the chicken community, as well as our neighbors, come to this revival of a truly beloved Delmarva event!

- **5. – DCA will hold a Grower Lunch Break that focuses on insurance strategies**

The next Extension/DCA Grower Lunch Break on the topic of insurance is the perfect opportunity for growers to gather, learn, and network. Discover the latest insights and

strategies on insurance for your farm. Shane Kunkleman, Vice President of Agribusiness at SCS Agency Insurance, will be our speaker. You can sign up for a Wednesday, Dec. 6 lunch & learn at the MDA Animal Health Lab in Salisbury to learn all about it. [See details and register for the Dec. 6 event here](#)

#### **Poultry II- Far Nasir:**

- No Report.

#### **Related Services I – Frank Allnutt:**

- I compliment Harrison Palmer for coordinating a very good two-day Ag Commission tour in October.
- On the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>, approximately 400 4<sup>th</sup> grade students went to WMREC (Western Maryland Research and Education Center) to learn about where grains come from, how we get more, what is done with them, and why they are so important.
  - All stations had hands on activities.
- 11/7/2023 – 2023 Advanced Cover Cropping Field Day in Washington County
  - NRCS did an excellent job in planning.

#### **Related Services II – Stefanie Reiser:**

- Hemp perspective:
  - Current regulations need to be published so that farmers can operate under the most up-to-date rules are, they are currently operating under last year's regulations.
  - They are not sure what the options are if something tests high in THC, clear guidance of re-testing opportunities versus crop destruction could help guide growers.
  - This is still a relatively new industry, so there are no “normal” set regulations.
  - Retesting has been a great option.
- Industrial hemp has several hundred acres planned and some new processing facilities that have great potential for the industry. There's some challenge in the distinction of hemp versus marijuana, but there is headwinds moving forward.
- Funding for the industry is drying up.
- Comments from Levi Sellers – HB 1204 language would have been helpful to remove the financial burdens for the “hot crops” that test too high in THC levels.

#### **State Grange- Clifford Newsome:**

- No Report.

#### **Turf- Gordon Kretser:**

- Maryland sod growers are continuing to work with MDA on enforcement and improvement of the Maryland Certified Sod program.
- The MD Certified Sod committee met at the MDA on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Secretary, Michael Calkins, Office of Plant Industries & Pest Management, attended along with Jim Drews, and Rick Boldissar from the MDA Turfgrass and Seed section. A robust discussion was held about several different aspects of the MD. Certified Sod program.



- The committee will meet again at the MDA on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM. This committee is open to any members who wish to attend and add to the conversation or just listen.
- TPM or MDA are not restricting the movement of sod in or out of the state. We are simply supplying product to a customer that meets the specification requirements of any particular project.
- MDA has modified the existing sod certification tags to include a serial number. This should make it more difficult for the certifications to be misrepresented in the field.
- Growers understand that this issue and the enforcement of the existing certification may seem minute, but this is their livelihood. It requires greater inputs, longer time for turf to stay in the field, and a more strenuous process, but it builds the integrity of the industry. When there are outside actors coming in and cutting that integrity at the knees, it impacts the industry. It is the difference between staying in business or not.

**University of Maryland – Dean Craig Beyrouthy | Dr. Darren Jarboe:**

- The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) held its annual Cornerstone Event on October 24 in the Stamp Student Union at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. This year's event celebrated and built partnerships around the college's strategic initiative Advance Innovative, Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems. Randy Day, former CEO of Perdue Farms, gave the keynote address. There were 500 registered for the event.
- Leadership from the AGNR is visiting Africa from October 27 through November 9 to explore research, Extension, and teaching opportunities there.
- Dr. Tom Porter, professor in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences (ANSC), was named a Distinguished University Professor at the university's annual convocation ceremony in September. The title is the highest academic honor bestowed by the University of Maryland and is a recognition not just of excellence, but of impact and significant contribution to the nominee's field, knowledge, profession, and/or practice. Dr. Porter is a world-renowned professor and researcher with a focus on molecular and cellular aspects of endocrinology in poultry. He is currently interim chair of the ANSC Department and previously was associate dean/associate director of University of Maryland Extension.
- The Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP) officially moved to the University of Maryland (UMD) Agriculture and Food Systems Extension (AgFS) Program on September 30 and continues to write nutrient management plans for farmers. The interim program director is Craig Yohn, the nutrient management (NM) advisor in Dorchester County. Craig brings extensive knowledge to the position. The two MOUs to fund the ANMP were funded by the Maryland Department of Agriculture on September 27.
- An AgFS NM Task Force made up of AgFS educators and specialists, NM specialists, and an area extension director has been working on the ANMP transition since late July. The task force has restructured and streamlined processes that are expected to improve NM advisor efficiency. A subcommittee has been established to develop a model ANMP for a potential request for permanent funding for the program.
- The AgFS Program will be hiring one program director, one NM specialist, nine NM advisors, and one program coordinator for the ANMP. An offer has been made to a NM specialist finalist. The NM advisor positions have been advertised and there are applicants



that were evaluated by the NM Statewide Hiring Committee two weeks ago and interviews will take place November 13 and 17. The advisor positions will remain open until filled. The program director position announcement has been submitted into the UMD Human Resources system this week. The program coordinator position announcement will be submitted soon.

- An offer has been extended to a finalist for the urban agriculture production state specialist opening. Initial interviews for the urban agriculture farm and agribusiness management state specialist opening continue to be conducted. Three finalists gave presentations in Charles County on October 20. AgFS ruminant livestock and vegetable production Extension specialist position announcements have been submitted to UMD Human Resources for review.
- Susan Harrison, AgFS Extension principal agent associate and executive director of LEAD Maryland Foundation, received the Outstanding International Leadership Program Director Award at the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leaders Annual Meeting in Richmond, Virginia. The award recognized Susan's many years of hard work to develop and grow LEAD Maryland into the top-quality program it is today.

***UMD news release posted in mid-October.***

- **University of Maryland Extension Leads the Next Generation of the Statewide Nutrient Management Program**
- University of Maryland Extension (UME) has launched an enhanced nutrient management planning process designed to adapt to modern farming practices and operations that better align with Maryland's agricultural regulations and environmental goals. Moving forward, UME will now administer and coordinate statewide nutrient management planning following the finalization of the agreement between the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- This reinvigorated effort marks a significant opportunity for enhanced collaboration between UME led advisors and the farming community. The program will build on its prior successes and service model that includes no cost nutrient management plans; soil, manure and tissue sampling assistance and guidance; farmer training and certification; continuing education training opportunities, and much more.
- Maryland law requires farmers grossing at least \$2,500 a year or livestock producers with at least 8,000 pounds of live animal weight to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure. Nutrient management plans specify how much fertilizer, manure or other nutrient sources may be safely applied to crops to achieve yields and prevent excess nutrients from impacting waterways.
- Key highlights of the reinvigorated program:
- **Statewide Coverage:** UME will increase staffing to provide nutrient management planning coverage across the entire state. Farmers across Maryland can benefit from this service, ensuring sustainable and responsible agricultural practices.
- **Staffing and Training:** As part of this initiative, the university is in the process of hiring and training additional nutrient management advisors. These advisors will play a crucial role in assisting farmers and facilitating compliance with Maryland's regulations. There are multiple positions statewide at various locations, with more information available at <https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/113947>.

- **Scientifically Grounded Plans:** Nutrient management plans developed through this program are rooted in scientific principles and adhere to Maryland's regulatory framework, promoting both profitable and sustainable farming practices.
- “The University of Maryland Extension is committed to the improvement of this program and increasing farmer accessibility to help them meet their regulatory goals and preserve Maryland’s waterways,” said Craig Beyrouy, dean and director of AGNR. “We are thrilled to launch this new model in our ongoing efforts to support Maryland’s agricultural community.”
- The University of Maryland Extension encourages all farmers and stakeholders interested in nutrient management planning to reach out to their respective county Extension offices. These offices serve as valuable resources and points of contact for accessing this essential service and connecting with trained advisors. For more information on the UME Nutrient Management Program visit [go.umd.edu/anmp](http://go.umd.edu/anmp) and for a list of Extension offices visit <https://extension.umd.edu/locations>.

#### **Vegetable – Russell Shlagel:**

- This fall has been unseasonably warm as summer weather lingered. It’s allowed for extended harvest on summer crops and is helping with improved yields in fall crops. However, a killing frost is expected for most of the state in the coming days.
- Cover crop planting continues. It is hard to qualify for payments for vegetable farmers due to harvest dates, but the principle is more important than the payment.
- Farmers markets continue although many are winding down until the Thanksgiving holiday bump. You can still find a small amount of summer produce as well as typical fall produce.
- Overall growing conditions were choppy. Periods of near drought followed by extreme wetness. Wholesale prices seemed fair to average for most growers. On the retail side many growers experienced a slight decrease in sales. It seemed pumpkin and fall decoration sales were off as well as fall bedding plants.
- Reminder that the last day to deposit WIC/FNMP checks into your bank account is December 8th.
- There have been 2 confirmed cases of Anthracnose in fall planted strawberries. All growers need to be aware especially with the varieties originating from PEI. Scout your fields and use an appropriate fungicide program.
- The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Program provides assistance to specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety program expenses in 2022 and 2023. Additional information can be found online or in your local FSA office.
- Extend props to the State of Maryland and the Anne Arundel County Government for stepping up with the Lothian Grain Elevator process.
- Southern Maryland Amish population is extremely profitable and is buying up land, competing very hard against other farmers at markets etc.

#### **Veterinary – Dr. Marianne B. O’Malley:**

- More small animal veterinarians are not completing health certificates for international travel.
  - This is putting tremendous stress on the veterinarians that do currently complete these certificates.

- Stressful to see a new client for the first time prior to travel because many countries require vaccines, lab testing, and examinations that may start 6-12 months prior to anticipated travel dates.
- Vet Schools (VAMDCVM) need to be making sure students are aware of the accreditation process and ideally would help them complete this before graduation as well as help them get set up in the state where they will be practicing.
- I discussed the accreditation process with the Maryland representative (Robin Greene – [robin.t.greene@usda.gov](mailto:robin.t.greene@usda.gov)) and she admitted there is no information about the online courses available to veterinarians.
  - You must contact her directly to get information.
- Currently the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners is responsible for investigating complaints about veterinarians and reviewing disciplinary cases.
  - There is a growing concern that the turnaround time is too long.
  - Subcommittee has proposed to expedite the process.

### **Viticulture – Rachel Lipman:**

- Maryland grape industry has had what is considered an ‘iconic vintage’ in 2023 due to the dry summer.
- There has been a grape surplus this year, of very high quality.
- Some wineries have cut back some as the COVID demand has dropped off some.
- Seeing an increase in spotted lanternflies is causing issues.
  - It is not massively detrimental yet, but it may affect cold hardiness so we will not be able to tell until the next season.

### **Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff Updates:**

#### **Secretary Kevin Atticks:**

- We have a very diverse fall tour with the Maryland Agricultural Commission, which is important to show the breadth of Maryland agriculture
  - It is critical that we have an understanding of every aspect of what Maryland agriculture looks like so that we have productive conversations and recognize the broader impact we have.
- We lost former Secretary Lew Riley last week, who was a “do-er” and a gentleman. Started his career as a Commissioner, then a Delegate, then a Senator, and then the Secretary of Agriculture twice.
  - He had a huge impact on the grape and wine industry, created the Wine and Grape Council which provided a 52-recommendation report that the industry is still working towards.
- Agri-Solar
  - State of Maryland has major clean energy goals by 2030 and 2035.
  - Agriculture has the land and will be involved in achieving the State’s clean energy goals.
  - MDA is hosting a Solar Summit on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

- Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Planning, farmer presenters, governmental agency presenters will each provide insight.
  - We will be discussing things like property rights and host a broad discussion around the direction of agri-voltaics.
- Governor Moore has been elected as the Chair of Environmental Protection Agency's Bay Program.
  - This helps guide the discussion across multiple states with Maryland at the head of the table.
- We are not going to meet our 2025 goals, which leads to a lot of discussions for the next set of goals that we will have for the Bay.
  - The question that continues to come up from farmers and legislators is “is what we are doing for the bay working?”, and the answer is yes. Despite all the development and other impacts, the Bay isn't any worse, which shows our improvement and effect.
- The Governor has announced a more holistic remediation approach to the bay, steering away from attacking specific industries and including an ecology aspect into the Bay model.
- MDA's Deer Summit was held earlier this year that stemmed conversations amongst many industries. The informal workgroup with several legislators from both sides of the aisle hearing that deer are a problem on agricultural land. The department is going to put forward some interesting proposals during this legislative session to try and manage the deer issue.
- Maryland has a Certified Seed and a Certified Sod program which we are very proud of. We are best in class.
  - MDE adopted a program that says that certain instances must have Maryland Certified Sod. MDA controls the sod certification side, but not the “must use sod in these instances” side of the coin.
  - There were problems this summer where the bad actors used tags multiple times or copied tags from previous shipments to cover non-Maryland certified sod. MDA has since created new tags with serial numbers to track and certify Maryland state sod and eliminate this issue.
- A lot of credit needs to be given to Anne Arundel County for the Lothian Grain Elevator accomplishment. The money to purchase that came from the State, so there needs to be credit to the state legislature as well for helping support that. This was a great example of the state being able to step in and help.

**Deputy Secretary Steve Connelly:**

- The Board of Public Works today approved \$320,000 in MACS for 17 projects in 5 counties.
- USDA is currently running a tabletop exercise for African Swine Fever, knowing that this disease is a threat and has potential to be moving into our region. MDA is participating in that 2-day exercise along with other agencies, departments, and parties.
- Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation is hosting their annual banquet tomorrow.

**Rachel Jones:**

- The State solar task force is meeting today, MDA is working to advocate and represent the voice of agriculture in these discussions.
- Food processing (including meat & blue catfish processing) is a priority for the legislature this coming session.
- Other hot topics include on-farm organic recycling, Dissolved Air Flootation (DAF), per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and pesticide use.
  - After last year's session a PFAS workgroup was mandated to study PFAS on the environment and the human body
  - MD State Chemist has about 12,000 pesticides that are registered in the state, we cannot recommend banning those without having a test to even say which may contain PFAS without an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) test.
  - Their report was submitted November 1<sup>st</sup> and included recommendations to allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 18 months to develop a test for PFAS levels in chemicals.
  - The other recommendation is for the MDA State Chemist section to be given funding from the State to begin to identify certain compounds using existing methods that can later be identified as having PFAS or not.
- MDA hosted a legislative farm tour 3 weeks ago with the House Environment and Transportation Committee to the Eastern Shore to give them perspective and allow them to ask questions that they have hear from constituents or agriculture bills that have come across their desks.

**Cassie Shirk:**

- October promotion with the Apple Board on a campaign to promote and push Maryland Apples
- Getting ready to start on Thanksgiving and Christmas Tree promotions, encourage folks to reference the Buy Local guides and push local purchasing this season.
- African Swine Fever is a high priority that we are keeping an eye on
- MDA would like to remind producers about biosecurity on poultry operations to help manage Avian Influenza. We are already seeing cases in the Midwest that are popping up.

**Hans Schmidt:**

- Cover crop signup was about average, but we are still verifying with farmers on acreage.
- The MDA Hi-Path Avian Influenza response was recognized across the country for our emergency preparedness.
- There were so many cases that USDA was overwhelmed during the last round of Hi-Path AI, their message to the states for this year is that the states need to be taking a more proactive role. Maryland and Delaware were the exception because they are extremely involved, other states are more hands-off and rely heavily on USDA.
- There is a planned Healthy Soil Cover Crop Field Day in early December on the Eastern Shore in conjunction with USDA NRCS.
- MDA is looking beyond the 2025 goals; our team is working on evaluating that progress and what the next steps are going to be.

- It is important to recognize as a watershed, we are not going to meet our goal. Agriculture should be proud of the work that we are doing to help protect the Bay.
- Many thanks to Dr. Jarboe and the University of Maryland Extension for going above and beyond, working to fill the nutrient management planner positions.
- We want to make sure that a nutrient management plan and resources are available to everyone in the state.
- MDA put together a farmer taskforce whose recommendations are being presented to the Secretary now.
  - MDA will be meeting with the nutrient management advisory committee.
    - There needs to be more education opportunities for farmers.
    - MDA working with the University to provide training opportunities monthly.
    - Discussions about updating the nutrient management planning software, working with UMD to develop that or find a private sector partner who could create something that farmers can use to write their own plans.
    - MDA will be writing no-land Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) plans.
    - There will be an oversight committee with MDA and UMD to ensure that farmers get their plans on time as requested.

**Jessica Hackett:**

- Emphasize the buy-local thanksgiving movement and continue that effort throughout the holiday season.
- We are working on updating our website, but if there is information missing, please reach out to Jessica Hackett to let her know and we can work to address that.

**Guest Reports:**

- Sierra Criste- MARBIDCO Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Program is live and accepting applications.
- Brittany Rawlings – MARBIDCO Cold Storage Program is live, accepting applications for up to \$2,000, due November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Brian Cadden – MARBIDCO Wood Products Industry Equity Incentive Grant Program – up to 25% match, applications due November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve McHenry – MARBIDCO has 2 new loan programs from USDA and Maryland grants.
  - Livestock processing facility loans up to \$2.5 million to establish or expand a livestock processing or livestock slaughter facility in Maryland, including blue catfish. 10% matching opportunity.
  - Oyster Shucking House Loan Program up to \$250,000 to establish or expand an oyster shucking facility.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:17 pm by Joe Dymek, seconded by Paula Linthicum

Respectfully Submitted by Harrison B. Palmer, Executive Secretary