



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

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Maryland Agricultural Commission

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Maryland Agricultural Commission Minutes March 20, 2020

Present:

Agribusiness: Thomas Mullineaux
Agritourism: Kelly Dudeck
Aquaculture: Talmage Petty
At Large Ag Service: Frank Allnutt
At Large Ag Service: Matthew Levi Sellers
Farm Bureau: Jonathan Quinn
Forestry: Elizabeth Hill
Food Processing: Cheryl DeBerry

Horticulture: Keith Ohlinger
Livestock: Sean Hough
Nursery I: James Raley
Poultry II: Michelle Protani-Chesnik
State Grange: Clifford Newsome Jr.
Turf: Tom Warpinski
Veterinary: Dr. John Brooks
Viticulture: Matthew Corey Spies

Absent:

Ag Education: Martha Clark
Consumer: Carroll Shry Jr.
Dairy II: David Pyle
Direct Farm Market: Amy Crone
Equine: Michael Pons

Field Crops: Donald Maring
Nursery II: Ray Greenstreet
Organic Farming: Matthew Nielsen
Poultry I: Michael Levensgood
University: Dr. Craig Beyrouthy

MDA Staff:

Hans Schmidt
Steve Connelly
Julie Oberg
Cassie Shirk
Kevin Conroy

Guest/Speakers:

Allison Roe MARBIDCO
Stacy Kubofcik MARBIDCO

Approval of Minutes:

February minutes were approved 1st by Michelle Protani- Chesnik and 2nd by Thomas Mullineaux motion to approve minutes passed.

Commodity Reports:

Tom Mullineaux- Agribusiness:

- The Agri-business sector of production agriculture is gearing up for the spring season.
- There has been a period of weather very conducive to top dressing small grain with the first shot of nitrogen going on the small grain over the past 10 days. More to follow.

- Wheat and barley are looking very good they are enjoying the sunshine and moisture.
- There is 488,000 acres of cover crop.
- Businesses are building inventory of crop nutrition, crop protection and seed.
- Crop Nutrition prices are somewhat higher than spring of 2019.
- Nitrogen prices in particular are somewhat worrisome in light of the Russian-Middle East situation. Nitrogen prices are run by petroleum.
- Phosphate and Potash are in good supply. Prices flat with last year.
- Major crop protection suppliers (Syngenta, Bayer, Dow, DuPont) advise us that supplies are good and prices are up.
- Seed is a different scary story. Corn and soybean seed is short.
- Advising growers to lock in their corn and soybean seed now.
- Growers simply are not getting the corn or soybean variety that they really want due to supply issues, quality issues and germination issues.
- Many thousand acres of corn got planted and then was washed out.
- Difficult getting corn and soybeans planted.
- Commodity prices have moved downward in the last 30 days. CBT closed yesterday: corn \$3.75; beans \$8.75; wheat \$5.21.

Levi Sellers Ag Services:

- For the hemp industry in MD the first hemp growing season is behind us and the second season rapidly approaching. There is a lot of hope and uncertainty for farmers.
- In 2019 MDA registered 69 farmers, 1,577 acres and 1,069,000 square feet of green house space according to Jim Drews.
- With the release of the USDAs interim rule on October 31, 2019 new federal regulations on the budding hemp industry were open for discussion for an initial 30 day window and raised much concern from industry veterans and new aspiring farmers.
- This discussion was then extended for another 30 days.
- By the time the comment period closed there was a reported 4,685 comments that had been submitted.
- The comments centered around three main topics:
 - The 0.3% threshold for total THC.
 - Required destruction of entire crop if tested above that limit by federal or local law enforcement agents.
 - The process by which the crop is tested.
- USDA maintains that .3% threshold is out of their juridical hands as written into the law.
- The lack of remedies for testing noncompliance raised suggestions that farmers would be allowed to ship to processors who could remove the THC to keep the crop viable.
- Another concern was the requirement for pre-harvest compliance testing to be performed 15 days prior to harvest and by DEA certified testing labs of which they were limited to options in Maryland and nationwide existing agencies would not be able to handle the volume.
- The industry expects to be constrained by this a year after other fundamental supply chain bottlenecks limited output and producers ability to bring crops to market.
- The USDA in sense acknowledged the complaints against the limited number of DEA registered labs and stated that they better understand the associated cost with the disposing of product that contains over .3% THC could make entering the hemp market too risky.
- The USDA was able to reach an agreement with the DEA to remove the DEA registered lab requirement for this crop year but still expect states to work with their laboratories to try and achieve certification for the 2021 crop year.

- In response to these concerns and limitations in the hemp industry the MDA along with 11 states decided to delay their participation in the 2018 farm bill rule set and maintain 2014s pilot programs for the 2020 crop year which gained much support and restored hope for Maryland's hemp industry.
- SB 564 did not gain enough support and died in committee.
- HB 510 and HB 574 are still in committee but stated by Colby do not have enough support to progress.
- These three bills were in response to odor and health complaints from urban housing developments surrounding an existing farm in Baltimore County that was licensed to cultivate hemp for 2019 crop year and were aimed at creating a buffer between hemp farms and residences.
- For the 2020 crop season MDA has registered 48 farmers, 802 acres and 320,172 sq. feet of green house space which is a decrease from last year.
- Begin the season with concerns of lack of support from financial institutions for necessary funding needed to develop the infrastructure to improve the hemp industry for both farmers and processors.

Kelly Dudeck- Agritourism:

- Just wrapped up February which was deemed Craft "Beer" Lovers Month.
- It brings out a lot of folks to tap rooms and to our farm breweries.
- They provide incentives to them to have a lot of different events throughout the month to bring people out.
- Luckily February was mild so more people were out.
- Since the last meeting have cut ribbons on 4 new breweries in one month. The brewery industry continues to plow forward.
- March is MD wine month.
- There are a lot of different events at tap rooms and vineyards to sample Maryland wines.
- So far corona virus has not affected numbers and it is the opposite more people are out due to the good weather and trying to get out before everything.
- Working on a commercial vineyard initiative.
- A course coming out in May and trying to get an additional 300 acres of grapes in the ground with currently 1200 acres of grapes in the ground.
- Our wineries need to have at least 51% of their grapes from Maryland to be considered a Maryland wine.
- Trying to insure that we have enough grapes to supply all the wineries. There are currently 193 wineries in Maryland and it continues to grow with cider and mead coming on board.
- Yearly agritourism conference may be postponed due to corona virus.

Tal Petty- Aquaculture:

- With the heavy rains from the spring 2018 through the spring of 2019 the salinity of the Chesapeake had extremely low salinity levels – throughout the entire bay.
- Salt is an essential ingredient to oyster health.
- Generally oysters grow the fastest in the spring and fall when water temperatures and nutrients are optimal.
- So we essentially lost three periods and 18 months of growth.
- Some oyster farms lost their product due to low salinity.
- Many farms had very low growth while the oysters survived low salinity.
- We had our first bump in growth since the fall of 2017 last fall and expect to see another bump in growth this spring.

- This should increase the supply of farmed oysters throughout the Chesapeake.
- Most farmed oysters are sold on the half shell through restaurants.
- To date our orders are consistent in all markets; however with stay home cautions the entire economy around restaurants is at risk. For perspective after 9/11 many restaurants and suppliers went out of business.
- In a related front - in this environment of virus fears it is important to promote the importance and significance of home grown food security to our legislators and customers.
- On legislative front there are the usual and not so usual suspects as there are every year.
- We have prevailed in keeping the aquaculture legislation intact from NIMBY interests however it is too early to predict any outcomes this session.

Jon Quinn- Farm Bureau:

- Colby and Parker have been busy in the General Assembly tracking over 200 bills and testifying on more than 70.
- Senator Pinsky's bill to put a moratorium on new commercial poultry houses got pulled two weeks ago
- Today SB 841 will be heard. This bill will not allow Dept. of the Environment to issue a discharge permit to a person for a new industrial operation for expanding.
- This bill is written also to prevent MDE from re-issuing a CAFO permit to an existing operation at the end of their 5 year permit period starting in October.
- Colby has put many hours in making sure Ag education is included in the Kerwin bill.
- Senator Young from Montgomery County put in a bill to stop the use of Maine tags on trailers. This will mostly effect farmers due to the fact commercial truckers are regulated under federal laws.
- Maryland Farm Bureau is offering health insurance through MJM Global. Go to the MD Farm Bureau web site for more information.
- Maryland Farm Bureau will be holding a screening of the movie Silo. This is the first ever-feature film about a grain bin entrapment. This movie cannot be seen on line or on DVD. This is a true life story.
- It will be held on March 26th at 6pm at North Caroline High School in Rigley MD. The event is free.
- This will be the last year the Miss Maryland Agriculture contest will be held at the Maryland State Fair. The Farm Bureau Women's committee will be taking it over.
- Also the annual convention is moving to a new place starting this December 5th through 8th. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Cambridge.

Elizabeth Hill- Forestry:

- MFA's latest newsletter goes out today. You can view it on our website - https://d708dd6f-f6ee-4d14-a8a6-a69321a73d69.filesusr.com/ugd/6a9592_862d10bc3fd142edb5ac3cf740fb60a6.pdf
- The Natural Resources Career Camp is taking applications until March 31st. The weeklong camp is held July 19-25 at the Hickory Environmental Center in Garrett County and is open to 42 student's grades 9-12. They will participate in hands-on activities focusing on forestry, wildlife, ecology, conservation, fisheries, watershed, and natural resource management. The cost is \$450 per student and includes lodging and meals. The Maryland Forests Association provides funding towards the camp, and many times, local forestry boards will sponsor students. For more info, visit- www.marylandforestryboards.org/nrcc.cfm

- MFA is in the process of planning two bus tours- (Western MD & Eastern Shore) to increase awareness of the value of forest industries to the regions. We are always surprised at how little local leaders understand our industry. We plan to have stops at marked timber sales, active logging jobs, and manufacturing facilities where participants will hear from landowners, loggers, and business owners how important it is to maintain and grow markets to keep forests and the economy healthy.
- Our membership drive begins on April 1st. We are working harder than ever to serve the forest community, so please let any forestland owners that you know, that we are a voice for them, and encourage them to join! We rely on membership dues and sponsors to fund our efforts. Information on how to join can be found here- www.mdforests.org/join-mfa
- Yesterday I was sworn in as a member of the MALPH Board of Trustees representing the Ag Commission, so I am excited about that opportunity and will begin attending meetings in April.

Cheryl DeBerry- Food Processing:

- Food processing businesses are still monitoring potential legislation, including cottage foods, hemp, and (of course) the budget process.

Keith Ohlinger- Horticulture:

- The warm winter saw much of Maryland muddy and wet. Farmers are concerned about pests in the coming year as most of the state did not experience prolonged frozen ground. In addition late season frost damage is anticipated as it is way too early for many of the plants to be as far ahead as they are this early in the season. Time will tell what happens.
- I discussed my plan to more effectively deal with farmer concerns in the Horticulture Industry at the Maryland State Horticultural Society's 2020 annual meeting. Their top two concerns were tire recycling and chemical/pesticide recycling. I sent a letter to Secretary Bartenfelder asking for help with these issues.
- The 2020 Legislative Session has brought a host of concerns with hostile agricultural bills being introduced. HB 229/SB 300 is the ban on Chlorpyrifos and SB 742 which would impact immigrant worker housing inspections are just two of the concerns.
- Personally, I will take advantage of the conference call option more often going forward. My doctor considers me to be in the special risk category due to my tendency to develop bronchitis and pneumonia. But, as I reflected on the drive time, fuel and cost to Maryland I think the conference call route is actually more prudent regardless. For the moment I plan on attending the tours and yearly planning session in person and calling in during the other meetings.

Sean Hough- Livestock:

- On a national level with red meat production.
- The last week of February the US produced over a million pounds of red meat just within that week.
- This number is based on slaughter houses, butchers and anyone that is USDA certified and regulated.
- This includes cattle, hogs, lambs and veal calves.
- It is up 8% over the same period last year. Beef is up 10% since last year, hogs are up 6% and lambs have dropped about 4%.
- The first two months of this year the red meat production has been up 3% nationally.
- The cattle production has been helped by the trade agreement with Japan. Japan is doing more importing of beef from the United States.
- Hogs have been helped with the trade in China because they have lost half their population due to the African Swine flu.

- Unfortunately prices in the US are still down for cattle and pork. Lamb prices are slightly up but hopefully with more exporting the prices will rise.
- For the months of January and February over 10 million pounds of pork were processed in the United States.
- This is calving, lambing, and farrowing season and the milder winter has helped with this.
- On the pork side there is still debate on ractopamine which is fed to more of the show hogs but they are not buying hogs that have been fed ractopamine.

James K. Raley, Jr. - Nursery:

- (Jamie) resides in Avenue, Maryland. He is a 4th generation farmer, operating his family's Century Farm where he grows soybeans, wheat, hay, and some tobacco. He also operates a commercial greenhouse and has a small cow-calf operation. He has farmed full-time for over 20 years. He is a Director with Maryland Farm Bureau and is a member and Immediate Past President of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.
- The greenhouse season is underway. The mild winter has accelerated growing opportunities for vegetable and flower seedlings.
- Acquiring and keeping reliable labor continues to be a problem. One option to address this problem would be through an internship program. An organization named Seed Your Future is offering a resource to help students find internships in the green industry through its free online Horticulture Careers Internship Search Tool. Site visitors can search for internships by job category, by employer and by state. The site can provide employers an opportunity to connect with students seeking work in the industry. Some current Maryland participants are Bell Nursery, Ruppert Landscape, and NASA. The URL is seedyourfuture.org/internships. Perhaps MDA could promote internships by creating a link to websites that host these types of programs.
- While Maryland agriculture may lose access to chlorpyrifos to control pests, 6.4 million dollars have been allocated under the Farm Bill to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for its Plant Pest and Disease Mitigation and Disaster Prevention Program. Funding will support development and training of detection dogs in agriculture. Facilities in California, Florida, Pennsylvania (specifically for spotted lanternfly), and Guam were included in this pool of funding. Other funds were allocated toward spotted lanternfly surveys and monitoring, outreach, modeling, control strategies, and canine detection.
- In tobacco production, growers reported mixed prices. According to Mr. Ben Beale, UM Extension Agent in St. Mary's County, average prices for Broadleaf (cigar wrapper) tobacco were \$3.00 to \$3.50 per pound with average yields of 2,200 to 2,400 pounds per acre. Growers with a poor quality crop (hail damage, leaf mold, green or off-color leaf) received around \$1.40 per pound. Maryland type 32 acres were up significantly last year due to the loss of burley contracts with Phillip Morris. There continues to be strong demand for Type 51 Connecticut Broadleaf tobacco in the region. At least three companies have recently offered contracts. These include Hail and Cotton (Tennessee); Lancaster Leaf (Pennsylvania); and Dunn and Foster (Connecticut). Prices and grading requirements vary, but are similar to last year. Prices vary by contract and are in the \$1.90 to \$2.00 per pound range.

Michelle Protani- Chesnik- Poultry:

- Weather has been strange this year to ventilate poultry.
- Poultry health has been amazingly good. In Delaware two cases of coryza came up.
- The best way in Ag to protect the animals is good bio security.
- Layout times are still long. Some companies are still 35 to 45 days between flocks.

- When you have a new farm it is a hard hit because your mortgage is based on income and how many flocks a year so when poultry farmers lose an entire flock it has real impact on making mortgage payments.
- Sadly foreclosures are up on the shore.
- Bill 928 and bill 1312 has been found unfavorable.
- Expect that bills will resurface and come back with a vengeance.
- The hemp bill goes against the right to farm.

Mike Levensgood- Poultry:

- **April Lunch & Learns focus on maintaining cooling pads**
DPI, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and University of Maryland Extension are partnering with allied business members Kingston Construction Equipment and Kuul to offer two workshops on cooling pad maintenance.
An April 1 workshop will take place 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Harrington Holiday Inn in Harrington, Del. An April 2 workshop the next day will be at the Wicomico Public Library, Meeting Room 1, also from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
These free events are among the benefits of DPI membership for chicken growers.
- **Two DPI grower members in Maryland were honored for on-farm environmental practices.** U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) recognized twelve poultry farms -- including two Delmarva farms -- that were nominated for the annual Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award at the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo. The award is given annually to recognize exemplary environmental stewardship by family farmers engaged in poultry and egg production.
In the Northeast Region, Lambertson Family Farms of Pocomoke City, Md. was the winning farm. Wayne, Jason and Logan Lambertson accepted the award at the Atlanta, Ga. event. The farm's innovative anaerobic digestion system for litter, among other features, contributed to its earning the honor. The finalist farm in the Northeast Region was another DPI member farm: Twin Maples Farm, owned by David and Spring Tribbett, in Ridgely, Md. A hatchery-waste composting process and trials to grow miscanthus, a hardy tall grass, as a vegetative buffer as well as a possible source of chicken house bedding material were noted by the judges.
- Some dates to remember:
 - April 21: DPI Booster Banquet, Salisbury, Md.
 - June 3: DPI College Scholarship Golf Tournament, Salisbury, MD
 - September 28-30: DPI's 55th National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing, and Live Production, Ocean City, Md.

Corey Spies-Viticulture:

- On the vineyard side it is the same as last month with pruning and preparing for spring. The goal is to get all the old growth off and have two new growing canes down.
- On winery side a lot of bottling going on with the 19 vintage being bottled for the white wines and the 18 vintage reds.
- They bottle the white wines then get tanks empty and take wine out of the barrels and put them into the tanks and prepare them for bottling.
- Bottling company is booked up till middle of May and even booking on the weekends.
- The wine industry is doing well and going in a good direction.
- The mild winter scares some grape growers because pest, diseases and insect like the warm.

Clifford Newsome- State Grange:

- Grange laws became the basis for different departments of congress of the cabinet, transportation, education, and development systems.
- Have advocated for the farm and try to get laws and congress to change their view of different situations. One right now with the hemp industry.
- Areas within Maryland that do not have good internet service seems beyond belief to some people like even areas in Montgomery County that don't have internet.
- Today's farming, most of the tractors and heavy equipment are equipped with mother boards and everything needs to be able to work and operate efficiently so it is important to educate individuals on everything.
- Can't operate today without considering all the inputs, expenses, and outputs that are involved with agriculture. The economy has changed over the years and has many new influences.
- Trying to be flexible and progressive to deal with new issues that arise every day.

Tom Warpinski- Turf:

- March 1st allowed fertilizer applications to begin again on lawns, sports fields and most other grass areas in the state. Most growers are well into their spring nutrient applications.
- The mild winter weather has been good for sod growers and their newly seeded sod crops from last fall. Much of it had been set back a bit by the drought we've experienced last September and October so the mild weather is giving them a chance to catch up.
- Quality sod is in moderately tight supply in our multistate area. Supply constraints should ease up by mid-May, depending on the weather.
- High quality Turf grass seed is in tight supply and prices are rising
- I had the opportunity to attend the Turf grass Producers International Winter field day down near Orlando, Florida in February. Speaking with many of the growers in attendance, most seem optimistic towards their business and the economy. The equipment demonstrations, as always, were interesting and informative. Growers now have multiple choices for automated harvesters and mowers. One company expects to have a completely autonomous mower available within a year. The prototype worked well.
- **House Bill 1098** - In part states that a state or local unit responsible for the construction of playgrounds or athletic fields, to the maximum extent practicable, shall give consideration and preference to the use of state of the art natural surface materials in any project to construct a playground or an athletic field that is to be paid for with public funds. Also prohibiting the use of state funds to finance any part of a project to build a new or replace an existing playground or athletic field with a synthetic surface. Two growers testified this past Thursday. They don't think it will make it out of committee.

Dr. John Brooks- Veterinary:

- Multiple universities that are currently working on a corona virus vaccine.
- Everyone seems to feel they are within 3 to 6 months to have something to begin some testing. Clearly we are at least 12 to 18 months away from a vaccine that can be available to the general public.
- The American veterinary medical association has notified our practicing veterinaries across the nation that they could expect a potential reduction and some shortages of medical supplies and certain antibiotics.
- Trying to stock pile because the supply line coming out of china is going to change.
- No signs at this time that a person that has corona virus can be transmitted to their companion pet or any pet in general and vice versa.

- The transmit ability between human and animal is clearly an ongoing study.
- Corona Virus that is active in cattle that causes a diarrhea complex in calves. There is a vaccine for it and some people are thinking that this vaccine can be used for people. This is, however, not the case. Do not try to vaccinate yourself with a vaccine made for cattle.
- Corona Virus complex in poultry but not the same one but it is there. We need to make sure we do not confuse the activity that occurs in poultry.
- Need to tell all food animal producers to practice good bio security, this is critical to maintaining a good safe food chain production line.
- A very aggressive protocol against African swine fever in the United States. There is a complete list of how they are going to approach it such as depopulation and how to depopulate and dispose of the carcasses. There is a high concern that we may end up with African swine fever.
- New cases of New Castle disease in California.

Staff Updates:

Cassie Shirk:

- Refer to handout for bills.
- Subcommittees vote Tuesday evenings.
- There are 27 days left of session.
- Monday the 16th is cross over. This is when each chamber should report out on all the bills they intend to pass in their chamber this session.
- Bill hearings will increase as each chamber hears bills from the opposite chamber.
- The department works closely with our Ag stake holders which include Farm Bureau, Grain Producers, Grain and Fortify DBI. MARBIDCO to play a lot of defense as there are a lot of bills that may negatively impact agriculture.
- House subcommittee voted unfavorably on House Bill 1312.
- Will have another update after session on how everything went.
- Senate Bill 300 has passed full senate and is now sitting at the house. The house version was on the house subcommittee voting list and there were some members that had additional questions so the bill was not voted on and will be addressed later during the week.
- At this time both of the bills will be a little different which means they will have to come to some sort of compromise.
- The department has moved forward with promulgating regulations to phase out the use of chlorpyrifos by the end of next year.
- AELR, committee of legislators that review all state regulations, has to move through this process and then move to public comment.
- Transitions fund and a task force have been added to the bill. There is also interest to amend it for a buyback program.
- A need to add a buyback program into the bill.
- Delegate Stein is interested in getting more funding for the healthy soils program. Alysha Mulkey and her team have been awarded some grants but there is always a need for more funding. He was looking into some expiring tax credits to see if we can use that money and funnel it to the healthy soils program, however, the bill hasn't moved at all since its bill hearing. It is something we are still monitoring, at this time the department has not taken a position on the bill.

Kevin Conroy:

- Normal course of business right now. Making plans if we do have to go to level 3.
- Maintaining and working with partners such as turf and seed and state chemist section.
- New hemp program: we are finalizing the regulations that will be put in for next year's growing season. Nothing in effect until November 1st.
- 49 farms are signed up and 810 planned acres as of right now.
- Anticipate a good year with the hemp program.
- About to hire about 70 temporaries for mosquito control program.
- Hiring a few more people for the spotted lantern fly program - received 200,000 more from USDA this year.
- Allow to do more surveillance work.
- USDA is looking to allocate an extra 25 million to an emergency contingency fund.
- Heard that Texas is trying to get a large amount of the money for a large fruit fly infestation they have.
- There is a quarantine in Cecil and Harford for the spotted lantern fly.
- The Spotted Lantern Fly Permit - online application to received it.
- You must check your vehicles before you leave the counties to make sure you are not spreading the spotted lantern flies.
- USDA are funding a spraying program looking to do some aerial spraying test in PA.
- Hiring more staff to survey.
- A big part of the program is to educate the public and how they can prevent the spread of spotted lantern fly.

Hans Schmidt:

- PMT is becoming more restricted and one of the recommendations from the committee was to be reviewing our programs one of them being manure transport program.
- As of Monday we went live with a new revised fast track manure transport program. On the poultry side raised the cost share rates on the lower 4 counties they have been raised to 16 cents and for the other counties 14 cents.
- Cap from \$18 dollars a ton to \$22.50.
- Looking at other types of manure and what changes we want to make.
- Have been doing some advertising and putting the word out.
- We are making sure that manure can be shipped to where it can be utilized.
- Have a manure hot line that you can call and there is a manure transport coordinator.
- Have identified point people within companies to identify where manure is and where it can be moved to.
- Working to integrate better coordination.
- Working to know when the clean outs are and when the manure is available so farmers that want it are able to get it.
- There are certain times of the year where manure cannot be applied to the land or when there is no place to go with it and we are working with other ideas such as regional sites or what other avenues can be available.

Steve Connelly:

- Two bills of interest for Dr. Brooks.
- This will allow the vet board to stay around for another 10 years and do over sight for animal control centers.
- Give some authority to vet board to issue cease and assist issues on people practicing veterinary medicine without a license.
- Farmers Market conference is postponed and possibly cancelled.

Julie Oberg:

- Want to welcome all new members and appreciate your time and service on the board.
- Like attending the meetings to hear and learn what are the hot topics and issues within the different commodities and the different areas of Maryland agriculture.
- Value everyone's input and listen and want to hear what the commission has to say.
- The corona virus is affecting the department and working to solve those issues.
- Governor has announced that Maryland is operating under the level 2 of the pandemic flu and other infectious disease policy.
- State is open for business but those that can telework should.
- The whole idea is social distancing and staying away from large groups as much as possible.
- Switching to a level 3 will be a shut down and meetings will be held via conference call or cancelled.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 am respectfully submitted by: Jessica O'Sullivan