

10/18/12

FARMING AT METRO'S EDGE:
*Securing The Future of Agriculture
and Farm Communities in
Frederick and Montgomery Counties*

**Conference Center
The Universities at Shady Grove
9630 Gudelsky Drive
Rockville, MD
January 11-12, 2013**

CONFERENCE GOALS

Co-sponsored by a coalition of farming, community, environmental, and government organizations, the conference will develop ideas for advancing productive and profitable agriculture and strong farm communities to serve our region for future generations.

Conference participants will:

- **Tackle the economic and environmental challenges and opportunities farming operations in our region will confront in coming decades.**
- **Discover common interests among different agricultural enterprises and non-farm stakeholders.**
- **Recommend actions to secure a vibrant future for agriculture in our metropolitan region.**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Friday, January 11

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon REGISTRATION

12:00 Noon Lunch, Welcome & Overview of Conference

12:45 p.m.– 1:30 p.m. SETTING THE STAGE:

Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Headed

*A Presentation by
Jeremy Criss, Montgomery Co. Dept. of Economic Development,
Agricultural Services Division
and
Colby Ferguson, Frederick Co. Dept of Economic Development,
Agricultural Business Development Specialist*

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. PANEL 1: NAVIGATING THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF OUR REGION’S AGRICULTURE INTO THE NEXT GENERATION

Farming is a business. Sustaining agriculture for the future means it must be profitable. Today’s agriculture faces daunting challenges – volatile prices for products, inputs, labor and land; changes in federal policy and farm financing; an aging population facing rapid changes in technology and public expectations. But opportunities abound as well. New technology and genetics can increase efficiency. Public interest in food opens new markets and value-added propositions. The panel will explore how farmers in Montgomery and Frederick counties are navigating this fast changing world and how they imagine a future for the rising new generation.

Panelists include:

Billy Willard, Willard Agri Service of Frederick
Wade Butler, Butler’s Orchard
Jane Seigler, Dressage at Sundown Farm.
Steve McHenry, Executive Director, MARBIDCO
Robert Butz, Grain farmer; Windridge Farm
Michael Histon, Shepherds Manor Creamery
Doug Tregoning, UMD Extension (Ret.)
Chuck Fry, Rocky Point Creamery
Chuck Schuster, Extension Educator, Horticulture
Brett Groshgal, Organic Grower, Chef
Rick Pruetz, Author, *Lasting Value*; TDR Consultant

Panel Moderator:

Dick Stoner, Stoner Family Farms; Food Council

3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

All conference participants at facilitated roundtables of 8-10 people discuss issues raised by the panel and recommend actions and policies.

**4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. PLENARY SESSION
ROUNDTABLE REPORTS**

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. RECEPTION & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**“Connecting the Dots Between Federal Farm Policy
and USDA’s Food Pyramid”**

Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, USDA (Invited)

The reception will be held adjacent to the conference room and include opportunities to visit informally with exhibitors, officials, farmers, suppliers, buyers, and other leaders.

Saturday, January 12

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST,
REVIEW & SUMMARY OF DAY 1**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. PANEL 2: KEEPING AGRICULTURE VIABLE IN A WORLD
OF GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: SOLUTIONS
THAT WORK—AND PAY**

Whether it is nitrates in ground water, food safety recalls or environmental labeling, our society is bumping up against the effects of so many people living, working, playing, and growing food on the land. Farmers face the challenge of not getting credit for the conservation they have done, finishing the job where it's needed, and responding to demands from customers and the public, all while staying profitable. This panel focuses on how environmental management – both voluntary and regulated – affects the diversity of agricultural enterprises and how new approaches could reduce the negative impacts and increase positive ones.

Panelists include:

Kenny Bounds, Sr. VP, Atlantic Farm Credit

Greg Glen, Rocklands Farm

Gene Kingsbury, Kingsbury Orchard

Pam Saul, Farm Manager, Rolling Acres Farm

Jim Baird, Mid-Atlantic Director, American Farmland Trust

Russ Brinsfield, Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology

Russell Redding, Dean, Agriculture & Environmental Services, Delaware Valley College (invited)

Panel Moderator:

Gary Hornbaker, Loudoun County Rural Resources Coordinator

11:15 a.m. -12:00 Noon. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

All conference participants at facilitated roundtables of 8-10 people discuss issues raised by the panel and recommend actions and policies.

**12:15p.m. - 1:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION
ROUNDTABLE REPORTS
& LUNCH**

**1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. PANEL 3: WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER:
BUILDING SUPPORTFOR A THRIVING AGRICULTURE**

AND STRONG FARM COMMUNITIES

Fully integrating agricultural production and stewardship into our metro region will require private, public and non-profit collaboration to creatively address innovations in land use planning, agriculture's infrastructure needs, expanding private, public and institutional markets; farm transitions, environmental issues and more. This panel focuses on key investments, actions and collaborations to move the agenda forward.

Panelists Include:

Woody Woodroof, Red Wiggler Farm
Drew Stabler, Sunny Ridge Farm
Caroline Taylor, Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Toni Koerber, Potomac Hunt Club
Cheryl Kollin, Full Plate Ventures
Kelly Carneal, Maryland Agricultural Resource Council
Joyce Bailey, Global Ecology Program, Poolesville HS
Stan Fultz, Frederick Co. Dairy Science Agent, UMD
David Winer, Eat Well DC
Rene Brooks Catacalos, Future Harvest/Eco City Farms
Laura Ford, Vice President, Accokeek Foundation
Wilton Corkern, Trustee, Corina Higginson Trust
Kimberly Perry, CEO, Perry Global Advisors
Christine Bergmark, Southern MD Agricultural Development Commission
Casey Hoy, Kellogg Endowed Chair in Agricultural Ecosystem Management, OSU

Panel Moderator:

Ed Thompson, California Director & Sr. Associate, American Farmland Trust

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

All conference participants at facilitated roundtables of 8-10 people discuss issues raised by the panel and recommend actions and policies.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION ROUNDTABLE REPORTS & CONFERENCE SUMMARY

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN

A conference summary and report will be prepared and distributed to all participants and policy makers in each county.