



THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

February 12, 2016

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)
FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager
Department of Economic Development
SUBJECT: NO Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee will NOT meet on **Tuesday, February 16, 2016.**

I am providing some updates for February on the attachment.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810

e:acFeb(aac16)

No Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting for February 16, 2016

Update for February 2016

The AAC Minutes from January 19, 2016 will be reviewed at the March 15, 2016 meeting

Recommendations from the AAC Sub-committee will be discussed at the March meeting

1. Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities- Fruit and Grain based Alcoholic beverages.
2. Limited Use Standards for Private Events on farms including food.
3. Food trucks-trailers prohibited on farms due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions.

New Farmer on Small Acreage workshops-Scheduled on Thursdays evenings at 6:00 pm through March 31, 2016. Please contact Chuck Schuster for additional details.

The MAEF-Mobile Science Lab Partners met on February 3, 2016 to discuss the progress of the lab and the 11 elementary schools the lab has visited so far. The partners discussed the positive evaluations from teachers and students as well as development of new program materials.

There were about 20 farmers that attended the February 8, 2016 Farm Trucking Forum sponsored by MCFB and SHA. Several farmers have expressed appreciation for the good information that was presented to learn about farm truck regulations and exemptions.

Follow up from the Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis-February 10, 2016- Paula Linthicum did an excellent job of scheduling meetings between Farm Bureau Board members and members of the County Delegation. The items discussed included:

Termination of the Maryland Weed Control Program and Staff-**See attached letter,**
HB 211-Neonicotinoid Pesticides-Labeling, Signage, Restrictions on Sale and Use
HB 443-Agriculture-Industrial Hemp-Agricultural or Academic Research
HB 243-Land Use Actions-Legislative Bodies-Judicial Review
HB 120-State Budget-Department of Budget and Management-Statement of Dedicated Funds
HB 132-Pollinator Habitat Plans
HB 178-Natural Resources--Roadside Trees-Preservation and Protection

MDA report of 2015-2016 Cover Crop Acres planted in the State-**See attached chart of acres and Spring Fertilizer Rules for Small Grains and Commodity Cover Crops**

There will be an Ag Tire Collection Event scheduled Tuesday February 16 & 17, 2016 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for members of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau. The location to drop off the farm tires will be the Derwood Transfer Station. *To participate in the program you must have written letter with you that you are a Farm Bureau member.* **There will be MCFB**

representatives present for each day the event is scheduled to verify Farm Bureau membership for the farmer dropping off the tires.
Please see attached example letter and map with instructions.

February 24, 2016 Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick Counties-2016 Agronomy Update
See Attachment

Update on the Office of Agriculture-OAG

The Office of Agriculture was effective on October 6, 2015.

Department Head meeting with OMB on the OAG FY17 Operating Budget was today.

Office will not function independently until DED is closed sometime this coming spring.

Council has requested a PHED Committee work session for February 22, 2016 at 2:00pm to discuss the Status and Update for the Office of Agriculture and the Ag Pres CIP program and the request from the APAB for alternative funding-WQPC and MNCPPC funding.

The improvements for replacing the phone system and T-1 lines at the AHFP are still moving forward slowly until the permits are issued from MNCPPC, Historical Preservation and DPS. The plan involves transferring all current funding for Verizon phones and T-1 lines to Comcast Business Service for both phones-voice and High Speed Broad Band-data internet service. There is additional cost savings for both the new phone system and the new internet system due to volume discounts and the two year promotional rates. The rates may increase for year three and beyond. The MDA, FSA, and NRCS will retain their T-1 lines. Please note that if these agencies decide to migrate with Comcast in the future the hubs being installed will accommodate them at their cost.

The improvements to replace the fire suppression system for the stove downstairs have been completed. We are working to hire a contractor to install the new stove shortly. These improvements are needed for the UM-Extension to offer food demonstrations for canning.

Follow up from the January announcement for new appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee: We are still looking for one more farmer member to apply to the AAC.

Non-Farmer Members

Eddie Kuhlman-requested new appointment

Aliza Fishbein-requested new appointment

Dennis Kamber-requested new appointment

Farmer Members-Second Term expired December 2015

David Weitzer-requested waiver for third term

David Heisler

Drew Stabler

Jane Evans

Potential New Farmer Members

Eleanor Leak-requested new appointment
Henry Garson-requested new appointment?
Jessica Butts Snyder
Sophia Ruppert or Julie Ruppert

Next Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC meeting-March 15, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 16, 2016 @7:00pm-Cancelled
Ag Tire Collection Event-MCFB members-Tuesday & Wednesday February 16&17, 2016
PHED Com Work Session-Ag Land Pres CIP and Status-Update Office of Ag-February 22, 2016
Winter Agronomy Update- February 24, 2016
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-March 1, 2016 @7:00pm
Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Bd.-March 8, 2016@ 7:00pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-March 11, 2016 @ 9:00am
Montgomery Weed Control, Inc. Annual Meeting-March 23, 2016 @9:30 am
Annual Farmers Market Training- April 15, 2016 @ 9:00 am