



THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2016

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Agricultural Services Manager
Department of Economic Development

SUBJECT: The Agricultural Advisory Committee and Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Please be advised the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room A at 6:00 p.m.**

The agenda is on the next page and Please note we will have a short Happy New Year Celebration with refreshments starting at 6:00 pm and prior to the start of the meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Agricultural Services web site. Due to the County's paper reduction mandate, please print these attachments out and bring them with you to the meeting.

See you on Tuesday evening.

*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

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**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
Agenda – January 19, 2016**

1. Happy New Year Celebration

2. Introductions:

3. Approval of the AAC Minutes from November 17, 2015.

Please note the AAC did not meet in December 2015.

Follow up from the December 3, 2015 On Farm Composting Forum

4. Follow up from the December 15, 2015 AAC Sub-committee:

Micro-Alcohol Production Facilities- Fruit and Grain based Alcoholic beverages.

Limited Use Standards for Private Events on farms including food.

Food trucks-trailers prohibited on farms due to Transitory Uses restricted under Section 3.1.5 TDR Prohibitions.

December 17, 2015 Episode-Made in Montgomery at Butler's Orchard

5. Follow up from Ribbon Cutting at Waredaca Brewing Company-January 19, 2016 at 4:00pm.
Attachment

6. New Farmer on Small Acreage workshops-Scheduled on Thursdays starting January 14-March 31, 2016. Please contact Chuck Schuster for additional details. **Attachment**

7. Pre-Harvest Marketing Workshop-January 26, 2016-New Market Fire Hall. Doug Tregoning will be presenting this workshop to interested farmers. Please contact Doug for additional details including \$10.00 registration that will cover refreshments and materials. **Attachment**

8. Update on the New Office of Agriculture

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

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 including the request from the APAB for alternative funding-WQPC and MNCPPC funding.

9. 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.

10. The improvements to replace the fire suppression system for the stove downstairs have been completed. The new stove will be installed shortly. These improvements are needed for the UM-Extension to offer food demonstrations for canning.

11. Montgomery County Farm Bureau Projects

Stay tuned for an Ag Tire Collection Event to be scheduled sometime between now and March 6, 2016. 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.

On February 8, 2016 9:00 to 11:00 the MCFB and SHA will conduct a Farm Trucking Forum here at the AHFP. The cancellation due to weather is February 22, 2016. **Attachment**

12. Announcement for new appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee: **Attachment**
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
David Heisler
Drew Stabler
Jane Evans

Process for requesting waiver for a third term on the County Boards and Committees.

Potential New Farmer Members

Eleanor Leak
Henry Garson
Jessica Butts Snyder
Sophia Ruppert or Julie Ruppert

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

New Farmer on Small Acreage workshops-January 14-March 31, 2016-Chuck Schuster
Ribbon Cutting-Waredaca Brewing Company-January 19, 2016 @ 4:00 pm.
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-January 19, 2016 @7:00pm

MDA Buyer-Grower Expo-Annapolis Naval Stadium-January 20, 2016
Pollinator Protection Plan Workshop-January 20, 2016
Pre-Harvest Marketing Workshop-New Market Fire Hall-Jan. 26, 2016-Doug Tregoning
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-February 1, 2016 @7:00pm
Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner-February 4, 2016
SHA and MCFB Trucking Forum- February 8, 2016 AHFP (Snow Date-Feb 22, 2016)
Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Bd.-February 9, 2016@ 7:00pm
Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis-February 10, 2016
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-February 12, 2016 @ 9:00am
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 16, 2016 @7:00pm
PHED Com Work Session-Ag Land Pres CIP and Status-Update Office of Ag-February 22, 2016
Winter Agronomy Update- February 24, 2016
Montgomery Weed Control, Inc. Annual Meeting-March 23, 2016 @9:30 am
Annual Farmers Market Training- April 15, 2016 @ 9:00 am