The MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD implements the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program, collecting funds and providing grants focused on market development, research and education for the collective benefit of Maryland farmers.

The MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD is comprised of 24 members who are appointed to 3-year terms by the Maryland Board of Grain Commissioners. The MGPUB consists of twelve farmers, 9 processors, 1 director from Maryland Farm Bureau and 1 director from the Maryland Commodity Checkoff Program. The Board meets six times a year and conducts business at those meetings.

AGENDA
10:30 am Checkoff Project & Commercial Exhibits Open

Program and Awards Ceremony

Farmers Panel featuring Yield Contest Winner Drew Haines

4:00 pm Chicken & Pork Barbecue and Crab Feast

MARYLAND'S NATIONAL WINNER

Drew Haines, Middletown, placed first nationally in the No-Till Non-Irrigated category. Hear Drew's story at the Maryland Commodity Classic.

FROM THE PRESIDENT... BOBBY GUY

For over twenty years now, the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board has been working toward one goal—making Maryland farmers more profitable, efficient and understood by the public.

We utilize the investment of every Maryland grain grower to bring greater success to every farm. As you all know, 2019 was a tough year for trade. We are hoping there is a light at the end of the tunnel coming very soon. In light of uncertain trade agreements, MGPUB worked with our national partners to maintaining relationships and expand markets. We are thankful for our affiliate national grain and marketing organizations who work on our behalf to grow markets. As you will see in the market development section of this report, maintaining personal relationships with buyers in key international markets is an important part of weathering this tumultuous time in trade. As always, we appreciate our Maryland farmers who make their voices heard at the state and federal level. It is important for our elected officials to hear from farmers and how their decisions will have real impacts on you.

For several years now, you've read about our partnership with USDA and Virginia on a Biofuels Infrastructure Project. We are elated to report that we are now seeing the positive outcomes of that project in the form of ethanol sales and corn demand. The public stations installed through this project dispensed an estimated 12.4 million gallons of E85 in 2019; this is six times the demand of last year, far exceeding our projected sales. Maryland's E85 FlexFuel and 88-regular use generated an estimated 2.2 million bushels of corn demand the first nine months of the year. The growth in consumer interest for latest in ag news, products and research.

The MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD operates under the Maryland Grain Checkoff, a marketing research program funded by Maryland farmers. The checkoff program is administered by the MGPUB. For research and information on the checkoff and the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program, go to www.marylandgrain.org. The MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD is comprised of 24 members who are appointed to 3-year terms by the Maryland Board of Grain Commissioners. The MGPUB consists of twelve farmers, 9 processors, 1 director from Maryland Farm Bureau and 1 director from the Maryland Commodity Checkoff Program. The Board meets six times a year and conducts business at those meetings.

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In large part due to MGUP support, Maryland now has 30 retail E85 stations and 70 public E85 fills available. More than 88,000 E85 fuels were sold in 2019, or roughly 88 million gallons (335 Mgal). More are planned for 2020. Maryland has three additional state Department of General Services stations alone dispensed an estimated 12.4 million gallons of E85, six times the demand of last year and more than three times what was projected. Maryland’s E85 flex fuel and 88 unlimited (E88) use generated an estimated 2.1 million bushels of corn demand in 2019, even more if government demand were included. This is three times the estimated demand projected for the year. SESI closed-out MGUP’s role in the USDA Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership Grant, including assisting with the final report and coordinating a station opening at the new Royal Farms refueling station at the National Harbor. This three-year project included ethanol fuel promotion, station visits, website development, advertising campaign and station/ partner communications. SESI educated consumers and retailers at public events and retail stations. Staff also responded to questions, technical and logistical, from retailers, consumers and fuel suppliers. SESI also attended and presented at meetings, i.e. Fuel Ethanol Workshop, Clean Cities events, MAPDA (Maryland Petroleum Association), and wrote articles for MAPDA and the DELMARVA Farmer. 2019 Funding $146,110; 2020 Grant $16,846

Royal Farms installs E85 Flex Fuel and Regular 88 pumps at the National Harbor which will drive new drivers money, reduce air pollution and increase corn grind.

Partnering with national organizations builds a strong coalition to grow trade for Maryland products domestically and abroad.

PROMOTING FAVORABLE WHEAT POLICY
National Association of Wheat Growers | ww.wheatworld.org

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) had a busy year working on federal farm policy. Wheat growers were successful in achieving many priorities in the 2018 Farm Bill and continues to be engaged with USDA in implementing those programs. Farm Bill priorities included maintaining a strong crop insurance program, improving ARC and PLC, maintaining and increasing funding for the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Program, and prioritizing water lands conservation programs. The organization has also been at the forefront of important debates on issues including trade, agricultural productivity, crop insurance reform, the regulatory new breeding technologies framework, and many others. NAWG’s efforts led to several key wheat research programs receiving funding increases in the FY 2019 agriculture appropriations bill and draft FY 2020 funding bills. NAWG’s Foundation has also conducted several leadership training programs, continued its National Wheat Yield Contest, and led several public and Congressional educational events, including a wheat value chain program on Capitol Hill and a Congressional farm tour at NAWG Director Eric Spates’ farm in Maryland. In addition, NAWG has continued to work with member states to ramp up communications activities. 2019 Funding $83,000; 2020 Grant $13,000

Eric Spates is the Maryland representative to NAWG, here hosting a NAWG congressional farm tour at his Montgomery County farm.

NCGA is also laying the groundwork for the sustainability of the corn industry. The Soil Health Partnership has gained interest from all segments of food production. Other initiatives are working in partnership with the state corn organizations to improve nutrient management, protect water quality and evaluate new pathways for reducing carbon emissions. These efforts will help corn associations meet the future demands of our customers and consumers. NCGA director for Maryland is Chip Bowling. 2019 Funding $230,000; 2020 Grant $200,000

John Bruning, MGPUB Vice President, (center) graduated from the NCGA Leadership At It’s Best program, advocating for Maryland grain farmers on Capitol Hill.

2019-20 Funding Report
TRENDS IN SOIL TEST PHOSPHORUS
University of Delaware | www.udel.edu

Field sites receiving long-term applications of manure and/or inorganic P fertilizer at Georgetown, DE, and Chestertown, MD were maintained through 2018; soybeans were planted and no P treatments were applied. Soybean yields for plots receiving 8 ton/A poultry litter had higher yields (62.1 bu/A) than plots receiving other treatments (53.6 bu/A on average) at Chestertown, MD. At Georgetown, DE, manure amended plots yielded 44.6 bu/A, on average, which was significantly higher than plots receiving no P or fertilizer. Routine soil samples from 2018 showed increases in soil test P following two applications of poultry litter at increased rates (2014 and 2016), with the highest rates of manure exceeding the 200 FIV. There was a trend for increasing soil test P since 2014 for plots receiving all manure rates. However, historical data suggests that soil test P can be reduced by cropping over time when total P applied is less than P removal. The plan is to continue maintenance of these historic sites, which will allow researchers to provide Maryland farmers with better information about the chemistry and fate of P in soils with a long-term history of manure or fertilizer applications. 2019 Funding $4,500; 2020 Grant $6,205

FARM STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts | www.mascd.net/FSCAP

The Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program recognizes farmers who go above and beyond when it comes to conservation. A farmer who is fully compliant with their nutrient management plan and has a fully implemented conservation plan addressing all resource concerns on their farm is eligible to be certified. MDA and conservation districts assist with reviews to certifying farms and recognizing farmers. All 23 counties have farmers recognized. 2019 Funding $7,500

NEW VARIETY DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF SMALL GRAINS IN MARYLAND
University of Maryland | www.psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops/small-grains-maryland

State trials are an effective tool for an unbiased comparison of the performance of new and current small grains varieties. Investigators participated in five regional breeding nursery field tests, published the results of the 2019 Maryland State Wheat and Barley Trials, and planted the Trials for 2020. A high-yielding line, “Luna,” was released as a public variety that producers can save for cover crop or yield under higher input management systems. To help meet reduced wheat DON goals, the research group performed an inoculated scab nursery, which stress-tested all wheat and barley entries in the statewide trials for fusarium resistance. The trials showed a statewide performance spread of 23.6 bu/acre, from a maximum of 60.2 to a minimum of 36.6 bu/acre. A conservative estimate of the financial benefit to producers by selecting the highest yielding variety versus the average yield, would mean an average gain of 4.8 bu/acre, resulting in $72.05 profit per acre with wheat at $15.75/bu. Trial results can be found in detail on the small grains website. 2020 Grant $6,500

A REGIONAL SURVEY OF SOIL AND TISSUE TESTS TO OBSERVE CRITICAL NUTRIENT LEVELS
University of Delaware | www.udel.edu

Tissue and soil samples were tested from University of Maryland sites (Salisbury, Poplar Hill, Wye, Clarksville, Keevideville) and University of Delaware (Marydel, Georgetown) corn variety trials. The goal of the project was to observe whether corn tissue samples from across the state would be consistent with critical nutrient concentrations as described by past literature. Two varieties each from the early, middle, and late maturity groups were grown at each site. Ear leaf and soil samples (0-8 inches) were taken at R4 (July 2019), dried, and sent to the University of Delaware testing lab for analyses. Yields were collected in September 2019. Early maturity varieties had the lowest yields (208 bu/acre) compared to late (220 bu/acre) with the highest. In 2018 differences were not actually statistically significant, compared to 2019. Although a different field was used for the Marydel site, yields were highest there (245 bu/acre), similar to 2018. This year, Clarksville (254 bu/acre) also had greater yields, followed by Georgetown (231 bu/acre) and Keevideville (216 bu/acre). The absolute lowest average yield this year was at Poplar Hill (150 bu/acre). Although this study is observing nutrient concentrations across different soil types, another factor in average yield is irrigation. Marydel, Georgetown, and Salisbury all include irrigation in their management, which should be kept in consideration when yields to nutrient concentrations. Ear leaf N concentrations improved over 2018, but only 6% of the samples were above the critical value of 3%. Many of these lower N samples were on sandier soils, so management of N fertilizer could possibly be improved. Almost all tissue samples had macronutrient (P, K) concentrations that were within published sufficiency ranges, although ear leaf S did show correlations with increased yield. Both Ca and Mg ear leaf levels did not show consistent trends with yield, although Mg was below the reported critical threshold in a smaller number of samples. Tissue micronutrients (Zn, Cu, and Fe) were also above critical tissue concentrations in most samples. There was a negative trend with B and yield, mostly due to Poplar Hill samples, but B was also below the critical threshold of 10 ppm. The role of B and yield needs further examination. 2019 Funding $7,042; 2020 Grant $3,952

NEW GRANTS FOR 2020
MOBILE AG SCIENCE LABS AND THE AMAZING MD AG SHOWCASE
Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation | $5,000
STATE CORN TEST BENCHMARK HYBRIDS
University of Maryland | $6,500
DEVELOPING IMPROVED WINTER BARLEY CULTIVARS
University of Maryland | $10,000
IDENTIFICATION OF TRITICALE VARIETIES WITH BEST COVER CROP POTENTIAL FOR MARYLAND
University of Maryland | $15,000
OPTIMIZING EARLY SEASON INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT IN FIELD CORN
University of Maryland | $15,000
REGIONAL SURVEY OF SOIL AND TISSUE TESTS TO UPDATE CRITICAL NUTRIENT LEVELS
University of Maryland | $3,954
USING WHOLE GRAIN TO INCREASE THE PROFITABILITY OF PASTURE-RAISED LAMB
University of Maryland | $5,646

Research is critical for farmers to implement the best practices for sustainability, protection of water and soil health, and maintaining economic viability as new products and technologies are developed.
**IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF BARLEY FOR USE IN FEED, MALT AND FUEL**

Breeding efforts primarily focused on development and improvement of superior, widely adapted, high yielding winter barley cultivars and a major focus on incorporation of value added traits geared towards development of new markets. As interest continues to grow in locally produced ingredients from the craft brewing industry in the mid-Atlantic and eastern U.S. finding malted barley is not easy for those located east of the Mississippi River. Therefore, the program’s main effort is breeding winter malting barley cultivars that have superior malt quality and are well adapted to the mid-Atlantic and southeastern United States. Development of Double Haploid (DH) malting barley lines in collaboration with Oregon State University has recently begun. Current experimental lines, the program also collaborates with other breeding programs, allowing evaluation of cultivars developed by collaborators across the country as well as cultivars from around the world, especially Europe. Meanwhile, an Eastern Mid-Atlantic Malt Barley Trial (EMBT) was initiated with neighboring states, (North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia) to facilitate collaborations and enhance cultivar development. The EMBT currently includes over 40 elite malt barley lines and check varieties that are being evaluated at two to four locations in NC, KY and VA. A graduate student is developing molecular markers for malting with more precision and elimination of costly testing expenses. There is an anticipation that the production of malting barley will continue to grow in this region and that the release of cultivars will meet diverse market demands. The future allotment of resources will continue to provide more resources to the winter malting barley program as it continues to grow. 2020 Funding $5,500.
Housed by Joanne Cendining, Maryland Farm & Harvest takes viewers around the state to see and experience what it’s like to run a 21st century farm — from technological advances and conservation challenges to age-old problems like bad weather and insect invasions. With seven seasons, 91 episodes, and over 365 locations featured, Farm & Harvest continues sharing stories of the diverse, passionate people who feed Maryland and the world. The series has made major progress in connecting the general public with the agricultural industry, and helping them understand the work farmers do.

**2020 Funding $100,000, 2020 Grant $100,000**

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH AGRICULTURE—Montgomery County**
University of Maryland Extension | www.extension.umd.edu/Montgomery-County

The Close Encounters with Agriculture program promotes and increases the understanding of agriculture. This program demonstrates the inter-relationships and positive aspects of production agriculture, nutrition, and the environment. A total of 3,387 fourth-grade students and 610 teachers and chaperones participated in the program in October. The program is modified every year to maintain alignment with current Montgomery County School Curriculum. Students’ test results rose from 28% correct in 2018 to 97% correct in 2020. Participation in all schools, showed a significant increase knowledge gained. 2019 Funding $1,500, 2020 Grant $2,000

**KIDS GROWING WITH GRAINS—Washington County**
Extension Advisory Council | www.extension.umd.edu/washington-county

Kids Growing with Grains is an education program primarily targeting 4th grade students offered in March and October to all county schools at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC). A total of 311 students from six schools participated in the field trip during the four days of programming. The program meets the needs and interests of the schools, and offers hands-on, experiential learning through a variety of lessons, including: Grains and Agriculture, Field Research, Soil, and Crop Science. Lessons are presented by UME and WMREC faculty and staff, volunteers, and speakers from the field of agriculture. The field trip information packet includes information on the state's role in grain production, and develop a connection between themselves and agriculture in their community. 2019 Funding $1,000; 2020 Grant $1,000

**KIDS GROWING WITH GRAINS—Frederick County**
Frederick County Extension | www.extension.umd.edu/frederick-county

The Kids Growing with Grains program improves the agricultural literacy of county at-risk students through field trips with three distinct elements: exploring the integration of grain production, uses, and nutrition; feeding Maryland; and tying this curriculum across grade levels and integrating holistically into school programming; and delivery designed for Title I schools that have high-risk, underserved students. In 2020, the program reached over 900 youth and adults through 31st school field trips with 3rd graders and fall field trips with 4th graders at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center. Students learn about grain production, nutrition, and use in their daily lives. 2019 Funding $2,500; 2020 Grant $2,500

**LEAD MARYLAND**
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. | www.leadmaryland.org

The LEAD Maryland Fellowship Program (LEAD) celebrated its 20th year in 2019, as it continued to prepare a cadre of leaders serving agriculture. LEAD completed a rigorous application process within the University of Maryland Extension, and in early 2019 was designated as a “Signature Program”, meaning the program meets critical needs of the agriculture community, has public value, and incorporates research, evaluation, and scholarship. 2019 welcomed Class XI, with 22 individuals from across Maryland. The 2020 class represented the diversity of Maryland agriculture. Fellows completed a series of five multi-day seminars, learning through a variety of guest speakers, hands-on skills training, and skill trainings. Class XI Fellows began preparing for an international study tour to Spain, with travel planned for fall of 2020. LEAD provides public issues education, skills building, leadership development, and networking opportunities. Fellows become more equipped and confident to solve problems, identify resources, educate the public, and influence public policy. 2019 Funding $20,000, 2020 Grant $20,000

**MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION**
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts | www.mascd.org

Maryland Envirothon helps students become more involved in protecting natural resources by challenging their problem-solving skills and instilling a sense of stewardship. Statewide, over 1,000 students participated, recieving training in five areas: aquatic, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current issue. “Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World”. This hands-on training, followed by the hands-on competition, helped Envirothon earn the unique environmental education program. 2019 Funding $5,500, 2020 Grant $5,000

**EDUCATION OFFICIALS ON THE IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURE**
University of Maryland

The project team, Nico Fiorello, Jon Sulli, and Paul Goeringer met in early February to plan meetings. Based on the discussion, the group decided to expand the meetings beyond crop and poultry production, focusing on all aspects of agriculture in Maryland. MDA programs to include irrigation issues and hot topics sessions. Meetings were held at Chesapeake College on September 17 and the Lower Shore American Job Center on October 10. The project team reached a total of 50 state and local officials. Feedback from the two workshops was extremely positive with officials from the other parts of the state. Asking when a similar workshop could be held in their counties. 2019 Funding $4,451, 2020 Grant $5,937

The project team worked together to design a program that would meet the needs of the audience. The program was designed to be interactive and engaging, with hands-on activities and discussions. The team also worked to ensure that the program was relevant and timely, focusing on topics that are important to Maryland farmers and the state’s agricultural industry.

**MOTHER’S DAY FARM & HARVEST**
Maryland Farm & Harvest | www.marylandfarmandharvest.com

Maryland Farm & Harvest takes viewers around the state to see and experience what it’s like to run a 21st century farm — from technological advances and conservation challenges to age-old problems like bad weather and insect invasions. With seven seasons, 91 episodes, and over 365 locations featured, Farm & Harvest continues sharing stories of the diverse, passionate people who feed Maryland and the world. The series has made major progress in connecting the general public with the agricultural industry, and helping them understand the work farmers do.

**2020 Funding $100,000, 2020 Grant $100,000**

**FAMILY FARM AND HARVEST**
Clear Spring FFA

In May of 2019, students procured corn seed through a generous donation from Martin’s Elevator and borrowed a 4-row no-till drill to drill plant food plots for deer studies. The drill lacked markers and was well worn, needing repairs. Corn was planted with many variables, including being corrected soil depth. While some of the corn planted well, portions were lost due to A reputation for standing up against the odds, the team continued to work hard and ultimately produced a crop. Students observed and recorded plant growth and seed yield data, and provided feedback on the drill’s effectiveness.

**2019 Funding $9,000, 2020 Grant $18,000**

**CULTIVATING LEADERS IN FFA**
Queen Anne’s County FFA

In 2019, the Maryland FFA Association had 2,215 members, representing 45 active Chapters. Ninety-two career and leadership development events (CDE/LDE) were held during the year, giving Maryland FFA members numerous opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. At the National Convention, Maryland placed 28 in CDE/LDE activities. One individual placed 3rd in the Nation. Of the ten state FFA Star Rating Award winners, four were awarded the American Agricultural Education Degree.

**2019 Funding $6,500; 2020 Grant $6,000**

**2019 Funding $1,000; 2020 Grant $1,000**

**2019 Funding $13,000; 2020 Grant $14,000**

**2019 Funding $100,000, 2020 Grant $100,000**

**2019 Funding $5,000, 2020 Grant $5,000**

**2019 Funding $4,461; 2020 Grant $4,894**

**2019 Funding $2,500, 2020 Grant $2,500**

**2019 Funding $8,451, 2020 Grant $8,537**

**2019 Funding $4,851, 2020 Grant $5,937**

**2019 Funding $100,000, 2020 Grant $100,000**

**2019 Funding $8,451, 2020 Grant $8,537**
The Maryland Grain Producers Association is a member organization of grain producers in the state. It conducts legislative activities, awards scholarships, and conducts meetings to address grain issues. The Maryland Commodity Classic is the Association’s annual meeting.

SERVING MARYLAND GRAIN FARMERS
Maryland Grain Producers Association | www.marylandgrain.com

The MGPA funded the writing, printing and mailing of the “Grain Store” newsletter. The 2018-2019 funding report was sent to over 7,000 subscribers. The e-newsletter has been sent more often than bi-weekly for a total of 28 newsletters and has had a very positive response. The e-newsletter averages an over 40% open rate which is nearly double the industry average. The Facebook page has been updated almost daily in 2019 and is reaching over 4,700 people a month on average which is a year-over-year increase. MGPA conducted the 21st annual Maryland Commodity Classic jointly with the Maryland Soybean Board and the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Board. Featured this year, was a grain bin safety training. Booth space was provided for grant recipients to provide information on the results of their research and activities to the grain producers. Under Secretary of USDA NRCS, Jimmey Brandcott, provided the keynote speech about conservation and other federal issues. Presentations were also provided on current issues and policy impacting grain farmers including the value of the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program. MGPA promoted the scholarships and reviewed the applications. The selection committee approved four recipients for the $100,000; 2020 Grant $125,000.

MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD
President                             Lindsay Thompson, Charlie Cox
Vice President                       John Bruning, Allen Davis
Treasurer                           Donnie Tennyson, Charlie Cox
Secretary                           Steve Ernst, Charlie Cox
Executive Director                  Jenell Eck

MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
President                             Evan Miles, Jr.
Vice President                       Donnie Tennyson
Secretary                           Charlie Cox
ADVISORY MD Dept. of Ag              Steve Connelly
            University of MD               Donald Maring
            Industry                        Mark Powell
March 2020

MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD

MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Joining the MGPA is now easier than ever. Just download the Membership Form from www.marylandgrain.org/main_membership.htm and mail it to the MGPA office. If you are a grain producer, MGPUT will transfer the annual fee ($55 for one year or $125 for three years) to MGPA from your checkoff payments. If you are a non-producer, payment can be made via check or credit card information with your form.

< < Questions? Contact the office or your regional rep < <
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We are dedicated to providing resources and services to growers that are well-researched, unbiased and based on the goals and direction of your board of directors. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to me or any of your representatives on our board. We look forward to continuing to grow with you.