

**From:** [Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation](#)  
**To:** [Larrimore, Ashley](#)  
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## The Buzz!

An Educator's Newsletter for Events, Opportunities, Grants, and More!

### MAEF Wants You!

The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. is currently seeking seasonal part time staff for its Maryland Agriculture Showcase. The Showcase features interactive exhibits, colorful displays, and activities for kids. The Showcase travels to fairs, festivals, and events throughout Maryland.

- The exhibiting season is April through October.
- Work hours and dates vary from one day to ten consecutive days depending on the event.
- This is a paid position with mileage and expenses reimbursed.
- Candidates must be dependable, friendly, personable, flexible, work well with kids and adults, and have an interest in agriculture.

Please contact Diana Tyler at 410-939-9030 ext. 106 or e-mail [dtyler@maefonline.com](mailto:dtyler@maefonline.com).

In addition MAEF continues to need two part-time mobile ag lab teachers. One position is available for South-Central Maryland (Howard/Prince Georges) and another for Western Maryland (Garrett/Allegheny/Washington)! Please call or email Diana with your interest! 410-939-9030 [dtyler@maefonline.com](mailto:dtyler@maefonline.com)

### Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network Update

**Note to Maryland/DC Farm-Based Educators:** We will not have a 2014-2015 round of FBE gatherings in Maryland this year while the Maryland Chesapeake Food, Farms, and Bay FBE Writing Team meets throughout the winter to produce your curriculum on-farm education guide! Stay tuned for training opportunities and the release of the guide later in 2015!

#### **[Chesapeake Food, Farms, and Bay Farm-Based Curriculum Project Meetings!](#)**

[Wednesday, February 4](#) - Chesapeake Culinary Center, Caroline County, MD

[Wednesday, February 25](#) - National Colonial Farm/Accokeek Fdn., Accokeek, MD

[Wednesday, March 25](#) - Fifth meeting of the CFFB

[Wednesday, April 29](#) - Sixth and Final meeting of the CFFB

#### **[Horse Discovery Center Curriculum Project Information Workshops](#)**

Wednesday February 18 - Talbot Count Recreation Center, Easton, MD 11- 2

Tuesday, February 24 - Persimmon Tree Farm, Westminster, MD 11-2

Tuesday, March 3 - Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, Annapolis, MD 11-2

Contact Peggy Eppig at [peppig@maefonline.com](mailto:peppig@maefonline.com) for more information about the Mid-Atlantic Farm-Based Education Network!

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## Position Opening: P/T Farm and Ag Education Assistant

### Hard Bargain Farm, Alice Ferguson Foundation

The Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) seeks a multi-faceted farm assistant who will be involved with all aspects of Hard Bargain farm, from the barnyard, livestock, agricultural and crop lands, to assisting with the execution of agricultural-focused field study for students and other visitors. AFF is an environmental educational non-profit focused on connecting people to the natural world, sustainable agricultural practices, and the cultural heritage of their local watershed through education, stewardship, and advocacy in the Washington, DC, metro region.

#### Position Summary/Requirements

Besides helping with animal management, the Farm Assistant will aid in the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices that are in line with land use best management practices and work to ensure farm activities comply with federal, state and local regulations. A key component of the job is managing the rotational grazing of beef cattle, as well as supporting all aspects of hay, meat, and egg production. Other duties of this position involve helping to maintain fences and farm buildings, as well as coordinating the routine maintenance of farm equipment, tractors, and vehicles as needed.

The successful candidate will be a self-starter with excellent oral and written communication and organizational skills, and ability to manage multiple projects. A strong commitment to the environment and a basic understanding of marketing and the importance of communication for fundraising are desirable. A solid level of proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite is essential. Applicants should have a relevant Bachelor's degree and/or a minimum of 2-4 years of experience with sustainable agriculture, animal care and management, farming and farm machinery operation.

Salary is commensurate with experience and includes a competitive benefits package. Among the advantages of employment at the Alice Ferguson Foundation is working in a beautiful work environment in a national park setting at the Hard Bargain Farm in Accokeek, MD. To apply, email cover letter with salary requirements and resume to [HR@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:HR@fergusonfoundation.org). This announcement will remain open until the position is filled.

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## UL Innovative Education Award

In recognition of our world's changing needs, Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the global leader in safety science, and NAAEE launched the UL Innovative Education Award, a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to invest \$250,000 in environmental and STEM education, sustainable communities, and youth empowerment. The program offers recognition grants to increase the impact of existing innovative nonprofit programs in the US and Canada that are leading the way to inspire a passion for STEM education in young people through a focus on the environment. Learn more and apply now!

<http://ulinnovationeducation.naaee.net/>

## Urban Youth Garden Grant 2015

MAEF

Schools creating a garden for the first time will want to apply now for a **New Gardens Grant** of up to \$500. Schools with existing gardens may apply for an **Existing Garden Grant** of up to \$250. Deadline for applications is March 27, 2015! Application is available on the MAEF website! Please visit [www.maefonline.com](http://www.maefonline.com)

## 2015 Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Conference

February 12-13, Dover Downs, DE

A winter favorite, the Women in Ag Conference is a great time and place to build networks, meet new friends, and be inspired with new ideas and in-depth discussion on agricultural business and opportunity.

<http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/2015-conference>

## "Environmental Challenges: Backyard and Beyond" Workshop

March 7th, Baltimore County Forestry Board

Ever wonder why The Baltimore Zoo was named Druid Hill? Did you know that it has everything to do with trees? Join the Baltimore County Forestry Board volunteers for the March 7th workshop, "Environmental Challenges - Backyard and Beyond" that includes a guided tree tour on the campus of the third oldest Zoo in the country. Included in the tree tour are rare, notable, state and city champion trees. We have 5 major speakers on current topics and lunch. See <http://extension.umd.edu/news/events/sat-2015-03-07-0900-environmental-challenges-backyard-and-beyond>

Contact Glenn Ferenschak [sciencegf@msn.com](mailto:sciencegf@msn.com)  
or an electronic brochure!

## AFRI Grants Announced

USDA

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) announces a series of 8 grant programs for 2015 to include funding for Science for Climate Change, Childhood Obesity, Bioenergy, and Water.

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html>

## Welcoming Customers on Your Farm!

USDA Rural Development, New England

A two-day gathering in Rutland, VT for farmers, agricultural service providers, educators, and others interested in agritourism, on-farm education, and direct sales. Spend Tuesday, April 7 touring a variety of farms in the Rutland region. On Wednesday, April 8, learn from experts in agritourism, on-farm education, and direct sales -- and share your experiences! Call for proposals ongoing until Jan. 31.

<http://www.uvm.edu/vtagritourism/?Page=conference.html#VMgEr2jF-So>

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## 2015 Maryland State Arbor Day Poster Contest!

Maryland DNR, Forestry Conservancy Districts, Tree-Mendous Maryland

Win a tree planting for your school! First, Second, Third Place Winners will win plantings! Deadline for entries March 6, 2015! See PDF below (front and back) for rules and more information:  
[2015 Maryland Arbor Day Poster Contest Rules](#)

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## 2015 MAEOE Conference

Registration is open for the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators Conference, February 5-8 in Ocean City, MD. This is a great conference for classroom teachers, outdoor educators, farm-based educators, and networking! For more information please visit:  
<http://maeoe.org/conference/>

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## Association for Living History, Farm and Ag Museums Annual Conference 2015

"Doing and Telling" is the theme of this year's annual meeting and conference of the ALHFAM held this year in Williamsburg, VA! [http://www.alhfam.org/?cat\\_id=384#762](http://www.alhfam.org/?cat_id=384#762)

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### Ode to a Squirrel

Good you can't hear  
The stories & jibes inside  
My sleepy head, as someone  
Jokes about squirrel pie

From four decades ago  
Somewhere in Louisiana or Big  
Thicket. Tonight, on the roof  
Here in Princeton, you work

Around the clock. Early  
October, back & forth  
With a stash of acorns.  
You tapdance on the gutter screen,

Shimmy up to the highest pitch

& overhang below a crescent moon,  
& then one of those great leaps  
For the same tortured branch.

- Yusef Komunyakaa

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The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. strives to promote the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. MAEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1989.

The Buzz is a free e-news service to all educators K-12 through post-secondary. This newsletter is open for reader contributions for agricultural and natural resources events, grant announcements, job openings. The Buzz is sent twice monthly, on the 1st and 15th, throughout the school year and only on the 1st, June to August. Please email events to [peppig@maefonline.com](mailto:peppig@maefonline.com). Include correct contact information!



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