

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

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

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March 15, 2015

### 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)

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### 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, March 25](#) - Real Food Farm, Baltimore, MD

[Wednesday, April 29](#) - MDA , Annapolis, MD

[Design for Diversity hosted by Fernbrook Farm](#)

Wednesday, April 15 - Bordentown, New Jersey

Program design and implementation for bringing farm-based education to your farm!

Tour this amazing farm and be inspired, tag along on a program, design your own program with knowledgeable and inspiring educators! \$30 to include a fabulous farm-catered lunch!

<https://fs4.formsite.com/fernbrookfarms/DesignForDiversity/index.html>



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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## 2015 MAEF Calendar Contest!

It's that time again! Submit individual or class entries for our annual MAEF Calendar Contest! Contest deadline is **May 1st**, so there's plenty of time to get your colorful ideas promoting Maryland agriculture on paper! See flyer and rules posted below! Questions? Contact Jeanne Mueller at: [jeannemueller@comcast.net](mailto:jeannemueller@comcast.net)

[2015 MAEF Calendar Contest Flyer](#)

[2015 MAEF Calendar Contest Application](#)

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## 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)

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## Student Scholarships!

**The MAEF Seibel Scholarship** offers students enrolled in an agriculture program in Maryland a \$1000 award for the 2015-2016 school year. Preference is given to Maryland residents with an FFA enrolled in the two-year Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, however, students attending a community college or four year institution leading to a degree in agriculture education are also eligible. Deadline is **April 11, 2015**. Application form can be found here: <http://maefonline.com/pdfs/2015%20MAEF%20Scholarship%20Application%20PDF.pdf>

**Delmarva Poultry Industry** announces its college scholarship program with awards for both undergrads and graduate students, residents of the Delmarva Peninsula. Deadline for applications is **April 1, 2015**

<http://www.dpichicken.org/sprogram/docs/DPI%20scholarship%20info%20color.pdf>

## EcoTech Grants

### Captain Planet Foundation

The Captain Planet Foundation is dedicated to giving the next generation of environmental stewards an active understanding and love for the natural world in which they live. The Foundation is offering EcoTech Grants to schools and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of engaging children in inquiry-based projects in STEM fields that promote innovation, biomimicry/nature-based design, or new uses for technology to address environmental problems in their communities. Sixteen \$2,500 grants will be awarded. The application deadline is April 30, 2015. Visit the Captain Planet Foundation's website to learn more about the program.

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/ecotech-grants/>

## Support for Agricultural Non-Profits: Grants

### Farm Aid

Farm Aid supports nonprofit organizations that work to maintain a family farm system of agriculture and that promote solutions to the challenges facing rural communities. Grants of \$3,000 to \$10,000 are provided in the following categories: Growing the Good Food Movement supports programs that build local and regional food systems, connecting farmers directly to consumers and creating new value-added markets for family farmers. Helping Farmers Thrive focuses on projects that provide farmers with the resources needed to get started on the land, access new markets, transition to more sustainable farming practices, produce renewable fuels, and stay on the land in the face of financial crisis and natural disasters. Taking Action to Change the System funds organizations that promote fair farm policies and grassroots organizing campaigns to defend family farm agriculture. Letters of inquiry are due by May 1, 2015; full proposals must be submitted by August 1, 2015. Grant application guidelines are available on the Farm Aid website.

[http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qll5lhNVJsE/b.2723745/k.9953/Grant\\_Guidelines.htm](http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qll5lhNVJsE/b.2723745/k.9953/Grant_Guidelines.htm)

## National Ag in the Classroom Conference Scholarships!

### NAITC and CHS Foundation

CHS Foundation is graciously providing a \$20,000 grant which will allow *even more* teachers to attend the 2015 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! Engaging workshops, tours, keynote speakers and networking events will provide exceptional learning opportunities for these teachers to increase their comfort level in agricultural topics and also integrate agricultural content into instruction to meet academic standards in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Math and Health/Nutrition. This year's conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, **June 16-20, 2015!**

[http://www.agclassroom.org/conference2015/chs\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.agclassroom.org/conference2015/chs_scholarship.htm)

## 2015 Weather and Climate Day Contest!

### National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD

The National Aquarium and Climate Central invite Maryland middle and high school students grades 5-8 and 9-12 to participate in a contest that examines the impacts of climate change. Participants will be invited to attend Weather + Climate Day at the National Aquarium on **May 16**. See all contest details here:

<http://www.aqua.org/weatherclimateday>

## Farm & Food Spring Break Camp!

Baltimore County Ag Center, Cockeysville, MD

Monday **April 6** - Canning 101, Wednesday April 8 - Goats Milk Cheese and Fudge, Friday April 10 - Breakfast Muffins! Youth ages 9-13 will spend the day learning where their food comes from, gaining an appreciation for agriculture and gardening, exploring the natural world, playing games and making crafts, as well as cooking something special to take home! Single day registration \$80/ Three day registration \$180. Register here! <http://farmandfoodcamp.eventbrite.com>

## 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/>

## Seed and Seedling Giveaway New Date!

Great Kids Farm, Baltimore

Due to unforeseen circumstances related to the harsh cold temperatures, the Feb seedling giveaway is postponed one month with the new date as **March 28**, 10am - 2pm. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy the warmer weather and meet our new Farmer! City Schools staff are invited to stop by the farm to receive free living educational materials for use with students. To help schools successfully maintain or establish their living educational space, we have selected low-maintenance varieties and we will have information sheets available. No RSVP is required. We do ask teachers to fill out a one page survey before collecting materials, available when you arrive.

Directions to the farm: <http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/domain/5114>

## "Flock to the Classroom" Curriculum Guides

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.

"Flock to the Classroom" is a series of six lessons that explore the many facets of the chicken industry on the Delmarva Peninsula. Developed under the leadership of DPI's Connie Parvis in cooperation with educational professionals at the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, the educational tools are designed to enhance science, social studies, and math classes. The lessons are aligned with one or more educational standards set to ensure their usability in regional classrooms.

Copies of the 45-page manual, "Flock to the Classroom", are available to middle school educators (grades 5-9) in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia at no charge. Teachers in other states may request copies at \$12.00 each. Requests may be emailed to [dpi@dpichicken.com](mailto:dpi@dpichicken.com) and must include

the teacher's name, school mailing address, grade taught, and a telephone number. Requests may also be made by telephone to 800-878-2449 or 302-856-9037 or by mail to Flock to the Classroom, c/o Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., 16686 County Seat Hwy., Georgetown, DE 19947.

## "Environmental Challenges: Backyard and Beyond" Workshop

### 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)  
for 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!

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

## 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](#)

## ALHFAM Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting!

### Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums

Get your ag history on! Farm-based educators who work on or with agricultural history (including equestrian!) will get a lot from this great regional conference! Hosted this year by historic Monmouth County Parks participants will enjoy a variety of tours, sessions, and beautiful tours! Mark your calendars for **March 20-22!** Find detailed information and registration links here:

[http://www.alhfam.org/?cat\\_id=362#662](http://www.alhfam.org/?cat_id=362#662)

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## Mantis Tiller Garden Grant Award!

Looking for a tiller for your school or community garden? The 2015 Mantis Tiller Award is accepting applications through **March 6**, 2015. 25 winners will be selected to receive a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator. Any nonprofit, school, or community garden is welcome to apply.

<https://survey.garden.org/index.php?sid=94999>

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### Wild Geese Alighting on a Lake

I watched them  
As they neared the lake  
They wheeled  
In a wide arc  
With beating wings  
And then  
They put their wings to sleep  
And glided downward in a drift  
Of pure abandonment  
Until they touched  
The surface of the lake  
Composed their wings  
And settled  
On the rippling water  
As though it were a nest.

Anne Porter

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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 resourcess 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!



Get your Ag Tag today and help support agriculture education in Maryland!  
[http://www.maefonline.com/ag\\_tag\\_maryland\\_agricultural\\_education.html](http://www.maefonline.com/ag_tag_maryland_agricultural_education.html)



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