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For immediate release

Contacts:

Tom Williams, APR | tomwilliams@mpt.org | 410-205-3677

Ari Hamilton-Gery | ahamilton@nevinspr.com | 410-568-8807

Note: Series Producer Joe Ligo is available for interviews. In addition, Jan. 26 episode photos and the series logo are available [at this link](#).

MPT's *Maryland Farm & Harvest* tackles COVID-19's impact on agriculture during January 26 episode

Episode is second of two-part series exploring the pandemic's effects on Maryland farms

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television's (MPT) popular original series [Maryland Farm & Harvest](#), now in its eighth season, takes a look at impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on farmers and agriculture-related businesses in Maryland during the second episode in a two-part series airing on MPT-HD at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15.

The episode takes viewers to sites in **Carroll, Frederick, Howard, and Queen Anne's counties**, where they'll see how the pandemic is affecting Maryland farms, learn about strategies farmers are employing to keep crops and livestock safe, and find out how some farms are adapting and even thriving during the challenging conditions of the past year. The first part of this series aired on Dec. 15 and can be viewed on MPT's website at mpt.org/programs/farm/.

The ***Maryland Farm & Harvest: Agriculture and COVID-19 (Part 2)*** special episode features these segments:

- ***Ag Education Moves Online With a Virtual Livestock Auction (Carroll and Howard counties)***. Raising livestock is a rite of passage for many kids who participate in 4-H, a youth development program with its roots in agriculture. But when the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of many county and state fairs, a group of people from Carroll and Howard counties worked together to ensure these hard-working kids still had a chance to show and sell their animals ... virtually! Viewers meet the Troppman family from Woodstock and learn what it takes to organize and participate in an online livestock auction. After that, viewers see the kids' reactions on the day of the big sale.

- ***Protecting Maryland's Poultry Farms from Bird Flu (Queen Anne's County)***. Before 2020, few people focused on virus testing, contact tracing, and quarantines. Maryland poultry farmers, however, have long been familiar with these as they work hard to protect their flocks from the dangerous disease known as Avian Influenza. At [Relief Farm in Centreville](#), farmer Andrew McLean has a flock of 180,000 birds. During a visit to the farm, Dr. David Shapiro of Perdue Farms explains the importance of biosecurity on farms and demonstrates how chickens are regularly tested for bird flu.
- ***Ask a Farmer: How have you adapted to COVID-19?*** In this new segment, *Maryland Farm & Harvest* producers interview farmers across the state and hear how they are adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers from **Ellicott City, Ingleside, Thurmont, and Woodsboro** offer their insights.
- ***The Local Buy: Agritourism and COVID-19 Safety (Frederick County)***. Nearly 300 farms across the state participate in agritourism and autumn is peak season. However, with COVID-19 causing the shutdown of large gatherings, farmers faced a huge financial risk. Before the fall season began, the state of Maryland released guidelines to help farms stay open and stay safe. *The Local Buy* host Al Spoler visits [Summers Farm](#) near Frederick, where Teresa Summers shows how she is working hard to keep employees and guests safe while they enjoy all the farm has to offer. After a visit to the farm's 15-acre pumpkin patch, Al Spoler shows off some pumpkin cornbread and notes a recipe for the dish will available in the coming days at mpt.org/farm.

The episode ends with *Maryland Farm & Harvest* host Joanne Clendining acknowledging and thanking farmers for their hard work as they carry out the essential job of feeding the people of Maryland. Clendining recently earned her second Emmy® award from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for her work on series.

Maryland Farm & Harvest airs Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT-HD and via livestream at mpt.org/anywhere/live-stream-mpt/. Encore broadcasts are available on MPT-HD at 11 p.m. on Thursdays and 6 a.m. on Sundays. Episodes also air on MPT2/Create® at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Nearly 10 million viewers have tuned in to *Maryland Farm & Harvest* since its 2013 debut. The series, has taken MPT viewers to more than 360 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first seven seasons, covering every Maryland county, as well as Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. Past episodes can be viewed at video.mpt.tv/show/maryland-farm-harvest/ while episode segments are available on the series YouTube channel at youtube.com/c/MarylandFarmHarvest/featured.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is MPT's co-production partner for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*. Major funding is provided by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

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Other support comes from Mar-Del Watermelon Association, Eddie Mercer Agri-Services, Inc., and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation.

About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.