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For immediate release

Contacts:

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

Casey Roberts | croberts@nevinspr.com | 443-824-5441

Note: Series Producer Joe Ligo is available for interviews. In addition, Jan. 18 episode photos and the series logo are available at <https://bit.ly/3GIUXCW>.

MPT series *Maryland Farm & Harvest* visits Calvert and St. Mary's counties and Baltimore City during January 18 episode

OWINGS MILLS, MD – OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television's (MPT) popular original series [*Maryland Farm & Harvest*](#), now in its ninth season, will feature farms in Calvert and St. Mary's counties and Baltimore City during a new episode airing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18. Viewers can watch on MPT-HD and online at mpt.org/livestream.

The weekly series takes viewers on a journey across the Free State, telling interesting stories about the farms, people, and technology required to sustain and grow agriculture in Maryland, the number one commercial industry in the state.

Joanne Clendining, who has earned two Emmy® awards from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for her work on *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, returns as host. She is joined by Al Spoler, who handles duties for each episode's *The Local Buy* segment.



With introductions filmed at the [Carroll County Farm Museum](#) in Westminster, the January 18 episode features the following segments:

- **Tobacco Buyout (Southern Maryland).** *Maryland Farm & Harvest* first visits **Mead's Lane Farm in Owings** to talk with farmer **Mike Phipps**. Phipps explains how and why he continues to grow tobacco at his Calvert County farm. Only a handful of Maryland farms still produce tobacco, which was once the most popular crop in the state. This is due, in part, to the tobacco buyout program enacted by the state in 2000 to draw down the crop. Ninety percent of Maryland tobacco farmers have taken the buyout, including **Brian Russell** of [Russell Brother's Farm](#) in **Morganza**, in St. Mary's County. While difficult to give up the traditions and long history associated with the family farm's tobacco heritage, Russell explains the benefits of transitioning to raising more grain and other crops.

- **Sotterley Plantation (St. Mary's County).** Stories of endurance, resilience, and resistance are deeply rooted at historic [Sotterley in Hollywood](#). For a century and a half, enslaved people were forced to work against their will at this former tobacco plantation. **Gwendolyn Bankins**, a descendant of enslaved people who lived on the National Historic Landmark farm and a member of Sotterley's board of directors, has dedicated herself to uncovering and sharing stories of her ancestors. In addition, Sotterley's Descendants Project brings the farm's complex history to light and connects families of the former owners, workers, and enslaved people who were once part of the plantation. The path toward healing at Sotterley also includes using the farmland for good. With programs such as [Growing for Good](#), run by farm manager **Joe Goldsmith**, people learn about agriculture, work the farm land, and grow produce to benefit the community. The program's efforts have resulted in 70,000 pounds of food being donated to local food banks over the past decade.
- **The Way it Works: Driving a steam tractor.** Segment host Joe Ligo goes back in time, with the help of the [Maryland Steam Historical Society](#). In the bygone days before modern high-tech tractors, farmers used steam engines to do their work. Joe show viewers just how much effort it takes to run one of these antique machines, and then takes an old steam tractor for a spin.
- **The Local Buy: Old Line Plate (Baltimore City).** Food historian and blogger **Kara Mae Harris** takes *The Local Buy* segment host Al Spoler to the [Waverly 32nd Farmers Market in Baltimore City](#) to select and purchase locally grown produce and meat. These fresh ingredients are used by Kara and Al to prepare some home-cooked historic Maryland dishes taken from Kara's Maryland food blog, [Old Line Plate](#). Recipes for the meal they prepare of traditional lamb stew, hot cabbage slaw, chow chow pickles, corn bread, and peach custard pie can be found at mpt.org/farm.

Encore broadcasts are available on MPT-HD Thursdays at 11 p.m. and Sundays at 6 a.m. Each episode also airs on MPT2/Create® on Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

More than 10 million viewers have tuned in to *Maryland Farm & Harvest* since its fall 2013 debut. The series has traveled to nearly 400 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first eight seasons, covering every Maryland county, as well as Baltimore City, Washington, D.C., and nearby Delaware.

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. Engage with the show on social media [@MarylandFarmHarvest on Facebook](#) and [@mdfarmtv on Twitter](#).

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.

Additional funding is provided by Maryland's Best, Rural Maryland Council, Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (Marbidco), a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Program, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, the Cornell Douglas Foundation, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Wegmans Food Markets, Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association, The Maryland Seafood Marketing Fund, Maryland Farm Bureau, and The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment.

Other support comes from Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation.

SYNOPSIS OF JAN. 18 EPISODE —

Join *Maryland Farm & Harvest* host Joanne Clendining as she explores local Maryland farms. Learn about Maryland's tobacco buyout program during a visit to Southern Maryland, find out the history of enslaved people and their descendants at a National Historic Landmark plantation in St. Mary's County, and travel with *The Local Buy's* Al Spoler to a Baltimore City farmers market for the ingredient used to prepare historic Maryland dishes.

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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.