

NEWS RELEASE



MARYLAND
PUBLIC
TELEVISION

ANNAPOLIS
HAGERSTOWN
SALISBURY

FREDERICK
OAKLAND
OWINGS MILLS

11767 Owings Mills Blvd. | Owings Mills, MD 21117-1499 | mpt.org

January 23, 2023

For immediate release

Contacts:

Tom Williams, APR | tomwilliams@mpt.org | 410-581-4031

Emily Greco | egreco@nevinspr.com | 443-686-1331

Note: Series Producer Robert Ferrier is available for interviews. In addition, January 31 episode photos and the series logo are available at this [LINK](#).

MPT series *Maryland Farm & Harvest* visits Baltimore City and Baltimore, Kent, and Washington counties during January 31 episode

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television’s (MPT) original series [Maryland Farm & Harvest](#), now in its 10th anniversary season, will feature farms and locations in Baltimore City, along with Baltimore, Kent, and Washington counties during a new episode premiering on Tuesday, January 31.

Maryland Farm & Harvest airs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT-HD and online at mpt.org/livestream. 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. Episodes are also available to watch on demand using [MPT’s online video player](#) and the [PBS Video App](#).



The popular weekly series takes viewers on a journey across the Free State, telling engaging and enlightening stories about the farms, people, and technology required to sustain and grow agriculture in Maryland, the state’s number one commercial industry. During its 10th season, the series revisits some favorite farms and farmers from past episodes.

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*, serves as host. She is joined by Al Spoler, who handles duties for each episode’s *The Local Buy* segment.

The January 31 episode features the following segments:

- **Pahl’s Farm: 45 Years at the Baltimore Farmers’ Market (Baltimore City and Baltimore County).** After Sam Hanson, [Baltimore Farmers’ Market](#) manager, talks about the market’s growth and why

people enjoy it, viewers meet the Pahl family and learn that they have been selling their farm products at the market since it started 45 years ago. The segment moves to [Pahl's Farm in Woodstock](#), the 137-acre family farm where Pam Pahl describes the farm's history and how it has changed over time to meet consumer preferences. Daughter Jen Pahl feeds the hogs and goats and shares how, after college, she returned to the farm full time and developed her own niche of products. Then it's back to the Baltimore Farmers' Market where the Pahls interact with customers and share their thoughts on celebrating 45 years at the market.

- **Fruit expert, Dr. Joe Fiola (Washington County).** On a warm, summer afternoon, the series visits [Antietam Creek Vineyard in Sharpsburg](#). Owner George Warnenhoven has asked Dr. Joe Fiola, a viticulture and small fruit specialist at the [Western Maryland Research and Education Center \(WMREC\) in Keedysville](#), to inspect his vineyard. WMREC tests a wide range of grains, fruits, and vegetables to determine which types will do best in Maryland's climate. At the WMREC research orchard, Dr. Fiola expresses his passion for winemaking. Then it's a visit to his processing room, where he turns grapes into wine. He explains that selecting the right grape variety for each region of the state isn't the only factor in a vineyard's success. Maryland grape growers must overcome challenges such as disease and climate factors including humidity, temperature, and precipitation. It's his job to assess this critical information and present recommendations to growers in a clear, understandable way.
- **The Local Buy: Oksana's Produce and Fermenting (Kent County).** It took Russian immigrant Oksana Bocharova many years to purchase the farm that turned a dream into reality. Oksana explains how she obtained a loan from the USDA as part of a program that helps immigrants, women, and new farmers start their own farms. The result is [Oksana's Produce Farm in Chestertown](#). Segment Host Al Spoler visits the farm near the Chester River where Oksana grows a wide variety of vegetables. Oksana, who learned about farming from her father in Russia, also applies family traditions to pickling and fermenting her vegetables. Al helps harvest vegetables and Oksana explains the fermenting process. Then it's on to pickling dill, leeks, and cabbage to make foods such as kimchi and Russian kraut. Al tries Oksana's kraut and tells viewers ways to use it will be available at mpt.org/farm.

More than 15 million viewers have watched *Maryland Farm & Harvest* on MPT since its fall 2013 debut. The series has traveled to more than 430 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first nine 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. 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, Farm Credit, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Wegmans Food Markets, Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse

Association, Maryland Seafood Marketing Fund, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Maryland Farm Bureau, and The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment. Other support comes from Mar-Del Watermelon Association.

SYNOPSIS OF JANUARY 31 EPISODE

During the next episode of *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, series host Joanne Clendining introduces viewers to a farm family who has been part of the Baltimore Farmers' Market during its entire 45-year history. Then, the show travels to Washington County to learn about the work of an expert who helps vineyards across Maryland make the most of their grape harvests. Plus, in *The Local Buy* segment Al Spoler meets a Russian immigrant and Kent County farmer who uses her fresh produce and herbs to prepare and sell pickled and fermented products such as kimchi and Russian kraut.

###

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 and distributes 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.