

NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

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For immediate release

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NOTE: Interviews with series producer Robert Ferrier are available upon request. In addition, episode photos and other assets are available to download from MPT's Dropbox [HERE](#).

MPT series *Maryland Farm & Harvest* visits locations in Baltimore, Harford, and Washington counties during February 17 episode

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television's](#) popular original series [Maryland Farm & Harvest](#), now in its 13th season, will feature farms and locations in Baltimore, Harford, and Washington counties during a corn-themed episode premiering on Tuesday, February 17. An episode preview is available on the series' webpage at mpt.org/farm.

Maryland Farm & Harvest airs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT and online at mpt.org/livestream. Episodes are also available to view live and on demand using the free [PBS app](#) and MPT's [online video player](#).

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.



Joanne Clendining, who has earned three 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 series host. She is joined by Al Spoler, host of "The Local Buy" segments, and by a variety of local chefs who serve as guest hosts of the series' "Farm to Skillet" segments.

With introductions filmed at [Maple Dell Farm](#) in **Woodbine (Howard County)**, the February 17 episode features the following stories:

- **Zahradka Family Farm (Baltimore County):** George Zahradka is the third generation to farm a property that has been in his family for more than 100 years. Today, he describes [Zahradka Family Farm](#) – which he runs with his wife and daughter – as **Essex's** last working family farm. The farm

features a wide array of animals and produce, but George's obsession with sweet corn makes it the superstar. At their "little oasis right outside of Baltimore," the Zahradkas plant small patches of corn every few days to maintain supply for their growing group of devoted customers.

- **Tar Spot Research (Harford and Washington counties):** The Rose Family has been stewarding the land at [Clear Meadow Farm](#) in [White Hall](#) since the 1940s. They've dealt with countless challenges over the years, and now they're facing a new threat to their corn crop: tar spot. Tar spot (*Phyllachora maydis*) is native to South America, but it was found in the United States in 2015 and began appearing in Maryland – including at Clear Meadow Farm – in 2022. Today, tar spot is the most significant disease limiting corn growth in the U.S. Fortunately, Senior Agent [Andrew Kness](#) and other researchers at the University of Maryland Extension's [Western Maryland Research & Education Center](#) in [Keedysville](#) are racing to prevent the spread and to identify effective treatment strategies for farmers throughout the state and beyond.
- **The Local Buy: Broom's Bloom Dairy (Harford County):** Segment host Al Spoler visits [Broom's Bloom Dairy](#) in [Bel Air](#), where ice cream is truly "cow-to-cone." When sisters Emmy and Belle Dallam returned to the ninth-generation family dairy farm after graduating from college, they helped grow the operation into a profitable business that could support their parents and themselves. Al gets a full tour of the family's new processing facility before helping make one of the ice cream shop's most sought-after creations, sweet corn ice cream, made with their own ice cream mix and local corn grown at [Hopkins Produce](#) in [Havre de Grace](#). More information about Broom's Bloom Dairy will be available at [mpt.org/farm](#).

More than 19 million viewers have watched *Maryland Farm & Harvest* on the statewide public TV network since its debut in 2013. The series has traveled to more than 500 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first 12 seasons, covering every Maryland county, as well as Baltimore City and Washington, D.C.

Encore broadcasts of *Maryland Farm & Harvest* air on MPT on Thursdays at 11 p.m. and on Sundays at 6 a.m. Episodes also air on MPT2/Create® on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Past episodes can be viewed on the [PBS app](#) and MPT's [online video player](#), while episode segments are available on the series' YouTube channel at [youtube.com/@MarylandFarmHarvest](#).

Audiences are invited to engage with the series on social media [@MarylandFarmHarvest](#) on Facebook and [@mdfarmtv](#) on Instagram.

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; a grant from the Rural Maryland Council, Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Fund; MARBIDCO; a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; Farm Credit; Maryland Soybean Board and Soybean Checkoff Program; Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association; Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts; Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc., The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment; Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation; and Maryland Pork Producers Association.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member offering entertaining and educational content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices via its [online video player](#) and the [free PBS app](#). A state agency operating under the

auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, MPT also produces local, regional, and national programming and frequently earns regional Emmy® awards for its work. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through its [Maryland Center for Media Literacy & Education](#) and [Thinkport.org](#). MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources covering a wide range of topics. More information is available at [mpt.org](#).