

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 Carroll, Cecil, and Frederick counties during February 24 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 Carroll, Cecil, and Frederick counties during an episode premiering on Tuesday, February 24. 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 [Boordy Vineyards](#) in **Hydes (Baltimore County)**, the February 24 episode features the following stories:

- **Painted Sky Alpaca Farm (Cecil County):** Alpacas – prized for their unique coats of fiber – continue to rise in popularity, even as fiber processing mills have struggled to keep pace. As of 2023, some 5.2 million sheep and lambs and nearly 100,000 alpacas are sheared on farms throughout the

United States, while there are still only about 140 small mills nationwide. Host Joanne Clendining visits Maryland's only full-service fiber mill, [Painted Sky Alpaca Farm & Fiber Mill](#) in **Earleville**, where owners Linda and Mitchell Dickinson walk her through the many steps required to process raw alpaca fiber into strong, colorful yarns for knitters and fiber artists across the country.

- **Billy Harrison Bluegrass (Carroll County):** Billy Harrison was raised on Run of the Mill Farm in **Woodbine**, where he grew sod with his elders and played music with his sister. While farm operations and family obligations have changed over the years, Billy still runs the family farm – though now he grows different crops for his grass hydro-seeding business – and he's back to playing guitar with his sister. [Billy Harrison and the Haywire Band](#) have been playing together for over a decade, delivering high-energy bluegrass music to audiences throughout the region.
- **Farm to Skillet: Chef Sara Kephart (Frederick County):** Chef Sara Kephart of [Sarah Kep's Kitchen](#) in **Thurmont** visits the [Thurmont Main Street Farmers Market](#), where she finds everything she needs for a great lunch with friends. After securing ingredients from vendors including [Chestnut Hill Farm \(Smithsburg\)](#), [Deer Run Farm \(Emmitsburg\)](#), Pete's Produce, and [Twin Bears Bakery \(Frederick\)](#), Kephart heads to her kitchen to prepare an elevated steak sandwich with caramelized onions, roasted tomatoes, and her grandmother's basil potato salad. The recipe will be available for download 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 is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service 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.