

# 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 Caroline, Carroll, Howard, and Kent counties during March 24 episode**

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – [Maryland Public Television's](#) popular original series [Maryland Farm & Harvest](#), now in its 13<sup>th</sup> season, will feature farms and locations in Caroline, Carroll, Howard, and Kent counties during an episode premiering on Tuesday, March 24. An episode preview is available on the series' webpage at [mpt.org/farm](http://mpt.org/farm).

*Maryland Farm & Harvest* airs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT and online at [mpt.org/livestream](http://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 [Liberty Delight Farms](#) in **Reisterstown (Baltimore County)**, the March 24 episode features the following stories:

- **Maryland Food Center Authority (Caroline and Howard counties):** As the sun sets over [Bartenfelder Farms](#) in **Preston**, trucks are loaded with the day's harvest and sent to the [Maryland Food Center Authority](#), a 400-acre complex in **Jessup** that operates as a central hub for food

distribution throughout the Baltimore-Washington metro area. There, distributors such as [Edward G. Rahl & Sons](#) act as a vital link between producers such as Bartenfelder and retailers. The facility operates primarily at night and in the early morning to ensure produce is sorted, inspected, and delivered to grocery stores and restaurants before business hours.

- **Manchester Mushroom Farm (Carroll County):** From raising chickens to growing fruit trees to beekeeping, Ian Davis and Caitlyn Bernal have undergone several business pivots to survive on their family's small farm in **Manchester**. Aided by friend and mentor Walker Santos, they transitioned their primary focus to growing mushrooms in 2025, and business is booming. [Manchester Mushroom Farm](#) now sells a variety of mushrooms – as well as fresh honey, eggs, and fruit – at local farmers markets throughout the state.
- **The Local Buy: Red Acres Hydroponics (Kent County):** For nearly 150 years, the Williams family has been tending the land at [Red Acres Farm](#) in **Worton**. To remain competitive and survive as a small, family-run operation, fifth-generation caretaker Bryan Williams has transitioned the historic farm to hydroponics, while his daughter, Rachel Williams Nolan, has repurposed old barns into an [events space](#). Segment host Al Spoler visits the farm for a first-hand look at the Williams' latest transition from Holstein cows to hydroponics and hospitality.

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](https://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](https://mpt.org).