



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Agriculture Agency to Offer Family Friendly Activities Showcasing Agency's Diversity during Maryland State Fair

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 5, 2017) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture does more than just work with farmers to ensure sound farmland management practices. It helps ensure the wise use of fertilizers and pesticides, monitors the accuracy of weights and measures, controls mosquito populations, and protects the health of humans and animals. And much more.

The department will highlight many of the services it provides to improve the quality of life in Maryland during the 136th Maryland State Fair, Aug. 24 to Sept. 4 at the State Fair Grounds in Timonium. The 12-day festival will feature thousands of home arts and agricultural exhibits, daily livestock and horse shows, a wide variety of midway rides and games, thoroughbred horse racing and national entertainment. The department will provide many displays in the Cow Palace throughout the fair. Some of the displays you can expect to see include the following:

- Friday August 25- The department's Resource Conservation section will offer kids a "Track Down the Farm Animals" game where they can learn how farmers manage animal manure and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There will also be a model of a dairy farm with manure management and water quality protection practices in place.
- Saturday August 26- The Food Safety section will be candling eggs for kids and discussing food safety with the young and more seasoned. Candling of eggs will take place every 30 minutes.
- Sunday August 27- The State Chemist will also show kids how to make slime and snow in summer. They will be creating slime from 10am – noon and 4-6PM. They will also be making snow from 1-3PM and 7-9PM.
- Monday August 28- The department's Resource Conservation section will offer kids a "Track Down the Farm Animals" game where they can learn how farmers manage animal manure and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There will also be a model of a dairy farm with manure management and water quality protection practices in place.
- Tuesday August 29- The Spay and Neuter Board will be addressing the topic controlling pet homelessness and how you can help.

- Wednesday August 30- The Rural Maryland Council will share their vision of a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy, connected communities.
- Thursday August 31- The Maryland's Best marketing staff will share all the great products and marketing programs offered by MDA, including: Maryland Ice Cream Trail, Maryland's Best, True Blue and Home Grown by Heroes.
- Friday September 1- The Weights and Measures section – which ensures that consumers who buy anything by weight or quantity get what they pay for – will have a calibrated scale that can tell you your actual weight.
- Saturday September 2- The State Chemist will show kids how to make slime and snow in summer. They will be creating slime from 10am – noon and 4-6PM. They will be making snow from 1-3PM and 7-9PM.
- Sunday September 3- The Mosquito Control section will have games for kids and information for parents on topics like Zika.
- Monday September 4- The Seafood Marketing section will be doing demonstrations on how to shuck an oyster and how to properly pick a crab every 30 minutes.
- In addition, the Maryland Horse Industry Board – a program within the department – will be at the Horseland tent throughout the fair.

The Maryland State Fair will also celebrate “Agriculture Day at the Fair” on Thursday, Aug. 31. The day will start off with a breakfast for legislators, followed by a luncheon and tour of the fairgrounds with Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joseph Bartenfelder. Both events are by invitation only.

For more State Fair information, visit www.marylandstatefair.com.