



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2017 MISS MARYLAND AGRICULTURE FUNDRAISING DINNER AND COMPETITION
AT THE 136TH unFAIRgettable MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR PRESENTED BY TOYOTA
WINNERS FROM PAST 70 YEARS INVITED BACK TO OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVICE**

TIMONIUM, MD - The 2017 MY Maryland State Fair, presented by Toyota, Opening Night will be full of anticipation as 23 young women compete for the title of *Miss Maryland Agriculture* at the **2017 Miss Maryland Agriculture Fundraising Dinner and Competition on Thursday, August 24**, in the Cow Palace Show Ring. The fundraising dinner will begin at 6 PM followed by the Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$30 per person or a table of eight for \$240. For tickets, contact 410-252-0200, x 224 or rfogle@marylandstatefair.com. The Miss Maryland Agriculture Cookbook, a collection of recipes by former winners, contestants and supporters, will be available for \$10 to benefit the program.

23 young women between the ages of 16 and 19, who have earned their place in the *Miss Maryland Agriculture* Contest by winning their county Farm Bureau-sponsored contests, will compete for the prestigious title of *Miss Maryland Agriculture*, a scholarship and cash awards valued at approximately \$13,000. In addition, Runners up will share in approximately \$7,000 of scholarship awards. The reigning *Miss Maryland Agriculture 2016 Megan Millison*, of Frederick County, will have the honor of passing her title on to her successor.

“The purpose of the Miss Maryland Agriculture Program, in partnership with the Maryland State Fair, is to surface young women with an agricultural background to serve as leaders who will promote our agricultural industry and the Farm Bureau organization throughout the year and in the future,” said Miss Maryland Agriculture State Coordinator Mary Amoss.

The 23 young women vying for the *Miss Maryland Agriculture 2017* title will be critiqued during a two-day competition, primarily on their farm/agricultural knowledge and experience, speaking ability, Farm Bureau knowledge, and presentation.

Miss Maryland Agriculture winners from the past 70+ years will be invited back to attend the competition and to offer advice and encouragement to this year’s Miss Maryland Agriculture contestants. While the title has changed over the years, from Miss Timonium in the 1940s, Timonium Farm Queen, Farm Queen and Maryland Farm Queen in the 1950s, to Maryland Agriculture Ambassador and Miss Maryland Agriculture in the new millennium, the goal to promote the importance of agriculture has remained the same.

“more”

The 136th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota is a fun and educational destination complete with daily exhibits, presentations and entertainment that are sure to captivate visitors of all ages. No other event provides so much food, fun, family entertainment and education for so little. The Maryland State Fair, located in Timonium in Baltimore County, opens **Thursday, August 24 with a Ridemania Preview night and runs through Monday, September 4, 2017. General Fair hours are Noon to 10 PM, Monday through Friday and 12 Noon to 10 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday. See below for detailed Fair Hours.**

Hear **Live National and Local Entertainment** featuring **Halestorm** with opening act **Fatally Yours**; and, **Sabrina Carpenter** with opening artist **Alex Aiono**. Enjoy **thrills & chills on the Midway or Kiddie Land tame rides**. Taste a **feast of Fair and farm foods**. Experience **Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**; Explore the **4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden, Exhibition Hall and the Mosner/Miller Museum/DNR Buildings** for thousands of the best-of-the-best of Maryland creations and exhibits. See all kinds of **livestock and horses in the Cow Palace, Barns, Show Rings and Birthing Center**. Participate in **U-Learn Farm agriculture education activities, Nature Play Space** and more.

The 4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden and Exhibition Hall hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM, Saturdays – Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Labor Day Monday 10 AM – 8 PM. Mosner-Miller Museum/DNR Building hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM. Main Midway and Kiddie Land rides, games and food stands area hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – Close and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10AM – Close. Early risers are welcome to arrive early to attend livestock and horse shows in the various livestock barns, buildings and show rings. Go to www.marylandstatefair.com for schedule.

Admission to the Fair is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62 and older) and \$3 for children (6-11). Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Limited parking on the Fairgrounds is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5. Taking the Light Rail is recommended. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com.

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