

SUMMER UPDATE

JULY 2026

Membership Enrollment

As a new year begins, so does a new year of membership. As the Maryland Agriculture Teacher Association strives to support all Maryland Ag Teachers our goal is that all Maryland Ag Teachers are members of the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association.

Membership Registration
bit.ly/4fqzVaw



2026 Summer Maryland Agriculture Teacher Conference Recap

- Calvert County was an excellent host this year for the Maryland Ag Teachers Summer Technical Updates
- Teachers enjoyed continuing education in
 - Project Based Learning
 - Student Safety Practices in the Shop
 - Hydroponics and Vertical Farming
 - Biosecurity and Animal Management
 - Agronomy and Grant Writing
 - Connecting with retired Ag Teachers, Vendors and Industry Professionals
 - FFA Updates - Maryland and National FFA

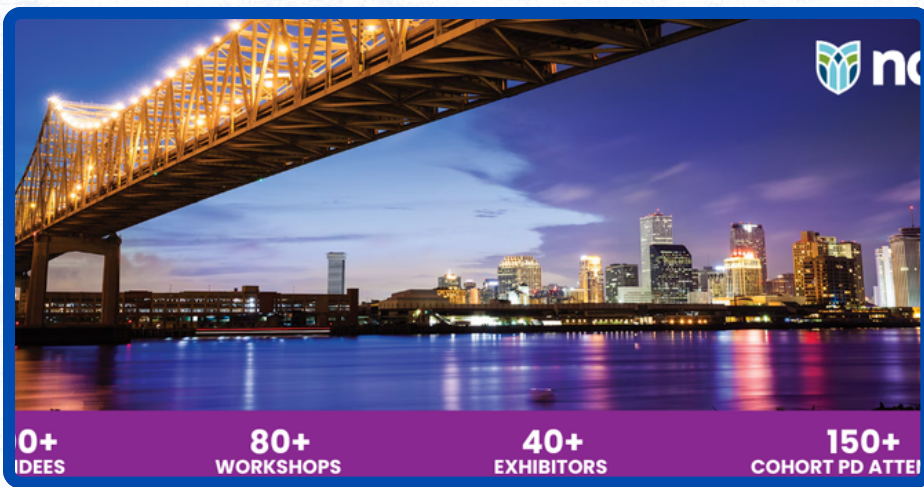
MATA Summer Conference Proposed Minutes

Please use this link to access the July 6-8, 2026 MATA business meetings proposed minutes : bit.ly/3S1Grvf

SAVE THE DATE

2027 Summer Ag Teachers Conference
July 6th - 8th, 2027
Cecil County, MD





2026 NAAE Conference

December 1-5, 2026 | New Orleans, Louisiana

- Join us in New Orleans, Louisiana this year and experience the premier aged professional development event of the year: the 2026 NAAE Convention. Find the piece to your professional development puzzle in over 80 different aged specific professional development workshops or network with your peers from across the nation. There is no better way to invest in yourself as a professional! You won't want to miss it!

<https://www.naae.org/convention/>

MATA Updates from 2026 - 2027

Advocacy -

- MATA Board Members held a Dinner with Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks to continue to discuss MD Ag Ed at the State Level
- Help to support the legislative work for HB 972
- 2026 MAEF Dinner & Taste of Maryland
- Worked on MOU with MAEF

Professional Development -

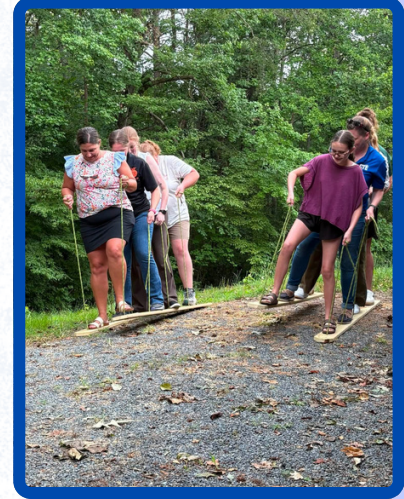
- Maryland Delegation at the 2025 NAAE Conference
- Held NAAE Region VI Conference at Urbana HS March 2026
- Hosted MD Ag Teachers Conference in Calvert County, MD July 2026
- Updated Strategic Plan for MATA

Teacher Retention & Recognition -

- Teacher Mentorship Programs (9 Pairs of Mentors & Mentees)
- Attendee Scholarship for Region VI Conference
- First Year Teacher Gifts
- Years of Service Recognition
- MATA & NAAE Professional Awards

Teacher Recruitment & Promotion

- First Year Teacher Recognition at Maryland State FFA Convention
- Maryland's First Tagged to Teach Ag Program



2027 Region VI Conference

Feedback Survey

Delaware is seeking some feedback for the region VI conference. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey before the deadline.

Link to Survey:

<https://forms.gle/CFrLqFySyWHnd1on9> Requested Date for Input: Friday, August 14, 2026

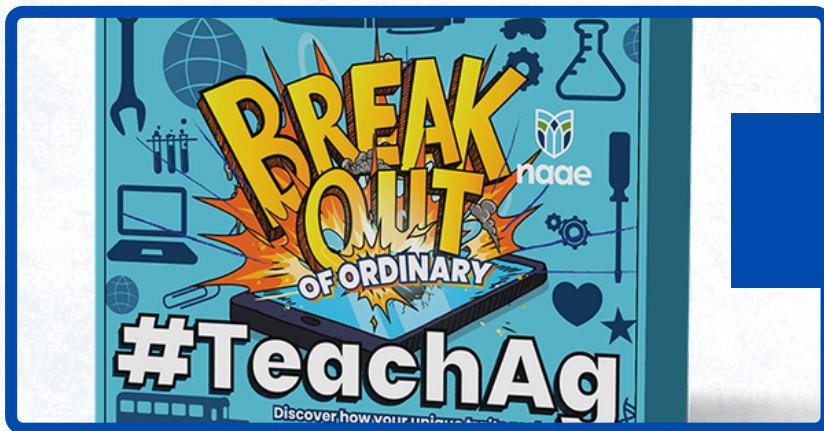


Get Involved

Check Out the MATA Membership Incentive Programs

<https://mata-md.org/membership>





RESOURCES

National Teach Ag Day Thursday Sept. 17th, 2026

As you prepare for National #TeachAg Day, be sure to check out the **2026 National #TeachAg Day Planning Guide!** Designed to help you create a celebration that reflects your unique style and vision, this guide is packed with ideas to help you make the most of the week leading up to National #TeachAg Day and the celebration itself. Whether you're continuing favorite traditions or trying something new, you'll find inspiration and resources to help make your event a success.

NAAE Teach Ag Escape Rooms at National FFA Convention

Are you looking for an evening activity for your students at convention? Maybe the rodeo and concert tickets just didn't work out. NAAE will be hosting Escape Rooms at National Convention as apart of their TEACH Ag Promotion. More information to come.

[Click Here for the New Horizon Article](#)

Are you looking for National Convention/Big E/ Field Trip Resources?

- Do you need resources to help plan National FFA convention?
- Check out sample finances planning sheet, field trip forms, intention forms, itinerary, etc. here: **National Planning Resources Click Here**
- **National FFA Convention Housing Planning Support Document**
- National FFA Website Planning Resources - <https://convention.ffa.org/>
- Big E Website Planning Resources <https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/ffa>
- National FFA Convention Housing Planning Support Document





2026 -2027 Maryland Ag Teachers Years of Service

- 1 year of service: Mary Dempsey, Jolene Custer, Meredith Elvey, and Sarah Ruggiero
- 5 years of service: Amanda Farmer, Jennifer Kuhl-Depp, and Dane Grossnickle.
- 10 years: Sarah Skinner
- 15 years: Becky Yost and Brittany Sentelle.
- 20 years: Dené Flack and Patrick White
- 25 years: Mary Zielinski and Mark Kather
- 30 years: Pat Beachy
- 35 years: Sarah Welty and Laura O'Leary
- 50 years: Mr. Roy Walls

2026 -2027 Maryland Ag Teachers Association Board

- President: Sara Seiser
- Past President: Pat Beachy
- President Elect: Kathy Wojik
- Secretary: Shelby Althoff
- Treasurer (Appointed): Tom Mazzone
- Membership Chair: Amanda Farmer
- Website Reporter (Appointed): Jodi Neal
- Social Media Reporter: Gabby Graham
- Historian: Bridget Nicholson



2026 MATA Award Winners

- Outstanding Classroom: Richard Stonebraker
- Single Teacher Program Outstanding FFA: Shelby Althoff
- Single Teacher Program Outstanding SAE: Oakdale High School
- Spreading the Word: Sarah Shriner
- 2026 MATA Membership Incentive Program: Bethany Meyers won the MATA Incentive Award and chose to have her registration paid for the 2026 NAAE Convention in New Orleans, LA, December 1-5, 2026



2026 NAAE Membership Excellence Awards

- Teacher Turn the Key Scholarship Program: Beth Reese (2027) and Lynne Rexroad (2026)
- Ideas Unlimited Award: Bethany Meyers
- Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award: Beth Reese
- Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher: Sara Seiser
- Outstanding Program: Brittany Stiles
- Teacher Mentor: Aaron Geiman
- NAAE Post Secondary Program: Chesapeake College
- Service Impact Award: Sarah Welty
- Visionary Impact Award: Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Ed Mayne

