

# Fretz Appointed Ag College Dean

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Dr. Thomas A. Fretz, associate dean and director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station at Iowa State University, has been named dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Fretz, 51, succeeds Dr. Craig S. Oliver, who has served as interim dean since October 1993. Fretz, who has held positions in research, teaching and extension at institutions in Ohio, Georgia, Virginia and Iowa, will assume his responsibilities on or before October 1.

"Tom Fretz has had a remarkable and distinguished career in all facets of agriculture," said Dr. William E. Kirwan, president of the University of Maryland at College Park. "His experience and his vision for the role of agriculture in the 21st century are essential to the continued growth and success of not only the college, but also the State of Maryland's agricultural industry and economy."

"The university and, in fact, the agricultural community of this state, also owe a great debt of gratitude to Craig Oliver for his tireless work on behalf of the college during this crucial interim period," he said.

A 1964 horticulture graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, the Buffalo, N.Y. native said he is eager to get started.

"I really look forward to joining the faculty and administration of the University of Maryland at College Park and I am excited about some of the challenges and

opportunities that lie ahead for the College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station," he said. "I think these are unique times ahead of us — times that will allow the college to develop and blossom during the next few years as we look to the 21st century."

Fretz said he intends to focus on the critical issues facing agriculture, including sustainability of the land; natural resources of the state; water quality issues; and continued growth and expansion of Maryland's number one industry — agriculture.

"I think there are also opportunities for the college to continue to develop, grow, and provide support in areas of the basic biological sciences, which are really the fundamental backbone for many of the things we do in agriculture," he said. "I also feel very strongly that we need to continue to focus on issues related to rural development, through extension, research and teaching, to see how new technologies affect the rural parts of the population."

Additionally, he wants to focus on the "value-adding" industries of the state, such as food processing, nursery, landscaping, and turf industries.

"I look forward to providing the leadership that will allow Maryland to have a truly unique and outstanding college of agriculture," Fretz said. "This is a wonderful opportunity — one in which I look forward to participating along with the leadership in the college, the university and the

state."

Fretz gained his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1964. He gained his master's degree in horticulture and his Ph.D. in plant science from the University of Delaware in 1966 and 1970.

Fretz's current responsibility is

the administration, coordination, and management of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station. He has been associate dean and director since August 1989. Previously, he was interim director of international development in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech where he was responsible for the man-

agement of programs in Haiti, Mali, Senegal, and Zambia.

Prior to that, he spent eight years as professor and head of the department of horticulture at Virginia Tech. He also held past appointments in horticulture departments at Kansas State University, The Ohio State University, and the University of Georgia.

## Grain Producers Slate Annual Meeting

EDGEWATER, Md. — The annual meeting of the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA), a traditional mid-summer break for farmers, ag leaders, ag educators and agribusiness representatives, will be held Thursday, July 28, at the Queen Anne's County 4-H Park near Centreville.

The event has become increasingly popular through the years with farmers from across the state who are able to combine a high-interest educational and informational program with a feast of steamed crabs and barbecued pork and chicken.

The gates of the 4-H park, on Route 18 midway between Centreville and Queenstown, will open at 11 a.m. for registration and the trade show. MGPA members are admitted free. There is a \$10 charge for non-members.

The program will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the fairground's new air conditioned building. Highlights will include a panel discussion, entitled "Mandatory nutrient management plans — Who decides the farmer's fate?" and an announcement of plans to sell ethanol at Maryland service stations.

Guest speakers will include Maryland State Comptroller Louis Goldstein and Marty Andreas, vice president of Archer Daniels Midland, the nation's leading pro-

cessor of agricultural commodities.

During a brief business session, the Maryland grain producers will elect nine directors, name their "Man of the Year," and hear reports from John "Jock" Luthy, MGPA president, and Edward Stanfield, who is president of the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. The board administers the state's all-grain checkoff program.

For more information, call the MGPA office at (410) 956-5771.

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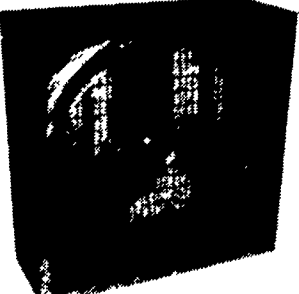
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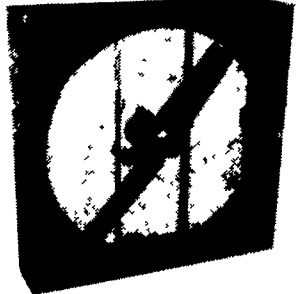
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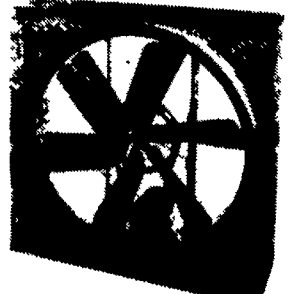
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