

Maryland Leaders Visit Ag Education Foundation Headquarters

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md. — Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland's Secretary of Education and Lewis Riley, Secretary of Agriculture, recently visited the Senator William H. Amoss Agricultural Center in Havre de Grace to learn about the educational programs of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation.

Highlights of past programs, details of new programs, and dis-

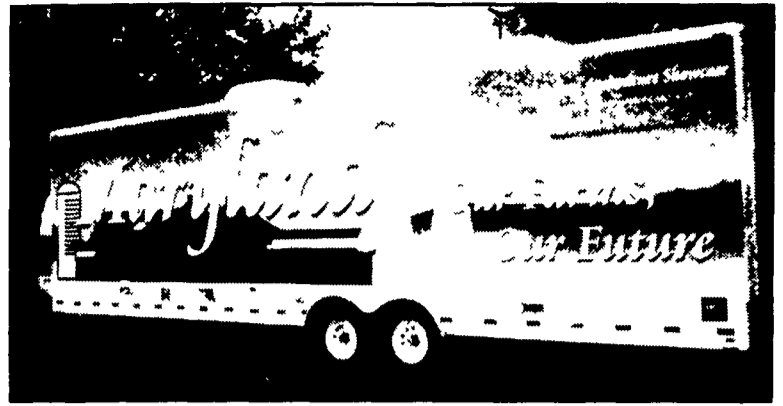
cussion on future program ideas were discussed by the Secretary of Education and State Department of Education staffers Kathy Oliver, Jim Ferrant, and Becky Horn.

Foundation executive director Marty Stephens and education directors Jeanne Mueller and Jamie Picardy gave Dr. Grasmick a tour of one of their mobile agri-science labs which travels

the state visiting elementary and middle schools with their message of ag literacy.

The Foundation has three mobile classrooms that travel from Garrett County to the shore and from Cecil County to the Potomac River in southern Maryland for nine months each year. Staffed with Foundation-trained teachers, students learn about Maryland agricultural products, biotechnology: food and fiber and aquatics and agriculture working together.

The Foundation's educational program is called Ag in the Classroom and teachers are brought together each summer for an intense week of learning to infuse agricultural concepts into required curriculum in language arts, math, science, and social studies. The workshop provides five action-packed days of seminars, field trips, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. The 2003 teacher workshop is scheduled for June 23-27 in Westminster and teachers can register for \$100 and earn three in-service credits for their participation.



The Maryland Agriculture Showcase is ready to travel to public events educating Maryland residents about agriculture and how it effects each individual daily.



Jeanne Mueller, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation education director (left) explains to Dr. Nancy Grasmick (second from left) lessons taught on the Foundation's Aquatic Mobile Classroom, while other MSDE staff look on.



Children visiting the Maryland Ag Showcase try their hand at milking a cow when the Showcase visited the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival recently.

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Maryland Agriculture Showcase Rolls Out

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation recently introduced its newest educational resource, a mobile trailer named the Maryland Agriculture Showcase.

This "agricultural billboard on wheels" will be traveling throughout Maryland in its inaugural year educating Marylanders about the state's top agricultural products and the impact that agriculture has on the lives of every citizen every day.

Rolled out to an audience

of Maryland's agricultural leaders gathered at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis on April 23, it was dedicated and rolled into service by Secretary of Agriculture Lewis Riley and Foundation President Ewing McDowell. The Showcase has a busy season ahead as it is already booked for 25 events and the Foundation hopes to fill the schedule shortly.

The Showcase features a variety of educational exhibits featuring information

and interactive fun for both

children and adults. Hands-on activities include a simulated cow milking experience, broiler chicken kids' puzzle, fruit and vegetable riddles, mini-greenhouse and landscaping magnet board, and more.

The exhibit on Maryland's horse industry provides the opportunity to measure your height in "hands" which is the way that horses are measured. A changeable display featuring beef cattle, hogs, and sheep provides visitors the opportunity to test their knowledge about these agricultural products.

Funding for the Showcase is provided through sales of

Maryland's "Ag Tag" license plates, public and private grants, and private donations to the Foundation. Additional funding for this project has been provided by several industry partners including the Delmarva Poultry Industry, FORVM for Rural Maryland, Hargrove Inc., Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Farm Bureau, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Nursery & Landscape Association, and the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association.

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