



# KERNELS & PODS

TALBOT COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2013



## GREETINGS FROM YOUR TALBOT COUNTY FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

Greetings to everyone. Hope everyone had a Happy New Year. I hope everyone has a healthy and prosperous year. Please mark your calendars for **Talbot County Farm Bureau's Annual Social** (Banquet) which is **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 p.m. at Easton High School's Cafeteria. Linda Brown's Culinary Arts Program will be preparing and serving the food. We will also be serving oysters.

There are many legal and legislative issues facing the farming community this year. We will need your help in contacting the Legislative Officials concerning these matters and how they will be affecting each and every one of you. Environmental issues are on the forefront and are going to be a big issue impacting this legislation. Everyone will be impacted in some way. It would be most beneficial for everyone to subscribe to the **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU HOTLINE** to become informed about the bills and policies that are being presented to the Legislature concerning us. It is very important that the farming community works together and shows a united front now more than ever. Please talk to your neighbors about joining Farm Bureau.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, contact any of the Talbot County Farm Bureau Board members. I hope to see you all at the Annual Social.

*Eddie Boyle*

***DON'T FORGET!***  
**Talbot County Farm  
Bureau Annual Social**  
Thursday, March 14th  
Easton High School  
Cafeteria, Easton

*Guest Speaker:*  
*Alan Hudson*

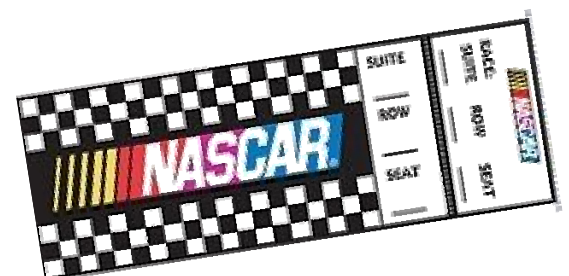
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## LIVE AUCTION AT THE SOCIAL!

**Premium NASCAR tickets, a Rick Kollinger original print & local oysters!** We will also have several silent auction items as well.  
You won't want to miss it!

*All donations are for our scholarship and educational outreach fund.*



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## UPDATE ON THE HUDSON LAWSUIT CASE—NEWS RELEASE FEB 7, 2013

Attorneys for Berlin, Maryland-based Alan and Kristin Hudson, the embattled farmers at the heart of a meritless Clean Water Act lawsuit filed by the Waterkeeper Alliance and the Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT), submitted a motion today asking a Federal Judge for repayment of legal fees and other associated costs that were expended over the last three years, which nearly bankrupted the family. The Court ruled that the Hudsons were innocent of all accusations in a December 2012 ruling. However, unlike the well-funded New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance, which was given free legal counsel by the taxpayer-funded University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic, the Hudson family was forced to pay legal fees out of their own pockets.

Since the Waterkeepers filed their lawsuit in 2010, the Hudsons have accumulated fees totaling approximately \$500,000. Without the financial support of members of their community on Maryland's Eastern Shore and farmers throughout the U.S. who raised funds by hosting spaghetti dinners and other events celebrating agriculture, they would have long ago had to give up their farm, which has been in their family for three generations.

"The Clean Water Act does not exist for celebrity-funded New York lawyers to recklessly and without merit sue the farmer into bankruptcy," said Hudson Family attorney George Ritchie, Esq., of Gordon Feinblatt.

"The plaintiffs funded their suit with out-of-state monies-raised during celebrity events, while the Hudsons relied on the support of their neighbors, fellow Eastern Shore farmers, and sympathetic family farmers across the country. It is time for the Waterkeepers to own up to their ill-conceived and harmful legal actions, and repay the farmers that supported this beleaguered farm family," continued Ritchie. "Further, repayment of legal fees is clearly permissible and allowed for under the CWA."

Ritchie went on to say that the case was never about the activist groups' concerns about discharges from the Hudson Farm. Instead, it was the culmination of a lengthy campaign to force poultry integrators to seriously alter if not abandon their operations on the Eastern Shore. "The Hudsons were simply collateral damage in the Waterkeepers zealous campaign to strike at Perdue and other integrators in the poultry industry," he said. "They were not content simply to pursue a senseless case against the Hudsons through the trial. They actually went a step further last year by opposing legislative attempts to help the Hudsons pay for their legal expenses, arguing that the CWA permits a prevailing defendant to recover its fees and costs. It's finally time for them to stand behind their words. The Court should award the Hudsons reasonable legal fees and costs incurred in defending this needless and groundless lawsuit."

According to Lee Richardson, president of the Wicomico County Farm Bureau and a SaveFarmFamilies.org member, farmers across America helped the Hudsons stay in the fight and it's right that those legal fees get reimbursed to dissuade activists groups from filing cases that are in reality an attempt to end contemporary agriculture. "By repaying Alan and Kristin this money, we can set a precedent that activist groups cannot 'sue first and ask questions later,' he said.

The resulting three-week trial, which took the Hudsons away from their farm and their two young children, demonstrated the irresponsible and frivolous nature of the plaintiff's claims. "Through this lawsuit, the Waterkeepers and ACT had the ability to wreak havoc on an innocent farm family simply trying to make a living by feeding Americans," Richardson said.

"The repayment of legal fees goes well beyond the Hudsons'," said Andrew McLean, past president of Delmarva Poultry Inc. and a SaveFarmFamilies.org member. "This is an important first step to hold the Waterkeepers, the Assateague Coastal Trust and the UMD Law Clinic accountable for reckless 'hard-nosed' litigation tactics. If they do not have to pay the Hudsons' legal fees they will never stop this type of activity that unfairly harms our family farmers."

Agricultural groups around the country and in Maryland, including the Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce, continue to host events and donate funds to SaveFarmFamilies.org knowing that other farmers may find themselves in a similar predicament. "If the judge awards the Hudsons repayment, we intend to use this money to fight future cases that attempt to unfairly attack farmers without evidence proving any wrongdoing," Richardson said. "We stand united in our efforts to protect farmers, who are the fabric of our nation and the lifeblood of our communities."



Kristen and  
Alan Hudson

**Mr. Alan Hudson will be taking question and answers during our Annual Social.**

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**TALBOT COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL**  
**EASTON HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA**  
**THURSDAY MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2013 6:00PM**

Talbot County Farm Bureau cordially invites you to attend our **Annual Spring Social**. It will be held on Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Easton High School. The Culinary Arts Program at Easton High School will offer an extensive selection of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Oysters Rockefeller and Oysters on the Half Shell will also be served.



The doors will open at 5:30PM and the Social will begin at 6:00pm. **There will be a Question and Answer segment with Alan Hudson.**

**Make your reservations as soon as you can!** Please complete and return this reservation form with your payment to Talbot County Farm Bureau. The evening is sure to be educational and entertaining. We would be delighted to have you join us for food, fellowship, and fun.

Please complete and send us the last page of this newsletter for your reservation. *We hope to see you there!*

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**HELP SUPPORT THE TALBOT COUNTY YOUNG FARMERS BY PURCHASING A SPORTSMAN RAFFLE TICKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL!**

The Talbot County Young Farmers are now selling **Sportsman Raffle tickets** for the **Month of April**. A **\$20** ticket will get you **30 chances** at great prizes! The winners will be determined from the Maryland Pick 3 lottery drawing (Evening numbers).



All winners will be required to complete and pass the NICS background check before taking possession of the firearm or crossbow. Winners that cannot pass the check or who would refuse the prize will receive a consolation prize of \$100. If a ticket of the lottery number drawn is not sold, the prize will be not be given away.



Please contact **Darcy Hutchison** at 410-829-2646 or any Young Farmer for tickets. *Good luck!*

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## KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS! OUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS



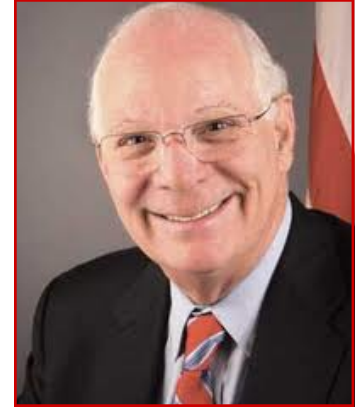
**Congressman  
Andy Harris**

Kent Island District Office  
(410) 588-5670  
Website: [harris.house.gov](http://harris.house.gov)



**Senator  
Barbara Mikulski**

District Office in Salisbury  
(410) 546-7711  
Website: [mikulski.senate.gov](http://mikulski.senate.gov)



**Senator  
Benjamin Cardin**

District Office in Baltimore  
(410) 962-4436  
Website: [cardin.senate.gov](http://cardin.senate.gov)

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## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.TALBOTCOUNTYFARBUREAU.com](http://www.TALBOTCOUNTYFARBUREAU.com)

In order to be eligible for our scholarship:

1. Applicant or their parents/guardians must be members of Talbot County Farm Bureau
2. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior or presently enrolled full time in a college, university, or tech school
3. Applicant must use the scholarship funds to attend, or continue attending a two or four year college or technical school on a full-time basis.
4. Previous scholarship recipients may reapply however; no applicant may receive the scholarship more than twice.



If you wish to be considered for a \$1000 scholarship and you meet the qualifications, please download the application from our website and mail to Lori Anders. Your completed application **must be received by May 1, 2013** to be considered.

Any questions about the scholarship should be directed to  
Lori Anders at [secretary@talbotcountymfarmbureau.com](mailto:secretary@talbotcountymfarmbureau.com)

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## WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER FOR:

Committees (Women’s, Young Farmers), Projects, Festivals, Annual Social, Annual Picnic, Applicants for Miss Talbot County Agriculture and applicants for Farm Bureau Scholarships (County and State). If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving your local Farm Bureau, please let Eddie or Lori know.

### IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL WEBSITES

Talbot County Farm Bureau — [www.talbotcountymfarmbureau.com](http://www.talbotcountymfarmbureau.com)

Maryland Farm Bureau – [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

American Farm Bureau — [www.fb.org](http://www.fb.org) (and) [www.fbacres.com](http://www.fbacres.com)

Talbot, Caroline & Dorchester Ag Info — [www.eastershoreagriculture.com](http://www.eastershoreagriculture.com)

Talbot Agriculture & Education Center — [www.talbotcountyfair.org/agcenter](http://www.talbotcountyfair.org/agcenter)

Talbot Soil Conservation District — [www.talbotscd.com](http://www.talbotscd.com)



*This is a scan code for your iPhone that will link directly to our website.*

## TALBOT COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Eddie Boyle

**Vice President:** Gerald O’Mara

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Lori Anders, [secretary@talbotcountymfarmbureau.com](mailto:secretary@talbotcountymfarmbureau.com)

**Miss Talbot County Farm Bureau:** Michelle McCulley

### **Board of Directors:**

David Altvater, Greg Gannon, Travis Hutchison, John Sewell, Shawn Smith  
Brian Ewing, Ed Heikes, Jeff Rathell, Lewis Smith

### **Women’s Leadership Committee**

Beverly Altvater, Chairperson  
Vice-Chairperson—Vacant  
Sandy Foster, Secretary  
Terri Snow, Treasurer

### **Young Farmer Officers**

Darcy Hutchison, Chairman  
Brian Altvater, Vice Chairman  
Lori Anders, Secretary  
Amanda Clougherty, Treasurer

Talbot County



C/O Lori Anders  
32535 Matthews Road  
Easton, MD 21601

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**Talbot County Farm Bureau Annual Social - March 14, 2013**

**Please respond by March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per person: **\$10.00** X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Reservations received on or before March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Cost per person: **\$15.00** X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Reservations received after March 5<sup>th</sup> and at the door**

**Mail this form with your payment to:**  
Talbot County Farm Bureau  
32535 Matthews Road, Easton, MD 21601  
**Phone:** 410-822-1395 (Leave Message)  
**Email:** [secretary@talbotcountyfarmbureau.com](mailto:secretary@talbotcountyfarmbureau.com)