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For immediate release

Contacts:
Michael MacFee | mmacfee@mpt.org | 410-581-4262
Emily Greco | egreco@nevinspr.com | 443-686-1331

NOTE: Interviews with Series Producer Robert Ferrier are available. In addition, Feb. 6 episode photos and the series logo are available to download from MPT's Dropbox [HERE](#).

MPT series *Maryland Farm & Harvest* visits Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, and Washington counties during February 6 episode

New episode features special profile of nonagenarian artist John Franklin Sauers, "Harford Living Treasure"

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television's](#) (MPT) original series [Maryland Farm & Harvest](#), now in its 11th season, will feature farms and locations in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, and Washington counties during an episode premiering on Tuesday, February 6. A preview of the episode will be available on the series' webpage at mpt.org/farm.

Maryland Farm & Harvest airs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT-HD and online at mpt.org/livestream. Episodes are also available to view on the free [PBS App](#) and MPT's [online video player](#) following their broadcast premiere. Encore broadcasts air on MPT-HD on Thursdays at 11 p.m. and on Sundays at 6 a.m. Episodes also air on MPT2/Create® on Fridays at 7:30 p.m.



The popular weekly series takes viewers on a journey across the Free State, telling engaging and enlightening stories about the farms, people, and technology required to sustain and grow agriculture in Maryland, the state's number one commercial industry.

Joanne Clendining, who has earned two regional Emmy® awards for her work on *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, serves as series host. She is joined during the season by Al Spoler, host of "The Local Buy" segments, and by a rotation of local chefs who each take a turn hosting a new segment called "Farm to Skillet," during which viewers are led through the process of finding, preparing, and presenting the locally produced ingredients that make up some of the chefs' favorite dishes.

The February 6 episode features a special segment profiling artist [John Franklin Sauers](#). The **Darlington** resident has had his art exhibited in galleries throughout the country, won more than 20 awards, and sold

nearly 300 of his works for as much as \$2,000. In 2022, a Harford County Council proclamation named John a “Harford Living Treasure.” At 90 years old, he continues to create his iconic plein-air paintings, many of which are inspired by the rural landscapes and barnyards found throughout Harford County.

Additional segments premiering during the February 6 episode include:

- **Monocacy Hops (Baltimore, Frederick, and Washington counties).** The Monocacy hop is one of a kind, and it grows so well in Maryland’s climate that it’s making both farmers and brewmasters very hoppy! Viewers learn about the discovery of this special hop in **Western Maryland** and meet local brewmasters – such as Tom Barse of [Milkhouse Brewery](#) in **Mt. Airy** and Christopher Leonard of [Heavy Seas Brewery](#) in **Halethorpe** – who are using it to brew new, flavorful, and uniquely local beers.
- **Ernst Farm (Washington County).** To overcome the fluctuations in bulk grain prices, Steve Ernst and his son Josh of [Ernst Grain & Livestock](#) in **Clear Spring** created a special grain feed that has local customers chomping at the bit. The Ernst family grows about 500 acres of grains, all of which are now used to produce non-GMO animal feed that is sold throughout the region. Thanks in part to the entrepreneurial pivot from bulk grain to specialty feed, Josh is able to sustain his family as a full-time farmer.
- **Farm to Skillet: Chef Lettie Lavallee, Anne Arundel County Farmers Market.** Personal chef Lettie Lavallee, owner of the **Arnold**-based dinner service [Leave Dinner to Lettie](#), leads viewers through the [Anne Arundel County Farmers’ Market](#) in **Annapolis**, where she finds the locally produced ingredients she needs to cook a summer farro salad with charred vegetables, feta cheese, fresh greens, and picked green tomatoes. The recipe was Lettie’s grandmother’s, and the dish has become one of her favorite summertime go-to meals. Lettie’s recipe will be available at [mpt.org/farm](#) to download and try at home.

More than 16 million viewers have watched *Maryland Farm & Harvest* on MPT since its debut in 2013. The series has traveled to more than 450 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first 10 seasons, covering every Maryland county, as well as Baltimore City and Washington, D.C.

Past episodes can be viewed at [video.mpt.tv/show/maryland-farm-harvest/](#), while episode segments are available on the series’ YouTube channel at [youtube.com/c/MarylandFarmHarvest/featured](#). Engage with the show on social media [@MarylandFarmHarvest on Facebook](#) and [@mdfarmtv on Instagram](#).

The [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#) is MPT’s co-production partner for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*. Major funding is provided by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

Additional funding is provided by Maryland’s Best; a grant from the Rural Maryland Council Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund; Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO); a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Program; Farm Credit; Maryland Soybean Board; Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts; Wegmans Food Markets; Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association; Maryland Farm Bureau; The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment; and a contribution made by the Citizens of Baltimore County. Other support comes from the Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation.

SYNOPSIS OF FEB. 6 EPISODE:

The Monocacy hop is one of a kind and grows so well in Maryland's climate that it's making Western Maryland farmers, Baltimore brewmasters, and consumers throughout the state very hoppy! At Ernst Grain & Livestock in Washington County, a pivot from bulk grain farming to specialty feed production has helped bolster sales and attract customers from across the region. Nonagenarian artist John Franklin Sauers has been named a "Harford Living Treasure" for his iconic plein-air paintings, many of which are inspired by rural landscapes throughout Harford County. In the "Farm to Skillet" segment, chef Lettie Lavallee visits the Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market to find ingredients for a summer farro salad.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.