

BUSINESS

DPI warns proposed regs could hurt poultry industry

By HANNAH COMBS
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ANNAPOLIS — Presenting to the Eastern Shore Delegation, Friday, Feb. 7, Delmarva Poultry Industry Executive Director Holly Porter implored delegates to provide their assistance in killing two pieces of proposed legislation that could negatively impact farmers on Delmarva.

Statistically speaking, there are 1,600 farm families in the poultry industry in Maryland with an average of four poultry houses per farm, Porter said. On the Eastern Shore, that means 6,800 jobs tied to the poultry industry. Additionally,

many of the companies and allied industries linked to the poultry business contribute significantly to community projects in addition to the tax dollars given to the state.

Bills that would put restrictions on new housing are not good for farmers or the industry, Porter said.

Senate bill 841 would prohibit the Maryland Department of the Environment from issuing certain dis-



HOLLY PORTER

charge permits to a person for a new industrial poultry operation or for the purpose of extending or expanding an industrial poultry operation in operation on or before Sept. 30, 2020, Porter said. This bill is cross-filed with House bill 1312.

With one in every five houses on Delmarva being 30 years or older, this bill could have serious repercussions, Porter said. “Our farmers and our companies will look elsewhere if a moratorium is placed (on building).”

Contrary to some media reports, Porter said the poultry industry is not experiencing runaway growth, but it is finding new ways to

increase production more sustainably and efficiently, and using better technology.

Agriculture is cyclical, Porter said. There was less than 1% growth from 2018 to 2019, but the industry is not showing dramatic growth as publicized, she said.

DPI also is moving forward with two new ambient air quality monitoring stations to be placed at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and in the Pocomoke city area, as well as retrofitting the stations at Horns Point and the Old Town Fire Station in Baltimore City.

Voting not to delay the implementation of the next phase of PMT (phosphorous management tool),

Porter said, was a decision made “because we don’t know what we don’t know yet. Phasing in the regulations will help to determine what market place and infrastructure will be, and they want to make sure farms have tools and action plans in place to assist as needed, Porter said.

Trying to determine what are those actions plans for PMT might be seems to be primarily a logistics issue, she said.

“All farmers out there need a fertilizer. What better way (to provide) than organic slow release,” Porter said.

Another piece of pending legislation, SB 928, targets

concentrated animal feeding operations and would require a discharge permit for a certain CAFO, unless the permit applicant submits a manure transport plan as part of the permit application.

“No more restrictive legislation is necessary,” Porter said. “(Farmers) do not want to be penalized in advance of rules that have not yet been broken.”

“Would it be fair to say that after (your expressed) good faith not to delay PMT implementation that you are disappointed to see these bills introduced?” asked Sen. Mary Carozza, R-38-Wicomico and Worcester.

“Yes,” Porter said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Jim Latham, Exit Latham Realty; Dan Shoemaker, Exit on the Bay Realty; and Shelby Roney, Exit on the Bay Realty office manager.

Mid-Shore Exit Realty offices merge

GRASONVILLE — Jim Latham, Exit Latham Realty, one of the Eastern Shore’s top independent real estate brokerages, recently merged his operations with Exit on the Bay Realty owned by Dan Shoemaker with locations in Cambridge and Grasonville.

Latham has been a realtor and business leader in Talbot County since 1962.

“Merging my company into Exit on the Bay Realty has provided boundless opportunities for me and my agents,” he said. “With the expanded local territory and national support,

the benefits for our clients and customers are beyond belief.”

“We’re ecstatic to welcome Jim’s team to Exit on the Bay,” Shoemaker said. “We are thrilled to provide great benefits and cutting-edge sales tools to the agents in our newly blended real estate family. We look forward to serving Exit Latham Realty’s past clients and look forward to building new relationships merged as Exit on the Bay Realty.”

“Exit Realty is growing and attracting top producing real estate profession-

als each and every day” Shoemaker said. “We are a full-service real estate brokerage with extraordinary talent in our Company.”

Latham will remain as manager of the Easton branch, at 29 E. Dover St., and can continue to be reached at 410-822-2152 or by email at Jim@Exit On-TheBay.com.

Shoemaker can be reached at 410-353-4387 or by email at Dan@ExitOTB.com.

For more information about Exit on the Bay Realty, call 410-353-4387 or visit www.exitrealty.com.

Lundberg Builders hires project consultant

STEVENSVILLE — Lundberg Builders Inc., the leading full-service residential custom design and build firm serving Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, has announced it has hired a new project consultant, Jesse Goodroe.

Goodroe will provide consulting on residential projects including new construction, remodels, renovations, additions, and even home maintenance and repairs. Goodroe will oversee projects from start to finish for quality driven results.

Lundberg’s VP of Operations Eamon Seidel said, “Jesse’s years of experience and management skills are just what we were looking to add to our growing team. I look forward to working with Jesse to further develop our handyman, repair and maintenance division.”

Goodroe has 14 years of experience in the construction industry, which includes leading construction management crews and overseeing a variety of residential and commercial projects including full home renovations, design work, custom additions, and high-end kitchen and bath remodels.

Goodroe is an avid outdoorsman. He enjoys fishing, hiking, primitive camping, and organizing outdoors events.

Goodroe also enjoys trav-

eling around the country, experiencing new people and places. He has traveled overseas to many countries, but his favorite place is Lake Como in northern Italy.

He is a musician, playing guitar for more than 20 years.

Goodroe also loves cooking and entertaining at his Eastern Shore residence with his wife and daughter. They are expecting another daughter in the spring.

Lundberg Builders is a pro-

fessional family of highly talented and skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen who take great pride in their work. Fostering opportunities for training and education, mentoring and career advancement, along with a supportive company culture, many employees have been with the company for 10 years or more, and in several cases, more than 35 years.

For more information, visit lundbergbuilders.com, or call 410-643-3334.



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