

The Delmarva Farmer

The agribusiness newspaper serving Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region

Established 1976 • www.americanfarm.com

May 9, 2017 50c
Volume No. 42, No. 11

"When cultivation begins, culture follows. Therefore, the farmer is the founder of civilization." —Daniel Webster, 1840

In this issue

• The nursery industry has had its share of ups and downs in recent years. Joseph Barley, founder of Clear Ridge Nursery in Carroll County, Md., said the secret to success is not sitting still. See *Mid-Atlantic Grower*.

• It's the second year of strawberry production at Chase Produce, and Bob Chase said he's hoping for better results. See Page 2.

• Members of more than 40 county Farm Bureaus in Virginia have donated nearly \$44,000 to assist fellow farmers affected by destructive wildfires in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. See Page 9.

• Five students studying for agriculture-related careers were selected to receive scholarships totaling \$7,500 from American Farm Publications, publisher of *The Delmarva Farmer* and *The New Jersey Farmer* newspapers. See Page 10.

Md. sheep breeders suspend annual wool pool

By SEAN CLOUGHERTY
Managing Editor

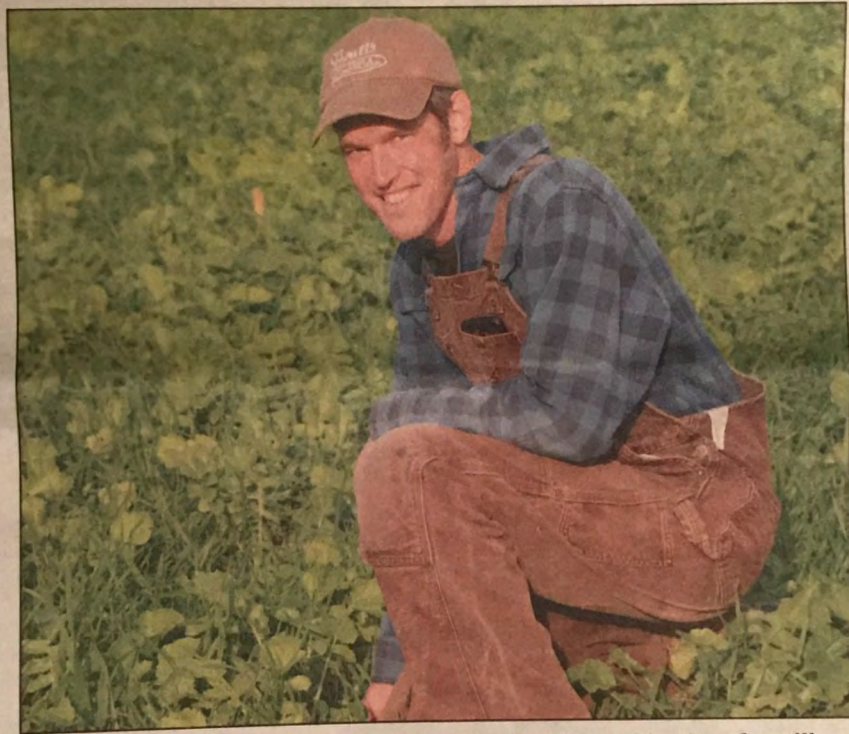
With the decision made earlier this year by the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association to suspend its annual Wool Pool, at least for this year, the group has issued a call to breeders to help the association determine how to best help members market their wool.

This year would have marked the 60th year for the pool, traditionally held in mid-June at the Maryland State Fairgrounds.

Started in 1956, the pool established a commercial market for MSBA members who lacked other outlets for their wool and was meant to build volume that would attract buyers and get a better price than selling small amounts privately.

"The key was to run the pool and sort and package the wool in a way that would help us get better prices from the buyers," said Dr. Richard Barczewski, who was manager of the pool for 20 years.

See WOOL POOL, Page 10



Anthony Beery is a committed no-tiller, noting that the combination of no-till and cover crops can help his soils hold water and weather summer dry spells.

Photo courtesy Steve Werblow

Beery: Build soil to be able to build farm for long term

By STEVE WERBLOW
Special to *The Delmarva Farmer*

MT. CRAWFORD, Va. — Like other farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Anthony Beery is under constant pressure to carefully manage nutrients he applies on his 450-acre farm — whether it's manure from the 300 cows his cousin milks on the farm; litter from 24,000 layers; or fertilizer he applies to the alfalfa, corn, soybeans and small grains he produces.

But Beery's thinking extends far beyond

his state-required nutrient management plan.

"The most important thing is trying to recognize that it's a system — that term hints at its complexity," Beery said. "It's not one bucket. It's not one shelf you stick something on. In a system, things work together."

Cover crops are a major part of Beery's system.

"I think having that cover crop out there,

See BEERY, Page 19

Del. officials laud growers for keeping 'healthy soils'

DOVER, Del. — Gov. John Carney — along with DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin, Delaware Association of Conservation Districts President Robert Emerson and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Kas Taylor — led a ceremony recognizing this year's Agricultural and Urban Conservation Awards and signed a proclamation officially designating April 30 to May 7 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week in Delaware under the theme, "Healthy Soils Are Food for Life."

"Today's honorees have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to improving the environment, and on behalf of the people of Delaware would like to thank each of them for their dedication and for their tireless effort, and investment to implement model conservation practices," said Carney at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village.

"Much of the work we do at DNREC is accomplished through partnerships with USDA-NRCS and Delaware's three conservation districts, and these awards highlight beneficial outcomes of these relationships," Garvin said. "This year's honorees are wonderful and diverse examples of how we can learn from the success of others and can all be better environmental stewards by being thoughtful and important actors to protect and enhance our water and air quality."

This year's Agricultural Conservation

See SOILS, Page 10