



50 Harry Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone: 410-841-5772
www.rural.state.md.us

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For More Information Contact: Vanessa Orlando, Communications Manager, 410-841-5774

Imagine Rural Maryland:

Maryland Rural Summit to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary in October

(September 14, 2007 – Annapolis) The Maryland Rural Summit -- which brings together government officials, nonprofit advocates, and private sector leaders to discuss trends and issues in rural communities -- will convene for a tenth year on October 17-19, 2007 in Solomons Island in Calvert County. Anyone interested in the future of rural Maryland is invited to attend.

Summit sessions will explore a wide range of topics – from the extent of health care work force shortages in rural Maryland to the economic development possibilities that are coming along with the expansion of broadband services into rural areas. A Legislative Forum – always a Summit highlight -- will provide attendees with an opportunity to talk with elected state leaders about the issues important to them.

The Governors Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture will also hold a four-hour workshop on Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture in conjunction with the Summit on Friday, October 19. At the same time, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will discuss implementation strategies for the newly released Rural Maryland Health Plan.

The Summit will also celebrate its tenth year with a Taste of Southern Maryland event on Thursday, October 18, at be held at the Calvert Marine Museum.

All Summit sessions are designed to explore challenges and solutions while taking advantage of the experience and knowledge of all attendees. Lively discussion and interaction among participants and presenters is highly encouraged. Full registration and one-day registrations are also available.

**To attend or exhibit at the Summit or to see a complete agenda, please visit us at:
www.rural.state.md.us/Summit**

The Maryland Rural Summit is hosted by the Rural Maryland Council, the Maryland Rural Health Association, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and the DHMH Office of Rural Health, in partnership with: the Upper Shore Regional Council, the Mid-Shore Regional Council, the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore and the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland.

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The Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency that brings together community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify and seek solutions to the unique needs of Rural Maryland communities. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.