

Maryland Teach Ag Day

On Thursday, March 17, 2011, Glori Hyman, the IAA's Acting Director, hosted a VIP visit for 10 Maryland High School students who expressed interest in becoming agriculture educators. The event was part of Teach Ag Day, a national campaign to promote agricultural education and to share the career opportunities in agricultural education.

In addition to the 10 students, a teacher, a parent, and a high school guidance counselor joined the group for the day at the College Park campus. The day opened with a fun, interactive presentation about teaching agriculture. Roy Walls, a 34-year teaching veteran, described the "many hats" agriculture teachers get to wear.



Current university students talked to the high school students about majoring in education and campus life. The group visited a dorm room and toured the campus farm, new teaching garden site, the recreational center, and the student union.

But, no tour of the University of Maryland would be complete without a visit to Testudo, the school's





mascot. According to campus lore, rubbing Testudo's nose brings good luck and academic success. So, the Teach Ag Day VIPs took advantage of the campus tradition.

George Mayo, Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) thanked the students and talked about the state's commitment to ag education and the career opportunities.

Finally, the group took advantage of the beautiful weather, and relaxed around the landmark "M" near the campus entrance. Then, they walked to the campus dairy for a dip (or two) of Maryland ice cream.

"It was a fun and informative day—an opportunity for high school students to get a real feel for our college and campus," Hyman concluded.



This day was made possible through the generosity of NAAE, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, and the University of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture.