NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

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Commissioners Urge Citizens to 'Buy Local'

Leonardtown, MD – Agriculture in St. Mary's County provides high-quality, locally grown and produced foods for county citizens as well as those living across the State and around the world. Local farms link the past to the present and are continually an important part of the county's economy, environment and quality of life for future generations. Because of agriculture's important role, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have designated the last week of July Maryland Buy Local Week

Citizens' desire for farmland and choice when it comes to the opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce remains the foundation for support of farms in St. Mary's County. Locally grown produce is recognized for producing higher nutrition, better taste, less waste and less pollution.

"St. Mary's County is committed to promoting local agricultural enterprises and healthy eating," said Commissioner Todd Morgan (4th District). "We call upon all citizens to choose products produced in the region's farmland each day during the last full week of July 2017.

As the Buy Local Challenge celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2017, county commissioners urge citizens to join them in supporting this observance and Buy Local the week of July 22 - 30.

Media outlets are free to use photos from the ceremony – which can be downloaded from the county's photo page at http://www.flickr.com/photos/stmaryscountygovernment/sets/. *Outlets publishing photos from the photo page are asked to courtesy the "St. Mary's County Public Information Office."*

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