LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, thanks the many individuals, organizations, and agencies supporting the Foundation through grants, donations, non-cash gifts, and fees.

Please go to www.leadmaryland.org for a full list of program sponsors.

Please contact the LEAD Maryland Foundation to learn more about the LEAD Program, how to serve as a volunteer, or to make a donation.

“My accomplishments are a compilation of being exposed to leaders and leadership opportunities and having the confidence (because of the skills and knowledge acquired) to have conversations and influence decisions regarding issues that impact the agriculture industry.”

“The intensive immersion in the various agriculture economies was incredibly educational and useful in my mission to strengthen the relationship between the horse industry and traditional agriculture industry groups.”

“LEAD was an awesome experience. I continue to draw on what I learned throughout the program and consider myself lucky to have been a part of a great group of LEADers. The greatest benefit for me was learning about myself and general knowledge about the different geographic areas around the state. It helped me gain perspective about a lot of things.”

--LEAD Maryland Alumni Fellows from a 2012 Program Evaluation Survey

University of Maryland Extension and LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. (LEAD) is accepting applications now for the next class of LEAD Fellows. The class, “Class IX,” will participate in 2015-2016. Applications are due October 1, 2014.

**LEAD Fellowships provide:**
- Public Issues Education;
- Personal growth and leadership development opportunities;
- Communications and problem-solving skills training;
- Support, direction, and resources to help emerging leaders succeed in serving agricultural, natural resources, and rural community sectors;
- Opportunities to learn more about Maryland, and to meet and network with leaders throughout the state!

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**LEAD seeks a diversity of applicants with interests in:**
- Rural, suburban, or urban production agriculture;
- Natural resources, forestry and other natural resource-based industries;
- The environment;
- Food processing, food sourcing, distribution, service and retail;
- Rural communities, services, and rural development; and
- Business, communications, education, government, science, technology, nonprofits, land use, and others within or serving agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

There will be between 20 to 25 people selected to be Class IX Fellows.

**Program participants, Fellows, will:**
- Participate in a series of multi-day seminars throughout Maryland and Washington DC in 2015-2016;
- Complete a travel study tour; Travel destinations for previous classes: Netherlands, China, Cuba, Chile, Estonia & Russia, Brazil, Vietnam, and South Africa;
- Attend a 1-day symposium, led by LEAD Class VIII, December 3, 2014. Class IX Fellows will also complete a group project;
- Pay a $4,000 fee (tuition); many fellows secure sponsors; an invoice for four installments will be issued;

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Go to: [www.leadmaryland.org](http://www.leadmaryland.org)
- Program Information, details on fee payments, and Class Calendar
- A Statement of Understanding
- Reference Form
- Link to web-based application form

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**Mission**
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.