

Frederick County senator speaks in lieu of governor

Originally published September 22, 2010

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=110216>

By Meg Tully
News-Post Staff

Having grown up with The Great [Frederick](#) Fair in his "backyard," state Sen. David Brinkley said it was a great honor to speak to the fair board on Tuesday for the annual Governor's Day luncheon.

Brinkley, a [Frederick](#) County Republican, was chosen as speaker by the fair board when Gov. Martin O'Malley's [office](#) told them he would not be able to make the event.

O'Malley, a Democrat seeking re-election, was in Ocean City on Tuesday, speaking at the Fraternal Order of Police convention. He is scheduled to visit [Frederick](#) on Sept. 29 but will miss the fair.

Brinkley spoke to the fair board and local officials at a closed lunch event in the fair administration building.

After the lunch, Brinkley said he emphasized that [education](#) will be the key to helping agriculture survive.

"Education is the key, and not just in agricultural practices, but having people in the suburban areas and urban areas understand the role of agriculture and what it takes to run any kind of agricultural operation," Brinkley said.

Farming directly and indirectly produces hundreds of thousands of jobs in the area, he said.

"I think people take what people do on the farm for granted," Brinkley said.

The senator predicts that hundreds of bills during the next session of the Maryland General Assembly, starting January, will affect agriculture. Many may have a "very detrimental" impact, he said.

"We'll have to see what the makeup is of the legislature, and we'll have to see whether or not the person at the helm, the executive of the state, the governor, is going to be friendly toward agriculture or not," Brinkley said. "I think a lot of people are holding their breath and they have to go to work."

He said it was a pretty poor statement that neither O'Malley nor Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown chose to attend the Governor's Day luncheon at the fair. He said he was unaware of why they didn't come.



File Photo

"The governor or lieutenant governor should be here in some way shape or form to honor the agriculture industry." — Sen. David Brinkley

"The governor or lieutenant governor should be here in some way shape or form to honor the agriculture industry," Brinkley said.

In his talk, Brinkley chose to honor Delegate Paul Stull, a [Frederick](#) County Republican who may lose his seat in the primary election. Stull is trailing challenger Kelly Schulz by 18 votes for one of two Republican slots on the ballot.

Kathy Afzali has secured the other Republican slot, and the outcome will be determined today, with the final round of absentee ballot counting and a count of provisional ballots.

Stull, a member of the House [Environmental](#) Matters Committee, has made helping farmers a priority. He has taken members of the committee to farms in [Frederick](#) County to show them the impact of their decisions and sponsored several bills intended to help farmers.

"We don't know what the results are going to be tomorrow, but there was an acknowledgment in the room and he got a warm applause," Brinkley said. "His years of service and he as a resource for agriculture has really been key."