



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 29, Issue 2

March 2019

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Message to Members

By: *Howie Feaga, President Howard County Farm Bureau*

Well it's snowing again, with freezing rain mixed in. I hope you all are doing well even with the bad weather. Don't let the weather get you down. It will get better, I know it's hard to believe, but it will get better. Take your time rolling in the ruts you made this winter, they will heal better than you think. It's hard to believe but the pastures will recover, better than anyone can imagine. Grass is tougher than you think.

The folks in Annapolis are busy trying to watch for bills that we need and some that don't help us at all. There seems to be a lot both ways, it seems to get busier down there every year. Watch for the "Hot Line" so you can try and keep up with all the changes. I look forward to seeing all of you at the annual **Legislative Dinner** on **April 11th**. It is our opportunity to see our legislators in person. It is also a chance to tell our side of the story. As much as I don't like politics, they have become a necessary evil and if we embrace the process, it is the best way to make the world a better place.

I want to tell you all about a property tax credit that you are eligible for if your farm is in an Ag Land Preservation Program, State or County. You will

receive a 75% discount on the county portion only, of your property tax bill.

MD Code, Tax-Property, 9-315

(2) real property that is subject to the county's agricultural land preservation program;

Sec. 20.122.-Agricultural land

Amount of Credit in accordance with the provisions of 9-206 and 9-315(a)(2) of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. An owner of agricultural land may receive a property tax credit equaling 75 percent of any County property tax impose on that land, not including any improvements.

Some of you got a check or credit this past year, the catch is you now need to file for your credit within

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Message to Members
2	Ag Literacy Program 2019
2	MAEF's Mobile Science Labs Celebrating One Million Students
3	MAEF's Upcoming Programs Needing Your Support
4	Farmers May Apply Commercial Fertilizer to Small Grains Beginning February 15
4	Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting
5	HCFB Scholarship & Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship
6	SUPPORT THE NEW CLEAN WATER RULE
6	Announcements
7	*Calendar of Events*
9	HCFB Legislative Dinner Registration Form

30 days of the issuing of your property tax bill. We at Ho. Co. Farm Bureau will try and remind everyone of the discount as best we can. So, like I always say, “keep your plow in the ground, we’re all pulling for you”.

Thank You, Howie Feaga, Your President

Ag Literacy Program 2019

Source: *MAEF*



How Does the Ag Literacy Program Work?

This is the 9th year for Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation’s annual **Ag Literacy Program**. This *Ag in the Classroom* program seeks to instill in Maryland students the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Any group or individual wishing to promote agriculture is invited to participate – Farmer Bureau members, FFA students, Young Farmers, Commodity group leaders, retirees, or interested individuals.

Literacy Volunteers set up a time to visit in a nearby school and read to students in grades K-3. Following the reading of the book, volunteers conduct an activity with the students and share their experiences in agriculture. The book is then left in the classroom or media center.

Right This Very Minute (just published) by Lisl H. Detlefsen is a table-to-farm book that explains how farmers are always busy producing the food that makes its way to our plates!

Lessons and activities that coordinate with the book are on MAEF’s website - www.maefonline.com under Elementary Education – Ag Literacy.

How Do I Order Books?

These hardback books (at a reduced rate) are available to volunteer readers for \$10. Order them from Jeanne Mueller 410-848-4745 or jmueller@maefonline.com. Please indicate the number of books, date needed, and shipping address. Payment can be made by check (made out to MAEF), credit card, or you can be invoiced. Please report the number of students you reach to Jeanne so the outreach numbers can be tracked.

MAEF’s Mobile Science Labs Celebrating One Million Students

Source: *MAEF*

Learning about agriculture on
MAEF’S Mobile Science Labs



On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) will be celebrating the more than ONE MILLION STUDENTS that have visited our Mobile Science Labs.

For many years, MAEF has provided agricultural experiments, investigations, stories, and activities to students across the state of Maryland. MAEF is proud of the ONE MILLION STUDENTS milestone it has reached and will continue to share with students the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

You are **invited** to join us on this special occasion to be held:

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.
at

Urbana/Sugarloaf Elementary School
3400 Stone Barn Dr.
Frederick, MD 21704.

For questions contact
Jeanne Mueller at 410-848-4745 or
jmueller@maefonline.com



MAEF's Upcoming Programs Needing Your Support

Source: MAEF

1. **Summer AG in the Classroom program – June 23-27, 2019**

(registration form and flyer describing the workshop are attached) For 30 years, the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF) has presented a summer, week-long, workshop for elementary teachers. This workshop includes 3 MSDE credits, field trips, 20+ hands-on lessons (matched to the Common Core Curriculum, NGSS, and Environmental Literacy standards), numerous trade books, and supplies to teach the lessons. Many of the sessions include newly developed STEM activities.

For the 2019 June workshop, MAEF been fortunate to be given a grant from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF).

This grant will provide a **tuition reimbursement of \$175 for elementary teachers teaching in a rural county**. The cost of the workshop is \$225. These grants will be given on a first-come, first served basis and with the tuition reimbursement will only cost the teacher \$50. The \$225 covers the workshop, credits, hotel room, and most meal. The date for this year's workshop is June 23-27 at the

Best Western Conference Center in Westminster (Carroll County). The counties included in the grant are -Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester. Please circulate this information to any teachers you know **especially grades 3-4-5**. Remind teachers to let Jeanne know they want to take advantage of the grant with tuition reimbursement.

For those of you not from a rural county, please circulate the information to your teachers especially grades 3-4-5 but they will pay the very reasonable rate of \$225. The workshop always fills completely so encourage early registration (which only requires a \$25 deposit to hold the space until April 1st).

2. **Ag Literacy Program** – (invitation to participate with details is attached)

This is the 9th year for MAEF's Ag Literacy Program. The book selected is American Farm Bureau's book of the year – **Right This Very Minute** which details food traveling from the farm to the table. An invitation to participate and lesson plans are available on MAEF's website www.maefonline.com.

3. **Celebrating One Million Students**

Save the date – Wednesday, May 15, 2019
10:30 a.m.

Urbana/Sugarloaf Elementary School (Frederick County)

***If there are folks you know that need to be invited please let me know.

4. **Mobile Science Lab Generous Grants for Rural Counties**

The Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF) has received grant money to help defray the cost of week-long visits of our Mobile Science Labs to rural county schools. The Mobile Science labs offer over a dozen

hands-on experiments matched the Common Core Curriculum, NCSS, and Environmental Literacy Standards. Visit our website www.maefonline.com for a complete list of experiments.

If one or more of your rural elementary schools has not been visited by our lab in the past three years, you may be eligible for one of these grants. If interested, please contact Diana Tyler at 410-939-9030 or dtyler@maefonline.com for lab availability or more information.

For questions or additional information please contact:
Jeanne Mueller at 410-848-4745
or
jmueller@maefonline.com

Farmers May Apply Commercial Fertilizer to Small Grains Beginning February 15

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture



ANNAPOLIS, MD (Feb. 14, 2019) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture today announced that farmers who planted small grains for harvest last fall may “top dress” these crops with commercial fertilizer beginning February 15, as long as ground conditions remain favorable and in accordance with their nutrient management plans. The determination follows Maryland’s nutrient management regulations and is based on research conducted by University of Maryland plant experts. As a reminder, manure **may not** be applied to fields until March 1.

Each year, University of Maryland researchers examine soil temperatures and crop growth over the winter to estimate when small grains will emerge from dormancy. According to data collected by University researchers, commercial fertilizer may be

safely applied to small grains beginning February 15. At this time, these plants will have absorbed all available nutrients in the soil and will require additional nutrients to keep growing. The University cautions farmers, however, to check individual field conditions and avoid running heavy equipment across saturated soils.

The University recommends split applications of spring nitrogen with the first application occurring on or soon after February 15 and the second application when the crops begin to joint.

For additional information on Maryland’s nutrient application requirements, contact the department’s Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959. Farmers with fields that are not suitable for harvest should contact their crop insurance agent for guidance.

Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting

By: Kristal McCormick

The Howard Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), University of Maryland Extension, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will sponsor the annual Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting on Tuesday, March 12th.

Topics include: Reading Your Land for Optimal Soil Fertility Recommendations, Grazing Impacts on Soil Physical Properties, Runoff and Sediment Production, Industrial Hemp in Maryland and Mobile Apps for Agriculture.

The meeting will be held at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood, and will begin at 6:15 PM, with registration and light refreshments at 6:00. There is no cost but attendees must pre-register by 3/7/19.

Call the Howard Soil Conservation District, 410.313.0680, to pre-register or with any questions. Individuals requiring special accommodations please contact the office by 3/1/19.

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship & Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship

The Howard County Farm Bureau will offer one \$2,000.00 scholarship for someone in the 14 to 16 age range and also another \$2,000.00 scholarship to someone in the 17 to 19 age range. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be a member of the Howard County Farm Bureau to be eligible.

The 17-19 scholarship will be partially funded by Farm Bureau and partially funded by the Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship fund. To be eligible for this scholarship, they would either need to be a current HCFB member **OR** a current or former 4-H or FFA member.

Jackie Bauer was the 21 year old daughter of Ricky & Leslie Bauer who passed away on September 18, 2018. Jackie was the 2015 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, as well as a former Howard County 4-H member. Her family farm is where she began her love for agriculture, but her participation in 4-H and Farm Bureau helped to further develop her knowledge and love of the agriculture industry. Jackie was a senior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in Agriculture Communications and Animal Science. Upon graduation, Jackie was looking forward to working for John Deere, a major agricultural corporation, where she could serve as a voice for farmers, helping to advocate for pro-agriculture legislation and promoting the agriculture industry to help others develop a deeper understanding and respect for the business that not only feeds them three times a day, but also provides so much more.

The Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship will allow Jackie's legacy to continue, by helping others who share the same passion as Jackie to pursue their dream of a future in agriculture.

To apply for these scholarships, students must return the attached application form (Pg. 8) and write an essay.

The essay is to be written on:

“Technology is one of the top factors for the new generation of farmer coming into agriculture. How can farm bureau and the industry attract more of the best minds in the next generation from new curriculum of teaching in high school and elementary school?”

The winners will receive \$2000.00 to be used for what they need to buy for school or trade school, such as books, or a laptop computer etc....

**The deadline for applications and essays is
April 1, 2019**

**The Scholarships will be awarded at our
Legislative Dinner in the spring.**

All decisions on the winner will be made by the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Essays are to be written in number 12 font and be no longer than 2 pages with one inch margins.

Entries or questions can be sent to Michael Calkins at Clakins16@gmail.com.

If you would like to send a hard copy please send to the attention of:

Michael Calkins
8960 B Albaugh Road
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

*Please see the Application on Page 8 of this
Newsletter

SUPPORT THE NEW CLEAN WATER RULE: Take a Stand for Clean Water and Clear Rules

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

We've been waiting for this rule for more than 3 years!

EPA has proposed a revised definition of "waters of the United States," which would clarify regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act. You would not need a lawyer or consultant to know what is, and what is not, regulated.

Farmers know best when it comes to enhancing the environment they rely on. Good farming and a good environment go hand in hand! That's why we need both clean water and clear rules.

Farmers and ranchers care about clean water and work hard to protect our natural resources. As farmers and ranchers continue to reduce the environmental footprint of farming and ranching, they need a new common-sense water rule that protects water quality and gives them clear rules they can follow.

We know ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST GROUPS desperately want to impose and enforce the over-reaching 2015 Obama Rule. Predictably, they are gearing-up their fundraising and mass-comment campaigns to stop EPA which would leave you with a complex rule requiring lawyers and consultants to determine if and how you can farm!

We cannot let the voice of the opposition drown out your voice. Farmers and ranchers are calling for a clear rule that protects agriculture AND clean water.

Now is the time to show your support for the new Clean Water Rule.

The comment period will close April 15, 2019.

Go To <https://www.fb.org/advocacy/action-alerts/clean-water-clear-rules/> to send your comments and for more information!

Announcements

❖ Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 11, 2019**, 7:00 p.m., at the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. A fried chicken dinner will be served by the Ladies Auxiliary at a cost of \$20.00 per person.

We have invited the County Executive, the County Council members, as well as our State Senators, Delegates and Congressman to discuss with us current matters relating to legislation and government on a local, state and national level. This meeting provides Farm Bureau members with an excellent opportunity to meet their legislators and discuss issues of importance to them.

Please detach the reservation form at the bottom of the Page (See Reservation on **Page 9** of this Newsletter) and mail it no later than March 31st, along with your check for the number of dinners desired. We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 11.

❖ American Farm Bureau Federation Celebrating 100 Years!



Check out the special centennial documentary which takes a look back at the history of the American Farm Bureau Federation, explores its impact as the leading national farm organization, and sets the stage for the next 100 years of The Voice of Agriculture.

Go to <https://www.fb.org/about/overview>

Calendar of Events

2019

MAR 6 FARMER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT– HOWARD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE (DAY 5 OF 5)

Place University of MD Extension, Howard
County Office
Time 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MAR 12 HOWARD COUNTY MID-WINTER AG MEETING

Place Gary J. Arthur Glenwood Community
Center
Time 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
*RSVP by 3/7 to HSCD (410) 313-0680

MAR 16 SPRING EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Time 9:00 a.m.
<http://howardcountyfair.com/calendar>

MAR 31 ANNUAL HCFB LEGISLATIVE DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE

*See Reservation below on page 9

APR 1 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

*See Application below on the next page

APR 8 UPDATE YOUR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN – FREDERICK COUNTY

Place Frederick County UME Office
Time 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

APR 11 ANNUAL HCFB LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Place Lisbon Fire Hall
1339 Woodbine Road
Woodbine, MD 21797

Time 7:00 p.m.

*Banquet Reservation attached! Please complete and mail in

APR 20 HOWARD COUNTY ANTIQUE FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Time 9:00 a.m.
<http://howardcountyfair.com/calendar>

MAY 4-5 MD SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Time Sat 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sun 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
www.sheepandwool.org

MAY 15 CELEBRATING ONE MILLION STUDENTS

Place Urbana/Sugarloaf Elementary School
3400 Stone Barn Dr.
Frederick, MD 21704
Time 10:30 a.m.

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, please contact the person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship & Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship
Application

Deadline: April 1, 2019

Name:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Parents/Guardians:

High School:

Date of Graduation:

High School GPA:

College of Choice/Trade school:

Major/Trade:

List Three References:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

PO BOX 282

GLENELG, MD 21737

443-812-1662

www.howardfarmbureau.org

Dear Farm Bureau Members,

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 11, 2019**, 7:00 p.m., at the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. A fried chicken dinner will be served by the Ladies Auxiliary at a cost of \$20.00 per person.

We have invited the County Executive, the County Council members, as well as our State Senators, Delegates and Congressman to discuss with us current matters relating to legislation and government on a local, state and national level. This meeting provides Farm Bureau members with an excellent opportunity to meet their legislators and discuss issues of importance to them.

Please detach the reservation form at the bottom of the page and mail it no later than March 31st, along with your check for the number of dinners desired. We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 11.

Sincerely,

Howie Feaga

Howie Feaga
President
443-472-6264

Detach and Mail **BEFORE March 31** to: Howard County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 282
Glenelg, MD 21737

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$20.00 each for the Legislative Banquet on April 11.
Enclosed is my check made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau

NAME _____ PHONE _____