



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

By: *Leslie Bauer, President Howard County Farm Bureau*

The weather outside is slowly turning to warmer days. If they have not started already, farmers around the area are gearing up to get busy in the fields with spring planting 2021. I have watched the winter cover crops slowly go from a dull green to a bright vibrant green, and with each rain they also seem to grow a few inches. Corn and soybeans won't be far behind, and along with them, this year, the return of the 17-year cicadas. As things are starting to get busy around the farm these days, things have finally wrapped up in Annapolis.

The 2021 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly concluded in Annapolis on April 12. Usually at the conclusion of the Legislative Session, we invite our local legislators to gather for a meal and share their thoughts on legislative matters in Annapolis. Unfortunately, again this year, we were unable to gather due to COVID-19 restrictions. This year's legislative session had a much different look than previous years. After a shortened session in 2020 as COVID-19 was just setting in, the General Assembly was able to meet for a full 90-day session, however there were many changes. This year's legislative session was a mostly virtual session. While legislators did meet in person

– protected by partitions between them and split between the House / Senate Chambers and a separate annex building, the public was not permitted to attend sessions in person. Even with the challenges the year presented, there were still over 2,300 bills presented and reviewed – making for a busy 90 days.

Now that the legislative session for 2021 is complete, that does not mean that our legislative work is done for this year. Locally our county council continues to meet throughout the year, and occasionally there are some topics that are covered that could have an impact on agriculture. In addition, as our state representatives are not so busy in Annapolis, this 'off-season' is a good time to reach out. We can have conversations to help educate them on some of our agricultural issues. We can work to gain their support for some our needs.

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How can we work to do this? Here are few of my thoughts.

As there continues to be fewer people involved in production agriculture, we need to stick together as an agricultural community, educating people on what they don't know. We need to work with each other to find ways to protect our industry, to collaborate and strengthen our message. We need to reach out to both our local legislators, as well as consumers, to teach them more about who we are, what we do, and where their food, fiber and energy come from. County Farm Bureaus, as well as the Maryland Farm Bureau, already work to do this, but individuals can do this as well.

As individuals, we can take time to share our 'real'. Whether on social media, or in person, each of us have our own unique story to tell. Invite people to your farm, talk to someone at a farmer's market, in the grocery store or other places you feel are appropriate. Use these opportunities to talk about what you do, why it is important to have all the tools needed to make your farming operations possible, share your challenges (and maybe some ideas for solutions). While we may not always realize it, I think we can often find common ground with others based on our shared values: we care about animal welfare, we care about the environment, we care about the safety of our food supply, we believe that good food needs to be both nutritious and taste good, it also needs to fit our budgets. Whether the food in our pantry is coming from the grocery store, the farmers market, a local farm or somewhere else, we want to feel good about what we purchase and take home to feed our family. By focusing on these shared values, instead of things we may not have in common, it can certainly help to have better conversations when educating others about the products we produce that are an essential part of daily life.

In closing, maybe I am just overly optimistic (or a little too restless), but as we move into the warmer months ahead, I think I am slowly starting to see a faint glimmer of light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. Very slowly, there seems to be a lifting of some restrictions, and it looks like more events and activities are starting to occur around the area. I am hearing murmurs of plans for livestock shows and

fairs – I am so looking forward for a chance to get out and visit with others again!. I hope these next few months will bring good things for your family and your farm as we busy ourselves with spring planting and all the other activities that fill our days as warmer weather and longer days close in.

Let's Celebrate! The 2020 Lisbon Christmas Virtual Parade Raises over \$19K to Feed the Local Hungry!

By: *Alice Settle-Raskin*



The Lisbon Christmas Parade Committee is celebrating the success of **The 2020 Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade**. We've wrapped it up, like a gift tied with a ribbon and a bow!

Believe in the Possibilities!



The Lisbon Christmas Parade Committee and Howard County Farm Bureau are delighted to announce that **The 2020 Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade - Virtual, Reimagined & Online -**

premiered on New Year's Eve, was a tremendous success!



Ana Glemmer, Miss Howard County Farm Bureau

In a year that our landscape was ravaged by the Pandemic presenting many challenges, our mission continued to feed the hungry. We were able to pull off an amazing “virtual” parade full local joy! There were some 32 entries represented in the video featuring over 25 decorated tractors and over 100 seasonally adorned saddle and carriage horses. Parade patrons were also able to view some images from parades past!



In the spirit of the season, our local farmers and equestrians used their creative talents to showcase their tractors, horses, cows, farm-dogs and more! Through hosting their own Christmas parades on farms and down local lanes, our parade participants provided their outstanding virtual entries.



The Numbers Are In!

Thanks to you - our community sponsors and tractor and equine participants - the virtual parade raised \$19,560! Our beneficiaries will receive:

- \$5,868 to the Howard County Food Bank
- \$5,868 to the Carroll County Food Sunday
- \$3,912 to the Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- \$3,912 to the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company

In addition, nearly 3,000 pounds of nonperishable canned foods was collected and donated to feed the local food banks in Howard and Carroll counties! Thank you to all those who participated in the food drives this parade season!

Participants Recognized:

The Lisbon Christmas Parade Committee recently presented Certificates of Recognition to these participants for their excellent video entries in the 2020 parade.



Recognized for the following were:

- **Best Use of Stills:** The Brendel Kids – Hayden, Charlie, Ava & Beau / Brendel Farm



- **Best Use of Music:** Howard County-Iron Bridge Hounds (Pictured: Howie Feaga & Crystal Brumme Pickett)



- **Most Folks in a Scout Troop Video:** Scout Troop 757 (Pictured: Robby Ferguson & Connor Ferguson)



To view the full video and find all individually linked videos (starting at the time each begins in the YouTube full video) please visit this link:
<https://bit.ly/2Q5kR92>

You can also look at the Lisbon Christmas Parade Scrapbook on our website to view the videos and pictures!
<http://lisbonchristmashorseparade.weebly.com/the-lisbon-christmas-parade-scrapbook.html>

Plans for 2021:

Mark your calendars! The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade is scheduled to return on **Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 12 noon**. Stay tuned and learn more by visiting www.LisbonChristmasParade.com.

The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade presented by The Howard County Farm Bureau, benefits The Howard County Food Bank, Carroll County Food Sunday, Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company. Since its inception in 2011, the parade has raised more than \$123,000 to date for the parade's beneficiaries and collected many thousands of pounds of nonperishable canned food donated to our local food banks in Howard and Carroll counties.

Many Thanks to Our 2020 Sponsors

Howard County, Maryland Executive Calvin Ball | Rhine Landscaping, Construction, Pools | Aqua-Bright| Ruppert Landscape | RLO Contractors | Laura-Lee Jones Long & Foster Real Estate | Hoenes Family Foundation, Inc. | Merry Acres Farm | Don & Theresa D'Amato | Howard County Fair Association | Regan Group of Keller Williams Realty | Alice's AgriMaryland | Mariah-Belle Pet Care | The Equiry | Robert Ferguson, Inc. | Carroll Mill Farm | Carroll County Farm Bureau | Coldsprings Farm | Raising Connections | Heritage Realty | Sandy Spring Bank St. John Properties | Tony Locos | Colleen Hood | Capitol City Contractors | Franks Produce & Greenhouses | Frey Agricultural Products/Frey Farm & Garden | Harvest Fried Chicken | MWA (Maryland Western Horse Association) | East View Farm - Brian & Crystal Pickett | Paul Miller | Tracy McKenna | Howard County-Iron Bridge Hounds | Barkley Law | The Dymeks | Gwen B. Gates | Greenway Farms | Floyd's Crossroads Pub | The Grill at Lisbon | Wagner Meats, LLC | J. David Mullinix & Sons | Mt. Airy Children's Dental Associates | Penn Oaks Winery | College

Hunks Hauling Junk Mt Airy | Steve Moss | Preece Family

And, Thank You to Everyone who led Food Drives!

Ana Clemmer, Miss 2020 Howard County Farm Bureau who led food drives at Boarman's Old Fashioned Meat Market, Kendall Hardware & TLV Tree Farm; The Morgan Inn/Brothers 8 MC Central Maryland; Bolder; Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue; Med One Woodbine Pharmacy; The Equiery; The Regan Group at Keller Williams Realty Centre; and Gladhill Tractors/Gladhill Bros.

For the 111th Year, MAEF Focuses on Ag Literacy in 2021

Source: Barb Glenn

If you are interested in supporting elementary school ag education, look no further than at the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation.

Meet the 2021 Ag Literacy Book!

"Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish"

by Viola Butler with Art by Ward Jenkins.



"I'm your Dairy Godmother and I'm here to make your dairy wish come moo—uh, I mean true." Chuck's favorite food is ice cream. People say, "be careful what you wish for," but what harm could wishing for endless ice cream be? With the help of

his Dairy Godmother, Chuck is taken—poof! — on a memorable and delicious adventure to a dairy farm. He finds out exactly where ice cream comes from and gains an even deeper love and appreciation for his favorite food.

Even though Ag Literacy Week was in March, next week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Why don't you donate one of these books to your favorite elementary school teacher?

Visit MAEF's website, www.maefonline.com, or click here (<http://bit.ly/maefaglit>) for helpful resources on becoming an Ag Lit Volunteer and to order your copies today! Then, contact a local school and set up a time to be a guest reader. If you prefer to be invoiced, please email Shannon Brown at sbrown@maefonline.com. For questions, you may email Shannon or call our office at 410-939-9030.

MAEF is also accepting entries from youth in Maryland, for the 2022 MAEF Annual Calendar Contest. Although entries are due May 3, please visit the website for more information and to download your artwork!

[MAEF – Promoting the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.](http://www.maefonline.com)

Tales of a Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish is this year's children's book selected for MAEF's Ag Literacy Program. Through the Ag Literacy Program, literacy volunteers set up a time to visit in a nearby school and read to students in grades K-3.

www.maefonline.com

Earth Day

By: Michael Calkins

What is Earth Day? According to Wikipedia: “Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.”

When I was in the 6th grade we celebrated earth day by planting a tree as a class of 84 people strong. But the part I remember the most was my science teacher Mrs. Weaver talking about farmers making it earth day every day. She had chickens at her house and she would bring them in every year to show the kids what a chicken was and then hatch eggs in class, so we could watch them and learn. That was about the same time that I had my first thoughts about agriculture and being in an agricultural field. Mrs. Weaver always tried to show us things that related to agriculture or the sciences. Like growing plants in class to learn about fertilizer, grass seed, cows and manure. My grass plant grew well, other classmates had tomato’s, pumpkins, lettuce, and carrots. It was cool to see each other’s plants growing and then Mrs. Weaver took them home to her house and planted them into her garden. Then she would take pictures and show us their progress.

Much like this recently I was a part of the Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) staff to implement an Urban Agriculture Initiative to show and help kids in two schools in Howard County Public Schools understand where their food comes from. The HSCD staff built two raised beds at each school and filled it with soil. Then it was up to the kids to plant the beds with all types of veggies, so they can care for the gardens and also see what comes out of the gardens. It was cool to see the kids faces when we showed them a seed and then the real plant that comes from that seed.

This experience for those kids will be much like my experience with my 6th grade class planting a tree on earth day 1994.



County Executive and Councilmember Celebrate Earth Day with Urban Agriculture

By: David Plummer

Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball and County Councilmember Christiana Rigby joined the Howard Soil Conservation District for an urban agriculture project in Columbia on Earth Day. Howard SCD has been coordinating with several elementary schools in the more urban areas of the County to develop school vegetable gardens on school property. The goals of the program are to teach students about where their food is grown, to give them a hands-on learning opportunity related to establishing and caring for vegetable gardens, and to create a resource (gardens) for the school and the local community. The Howard SCD is striving to develop these vegetable gardens at all Title 1 Elementary Schools in Howard County as part of their Urban Agriculture Initiative.

County Executive Ball and Councilmember Rigby were on hand at Cradlerock Elementary School on Earth Day to help the students plant a variety of early season vegetable seeds. Superintendent Michael Martirano and School Board Member Jennifer Mallo were also in attendance to celebrate Earth Day. Cradlerock ES Principal Jonathan Davis

and project coordinator Kathleen Miller helped guide the elected officials and students through the various learning stations, which included making plant row markers, decorating the raised-bed garden boxes, and planting individual seeds in cups for the students to grow in their classrooms. County Executive Ball informed the students that of all of the Earth Day requests he received, he was most excited about the opportunity to help them create their very own vegetable gardens at Cradlerock ES.

Howard SCD Supervisor John Dove was also available to show the students how to plant and answer their questions about growing vegetables. John is the owner/operator of Love Dove Farms in Woodbine, a vegetable operation that sells produce through farmers markets and direct sales to restaurants. “A lot of these kids have only ever seen vegetables in the grocery store, and probably don’t realize that our food starts on farms” John commented. “And many of them may not be aware that we have farms right here in Howard County that grow most of the veggies they are learning about today.” As a LEAD MD Program Alumni, John is active in outreach efforts to elected officials and the general public, but he seems to have a particular knack for working with kids. “These kids will remember this Earth Day celebration and what they learned about agriculture and soil health long after something they read in a book”, he said.

University of Maryland Extension’s Master Gardeners were another key partner in the school garden initiative. Master Gardeners were at Cradlerock ES to help guide the students’ planting activities and to show the kids some examples of the veggies the seeds they were planting will produce. The Master Gardeners will also be a critical link to assisting the school and the community with their future gardening endeavors. Master Gardeners and Howard SCD staff also completed a school garden planting project the day before Earth Day at Swansfield ES, another Title 1 school in Columbia. All the materials for the garden beds at both schools – compost, topsoil, and mulch - were donated by

Howard SCD Board Chair Justin Brendel through his family company, Level Land Incorporated.

New Web-Based Soybean Budget Tool

By: Alan Leslie

Source: UMD Extension

April 21, 2021

With grant funding from the Maryland Soybean Board, we have been working to develop a new web-based app for calculating crop budgets for growing soybeans. The goal for this new tool is to allow farmers more freedom to customize inputs to better reflect their farming practices with a simple user interface. The web app allows you to download a summary of all inputs and expected profits as a PDF document for your records. The new crop budget tool can be found at: https://awleslie.shinyapps.io/budget_4/.

We are interested in gathering feedback and input about this new format and ways to improve it in the future. After testing the new crop budget tool, we would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to provide feedback through our online survey: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07bOf0994wyKzGd. Survey feedback will be used to develop better crop budget tools in the future.

Soybean Budget Tool

The Maryland soybean budget was developed using average yields and estimated input cost based upon producer and farm supplier data. The default numbers are averages and are not official recommendations, actual values will vary greatly between operations. It is therefore crucial to input actual farm data when completing enterprise budgets for your farm. Make changes to these values to include your production techniques, inputs and overall management.

Once you have customized the values to reflect your operation, click the “Generate report” button to save your budget as a pdf document. Information entered by users is NOT saved on the server, and is only saved locally on the user's computer by clicking the “Generate report” button.

Analysis by bushel	
Variable	Value
Breakeven	7.32
Variable costs per unit	3.23
Overhead cost per unit	4.09
Total cost per unit	7.32
Profit per unit	1.85

Source: <https://extension.umd.edu/news-events/news/new-web-based-soybean-budget-tool>

Department Seeks Applicants for Farming for Healthy Soils Program

Source: *Maryland Department of Agriculture*

April 26, 2021

Technical and financial assistance provided to install key soil health practices



ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications

for farmers interested in enrolling their fields in the Farming for Healthy Soils program. Participating farmers will receive free technical assistance and financial incentives to help install the following soil health practices:

- Conservation tillage;
- Multi-species cover crops;
- Extended season cover crops;
- Prescribed grazing; and
- Precision nutrient management.

Cost-share funding of \$10 to \$55 per acre is available to help farmers adopt these key practices. Free technical assistance will be provided by local soil conservation districts or University of Maryland Extension, and will include field evaluations to measure changes in soil health. Financial assistance will also be offered for soils data sampling.

Maryland’s Farming for Healthy Soils program is funded by a three-year, \$1 million grant awarded by the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. In its second year, the grant promotes the use of on-farm soil health practices that increase carbon sequestration, improve soil productivity, and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund is a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program and the Small Watershed Grants Program. Additional support is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Altria Group Restoring America’s Resources partnership.

Farmers who want to enroll study fields in this program should contact MDA’s Healthy Soils Program Coordinator Kevin Antoszewski at kevin.antoszewski@maryland.gov. For more information about Maryland’s Farming for Healthy Soils program, please visit MDA’s [website](#).

Source: <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2021/04/26/department-seeks-applicants-for-farming-for-healthy-soils-program/>

Announcements

❖ Howard County Farm Bureau's Farm to Table Dinner

We are in the planning stages for a Mid-September Farm to Table Dinner, that will be hosted outdoors, on a Howard County Farm.

Stay tuned for more info to follow!

❖ Howard County FFA Chick Fil A Fundraiser.

Come out to the Clarkesville Chick Fil A on Tuesday May 4th, 2021 and support the Howard County FFA!

Be sure to mention Howard County FFA before you place your order. This location is drive thru only. 20% of the Tuesday's sales will go to Howard County FFA.

**HOWARD COUNTY
FFA FUNDRAISER!**



When: **May 4th, ALL DAY**

Where:



6395 Ten Oaks Rd
Clarksville, MD
21029

You must say you are supporting the Howard County FFA **BEFORE** placing your order!

Calendar of Events

2021

MAY 1 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

MAY 1-2 MD SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Time 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

MAY 4 HOWARD COUNTY FUNDRAISER

Place Chick Fil A
6395 Ten Oaks Rd
Clarkesville, MD 21029
*Drive Thru only

MAY 15-16 GUN SHOW

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Time 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[Event Calendar - Howard County Fair Maryland \(howardcountyfairmd.com\)](http://howardcountyfairmd.com)

AUG 7-14 75TH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794

<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/2021-fair/>