



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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January 2018

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Message to Members

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

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a wonderful New Years. I am looking forward to being your president for the next year, and I am looking forward to having a good year. We all work hard and enjoy farming, so I hope we can be prosperous and go forward in our fast-moving world of agriculture.

I want to thank everyone that participated in the "Great Lisbon Farmers Feeding the Hungry Christmas Parade". The weather was magical, and the pictures are spectacular. I also hope you can see some of the video's that were captured during the parade. We may never have such a winter wonderland during the parade for a long time. We have not gotten the total raised during the event yet, but thanks to all of you, we should be able to feed quite a few people with the proceeds.

Many thanks to all of you, for all you do throughout the year, and like I always say, "keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you".

Your President, Howie Feaga

The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade

A little bit of snow didn't stop local farmers from doing their part to help feed the hungry. Mother Nature helped to enhance the day's activities for a beautiful Christmas Parade.

Thank you to all the farmers and horse folks that rode in the parade, as well as the many who came out to watch and show their support. We fed the hungry and the families and kids loved it!

**See Photos on Page 2

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A Magical Day for the Christmas Parade!



Maryland Farm Bureau Held 102nd Annual Convention

By: *Katie Ward*

Davidsonville, MD (December 6, 2017) –

The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) held its 102nd Annual Convention from December 3-5 at The Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City with over 500 voting delegates, members and guests in attendance.

“Our members reflected on our accomplishments and planned for the next year of promoting and protecting Maryland agriculture and rural life,” said Chuck Fry, President of MFB. “We welcomed new gave thanks to outgoing county Farm Bureau Presidents and state Board members.”

The three-day convention featured presentations, awards, elections and discussions to educate members on Farm Bureau activities and the agricultural industry. MFB President Chuck Fry, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Nationwide Insurance Board member Dan Kelley, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joe Bartenfelder, Associate Director of University of Maryland’s College of AGNR Jim Hanson and Miss Maryland Agriculture Mackenzie Underwood addressed the members. Comedian and farmer Jerry Carroll gave the keynote address about the importance of growing up on a farm and having “Dirt in My DNA.”

A panel consisting of William Layton from the United Soybean Board, Jason Scott from the U.S. Wheat Associates and Ryan Bennett of the National Milk Producers Federation talked with the MFB Young Farmers Committee about foreign trade and open world markets for agriculture. Jenny Rhodes, farmer and UMD Extension Agent in Queen Anne’s County, spoke to the MFB Women’s Leadership Committee about her background and career as a farmer and food labeling.

Breakout sessions were held Monday on topics from farm succession planning and farm trucking to wildlife management and agricultural law. During the business sessions on Monday and Tuesday, Farm Bureau voting delegates from all 23 counties reviewed the organization’s policy on issues pending before government. The 2018 policy positions that

were adopted by the delegate body will provide direction for the Farm Bureau lobbying team in Annapolis and Washington.

Awards were presented to the following members and Nationwide agents at the annual convention:

- 2017 Young Farmer Discussion Meet:

**Kayla Griffith,
Anne Arundel County**



- 2017 Young Farmer Collegiate Discussion Meet: **Grace Brinsfield,
St. Mary's County**



- 2017 Young Farmer Excellence in Agriculture: **Wade and Shelby Hampton,
Prince George's County**



- 2017 Silver Bowl Awards: **St. Mary's and
Frederick Counties**

- 2017 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award:

**James "Bubby" Norris Jr.
of St. Mary's County**



- 2017 DNR Farmer of the Year: **Ralph and Darlene Ball
of Harford County**



The 103rd Annual Maryland Farm Bureau Convention will be held from December 2-4, 2018 at The Clarion Resort Hotel in Ocean City, MD.

College of AGNR Strategic Initiatives Update from Dean Beyrouty

University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has a New Strategic Vision.

There are **FIVE Strategic Initiatives**, which are important to all of us in Maryland Agriculture. But there is one that is specific to our Howard County Farm Bureau's concerns:

- 3) **Advance Innovative, profitable, and sustainable agricultural production systems."**

- Increase plant and animal productivity
- Improve and conserve soil and water quality
- Contribute to the success of agricultural businesses
- Prepare the next generation for careers in agriculture.

A Message from Dean Beyrouty

Dear colleagues and valued stakeholders, I want to personally thank you for being a part of the college's strategic visioning process. Thanks in large part to your efforts, we achieved a major milestone and have taken an important step toward shaping the future of our institution. Your participation yielded over 40,000 data points, reflecting important trends and issues affecting our college, state, industries, and society. Each individual comment from our statewide listening sessions was carefully analyzed by our leadership team. Behind the scenes, they worked tirelessly to establish key thematic areas designed to reflect the breadth and depth of our expertise, while promoting our college's impact for the greater good of our citizens. With the help of a seasoned facilitator, our 30-person team held seven separate retreats and emerged with an inspiring and unanimous blueprint for five strategic initiatives, informed by agreed upon trends, strengths, areas for

improvement, operational needs, and core values.

They are as follows:

- Advance innovative, profitable, and sustainable agricultural production systems
- Ensure a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay
- Establish a healthy food system and ensure global food and nutritional security
- Improve human, animal, and environmental health
- Optimize urban environments through design, green technology, and community engagement

I am very impressed with the result. With these five initiatives as the foundation for our three missions, Research, Academics, and Extension, I believe we will be able to build a stronger and highly influential college. We look forward to sharing more with you as we formally launch our strategic vision.

At the top left of this page you'll see a menu item labeled "The College's Strategic Initiatives" which includes a visual executive summary of our initiatives, as well as an option to download the full summary report of the overall process.

We are grateful for your contributions to this process, and for being a valued member of the Maryland agricultural community. We are here to serve you and the state of Maryland, and we thank you for making us as successful as possible.

Sincerely,
Dean Craig Beyroudy

Applying Agricultural Practices to the Port of Baltimore

By: *Samantha Watters*



Cleaning Up the Port and Producing Sustainable Energy

Published on: Dec 20, 2017

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is serving the state and partnering with the Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration (MDOT MPA) and the Maritime Administration (MARAD) of the U.S. Department of Transportation to pilot innovative sustainable technology with the goal of cleaning up the Port of Baltimore.

The Port of Baltimore is actively trying to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and discover new ways to increase the overall sustainability of the Port. Dr. Stephanie Lansing, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, is leading a pilot project to explore ways to achieve this goal. Dr. Patrick Kangas and Dr. Peter May, also of Environmental Science and Technology, built a treatment system using algae as a filtration system, resulting in excess nutrients being removed from the water. Nutrient pollution causes the water to be low in oxygen, killing the wildlife and throwing off the natural ecosystem. This project not only combats this issue, but Dr. Lansing is using the algae produced from the treatment process as a sustainable energy source.

“What I love about this project is that we are taking traditional agricultural practices and water quality work and applying it to an urban setting in a unique way that hasn’t really been done before,” said Dr. Lansing. “We are cleaning up the Bay, improving

water and air quality, reducing pollution, and creating renewable energy using innovative green technologies for the Port all at once.”

Growing algae as a filtration system is fast and efficient. Water from the Patapsco River next to the Port is fed into a runway that is 200 feet long and 6 feet wide. The runway is used to grow algae, pulling out the nitrates and phosphates from the water for its natural growth processes. The water that is cycled back into the river is therefore cleared of nutrient runoff that can cause imbalances and issues in the Bay. Instead, what is returned is oxygen rich, clean water, improving water and air quality around the Port.

Algae grows quickly and is harvested by the Port once a week and fed into a series of three digesters, housed in small greenhouse-like structures that break down the algae, to produce methane-enriched biogas. The biogas can be used as a supplement to power a fuel cell that produces electricity.

“We are harvesting very high quality methane gas from the algae so far to power our fuel cell. From manure, we are used to seeing 55% or 60% methane, but we are seeing 75% methane or higher from the algae, making it very efficient,” explained Dr. Lansing. “Because the algae grows so quickly and is easy to harvest, it makes a great consistent source of biogas when fed into the digesters.”

Currently, the fuel cell is only being used to power flood lights around the digesters. The goal is that the water pump can be powered by the biogas as well, making this a completely sustainable and closed system for this small-scale pilot project.

“If we can show that this is economically feasible and determine how much space we need to clean how much water and produce how much electricity, we can hopefully scale this up from a pilot project and create something viable that we can use to improve the sustainability and environmental footprint of the Port,” said Barbara McMahon of the Port Administration. “Our partnership with MARAD and the University of Maryland has been a huge help and very rewarding. We are excited to see what the future holds.”

Farmers, Ranchers Ask USDA to Scrap Organic Livestock and Poultry Rule

Source: Farm Bureau



November 14, 2017

As USDA reviews the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule, farmers and ranchers are urging the department to completely withdraw the regulation, which goes well beyond the original intent of the Organic Production Act by allowing for animal welfare standards and metrics to become part of the organic label, the American Farm Bureau Federation says.

The rule was to be finalized on Nov. 14, but Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue recently announced a 180-day extension, making May 14, 2018, the new implementation date.

“The health and well-being of livestock is a top priority for all farmers and ranchers. We work with a host of specialists, from animal scientists to nutritionists, to manage our farms in the best manner possible to ensure wholesome, healthy food. This rule, on the other hand, has been about pushing an agenda rather than advancing food safety or animal welfare,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said in a statement.

Duvall also warned that rule would jeopardize organic farmers’ and ranchers’ livelihoods.

“Organic farmers and ranchers would be forced out of the organic sector or out of business entirely if this rule goes into effect and forces them to arbitrarily change their production practices,” he said.

This is not the first time Farm Bureau has raised concerns about this rule. In comments sent to USDA in June, Farm Bureau noted that a review of the Organic Foods Production Act's legislative history revealed that animal welfare was never included in remarks by the bill's sponsors, during debate on the legislation or in report language.

“One of our gravest concerns is the overreach of the organic standards into the animal well-being arena. We do not believe the Organic Foods Production Act intended for animal well-being metrics to be part of the organic standard,” the group said.

High-Tech Camera Helps Protect Sows and Piglets

Source: **USDA**



December 18, 2017

Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#)) scientists and collaborators are using 3-D imaging to protect newborn piglets by monitoring adult female pigs' behavior.

Nearly 15 percent of pre-weaned piglets die each year. According to U.S. pork producers, many are crushed by sows (adult female pigs). Modifying the sows' stalls or crates may help reduce piglet deaths. The first step, according to ARS agricultural engineer [Tami Brown-Brandl](#), is to evaluate sow and piglet behavior in their stalls. Animal behavior contains vital clues about health and well-being that producers can use to better manage their livestock.

Brown-Brandl and a team of scientists from China, [Iowa Select Farms](#) and [Iowa State University](#) developed a system to automatically process and

analyze 3-D images of sows. A camera mounted over birthing crates captures images to determine a sow's behavior and posture: if she's eating, drinking, standing, sitting, or lying down.

The system, which accurately classifies behavior, could potentially help prevent sows from crushing their piglets, according to Brown-Brandl, who works at ARS's [Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center](#) in Clay Center, Nebraska.

This technology allows swine producers to better monitor their pigs and determine whether management adjustments, such as changes in crate size or pen arrangement, are needed, Brown-Brandl adds. The data could also help producers locate sick animals more quickly.

Read more about this study in the December issue of *AgResearch*.

For more information contact [Sandra Avant](#), ARS Office of Communications.

The [Agricultural Research Service](#) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.

Maryland Crop Production Meetings Planned

Source: **UMD Extension**



University of Maryland Extension has announced dates for this year's crop production meetings that will be conducted around the state between December and March. The most recent research, information and data will be shared at these meetings and will help make 2018 growing decisions for agricultural crops. The meetings are open to all interested in agronomy, forage, vegetables and fruit. Private pesticide applicator and nutrient management credits will be offered. Be sure to call

your local Extension office for further details and to get registered. If you need special accommodations please call one week prior to the event.

Agronomy Meetings

Cecil County Winter Agronomy Meeting

January 24, 2018. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Calvert Grange, Rising Sun, Maryland.
Register by calling the Cecil County UME Office at 410-996-5280 or dbehnke@umd.edu.

Lower Shore Agronomy Day

January 25, 2018. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Somerset Civic Center, Princess Anne, MD
Register at the Wicomico County UME Office at 410-749-6141.

Carroll County Mid-Winter Farm Meeting

February 6, 2018. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, Md.
Register by calling the Carroll County UME Office at 410-386-2760.

Harford County Agronomy Day

February 13, 2018. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Deer Creek Overlook at Harford 4-H Camp
8 Cherry Hill Road, Street MD 21154
Register by calling the Harford County UME Office at 410-638-3255 or emailing akness@umd.edu with your name and phone number.

Caroline County Agronomy Day

February 21, 2018. 4:30 p.m.
Caroline County 4-H Park
8230 Detour Rd, Denton, MD 21629
Register by calling the Caroline County UME Office at 410-479-4030.

Montgomery-Howard-Frederick Agronomy Day

February 28, 2018. 9 a.m. – 2:30p.m.
Urbana Fire Hall
3602 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD 21704
Register by calling the Montgomery County UME Office at 301-590-2809.

Queen Anne's Agronomy Day

March 2, 2018. 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Queen Anne's County 4-H Park
101 Dulin Clark Road, Centreville, MD 21617
Register by calling the Queen Anne's County UME Office at 410-758-0166.

Forage Meetings

Delmarva Hay and Pasture Conference

January 9, 2018. 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Delaware Ag Week. Harrington Delaware

Southern Maryland Forage Conference

January 10, 2018. 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Baden Fire Hall, Baden, Maryland.
Register by calling the St Mary's UME Office at 301-475-4484.

TriState Hay and Pasture Conference

January 11, 2018. 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location TBA
Register by calling the Garrett County UME office at 301-334-6960.

Vegetable Meetings

Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting

Friday, January 26, 2018
Friendly Farms, Foreston Road in Upperco, Maryland
Register by calling UM Extension Baltimore County Office at 410-887-8090 or visit our webpage: <http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-county>

Eastern Shore Vegetable and Fruit Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Eastern Shore Hospital Center, Cambridge MD
Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eastern-shore-vegetable-growers-meeting-2018-tickets-38584279619> or by calling the Dorchester County UME office at 410-228-8800.

Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 2018
Location TBA
Register on-line for this event at: <http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county> or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Fruit Meetings

Western Maryland Fruit Meeting

February 2018. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Western Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedysville MD
Register email sbarnes6@umd.edu or call 301 432-2767 ext.301.

Bay Area Fruit Meeting

February 2018. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown MD
Register call phone: 410-827-8056

Announcements

❖ New MFB Member Benefit

MFB Members save up to 50% on dining, shopping and more on deals in your neighborhood or wherever you go nationwide. Download the free My Deals App on your smartphone or visit the Member Savings Advantage website to register with your Farm Bureau ID and start saving today!



❖ Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis



❖ Howard County Farm-City Committee Scholarship

The mission of the Howard County Farm-City Celebration is to provide opportunities for interaction between urban citizens and farmers in Howard County. This celebration highlights our farm-city interdependence and promotes understanding and appreciation between people on either side of the imaginary boundary separating town from country.

Graduating seniors from any Howard County school (public and private) who plan to pursue a

career in agriculture, animal welfare, or other field benefitting the agricultural community are eligible to apply for a scholarship of up to \$1000. Application is due by **May 31, 2018**.

The Scholarship application is attached (2 Pages)

❖ Check Out USDA's Disaster Resource Center!

With the unfortunate natural disasters occurring around the country, the USDA Disaster Resource Center provides information about specific disasters and emergencies, how to prepare, recover, and help build long-term resilience, as well as information about USDA assistance during disaster events.

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster>

Calendar of Events

2018

JAN 5-10 AFBF ANNUAL CONVENTION

Place Nashville, TN

JAN 9 PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

Place Carroll County Extension Building

TIME 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

JAN 9 PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING & EXAM

Place Anne Arundel County UME

TIME 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

JAN 17 2017 SPRAYER CLINIC - MD & PA PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER TRAINING

Place Carroll County Extension Building

TIME 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

JAN 19 ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY AND RECALL READINESS TRAINING FOR AN ON-FARM MARKET

Place Butler's Orchard

TIME 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

JAN 26 ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY AND RECALL READINESS TRAINING FOR AGRITOURISM OPERATIONS

Place Forest Hall Farm

TIME 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

FEB 6 MID-WINTER FARM MEETING

Place Burns Memorial Hall

TIME 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

FEB 7 MD FARM BUREAU DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Place Calvert House, Annapolis, MD

Time 8:30 a.m.

*Call 410-922-3426 or e-mail

lstorm@mdfarmbureau.com to register

*See Attached Flyer

FEB 21 PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

Place Carroll County Extension Building

TIME 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

FEB 27 PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

Place Baltimore County Extension Building

TIME 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

MAR 6 PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION EXAM

Place Baltimore County Extension Building

TIME 9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, if you need special assistance to participate, please contact the



FARM-CITY®



**HOWARD COUNTY
MARYLAND**

Economic Development Authority

Howard County

Farm-City Committee Scholarship

Mission Statement

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Graduating seniors from any Howard County school (public and private) who plan to pursue a career in agriculture, animal welfare, or other field benefitting the agricultural community are eligible to apply for a scholarship of up to \$1000. Application is due by **May 31, 2018**.

Applicant Data

Name (Last/First/MI): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

High School Information

High School Attended: _____

School Address: _____

Guidance Counselor Name: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Rec'd by:

College Information

College Attending: _____

Address: _____

Course of Study: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Please attach the following for the scholarship:

1. 1000 word essay on how your choice of major will provide you the ability to make a positive impact on the agriculture community in Howard County, Maryland in the future.
2. One letter of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counselor, employer, pastor or mentor.
3. Your current high school transcript.
4. A resume listing your school and community activities, community service projects, awards and work experience.

Deadline for Application is May 31, 2018

Please mail to:

Howard County Economic Development Authority

Attn: Kathy Zimmerman

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500

Columbia, MD 21046



Maryland Farm Bureau's
Day in Annapolis
Sponsored by the MFB Women
& MFB Young Farmers



Wednesday, February 7, 2018

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018, the Young Farmers' and the Women's Leadership Committees will jointly sponsor our annual Day in Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The Day in Annapolis is timed to bring you to the State House at a very critical time during the 90-day session – a time when Committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

The day will begin with a legislative briefing by the MFB Government Relations staff, followed by a chance to sit in on the legislative session. A hot luncheon at the Calvert House will bring together farmers and legislators from across the state as all legislators will be invited to attend. With only a couple of farmer legislatures in the General Assembly, we need now more than ever to educate our representatives on the value of agriculture to this state. This is a great opportunity to talk to the Senators and Delegates from your area and to help folks from the city districts better understand your farming business. With so many new faces and so many significant issues facing our industry your attendance this year is as important as ever!

Please join us for a very valuable day in our state capital. Our goal is to have representation from every county in the state. We look forward to seeing you in Annapolis on February 7, 2018!

Schedule of Events

- 8:15am - Meet in Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle
- 8:30am - Legislative Briefing by MFB Government Relations Staff
- 9:45am - Gather in lobby of the State House to greet legislators or you can visit their offices to meet their staff
- 10:00am - Sit in on Senate or House sessions or make office visits
- 11:45am - Lunch back at the Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle
- 1:00pm - Visit Committee hearings, stop by legislative offices or head back to the car

Parking and Directions On next Page

-----clip & mail-----

Day in Annapolis Registration Form

Deadline – January 30, 2018

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

County Farm Bureau: _____

Registration fee is \$30 per person, which partially covers the cost of the event. Please include the payment with your registration.

If you are registering your entire county delegation, please list a primary contact person with address and the names of the other participants. All confirmation information will be sent to the primary contact.

Please mail or fax your registration to:

Maryland Farm Bureau
 3358 Davidsonville Road
 Davidsonville, MD 21035

Fax: 410-798-4800
 Phone: 410-922-3426

Directions and Parking Information

- Day-In-Annapolis participants can either park in one of the garages downtown for about \$16.00 per day or the Naval Academy Stadium lot for \$5.00. From the stadium, you may take the shuttle to downtown, where it will drop you off at Lawyer's Mall in front of the State House. The shuttle runs about every 15 minutes from 6:30am until 7:00pm.

- Directions to Naval Academy Stadium Parking Lot
 - Take Route 50 to Annapolis
 - Take Exit 24 onto Rowe Blvd towards downtown Annapolis
 - Turn right onto Taylor Avenue just after the Courthouse.
 - The lot is the third entrance on the right.