

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 28, Issue 2 March 2018

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WEBSITE: www.howardfarmbureau.org

Message to Members

By: Howie Feaga, President Howard County
Farm Bureau

We have had a pretty good February so far, I hate to jinx it, but I really believe we are on the downhill side of winter. The days are longer and that helps pick up our spirits. With commodity prices at half of what they were a few years ago, it's good to at least be happy with the weather. This is the time when we are getting ready for spring and it will be here before you know it.

I had the privilege to go to the national convention in Nashville, Tennessee. We were spoken to by our AFBF president Zippy Duval and we also heard from the Secretary of Agriculture, Sunny Perdue. We got to hear the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, and he wants the U.S. to work with them to better our trade policies. It was a really good thing to be part of the historical event of hearing our president, Donald Trump. That hasn't been done for 25 years. He gave one of the best speeches I have ever heard from him, but of course he was talking to the ones that put him there, "Rural America", so he said everything we wanted to hear. I do think he has done more for us than the past president did.

Some of us went to Farm Bureau day in Annapolis and had the opportunity to talk to some of our representatives. I am hoping to see them again at our Legislative Dinner on the 12th of April. Here in Howard County, we had the opportunity to talk to Allen Kittleman, our County Executive, at the Annual Roundtable event at the fairgrounds. We had a lot of questions for him and we all hope he will work on several issues that were brought up to him. The "New Mulch Bill" should be ready to be voted on by next month, I sure will be glad to get that issue behind us.

Well like I always say "keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you"

Your President, Howie Feaga

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Howard County Farm Bureau 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. To apply, students must return the attached application form and write an essay. The essay is to be written on:

"What can we do as Farm Bureau and as farmers to educate our neighbors and the community that we live and grow in about the importance of farms and farm families?"

The winners will receive \$2,000.00 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, 2018

The Scholarships will be awarded at our Legislative Dinner on April 12, 2018.

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 below on Page 10

Maryland Farmers Attend National Farm Bureau Convention in Nashville

By: Katie Ward

Davidsonville, MD (January 11, 2018) -

Over 75 Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) officers, members and staff attended the 2018 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) 99th Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show in Nashville, TN from January 6-10. More than 7,400 Farm Bureau leaders from all 50 states collaborated to vote on national policy, learn about new Ag trends and technologies, compete for Young Farmer & Rancher awards and celebrate agriculture in the U.S.

President Donald Trump addressed Farm Bureau members on Monday and unveiled a major initiative designated to strengthen rural economy. Trump signed two executive orders that fund and streamline the expansion of rural broadband access. In addition to economic development, Trump touched on issues of particular importance to agriculturists such as regulations, labor and trade. He praised farmers for their enduring values. Farmers, Trump said, "embody the values of hard work, grit, self-reliance and sheer determination."



President Donald Trump

United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue highlighted priorities and accomplishments in the new administration and USDA during his address to Farm Bureau members. Perdue spoke about the importance of trade to U.S. agriculture and the priority of successful NAFTA negotiations. He highlighted USDA's newly released Economic

Research Service report that shows 99 percent of American farms are family farms that account for 90 percent of production. "President Trump understands that family farms are small businesses that must turn a profit to provide for their families," said Perdue.

Delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2018 Annual Convention unanimously re-elected AFBF President Zippy Duvall on Tuesday. Resolutions approved by farmer and rancher delegates from across the nation ran the gamut of issues, from trade to regulatory reform, crop insurance, biotechnology and more.

"Today's actions give us a clear roadmap at a time when farmers are on the verge of their fifth consecutive year of shrinking net farm income," Duvall said. "Despite these difficulties, we remain optimistic: Official Washington feels more like a partner than it did just a short time ago. We have real opportunities to make progress in policy that we have not had in the past."

Wade and Shelby Hampton of Prince George's County represented Maryland in the Young Farmers Excellence in Agriculture Award competition. They placed fourth nationally and received a toolbox and gift cards from Case IH.



Wade and Shelby Hampton

Kayla Griffith of Anne Arundel County represented Maryland in the Young Farmers Discussion Meet Competition. The discussion meet topics covered public skepticism of foreign trade for agriculture and how Farm Bureau can assist farmer with regulatory and legal obstacles.



Kayla Griffith and Chris Catterton of Anne Arundel County with Sec. Perdue

Former MFB Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) Chair Jennifer Cross of Prince George's County was elected to a two-year term on the American Farm Bureau WLC representing the Northeast.



Jennifer Cross on AFBF Women's Leadership Committee

Maryland Farm Bureau President Chuck Fry serves on the American Farm Bureau Executive Committee, representing the Northeast. Mr. Fry presented the Distinguished Service Award to Sen. James Inhofe and the Farm Bureau Founders Award to Kenneth Dierschke of Texas Farm Bureau.



MFB President Chuck Fry

Frederick County Farm Bureau and the five Southern Maryland county Farm Bureaus set up exhibit booths in the trade show to display the Creative County Farm Bureau Programs they were recognized for by American Farm Bureau. Frederick County demonstrated their Farm Safety Camp and St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's Counties demonstrated their Wildfire Relief Auction.

The 100th Annual American Farm Bureau Convention & IDEAg Trade Show will be held in New Orleans, LA from January 11-16, 2019.

Howard County Farm Bureau Initiates Ag Education Strategic Planning Process

By: **Barb Glenn**

As progress has been remarkable on our quest to get ag education in **Howard County, President Howie Feaga** called for development of a strategic plan to help guide us. The first meeting was held February 22 and a second meeting is scheduled for March 22 at 7 pm at the offices of the Howard Soil Conservation District. While we are working proactively already, we would like to have a strategic plan finalized by summer so that we can work in partnership with many other organizations so as to strengthen our united voice. Are you interested in participating? We need your input!

Please let Howie (<u>howie@merryacresfarm.com</u>) know if you would like to participate.

Maryland Farm Bureau Ranks Top Policy Priorities for 2018

By: Barb Glenn

President of Maryland Farm Bureau, Chuck

Fry, recently announced the three highest ranking policy priorities for 2018, identified by the 23 counties during the MFB Policy Process. Howard County strongly supports the top three priority issues and year-long strategies for implementation, which are agriculture education, agriculture viability

and state cost share. According to President Fry in the Winter 2018 edition of the Chesapeake Bay Farm & Food newsletter,

"MFB will focus on providing more support to agriculture education programs and initiating these programs in high schools in all 23 counties. We will advocate for on-farm field trips at the elementary level, increased funding for Ag education teachers in the summer and making Maryland an FFA affiliate state."

Members of MFB board of directors discussed all three priorities with **Governor Hogan** in the State House in Annapolis in January, 2018.

Update on the Ag Science Advisory Board

By: Barb Glenn

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Agriculture Science Advisory Board is actively engaged in preparing for the first semester of agriculture sciences curriculum to be offered in September 2018 at the Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL).

We are well represented on the Board which includes Howie Feaga, Danielle Bauer, Keith Ohlinger, and Barb Glenn. Mr. Joe Dymek, Maryland Ag Education Foundation (MAEF) president, and chair of the Advisory Board provided us an update recently.

The Agricultural Science program was recently represented at three information programs sponsored by the ARL. There was a lot of interest, especially among middle school students. Several high school students also stated that they would be enrolling in the program. Joe has reported recently that there are 19 students signed up.

Mr. Dymek and Ellie Feaga also participated in a Professional Development day program for middle and high school counselors and Career Technology Education teachers. These are the folks who can

really sell the program if they are aware of the opportunities available to students interested in agriculture.

This board appreciates any and all support of the Agricultural Science Program in making sure the students in Howard County have the opportunity to finally enroll in an Agricultural Science program! If you want more information, please contact Joe, joejdymek@gmail.com.

Ag Education Teacher Wanted!

By: Barb Glenn

If you know someone who would like to be the first Howard County ag teacher, please have them apply as soon as possible!

The Agricultural Science Academy Teacher position has been posted by HCPSS and is open for applications. If you have any questions about the application process, please don't hesitate to reach out to Sandy Saval, Human Resources Specialist, Office of Human Resources, HCPSS, 410-313-6689,

http://www.hcpss.org/employment/

They are screening applications as they are submitted and completed. You may start and submit an online application here:

https://www.applitrack.com/hcpss/onlineapp

Please be sure to select Job ID 2427 under Vacancies.



Ag Education Bill Introduced in 2018 Maryland Legislature – We Support!

By: Barb Glenn

Keith Ohlinger reports that there has been a new and improved Ag Education Bill introduced by members of the 2018 Maryland legislature. House Bill 870 has been introduced by Delegates Shoemaker, Ghrist, Luedtke, Patterson, Rose, and Tarlau. According to Parker Welch, Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB), MFB was a driving force behind introduction of the bill and MFB strongly supports this bill.

http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&tab=subject3&id=hb0870&stab=01&vs=2018RS

HB 870 amends the bill from 2016, by adding specific emphasis "IN ADDITION TO IMPLEMENTING AN AGRICULTURE SCIENCE CURRICULUM, EACH COUNTY BOARD IS ENCOURAGED TO IMPLEMENT AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT PREPARES STUDENTS...(emphasis added)"

Therefore HB 870 encourages each local board of education to implement an agricultural education program that prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices related to specified topics and a wide range of opportunities in agriculture-related employment and higher education by providing instruction and developing skills in science, math, technology, communications, leadership, and management through integrated classroom and laboratory instruction, supervised agricultural experiences, and leadership experiences and involvement in student organizations. The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.

For more information contact MFB Colby Ferguson, <u>cferguson@mdfarmbureau.com</u>, or HCFB Keith Ohlinger, <u>kohlinger05@verizon.net</u>.

Farmers May Apply Commercial Fertilizer to Small Grains Beginning February 25

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture



Published on: Feb. 21, 2018

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Feb. 20, 2018) - 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 25, 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. This measurement, known as Growing Degree Units, is used to determine when small grains will benefit from spring nitrogen applications. According to data collected by University researchers, commercial fertilizer may be safely applied to small grains beginning February 25. At this time, these plants will have absorbed all available nutrients in the soil and will require additional nutrients to keep growing. "The winter of 2017-2018 has been interesting," said Dr. Robert Kratochvil, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Maryland. "Through January, it was colder than normal resulting in a slow accumulation of Growing Degree Units. The first couple weeks of February were warmer and the number of Growing Degree Units increased. A further assessment conducted on February 16 combined with the extended forecast indicated that small grains would benefit from the first application of spring nitrogen on February 25." The University recommends split applications of spring nitrogen with the first application occurring

on or soon after February 25 based on Growing Degree Units 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.

Farm Bureau Calls for Clarity on Exemptions for Agricultural Haulers

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

February 23, 2018

While again urging the Department of Transportation to grant agricultural haulers a waiver and limited exemption from the electronic logging device mandate, Farm Bureau in recent comments responded to the department's efforts to provide clarity to the 150-air mile agricultural commodity exemption and the hours of service regulations.

Until recently, very few Farm Bureau members or agricultural haulers were aware of their ability to use the newly interpreted 150-air mile agricultural commodity exemption, which provides exceptions from the HOS rules for the transportation of agricultural commodities within a 150-air mile radius from the source of the commodities. Enforcement officials, too, likely have very little knowledge about this exemption. This lack of awareness, combined with the unforgiving realities of ELD technology, makes the need for clarity all the more pressing, Farm Bureau emphasized.

In terms of what products are categorized as agriculture commodities, all nonprocessed food, feed, fiber, livestock and nursery and greenhouse crops qualify, according to Farm Bureau.

Agricultural commodity "sources" are farms, ranches and other locations where agricultural commodities are loaded for transport, including livestock markets and grain elevators.

"Animals are unpredictable at livestock markets. Just like at a ranch, they can balk at the loading chute, be uncooperative, and need to be loaded carefully in accordance with appropriate animal husbandry techniques. All of this coupled with oftentimes long post-sale or load-out lines makes applying the flexibility afforded to a 'source' of livestock to livestock markets or agricultural commodity at a grain elevator a logical conclusion," Farm Bureau said.

Had congressional lawmakers wanted to exclude grain elevators or livestock markets from the definition of an agricultural commodity source, they could have easily done so, the group noted.

Farm Bureau is also urging the department to expand its interpretation of the 150-air mile exemption. Current informal Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration guidance limits a driver's use of the exemption to once per trip. However, the concept of such a "trip" is not defined in either the statute or the related regulation, so limiting the exemption only to the first "source" of any given "trip" is a narrower interpretation than the statute calls for.

"Such an interpretation also opens the use of the exemption to additional confusion in situations where some agricultural commodities or livestock are unloaded and others are picked up and calls for further subjective interpretation as to when a 'trip' is started and concluded," according to Farm Bureau.

In a similar vein, the organization challenged proposed guidance that indicates once the hours of service rules have begun to apply on a given trip, they continue to apply until the driver crosses back into the area within 150 air-miles of the original source of the commodities and is returning to that source.

According to Farm Bureau, the law clearly indicates that each farm, ranch, grain elevator, livestock market or other location where an agricultural commodity is loaded for shipment is a "source" of an agricultural commodity and, as such, each act of "transporting agricultural commodities from the source" is entitled to the 150-air mile radius exemption described in the applicable regulation.

In addition, time spent operating unladen vehicles traveling to or from the source of an agricultural commodity should be considered exempt time, as the proposed guidance states.

As Farm Bureau continues to encourage the administration to give agricultural haulers relief from the ELD mandate, the organization is also working with Capitol Hill lawmakers on a legislative solution to the ELD mandate and HOS challenges.

https://www.fb.org/news/farm-bureau-calls-forclarity-on-exemptions-for-agricultural-haulers

USDA Helps Dairy and Beef Industries Reach More Domestic and Global Markets

Source: USDA, Release No. 024-18



WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 2018 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today made two announcements about its Animal Welfare Assessment Program (AWAP), which offers an independent assessment for industry animal welfare standards and programs. AWAP is a voluntary service for industry organizations that evaluates animal welfare standards for conformance with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Specification (TS) 34700 – Animal Welfare Assessment Program. The AWAP offers organizations a way to reach new customers by meeting international animal welfare standards.

First, AMS has determined that the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program meets the requirements of the TS 34700.

"This is the first livestock animal care program approved by AMS under the assessment program

which establishes a strong framework for industry animal welfare standards and programs to be verified that they are rooted in science and can be widely accepted," said Greg Ibach, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

The National Dairy FARM Program comprises dairy farmers, cooperatives and processors across the United States. The National Milk Producers Federation, with support from Dairy Management, Inc., created the National Dairy FARM Program to ensure that farmers demonstrate a commitment to quality farm management practices and safe, wholesome dairy products.

AMS also announced it has finalized the Beef Cattle Production Systems Checklist, which is now available on the agency's website, allowing organizations with beef animal welfare programs to be assessed. AMS will continue to work with interested industry partners to develop checklists for other species with established World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) animal welfare chapters.

Interested organizations can review <u>USDA ISO TS</u> 34700 Animal Welfare Assessment Program. For more information on the program can visit the AMS website:

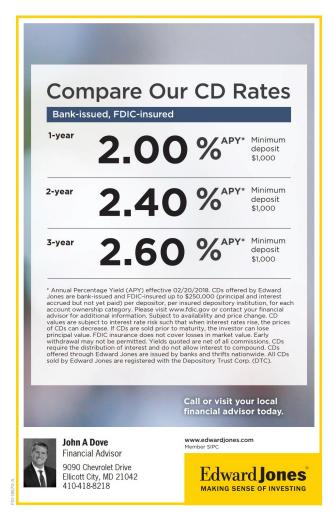
www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/awap. For questions, please contact Jeffrey Waite, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture by email at Jeffrey.Waite@ams.usda.gov or by phone at (202) 720-4411.

https://www.ams.usda.gov/press-release/usda-helps-dairy-and-beef-industries-reach-more-domestic-and-global-markets

Announcements

* Howard County's own, John Dove ~Financial Advisor with Edward Jones~

~Check out the CD Rates with Edward Jones



***** CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET

Come Share your Ideas and Concerns for Western Howard County

Come out and enjoy some light refreshments and meet some of the Democratic candidates running for office. Share your ideas and concerns!

See the attached Flyer below on Pg. 11

❖ Howard County Farm-City Committee Scholarship (Pg. 12-13)

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)

❖ Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held <u>Thursday</u>, <u>April 12, 2018</u>, 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 \$18.00 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 mail in your reservation 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 12. (The Reservation form is attached on Page 14)

Calendar of Events

2018

MAR 6 PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION EXAM

Place Baltimore County Extension Building

Time 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

MAR 6 PRIVATE APPLICATOR AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECERTIFICATION

Place Talbot County Agricultural Center

Time 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

MAR 15 CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET

Place Lisbon Fire Hall

1339 Woodbine Road Woodbine, MD 21797

TIME 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

MAR 17 SPRING EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

Time 9:00 a.m.

HTTP://HOWARDCOUNTYFAIR.COM/CALENDAR

MAR 29 4-H DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Place Annapolis, MD

TIME 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

APR 1 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

See Application below on the next page

APR 12 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 16 UPDATE YOUR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Place Frederick County UME Office

Time 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MAY 6 JUNIOR SHEEP & GOAT SKILLATHON

Place MD Sheep & Wool Festival

Time 9:00 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 Application Deadline April 1, 2017

Name:					
Home Address:					
City:	Chahar	7:			
Telephone:	State:	Zip:			
Date of Birth:	Paren				
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:		

CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET Come Share your Ideas and Concerns For Western Howard County

Lisbon Fire Hall 1339 Woodbine Road Woodbine, MD 21797

Thursday, March 15, 7 to 9 p.m.



Calvin Ball, Ph.D.
Candidate for Howard County
Executive

Come out and enjoy some light refreshments and meet some of the Democratic candidates running for office. Share your ideas and concerns!



Katie Fry Hester Candidate for Maryland

State Senate, District 9



Natalie Ziegler
Candidate for House of

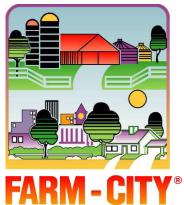
Delegates, District 9A



China Williams
Candidate for Howard

County Council, District 5

Sponsored by Friends of Natalie Ziegler, John Zirschky, Treasurer





Howard County Farm-City Committee Scholarship

Mission Statement

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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 O	FFICE USE O	NLY	

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

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

PO BOX 282 GLENELG, MD 21737 410-531-6261

www.howardfarmbureau.org

Dear Farm Bureau Members,

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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 12.

Sincerely,

Howie Feaga

Howie Feaga President 443-472-6264

Please reserve tickets at \$18.00 each for the Legislative Banquet on April 12. Enclosed is my check made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau					
Enclosed is my check made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau					
NAME	PHONE				