

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 27, Issue 3 May 2017

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WEBSITE: www.howardfarmbureau.org

Message to Members

By: Howie Feaga, President Howard County
Farm Bureau

The warmth is here and we are all hard at work now. Fields to fertilize and prepare for planting, cattle out on pastures and calves being turned out for the first time in their lives. These are the things that we live for. Before you know it, we will be making hay and corn will be knee high and as dark green as anyone can imagine. I hope everyone will be careful and watch closely to what you are doing, so all goes well.

It was great to see everyone at the Legislative Dinner. We had more elected Legislators this year than I have seen here in a long time. We all had a good time and a great meal with all our friends. I can tell everyone had a good time because when it was over everyone stayed and talked for a while afterwards. We also gave the checks from the "Christmas Parade" to the "Ho. Co. Food Bank", the "Carroll Co. Food Bank" as well as the 'Lisbon Fire Department" and the "Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry". We divided up \$13,000.00, so thanks to everyone's generosity last December. We also gave Rachel King and Mark Chaney each a \$2000.00 scholarship. The "Friend of the Farmers" award went to Richard Goldman, he was the cochairman at the mulch task force with Zack Brendel. They did a great job and Richard was a great person to win the award. Congratulations to all of our recipients.

I want to give a special thanks to our Secretary Leslie Bauer and Treasure Kerry Brendel. I forgot to publicly thank them for all the work that they both put into the Christmas Parade. They take care of insurance certificates and handle all of the money as well as taking care of all the other Farm Bureau business throughout the year. Thanks again!!!

We have the "Mulch" issue about to be resurrected in the coming months, I am hoping that it will be settled once and for all, even if it's not what we want, we need it to end. So 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 Contests - Are YOU Interested this Year in Participating?

Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Howard County Future Farmer



~Contests are sponsored by the Howard County Farm Bureau Women and will be held on Sunday, August 6th, 2017 during the Howard County Fair.

- Contestants will participate in pre-contest learning day, including county farm tours.
- Contests will be held on Sunday, August 6th at the Howard County Fair.
- Contestants will ride in the Opening Day Parade.
- Cash awards to all contestants.
- Family must be a member of, or join, the Howard County Farm Bureau.
- Fun and rewarding for all participants.
- Must carry agricultural-related 4-H project.
- Must be age-eligible to participate:

<u>Little Miss & Future Farmer Contests</u>: 8 to 11 years of age as of August 1st.

<u>Miss Contest</u>: 16 to 19 years of age as of State Fair Contest.

- Miss Howard County Farm Bureau stage portion of contest is held 3:00 pm in the Show Pavilion.
- Future Howard County Farmer and Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau presented during intermission of Miss Contest in Show Pavilion.
 Age-eligible contestants who belong to the Howard County 4-H Program will receive detailed information regarding these contests in early June.

Are YOU interested? Do you know someone who might be interested?

• Please call or email either:

Danielle Bauer at (443) 812-4526 danib3492@yahoo.com

OR

Jen Poston at (443) 864-7766 <u>iposton1@gmail.com</u> for Future Farmer or Little Miss Contest.

NRCS CONSERVATION CLIENT GATEWAY

By: James Myers

Conservation Client Gateway is an NRCS website that is set up to provide more convenient access to work with NRCS. Through the Client Gateway, a farmer or landowner can request technical assistance, apply for the Farm Bill financial assistance programs, review and sign conservation plans, document completed practices, and track contract progress.

Instead of driving to the field office many times, or the NRCS employee driving many times to the farm, the system allows one to interact with NRCS from any place, any time. So, employing this technology with its 24/7 service provides savings all around and should improve service, especially to those who may work part time off the farm. In addition, there can be increased opportunities to keep abreast of information during the busy planting and harvest seasons when there is little time to escape the field. The use of this technology also enables one to share photographs of completed practices and ask questions when one is thinking about them.

Using Client Gateway is NOT required. It is another option offering convenience to you, the farmer and producer. You may still call or visit the local office. Staff are still available to assist and answer your questions.

For anyone interested in the Conservation Client Gateway, step by step instructions for getting started are available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/clentgateway. If you need additional help, assistance is available by calling 970-

372-4200.

Featured Farmer: The Bandel Family

By: Mandy Ackman

The Featured Farmer is a new column that will highlight a different Howard County Farm Family's history in each Newsletter Issue. I believe it is important in any community to get to know one another and pass on the history of our farms and farm families. As we all know, Howard County today is not what it once was. It has become a struggle for Farmers to hold onto their land and make a living with the growing development around them. It is important for the younger generations to know how important the Agricultural community is, and to learn the history of our local farms.

As the first "Featured Farmer" article, I felt it should begin with the previous editor of the Howard County Farm Bureau Newsletter, Mr. Allan Bandel. When I first came on as the editor, Allan educated me with his stories throughout the Newsletters over the years. I believe I can speak for not only myself, but the rest of the HCFB Board members, that we really enjoy reading Allan's stories! It is an honor to ask him for a story about his family and share it with the community. Thank you Allan!

A Typical 20th Century Howard County Farm Family

By: Allan Bandel

Vernon Marcellus Bandel and Ina Mae Slagle Bandel were born and raised on farms in Howard County. But Howard County at the turn of the century was a much different place compared to the Howard County that we know today. Most of us now living were not even born in 1909 when Vernon and Ina were born into this world, only a couple of weeks apart. For a more realistic perspective, perhaps we should take a brief view of some of the living conditions that were considered normal for them at the time.

The young couple was married on March 16, 1935. Since then, many important changes have taken place in Howard County. When Vernon and Ina

were youngsters in rural Howard County during the early 1900's, many conveniences and services that we now take for granted simply did not exist or were only dreamed about.

Automobiles were a rarity as were the paved roads to drive on. Very few residents enjoyed electricity in their homes. Radio was a novelty. TV was only a "Buck Rogers" concept and still years in the future. Very few homes could boast indoor plumbing. During their long and productive lives, Vernon and Ina witnessed many profound changes in the ways that people lived, worked and played.

Even though, they lived only 10 or 15 miles apart, until they met finally in the early 1930's, Vernon and Ina did not know one another before then. Ina Mae Slagle was born April 25, 1909 on the family farm near Daisy in western Howard County. For most of her grade school years, Ina and her younger brother walked the 1½ miles from the Slagle farm to the one-room Daisy schoolhouse. The school had no indoor plumbing and was heated by a potbellied stove tended by the students themselves. Sanitary facilities consisted of two outhouses behind the school: one for the girls and the other one for the boys.

After finishing grade school, Ina transferred to the Lisbon High School. There were no school buses back then as we know them today. To make the daily round trip to school, Ina drove a horse and buggy from the family farm to Lisbon and back. The horse (named Harry) was stabled during the day in a small barn behind her Uncle's house at the west end of Lisbon.

Upon graduation from Lisbon High School in 1926, Ina enrolled in a two-year teacher-training program at what is now Towson University. Her schooling was temporarily interrupted when her mother passed away unexpectedly on February 10, 1927. With her Dad and her younger brother living alone in a new house in Lisbon, she traveled home on weekends to prepare food for them for the following week.

Although Ina completed the required two years of college at Towson, in the fall of 1929, she decided that she did not want to be a teacher. So, she accepted a bookkeeping job with the Baltimore Gas

and Electric Company in downtown Baltimore. She remained at BG&E until March 14, 1935, just two days before her wedding to Vernon M. Bandel.

Vernon Bandel was born April 9, 1909 at the family farm on Triadelphia Road about 2½ miles west of U.S. Route 40, the Baltimore National Pike (now MD 144). As a child, he traveled on foot for the three-mile daily round trip to the nearby one-room Woodland Grade School in rural Glenelg.

On many warm summer Saturday evenings, if not walking, he looked forward to riding in his family's horse drawn buggy to nearby Glenelg Manor on Folly Quarter Road where the owners, Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Lowndes, often set up a commercial movie projector on their neatly manicured lawn and offered free showings of first-run silent films for their friends and neighbors. Moving pictures (or movies) had become quite a popular novelty back in the 1920's.

Vernon graduated from the "old" Clarksville High School in 1926 and attended Strayer's Business School in Baltimore City for one year. Walking, or hitching a ride, three miles from the Bandel farm to Rt. 40, he met a Blue Ridge Line Bus for the daily commute into Baltimore. Fare for the round-trip transportation was about \$3.00 per week.

For several months, Dad worked as the bookkeeper for a general store and Ford dealership in West Friendship. Afterwards, he continued his lifelong farming ambition, ultimately becoming a successful dairy farmer. Before his return to the farm though, he managed to persuade his former boss to sell him, at a good discount, a brand-new Ford Model A coupe for just \$585. He now had proper transportation to court his future wife.

Following their wedding on March 16, 1935, Vernon and Ina set up housekeeping on the Bandel family farm. To generate additional income to help support his new wife, Vernon expanded his previously established market route in which he visited many of the more affluent Catonsville homes. He supplied their kitchens with farm products such as fresh (raw) milk, cream, butter, eggs, dressed poultry, vegetables, apples, pears, cherries, etc., all items from his farm. But, it wasn't

long before the State Health Department required that he stopped selling raw (unpasteurized) milk.

This business kept Vernon and Ina very busy cultivating the garden and orchard, milking cows and tending chickens. They were so busy in fact that even while on their honeymoon trip to Atlantic City, NJ, Vernon informed his new bride that they really had to cut their trip short and hurry home to make preparations for the arrival of 1,000 baby chicks that he had ordered and were due to arrive in a few days.

Eventually, most of the income on the Bandel farm was generated by the dairy herd which was carefully managed by Vernon. This income was supplemented by eggs produced by a breeding flock of chickens tended by Ina. For many years, eggs from the breeding flock were contracted by a nearby hatchery. Ina found a ready market for her surplus eggs when neighbors came to her regularly to purchase fresh eggs.

In addition to their many church-related activities, throughout their long careers in agriculture, Vernon and Ina were also active in organizations such as the Patapsco Grange No. 403, the Howard Soil Conservation District, and the Howard County Farm Bureau.

During World War II, Vernon was a member of Company 769 of the Maryland Minutemen. At the end of World War II, this group, having been trained as fire fighters, reorganized as the West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department. Vernon and Ina were both very active in 4-H Club work in their youth. Their 4-H experiences had a substantial influence upon their future lives. In 1934, Vernon was honored with induction into the Maryland 4-H All Stars.

Those were tough years when Vernon and Ina Bandel were striking out on their own. Among other obstacles, they had to deal with the lingering effects of the Great Depression. Then, there were the stressful war years. World War I was still a fresh memory for some when World War II broke out followed by Korea, then Vietnam, etc. etc.

But Vernon and Ina were a team, a good successful team. They both maintained positive outlooks. They knew what to do in a crisis, and importantly, how to endure. They both lived good lives, and long lives. Vernon and Ina were well-liked and highly respected by the agricultural community. They raised two sons (Allan and Donald) and built a very successful dairy farming operation. The farming enterprise was primarily involved with dairying, general cropping (wheat, barley, hay, etc.), chickens and egg production.

There are a number of special attributes that I will always remember about my Dad, Vernon Bandel. Near the top of that list would be his quick wit and his keen sense of humor. By way of greeting, if you should have posed the following question to him, "How are you doing today, Vernon?", his lighthearted and wise response would most likely have been something like, "How should I know? I've never been this old before."

Vernon and Ina Bandel were happily married for 65 years. Sadly, Vernon passed away on October 15, 2000 at the age of 91½, near the very beginning of the 21st Century. Just 1½ years later, on May 20, 2002, Ina joined her husband, passing away at the age of 93.

MFB Press Release:

Every day is Agriculture Day in Maryland

By: Chuck Fry, President, Maryland Farm Bureau Source: Maryland Farm Bureau



Maryland Farm Bureau is celebrating the <u>44th</u> <u>Annual National Agriculture Day</u> today, March 21. Governor Larry Hogan also declared March 19-25 as "Maryland Agriculture Week." However, we believe every day is Agriculture Day in Maryland because agriculture is our number one industry in the state.

Many refer to Maryland as "America in miniature" because we have all four distinct seasons and a diverse landscape of mountains, flatland, beaches, rivers, lakes and bays. Maryland also represents America because our farmers produce almost every commodity in the agricultural industry, from dairy, pigs and grain to fruits, vegetables and poultry.

In most of Western Maryland, you will see dairy, forestry and beef cattle on farms. In most of Central/Southern Maryland, you will see fruits and vegetables, horses, vineyards and grain crops on farms. And on most of the Eastern Shore, you will see poultry, corn and soybeans on farms. But the unique part about Maryland agriculture is that you can see any of these commodities grown and produced in any part of the state.

Most Maryland farmers consider agriculture their life's calling. They are dedicated to producing food that is safe, nutritious and affordable. They take great pride in knowing that consumers can go to their local grocery store or restaurant and purchase food that is safe and wholesome for their family. Today, 99 percent of all U.S. farms are owned by families, family partnerships or family corporations. Farming is family. That is part of the reason why farmers take deep pride and care in the way they manage their farms.

We are proud to not only produce the food, fuel and fiber for our local communities and the world, but to also be the best stewards of the land and environment. Maryland farmers implement Nutrient Management Plans on our operations to protect the soil, air and Chesapeake Bay, plant cover crops to absorb unused plant nutrients, and use buffer strips to stop water flow off of a field. Careful stewardship by America's food producers spurred a nearly 50 percent decline in soil erosion on cropland by wind and water since 1982. Through modern conservation and tillage practices, farmers are reducing the loss of soil through erosion, which protects rivers, lakes and bays.

As President of Maryland Farm Bureau, I am proud to represent an organization that promotes and protects ALL types of agriculture and rural life in Maryland. All commodities, all farm sizes and all production methods. I challenge you to visit a local

farm this spring and celebrate National Agriculture Day, no matter what day it is, because agriculture is celebrated in Maryland 365 days a year.

Charles E. Fry Maryland Farm Bureau President

Website:

https://mfbb.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/in d/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9NTk5Nzk3MCZzdWJzY3J pYmVyaWQ9QDQyQDg5NTAx

USDA Press Release:

Perdue Joins White House "Farmers Roundtable" as President Trump Issues Executive Order on Agriculture

Source: USDA, Press Release No. 0030.17



Source: USDA.gov

(Washington, D.C., April 25, 2017) - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today joined President Trump for a "Farmers Roundtable" at the White House to address issues facing the American agriculture community, as the president signed an Executive Order establishing an Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. The roundtable discussion allowed representatives from all corners of American agriculture to raise concerns and share ideas, just as the task force begins its mission "to promote economic development and revitalization, job growth, infrastructure, innovation, and quality of life issues for rural America," according to the president's order. The session capped a busy first day in office for Perdue, who

was sworn in by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Clarence Thomas as the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture before greeting employees at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and travelling to the White House for the roundtable.

"The people who are on the front lines of American agriculture don't have the luxury of waiting to tend to their crops and livestock, so there was no better time to convene this meeting of the minds than on my first day," Perdue said. "President Trump has made it clear that addressing the needs of rural America will be a top priority, and the message that we want to send to the agriculture community is that we are here, we are working hard, and we are on their side."

Farmers Roundtable

The Farmers Roundtable featured more than a dozen farmers and representatives of the agriculture community who discussed with President Trump and Secretary Perdue a variety of topics, including agricultural trade, regulatory reform, rural investment and infrastructure, labor issues, and the Farm Bill.

Participants in the roundtable included:

- Lisa Johnson-Billy, farmer and former Oklahoma House member, Lindsay, OK
- Luke Brubaker, Brubaker Farms, Mount Joy, PA
- Hank Choate, Choate's Belly Acres, Cement City, MI
- Tom Demaline, Willoway Nurseries, Avon, OH
- Zippy Duval, President of American Farm Bureau Federation and a farmer from Greensboro, GA
- Valerie Early, National FFA Central Region Vice President and former 4-H member, Wykoff, MN
- Lynetta Usher Griner, Usher Land and Timber, Inc., Fanning Springs, FL (also farms in the state of KS)
- A.G. Kawamura, Orange County Produce, Newport Beach, CA
- James Lamb, Lamb Farms and Prestage Farms, Clinton, NC

- Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and farmer, Spirit Lake, IA
- Jose Rojas, VP of Farm Operations for Hormel, Colorado Springs, CO
- Terry Swanson, Swanson Farms, Walsh, CO
- Maureen Torrey, Torrey Farms, Elba, NY
- Steve Troxler, NC Commissioner of Agriculture and farmer, Browns Summit, NC

"The Farmers Roundtable provided the chance for the President to hear directly from the people on the front lines of American agriculture about what they are dealing with every day," Secretary Perdue said. "By hosting this discussion, the president has demonstrated his awareness of the plight of American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, his intention to seek input, and his determination to help."

President Trump's Executive Order

President Trump's Executive Order established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity "to ensure the informed exercise of regulatory authority that impacts a griculture and rural communities." As Secretary of Agriculture, Perdue will serve as the task force's chairman.

"It is in the national interest to promote American agriculture while protecting and supporting the rural communities where food, forestry, fiber, and renewable fuels are grown," the text of the Executive Order reads. "It is further in the national interest to ensure that regulatory burdens do not unnecessarily encumber agricultural production, constrain economic growth, hamper job creation, or increase the cost of food for Americans and our customers around the world."

The task force will examine and consider, among other issues, current barriers to economic prosperity in rural America and how innovation and technology may play a role in long-term, sustainable rural development. The panel will attempt to strengthen federalism by working with state agencies charged with implementing economic development, agricultural, and environmental programs, while also emphasizing regulatory flexibility for farms and small businesses. With a

dependence on sound science, task force members will examine crop protection tools used by farmers and also address concerns regarding labor needed for livestock and year-round agricultural jobs. Additionally, the group will focus on tax policies that allow family farms to remain intact, while also protecting against federal takeover of state-adjudicated water rights, permitting and licensing, and conservation requirements beyond what is provided in law. Finally, members will look to improve food safety and the implementation of food safety laws, but also recognize the unique nature of farming and the diverse business structures of farms.

"It used to be that people in agriculture feared disease and drought as the greatest threats to their livelihoods and their mission of feeding America and the world," Perdue said. "While those hazards remain, too often now it is the government – through interference and regulation – that poses the most existential threat to American farming. We aim to put a stop to that."

The task force will seek input from stakeholders in the agricultural community and is required to issue a report with recommendations for legislative or administrative actions within 180 days. The task force will consist of representatives from the following cabinet agencies and executive branch departments:

- Secretary of the Treasury;
- Secretary of Defense;
- Attorney General;
- Secretary of the Interior;
- Secretary of Commerce;
- Secretary of Labor;
- Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- Secretary of Transportation;
- Secretary of Energy;
- Secretary of Education;
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission:
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

- Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy;
- Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers;
- Director of the Domestic Policy Council;
- Director of the National Economic Council;
- Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- United States Trade Representative;
- Director of the National Science Foundation; and
- Heads of such other executive departments, agencies, and offices as the President or the Secretary of Agriculture may, from time to time, designate.

Sonny Perdue, the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, came by his knowledge of agriculture the old fashioned way: he was born into a farming family in Bonaire, Georgia. From childhood, and through his life in business and elected office. Perdue has experienced the industry from every possible perspective. Under Secretary Perdue, the USDA is facts-based and data-driven, with a decision-making mindset that is customer-focused. As the former governor of Georgia, he is a strong believer in good government who will seek solutions to problems and not lament that the agency might be faced with difficult challenges. His four guiding principles are clear: to maximize the ability of American agriculture to create jobs, sell foods and fiber, and feed and clothe the world; to prioritize customer service for the taxpayers; to ensure that our food supply is safe and secure; and to maintain good stewardship of the natural resources that provide us with our miraculous bounty. And understanding that we live in a global economy where trade is of top importance, Secretary Perdue has pledged to be an unapologetic advocate for American agriculture.

Press Release Website: https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2017/04/25/perdue-joins-white-house-farmers-roundtable-president-trump-issues

Growing With Grains - Food From Our Farms:

By: Jessica Flores
Source: University of MD Extension



Sowing Seeds of Farm Knowledge with UME Image Credit: Jessica Flores

April 20, 2017-

Many children today do not have the opportunity to be involved with growing food for their family. With the Growing with Grains – Food from our Farms program, kindergarten students at Willards Elementary School were able to gain hands-on learning about different types of grains, vegetables, soil types, and varieties of seeds as well as how food makes it way to the grocery store, and how important farmers are.

Understanding the relationship of how and where food and fiber is produced as part of the community food supply is often a lesson not included in many elementary schools. During this three day program, University of Maryland Extension Ag Educator, Jessica Flores taught the entire kindergarten grade at Willards Elementary School, allowing them to have an opportunity to discover what role farmers play in growing the many grains and vegetables students often see growing in the fields as they ride to and from school on the bus.

Each day included a hands on activity about seeds, what resources are needed for all plants to grow, learning what role soils play, how farmers protect the lands, water conservation on farms, and what grains and vegetables look like before they are taken from a raw product to be prepared for the grocery stores. Many kindergarteners where amazed at the many types of grain seeds there are. They learned that some vegetables grow underground – such as

potatoes and carrots. The most popular seed of the week were the tiny carrot seeds!

These enthusiastic kindergarteners finished their program on the final day by learning how they could become farmers at home. Students were allowed to pick five seeds they had learned about throughout the week and plant a "garden in a glove" to take home, giving them an opportunity to share with family their new found learning and excitement about how food comes from farms.

Website: http://extension.umd.edu/news/growing-grains-food-our-farms

"University of Maryland Seeks New Strategic Plan for the College of Ag and Natural Resources"

By: Barb Glenn

Have you shared your input for the future of agriculture at the University of Maryland? Dean Beyrouty at the University of Maryland (UMD) College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (AGNR) needs our input.

The College is conducting a state-wide strategic visioning process, a comprehensive project designed to identify trends and issues affecting our society, state, and industries. He stated that it is important that AGNR consider our voice. It's not too late to submit comments to Dale Johnson, Farm Management Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, Keedysville, dmj@umd.edu. Also, four listening sessions were held over the past two months throughout the state.

The Ag College is a critical asset for Howard County farmers, due to the research, extension and education provided to the state. But there is always room for improvement. In January Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) passed policy supporting the College and the needs to enhance extension and support the Ag education major in the College.

Also in January, MFB approved formation of a University of Maryland/Extension Committee and that group was invited to provide comments. The Committee is chaired by Jamie Raley, Chair (jkraley@valentinesdelightfarms.com). Barb Glenn (barb@nasda.org) represents Howard County.

The best way for us to see our suggestions implemented will be to proactively support the College to the state legislature, the Howard County Executive and Council and the public.

We owe it to the young people who want to attend University of Maryland and be our future leaders in Agriculture.

Announcements

Howard County Farm Bureau Farm to Table Dinner

Join us for an elegant four course diner made from locally grown ingredients prepared by four local chefs. The meal will be accompanied by beer from Manor Hill Brewing and wine from Elk Run Winery.

Tuesday October 3rd, 2017 6:00 PM Circle D Farm 15535 Carrs Mill Road

Ticket sales will begin June 1st Tickets: \$80

www.howardfarmbureau.org

*Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship Winners

On April 13th at the Legislative Dinner, the winners for the 2017 HCFB Scholarship were announced.

The 17-19 winner was Rachel King, a freshman at Towson University. Congratulations Rachel!

The 14-16 winner was Mark Chaney, a junior at Linganore High School. Congratulations Mark!

Howard County Fair - 72nd Annual

The 72^{nd} Annual Howard County Fair will be August $5^{th} - 12^{th}$, 2017.

The Fair will be open from 8:00 am – 11 pm Admission: \$5 (10 years old & up) \$2 (Seniors, 62 & up) Children under 10 FREE

> For attractions and more details visit: http://howardcountyfair.org/

★ Maryland Farm Bureau News – MD Farm Bureau Gives Back on Ag Day

~Donates to the AFBF Foundation and Midwest wildfire relief funds~

Davidsonville, MD (March 22, 2017) – In honor of National Agriculture Day on March 21, the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Board of Directors voted to make contributions to the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) and to Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas Farm Bureaus for wildfire relief.

"The Foundation is a crucial tool for Farm Bureau and United States agriculture," said Chuck Fry, President of Maryland Farm Bureau. "Our Board supports the Foundation each year because we find value in its resources for our industry, which is often misunderstood."

Visit the AFBFA website to check out the resources and make a donation:

http://www.agfoundation.org/about/donate

In the wake of devastating fires throughout the Midwest earlier this month, many homes, barns, fences, livestock and most importantly lives have been lost. More than 2 million acres of land were burned across the region, causing millions of dollars of damage. Many county Farm Bureaus in Maryland are also making contributions to the Midwest for wildfire relief through auctions and fundraising events this spring.

Visit the following Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas Farm Bureau webpages to make a donation and assist the Midwest farmers and ranchers in wildfire relief:

https://www.kfb.org/Article/Kansas-wildfire-relief

http://okfarmbureau.org/index.php?action=news.newsdetail&rowid=866

http://texasfarmbureau.org/panhandle-wildfire-relieffund/

Calendar of Events

2017

MAY 6-7 MD SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD

Time 8 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MAY 11 LEAD MARYLAND FOUNDATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Place Maryland Farm Bureau Office

Davidsonville, MD

Time 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

MAY 21 MARYLAND 4-H STATE COUNCIL MEETING

Place Maryland 4-H Center

College Park

Time 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Jun 1 Maryland 4-H Foundation

SCHOLARSHIP DUE

Place Online portal

JUN 1 COVER CROP PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Place Harford County Extension Office

Time 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

JUN 12-15 LEAD MARYLAND CLASS X SEMINAR 3

Place Western Maryland

Jun 19 Fundamentals of Nutrient

MANAGEMENT

Place Maryland Department of Ag

Time 9:00 a.m. – Tues Jun 20, 4:00 p.m.

JUL 31 MARYLAND STATE FAIR – ENTRY

DEADLINE

Place Online portal

Aug 5-12 72ND Howard County Fair

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD

http://howardcountyfair.org/

<u>Aug 6</u> Howard County Farm Bureau

CONTESTS

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD

Time 3 p.m.

AUG 24 MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Place Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD

Dates Thursday Aug 24th – Monday Sep 4th

SEP 14 HOWARD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL COOPERATOR DINNER

Place Air View Farm

Woodbine, MD

Contact: HSC District (410) 313-0680 or check out

their website, www.howardscd.org

OCT 3 FARM TO TABLE DINNER

Place Circle D Farm

15535 Carrs Mill Road Woodbine, MD 21797

Time 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$80 - Tickets on sale June 1st

[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