



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 28, Issue 3

May 2018

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Message to Members

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

Well I sure missed the weather last newsletter, I thought for sure we would have been warming up, but instead we had snow and cold weather right through March and even into April. With that said I'm not going to try and predict summer is close to being here, I will just hope we have a nice summer.

The Legislative Dinner was another well attended event. We had a great turn out and several legislators as well. We gave the money we made holding the "Christmas Parade", to the "Howard Co. Food Bank", and the "Carroll Co. Food Bank", as well as to the "Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry" program and the "Lisbon Fire Company". We also gave the "Friend of the Farmer" award this year to the Lisbon Fire Company for all the years they have been here for us, feeding us, rescuing us and putting out our fires. In addition to the plaque and fork, we also gave them \$1500 for the "New Building Fund". The scholarships went to Kelly Spicer and Kaitlyn Hart, they both did a great job on their essays, and the whole group of participants had some really good essays that made it tough to pick a winner.

I hope everyone has a great summer, be safe and take your time with the summer work, you will get it all done, you always do. So I always say "keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you"

Your President, Howie Feaga

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



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*Sponsored by the Howard County Farm Bureau
Women's Leadership Committee
Held on Sunday, August 5, 2018 during the
Howard County Fair*

Contests held Sunday, **August 5th** at the Fair
Contestants ride in the opening day parade
Cash awards to all junior contestants
Gifts and scholarships awarded to winners
Fun and rewarding for all participants

Eligibility:

- Family must be member or join the Howard County Farm Bureau
- Must have agricultural experience
- Must be age eligible to participate
Little Miss + Future Farmer: 8 – 11 years as of August 1st
Miss Contest: 16 – 19 years as of Miss Maryland Ag Contest (August 23, 2018)

Miss Ho Co Farm Bureau stage portion of contest held **3:00 pm** in the **Show Pavilion**
Future Ho Co Farmer and Little Miss Ho Co Farm Bureau presented during intermission of Miss Contest in Show Pavilion

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

A meeting for anyone interested in entering the contest will be held on
Monday, June 25th at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

RSVP to Danielle Bauer for details.

Call or Email:

Danielle Bauer – 410-531-6261,
danib3492@yahoo.com;

Jen Poston – 443-864-7766,
jposton1@gmail.com,
for Future Farmer or Little Miss Contest

For more information, visit:
www.howardfarmbureau.org

See YOU there!

Maryland Farm Bureau Members
Receive College Scholarships

Contact: ***Emily Solis***

Davidsonville, MD (March 15, 2018) – Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) is pleased to announce the winners of our 2018 college scholarships: Sarah Burton of Pylesville, Kaitlyn Hart of Ellicott City, Lauren Lewis of Newark, Brittany Lippy of Manchester, and Catherine Savage of Dickerson. Each scholarship is worth \$2,000 toward the winner's college tuition. All winners or their parents/guardians are members of Maryland Farm Bureau.

Applicants were required to write an essay on: With 3 to 5 generations removed from the farm, how do you see your role as an advocate for agriculture to minimize the knowledge gap between farmers and consumers and promote a more positive image for agriculture? Selection was made by a Scholarship Committee designated by Maryland Farm Bureau.

Sarah Burton of Pylesville is a member of Harford County Farm Bureau and a senior at North Harford High School. Sarah plans to attend the University of Maryland where she hopes to study Agricultural Education.

Kaitlyn Hart of Ellicott City is a member of Howard County Farm Bureau and a graduate of Mt. Hebron High School. Kaitlyn hopes to attend Clemson University, the University of Maryland, or North Carolina State where she plans to study genetics or bioprocessing science.

Lauren Lewis of Newark, MD is a member of Worcester County Farm Bureau and a senior at Snow Hill High School. Lauren is planning to attend Salisbury University where she hopes to study Medical Laboratory Science.

Brittany Lippy of Manchester is a member of Carroll County Farm Bureau and a graduate of Manchester Valley High School. Brittany is currently attending Oklahoma State University where she studies Animal Science Biotechnology.

Catherine Savage of Dickerson is a member of Montgomery County Farm Bureau and a graduate

of Poolesville High School. Erin is currently attending Virginia Tech where she studies Dairy Science.

If you would like to learn more benefits of joining Maryland Farm Bureau, call (410) 922-3426 or visit www.mdfarmbureau.com.

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Maryland Farm Bureau is a private, non-profit membership organization. It is controlled by its members through the democratic process and is financed by voluntary membership dues. Its strength comes from the active participation of over 36,000 member families that belong to the state's 23 county Farm Bureaus. For more than 100 years, Maryland Farm Bureau has served to promote and protect Maryland agriculture and rural life.

Early-Season Scouting For Wheat Diseases

*By: Andrew Kness, Agriculture Extension Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County*

April 3, 2018-

Spring is a busy time on the farm that demands a lot of different tasks; one of the tasks that can be overlooked is scouting your small grains now for the presence of diseases. For a few select diseases, scouting now could pay off later in the season.

Most of the wheat in Maryland is somewhere between Feekes 5 (green up) and Feekes 6 (jointing), and most has received its first shot of nitrogen. This is the perfect time to scout your fields for foliar diseases like powdery mildew and the leaf blotch complex diseases.



Figure 1. Powdery mildew growth on lower leaves/stems of a wheat plant (red arrow). Image: Mary Burrows, Montana State University, Bugwood.org

Powdery mildew (Figure 1) is one of the more common diseases of wheat in our region and it's important to keep tabs on it early in the growing season. The fungus that causes powdery typically colonizes wheat in the fall when the plants are small, then goes dormant inside the plant over the winter. Green up is the perfect time to scout for powdery mildew because you will be able to see the powdery white tufts of fungus growing on your wheat plants (Figure 1). These signs are typically observed close to the crown deeper in the canopy and/or on plants that are in double-planted pinch rows or headlands. The disease is often more severe on over-fertilized fields, too. It is good to scout for the presence of powdery mildew now, but do not treat until the wheat begins to joint. Powdery mildew will not begin actively growing until the wheat plant comes out of its winter slumber and begins rapid growth (jointing, Feekes 6), and fungicides have little to no activity on dormant fungi, especially the DMIs. Instead, hold off on a fungicide application until your second nitrogen application at jointing. If you only notice a few sporadic instances of powdery mildew now, you may not even need to treat at jointing, especially if weather conditions are dry and hot (powdery mildew requires moist, humid, and mild temperature conditions to grow). If you decide to hold off on a Feekes 6 application, you'll still want to keep an eye on it, especially as the flag leaf emerges. The top three leaves, especially the flag leaf, contributes to nearly all of your yield.

Also, know your wheat variety because there are significant differences in resistance and tolerance. Data from [University of Maryland](#) (link is external), [University of Delaware](#) (link is external), and [Virginia Tech](#) (link is external) can help you determine your wheat's susceptibility. In addition, varieties containing the pm6 resistance gene have broken down and are no longer providing adequate resistance here in the mid-Atlantic region, so consider those varieties susceptible.

Similar management should be taken against the leaf blotch complex diseases. If you find them now, hold off on a fungicide application (if at all) until at least Feekes 6. And again, protecting the flag leaf is your main priority, so if the disease is slow to progress due to inadequate weather conditions or host tolerance and the disease is present at low

levels, then a fungicide application at Feekes 6 may not be warranted at all. Also, the fungicides we commonly use to manage Fusarium head blight/head scab (DMI, group 3) will also work on powdery mildew and the leaf blotch complex; so our fungicide applications at early flowering typically do a good job at keeping these diseases from progressing to the flag leaf. However, if you see these foliar diseases creeping up closer to the flag leaf prior to head emergence and flowering, then you may want to consider an additional early fungicide application other than your flowering application to manage head scab.

Another factor to consider when using additional fungicide applications is cost. Recent [research in Delaware \(link is external\)](#) found that a two pass program at Feekes 6 and 10.5.1 did not yield a return on investment until wheat prices exceeded \$5.00/bu.

For help with identifying diseases on wheat, you can send samples to the [University of Maryland Plant Diagnostic Lab](#), or call your local Extension Agent.

Twilight Tour & Tasting – June 13th

By: *Susan Schoenian*



Sheep & Lamb Tasting
Photo Credit: S. Schoenian

University of Maryland Extension will host its 4th Twilight Tour & Tasting, June 13, 4 to 8 p.m., at the Washington County Agriculture Education Center and Western Maryland Research & Education Center.

The event is open to the public. Participants will have the opportunity to sample lamb and goat dishes and cheese made from sheep and goat milk. They can join in a wine tasting/pairing demonstration.

Arik Mills from Rik's Café (a restaurant in Hagerstown) will be the featured chef. Shepherd's Manor Creamery, Maryland's first and only licensed sheep dairy, and Caprikorn Farms, a licensed goat dairy, from Gapland, will showcase their small ruminant dairy products.

Patty Sanville from Budding Creek Farm in Frederick will give a fiber demonstration. Browsing Green Goats from Southern Maryland will discuss their business of leasing goats for vegetation control. Joe Fiola from University of Maryland Extension will explain how to match wine with meat and cheese.



The purpose of the Twilight Tour & Tasting is to showcase all things sheep and goat. Besides learning about the products and services provided by sheep and goats, participants can go on a wagon tour of the Western Maryland Research & Education Center to learn about the sheep research being conducted by the University of Maryland.

Pre-registration is required for the event. Attendance will be capped at 100. The registration deadline is June 1. The registration fee is \$10 per person. Children under the age of 10 will be admitted for free. To register, go to <https://2018twilighttourandtasting.eventbrite.com> (link is external).

Governor Hogan Invites Chefs to Submit Recipes for ‘Buy Local’ Cookout

Source: *Maryland Department of Agriculture*

April 3, 2018

Finalists will Prepare Dishes Featuring Local Products at Government House to Celebrate Buy Local Challenge Week



Photo Credit: Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Larry Hogan invites chefs using local Maryland ingredients to submit original recipes for the Governor’s [Buy Local Cookout](#), which will be held at Government House in Annapolis on July 19. Recipes must be submitted by May 18, and include products from at least one Maryland farmer, waterman, or other producer. Chefs are encouraged to submit simple but creative recipes that showcase ways the average Maryland family can prepare delicious, nutritious meals with locally produced food at home.

“Maryland is home to a diverse, vibrant agriculture and seafood industry that provides us with a wide variety of fresh, nutritious options,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “The Buy Local Cookout and Buy Local Challenge are a great way to celebrate all that our state has to offer. I always look forward to seeing new dishes at the cookout each year, and I

encourage all of our chefs and producers to submit their best Maryland-made recipes for consideration.”

The cookout promotes the statewide [Buy Local Challenge Week](#) (July 21-29), during which all Marylanders are encouraged to eat at least one local product each day of the week.

Culinary high school and college teams are encouraged to submit recipes. Student teams submitting blue catfish recipes may be eligible to receive a donation of blue catfish from Chester River Clam Company if they are selected to participate in the Governor’s cookout (limited to one high school and one college team).

Recipes will be chosen in each of the following categories: appetizer, main dish, side dish or salad, and dessert. Original recipes will be selected based on simplicity, creativity, availability of ingredients, geographic representation, and maximum use of local ingredients. Previously submitted recipes are not eligible.

Selected teams will be invited to provide, prepare, and share their dish at the Governor’s cookout. Chefs should note that recipes and bios of team members may be published in the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s *2018 Maryland Buy Local Cookout Recipes* cookbook. Complete rules of entry and additional information are available on the department’s [website](#).

Recipes should be submitted using this [online form](#).

Chefs who have questions should contact:

Karen Fedor
karen.fedor@maryland.gov
410-841-5773.

Agricultural Broadband Bill Important Milestone, Farm Bureau Says

Source: *American Farm Bureau Federation*

April 25, 2018

The Senate Commerce Committee today approved S. 2343, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018. The bipartisan bill is an important milestone in delivering broadband service crucial to the operation of modern farming equipment. The bill would create a task force to focus on the connectivity and technology needs of modern farmers who are too often without broadband in the fields and on the ranches where they work. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 39 percent of rural Americans lack access to 25 Mbps/3 Mbps service, compared to only 4 percent of urban Americans.

Today's tractors, harvesters and other farm equipment gather vast amounts of data to determine the precise amount of seed, water, crop protection products and nutrients to deliver based on soil conditions down to the square inch. Such precision maximizes yield, lowers environmental impact and improves profitability at a time when farmers must watch every penny to survive. Even so, all that data has to be processed somewhere, and to do that farmers need high-speed connections that link their equipment to far-off data centers. The American Farm Bureau Federation thanks Sens. Wicker and Klobuchar for sponsoring this important legislation and looks forward to eventual passage by the Senate and House. Farm Bureau eagerly awaits tangible progress in delivering broadband to places that have too long been neglected.

Contact:

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Will Rodger, Director, Policy Communications
(202) 406-3642 or willr@fb.org

<https://www.fb.org/newsroom/agricultural-broadband-bill-important-milestone-farm-bureau-says>

Earth BioGenome Project Could Hold Solutions for Agriculture's Future

Source: *USDA* By: *Kim Kaplan*



BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND, April 23, 2018 -

The U.S. Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)) is partnering in the Earth BioGenome Project ([EBP](#)), biology's version of the moonshot, an effort that will yield millions of powerful new solutions to agriculture's challenges.

EBP is an international cooperative initiative to sequence during the next 10 years the DNA of more than 1.5 million species—those more complex than bacteria—representing the world's biodiversity. The initiative was highlighted in a recent [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) article.

EBP calls for scientists to sequence the genomes of 9,330 species, one from each plant, animal and protozoan taxonomic family as reference genomes in the first three years. Then, the plan calls for sequencing the genome of one species from each genus—the next taxonomic division finer than family—during years four to seven, although in less detail, for a total of about 150,000 genera. The remaining 1.5 million species would be sequenced in still less detail during the final four years of the project.

"The benefits that will come from increasing our knowledge and understanding of the genomes of the Earth's biodiversity will be monumental, especially for agriculture," explained [Kevin Hackett](#), senior national program leader for entomology with USDA's Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#)). Hackett is one of only three federal members on the 23-person EBP steering committee and he is representing agriculture.

As an example of the importance to agriculture, Hackett pointed out that insects destroy one-fifth of the world's crop production annually and would do worse without pesticides. Control of insect

devastation is an ongoing struggle, and pesticide resistance is an ever-evolving problem, requiring researchers to look constantly for new ways to tackle the issue.

"Understanding a pest's DNA and biology is essential to precisely targeting new controls, to combatting an insect without harming other species or other pieces of the ecology," Hackett said. "There are solutions to problems in pest control out there in the genetic biodiversity that we can barely conceive of right now."

For instance, who could have guessed that a jellyfish's DNA would have provided a glowing green fluorescent protein that lets scientists trace when compounds too small to be seen by microscopes are being made in the cells of species as diverse as peas and pigs?

Genomic information is already providing the basis for other powerful advances from speeding up breeding for enhanced plant and animal traits to helping increase safety from ticks and diseases associated with them.

For example, ARS insect physiologist [Felix Guerrero](#) and his team recently sequenced the cattle fever tick genome and identified genes now being used to develop a vaccine against the ticks. This vaccine may protect cattle from several fatal tickborne diseases and eventually fight other ticks including those that spread Lyme disease to people.

Another ongoing ARS-led project is Cornome, which is planning to completely sequence ten of the most important agricultural insects in corn, so that when RNA interference (RNAi) gene silencing is applied to create a new pest control, scientists can first check the DNA of non-target insects to make sure they would not be harmed by this new technology.

EBP is not beginning its massive task from scratch. It is building on already-existing efforts to sequence the genomes of more specific taxonomic groups such as the Global Invertebrate Genomics Alliance ([GIGA](#)), which is targeting 7,000 non-insect/non-nematode species with an emphasis on marine taxa, and the [i5K Initiative](#), which is sequencing the genomes of no less than 5,000 arthropod species important to agriculture and biological research.

Hackett is an i5K co-founder and one of its co-chairs.

So far, scientists from around the world, individually and in various networks, have sequenced the genomes of about 15,000 species, less than 0.1 percent of all life on Earth.

The total cost for phase I of EBP is estimated at about \$500 million. The total cost of the 10-year project is expected to be roughly \$4.5 billion. EBP's feasibility benefits from the sharp decline in sequencing costs, down from \$10,000 per genome in 2001 to \$1,000 today.

EBP expects most of the funding to be donated by foundations. For more information about ARS genomics and i5K work, please see "Unraveling What Genomics Can Do" at <https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2017/sep/genomics/>.

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.



ARS is a partner in the Earth Biogenome Project, which is building on initiatives such as the i5k Initiative.

Announcements

❖ Preakness Celebration Balloon Festival



May 11-13, 2018
Howard County Fairgrounds
Grounds Open at 2:00 p.m. each day!

WCBM and WQLL present the annual Preakness Balloon Festival with over 15 hot air balloons, tethered balloon rides, a large kid zone, a beer and wine garden, Maryland's finest vendors, the Baltimore area's best food, a balloon glow after dusk, live music on the main stage by Pressing Strings, Higher Education, Spencer Joyce, Rhett Repko, Shiftwork and many more!

Visit the Website for more information:
<https://www.preaknessballoonfestival.com/about-us>

❖ Raise Your Hand to Support 4-H

For the second year, National 4-H Council is running its Raise Your Hand Campaign, asking people to "raise their hand" as a 4-H alum or friend/supporter of 4-H. The states with the most hands raised will receive \$20,000, \$15,000 or \$10,000 toward the expansion of 4-H programs. The campaign runs through May 15 and features the social media hashtag #4HGrown.

Visit www.4-H.org/RaiseYourHand to learn more and vote for your state

❖ Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival will take place on May 5th and 6th at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD.



See the Website for more details!
<http://sheepandwool.org/2018-maryland-sheep-wool-festival/>

❖ Pasture Walk

May 15, 2018 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Register now for a hands-on walking educational program through University of Maryland's Rotational Grazing Site at:

Baltimore County Agricultural Center and Farm
Park
1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD.

Participants will get a chance to speak with and ask questions with University of Maryland Extension agriculture agents and Baltimore Soil Conservation District experts in pasture management, nutrient management, and best management practices.

This spring's pasture walk will focus on: weed and pasture plant identification; fertility; and pasture management.

There is no charge for this program, but please register ahead of time by calling the Baltimore County Extension Office at (410) 887-8090. For questions, please contact [Erika Crowl](#) or [Andy Kness](#).

Calendar of Events

2018

MAY 5-6 MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

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

MAY 6 JUNIOR SHEEP & GOAT SKILLATHON

Place MD Sheep & Wool Festival
Howard County Fairgrounds
Time 9:00 a.m.

MAY 11-13 PREAKNESS CELEBRATION BALLOON FESTIVAL

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794
Time Grounds Open 2:00 p.m. Each Day

MAY 15 PASTURE WALK

Place Baltimore County Ag Center and Farm Park
1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD.
TIME 6:00 P.M – 8:00 P.M.

MAY 17 MID-ATLANTIC STATES VETERINARY CLINIC

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Exhibition Hall
Time 8:00 a.m.

JUN 13 TWILIGHT TOUR & TASTING

Place Washington County Agriculture Education
Center
TIME 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

JUN 25 CONTEST MEET AND GREET

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
*RSVP to Danielle Bauer: 410-531-6261,
danib3492@yahoo.com

JUL 19 BUY LOCAL COOKOUT

Place Government House, Annapolis, MD
*Contact Karen Fedor:
karen.fedor@maryland.gov or
410-841-5773.

AUG 4-11 73RD ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
<http://howardcountyfair.org/>

AUG 5 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU CONTESTS

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794
Show Pavilion
Time 3 p.m.

AUG 23 MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Place Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD
Dates Aug 23rd – Sep 3rd

[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.