

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 30, Issue 3

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Message to Members

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

I hope this newsletter finds fellow Farm Bureau members both healthy and safe. I have been thinking a lot about so many in our community over these past few weeks. During this time when it feels like the world has stopped, with stay at home orders and quarantines, the farmer keeps going – tending to animals and preparing to plant spring crops. As I watch the changing of seasons from winter to spring, it seems hard to come to terms with the calm and beauty of nature and life on the farm with the ugliness, fear and worry going on around the world right now.

While taking in the beauty of watching trees and flowers starting to bloom, drab browns turning to bright greens, and tractors slowly making their way into the field, it takes me back to the time after September 11. At the time, it seemed hard to make sense of it all, after such a tragic, horrible thing had happened to this country, and during those difficult days after, as the country seemed to temporarily shut down, the skies were such a beautiful blue, the weather seemed perfect and there was a sense of stillness and calm over everything. There have been other events in my life that have brought these same feelings, and this current pandemic reminds me that

while it can sometimes be hard to reconcile such tragedy and horrible things, the seasons continue to change, and life and nature go on.

This brings me to a conversation I had with another farm wife last fall, and I think that conversation is more fitting now than ever. We were talking about the challenges of the 2019 growing season, starting with wet spring planting, followed by a brief summer drought, and the current harvest conditions. She went on to comment that come spring, the farmer would be out there doing it all again. In her words, “Each spring, hope springs eternal, every year, for a farmer.” There are no truer words. Every spring a farmer goes out with optimism for a great year and a great crop, and that is how I feel about the current situation. It is hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel right now, and I know people are worried. Walking through grocery stores there are eerily empty shelves, there have been job layoffs, worries about the economy and talks of a recession, falling and uncertain prices in the stock market. I have heard stories of dairy farmers dumping milk and receiving unbelievably

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Message to Members
2	Farms Can Now Apply for Federal Loans with Farm Bureau Bank
3	Howard County Farm Bureau Contests
4	New Analysis Shows U.S. Agriculture Reducing Per-Unit GHG Emissions
5	UME COVID-19 Response
5	MDA 2019-2020 Cover Crop Program
6	Announcements
6	*Calendar of Events*

low prices for the milk they do sell. And just when you think grain prices couldn't go any lower, they have. I have heard of farmers tilling in crops. Chickens and hogs being killed on the farm that cannot get to market. While there is a glut of dairy, produce and meat stuck at the farms, there are rumors that there will be a food shortage, because farmers are unable to get their food to market. As fears surrounding our food system grow, buying local and supporting local farmers will mean more now than ever. During these difficult times, farmers around the country are working harder than ever to make sure they can provide an ample and safe food supply. Farmers will find new and innovative ways to get food into the mouths of Americans, as well as fiber and fuel. I know right now there is a lot of concern over being sick and just trying to stay healthy, however, at the end of the day we are all going to come thru this, and hopefully we will be a little wiser for it all. There are going to be some hard memories and lessons for some, I am sure. But there is hope and it will spring eternal. It will come back again.

I am hopeful that by our next newsletter in July (and hopefully sooner), we will have turned the corner to better times ahead. In the meantime, I wanted to provide a little bright spot during all this. With so many throughout the county stuck at home during this time and unable to visit local farms, many local farms have turned to social media to bring the farm to the people. To educate, entertain and maybe provide a bit of a break or distraction from the current worries for many. You can find Farm Bureau members reading Bedtime Stories in the Barn (including our own Future Farmer, Charlie Brendel, as well as the MD Dairy Princess, Ellie Feaga), Clarks Elioak Farm has been livestreaming Coffee with the Goats, TLV Tree Farm/Farmer Brown Camp have been doing some online lessons, and Larriland Farm has been sharing daily posts about the progress of spring (and summer crops) starting to grow around the farm. If you have something that your farm has been doing to educate or entertain, let us know and we may feature it on our Facebook page, The Howard County Farm Bureau.

Best wishes to all for a successful and safe spring, but most importantly, I hope healthy days are ahead

for each of your families.

Farms Can Now Apply for Federal Loans with Farm Bureau Bank

Source: FB News

Congress has passed a bill to add additional funding to the Paycheck Protection Program for Small Business Loans. Many farmers are challenged with accessing these funds due to huge backlogs at large national banks and the lack of participation by many small community banks. The demand is enormous, and we expect this round of funding to run out in just a few short days. We encourage you to act now and apply if you want access to the program!

We encourage you to take advantage of the Farm Bureau Bank member benefit if you are unable to submit applications through your current lender. Farm Bureau bank continues to process applications so that information can quickly be submitted to the SBA as soon as the system I reopened for application submission, which may be as early as Friday.

Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program provides loans to eligible businesses, including farms, with 500 or fewer employees to continue to pay employees and cover some overhead costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sole proprietors, independent contractors and self-employed people are also eligible. Loan payments will be deferred for six months and no collateral or personal guarantees are required. Businesses can apply through any existing SBA7(a) lender or through and federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating.

For more information, you can contact the SBA office in Baltimore at 410-962-6195.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides low-interest loans of up to \$2 million to

help small businesses affected by COVID-19 cover continuing operating costs. It will be made available for farms in this new round.

Interested farms should apply through the SBA's website right away as funds will likely be exhausted quickly.

Additional COVID-19 Information

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, Maryland Farm Bureau is working to keep you informed about our efforts and how the pandemic is affecting Maryland agriculture. Be sure to check out their COVID-19 update page for additional resources

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**

*Held on Sunday, August 9, 2020 during the
Howard County Fair*

MISS HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU CONTEST

Sponsored by Howard County Farm Bureau
Women

Contact: Danielle Bauer – 443.812.4526
danib3492@yahoo.com Chair

CASH AWARDS and GIFTS TO ALL
PARTICIPANTS, Agricultural Scholarship to
Winner

RULES:

- Ages 16-19, and must be single.

- Family must be Howard County Farm Bureau Member.
- Contestants shall submit application to Committee.
- Howard County Farm Bureau Women have the right to decide final eligibility.
- Former overall winners are ineligible.
- All contestants must abide by Rules of Score Cards.
- Decision of the judges is final

FUTURE HOWARD COUNTY FARMER & LITTLE MISS HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU CONTEST

SPONSORED BY: Howard County Farm Bureau
Women and Howard County Young Farmers
Contact: Jen Poston - 443.864.7766
jposton@gmail.com

Cash Awards to All Participants Agricultural
Scholarship to Winners

RULES:

- Boys and Girls, ages 8-11, as of August 1, 2020
- Family must be a member of the Howard County Farm Bureau as of the date of the contest.
- Contestants shall submit an application to the Committee, providing information regarding their involvement in agricultural, school and community activities.
- Contestants must belong to 4-H, or participate in agricultural activity. These could include gardening, food and nutrition, home economics, or animal project.
- Each contestant must create a poster about their agricultural project, to be displayed throughout the Fair.
- Howard County Farm Bureau Women have the right to decide final eligibility.
- All contestants must abide by the Rules of Score Cards.
- Dress for the Contest is "Sunday Best."
- Decision of the judges is final.

New Analysis Shows U.S. Agriculture Reducing Per-Unit GHG Emissions

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

April 14, 2020

New analysis of updated data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, combined with U.S. Department of Agriculture data, shows U.S. farmers and ranchers continue to reduce per-unit greenhouse gas emissions. All told, the U.S. agricultural sector accounts for less than 10% of total U.S. emissions. That's less than the emissions from the transportation, electricity generation and industrial sectors. Globally, agriculture accounts for about 24% of GHG emissions.

The EPA's [U.S. Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) provides a first look at 2018 U.S. emissions data, which is incorporated into a new [Market Intel report](#) from the American Farm Bureau Federation. The Market Intel report finds that per-unit methane emissions from livestock have declined since 1990 as livestock producers have increased productivity. During the past 30 years, U.S. milk production has increased 71% while per-unit emissions of milk have declined by almost 25%. Beef production has increased almost 50%, while per-unit emissions have fallen nearly 8%.

Meanwhile, American farmers are producing more crops on fewer acres, according to an analysis of USDA data. When compared to farm production in 1990, U.S. farmers would have needed almost 100 million additional acres to grow the same amount of corn, cotton, rice, soybeans and wheat they harvested in 2018.

"We're doing more with less and proud to lead the world in agricultural advances," said American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. "Smarter farming, new strategies and technology are helping farmers reduce their environmental footprint and provide solutions."

The analysis builds on data shared during the launch of Farmers for a Sustainable Future (FSF), a coalition of agriculture groups aimed at educating

lawmakers and finding solutions to challenges posed by climate change. The gains farmers have made in reducing their environmental footprint have been significant, and FSF supports federal investment in innovation, science-based research, voluntary conservation programs, resilient infrastructure, and incentives to assist farmers in furthering these efforts.

"Corn farmers are proud of their successful efforts to improve soil, water and air quality," said Kevin Ross, president of the National Corn Growers Association, an FSF member. "These efforts are paying off in increased carbon sequestration and carbon retention in the soil, which helps offset agriculture's relatively low contribution to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions."

Learn more about Farmers for a Sustainable Future at www.SustainableFarming.us. To access the American Farm Bureau Market Intel analysis, go to www.fb.org/market-intel/ghg.

FSF members include the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Pulse Association, American Sheep Industry Association, American Sugar Alliance, American Soybean Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council of America, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Sorghum Producers, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Sunflower Association, Southern Peanut Farmers Association, United Egg Producers, U.S. Canola Association, U.S. Dry Bean Council, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, and USA Rice.

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UME COVID-19 Response

Source: **UMD Extension**

By: **Laura Wormuth**

University of Maryland Extension is Still in Your Community

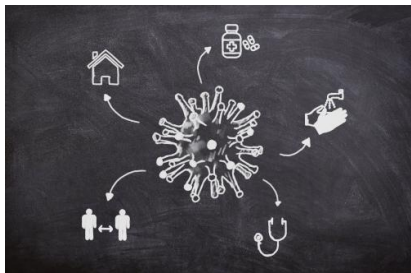


Image Credit: Image From rawpixel.com

March 26, 2020

The current COVID-19 pandemic has caused changes throughout the entire country. University of Maryland Extension (UME) is committed to maintaining the resources Maryland needs to continue thriving during these trying times.

We are adjusting how we function to continue providing our people with the knowledge and assistance they need to stay productive and healthy, and appreciate the patience of the community as we strive to build offerings online and adjust our outreach strategies, while maintaining necessary social distancing.

UME is currently working to meet the changing needs of the community, and many of our educational programs and events have transitioned to virtual platforms. Programming and events online will still be held throughout the day, evening and on weekends. Your local agent is also available via email, phone, and teleconferencing, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please visit [your local extension office's website](#) for information on your best email or phone contact.

Find a full list of resources on the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as tips on protecting health and financial wellness for you and your family at <https://extension.umd.edu/learn/covid-19-resources>.

As a part of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UME follows the guidelines developed at the state and university level. Information and updates on the college's **response to COVID-19** can be found on the University of Maryland website

Website: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/ume-covid-19-response-0>

MDA 2019-2020 Cover Crop Program: Changes to Spring Certification and Claim for Payment Procedures

By: **Kristal McCormick**

During this time of uncertainty, the Howard Soil Conservation District is continuing to serve the community to the best of its ability. As farmers who are enrolled in the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) terminate their cover crop we look to make spring certification and claim for payment process as seamless as possible while following guidelines set forth by Governor Hogan and County Executive Calvin Ball to protect everyone.

There will be no face-to-face interaction.

Correspondence will be via email (kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov) or phone (410.313.0680). All certification will be self-certification by the farmer.

Information needed for spring certification includes FSA Farm and Tract numbers, Field numbers, and the date and method of termination.

The last day to terminate cover crop and report to the District is **June 3rd, 2020**.

Contact the District, 410.313.0680, with any questions concerning this new process.

Please mark your calendar ... 2020-2021 MDA Cover Crop Program sign-up is set to run June 22 – July 17, 2020.

Announcements

❖ Howard County farm Bureau Scholarship Deadline Extended

The deadline for the HCFB Scholarship Applications and Essays will be extended until May 1, 2020

❖ Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner Postponed!

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner will be rescheduled.

Please stay tuned for updates regarding the rescheduled date- June/July.

❖ Agriculture Academy!

Do you know students that are entering high school who are interested in farming, animal or plant sciences, food systems and production, STEM agricultural sciences, or environmental/natural resource sciences?

Interested High school students should consider enrolling in the Agriculture Academy! See the attachments on Pages 8 & 9 of this newsletter, and share it with students, families and any other organizations in which you are active.

Check out more information on the website:
<https://www.hcpss.org/academy/agricultural/>

Calendar of Events

2020

***DUE TO COVID-19 EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND OTHERS DO NOT HAVE A RESCHEDULED DATE AT THIS TIME.**

MAY 1 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

*SEE APPLICATION ON PAGE 15

TBA ANNUAL HCFB LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Place Lisbon Fire Hall
1330 Woodbine Road
Woodbine, MD 21797

Time 7:00 p.m.
Stay Tuned for the Rescheduled Date

[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.

Agriculture Academy

The Agriculture Academy prepares students to be successful in numerous careers in the agricultural sciences as well as preparing them to further their education at the post-secondary level. Students learn to apply and extend classroom learning to unknown situations and problems through inquiry based projects; develop critical thinking, applied math and scientific skills by solving real-world problems; and recognize, understand, and explain interrelationships between animal systems, plant systems, natural resources, and human impacts.

POSSIBLE CAREER CHOICES IN AGRICULTURE

Market News Reporter	Agriculture Policy Analyst	Insurance Agent
Food Distribution Manager	Advertising Specialist	Extension Advisor
Soil Conservationist	Bioprocessing Engineer	Plant Geneticist
Veterinarian	Animal Geneticist	Quality Assurance
Food Product Research and Development		Food Chemist
Bee Keeper	Food Microbiologist	Botanist
Landscaper	Water Quality Specialist	Park Ranger

Academic Information:

- Agricultural Science I – G/T is 2 credits

Grade 11 or 12- Can be taken as an elective or part of a completer track

Successful students have a strong background in Biology

Specific Courses in Agriculture I:

Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Animal Science, Plant Science

- Agricultural Science II – G/T II is 3 credits, Grade 12

Agricultural Science I is required

Specific Courses in Agriculture II:

Animal and Plant Biotechnology, Research and Development Capstone, Internship

FFA

FFA is an intracurricular organization for agriculture education. As a member, students will have the opportunity to:

- Enter competitions on the regional, state, and national levels
- Develop leadership skills
- Earn scholarships
- Travel
- Meet many new people and make connections throughout the agriculture industry

“FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.”

