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## Message to Members

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

The end of the summer is closing in quickly, we had a dry June and July and now what seems like "Mushroom Season" is upon us. We have had more wet weather than I can lately remember in August. It makes you wonder how the fall harvest is going to go; if it stays wet we could be in for quite a challenge. I'm sure we will get our work done, we always have.

By now I'm sure you all have heard that we lost Grant Hill, it was a shock to all of us, he seemed to be so healthy. Our prayers and condolences go out to his family. I'm sure knowing the Hill family they will do their best to go forward, with lots of great memories of a great man.

I want to congratulate Kendra Bower on winning the Miss Howard County Farm Bureau contest. Kylee Bingham-Brendel won the Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau and Hayden Brendel won the Future Howard County Farmer. I also want to congratulate all the winners at the Ho. Co. Fair. I want to specially thank Rhonda Winkler for all she and her volunteers did to make the Junior Showmanship another big success. In the words of Rhonda, can I get a loud Whoop! Whoop! I had the opportunity to get together at Tom and Paula Linthicum's farm, with other farmers from the area and meet with AFBF president Zippy Duvall. He was visiting to get to know firsthand what some of the Ag issues are across the country. We were his 42<sup>nd</sup> state so far. He told us the present administration is one that they have been able to work with and look forward to making progress with labor and regulatory issues as well as others. He told us to not relax, but to respond quickly to any "call for action" items that may come up. He wants them to know we are always aware of what is happening.

On Sept. 11 we go back to testify for the Mulch and Compost Bill; if you all can stop by it would be great for the support. It seems we may never be over with this, I know everyone is getting tired of battling for what is the right thing to do. 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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## Featured Farmer: Larriland

By: Mandy Ackman



This issue's "Featured Farmer" is highlighting Larriland Farm and the Moore Family!

Larriland Farm is a Pick Your Own fruits and vegetables and farm market, located in central Maryland, in western Howard County. The farm is 3 miles south of I-70 (Exit 73) on Rt. 94, Woodbine Road. This is half way between Baltimore and Frederick, just south of the small town of Lisbon, MD. Larriland farm is open during the growing season. The growing season begins with the ripening of the strawberry crop (opening day was May 20, 2017). The growing season ends with the apple harvest (the last day is the first Sunday in November).

Larriland Farm is family owned and operated by the Moores. Larry and Polly started the pick your own farming operation in 1973. Three of their four children work on the farm today. The second oldest daughter, Lynn, is the president of Larriland Farm. Their two sons, Guy and Fenby, are the vice presidents. The oldest daughter, Nancy, lives on the farm but is not involved in the operation. Lynn, Guy and Fenby are responsible for the daily management of the farm. Emily, Guy's daughter, also works on the family farm. The rest of the employees are seasonal; a 7-man crew that work for 9.5 months and then high schoolers are able to work and help with the public and sales. In 1963, Larry Moore sold his farm in Guilford, Maryland to the Rouse Co. and bought this farm in western Howard County. Prior to 1963, Larry had a dairy herd. Each dairy herd required a prefix to the cow's name to identify the herd and its bloodlines.

The prefix that he chose was Larri-, hence, the name Larriland Farm (pronounced Larry land).



Aerial View of Larriland Farm

After selling the dairy herd, Larry began growing agronomic crops such as soybeans, alfalfa, straw, wheat, etc. He then grew turf. After several years in the turf business, he began looking for other options because he felt that turf depleted the soil too much. He considered the soil to be his most precious resource. About this time, his children expressed an interest in farming. And so began the fruit and vegetable operation in 1972 with growing just one acre of Strawberries.



Strawberry Field

In 1973, they harvested the first acre of strawberries. I asked how they reached out to the public and Lynn explained to me that they ran a small add in the Howard County Times and received a big turnout. They started to build from there planting peach and apple trees. They also participated in the Spring Blossom festivals and went to the local news stations to advertise their farm and spike public interest. For about 15 years or so they had "Tailgate Markets" where they would go to large office buildings and sell produce out of their truck. They continued to build their business, and started school tours in the late 70's with the pumpkin patch.

Today they grow 10 acres of strawberries, about 20 acres of peaches, about 20 acres of apples, 4 acres of tart cherries, 2 acres of sweet cherries, 1 acre of black raspberries, 3 acres of red raspberries, 1/4 acre of purple raspberries, 7-8 acres of blueberries, 6 acres of blackberries, ½ acre of grapes, 3 acres of Asian pears, ½ acre of currants and gooseberries and 15-20 acres of vegetables including spinach, beets, tomatoes, broccoli, and pumpkins. And to think they started with just one acres of Strawberries!! Continuing to grow their business, Lynn explained how they bought 50 more acres from a neighboring farm 3 years ago.

"In March 2013, we purchased another farm, one mile north of Larriland Farm, on Route 94, Woodbine Road. This new farm, The Moore Farm, will grow pumpkins for picking on weekends in October."

Adding 35 acres of crop ground allows the family to do a better job with crop rotation for pumpkins. Pumpkins do best with a 5 year crop rotation and they were out of ground at Larriland Farm. All of the tillable acreage is planted to crops. The Moore Farm is divided into 3 pieces for 3 rotations of pumpkins.

I inquired more about crop rotation and how they plan for what they plant each year. Lynn explained to me that she goes over a planting plan each year and plans about 3-4 years in advance. Crop rotation and planting cover crops are very important for disease control and the success of their harvest. I learned that they need rotations at least every 3 years and that strawberries and tomatoes cannot follow one another because they share the same diseases. Foliage radishes for a cover crop are almost as good as plowing Lynn explained. As for the pumpkin fields, they plant rye as a cover crop. With all the foot traffic their fields get, rotations and cover crops are so important!

One last thing that Lynn mentioned to me was how her dad said that access and roads was important to where he wanted to buy land! Being so close to the interstate, people can travel easily from the cities to come get their weekly produce or even to just get pumpkins each fall.

"Enjoy the fall color display each year that Mother Nature puts on as the leaves change color. Gaze across the fields dotted with thousands of orange pumpkins, each one waiting to become a jack-o-lantern for your porch. The farm is decorated for Halloween with ghosts and goblins to delight and scare you. The fields are laden with crisp, succulent vegetables. The orchards are bent down with apples. It's the last harvest to reap before the cold winter sets in. And fall is the perfect time to enjoy a tall glass of freshly squeezed apple cider."

Come and visit Larriland Farm for fun activities in the fall for the family including: pumpkin hayrides, evening hayrides around the farm followed by a campfire, straw maze, and the boo barn for kids (ages 4-6).

"It is best to call just before getting in the car to drive here as sometimes all of the ripe fruit gets picked and the field has to be closed for a few days to allow the green fruit time to ripen. The website, on the Today's Harvest page, and the telephone recordings, 410-442-2605 and 301-854-6110, are updated every day and throughout the day to make sure you get the most up-todate picking information."

For more information and for the Harvest calendars please visit their website at: <u>http://www.pickyourown.com/</u>



2415 Woodbine Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797.

# 72<sup>nd</sup> Howard County Fair Contest Winners



Congratulations to all of the members of the 2017 Howard County Farm Bureau court!

## Little Miss HCFB: Kylee Bingham-Brendel

Future Howard County Farmer: Hayden Brendel

Miss HCFB Alternate: Caroline Beall

#### Miss HCFB: Kendra Bower

Our judges were faced with some tough decisions, all of the contestants did a fantastic job!

## <u>"One Small Step"</u> For Ag Education in Howard <u>County</u> By: Barb Glenn

...and many of us hope that someday there will be "One Giant Leap" for Howard County students!

The Howard County Farm Bureau (HCFB) keeps working toward getting ag education in Howard County. And recently there was a bright light shining on the possibility – and this time we all hope it happens! On August 3, members of the HCFB board of directors, including President Howie Feaga, Keith Ohlinger, and Barb Glenn met with the CASE Advisory Board at the Applications and Research Lab in Ellicott City to discuss the beginning steps toward starting a high school agriculture curriculum in Howard County. Others present included Ellie Feaga, Sheryl Bennett, Kathy Johnson, Martha Clark, and Danielle Bauer.

The meeting was led by Joe Dymek, chairman, CASE Advisory Board. The acting Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) superintendent was recently approached by the Board and the Maryland Ag Education Foundation. There was a strong interest in initiating ag education in Howard County beginning in the fall of 2018. So the HCPSS has jumped into action and appreciated the support of all others who were present.

CASE requirements were reviewed by the Maryland Department of Education. CASE stands for Curriculum for Agricultural Education (CASE, <u>http://www.case4learning.org</u>). It is proposed that this will be the curriculum used in Howard County. The CASE curriculum includes courses such as Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Principles of Agricultural Sciences – Plant; Animal and Plant Biotechnology; and Agricultural Business, Research and Development. Representatives of the HCPSS have already applied to the Maryland DOE for approval to use CASE.

We discussed internship possibilities and employment opportunities, which HCFB members thought we could help with. A timeline toward implementation was presented by HCPSS, with the goal being to offer the curriculum in the fall of 2018. We intend to continue to work with the Advisory Board and HCPSS to make this happen. If any members of HCFB are interested in participating in this effort, please let Howie know.

# <u>USDA Press Release:</u> <u>USDA and SCORE Launch</u> <u>Innovative Mentorship Effort to</u> <u>Support New Farmers and</u> <u>Ranchers</u>

Source: USDA, Press Release No. 0081.17

#### DES MOINES, Iowa, Aug. 5, 2017 -

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with officials from SCORE, the nation's largest volunteer network of expert business mentors, to support new and beginning farmers. Today's agreement provides new help resources for beginning ranchers, veterans, women, socially disadvantaged Americans and others, providing new tools to help them both grow and thrive in agri-business.

"Shepherding one generation to the next is our responsibility. We want to help new farmers, veterans, and people transitioning from other industries to agriculture," said Secretary Perdue. "They need land, equipment, and access to capital, but they also need advice and guidance. That's what SCORE is all about."

SCORE matches business professionals and entrepreneurs with new business owners to mentor them through the process of starting-up and maintaining a new business. USDA and its partners across rural America are working with SCORE to support new farming and ranching operations, and identify and recruit mentors with a wealth of agricultural experience.

Secretary Perdue announced the new partnership in Des Moines during the Iowa Agriculture Summit. Perdue was joined by Steve Records, Vice-President of Field Operations for SCORE in signing a Memorandum of Understanding that will guide USDA and SCORE as they partner in the mentorship effort, which will soon expand to other states. "SCORE's mission to help people start and grow vibrant small businesses is boosted by this new partnership with USDA. America's farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses will benefit from the business knowledge and expertise SCORE can offer," said Records. "The partnership allows both SCORE and USDA to serve more people while providing America's farmers added support to lead to more sound business operations, create profitable farms with sustainable growth and create new jobs. We are excited at the opportunity to extend SCORE's impact to our farmers and the agriculture industry."

SCORE mentors will partner with USDA and a wide array of groups already hard at work serving new and beginning farmers and ranchers, such as the Future Farmers of America, 4-H, cooperative extension and land grant universities, nonprofits, legal aid groups, banks, technical and farm advisors. These partnerships will expand and integrate outreach and technical assistance between current and retired farmers and agribusiness experts and new farmers.

This joint initiative leverages SCORE's 10,000 existing volunteer mentors and USDA's expertise and presence in agricultural communities to bring no-cost business mentoring to rural and agricultural entrepreneurs. This initiative will also be another tool to empower the work of many communitybased organizations, cooperative extension and land grant universities, working with beginning farmers in their communities. SCORE mentorship will also be available to current farmers and ranchers. Anyone interested in being a mentor can get more information and sign up on the USDA New Farmers' website at

https://newfarmers.usda.gov/mentorship.

## Fall is the Time to Start Managing Nematodes

By: Andrew Kness Source: University of Maryland Extension



August 17, 2017-

Nematodes are a highly successful and diverse group of roundworms that have adapted to nearly every terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem; in fact, they are the most numerous multicellular animal species on earth. One tablespoon of soil can contain thousands of nematodes of many different species, each contributing different ecosystem services. Many are free-living nematodes that feed on bacteria and fungi, others may feed on organic matter and contribute to the natural cycling of nutrients, and others may be plant-parasitic nematodes; which are the ones that can cause serious problems in production agriculture.

Plant-parasitic nematodes have highly specialized, needle-like mouthparts that they use to feed on plants. While some nematodes feed on leaves (foliar nematodes), most plant-parasitic nematodes feed on plant roots. These nematodes find susceptible hosts by following chemicals exuded by the roots. In many cases, these chemicals also trigger their eggs to hatch. Once they find the roots, they begin to feed. Different species have different feeding habits. For example, some nematodes, like the sting nematode (Belonolaimus longicaudatus), are ectoparasites, meaning that they feed and complete their lifecycle outside of the plant root. Others, like the root-knot nematode (Meloidogyne incognita), are endoparasites, feeding and completing their lifecycle inside the root. Regardless of their feeding behavior, plant-parasitic nematodes disrupt the flow of water and nutrients into the plant and can cause severe root deformities and stunting, leading to decreased

plant vigor, water stress, nutrient deficiencies, and overall poor growth and yield reduction.

If left unchecked, plant-parasitic nematode populations can increase to the point where production of susceptible crops is nearly impossible. If you suspect nematodes to be a problem in a field, the first step to proper management is to identify the culprit. In some cases this can be easy. For example, if you dig up symptomatic tomato plants and notice large galls on the roots, then you know you have root-knot nematode. However, diagnosing a nematode problem is not always that easy; and suppose you're farming new ground and want to determine if nematodes are a potential problem? Fall is the time to sample and begin taking action against nematodes.

In general, sampling soon after the crop has been harvested in the fall is the best time to sample for nematodes. To take a sample, use a soil probe and sample 6-8 inches deep in between plants in the row. Take 20-25 samples across the field and mix all the cores together in a clean plastic bucket. After mixing thoroughly, place one pint of soil (I use two scoops of an 8 oz. yogurt cup) in a plastic bag and seal it. The sample can be kept in the refrigerator until you're ready to ship it to a lab for testing. Do not let the sample dry out or get hot (i.e. don't leave it in your hot truck all day); nematodes need to be alive in order to enumerate their populations in your soil. Remember, your test results will only be as good as your sample.

For our region, Virginia Tech is the closest lab to send samples. Mail samples (keep cool) and appropriate form to: Nematode Assay Laboratory, 115 Price Hall, 170 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0331. For forms and more information, visit their <u>website (link is external)</u> or call your Extension office for assistance.

Once you get your results, you can begin weighing your management options, which will vary depending on the nematode species present and your cropping system. As a rough guide, here are some management options that are generally applicable to managing most species of plantparasitic nematodes; however, you should do more research and/or consult with your local Extension Agent to discuss management options for your specific situation.

- **Crop rotation** to non-host crops is typically one of the first steps taken when nematodes are identified as a problem. This can be an effective management strategy if populations aren't too high. Rotation out of host crops for at least 1-2 years is recommended. Crop rotation may also include leaving a field fallow.
- Planting **resistant varieties**. Resistant varieties may not always be available, especially in specialty crops. Also, nematodes can overcome resistance genes due to their high fecundity, so check to make sure the resistance gene is still effective.
- Sanitation should be high on the list of priorities, regardless if nematodes are a problem. Properly cleaning your tools and equipment before moving to a new field or a new area of the farm can prevent the spread of nematodes, diseases and weeds. This also includes purchasing certified, clean seed.
- Fumigation is often the most effective way to manage nematodes, but it can be expensive and therefore often limited to high-value crops. An alternative to synthetic chemical fumigation is biofumigation using brassicas (mustard and rapeseed). Some cultivars (such as Caliente 199) have been bred specifically for fumigation purposes. If done properly, this method is highly effective at knocking back populations of nematodes and other soilborne diseases. However, if done incorrectly, this method can actually increase some nematode populations, so do your research before attempting biofumigation.
- Soil solarization can sterilize the top 8-12 inches of soil and kill plant-parasitic nematodes. This method needs to be done during the hottest part of the summer, as temperatures

need to exceed 130 °F for at least 5 minutes under the plastic. This is a temporary solution and is only viable for shallow-rooted annual crops.

• Seed treatments can offer short-term protection against some nematode species. Seed treatments are typically more common on field crops such as corn and beans and less common for vegetables. Seed treatments protect the root for a couple of weeks during germination and will wear off quickly as the season progresses.

If you experienced, or suspect that you experienced, nematode problems this growing season, fall is the time to start managing the issue. Having a grasp on the exact problem will allow you to better manage the issue and save you time and money in the long run. Contact your local Extension Agent for assistance. You may also contact me with any questions.

# <u>GOAL Participants Visit</u> <u>Maryland Representatives in D.C.</u>

Source: Maryland Farm Bureau



The 2017 GOAL (Growing Our Agriculture Leaders) Team visited Washington, D.C. on July 11 to to meet with Maryland Representatives and understand Farm Bureau's involvement in the national legislative process. The purpose of the GOAL program is to prepare current members to take leadership positions at the County and State Farm Bureau.

The GOAL Team joined AFBF's Council of Presidents Meeting in the morning and heard from AFBF President Zippy Duvall, U.S. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Participants then visited with staff from the offices of Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Rep. John Delaney, Rep. Andy Harris and Rep. Jamie Raskin to discuss agricultural issues they face on their farms. The afternoon ended with a tour of the AFBF office and a reception with AFBF staff and State Farm Bureau Presidents.

Members talked with Maryland Representatives about the 2018 Farm Bill, Dairy Revenue Protection, Immigration and Ag Labor, Tax Reform and other priority issues for action on Capitol Hill. The GOAL Team will visit farms on the Eastern Shore on August 16 and Western Maryland in the fall to dive further into the diversity of Maryland agriculture and Farm Bureau membership.

2017 GOAL Team: Allison Jones Zach Brendel Andrew Isaacson Justin Watt Jesse Rohrer Kayla Griffith Ben Wood

# Announcements

## HURRY! GET YOUR TICKETS!! 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 6:00 PM Circle D Farm 15535 Carrs Mill Road

**Ticket sales will begin June 1**<sup>st</sup> **Tickets: \$80** www.howardfarmbureau.org

## ☆ "Get Your Hands Dirty. Join the Farm Bureau Family"

Each of us should always be recruiting new Howard County Farm Bureau members. Share the benefits of being a member with this new Howard County brochure found attached to this Newsletter and on our web site <u>http://howardfarmbureau.org/</u>.

- Did you know we have 318 farms with average annual sales at about \$108,000?
- Top products are corn, soybeans and forage land.
- We lead the way with a rapidly growing womenowned or operated farming community!
- And we have a thriving horse population.
- AND your membership gives you access to the new Member Savings Advantage.

Download our new brochure and share it with your friends and neighbors. A BIG thank you to Parker Welch, Maryland Farm Bureau, for making our brochure happen! And thanks to the HCFB Communications, Outreach & Education Committee. The brochures were handed out at the Farm Bureau booth at the Fair because of everyone's quick work.

# **Calendar of Events**

#### \*\*\*2017\*\*\*

## SEP 7 CROP INSURANCE WORKSHOP

Place TBD Time All Day \*Details to come on UME website

SEP 13 WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE WEBINAR-RESOURCES FOR NEW AND BEGINNING FARMERS

Place Online Time 12:00 P.M.

- 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
- SEP 17 MARYLAND 4-H STATE COUNCIL MEETING

Place Maryland 4-H Center Time 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

## SEP 29 STATE 4-H DAIRY JUDGING TEAM TRIP

Place World Dairy Expo, Madison, WI Time All Day 9/29-10/3

#### **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 now

#### Oct 6 State 4-H Livestock Judging Team Trip

Place Keystone International Livestock Expo, Harrisburg, PA Time All Day 10/6-10/8

#### <u>Nov 2</u> **PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION TRAINING** Place Carroll County Extension Building

TIME 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

#### NOV 2 LEAD MARYLAND FOUNDATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Place Maryland Farm Bureau Office, Davidsonville, MD (to be confirmed) TIME 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

#### **<u>NOV 9</u> PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION EXAM**

#### Nov 14 2017 Mid Atlantic Crop Management School

 Place
 Princess Royale

 Ocean City, MD

 TIME
 10:00 A.M. – Nov 16 12:00 P.M.

#### DEC 3-5 102<sup>ND</sup> MARYLAND FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION

Place Ocean City, MD

## DEC 6 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- Place National Wildlife Visitor's Center Laurel, MD
- Time 9:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.

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



# FARM TO TABLE



JOIN US FOR AN ELEGANT FOUR COURSE DINNER 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 3, 2017 6 FM Circle D Farm 15535 Carrs Mill Road

TICKETS \$80

TICKET SALES WILL BEGIN JUNE 1ST. WWW.HOWARDFARMBUREAU.ORG



## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Roots of Maryland Agriculture are Grown Right Here in Howard County the Heart of Maryland

#### GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY. JOIN THE FARM BUREAU FAMILY.

More than half of Farm Bureau members are just like you.

They don't farm for a living, but they care about protecting and preserving our farms and our rural roots while ensuring that safe, fresh food from right here in Maryland is always available to feed our families.

If you want to preserve farmland, protect open space and Maryland's natural resources, and enjoy great food grown right here in Howard County, you can make a difference as a member of Farm Bureau.

#### YOUR FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP...

#### BENEFITS OUR HOWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY

Protect our natural resources for our children and future generations of farmers.

Advocate for Maryland's farm families and our agricultural communities that create jobs for 350,000 across the state.

Lead efforts to **educate children about food** and prepare those who seek careers in agriculture.

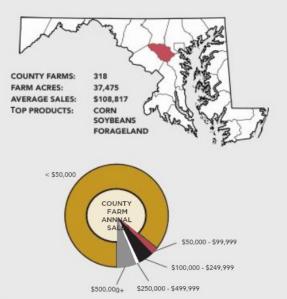
#### SAVES YOU TIME AND MONEY

#### NEW Member Savings

Advantage program saves hundreds - even thousands - on purchases at businesses across the state. Members save an average of \$1802 annually with the program.

Dozens of national businesses like Nationwide, Grainger, BJ's and more want to thank you for supporting Farm Bureau by offering **special savings** on their products and services.

Like The Howard County Farm Bureau on Facebook howardfarmbureau.org



From our farms that feed us to the nurseries, greenhouses and landscaping operations that beautify our communities, Howard County has always championed our rural roots.

We continue to lead the way with a rapidly growing women-owned or operated farm community, a thriving horse farm population and common sense strategies to support our suburban neighborhoods and our rural lifestyle.

Make an impact on Howard County's future. Come grow with us at Farm Bureau.

#### mdfarmbureau.com