

# NEWSLETTER



## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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### Message to Members

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

I hope everyone has had a great summer, it sure has gone by quickly. Seems like we were just getting warmed up a few weeks ago and now it's starting to cool down. Fall is my favorite time of year; the harvest is in full swing, the hay is in the barn and the chill in the morning makes you feel really alive.

Hopefully you all had a chance to attend the Howard County Fair. We have a new Miss Howard County Farm Bureau; her name is Lexi Lewis and we wish her well at the state contest. Our Little Miss Farm Bureau is Kaylee Brogan, and the Future Farmer is Charlie Brendel. I want to congratulate all of them on winning their contest's. I also want to wish Makenzie Hereth, our past Miss Ho. Co. Farm Bureau, a warm farewell. She did a great job and I'm sure she will be moving on to bigger and better things.

We have a lot of things going on in the coming months, one of which is the Solar Energy debate. I know we all have different ideas about solar and I know with me, I want it done well if it's going to be done. We have a lot to work out and we need to

hear everyone's ideas to get a good look at what should be done.

The county is doing a rewrite of the "County Plan" and we have been trying to make sure Ag. is not left out of the plan. Annapolis will be busy as always when the new session gets started, Maryland Farm Bureau will keep you posted with regular updates, so keep an eye out for those.

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 Fair Contest Winners



Congratulations to all of our participants in the Howard County Farm Bureau scholarship contests!

**Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau** -  
Kaylee Brogan, age 11 of West Friendship

**Future Farmer** - Charlie Brendel, age 8 of  
Woodbine

**Miss Howard County Farm Bureau** - Catherine  
"Lexi" Lewis, age 17 of Glenelg



All contestants received prize money to support their projects and education.



## JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP WITH HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

*By: Rhonda Patrick Winkler*



Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers young & old. We couldn't have done this program/show without your help!

A special thanks to....

Chris & Carole Murray - they picked up the dairy animals from the farms and then drove all the way to Hagerstown to return the leased Ayrshire calves to Palmyra

Palmyra Farm, they leased us 6 beautiful Ayrshire calves.

The Stanley Miller Family and Marc & Katie Whitaker-Hereth Family for hosting the swine workshops.

The Jason & Kathleen Blanchard Spicer Family for hosting the lamb workshops.

Stanley Miller for bringing his goats over to our farm so that we could do the dairy & goat workshops at the same time.

My adult ring help...

Lori Mellin & Charles Mellin - thank you for keeping us organized and keeping the show moving.

Margaret Johnson - ring queen of the swine and goat ring.

Wendy Gray Campagnari & Ashley Schaeffer & Carole Murray for keeping the dairy & lamb ring moving.

Thank you to our wonderful parents for bringing your children to all of the workshops and getting your kids involved in agricultural!

A huge THANK YOU to our awesome judges. You each did a fantastic job and I/we truly appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to judge for us.

Dairy - Shannon Jones

Swine - Garrett Hamby

Lamb - Tina Gray Poole

Goat - Tyler Hough

Bless You All

Check out our Facebook Page!

**Junior Showmanship with Howard County Farm Bureau**

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## **Strategic Plan for Maryland Agriculture**

*By: Julie Oberg, MD Department of Agriculture*

Thank you for participating in the August 13 listening session for the Strategic Plan for Maryland Agriculture. We know your time is valuable and appreciate you taking the time to provide us with your thoughtful input.

We are pleased to share the dates of our regional listening sessions with you. Each session will follow the same format as the August 13 session to gather information from across the state.

**Tuesday, September 17 (7 - 9 p.m.) -**  
Charles County Soil Conservation District -  
4200 Gardiner Rd, Waldorf, MD 20601

**Wednesday, September 18 (7 - 9 p.m.) -**  
Washington County Agricultural Education

Center - 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro  
MD 21713-2431

**Monday, September 30 (7 - 9 p.m.) -**  
Chesapeake College Eastern Shore Higher  
Education Center - 1000 College Circle,  
Wye Mills, MD 21679

**Tuesday, October 1 (7 - 9 p.m.) -**  
Maryland  
State Fairgrounds Administration Building -  
2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium,  
MD 21093

We are now starting to promote the meetings. Please encourage your members and others who are interested in agriculture to attend the sessions to provide their input as well. (Space will be limited and we encourage those who want to attend any of the regional sessions to RSVP to Lindsey Palmer at [lindsey.palmer@maryland.gov](mailto:lindsey.palmer@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5831.)

If you have any additional thoughts you'd like to share, please send those along so they can be included with the data.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Thank you,  
Joe and Julie

**Julianne A. Oberg**  
Deputy Secretary  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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## Call for Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame

Source: *Maryland Department of Agriculture*



### *Nominations Due No Later Than October 4*

August 22, 2019

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – The Maryland Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations of farmers and farm families for the [Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame](#), which pays tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to the state's leading industry. Nominations are due Friday, October 4. Those selected for induction will be honored during the Taste of Maryland Agriculture event on February 6, 2020.

“Agriculture is the backbone of our rural communities and state economy. Our Maryland farmers work tirelessly, year-round to provide food, fiber, and nourishment for Maryland residents and many beyond our state borders,” said **Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder**. “In recognition of the dedicated farm families throughout the state, I encourage residents to submit a nomination for the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame.”

Any farm family that derives its income principally from farming is eligible for the award. The Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame, established in 1991, includes [50 farm families](#) from 23 counties who have been honored for their high standards of conduct; personal values; contributions to their community; and performance, leadership, innovation, and achievement in agriculture.

Local Extension offices serve as local nominating committee coordinators. Each local nominating committee is made up of the county extension educator, county farm bureau president, county fair

representative, and county soil conservation district chairman. Each committee reviews a pool of candidates from its county and forwards a selection to the Governor's Selection Committee. Only one farm family per county can be considered.

Applicants **MUST** work with their county Cooperative Extension Office in preparing the application, which should include as much information about the family as possible and address agricultural leadership, community activities, and technological and management advancements.

The selection committee includes the Dean of the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the President of the Maryland Farm Bureau, and members of the agricultural community.

The application can be downloaded from the website link below. Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. on October 4.

For more information, contact Jessica O'Sullivan at 410-841-5881 or [jessica.osullivan@maryland.gov](mailto:jessica.osullivan@maryland.gov).

<https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2019/08/22/call-for-governors-agriculture-hall-of-fame-3/>

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## Trump Signs Bill Providing Debt Relief to More Family Farmers

Source: *American Farm Bureau Federation*

August 26, 2019

President Trump last week signed the Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019, a measure that raises the Chapter 12 debt limit from \$4.1 million to \$10 million. The law will help family farmers struggling with export market disruptions, weather events and declining farm income, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said in a statement.

“It will help family farmers reorganize after falling on hard times by increasing the debt limit for relief eligibility under the Chapter 12 bankruptcy code,” Duvall said. “While this is a sobering reflection of the current state of the agricultural economy, we are grateful to Congress, the President and his administration for their prioritization of reforming our current bankruptcy laws.”

A recent Market Intel, “Farm Loan Delinquencies and Bankruptcies Are Rising,” looks closely at how deteriorating financial conditions are affecting farmers and ranchers’ abilities to meet their obligations.

<https://www.fb.org/news/trump-signs-bill-providing-debt-relief-to-more-family-farmers>

## **Celebrating America’s Farmers’ Market, and Farmers’ Markets Everywhere**

By: Bailey Corwine

Source: *American Farm Bureau Federation*



Credit: AFBF

August 5, 2019

Every Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., residents of Washington, D.C., can find something a little unexpected in the bustling metropolitan area of the National Mall: a farmers’ market. The market, which is organized and hosted by USDA, has been hosting farmers, ranchers, growers and producers from around the D.C. area since 1995.

For the 2019 market season, which runs until Oct. 25, more than 30 vendors assemble on the sidewalk

around the USDA headquarters to sell local honey, fresh seafood, artisanal dog treats and much more. Hungry customers can not only browse a large selection of fresh produce, but also check out a variety of breakfast and lunch options, ranging from local bagels to grass-fed beef burgers.



Credit: AFBF

According to USDA’s website, the Agricultural Marketing Service uses the USDA Farmers Market as a “living laboratory” for farmers’ markets across the country, of which there are over 8,600. This not only allows AMS to study best practices for a farmers’ market, it also gives farmers the chance to experience a market in a somewhat controlled environment.

“I like the fact that it is a USDA market,” said Dana Gillum, head of livestock operations at Hillcrest Farm in Maryland. “This is our first market, so we figured we’d try it out and see what happens.”

While the draw for many farmers’ market vendors and customers is getting the opportunity to meet a local farmer, that is not always the case at the USDA Farmers’ Market.

“You meet people from all over,” said Bill Schutte, a Virginia farmer who sells grass-fed beef, among other products, at the market every Friday. “You could talk to someone from Texas, and then you could sit down with someone from England, or Barcelona, Spain.”



Credit: AFBF

However, the educational opportunities often found at a traditional, local farmers' market are still present at the USDA market. Customers get to meet real farmers, growers, fishers and ranchers and ask them questions about how their food is grown.

"We'll talk to someone from a developing country about how we use rotational grazing on our farm, and they will say it's a process that could work in their home country," Schutte said.



Credit: AFBF

Whether your closest farmers' market is just down the street, or two hours away, the experience of attending a farmers' market is one worth having, especially during National Farmers Market Week, Aug. 4-10. USDA started this celebration in 1999 to highlight the important role farmers' markets play in the nation's food system, as about 8% of U.S. farms market foods locally, through direct-to-consumer or intermediated sales.

To learn more about farmers' markets, or to find a farmers' market near you, visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories>.

<https://www.fb.org/news/celebrating-americas-farmers-market-and-farmers-markets-everywhere>

## Ag reps: Committee squeezing out meat, dairy

By: Johnathon Cribbs

Source: *The Delmarva Farmer*

July 26, 2019

BALTIMORE — Two agricultural representatives accused a state committee this month of quietly working to slash the amount of beef, poultry, dairy and other animal products purchased by state agencies.

The Maryland Department of General Services started the Carbon-Intensive Foods Subcommittee in the spring to examine the state's purchasing of foods whose production releases high amounts of greenhouse gases.

State officials said the 26-person committee is merely studying the issue, but two of its newest members — Colby Ferguson, government relations director at the Maryland Farm Bureau, and Scott Barao, executive vice president of the Maryland Cattlemen's Association — said committee documents detail a more specific purpose to encourage state agencies, such as universities, hospitals and prisons, to buy less meat and other kinds of animal protein.

"It's more just a push to get rid of animal agriculture," Ferguson said.

A March 27 timeline issued to committee members spells out the group's goals, including the development of best practices for "reducing the volume of carbon-intensive foods purchased by state agencies and universities."

An intern working for the committee also created a draft list of carbon-intensive foods. The list includes beef, lamb, goat meat, butter, shellfish, cheese, pork, chicken, cream, eggs and milk as foods whose production emits high levels of greenhouse gases.

"Why did (they) produce the hit list of foods?" Barao said. "Why would you even produce that if you had no intention of carrying that to the next step of purchasing?"

State officials declined to speak in detail about the committee. Barao and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association sent a joint letter to Gov. Larry Hogan on July 12, asking him to disband the committee for operating with a "political agenda" rather than facts about the impact of cattle production on the environment.

Ellington E. Churchill Jr., general services department secretary, and Joe Bartenfelder, secretary of the state department of agriculture, responded on Hogan's behalf in a joint letter four days later, denying that the committee is working to reduce the state's animal protein consumption.

The agriculture department is co-chairing the committee.

"This non-legislative subcommittee has no preconceived goal or mission to prohibit or reduce the purchasing of beef or other protein by the state, and we apologize if that was not clear from the onset," the department heads said. "The Department of General Services did not agree to any mandate requiring agencies to purchase or give preference to non-carbon intensive foods."

The committee met for the first time in early July. Ferguson and Barao were added along with several other agricultural representatives earlier this month, though neither has attended a meeting yet.

"I'm just furious," Barao said. "This is a precedent that would impact everybody. The grain producers, everybody up and down the food chain."

The timeline also says the general services department should build a feature into an electronic purchasing system under development that would allow the department to track purchasing of carbon-intensive foods across state agencies. The committee is scheduled to meet monthly through November when it would submit the carbon-intensive foods list and best practices to the Green Purchasing Committee for formal adoption.

The Green Purchasing Committee, part of the general services department, was created in 2010 to develop environmentally sustainable purchasing policies and best practices for state agencies.

The committee's motives can also be found in its legislative origins, Ferguson said. In February, Del. James Gilchrist, D-Montgomery County, submitted a bill to the General Assembly requiring the state's Green Purchasing Committee to publish a list of carbon-intensive foods and establish best practices for state agencies "to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the amount of carbon-intensive foods they purchase."

Friends of the Earth, a Washington, D.C., environmental advocacy organization, assisted Gilchrist in crafting the bill.

The bill also mandated that each state agency, including four-year colleges and universities, give preference to foods not on that list. It did not include any specific goals or enforcement standards for that mandate, however.

Ferguson protested the bill before the House Health and Government Operations Committee on Feb. 19, claiming it was forcing a vegetarian diet on Marylanders through the state's food procurement process. A month later, Gilchrist withdrew his bill.

Ferguson said he thought the issue was settled, but Gilchrist withdrew the bill with the understanding that the state's general services department was already studying and would continue to study the state food purchasing.

Gilchrist and the bill's supporters determined they didn't need to work through the legislature, said Chloe Waterman, a senior food campaigner at Friends of the Earth.

"They already have the authority to do everything in that bill," she said.

The general services department added Gilchrist and Waterman to the Carbon-Intensive Foods Subcommittee. Gilchrist did not respond to requests for an interview.

"The agenda that we have is to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions," Waterman said. "At this point, we need to do all that we can."

Through lobbying and other efforts, Friends of the Earth seeks to reduce worldwide meat consumption dramatically, reform animal agriculture practices and

promote pastured organic meat and dairy, which they say are raised more sustainably.

“Maryland is purchasing a lot of food,” Waterman said. “Yet the food we’re purchasing isn’t aligned with (worldwide) goals on climate.”

Barao said he disagrees with scientific information the committee has distributed to members.

He points to federal and state studies, including a recent report from the Environmental Protection Agency that said agriculture produced just 9 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. The transportation, electricity and industrial economic sectors contributed nearly 80 percent of all emissions.

In Maryland, agriculture’s share is smaller. The industry produced just 2 percent of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2017, according to a 2018 report by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The committee is more interested in meat consumption than greenhouse gas, Barao said.

“There’s no good in this,” he said. “This is a calculated process to do away with meat at the request of Friends of the Earth.”

But food production, including transportation and land-use changes, account for a quarter of worldwide emissions, Waterman said — a statistic that’s been attributed to a 2018 University of Oxford study. Scientists believe a rising global concentration of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases, is warming the planet and creating climate change.

“We can’t afford not to address emissions from agriculture,” Waterman said.

The committee will produce best practices for state agencies, but they won’t be binding, Waterman said. Thomas Hickey, another committee member and head of procurement for the University System of Maryland, also said he doesn’t believe the committee plans to restrict the state.

“This is not that. At least, that’s my impression,” he said. “It’s not coming up with, ‘You cannot buy meat, you cannot buy dairy or you cannot buy shellfish.’”

Such restrictions would be difficult to enact, he said. Many state agencies hire contractors to manage dining services, and large food buyers such as the state’s public universities need to meet the needs of a diverse student body. Hickey also said he was skeptical of the committee’s goal to track carbon-intensive food purchases across the state with a new purchasing system.

“My general impression is that this (committee) is a benign endeavor,” he said.

The committee will hold its next meeting at the general services department’s office at 301 West Preston St., in Baltimore in the Olmsted Conference Room on Oct. 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The majority of the committee’s members are state officials, including three from the agriculture department. Representatives from the Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc., the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Maryland Grain Producers and Maryland Pork Producers have also been added within the last several weeks.

Tal Petty, a St. Mary’s County oysterman, joined the group two weeks ago. He said he viewed the carbon-intensive foods list and was surprised to see shellfish on it.

“The committee had some one-sided representation, and I think it’s great that agricultural protein representatives are now included,” Petty said.

Ferguson said he remains wary.

“I don’t trust anybody at all with this right now,” Ferguson said. “That’s why I’m going to stay on top of it to make sure this isn’t getting shoved down our throats.”

<https://americanfarmpublications.com/rescue-equipment-training-provided-to-harrington-fire-co-2/>



# Announcements

## ❖ Howard Soil Conservation District's Cooperators Dinner

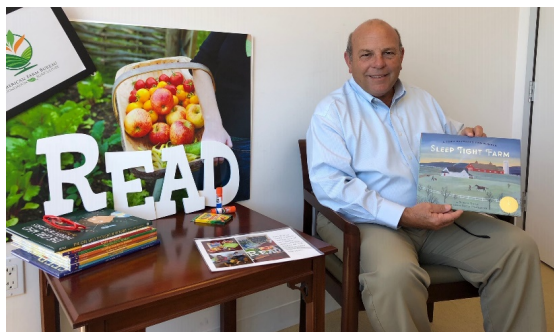
The Howard Soil Conservation District invites you and your family to join us at Mary's Land Farm, Ellicott City, Maryland to honor the Howard SCD's Cooperator of the Year.

The event will be held September 5th, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Come on out for an enjoyable summer evening with catering by Beefalo Bob's to include delicious pit beef, ham and turkey, hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings. Enjoy a hayride and try your aim at the pumpkin cannon!

To find out more information on the event or to sign up, visit the HSCD website, [www.howardscd.org](http://www.howardscd.org), or call the office, 410.313.0680.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## ❖ National Read A Book Day is September 6<sup>th</sup>!



When: September 6th

What: Read an accurate ag book! In a classroom, a library or with your family!

How: Book ideas, activities, volunteer tips and more available online!

Then what? SHARE! Post your favorite books or how you celebrate National Read a Book Day. Tag us @AgFoundation on twitter and @Foundation4Ag on Facebook #ReadAgBooks19

What else? Spread the word! Here is something you can post to social media:

September 6th is National Read a Book Day! Let's try to get that book to be an accurate ag book! The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is encouraging volunteers and teachers to pick an accurate ag book to share with a classroom on September 6th! Visit <https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/national-read-a-book-day> for book ideas, free activities and more. #ReadAgBooks19

# **Calendar of Events**

**\*\*\*2019\*\*\***

**SEP 5 HOWARD SOIL CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT'S COOPERATOR DINNER**

Place Mary's Land Farm  
4979 Sheppard Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Time 5:30 p.m.

\*Visit [www.howardscd.org](http://www.howardscd.org) for more details

**SEPT 11 2019 MAEF & MNLGA ANNUAL  
SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Place Oakmont Green Golf Club  
2290 Golf View Lane  
Hampstead, MD 21074

Time 12:00 p.m.

Contact: Amie McDaniels (301) 751-7962,

**DEC 14 THE GREAT LISBON FARMERS FEED  
THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Place Lisbon, MD

TIME 12:00 P.M.

**DEC 8-10 104<sup>TH</sup> MARYLAND FARM BUREAU  
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Place Ocean City, MD  
The Clarion Resort Hotel

[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.