



# NEWSLETTER



## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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### ~Contacts~

Leslie Bauer, President (443) 812-1662  
 Zack Brendel, Vice-President (410) 984-1430  
 Katie Hereth, Secretary (301) 580-6029  
 Kerry Brendel, Treasurer (301) 606-2341  
 Mandy Dalglish, Newsletter Editor (240) 638-6174

WEBSITE: [www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard)

### Message to Members

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

I hope this newsletter finds all of our members continuing to stay healthy. It is hard to believe that we have already reached September and fall harvest and the November elections are quickly approaching. Just like there has been change on our farms thru the years, the current COVID environment has brought a lot of change to how we run as an organization. Like farming, we are having to learn and adapt to continue to serve our membership and community in the best way possible. While many of our traditional face-to-face events have been cancelled or moved to a virtual setting, we have still continued to work hard behind the scenes these past few months. Even with so much change and uncertainty these days, Farm Bureau still keeps plowing ahead in their support of farmers and the agriculture industry.

The youth in our county enjoyed a different, but good county fair. While I missed the opportunity to see and catch up with so many friends (as I am sure many of you did), I still enjoyed watching the virtual livestock shows online, and enjoyed the opportunity to take part and help support the virtual livestock sale.

I would like to thank the Women’s Leadership Committee, who worked hard to present a very successful virtual Miss and Little Miss contest. In the Miss Contest, we had three excellent contestants, and even though the contest format was a bit different this year, I am sure the judges still had a difficult choice to make. With five contestants in our Little Miss Contest, those judges also had a big task to select a winner. I am excited that Ana Clemmer (Miss) and Jaelyn Velisek (Little Miss) will be representing Howard County Farm Bureau this next year. Congratulations to both of these girls! As I am writing this, Ana has now competed in the Miss Maryland Agriculture State Contest (which was also a virtual event), and I was so excited when they announced Ana’s name as third runner up! Again, even though the contest format was different this year, Ana ran against 15 other amazing girls and the competition was tough, but Ana stayed strong and represented Howard County very well.

As you drive around town or listen to the radio recently, you may have heard an ad promoting Farm Bureau. Howard County Farm Bureau has joined

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with Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery and Washington Counties for a 6-week radio ad campaign on 99.9 WFRE. The ad has already gotten some good response from listeners, and we are hopeful it will help encourage membership. If nothing else, it is a good reminder to our non-farm neighbors of the hard work farmers provide to keep this country fed.

In the July newsletter, I shared news about the Grow It Forward Program, sponsored by Senator Katie Hester. The program will help to unite local farms with those in the community who have a need for food. The program has continued to move forward and has received several grants to help with funding. While several farmers have already expressed interest in the program, the Howard County Food Bank continues to look for additional farmers to contract for food supply/production. If this program is something that interests you, please be sure to read more about it later in this newsletter.

Also in the July newsletter, I mentioned that Howard County Farm Bureau was in the process of arranging weekly milk donations to Columbia Community Care. With schools making the move to virtual learning, many of the students, and their families, who had previously received Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) are not having their food needs fully met. Columbia Community Care (CCC) stepped up to help fill that need and has been supplying food and other items at 5 school distribution sites daily, except Sundays. Every day, families line up to pick up what food has been donated by community members, and at times CCC has served up to 500 families per day. To that end, the board of directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau has stepped up to help with the effort as well. The board, and board members, have agreed to provide 100 gallons of milk per week for 14 weeks. We have arrangements in place with Dairy Maid in Frederick to make weekly deliveries of milk to CCC. Our donations to CCC started at the end of July and are currently projected to run thru the end of October. I am sure we will reevaluate this need as we get close to the end of October. I would also like to thank the many board members who have agreed to personally support this effort: Zack Brendel, John Dove/Love Dove Farm, Howie

Feaga/Merry Acres Farm, Barbara Glenn, Cathy Hudson, Dan Jacobs, Kathy Johnson, Jake Moore/Larriland Farm, Keith Ohlinger/Porch View Farm LLC, Jay Rhine/Rhine Landscaping, Willie Storm, Rhonda Winkler/Steel Fire Farm, and James Zoller.

As we move into the fall season, there are some annual activities where I always look forward to catching up with other Farm Bureau members – our Annual Meeting, our Annual Dinner, the Lisbon Christmas Parade and even the Annual Farm Bureau Convention. Like so many activities during spring and summer, these fall events will have a new look due to the current COVID environment. Please be sure to check our Facebook page, The Howard County Farm Bureau, as well as future e-mails and the November newsletter for updates on these upcoming events and how they will be presented to our members.

In closing, while I know 2020 has been a challenging year, we have slowly made our way through and are learning to adapt in the COVID environment. It has not always been easy (or fun), but farmers are a resilient breed, and this is just another storm we will weather. As farmers prepare to enter the harvest season, I wish everyone the best in their harvest endeavors.

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## **Grow It Forward Press Release**

*Contact: Jeff Schad, Media Contact,*  
[jeffschad@gmail.com](mailto:jeffschad@gmail.com)



June 15, 2020

**State Senator Katie Fry Hester, Howard County Farm Bureau, Howard County Food Bank Address Food Insecurity and Local Farms' Economic Losses with 'Grow It Forward' Campaign**

***In the Midst of Pandemic, Sen. Fry Hester is on a Mission to Save Local Farms and Feed Marylanders In Need – All at the Same Time***

Annapolis, MD -- On March 23, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan announced the closure of all non-essential businesses due to the COVID-19 outbreak, forcing many restaurants and shops to close their doors for an indefinite period of time, and urging Maryland citizens to stay home and practice social distancing.

These closures and stay-at-home orders have resulted in hundreds of thousands of Marylanders losing their jobs, leading to record numbers of families turning to food banks, schools, and nonprofits hoping to keep food on their tables. In just the past few months, the number of food-insecure individuals across Maryland has almost doubled from 665,000 to over 1 million. While dealing with this increased demand, food banks are also seeing their normal sources of food donations, grocery stores, and restaurants, disappear. In the wake of widespread restaurant closures and dwindling demand, many local farmers have lost significant income and are being forced to plow under otherwise viable crops for lack of funds to harvest, process, and store.

To help solve the problem, Senator Fry Hester worked with the Howard County Farm Bureau Howard County Food Bank, Howard Community Foundation in addition to other local partners, to develop the Grow it Forward Campaign. Their goal is to help meet the needs of food-insecure communities in the fall/winter months of 2020-2021 while simultaneously supporting the economic recovery of small, local farmers. The program will connect food pantries in Carroll and Howard counties with food produced by local farmers. Thus far, the partnership includes the Howard County Farm Bureau, Howard County Food Bank, Maryland Food Bank, and Howard County 4-H Extension, with discussions already underway to expand in Carroll County.

*“The past few months have been very hard for many people. The Grow It Forward campaign brings our community together to help farmers and Marylanders struggling with food security –while giving our students a valuable experience. This idea grew out of legislation I sponsored to encourage State Institutions to buy local food. Both leverage a triple bottom line return: it’s good for our health, environment, economy – and it also makes us more resilient. It’s really is a win for everyone!”* said Senator Hester.

Grow It Forward will grow, glean, process and preserve nutritious local food for Marylanders in need, while supporting local farm income and education. The anticipated outcome is an additional 80,000 pounds of local food for local food pantries, and investment in infrastructure to strengthen the economic capacity, sustainability, and resiliency of the local food supply chain. For example, through this program:

- Maryland Food Bank will work with volunteers to glean local fields of participating farms for any leftover produce.
- Local farmers with high tunnels, greenhouses, and similar infrastructure will contract with food banks to grow specific crops for harvest in the fall and winter months.
- Teams of students (such as those with 4H and Future Farmers of America) will engage in projects, raising egg-laying chickens, for instance, to support food banks.
- Local restaurants can partner with farmers to process and preserve excess food for future use.

Grow it Forward is administered by the Howard County Community Foundation, which has already pledged \$25,000 in support. The program plans to pursue a partnership for subsidized energy for greenhouses supplying local food pantries. Additionally, the program will solicit ongoing

funding through small donations from customers who visit farmers markets, enroll at Community Supported Agriculture systems, shop at a farm store, and who donate via the [Grow It Forward website](#).

<https://cfhoco.org/state-senator-katie-fry-hester-announces-the-grow-it-forward-fund/>

Please email: [GrowItForwardMD@gmail.com](mailto:GrowItForwardMD@gmail.com) for further information on the program.

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*4-H Extension - "Community service is one of the core components integrated into the 4-H program. Our youth participate in a variety of community service programs and projects throughout the year. I am very interested in the opportunity that Howard County 4-Hers could be involved in the Grow It Forward project to help support the food needs in Howard County."*  
Sheryl Bennett

*"The Howard County Farm Bureau is excited for this opportunity to promote agriculture in our county. We see the Grow it Forward program as a win-win for both the farmer and the residents of Howard County. The farmer will benefit by having an alternative market for their produce. Those in the county who have food needs will benefit from the fresh local produce that will be provided by the food bank."*

Thanks,  
Leslie Bauer  
President  
Howard County Farm Bureau

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## **MARYLAND FFA HONORS MEMBERS AT 92<sup>ND</sup> STATE CONVENTION**

By: Amy McDaniels, Communications Director,  
MAEF



(HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND) – July 8, 2020- Maryland FFA Association honored local chapters and members for their outstanding

achievements during the 92nd annual Maryland State FFA Convention held virtually, June 23-26.

The convention, dedicated to Dr. Ronald Seibel, for his lifetime of service to the Maryland FFA, was coordinated by the 2019-2020 MD FFA State Officer Team – Jill Allen, State President; Ryan Mondonedo, Vice-President; Sierra Wean, Secretary; Rylee McConville, Treasurer; Jaclyn Bryant, Reporter; Mallory Anderson, Sentinel. The convention opened with greetings from Dr. James Woodard, National FFA Advisor; and keynote address from Ms. Mamie Hertel, National FFA Central Region Vice President.

During this event, FFA members were recognized for their accomplishments and participation in the Maryland FFA:

**The State Star Greenhand Award:** Jayci Mitchell from the Cecil County School of Technology FFA Chapter, Region 5. Other Regional Star Greenhand Finalists: Region 1- Kara Rinker, Oakland FFA; Region 2- Abby Moreland, Catoctin FFA; Region 4- Hope Mullins, North Harford FFA;

**The State FFA Proficiency Award Winners -Gold Awards:** Avery Dull, Westminster, Diversified Livestock Production Placement; Lynne Thomas, North Harford, Agricultural Science Research; and Austin Welty, Linganore, Agricultural Sales Placement. **Silver Award:** Helen Leadingham, Boonsboro, Diversified Livestock Production. **Bronze Awards:** Mackenzie Grove, Frederick, Equine Science, Emma Rush, Oakland, Beef Production and Trenton Tasker, Oakland, Swine Production.

**The State Agriscience Fair Award:** Kacie Pulsy and Leslie Ennis from the Parkside FFA Chapter.

**The State Talent performances:** Madison Miller, Howard County FFA; Shea Cencula, Linganore FFA Chapter.

**Wiley G & Carrie A. Griffith Scholarships:** \$1,000 awarded each to Makenzie Heret, Howard County FFA; Kelly Spicer, Howard

County FFA; and Samantha Wilt, North Garrett FFA Chapter.

**MD FFA Foundation & University of Maryland College Park, College of Agriculture State Officer**

**Scholarship:** \$2,000 awarded to each of the 2019-2020 State officers to continue their education at the University of Maryland, College Park for their outstanding leadership to the Maryland FFA Association.

**National Chapter Awards:** Gold Level to Boonsboro FFA, North Garrett FFA and the Parkside FFA Chapter.

The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation is a 501c3 non-governmental nonprofit established in 1989. Through the Maryland FFA, teacher workshops, scholarships, grants, Mobile Labs and Showcases, and revenues from the Ag Tag license plate sales, the Foundation pursues its mission to promote the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in everyone's lives. The Maryland FFA Association's staff team is partially funded through a \$40,000 federal Perkins grant facilitated by the Maryland State Department of Education. The Maryland FFA Association has 2,500 student members in 54 local chapters throughout the state.

For more information, visit [www.mdffa.org](http://www.mdffa.org) or contact Naomi Knight at [nknight@maefonline.com](mailto:nknight@maefonline.com)

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## Soil Health Grant Available to Farmers

By: University of Maryland



August 20, 2020

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is accepting applications for the Farming for Healthy Soil Program. This three-year program begins this

fall and provides financial assistance to farmers for implementing soil health practices on their farm. All livestock and crop (including grain, forage, fruit, and vegetables) farms are eligible for this program. Approved soil health practices include conservation tillage/residue management, multi-species cover crop mixtures, extended season cover crops, prescribed grazing, and precision nutrient management. Practices must be new to the farm; for example, adopting a practice never used on site before or changing from a one species cover crop to a two species cover crop.

Rates range from \$10 to \$55 per acre. Fields eligible for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share (MACS) Cover Crop Program can receive financial assistance from this grant in addition to the MACS funding; however, MACS enrolled fields must be extended season (planted before October 1 and terminated after May 1) or multi-species cover crops. The maximum funding per participating producer is \$5,000 annually. Farmers must be in compliance with MDA programs (i.e. nutrient management) in order to participate.

Farmers are expected to commit up to three years of practice implementation on the same field(s). Soil samples will be taken this fall and again in the fall of 2022 to compare before and after practice implementation. Soil samples will also be taken in adjacent or nearby fields which have not had soil health practices to serve as control fields. University of Maryland Extension Agriculture Agents will be collecting the soil samples for farms in Western and Central Maryland.

The [application form](#) should be submitted to Kevin Antoszewski, MDA Healthy Soils Program Coordinator, at [kevin.antoszewski@maryland.gov](mailto:kevin.antoszewski@maryland.gov). For questions, contact Kevin (email is preferred, but a voicemail can be left at 410-841-5866) or Kelly Nichols, University of Maryland Extension Ag Agent, at 301-600-3577 or [kellyn@umd.edu](mailto:kellyn@umd.edu).

Source: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/soil-health-grant-available-farmers>

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# The Rat and the Farmer

By: *Michael Calkins*

## *The Rat and the Elevator*

Everyone has encountered a rat, either it be in the home or the barn, but most have seen one. This is a story that happened to me and two of our local farmers Bill Barnes and Danny Knill. It was a normal day of unloading soybeans into a trailer for them to be taken to the port of Baltimore and shipped to its new home. The process of planting full season soybeans can vary depending on the climate and the weather, but generally begins in mid-May and then is harvested in September/October. There is a short season soybean that is planted after wheat, rye, or barley and is harvested in late May/June. After being harvested they are stored in grain bins to be dried more. Potentially they are stored until the next season when the market price is better than harvest time.

We were at the Barnes farm in Woodbine where we were getting everything ready to start the unloading process. First it was getting the tractor hooked to the grain elevator and pulling it into position to place it under the grain bin unloader. But the tire was a little flat, so we got the air hose out to pump it up. After we had the elevator in position, we had to open the door to the unloader. First, we needed to run the elevator to make sure everything was running perfectly. Here comes the tractor trailer to back under the elevator to be loaded with the soybeans. We got the trailer into position under the elevator and Bill said we need to run the elevator to make sure it's working properly. Danny turned it on, and everything was running great until some straw and two rats fell out the end of the elevator into the tractor trailer. Knowing the rats and a nest were in the trailer, we had to clean it out to make sure we didn't take the two rats to the port and unload them into other soybeans from other farmers. The tractor trailer driver said that he isn't getting into the trailer and getting them out. Bill, Danny and myself all said the same.

It was then that a light bulb went off in Bills head. He calls out "hang on I'll be right back" and quickly walks into his shop. Danny and I both looked at

each other as well as the truck driver not knowing what Bill had in mind. Now I want you to picture someone coming out of a building in full on gear from head to toe like they are going to be attending a trap and skeet competition. This is what Bill was wearing, with his hat on ear protection and a double barrel shotgun, the only thing he would have been missing was a shooting vest. I promptly say really loud so he can hear me with the ear protection on "what are you going to shoot them in the trailer?" The truck driver yells and says, "not in my trailer." So, Bill promptly says "nope I'm going to shoot them as soon as he opens the bottom doors of the trailer." The truck driver looks at him a little flabbergasted and says, "why not?" So, Bill takes his position and readies himself. The truck driver walks over to the handle to the door opener.

Now Danny and I stand behind and to the side of Bill as to not be anywhere close to what is about to happen. The truck driver readies himself to basically throw the handle as to not be close to where Bill would be possibly shooting. The first attempt was a little short as the truck driver flung the handle and ran away. Nothing happened. The door had only opened a few feet, maybe halfway. Bill again readies himself and the truck driver does the same. But this time Bill Hollers "pull!!" Promptly the truck driver flings the handle and runs. The two rats fall out of the trap door and hit the ground, jump and Bill lets both barrels go at the same time. Both rats then disappear as if nothing was there. As quick as they came out of the trailer door they were gone.

Bill then does his best Tiger Woods impression. Then calmly walks back into his shop as if nothing happened and it was just another day on the farm doing chores. The truck driver, Danny and I all look at each other in disbelief and dumbfounded that Bill had been able to shoot both the rats at the same time without skipping a beat. It was business as usual after that. Got the trailer door closed and the elevator running. We unloaded two loads of soybeans that night.

Over the years since this happened, I think I have replayed this entire thing in my head thousands of times. All while laughing at the way Bill looked when he came out of his shop ready for a skeet

shoot and the way he walked away after shooting both barrels at the same time. All the memories made with the farmers in Howard County are ones that will forever fill my soul.

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## Anonymous Seeds received in the Mail

*Source: University of Maryland Extension*

August 7, 2020  
Alert from MDA:

If you live in Maryland and have received a package of seeds that you did not order, please report them immediately to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Management program at [ppwm.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:ppwm.mda@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5920.

Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until MDA or USDA APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant any seeds from unknown origins.

Here is the link for APHIS [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/sa\\_sitc/ct\\_antismuggling?fbclid=IwAR0zGgzHYJFUdBKIMTC2y0yyg94BzxfGI3Yvi7dOmKXYsdmCOY0\\_Lk6yIM](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/sa_sitc/ct_antismuggling?fbclid=IwAR0zGgzHYJFUdBKIMTC2y0yyg94BzxfGI3Yvi7dOmKXYsdmCOY0_Lk6yIM)

These are their instructions:  
If individuals are aware of the potential smuggling of prohibited exotic fruits, vegetables, or meat products into or through the USA, they can help APHIS by contacting the confidential Antismuggling Hotline number at 800-877-3835 or by sending an Email to [SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov). USDA will make every attempt to protect the confidentiality of any information sources during an investigation within the extent of the law.

Here is MDA Plants and Pests information:

**Kevin Conroy**  
Assistant Secretary  
Plant Industries & Pest Management  
Telephone: 410-841-5870

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## Announcements

### ❖ Howard County Farm Bureau Contest Winners!

The Women's Leadership Committee of the Howard County Farm Bureau would like to congratulate our 2020 Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Jaelyn Velisek, and Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Ana Clemmer!

The committee held a virtual contest on August 9, 2020. Judges for both contests had tough decisions to make, as all of the contestants did an excellent job. The Women's Leadership Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked hard to make this year's virtual contest a success. Miss the contest? You can still go back and view it on our Facebook page!

## Calendar of Events

\*\*\*2020\*\*\*

**DUE TO COVID-19 EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULED DATE AT THIS TIME.**

### TBA ANNUAL HCFB LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Place Lisbon Fire Hall  
1330 Woodbine Road  
Woodbine, MD 21797

### TBA THE GREAT LISBON FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Place Lisbon, MD  
TIME 12:00 P.M.