

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

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

Happy New Year! The last quarter of 2022 continued to be busy as farmers wrapped up their fall harvest. I hope members all had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed a little bit of family time the past few weeks.

Election Day this past November brought some changes, both to our county and state. We have lost some long-time agriculture supporters in Annapolis, and we will now need to start **relationship building with some new legislators**, as well as a new governor. The MD General Assembly annual Legislative Session begins January 11. Maryland Farm Bureau has already been watching and preparing for potential legislation that could be introduced this legislative session. As the new session begins, I encourage you to watch your e-mail inbox weekly for the MD Farm Bureau Hotline newsletter, a publication sent out each week during the legislative session to alert members of upcoming bills of importance in Annapolis. MD Farm Bureau has also planned an annual Day in Annapolis on February 8. Farm Bureau members are encouraged to attend to get bill briefings, as

well as to visit with our local lawmakers to discuss issues of concern.

Howard County Farm Bureau members gathered in mid-November for the annual dinner. It was great to see so many in attendance, and a good night was had by all. Board members Mike Calkins and Kenny Warfield were thanked for their years of service on the board, as each have reached the end of their term. Filling their spots and new to the board are Jamie Brown and Eric Stonesifer. Zack Brendel is stepping down as vice president, however he will remain as a board member. Taking the reins as our new vice president is Barbara Glenn. I am looking forward to starting 2023 with a strong board that I know will continue to serve and look out for the best interest of our agriculture community.

The beginning of December brought the annual Maryland State Farm Bureau Convention, held in

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! **	
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Cambridge again this year. I was pleased to see so many Howard County Farm Bureau members in attendance, as we all enjoyed a chance to catch up with members from around the state. Rhonda Winkler sat on a panel discussion sharing ideas about how counties can grow their membership. Many who attended this discussion came away energized with some great ideas about membership. Along with myself, Zack Brendel, Mike Calkins, Howie Feaga and Barbara Glenn all attended the convention as delegates. John Dove and Kenny Warfield served as alternates. While at the convention, delegates from around the state reviewed and adopted new national and state policy resolutions that they believe to be of current importance. Policy highlights included topics involving eminent domain, regenerative agriculture, agriculture education, renewable fuels, solar siting, and roadside tree trimming and maintenance. I would like to thank both the delegates, as well as our other county members in attendance, for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the convention and help form and adopt new policy.

Upon return from convention, it was time to turn attention to the annual Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade. It was a sunny, but chilly day, and was perfect for a parade. This event is a holiday favorite for both the young and old, and each year it seems to get a little more popular. This year did not disappoint. A large crowd gathered to enjoy tractors, a few old cars, and plenty of horses! Monetary donations, as well as canned food, were collected to benefit local food banks. Howard County Food Bank, Carroll County Food Sunday, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, as well as the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company all will benefit from this event. Last year the parade raised \$25,000, and while the final count is not yet in, the parade committee is hoping to reach that goal again this year. It takes the hard work of many behind the scenes to coordinate and make this day such a success. I would like to thank all the volunteers who spend countless hours preparing for the event, it would not be possible without your commitment for such a worthy cause.

As we flip the calendar to a new year, mine is already starting to fill with plenty of events and activities that are agriculture focused. I am looking forward to another year of opportunities where I can support, promote, and educate others about the importance of agriculture, both here within our county, as well as throughout the state. Wishing all members, a great start to 2023!

Agriculture Seminar Series for FFA

By: Barb Glenn, Chair, HCFB Education and Outreach Committee



Press Release #4: December 14, 2022

Climate Smart Agriculture and Veterinary Science – Exciting Career Opportunities!

One of the best ways to learn about agriculture is to hear from the experts. The Agricultural Seminar Series continues in the classroom of the Howard County Public School System Ag Science Academy, in collaboration with the Howard County Farm Bureau (HCFB).

In November, students learned about “Curbing Our Carbon Appetite,”

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/curricula#:~:text=Curbing%20our%20Carbon%20Appetite%20will,of%20this%20activity%20kit%20include%3A&text=Trace%20the%20flow%20of%20carbon,activity%20to%20increased%20atmospheric%20carbon>

) presented by Tom Hutson, Carroll County 4-H Educator and co-author of the University of Maryland and Bayer-sponsored curriculum. Students explored actions that agriculture, business and industry, and individuals and families can take to reduce the atmospheric carbon.

Later in November, Dr. Aaron Lucas, DVM, (<https://www.mtairyvets.com/our-veterinarians>) Taylorsville Veterinary Clinic, (<https://www.mtairyvets.com/>) Mount Airy, MD, talked about the importance of a career in veterinary science. Dr. Lucas told his personal story of obtaining the DVM degree from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, a Ph.D. in Clinical Parasitology and how he landed in the mixed practice of small, companion animals and large food animals. He discussed the many important roles of Food Animal Veterinary Medicine. He said his main goal is to keep our food supply safe through keeping animals healthy. After discussing his day-to-day activities, students peppered Dr. Lucas with questions from “how did you know you wanted to be a vet?”, to questions on difficult college courses, the importance of biosecurity, “why is artificial insemination important in cattle and why do we dehorn cattle?”.



Dr. Lucas’ presentation was a great primer for **the following week when the classes took a field trip to TransOva Genetics in Boonsboro, Maryland (<https://transova.com/>)**. Staff of TOG provided a good look into the reproductive technologies used to improve the next generation of beef and dairy cattle, and therefore the meat or milk quality, nutrition, and quantity for consumers. Howard County Ag Science Academy and FFA are growing through these interactions, giving them a first-hand look at the many careers in food, agriculture, environment, and natural resources!

The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade



The annual **Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade** was another big success! The final numbers are not in yet but monetary donations, as well as canned food, were collected to benefit local food banks:

**Howard County Food Bank
Carroll County Food Sunday
Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry
The Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company**

Thank you to all the donations, volunteers, and participants who make this parade such a wonderful event! The number of parade patrons grew and continues to grow each year!



<http://www.lisbonchristmasparade.com/>

MAEF's 13th Annual Ag Literacy Week

Source: Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation



Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation announces March 20-24, 2023 as the 13th annual Maryland Ag Literacy Week.

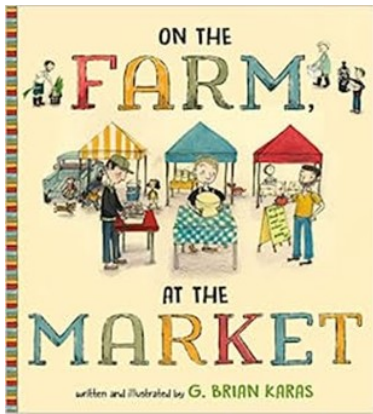
With the majority of children today being 3 to 4 generations removed from living and working on farms, we believe that it is crucial to the future success of agriculture for children and adults to recognize and appreciate the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

MAEF's Ag Literacy Week program focuses on connecting volunteers from the agricultural community to local classrooms with the purpose of increasing student knowledge about agriculture. Each year a new agriculturally-themed book is chosen and an activity developed that reinforces the message of the book. This program educates Maryland youth through the support of volunteers who purchase the agriculturally-themed Ag Literacy Week book to read to elementary students, complete a provided activity with the class and share their personal experiences in agriculture. The book is then donated to the classroom library and the classroom teacher is given additional lessons to expand the student learning.

Participating in MAEF's Ag Literacy Week is an opportunity for any group or individual wishing to promote and support agriculture to be the face of agriculture in a kindergarten-3rd grade classroom across the state.

"On the Farm, At the Market" has been selected as the 2023 Maryland Ag Literacy book. Students will join the Cat in the Hat on a trip to the farm, where they learn about the work that is done from

dusk to dawn and spring to fall to ensure we have food on the table.



We invite YOU – Farm Bureau members, farmers, ranchers, FFA students, Young Farmers, Commodity group leaders, industry representatives, and other supportive of agriculture to be the face of agriculture in your local classroom!

To find out more about this exciting and engaging program and how you can become a Volunteer Reader, visit the link below.

<https://maefonline.com/home/teacher-center/elementary-education-mobile-science/#1638201022194-16a88997-d04c>

MDFB Young Farmers Committee Honors Francis Moats by Offering Two Scholarships to FUSION Conference in Jacksonville

Source: Maryland Farm Bureau



Application Due January 13, 2023

The Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers will

be awarding two (2) recipients with a \$1,250 scholarship to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) FUSION Conference on March 3 – 6, 2023, in Jacksonville, Florida, in memory of Francis Moats. This conference will have great speakers, breakout sessions and evening events to bring together volunteer leaders from the Promotion & Education, Women's Leadership and Young Farmers & Ranchers programs. You'll leave the conference with new friends, new ideas and new energy for your farm and Farm Bureau.



Francis was a member of MDFB's Young Farmers Committee from 2014 through 2018, and never missed an opportunity to travel to FUSION or YF&R Conferences. He was an avid supporter of the Freezin' for a Reason fundraiser that benefited the Maryland Food Bank and was always a familiar and friendly face at the Maryland State Fair Dairy Bar. This scholarship is to honor Francis's desire for learning, meeting new people, and his enthusiasm for Farm Bureau and the Young Farmers program.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by a designated committee of the Maryland Farm Bureau. To apply, please fill out the application and submit it via email to Parker Welch at pwelch@marylandfb.org. Applicants must be between the ages of 18-35 and must be a

Maryland Farm Bureau member. To become a member visit, www.marylandfb.org.

You can also visit the link below for more information on Young Farmers Committee and to apply.

<https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Francis-Moats-Scholarship-enabled.pdf>

Announcements

❖ 2022 Taste of Maryland Agriculture



Join us for the state's premier event, bringing agricultural leaders together with state and national legislators. The 53rd Taste of Maryland Agriculture will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland at Arundel Mills in Hanover.

The mission of this event is to promote agriculture and educate lawmakers about its importance to every citizen in Maryland. They learn directly from you – the producers and supporters of Maryland agricultural products and businesses.

Register now and save!

Tickets are \$100 per person, and you will be listed in the program if you register by January 13, 2023. Late reservation tickets will be \$130.

The impressive event space will be filled with a bounty of Maryland agricultural products served

throughout the evening with heavy hors d'oeuvre buffets and tastings from the state's beer, wine and spirit supporters. A program to present the Maryland Agriculture Council Educational Grants and introduce the new inductee to the Governor's Agricultural Hall of Fame will highlight the evening.

Please go to the website for more information and to register! <https://mdagcouncil.com/>

❖ Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis

The Young Farmers' and the Women's Leadership committees will jointly sponsor Day In Annapolis. This day of briefings and grassroots advocacy will give you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

Day In Annapolis is at a very critical time during the 90-day session – a time when committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills. The in-person program will begin with a legislative briefing by the MDFB government relations staff. Farm Bureau members will have an opportunity to meet with their members of the General Assembly. With only a couple of farmers in the General Assembly, we need now more than ever, to engage our lawmakers on the value of agriculture in Maryland.



February 8th, 2023

\$35 Per Person

Register Online:

<https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/day-in-annapolis/>

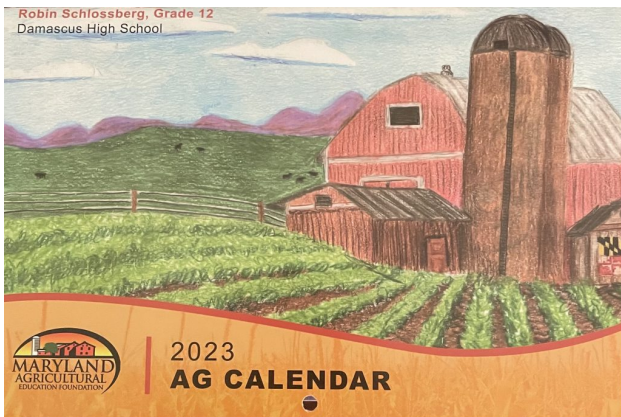
**Registration deadline is:
Sunday, January 29, 2023**

❖ MAEF Colors of Agriculture Calendar

The 2023 MAEF Colors of Agriculture calendar is here! Each calendar features ag themed artwork from students across Maryland as well as special dates and information.

Click on the link below to order yours today for only \$10 donation! (Plus, shipping)

<https://maefonline.com/>



Calendar of Events

*** 2023 ***

JAN 6-11 105TH AMERICAN FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

Place San Juan, Puerto Rico
<https://annualconvention.fb.org/>

FEB 3 53RD ANNUAL TASTE OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE CELEBRATION

Place Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland
Arundel Mills, Hanover, MD
Contact: Gail Yeiser at 410-353-3069
<http://www.mdagcouncil.com/>

FEB 8 MD FARM BUREAU DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Place Governor Calvert House,
Annapolis, MD
Time 8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MAR 20-24 MAEF'S 13TH ANNUAL MARYLAND AG LITERACY WEEK

Thank You Sponsors!!!



The Brian
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