

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

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

Greetings fellow members! As I am writing this, we are a few weeks away from the official start of spring and a little over halfway through the Maryland General Assembly's 2022 Legislative Session. On the weather front, while January seemed to bring plenty of cold, February has been a more tolerable month. I know I am starting to get restless for warmer days and more time spent outdoors. Many of our farmers have spent the winter working on equipment and making plans for 2022. They will soon be gearing up for field work. While we have been dreaming of those longer days outside, myself and other board members have kept busy tracking bills in Annapolis. It is always interesting to watch the legislative process; to see what is introduced and listen to testimony that is sometimes favorable, and other times not so favorable for agriculture.

I have had the opportunity during the first two months of this year to learn and have some good conversations regarding agriculture. I want to recognize Ryan Zimmerman and other MD Farm Bureau staff members for hosting a very informative day, "Managing Your Agricultural Business" in early January at the Howard County

Fairgrounds. There were some great speakers and plenty of great ideas shared on changing and continuing to be successful in a post-COVID environment. I am looking forward to more programs like this in the future! I also attended the Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Forum in early February, which provided another good day of networking and learning from women around the DelMarVa. I always enjoy attending these types of events, as they are great opportunities to hear from others, not just locally, but around the state (and beyond), and learn more about the successes and challenges that we all experience within our industry. It is always a great reminder that we are not in this alone!

Legislatively, I have had a few opportunities to speak with county and state legislators over the past two months. Along with a few other agriculture leaders within the community, I have met with Howard County Council Representative, David Yungmann to discuss agriculture needs and concerns within our county. I appreciate the time

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that Representative Yungmann continues to spend

talking with the agriculture community, allowing for an open dialogue to hopefully develop programs that will help our local farms well into the future. I also was able to attend MD Farm Bureau's annual Day in Annapolis, which was held virtually this year. This was a great time to learn about some key bills that have been introduced during this year's legislative session, as well as a chance to get in front of some of our local Howard County delegation and share issues and concerns, reminding them of the importance of agriculture within our county and state. Please know that there are many who continue to work hard behind the scenes to make sure the farmer still has a voice and a place at the table.

Hopefully you are receiving copies of the MD Farm Bureau's Hotline that is sent weekly via email during the Legislative Session. The Hotline's purpose is to make you aware of upcoming hearings for bills that will impact Maryland's farm community. You can also review the 2022 Bill Briefings document that was discussed during our Day in Annapolis at www.mdfarmbureau.com/day-in-annapolis/. Lastly, you can stay up-to-date with what is happening in Annapolis during the legislative session by visiting the MD Farm Bureau Action Center at www.mdfarmbureau.com/action-center.

If you would like to learn more about how the Maryland General Assembly's 2022 Legislative Session wrapped up, please be sure to attend our annual Legislative Dinner at the Howard County Fairgrounds on April 21. We have had to cancel this dinner the past two years, but I am looking forward to again gathering in person and catching up with everyone! Additional details regarding the dinner can be found later in this newsletter.

In closing, as we will soon be turning the corner to spring, I hope these next few months will bring good things for your family and your farm. I look forward to giving you more farm bureau updates in May!

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship

The Howard County Farm Bureau will offer one \$1,000.00 scholarship for someone in the 14 to 16 age range and another \$2,000.00 scholarship to someone in the 17 to 19 age range. The 17-19 scholarship will be partially funded by Farm Bureau and partially funded by the Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship fund. To be eligible for the 17 to 19 scholarship, they would either need to be a current HCFB member OR a current or former 4-H or FFA member. The 14 to 16 scholarship is open to HCFB members only.

To apply, students must return the attached application form and write an essay. The essay is to be written on:

"What components are necessary in a successful Agriculture classroom? "

We would guide the winners to use the money for school and or 4H/FFA projects.

The deadline for applications and essays is **April 1, 2022**

The Scholarships will be awarded at our annual Legislative Dinner

All decisions on the winner will be made by the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Essays are to be written in number 12 font and be no longer than 2 pages with one inch margins.

Entries or questions can be sent to Zack Brendel at zek71@hotmail.com. If you would like to send a hard copy, please send to the attention of:

Zack Brendel, 2175 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797

Scholarship Application is attached on **Page # 11**

Maryland Farm Bureau Scholarship

Deadline March 25th, 2022

The Maryland Farm Bureau is awarding five \$2,000 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applicants must be current high school seniors with plans to start college in the fall of 2022 or may be current full-time college students at any accredited community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians must be members, in good standing, of the Maryland Farm Bureau to be eligible to apply.

Three of the scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing academic degrees in food, agriculture and/or natural resources. The remaining two scholarships are open to students in any academic disciplines.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by a designated committee of the Maryland Farm Bureau.

To apply, students must submit an application online via the official application website: <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/MFBScholarship2022>

The application includes the following essay question to be answered by each applicant:

Studies show more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health issues. What can farmers, ranchers, and Farm Bureau do to proactively promote good mental health in both themselves and their communities?

Essay responses should not include any identifying information. For example, no college names, no 4-H club names, no town or county names, etc. Any identifying information appearing in the essay will disqualify the application. The selection committee

will evaluate each essay anonymously. No student may receive a Maryland Farm Bureau scholarship more than four times during their academic career. Scholarship recipients will be asked to submit a photo for publication.

The application deadline is March 25th, 2022 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of the scholarship application.

MDFB Targets Ag Education as Top 2022 Policy Priority

By: Barb Glenn

Here are a few progress updates from **Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB)**, and the work of the **MDFB Agriculture Education and Extension Committee**.

The MDFB membership met and approved policy during their Annual Convention in December. Read an in-depth summary of all the activities at Convention here <https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/maryland-farm-bureau-convention-new-policies-programming-awards-and-shared-knowledge-wrap-up/>

Agricultural education is the top policy priority for MDFB for 2022, followed by wildlife management, and land preservation/land use. New policies were approved on cyber agriculture security and urban agriculture.

Members approved updated policy on agricultural education, which included a focus on Career & Technology Education (CTE), support for Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)-approved ag ed programs, support for FFA into middle schools, and urged a stronger partnership with Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF).

Members also approved updated policy on the University System of Maryland including a focus on building the partnership with Extension by having

farm bureau representation on various advisory committees. The Ag Ed and Extension Committee did the core work to revise and update these policies; the committee is staffed by **Ryan Zimmerman**, title, MDFB.

Congratulations all around to the Howard County Farm Bureau!

During the Convention, we were awarded the *Top Excellence in Activity Award* for counties under six hundred members! **Leslie Bauer, President**, accepted the award. This was boosted by our major charitable efforts in providing milk donations and food for the hungry through our Lisbon Christmas Parade. Our leadership work on agricultural education also was a big highlight. (Carroll Co. Farm Bureau won the award for greater than six hundred members.) If you would like to know more about MDFB's work on agriculture education, contact Barb Glenn (glennbarb6@gmail.com).

MAEF Update to Kick off 2022

By: **Barb Glenn**



Maryland Farm Bureau's aggressive policy work on agriculture education is stronger because of our partnership with the **Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF)**. MAEF has been busy initiating new elements of their new strategic plan, including setting up a new committee focused entirely on Middle School, and a committee to review our programs for quality and consistency.

The **MAEF mobile science labs** are back out at schools - like everyone else, the first week of January was a bit bumpy for with the snows. MAEF has "scholarship" funds to support bookings, so if you have an elementary school teacher in your life,

give them a nudge and encourage them to book a mobile science lab! You can learn all about our labs and the lab lessons on our website, <https://maefonline.com>.

MAEF awarded 22 **Urban Garden Grants**, which will be announced shortly. These are smaller sized grants to support new or existing school or community gardens across the state.

MAEF's "**Lab in A Box**" program will feature dairy this year, with "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish," an ag accurate book, plus: an Educator Guide, with six cross-curricular lessons highlighting the dairy industry; correlating lesson worksheets; experiment materials (for three science experiments for up to thirty students each).



The first Lab in A Box Kits will be assembled and shipped in early February 2022. These make a great gift for teachers! If you would like to give as a springtime gift to your favorite elementary school teacher, see the MAEF web site to sign up!

Maryland Farm Bureau holds a strong partnership with MAEF. If you love ag education, consider getting involved with MAEF! There is plenty more happening, but these are what is new for now.

MAEF Ag Literacy Week 2022

Source: *Barb Glenn*



“Cows Can MOO! Can You?” What is MAEF’s Ag Literacy Week Program?

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) announces **March 21-25, 2022** as the **12th annual Maryland Ag Literacy Week**.

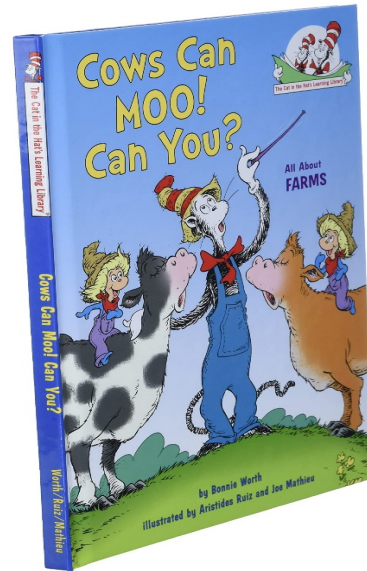
Please see www.maefonline.com

MAEF invites 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!

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. 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.

“Cows Can Moo! Can You?” has been selected as the 2022 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.

Do you want to get involved? It’s easy!

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. **To find out more** about this exciting and engaging program and how you can become a Volunteer Reader, visit the MAEF web site www.maefonline.com.

Announcements

❖ Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 21, 2022**, 7:00 p.m., at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, West Friendship, MD. A dinner will be catered by Mission BBQ at a cost of \$25.00 per person.

We have invited the County Executive, the County Council members, as well as our State Senators, Delegates and Congressman to discuss with us current matters relating to legislation and government on a local, state and national level. This meeting provides Farm Bureau members with an excellent opportunity to meet their legislators and discuss issues of importance to them.

Please detach the reservation form on page 9 and mail it no later than March 31st, along with your check for the number of dinners desired. We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 21.

❖ Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting

Tuesday, March 15th, 2022

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM



The Howard Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), University of Maryland Extension, and USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service will sponsor the annual Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting on **Tuesday, March 15th, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM.**

An in-person meeting will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall. There will also be a virtual option.

Topics include cover crops & soil health, nutrient management updates and more.

There is no cost, but attendees should **pre-register by calling 410.313.0680**

❖ Maryland Beef Webinars

The Maryland Beef webinar series will start up again this spring! These webinars will take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm starting March 8th.

Additional information can be found by visiting <https://go.umd.edu/beef-webinars>

Maryland Beef Webinars

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 pm

- March 8** — To deworm or not to deworm?
- April 12** — Breeding and Genetics
- May** — Break for weekly public beef education series
- June 14** — Interpreting a Forage Analysis
- July 12** — Mineral Nutrition for Beef Cattle
- August 9** — Pasture Management: Stockpiling Tips
- September 13** — Spring Stocker Cattle Recap: Successes and Lessons Learned
- October 11** — Utilizing Crop Residue as a Forage Source
- November 8** — Benchmarking for Success
- December 13** — Wintering Bulls and Cows

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/beef-webinars>

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | AgFS Agriculture & Food Systems

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact your local University of Maryland Extension Office.

Calendar of Events

*** 2022 ***

**MAR 15 HOWARD COUNTY MID-WINTER AG
MEETING**

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Dining Hall
Time 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**MAR 21-25 12TH ANNUAL MARYLAND AG
LITERACY WEEK**

MAEF Website: www.maefonline.com

**MAR 25 MD FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DEADLINE**

*SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 8

**APR 1 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE**

*SEE APPLICATION ON PAGE 11

APR 21 HCFB ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Dining Hall
Time 7:00 p.m.

*SEE RESERVATION FORM ON PAGE 9



Scholarships Available for Maryland Farm Bureau Families

Agricultural and other students eligible for five \$2,000 scholarships

DAVIDSONVILLE, MD. (Jan. 25, 2022) — Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) is giving back to its members and students of the community by offering five \$2,000 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applicants must be high-school seniors starting college in the fall of 2022 or full-time college students at any accredited community college or four-year institution. Applicants, or their parents/guardians, must be members of Maryland Farm Bureau.

Three of the scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing academic disciplines in food, agriculture, and/or natural resources. The remaining two scholarships are open to students in any academic discipline.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by a designated committee of the Maryland Farm Bureau. Students must apply online via the [official application website](#). The application includes the following essay question to be answered by each applicant:

Studies show more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health issues. What can farmers, ranchers, and Farm Bureau do to proactively promote good mental health in both themselves and their communities?

Online applications must be submitted by March 25 at 5:00 p.m. For more information or to apply, visit the [official application website](#) at bit.ly/MDFBscholarship.

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MARYLAND FARM BUREAU®, INC. is a 501(c)(5) federation that serves as the united voice of Maryland farm families. Our organizational strength comes from the active participation of over 10,000 individual and family members who belong to the state's 23 local county Farm Bureau organizations. Since 1915, Maryland Farm Bureau has been committed to protecting and growing agriculture and preserving rural life. Maryland Farm Bureau is a proud member of the American Farm Bureau® Federation. Learn more at MDFarmBureau.com.

Media Contact:

Amber Pearson | Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. (TSN Communications)
573.268.6853 | amber@tsncommunications.com

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

PO BOX 282

GLENELG, MD 21737

443-812-1662

www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard

Dear Farm Bureau Members,

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 21, 2022**, 7:00 p.m., at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, West Friendship, MD. A dinner will be catered by Mission BBQ at a cost of \$25.00 per person.

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Please detach the reservation form at the bottom of the page and mail it no later than March 31st, along with your check for the number of dinners desired. We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 21.

Sincerely,

Leslie Bauer

Leslie Bauer

President

443-812-1662

Detach and Mail **BEFORE March 31** to: Howard County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 282
Glenelg, MD 21737

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$25.00 each for the Legislative Banquet on April 21.

Enclosed is my check made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application

Deadline: April 1, 2022

Name:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Parents/Guardians:

High School:

Date of Graduation:

High School GPA:

College of Choice/Trade School:

Major/Trade:

List Three References:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone: