

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 32, Issue 6

November 2022

~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

Message to Members

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

Happy Fall! If this is your harvest season, I hope it has been going well. Farm Bureau, it seems, keeps busy, no matter what the season. Harvest aside, it has been a busy few months for me, and I have enjoyed many opportunities to represent Howard County Farm Bureau. I also continue to become better informed of the successes and challenges that many local farmers face. By learning, I feel it allows me to better represent our local agricultural community and provide a more informed voice for agriculture.

In mid-September, I attended the MD Farm Bureau Council of Presidents meeting. During this time, I spent two days on Capitol Hill, along with other farm bureau presidents and representatives from around the state. During this time, we discussed ag policy and were briefed on issues that included the 2023 Farm Bill, taxes, livestock, broadband and the economy. I was able to meet with a representative from Congressman John Sarbanes office to share some of what I learned and highlight issues of importance for the agriculture community. While in Washington, our group also had visits from Senator Ben Cardin and Senator Chris Van Hollen, who spoke to us about

how they work to support farming and agriculture. We were able to ask questions and bring issues of importance to the attention of both senators as well. It was a jam-packed two days that was also full of good conversation and networking.

At our most recent board meeting (October), board members and Farm Bureau members discussed 2023 policy priorities, both for the county as well as the state. These will be presented and voted on at the Maryland Farm Bureau's Annual Convention and Meeting of Delegates, December 3-6, 2022, in Cambridge, MD.

The board agreed that Ag Education continues to be a top priority. While there were no specific new policy recommendations, the board reviewed suggested changes made by the State Ag Education committee to current policy and supports those changes.

The board's second priority focused on taxes and property assessments. During the 2022 Maryland General Assembly, there was discussion regarding

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the assessment of certain ag structures on a farm and how they should be taxed, based on usage. This primarily targets agritourism and horse boarding facilities, however, it could impact other farm operations as well. Several Howard County Farms have already received an increased tax assessment based on this bill. Our second policy priority was to ensure that said ag structures continue to be assessed at a lower tax rate, and should be considered as an ancillary use for the entire property.

The last priority focused on PFOS / PFAS. PFOS is short for Polyfluorooctanesulfonic acid (say that one three times fast!) and to many, is better known as the family of 'Forever Chemicals'. This is a large chemical family of over 4,700 chemicals. They are used in a wide range of consumer products, are synthetic in nature, and do not degrade in a natural environment. Due to their inability to break down, these chemicals have been identified as a source of contamination to water and soil, and can reach a farm through air, groundwater or application of soil amendments. Farms may unknowingly or unintentionally receive PFAs on their property and be subject to contamination based on this passive receipt. Our policy recommendation focused on ensuring that farmers have no personal or financial repercussions based on findings of PFOS in any products produced or found on their farms.

In mid-October I had the chance to visit four county farms as part of the Fall Farm and Conservation Tour. An annual event sponsored by the Howard Soil Conservation District, Howard County Economic Development Authority, and Howard County Farm Bureau. This event provides the opportunity for elected officials to see farming, farm conservation practices, and the Howard County agricultural industry up close. It is a chance to provide education, speak of successes and challenges, and answer questions from legislators. This event is a personal favorite for me – I get to spend the day touring farms and talking about agriculture! While I know many of the farms in the county, this gives me a chance to learn a bit more about each of the farms I already know, as well as meet some new

farmers. This year's tour did not disappoint. We visited Myrtle Woods Farm, a true urban farm in the East end of our county (Elkridge), that grows produce and flowers for local restaurants, bakeries and the community; Blue Gables farm, a Clarksville flower farm that sells flowers at local farmers markets and through a CSA; Triadelphia Lake View Farm, a diversified operation in Glenelg that features pumpkins, Christmas trees, vegetables and a CSA, as well as an educational summer camp; and Chanceland Farm, a race horse breeding and training operation in West Friendship. These tours continue to remind me of the diversity of agriculture within our county. Even with such diversity, there are still similarities between the different farms, no matter their size or production methods. From conservation practices – like fencing off pastures from streams or installation of spring fed troughs for livestock – to the challenges of dealing with crop damage due to deer that was experienced at all of the farms we visited. As in past years, these tours were full of plenty of good conversations between farmers and local legislators, providing a great opportunity to forge relationships and open lines of communication for the future.

As I turn my calendar to November, I am looking forward to the Howard County Farm Bureau's annual dinner on November 17 – don't forget to RSVP! You can find additional information regarding the dinner in this newsletter. As part of this evening, we will elect new board members and thank outgoing members for their hard work and service.

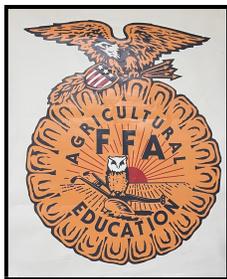
Moving towards the holidays, I am hoping for great weather on December 10th – the date of the Annual Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade. The parade will start at 12 noon, and will feature, horses, hounds, and tractors, all raising money for local food pantries. You can find additional information regarding the parade later in this newsletter.

In closing, for those still working to completing harvest – I hope for good yields and good weather, as well as the safety of our farmers. I also want to wish each of our members a healthy, safe, and

enjoyable holiday season! I hope to see you at some of the Howard County Farm Bureau upcoming events!

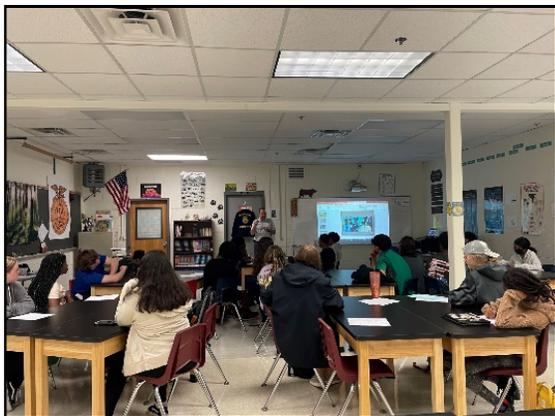
Agriculture Seminar Series for FFA

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



Press Release #1: September 14, 2022

Agriculture Science Seminar Series Kicks Off!



Do you know where your food comes from? Your family's food system would not exist without the local farmers in Howard County who steward the land, water and air while growing fresh produce – fruits and vegetables – crops and livestock. At the [Howard County Public School System Ag Science Academy](#), students have chosen to study Ag Science. They learn about food, agriculture, and natural resources, and the relationships to

sustainable farming and producing nutritious, safe, and affordable food.

A new **Agricultural Seminar Series** has kicked off in the classroom. In collaboration with the [Howard County Farm Bureau](#), the seminars provide expert speakers from all walks of Agriculture, who tell their story, describe their career, and bring facts to bear on many food and ag issues.

The kickoff topic was “**Conservation**” presented by **Mr. Michael Calkins of [Howard Soil Conservation District](#)**. Mike is a **Stormwater Management Specialist/Conservation Planner**.



The Seminars will continue every month. It is the hope of Howard County Farm Bureau that students will –

- Learn more about Agriculture and ag careers.
- Gain new knowledge and information from farmers and agricultural leaders and experts.
- Have increased interest in Agriculture for their future.
- Be curious and excited, through dialogue with the speakers.

If the kickoff dialogue is an indicator, the Series is going to be a huge resource for both students and parents. For more information contact: **Kathleen Wojcik**, educator, Ag Science Academy, Kathleen.Wojcik@hcpss.org; or **Barb Glenn**, chair HCFB Outreach and Education Committee, glennbarb6@gmail.com

Press Release #2: September 28, 2022

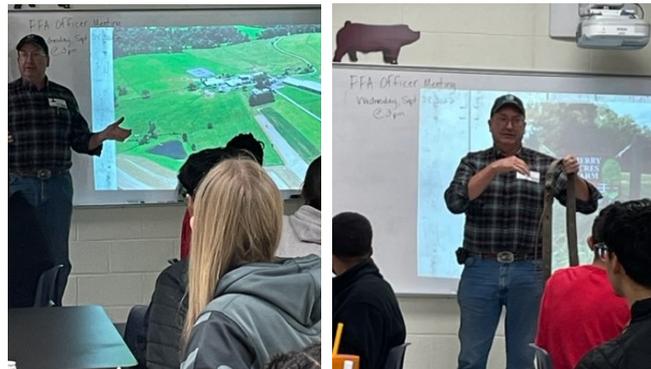
Successful Farmers are Important Teachers for High School Students

Agricultural education is critical to the future of agriculture. A new **Agricultural Seminar Series** has kicked off in the classroom of the [Howard County Public School System Ag Science Academy](#). In collaboration with the [Howard County Farm Bureau](#) (HCFB), the seminars provide expert speakers from all walks of Agriculture, who tell their story, describe their career, and bring facts to bear on many food and ag issues. According to **Kathleen Wojick, educator, Ag Science Academy**, while our five-year-old Ag Science/FFA program is growing, almost all the students have no experience- but a keen interest- in farming.

Recently, the topic was Farming. **Leslie Bauer, Rural Rhythm Farm, Dayton**, shared her story about growing high-tunnel strawberries and tomatoes, growing corn, soybeans, wheat and rye production, and raising hogs. Leslie is the current President of HCFB.



Howie Feaga, Merry Acres Farm, Ellicott City, outlined his farming operation including horse boarding management, hay and beef cattle production. Howie is the past President of HCFB. The students were excited and asked many questions from how to change the corn head on a combine to what is factory farming.



Leslie and Howie discussed the supply chain for their products and shared that even though farming may be hard to get into, there are many new programs to help and other careers in Agriculture. Students identified the major commodity grains from Leslie's farm and guessed about a "thing-a-ma-jig" that Howie used in his childhood while milking cows – it was a surcingle strap!

New topics for future seminars include local food systems, veterinary science, sustainability and controlled environment agriculture. For more information contact Barb Glenn, chair HCFB Outreach and Education Committee, glennbarb6@gmail.com.

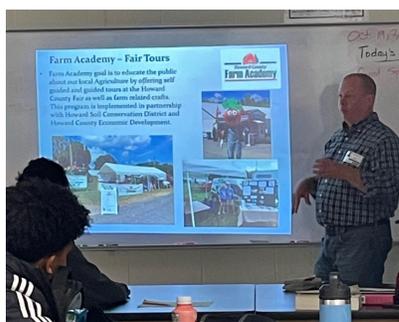
Press Release #3: October 19, 2022

Telling the Story of Community Sustainability = County Agricultural and Food Access Programs

The new 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). **President Leslie Bauer** stated, "The seminars give students an awareness of career opportunities when they hear from expert speakers from all walks of Agriculture." **Kathleen Wojick, Educator, Ag Science Academy**, said, "For most of our students, these seminars are their first awareness of the amazing

experiences possible through a career in Agriculture.”

This month, students learned about food security, with emphasis on connecting farmers to consumers. **The Howard County agricultural and food access programs are overseen by Mr. James Zoller, Agricultural Coordinator, Office of Community Sustainability, Howard County Government.** The successful [Roving Radish](#), is a meal-kit program that promotes healthy eating, supports our local farms, and connects our community by providing healthy farm- to- table meal kits at affordable prices to everyone in our community. In 2021, 9,336 meal kit were distributed with 43% of those being subsidized. Farmers sell produce to Roving Radish and receive competitive prices, and the meal kits are constructed and available for purchase online to anyone in the community. The program also provides meal kits at a reduced cost for those in need. The [Roving Radish Marketplace](#) is a store open to all farmers and consumers. Farmers set the retail price of their products and are paid 20% less than their retail price. The Marketplace through grants also offers farm products at a 50% discount for those in need making local fresh produce and meats affordable for everyone. The Roving Radish marketplace will expand to include a mobile farmers market with a projected start in the summer of 2023. The Roving Radish is also part of the Healthy Food Access Program in partnership with the Howard County Department of Community Resources delivering food provided by the Howard County Food Bank to families with access issues.



James also manages other agricultural programs to include **We Are [HoCoFresh](#)** a marketing program

to encourage business and the community to buy from our Howard County farms and the [HOCOFARMS.com](#) website. Students heard about volunteer opportunities with the **Howard County Farm Academy**, education and tours offered during the county fair, as well as **Howard County Harvest for the Hungry**, which connects farmers and hunters to community by providing venison to local food pantries. Mr. Zoller also is Executive Secretary of [Agricultural Preservation Board](#), so the students learned about the value of ag land preservation and the “Farmland Forever” program.

Students were curious asking about food sustainability, the mind set of today’s consumers about their food, best degree to get in college to work on food systems, as well as questions about what he likes about his job, and what is a low point on the job? Once theme is consistent and these Ag Science students hear it across all of the Ag Seminar Series speakers. **As Mr. Zoller advised, “The best career for you is to find your passion and if you love it, do it!”**



Using Partnership to Optimize Reach of 4-H and Increase Workforce Development in Underserved Communities

By: Chris Rein, 4-H Program Coordinator

Maryland 4-H has offered summer internship programs in three counties each with distinct demographics. This type of opportunity has been piloted in rural, urban and suburban communities. The effectiveness of the experience is enhanced by strong partnerships and youth who are willing

to grow. Although all of the participants were not 4-H members at the time of application, many have become members of the organization. Youth who participated in the program reported positive gains in the areas of academic preparation, career readiness, and goal setting. In addition, a positive correlation was indicated between internship participation and the attainment of career skills and potential paths. Community partners contributed fiscal, human or social capital investments to the program. Future studies will include longitudinal changes in skills of participants post high school as well as measure youth skill attainment from the Site Mentors' perspective. The investigators are currently seeking fiscal support in order to scale the project and include more Maryland counties.

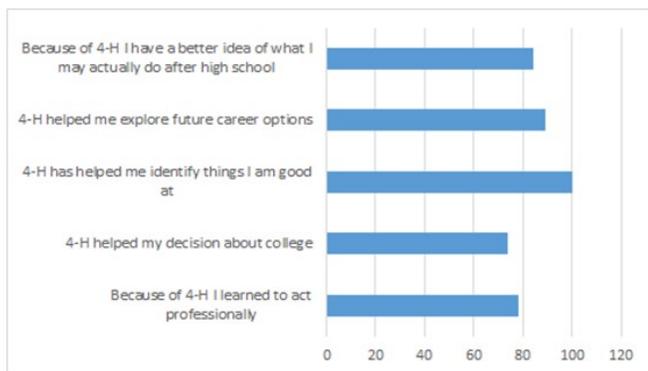


Chart 1: Results of quantitative study. Data was collected using Common Measures 2.0 Protocol (n=19).

Results from youth reflections report positive experiences after participating in the internship program. When asked “What has been the most important thing you have learned by being involved in a 4-H internship program?” youth stated the following:

- “I gained information and experience you can’t get in school.”
- “How to hold a job and professionalism”
- “Leadership and Public Speaking”
- “I’ve learned about my love for engineering and passion for robotics”
- “How much education is important for college”

- “That there is always room for improvement and that it is okay to ask for help”
- “How much that you learn by doing”

Specifically in Howard County, 4-H collaborated with Workforce Development to create an internship program in the summer of 2022. Through this partnership, youth between the ages of 16-24, were able to learn and develop employment skills that they will be able to utilize as they pursue their individual career interests. During the time they were interns with 4-H, the youth experienced 4-H Day Camp and the Howard County Fair. Howard County 4-H plans to continue to grow this partnership in 2023.



Nutrient Management Plans

By: *Krista Mitchell*

Are you in need of a nutrient management plan for your agricultural operation? The University of Maryland Extension develops no-cost nutrient management plans, minus the cost of analyses.

Nutrient management plans are required for all operations that make or exceed \$2,500 gross annual income and/or have 8 or more animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 lbs.). Animals raised for 4-H are not exempt from this requirement, other than the monetary aspect of children receiving money from the sale of their animals. If an operation has 8 or more animal units and the animals are all raised for 4-H, a nutrient

management plan is required. Please feel free to email or call Krista Mitchell, Nutrient Management Advisor, with any questions or to request a nutrient management plan for your operation.

- Krista's email address: kristaw@umd.edu
- Krista's phone numbers: (410) 313-2709 or 443-328-4894 (can receive texts)

So that The University of Maryland Extension may assist as many producers as possible with nutrient management plans for their operations, here are some recommended dates for nutrient management plan development, depending on your specific type of operation:

- Prior to December 15th: Operations that utilize commercial fertilizer only (no manure or organic nutrients) should aim to have their nutrient management plan in-hand by this date. Contact your nutrient management advisor in the fall to get started.
- Prior to March 1st: After January 1st, plan-writing focuses on operations that utilize manure or other organic nutrient sources, which require a manure sample collected as close to application time as possible. Please submit all necessary analyses by December 31st to ensure your plan can be in-hand by March 1st.

Nutrient management plans must be completed **prior** to planting and nutrient applications. March 1st is the MDA regulatory date of when spring nutrient applications may begin, assuming the ground isn't frozen, saturated, or covered with snow greater than one inch.

Many farmers need nutrient management plans in order to receive payment for participation in the Cover Crop Program. Producers risk fines from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the agency tasked with enforcement of the nutrient management regulations, if they apply nutrients in absence of a nutrient management plan and cover crop payments can be held up if a producer does

not have a current nutrient management plan. To ensure an operation has a nutrient management plan in place, please reference the above dates. We don't want anyone missing out on their cover crop payments!

For soil sampling instructions and a list of labs that analyze soil and manure, please visit: go.umd.edu/testing-lab-comparisons. Please note, the soil sampling instructions provided here are different from most soil testing lab's sampling instructions. Be sure to follow the soil sampling instructions provided on our website to ensure we can develop your nutrient management plan and for crop nutrient recommendation accuracy. Soil sampling probes are available to borrow at the University of Maryland Extension office. Contact Krista for more details.

The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade



We invite YOU to

The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade

**Saturday, December 10th, 2022
12 Noon**

Rain, Snow or Shine!!!



presented by

The Howard County Farm Bureau

to benefit

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

Please come out and enjoy this year's Christmas Parade, featuring tractors, followed by saddle horses and carriage horses. You can participate in the parade, become a sponsor or simply come and bring the family and enjoy in the fun!

How can you help? . . . Lead a Canned Food Drive!

[*Download Parade Food Drive Flyer Here \(pdf\)!](#)

(Or go to our website)

Suggestion: Place Flyer on a large festively decorated box. Then, place the box in highly visible area within your school or place of business to collect non-perishable canned food! Drop off the donated food at the Parade in our huge food drive bins along the parade route!



Please go to:

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

For more details and to find the Equine Entry Form & Liability Release, the Tractor Entry Form & Liability Release, and the Tractor Information.

Announcements

❖ **2022 Pesticide and Nutrient Management Meetings for Howard County**

All meetings will be held from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Howard County Soil Conservation District Office (14735 Frederick Rd, Cooksville)



To register for any of these meetings, call 301-590-2807 or visit:

<http://go.umd.edu/hcfall2022>

Pesticide Recertification: Monday, October 31

This meeting will offer pesticide credits for those who already have a private applicators license.

Pesticide Private Applicator Exam Training (optional): Monday, November 14

Pesticide Private Applicator Exam: Monday, November 21

Nutrient Management Voucher Training: Monday, December 12

This meeting will provide nutrient management credits.

❖ **Howard County Farm Bureau Annual Dinner**

The Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau would like to invite you to Our Annual Banquet which will be held on:

**Thursday, November 17th, 2022
At The Howard County Fairgrounds
In the Dining Hall
at 7:00 P.M.**

Dinner will be served by Mission BBQ and will cost \$25.00 per person (\$30/person after November 10th).

Please see the flyer attached on **Page # 12** of this Newsletter for more details and if you want to mail in your reservations.

Please send your reservations and money for the dinner to the attention of Katie Hereth **no later than November 9th**.

If you would like to RSVP by email, please email: Katie Hereth at kwhit1014@aol.com

And send checks made payable to:
Howard County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 282
Glenelg, MD 21737

❖ **2022 MDFB Annual Convention & Meeting of Delegates**

The 107th MDFB Annual Convention & Meeting of Delegates presented by Nationwide and will be held:

December 3rd - 6th, 2022
at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina
in Cambridge, MD.

Registration is open!

Go to the MDFB website for more information including registration, hotel rooms, schedule, etc.

<https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/convention/>

❖ **Good Luck Madison Miller!**

Wishing our Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador, Madison Miller, good luck at the Annual Convention in the Maryland Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador Contest!



Calendar of Events

*** 2022 ~ 2023 ***

NOV 17 HCFB ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER

Place Howard County Fairgrounds, Dining Hall
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794
TIME 7:00 P.M.

**DEC 3-6 107TH MARYLAND FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL CONVENTION & MEETING OF
DELEGATES**

Place Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf
Resort, Spa and Marina
Cambridge, MD

**DEC 10 THE GREAT LISBON FARMERS FEED
THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Place Lisbon, MD
TIME 12:00 P.M.
[HTTP://WWW.LISBONCHRISTMASPARADE.COM/](http://www.lisbonchristmasparade.com/)

**JAN 6-11 105TH AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
CONVENTION**

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



Wishing Everyone a

Happy

Thanksgiving



Merry Christmas

*From your Board of
Directors and the
Officers and Staff
at Howard County
Farm Bureau!*



Thank You Sponsors!!!



The Brian
Musgrove Family



William Harrison
& Sons
Run Of The Mill
Farm

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

October 10, 2022

Dear Howard County Farm Bureau Members:

The Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau would like to invite you to Our Annual Banquet which will be held, **Thursday, November 17, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Howard County Fairgrounds in the Dining Hall, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794. Dinner will be served by Mission BBQ and will cost \$25.00 per person (\$30/person after November 10th).

There will be a brief meeting following dinner, at which time we will elect the officers and directors for 2023.

Please send your reservations and money for the dinner to the attention of Katie Hereth **no later than November 9th**. If you would like to RSVP by email, please email Katie Hereth at kwhit1014@aol.com and send checks made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737.

We look forward to seeing you on November 17th.

Sincerely,

Leslie Bauer

Leslie Bauer
President

I would like to make _____ reservations @\$25.00/person (\$30/person after November 9th), for the Howard County Farm Bureau Banquet to be held November 17, 2022. Please make a check payable to "Howard County Farm Bureau". Send to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737 no later than November 9th.

NAME _____ PHONE _____