



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

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

As we turn the calendar to the month of May, I hope spring is off to a good start on your farm. I have kept busy throughout March and April, working to promote and support agriculture in Howard County, attending several meetings to discuss farmer priorities, while also recognizing challenges. At the beginning of April, I was honored to attend the Women’s Communications Boot Camp, hosted by the American Farm Bureau Federation. I gathered in Washington DC with 14 other women leaders in agriculture from across the U.S. to complete an intensive four-day course of hands-on sessions related to public speaking, working with the media and messaging. All with the goal to better support Farm Bureau’s policy work, and to better share information both with elected officials and in social media campaigns that spotlight modern agriculture. It was a very memorable week, and I look forward to putting some of my new skills to work as I continue to advocate for agriculture in Howard County.

The 2023 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly concluded in Annapolis on April 10. Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB)

followed 141 bills during this year’s General Assembly. Of those, MDFB provided testimony on 69, supporting 57 — on issues like on-farm composting, wildlife damage to crops, urban agriculture, and a state specialist for value-added agriculture — and opposed 12. Of the 57 supported, 24 passed. Of the 12 opposed, all were either defeated or amended to remove MDFB opposition.

While the legislative session for 2023 is complete, that does not mean that our legislative work is done for this year. Locally our county council continues to meet throughout the year, and occasionally there are some topics that are covered that could have an impact on agriculture. In addition, as our state representatives are not as busy in Annapolis, this ‘off-season’ is a good time to reach out. We can have good conversations to help educate them on some of our agricultural issues. We can work to gain their support. This is also a good time to focus and regroup on what we

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feel are our agricultural priorities, looking to 2024, and developing state policy for the next legislative session.

Speaking of policy, at a recent board meeting, the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors discussed and approved a set of county level initiatives. It included such things as working with the county to:

- Ensure adequate tree trimming to help to safely move farm equipment across county roads.
- Expand and support agritourism regulations to allow for additional diversification and economic opportunity.
- Continue to work towards a compromise for Sunday hunting.
- Funding support for various agricultural and agriculture education initiatives.

The Howard County Farm Bureau's Annual Legislative Dinner, held on April 20th, was a wonderful evening highlighting the accomplishments of the past few months, while opening the door to keep the conversation going, knowing there is still plenty of work to be done. It was great to see so many members in attendance. We were happy to host legislators from the county, state, and federal levels, who all took a few minutes to brief the membership on some of the work that is being done to support agriculture both locally and across the state and nation.

In addition to these important conversations, the evening also had some lighter moments. After receiving legislative updates, Carey McIntosh, who chairs the Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade, gave an update on the 2022 parade. Over \$27,000 was raised at this past year's parade, and 3,400 pounds of non-perishable food items were also collected. Checks were presented to Carroll County Food Sunday, Howard County Food Bank, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, as well as the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company.

Kortney Spicer and Madison Miller were both awarded Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarships. US Congressman John Sarbanes was on hand to present each of these young ladies a Certificate of Recognition for their accomplishment in earning these scholarships. This year, scholarship applicants had to submit a two-page essay addressing their thoughts and ideas on "Plant based protein brands such as Beyond or Impossible are now commonplace in major fast-food restaurants and grocery stores. How can the agricultural industry embrace a growing plant-based protein market and traditional meat sources at the same time?"

The evening concluded with the presentation of the Friend of the Farmer Award. Howard County Farm Bureau created this award to recognize someone who, while not directly involved in agriculture, works to be an advocate of agriculture for both our county, as well as the farm bureau. This year, Tony and Rosa Guarino, owners of Tony Locos Bar & Restaurant in Woodbine, were recognized for their efforts to help support the Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade. On parade day, when the tractors gather and line-up in the Lisbon Shopping Center parking lot, Tony and Rosa provide hot chocolate to the parade participants. Tony Locos is a collection spot for the canned food drive, and they have also held fundraisers to benefit both the parade, as well as Howard County Farm Bureau. Tony Locos Bar & Restaurant has been a great supporter of both Howard County Farm Bureau, as well as the community, and we greatly appreciate all that Tony and Rosa have done through the years.

In wrapping up this month's Message to Members, as we turn to a new season of spring planting, and the many other activities that fill our days as warmer weather approaches, I hope that whatever this season brings your way – for both family and farm - it is a good one for you!

Grant Opportunity For Howard County Farms



The Howard County Innovation Grant is now the **Howard County Agricultural Grant for Innovation and Expansion (AGIE)** and has been increased to grants up to \$20,000!

Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) and Agriculture Land Preservation Program are now accepting applications for the Howard County Agricultural Grant for Innovation and Expansion (AGIE). The purpose of the AGIE is to encourage Howard County's agricultural producers to expand or diversify their business operations. Eligible applicants must be a Howard County crop or livestock producer or processor, agritourism or agricultural cooperative, seafood processor, or primary or secondary timber products processor.

Grant values range from \$1,000 up to \$20,000 for research and development, production buildings, major fixtures, processing facilities, and other permissible expenses. There is one annual grant cycle. Applications are due no later than June 15, 2023. . To learn more about qualifications and to download the application, please visit: www.hceda.org/farm-agriculture/grants.

APPLICATION DUE June 15, 2023

For questions feel free to contact:

Kathy Johnson; Director Agricultural Business Development
kljohnson@hceda.org
James Zoller; Agricultural Coordinator / Executive Secretary
jzoller@howardcountymd.gov

Agriculture Seminar Series for FFA

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



Press Release #5: April 11, 2023

Shaping the Future of Agriculture - Ag Tech Drives Sustainability on the Farm



"We believe that future innovation will be judged not by its ability to produce more, but to produce better," (Bayer, 2023, <https://www.bayer.com/en/agriculture/sustainability-commitments>).

Mike Harrison, customer business advisor, Bayer U. S. - Crop Science, expressed his passion for agriculture sustainability and technology by sharing these facts.

- One U. S. farm feeds 166 people annually in the US and broad. When he was growing up that number was 150.
- The global population is predicted to increase by 2.2 BN by 2050.
- And the world's farmers will have to grow about 70% more food than what is now produced with less ground and new tools. We have work to do- we must do more with less.

Mike grew up in Carroll County, Maryland, graduated from South Carroll High School, and participated in 4-H and FFA as a livestock judge, participating in national competitions. He majored in agronomy at University of Maryland, was in Alpha Gamma Rho, and after graduation worked for the University for 3 years as a research agronomist doing hybrid trials across the state. He worked for Southern States, and then landed with Monsanto, now Bayer. Mike now advises farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region on crop protection, digital ag software, seeds and traits, and new business models, including as a seed advisor on outcome-based pricing, and carbon sequestration. Mike leads on-farm research including field tests on many products suitable for the Mid Atlantic. On the side Mike is a farmer himself and a leader in many ag organizations. He is past president of the Maryland Agriculture Council. <https://mdagcouncil.com/>

Sustainability includes reducing farming's carbon footprint, higher crop yields, and empowering farmers, including 100 M small farm shareholders around the globe. Ag tech is improving sustainability of farming and is being rapidly adopted across agriculture. Artificial intelligence and mathematical algorithms analyze data used to guide the farming operation. An auto-steer tractor is guided using GPS (global positioning systems), that tells the tractor and the planter what to do. That includes dropping seeds in specific population rates, and running two fertilizers so the right fertilizer is on the right seed. The system uses a GPS map of the farm field so that the planting is customized to the field soil conditions.

The entire tractor-planter connection runs and is controlled by GPS.

Drones, also controlled by GPS, are now being used to spray fungicides up to 8 gallons of product at a rate of 30 acres per hour. Also, a drone can carry up to 1 bushel of rye seed and plant this cover crop. Climate Field View provides the farmer with a spatial map of his or her farm, so that the machines will plant to improve efficiency and optimize fertilizer and crop protection products. This system and others have been proven to increase yields while using less inputs.

Coming in about 2025 is a new Smart Corn – to grow more with less. The future includes this new short corn that will yield more, while requiring more efficient use of fungicides and fertilizer. It is thought that short corn will change the industry.

Students learned about new ag technologies and gleaned a lot of advice from this young agriculture professional about business, integrity and commitment. He emphasized that relationships are key to success in agriculture because the ag community is relatively small so never burn a bridge!

Howard County Ag Science Academy and FFA students are growing through these expert seminars, by getting a first-hand look at the many careers in food, agriculture, environment, and natural resources! This event is a continuing seminar series for students in collaboration with the **Howard County Farm Bureau (HCFB)**.

For more information contact:

Kathleen Wojcik, educator,
Kathleen_Wojcik@hcpss.org
 or

Barb Glenn, HCFB, glennbarb6@gmail.com.

Nathan Glenn Joins UME AgFS Team

Source: University of Maryland Extension



March 31st, 2023

Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) Extension welcomes Nathan Glenn to the team as the new Howard County Agent Associate. Nathan will work with the AgFS team to support Maryland food production and agribusiness development.

Nathan grew up on the Glenn Family Farm in Highland, Maryland. He went on to earn B.S. degrees in Animal Science and Education from the University of Maryland, College Park and a MBA from Anderson University, while participating in a variety of agriculture-related internships, and college and community leadership roles.

Nathan has years of comprehensive experience in agriculture education. As a teacher at Harford and Washington County Public Schools and an AgriCorps Fellow at the Booker Washington Institute in Margibi County, Liberia, he took on many responsibilities such as leading agriculture classes, developing experiential learning opportunities, and supporting the Future Farmers of America program. Nathan served five years as an agriculture educator and agribusiness development agent for Hope in the Harvest at Liberia International Christian College, and for two years he developed AgriCorps training program curricula and train-the-trainer workshops

for 4-H Liberia Field Agents as an independent consultant.

The AgFS team looks forward to working with Nathan as he applies his teaching, leadership, and collaboration skills to improving agricultural practices in Howard County and across Maryland.

Source: <https://extension.umd.edu/news-events/news/nathan-glenn-joins-ume-agfs-team>

Savage Farmers Market: Call for Farmers 2024

By: Norma Broadwater, Community Relations, Savage Mill

The town of Savage, MD is inviting interested farmers to apply for a farmers market slated to open in Spring 2024. Savage is a historic community in the southeastern portion of Howard County, adjacent to Columbia and Laurel. Conveniently located off Rt. 32 and Hwy. 1, Savage is positioned minutes from Fort Meade and other major employment centers. The Savage Farmers Market will take place in Baldwin Common, a community park in the center of town across the street from Savage Mill, one of the County's leading shopping, dining, and entertainment destinations, and adjacent to Carroll Baldwin Hall, the center of town life. Baldwin Common is easily accessed by pedestrians and automobiles and is the hub of community festivals and easily visible to passersby. The Market is being organized by a consortium of community leaders and will likely take place on Sundays from May through November.

Interested? Contact Norma Broadwater at norma@savagemill.com or 410-792-2820 for additional details.

Why your business should join Visit Howard County

For as little as \$50 a year, businesses can become members of Visit Howard County, a not-for-profit that markets the efforts of its members and helps visitors and locals alike enjoy what the community has to offer.

With different levels of membership—tiered at \$50, \$500 and \$1,000 per year—businesses can choose their level of exposure, which means having their names and photos highlighted through Visit Howard County’s creative channels.

“One hundred percent of the membership dues that are collected go directly towards our marketing efforts of members,” explained Eric Teisch, sales & membership director for Visit Howard County. “As the lead marketing organization for Howard County, we value the opportunity to support our members through print, radio, television, targeted digital, and social media marketing campaigns.”

Members' listings, information, and events on Visit Howard County’s website are seen by more than 300,000 unique visitors each year. “Visit Howard County bridges the hospitality and business communities together while consistently sharing important information that impacts everyone in Howard County,” said Teisch.

Being synonymous with Visit Howard County has both internal and external benefits. Your member listing will be associated with Things to Do in Howard County. A section that is often visited by families, groups, and other travelers to make a day, a weekend, or a whole trip in the County. You will also be provided regular communication on important information and resources that are accessible to you through the County. Visit Howard County also assists in collaborating with each sector to strengthen the respective close knit communities.

How do businesses join? Visit
<https://www.visithowardcounty.com/about/tourism-council/membership/>

Announcements

❖MDFB & MES Tire Recycling Program Returns in 2023

The Maryland Department of the Environment, in conjunction with Maryland Environmental Service (MES), and the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc., has hosted several Scrap Tire Drop-Off Day events which allowed farmers to deliver agricultural scrap tires to approved collection locations free of charge. These events have been extremely popular and successful among the agricultural community. This year we are happy to announce additional participating counties across the state.

The website will have the most accurate and up to date information:

<https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/tire-recycling/>

Dates and hours are subject to change based on scheduling conflicts with haulers, that will be a county decision, and all dates are subject to end early based on volume and budget. We suggest calling the landfill before you attend to check their availability and if they require any verifying documents.

Howard County:

June 1st – June 10th

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Monday – Saturday

Alpha Ridge Landfill

2350 Marriottsville Road

Marriottsville, MD 21104

❖ Clover Age Youth Livestock Workshops!

There will be 3 different workshops designed for ALL Youth, Ages 5-7, with an interest in livestock. Each will include a learning activity, game, and craft.

All Workshops will be at the
Howard County Fairgrounds, Dining Hall
 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

A Parent or Guardian must accompany youth.

May 1st – Poultry & Rabbits

May 15th – Swine, Sheep & Goats

June 12th – Dairy & Beef Cattle

Go to the following website
 and register now!:

<http://forms.gle/yuVrcqepW1aEdE726>

CLOVER AGE YOUTH LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

THESE WORKSHOPS ARE DESIGNED FOR ALL YOUTH AGES 5-7 WITH AN INTEREST IN LIVESTOCK

3 DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS:
 Each will include a Learning Activity, Game, and Craft.

- MAY 1ST- POULTRY & RABBITS
- MAY 15TH- SWINE, SHEEP & GOATS
- JUNE 12TH- DAIRY & BEEF CATTLE

All Workshops will be from 4:30-5:30 P.M. at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall.
 Parent/Guardian must accompany youth

REGISTER NOW:
<https://forms.gle/yuVrcqepW1aEdE726>

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION
Howard County 4-H

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

❖ Walker's FFA Fundraiser!

May 16th 6-9 PM

10% Tuesdays for Charity!

10% of Bar Sales Donated to Howard County FFA!!

WALKER'S MAY 16TH 6-9PM
 12 TEAMS. 12 CAUSES. 12 TUESDAY NIGHTS

10% TUESDAYS FOR CHARITY
 GUEST BARTENDING COMPETITION
GUEST BARTENDERS: DAVID YUNG MANN CHRIS OXENHAM

10% OF BAR SALES DONATED TO HOWARD COUNTY

FFA

❖ USDA Mental Health Awareness Month Workshop Series

USDA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 CENTER FOR FAITH BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

USDA Mental Health Awareness Month Workshop Series

Breaking the Stigma

Join us for a series of conversations focused on sustainable livelihoods and mental health, farm stress and suicide prevention, and community health and wellbeing

Tuesdays 5/9 to 6/6 | 2:00-3:30 PM EDT

More Information CONTACT: center@usda.gov

You're invited to the USDA Mental Health Awareness Month Workshop Series taking place on Tuesdays starting May 9 through June 6, 2023 from 2:00-3:30pm ET. The workshop series convenes farmers and ranchers, faith leaders, rural health providers, USDA employees, and Federal, state, and university partners to dialogue and discuss mental health challenges, stressors, and the resources and services available to address them.

Please go to: <https://www.usda.gov/ocr/eia/fbnp> for more information on each series and to register.

Calendar of Events

*** 2023 ***

MAY 1 CLOVER AGE YOUTH POULTRY & RABBITS WORKSHOP

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794
Time 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

MAY 15 CLOVER AGE YOUTH SWINE, SHEEP & GOATS WORKSHOP

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794
Time 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

JUN 1-10 TIRE RECYCLING PROGRAM DROP OFF FOR HOWARD COUNTY

Place Alpha Ridge Landfill
2350 Marriottsville Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104
TIME 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

JUN 12 CLOVER AGE YOUTH DAIRY & BEEF CATTLE WORKSHOP

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794
Time 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

JUN 15 HOWARD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL GRANT FOR INNOVATION AND EXPANSION (AGIE) APPLICATION DEADLINE

* WWW.HCEDA.ORG/FARM-AGRICULTURE/GRANTS

AUG 5-12 77TH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794

<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/2021-fair/>

Thank You Sponsors!!!



The Brian
Musgrove Family



William Harrison
& Sons
Run Of The Mill
Farm