



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 32, Issue 5

September 2022

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Message to Members

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

As I sit to write my September Message to Members, kids are preparing to head back to school, Howard County Fair wrapped up a few weeks ago, and we are at the start of the Maryland State Fair. I hope everyone has had a good summer. While it has been a hot, but busy summer, one of the highlights for me, and many others, is the annual Howard County Fair. This year's fair did not disappoint. The fair always affords the chance to pause for a moment and reflect on all the great things that agriculture brings to this county. I enjoy seeing the many exhibits, from the farm and vegetable crops, to the livestock and home arts / indoor entries. I also enjoy the chance to catch up with so many and learn what is going on at farms throughout the county. The farm bureau sponsored contests were also a great success again this year.

The Junior Showmanship Contest, held the first Saturday of the fair, had record turn-out this year. You can read more about the contest later in the newsletter, but I did want to take a moment to recognize and thank Rhonda Winkler for her continued hard work with this contest. 2022 was the 8th year for this contest and there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to pull this show together.

Rhonda oversees and organizes this event, from scheduling (and hosting) workshops prior to the fair, arranging for animals to be available during workshops, as well as the show, finding sponsors, and the many other details that go into a successful show. This event is a summer favorite for many families, as it gives the opportunity for those too young to participate in 4-H a chance to gain some livestock knowledge and an early interest in exhibiting animals. The program also gets older youth involved, allowing them to act as mentors to the younger exhibitors. In a time where there seems to be so many at odds in this world, the Junior Showmanship program is definitely an event that reminds us there is still good in this world. Whether you are directly involved with this program, or just a spectator watching all the red shirts in the show ring at the fair, this event definitely provides a feel-good moment that touches and inspires everyone.

Not to be outdone, the Agriculture Ambassador program also provided a good contest for our farm bureau youth. This was the second year for the

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contest, which replaced the MD Farm Bureau Miss program, and provides scholarship and leadership development opportunities for both males and females. The judges were presented with a good selection of contestants in all age groups. We are pleased to have Madison Miller represent us as the 2022 Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador. Madison, along with Hayden Brendel and Eden Clemmer, the Junior Agriculture Ambassadors; James 'JB' Brown, Future Farmer, and Kora Brendel, Little Miss, all will have opportunities to represent and promote Howard County agriculture in the coming year. I would like to send congratulations out to all of the contestants who participated and did such a great job, both in the Agriculture Ambassador program, as well as the Junior Agriculture Ambassador and Future Farmer and Little Miss Contests. If our future is in our youth, Farm Bureau will have a great future with these kids behind us.

New at the fair this year was the Farmer Wars Contest, a tractor driving and hay stacking contest. Three person teams had to stack hay on a wagon, drive the wagon through an obstacle course, back the wagon into the starting point and then unload the hay from the wagon. Contestants were judged based on time and skill. While this event was not sponsored by farm bureau, there were plenty of farm bureau members involved in the event. Howard County Farm Bureau sent a friendly challenge out to neighboring farm bureaus to come participate and see which county had the better tractor driver and hay stackers. Montgomery County accepted the challenge, bringing two teams. One of the teams even included Montgomery County Farm Bureau President, Lonnie Luther, as the tractor driver. We appreciate the fun that Montgomery County brought to the contest. Other notable teams included a father-son team, a political candidate, a group of fire fighters, and a group of police officers. In the end, the Howard County Farm Bureau Team, consisting of Howie Feaga, Bryan Thompson, and Andy Bauer, persevered through 2 heats to win the champion title. Howard County Fire Fighters Lucas Geiman, Chris High, and Kevin Kidd were the finalists. Great job to all who participated, it certainly was a fun contest to watch.

Now that fair season is mostly behind us, it is time to turn our thoughts to fall and harvest. As students head back to school, Dr. Barbara Glenn, head of our county's Education and Outreach Committee, continues her work to promote ag education throughout the county. Please look for an update from Barb in this newsletter regarding some of the projects she has been working on. As a reminder, we are looking for members of the agricultural community to share their experiences, both with FFA students, as well as possibly part of a program being developed for high school students enrolled in other science classes. If you would like to participate in either of these speaking opportunities, please reach out to either Barb or myself. The input and participation from fellow farm bureau members will help with the success for some of these programs, and a great chance to share the story of Howard County agriculture with others.

Keep a watch out for notice of our annual policy meeting, to be held in early October. At this meeting, the board of directors will discuss and consider resolutions submitted by members for inclusion in our farm bureau policy. Approved resolutions will be forwarded to the state to be presented and discussed during the annual convention in December. These resolutions will help to establish farm bureau's goals and priorities for 2023. As a grassroots organization, we need input from all members to ensure we are addressing your priorities and concerns. I am also looking forward to gathering with members for our annual dinner in November. This is another great chance to gather and catch up with neighbors and friends. We will also elect officers and directors for 2023 at the dinner. Additional information regarding the annual dinner will be sent out to members in the near future.

As summer winds down and we turn the corner to fall and the harvest season, I hope each of you have a safe and prosperous harvest. I will continue to do my best to support and advocate for Howard County farmers wherever my travels may take me.

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship Contest Winners!



Congratulations to the winners of our 2022 Agricultural Ambassador contests, held at the Howard County Fair!

Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau:
Kora Brendel

Howard County Farm Bureau Future
Farmer: **James “JB” Brown**

Howard County Farm Bureau Junior
Agricultural Ambassador: **Eden Clemmer &
Hayden Brendel**

Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural
Ambassador:
Madison Miller



Madison Miller will go on to represent the county at the Maryland Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador contest in December. Good Luck Madison!

We had so many great contestants that did a terrific job showcasing their agricultural knowledge throughout the contest. Thank you to our volunteers, judges, and sponsors for making this year's event a success!



JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP WITH HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

By: Rhonda Patrick Winkler



The 2022 Junior Showmanship with Howard County Farm Bureau show at the Howard County Fair was another big Success!

What a fantastic day. We had 82 kids register for the program and 71 kids show!!!

It was an incredible show with our future 4-H'ers, our current 4-H'ers volunteering their time, the absolute best adult volunteers and parents that believe and support ag.



We are missing about 19 junior showmen in this picture below but what a great picture! We had even more Junior Showman than last year!



I am so proud of each and every one of our junior showmen. The future looks bright for Ag in Howard County!

Stay involved with the Howard County Farm Bureau and be sure to get your kids, or kids you know, signed up for next year's Junior Showmanship!



A huge thank you to our sponsors for supporting this incredible program! Without them, we wouldn't be able to do all that we do.

Please patronize these businesses!! See the list of these sponsors at the end of this Newsletter on Page # 7!

What's Happening – A Refreshed HCFB Education & Outreach Committee

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

August 28, 2022

Great work is being done by this new committee and we invite you to join us!

President Bauer appointed a refreshed Education & Outreach Committee earlier this year. The Committee members are Joe Dymek, John Dove, Danielle Farace, Mandy Dagliesh, Leslie Bauer, and Barb Glenn, chair. We have been busy!

Priority ideas for the next year include the following programs:

A future Howard County Ag Awareness Day for 7th graders; a new Agricultural Seminar Series for students at the Ag Science Academy/FFA; getting Ag education materials in to the new STEA2M Machine with Howard County Library System; studying the feasibility of a Howard County Agritourism Tour or Trail; continuing active advocacy with the County Executive Dr. Ball, HCPSS, FFA, and others to push for new ag education initiatives; and finally, active discussion about a Howard County Agriculture Innovation and Leadership Center. The latter would bring visible awareness about food and agriculture to all Howard Countians and serve farmers.

These program ideas continue to evolve but the Ag Seminar Series is beginning, the STEAM Machine was at the Howard County Fair, and several meetings with various officials have been held to advocate for ag education.

We welcome you to join us and get involved.

Providing awareness of Agriculture in Howard County is a hugely important activity of ALL MEMBERS of HCFB. Thanks to the Committee members! Please let Barb Glenn (glennbarb6@gmail.com) know you are interested in volunteering!

MDFB Ag Education & Extension Committee Update

Source: *Barb Glenn, Chair, MDFB Ag Education & Extension Committee*

August 28, 2022

Agriculture education is a top policy and program priority for Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB). We focus on working to strengthen local farm bureaus as they hold programs and events with students, as well as advocate with local school systems and leaders to support Ag Education.

It's Policy Time! At our August 29 meeting, the Committee will be reviewing policy to identify any *2023 policies in the agriculture education and extension areas*. We typically get great support/leadership from Howard County Farm Bureau! If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact Leslie or Barb.

Focus on Next Generation. MDFB will hold a Next Generation Summit during the MDFB Annual Convention in December. This will be a joint effort with the Young Farmers Committee. The goal will be to amplify Maryland Agriculture through the youth voice by giving measurable value to youth through a targeted workshopping event. Student state leaders will be invited from Maryland FFA, Maryland 4-H, and MANRRS, either from UMES and UMCP, and(or) junior chapters at various high schools.

The Future of Ag Ed. MDFB is also working with Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF) to assure that Ag Education is sustainable and growing within MSDE Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including assuring a strong program within the 5 pillars of the Blueprint. We hope to see Ag Education remain part of Career Technology Education, but also become part of the overall approved science curriculum.

Please contact Barb Glenn (glennbarb6@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments.

Announcements

❖ Howard Soil Conservation District's Cooperators Dinner

The Howard Soil Conservation District invites you and your family to join us at Penn Oaks Winery, Cooksville, Maryland to honor the Howard SCD's Cooperator of the Year.

The event will be held September 15th, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. Come on out and celebrate 76 years of conservation & community!



To find out more information on the event or to sign up, visit the HSCD website, www.howardscd.org, or call the office, 410.313.0680

❖ 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/>

Calendar of Events

*** 2022 ~ 2023 ***

**SEP 9 HOWARD SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT'S COOPERATORS DINNER**

Place Penn Oaks Winery
Cooksville, MD
Time 5:30 P.M.

NOV HCFB ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER

*Date & Details TBD

**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/>

2022 Junior Showmanship Sponsors

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A huge thank you to our sponsors for supporting this incredible program! Without them, we wouldn't be able to do all that we do. Please patronize these businesses!!

Thank You Sponsors!!!



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