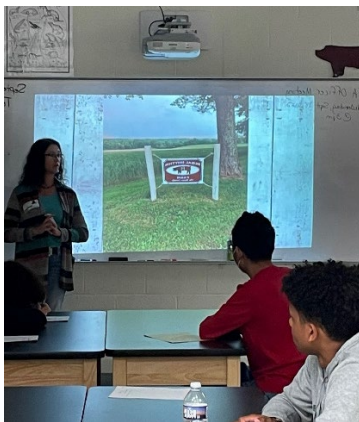


Press Release #2: September 28, 2022

## 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](mailto:glennbarb6@gmail.com).