

Press Release #4: December 14, 2022

Climate Smart Agriculture and Veterinary Science – Exciting Career Opportunities!



One of the best ways to learn about agriculture is to hear from the experts. The 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).

In November, students learned about “Curbing Our Carbon Appetite,”

(<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/curricula#:~:text=Curbing%20our%20Carbon%20Appetite%20will,of%20this%20activity%20kit%20include%3A&text=Trace%20the%20flow%20of%20carbon,activity%20to%20increased%20atmospheric%20carbon>) presented by Tom Hutson, Carroll County 4-H Educator and co-author of the University of Maryland and Bayer-sponsored curriculum. Students explored actions that agriculture, business and industry, and individuals and families can take to reduce the atmospheric carbon.

Later in November, Dr. Aaron Lucas, DVM, (<https://www.mtairyvets.com/our-veterinarians>) Taylorsville Veterinary Clinic, (<https://www.mtairyvets.com/>) Mount Airy, MD, talked about the importance of a career in veterinary science. Dr. Lucas told his personal story of obtaining the DVM degree from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, a Ph.D. in Clinical Parasitology and how he landed in the mixed practice of small, companion animals and large food animals. He discussed the many important roles of Food Animal Veterinary Medicine. He said his main goal is to keep our food supply safe through keeping animals healthy. After discussing his day-to-day activities, students peppered Dr. Lucas with questions from “how did you know you wanted to be a vet?”, to questions on difficult college courses, the importance of biosecurity, “why is artificial insemination important in cattle and why do we dehorn cattle?”.

Dr. Lucas' presentation was a great primer for **the following week when the classes took a field trip to TransOva Genetics in Boonsboro, Maryland (<https://transova.com/>)**. Staff of TOG provided a good look into the reproductive technologies used to improve the next generation of beef and dairy cattle, and therefore the meat or milk quality, nutrition, and quantity for consumers. Howard County Ag Science Academy and FFA are growing through these interactions, giving them a first-hand look at the many careers in food, agriculture, environment, and natural resources!