



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 33, Issue 5

September 2023

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Message to Members

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

As I turn the calendar to the month of September, I have also taken notice of what seems to be an earlier than usual change of season to fall. I hope the summer months treated farm bureau members well. This year has presented a bit of a challenge, being drier than normal and lacking much needed rain for many of our crops. It was good to visit with other farmers at this year's Howard County Fair and get their 'crop reports' from around the county. It appears that later planted corn seems to be doing a little better than the early planted corn. First cutting hay was good – second and later cutting hay has been harder to come by. Vegetable crops have needed more irrigation than normal. Springs that have fed various water sources for years for some farms have dried up. This year certainly will not be one that is soon forgotten. Through years that are too dry, too wet, too hot, or too cold, the farmer is always the survivor, and this too shall pass. Next year will be a new season with its own set of challenges.

At the beginning of the summer, a representative from Congressman John Sarbanes office reached out to me requesting some farm tours in our

county. I provided the Congressman with several different farm options, and based upon his selection, during the August congressional district work period, I was happy to host the Congressman and two of his staff members for tours of two Howard County Farms. David Plummer, Howard Soil Conservation District, and Mike Calkins, MDA Assistant Secretary of Plant Industries and Pest Management also participated in the tours. Stops included Maple Dell Farm, as well as Rural Rhythm Farm.



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It was a very productive visit that included conversations about conservation practices used on the farms, challenges facing the dairy industry, the issues of farming close to population centers, as well as the importance of making sure it is possible for the next generation to remain on the farm.



Congressman Sarbanes was interested and engaged in the day, and I look forward to having the Congressman and his staff back for additional farm visits in the future.



Maple Dell Farm



Rural Rhythm Farm

The results are in, and the Howard County Fair was a great success for farm bureau members!

For the 9th year, Rhonda Winkler worked with youth from around the county for a fun Junior Showmanship event. You can read more about the event later in this newsletter, but I always like to take a moment to recognize Rhonda for the passion she has for this event. This year there were 81 5–8-year-olds who all had the opportunity to get a little closer to agriculture thanks to all of Rhonda’s efforts. These kids don’t just show up at the fair for a little showing magic. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes pre-fair to make the show a success and create lasting memories for these kids. Rhonda oversees and organizes the Junior Showmanship event, from scheduling (and hosting) workshops prior to the fair, arranging for animals to be available during workshops, as well as at the fair, finding sponsors, and the many other details that go into a successful show. Howard County Farm Bureau thanks Rhonda for all the hard work she puts into this popular program.

The ladies of the Women’s Leadership Committee organized another successful Ag Ambassador event at this year’s fair. It is always fun to see the Future Farmer and Little Miss Contestants – there were 9 this year. The older contestants, both in the Junior Ag Ambassador and the Ag Ambassador programs, all did a wonderful job. Congratulations to Future Farmer Mason Willie, Little Miss Lilah Garland, Junior Ag Ambassadors Jake Hereth and Jaelyn Velisek and Ag Ambassadors Anthony Poston and Amelia Brogan. Anthony and Amelia will both have the opportunity to compete at the State Ag Ambassador program during the MD Farm Bureau Convention in December. Both the winners, as well as all the other contestants, will be great representatives for agriculture in the coming years. If these are the youth of our future, agriculture is in good hands!

Again, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to make the Ag Ambassador event successful, and I would like to recognize Danielle Farace, Tess Mantua, Amy Brown and Jen Poston,

along with their committee – Chris Feaga, Katie Hereth, Sharon Moulton, Janette Knill, Ruthie Welling, Merhlyn Barnes and Dawn Watkins – for the work they do to make the Ag Ambassador Contest a fun and educational event for all involved.

Also, during the Howard County Fair, County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball held a press conference to announce a new grant program available to farmers and the agricultural community. The new Howard County Enhanced Agricultural Grant Pilot provides \$250,000 that can be used for major capital investments such as equipment or technology, shared equipment programs that allow farmers access to machinery that may otherwise be cost-prohibitive, as well as coordinated marketing, public awareness, and expansion of distribution channels for Howard County agriculture. Applications for this new grant are due by November 15, 2023.

Additional information and an application for this grant program can be found here:

[APB Enhanced Agricultural Grants FY24 - 8.7.23.pdf \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

Please keep a watch out for notice of our annual policy meeting, to be held October 5. 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 2024. As a grassroots organization, we need input from all members to ensure we are addressing your priorities and concerns.

I hope farmers have a safe fall harvest. I will continue to work behind the scenes, supporting and advocating for Howard County farmers who work hard every day to provide food and so much more, both for this county, as well as this country.

Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador Contests Winners!



Congratulations to the winners of our 2023 Agricultural Ambassador contests, held at the Howard County Fair!

Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau:
Lilah Garland

**Howard County Farm Bureau Future
Farmer:**
Mason Willie

**Howard County Farm Bureau Junior
Agricultural Ambassador:**
Jake Hereth and Jaelyn Velisek

**Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural
Ambassador:**
Anthony Poston and Amelia Brogan

Anthony Poston and Amelia Brogan will both go on to represent the county at the Maryland Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador contest in December. Good Luck Anthony and Amelia!

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*



GOOD GOLLY - MS MOLLY
WE HAD ONE HECK OF A SHOW
TODAY!



Congratulations to all our Junior Showman, each, and every one of you did a fantastic job!

Thank you to our judges, Caitlin Patrick, Makenzie Hereth & Colby Hough! We truly were blessed to have you all as our judges. Thank you for your time, patience, and excellent reasons! One thing is for sure, all three of you are an excellent example of what the Howard County 4-H program is about!

Thank you to our awesome youth volunteers, we couldn't do this program without you and I am so proud of each and every one of you!



Thank you to my desk ladies, Lori Mellin & Wendy Gray Campagnari that kept me organized today, I am blessed to call you my friends and to have you always at my side supporting us

I am thankful and feeling blessed. I love you all and can we get one more "WHOOOP WHOOP"!



Support Maryland Ag Education Foundation (MAEF) ~ Brews and Bluegrass & Golf Tournament Fundraiser Events

Source: Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation



Check out a few fun activities coming up soon that are MAEF fundraisers.

Go to <https://maefonline.com/> for more information. You can register online to participate or support MAEF by donating to any of the funds on the website. The Flyers for these events are attached in this Newsletter on Pages 11 & 12.

FUND Raising Concert- September 11th, 2023-Purchase tickets today!

Join the Board of Directors and Friends of Maryland Agricultural Education on Monday, Sept. 11 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Hopkins Farm Brewery for food, fiddles, and FUNd Raising! Enjoy your Hopkins Farm Brew favorites and support the building of the new lab by trying a SPECIAL BREW developed and named especially for this fundraiser! \$50/person (\$5 discount for First Responders and Active Duty Military) Dinner provided by Mission BBQ.

Annual MAEF Scholarship Golf Tournament- September 13th, 2023-Registration Now Open!

Join us for the Annual MAEF Scholarship Golf Tournament on September 13th, 2023! This year's tournament will be held at the picturesque Oakmont Green Golf Course, promising a day of friendly competition and

community support. Not only will you have a chance to showcase your golf skills, but you'll also be making a difference in the lives of deserving students through our scholarship program.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the MAEF Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Together, we can shape the future of agriculture and education. Use the link below to register today!

Maryland Department of Agriculture Announces New Strategy at Nutrient Management Summit

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture



ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 17, 2023) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) held a much anticipated Nutrient Management plan writing summit on Monday, July 17 at Anne Arundel Community College to present the overview of the re-imagined and improved nutrient management program. Following a June 1st announcement by MDA of changes to the way plans are written as well as listening sessions held throughout the State in the weeks following, MDA and the University of Maryland (UMD) have made the joint decision to reevaluate and reframe how the program is managed. Farmer and industry input contributed greatly to this decision.

During the July 17 Summit, MDA shared goals and objectives including:

- Evolving the nutrient management plan model through industry input to adapt to modern farming practices and operations;
- Improving the plan writing process through cost-free plans available to farmers;
- Grow and support plan writers by increasing the emphasis on Farmer Training Certification (FTC) Program;
- Incentivize individuals and organizations to offer plan writing services throughout the state;
- UME will remain engaged in this program by continuing to offer free nutrient management plan support as in the past.

“Throughout this process tough decisions and conversations had to occur to get us to this point of creating a solid plan going forward,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “I thank our industry and their representatives for providing critical input throughout the listening sessions. In addition, I want to thank the University for stepping up and addressing our concerns. We look forward to further partnership as this process moves forward with renewed and enhanced engagement through University of Maryland Extension.”

Maryland law requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more or livestock producers with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure. Nutrient management plans specify how much fertilizer, manure or other nutrient sources may be safely applied to crops to achieve yields and prevent excess nutrients from impacting waterways.

Because of their complexity, these plans must be prepared by a certified University of Maryland specialist, certified private consultant, or farmer who is trained and certified by the department to prepare his or her own plan.

“I want to thank the Maryland Department of Agriculture for working with us on priority changes to the statewide nutrient management program,” said University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Craig Beyrouly. “We are very encouraged by the progress that has been made to re-introduce University of Maryland plan writers so that we may continue to offer the support our Agricultural community has come to trust and rely upon. I’m thrilled that the University of Maryland Extension (UME) will administer this new program. They provide research-based education with a deep understanding of farmers’ operations and environmental needs and will be excellent stewards for this important work.”

Lastly, the Department announced a new 30-member Farmer Taskforce, convening in August to provide guidance to MDA and UMD regarding ways to improve the nutrient management plan to be more practical for farmers to implement. The Task Force’s recommendations will be considered by the Nutrient Management Advisory Committee.

For more information and full details about the changes, please visit www.mda.maryland.gov and click on Nutrient Management Plan Writing updates.

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Follow Maryland Department of Agriculture on Twitter [@MdAgDept](https://twitter.com/MdAgDept)

The following details were also presented at the Summit:

Framework of Tentative New Agreement:

- MDA and UMD will enter into a 3 year MOU to continue funding UMD Nutrient Management plan writers to be renewed annually, contingent upon funding;
- The new program will be administered day-to-day by UMD Extension.

Funding & Staffing:

- Both MDA and UMD will seek more permanent funding to sustain the program.

Currently the program is funded primarily by the EPA;

- The UMD will seek ways to increase salaries and offer benefits for plan writers. Currently, UMD plan writers are hired on a contractual basis because of the uncertainty of continued annual funding by EPA.

Nutrient Management (NuMan) Software improvement:

- Build a more modern software program that helps our industry meet its environmental stewardship roles by ensuring better inclusion of today's modern agricultural production systems, incorporation of the latest research and incorporating web-based accessibility on a variety of devices.

New Nutrient Management Oversight Committee:

- MDA and UMD, chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Dean of UMD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources will be created to:
 - Oversee the plan writers
 - Draft annual reports on the program that includes data such as number of engaged farms/farmers, number of plans developed, acres represented by plans, and reduction of pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus entering waterways as a result of the plans;
 - Set goals for increasing the percentage of plans written through UMD.

Expanded Training Opportunities:

- MDA will hire a NM Training Coordinator;
- More training opportunities will be available for both Farmer Training Certification (FTC) and developing and delivering classes for consultants;
- Develop online training modules.

Education:

- UMD will work with MDA to develop educational programs directed to producers to encourage greater participation in the nutrient management program.

If you have any questions, need additional information or would like to arrange an interview, please contact:

[Jessica Hackett](#)

Director of Communications

Telephone: 410-841-5888

Source: <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2023/07/17/maryland-department-of-agriculture-announces-new-strategy-at-nutrient-management-summit/>

Announcements

❖ Howard Soil Conservation District's Cooperators Dinner

The Howard Soil Conservation District invites you and your family to join us at:

Manor Hill Brewing
Ellicott City, MD

to honor the Howard SCD's Cooperator of the Year. The event will be held:

September 21st, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Come on out for an enjoyable summer evening, sample a variety of beers, catch up with friends from the agricultural community and enjoy a delicious meal! Help us celebrate the agricultural community and the conservation efforts of Howard County farmers. Come on out and celebrate 77 years of conservation & community!

Please RSVP by: 9/14/2023



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

❖ MFB Annual Convention

THE 108TH MARYLAND FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION & MEETING OF DELEGATES

DEC. 2-5 2023
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina
CAMBRIDGE, MD

REGISTER BY NOV. 3 2023

500+ Attendees	56 Exhibitors & Sponsors	22 Affiliate Organizations	117 Next Gen Summit Attendees
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- ✓ Participate in Farm Bureau's unique policy development process to hear perspectives of farmers across the state
- ✓ Learn about issues that will affect your farm or agribusiness in the coming years
- ✓ Attend educational breakout sessions to sharpen your leadership skills and advance your knowledge of trends within the industry
- ✓ Idea-share with leaders from across the state – including county Farm Bureau's, allied businesses, and state agencies
- ✓ Interact with the next generation of agriculturalists through the 2nd NextGen Summit and Young Farmer Competitive Events
- ✓ Explore the trade show to build a stronger network and learn more about programs and services available to Maryland farmers

❖ The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade



We invite YOU to enjoy the Lisbon Christmas Parade in the historic Town of Lisbon, Maryland...

**In Person on Saturday, December 9th, 2023
12 Noon!**

Calendar of Events

*** 2023~2024 ***

JAN 19-24 106TH AMERICAN FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

Place Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://annualconvention.fb.org/>

SEP 11 MAEF FOOD, FIDDLES, & FUN RAISING

Place Hopkins Farm Brewery
3833 Rider Lane
Havre De Grace, MD 21078
Time 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Visit: www.maefonline.com

SEP 13 MAEF SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Place Oakmont Green Golf Course
2290 Golfview Lane
Hampstead, MD 21074
Time 11:30 a.m.
Register: www.mdaged.golfgenius.com

SEP 21 HOWARD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S COOPERATORS DINNER

Place Manor Hill Brewing
4411 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Time 5:30 p.m.

NOV HCFB ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER

*Date & Details TBD

DEC 2-5 108TH MARYLAND FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION & MEETING OF DELEGATES

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

DEC 9 THE GREAT LISBON FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS PARADE

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

Thank You Sponsors!!!



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LISBON, MD



SELECTIVE
Demolition LLC

**The Brian
Musgrove Family**

Charlie's bobcat Service



**William Harrison
& Sons
Run Of The Mill
Farm**



Monday, September 11, 2023 | 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(rain date 9/12/23)

Hopkins Farm Brewery



Bookings since 2021 have exceeded past requests... MAEF wants to meet this demand with a NEW Mobile Lab. YOU can help!

Join the Board of Directors and Friends of Maryland Agricultural Education on Monday, Sept. 11 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Hopkins Farm Brewery for food, fiddles, and FUNd Raising!

Enjoy your Hopkins Farm Brew favorites and support the building of the new lab by trying a SPECIAL BREW developed and named especially for this fundraiser!

\$50/person (\$5 discount for First Responders and Active Duty Military)
Dinner by Mission BBQ



Music by the Mayo Family Band

Hopkins Farm Brewery

3833 Rider Lane
Havre De Grace, MD 21078

More information online: maefonline.com



MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP

GOLF

-Tournament-



Registration

\$125

SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2023

**Oakmont Green Golf Course
2290 Golfview Lane, Hampstead, MD 21074**

Shotgun Start: 11:30 am

Registration:
www.mdaged.golfgenius.com

