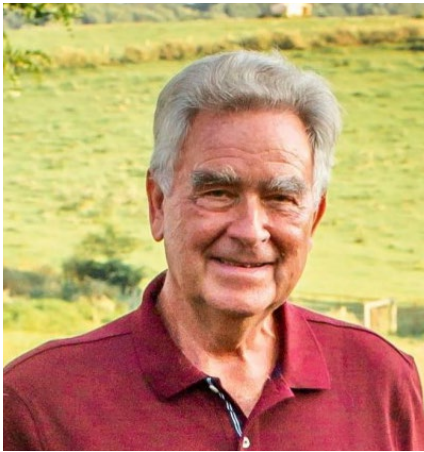




# MCFB Ag/Member *highlights*

August 2023

## In Memory of our MCFB President



Mr. Lonnie West Luther, 78, of Damascus, Maryland entered eternal life on Wednesday August 9, 2023, after a two-month battle with multiple myeloma. Lonnie is survived by his wife Mina of 53 years, their 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

Lonnie and his wife were very active in our Ag community. When he wasn't tending cattle or farming, he dedicated time to the preservation of agriculture through volunteer services in Montgomery County and State of Maryland Farm Bureaus, Farmer's Clubs, Montgomery County 4-H Program, The Montgomery County Agricultural Fair and the Damascus Community Fair. This year the Fair awarded Lonnie two significant honors, the Montgomery County Ag Hall of Fame Award and the Pioneer Award. Many of his family members attended to receive the awards on his behalf.

4-H was always an integral part of Lonnie's life. He and Mina helped all their children show cattle and fully engaged in 4-H projects from baking, gardening, and sewing, to public speaking and livestock judging. Lonnie was pleased that many of his grandchildren have these same interests too. When he knew he would not be able to attend the fair, a time-honored tradition for his family, he encouraged his family to participate and carry on as if he was there. His three granddaughters, all members of the Royal Court, even donned their gowns and visited their beloved Papa in hospice. Lonnie knew the fair would be a good source of healing for his family. They would all be surrounded by family and friends and fellow farmers to offer heartfelt condolences and tributes to the kind and caring farmer we all knew and appreciated!

One MCFB member comments that, "We will miss seeing Lonnie driving down the road on a tractor moving hay or equipment from one farm to another or heading to DC to pick up spent grain for his cattle. We'll miss cutting through the poultry barn at the fair and stopping to say Hi."

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"*

Matthew 11:28 (From Lonnie's funeral card)

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## MCFB Annual Picnic was held on June 11th



Kevin Atticks, Secretary of Agriculture, updated MCFB Voting Members on Ag issues in MD relevant to our farmers.

**MCFB 2023 Scholarship Awards.** The Montgomery County Farm Bureau is pleased to be able to provide numerous scholarships to support our youth in furthering their education to be able to one day give back to our county and the farm bureau. Our county farm bureau was pleased to present scholarships both directly from our county as well as scholarships under the Friends of Montgomery County Farm Bureau. We had 14 recipients this year. All of these students were very deserving of the award with all having numerous leadership positions, excellent academic success, and a lot of community involvement. Their essays regarding how to support agriculture through the ever-changing economy and infrastructure our country goes through contained great insight and makes us all feel like the future of agriculture is in good hands. Our recipients of the Friends



MCFB Vice President, Eric Spates and Kaylene Lyons, DVM announced this year's Scholarship recipients.

of Montgomery County Farm Bureau scholarships were: Olivia Scuderi, Camryn Manoogian, Claudia Fumagalli, Esther Feron, Cole Snyder, Daniel Feliciano, and Colton DeValle. Our recipients of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau scholarships were: Tess Brizhik, Hayden Whirley, Emily Ward, Paige Snyder, Carlos Mendoza, Isabelle Jonas, and Eliana Finberg.

Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship recipients!

**All eligible students of farm bureau family members are welcome to apply next year in 2024. Please be on the look out for information on the application in early May!**



## MCFB Member Testimonial Video

If a fellow agriculturalist asked you the question, “Why is it important to be a member of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau?” How would you respond? The MCFB Membership Committee, led by Kathy Lyons, with technical and production support from fellow board member, Sara Lechlida, are finding out! A dozen members representing ag farms and business areas to include, crop, livestock, agritourism, equine, 4-H, Young Farmers, farm markets, organic farming, among others, as well as members supporting Ag in our county have provided such testimonials. These inputs are being used to produce a video that the MCFB will release and use to recruit additional members to help us to remain the “Voice of Agriculture” in our county! Look for a link soon to view and share with fellow agriculturalists or friends of farming.



Sara Lechlida captures 4-H Family Representative, Izzy Jonas’s testimonial

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**Farm Bureau Benefit Highlight:** Did you know that as a Farm Bureau member, you have access to many discounts and benefits! Office Depot offers farm bureau members savings up to 75% off on office, home and school supplies! Staples offers all Farm Bureau members their Staples Advantage Program! Don’t forget to check out **all** the **great benefits** of being a Farm Bureau member by clicking on the highlighted link!

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**Automatic Membership Renewal is now available** to all farm bureau members! No more putting aside your annual membership renewal notices and forgetting to pay your dues. This year when you receive your membership dues payment reminder, **Auto Renewal** is now available. Please select ‘Yes’ on the renewal form to enable auto renewal and your membership subscription will renew automatically each year!

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**Visit our website <https://www.mdfarmbureau.com/montgomery/>**