

# NEWSLETTER



## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 34, Issue 2

March 2024

### ~Contacts~

Leslie Bauer, President (443) 812-1662  
Barb Glenn, Vice-President (202) 577-6660  
Katie Hereth, Secretary (301) 580-6029  
Kerry Brendel, Treasurer (301) 606-2341  
Mandy Dalglish, Newsletter Editor (240) 638-6174

WEBSITE: [www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard)

### Message to Members

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

2024 has been off to a busy start. It was nice to see a bit of snow both in January and February, although it didn't last too long. It might make things a bit muddy around the barn, but it has provided some much needed moisture to our fields, which will be appreciated as the calendars turn to spring planting season. The 2024 Legislative Session is in full swing in Annapolis, and at the Federal level, there has been a big push to get a new farm bill passed before the November elections.

In December of last year, the American Farm Bureau Federation, along with The Beer Institute, joined together to host a happy hour reception on Capitol Hill. The purpose of the evening was to engage with members of Congress and their staff to reiterate the importance of passing the farm bill. The beer institute and AFBF each brought in 4 farmers from around the country, all to share their family stories and why the farm bill is essential to farm operations. I was honored and excited to be invited to participate in this evening and share the story of one Howard County farm family, just 40 miles from our nation's capital.

Fun fact: Did you know that today there are over 8,000 breweries across the country, offering consumers more than 20,000 beer options? Or that the brewing industry directly supports over 52,000 agricultural jobs across America? This was a fun night for all, and a great way to engage and educate our political leaders about the importance of agriculture.

At the beginning of February, members of the Howard County agricultural community (including myself) attended the Taste of Maryland Agriculture event at Live! Casino in Arundel Mills. Close to 1,000 people attended this event, where legislative leaders were able to meet with farmers and talk about the business of farming.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Maryland Farm Bureau hosted their annual Day in Annapolis event. Howard County was again well represented. I would like to thank the following who took the time away

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Message to Members
3	Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship
4	Maryland Farm Bureau Scholarships
5	MAEF's 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Ag Literacy Week
5	Agriculture Seminar Series for FFA: A Busy Spring for Ag Science Academy High Schoolers
6	Howard County FFA Dominates!
6	Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting
7	Announcements
8	*Calendar of Events*
10	HCFB Legislative Dinner Registration Form

from their busy schedules to visit with our local legislators and talk about issues that impact agriculture: Zack Brendel, Jamie Brown, Howie Feaga, Barbara Glenn, and Kathy Johnson. While in Annapolis, visits were made to the offices of Senators Guy Guzzone and Clarence Lam, as well as Delegates Vanessa Atterbeary, Jessica Feldmark, Pam Guzzone, Terri Hill, Jen Terrasa, Courtney Watson and Natalie Ziegler. It was a successful day full of good conversations about agriculture.

To keep you up to date on the issues happening in Annapolis during this legislative session, you should be receiving copies of the MD Farm Bureau's Hotline that is sent weekly via email. The Hotline's purpose is to make you aware of upcoming hearings for bills that will impact Maryland's farm community. You can also review the 2024 Bill Briefings document that was discussed during Day in Annapolis at [2024-Day-in-Annapolis-Briefing.pdf \(mdfarmbureau.com\)](#).

If you would like to learn more about how the Maryland General Assembly's 2024 Legislative Session wrapped up, please be sure to attend our annual Legislative Dinner at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall on April 18. Additional details regarding the dinner can be found later in this newsletter.

Mid-February brought the release of data from the most recent Census of Agriculture (2022). I was interested to see how the face of agriculture has changed in Howard County over the 5 years from 2017 (last census) to 2022, especially since across the state and nation, overall numbers have decreased.

My first take of the results brought surprise. I even thought I misread the numbers or had confused results from 2017 vs 2022. While other places have seen a decline, my interpretation of the data shows that here in Howard County, there has been an overall increase in farms (believe it or not!). I contemplated these numbers for a few days, then went back and looked again. After more contemplation, I then went back and studied

the data from 2012. And yes, from the data review, agriculture in Howard County seems to be holding its own (although I will add – net farm income is drastically down). I won't say we don't have struggles. Regulation, inflation, rising input and labor costs are not always our friends. I won't say we win all our battles, or have wonderful crop years, but overall, farmers in Howard County have continued to do what they do best: with persistence and determination, farmers have been able to pivot, change and survive through adversity. Below is a small sampling of some of the data I reviewed.

	2012	2017	2022
<b>Farms</b>	293	321	345
<b>Land in farms</b>	37,475	32,436	37,639
Average Farm Size	128	101	109
<b>Est market value land &amp; buildings (avg/farm)</b>	\$1,401,897	\$925,165	\$1,377,000
<b>Est market value machine &amp; equip (avg/farm)</b>	\$84,051	\$86,214	\$89,296
<b>Total Cropland</b>			
Farms	180	192	212
Acres	20,903	17,846	19,811
<b>Mkt valu agricultural products sold</b>	\$31,883,000	\$27,259,000	\$29,631,000
Average per farm	\$108,817	\$84,919	\$85,886
Crops, including nursery & greenhouse	\$27,700,000	\$23,517,000	\$26,353,000
Livestock, poultry & their products	\$4,183,000	\$3,742,000	\$3,278,000
Total income from farm related sources	\$2,691,000	\$3,988,000	\$7,311,000
Farms	107	104	143
Total farm production expenses	\$30,860,000	\$29,396,000	\$36,685,000
Average per farm	\$105,323	\$91,578	\$106,333
Net cash farm income of the operations	\$4,023,000	\$2,091,000	\$483,000
Farms	293	321	345

If you would like to take a more in-depth look at the census data results yourself, it can all be found here: [USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Census of Agriculture](#)

While many may promote the motto “Thank A Farmer”, I would like to add to that and say “Thank A Farm Bureau Member”. The tireless work of so many farm bureau members and representatives, both at the local level, as well as the state, is part of what has helped agriculture to thrive in Howard County, and I am optimistic this will continue. There are so many who contribute to ensure the future of agriculture in Howard County, however I would like to call out a few examples.

Rhonda Winkler and the ever-popular Junior Showmanship program. This program has been recognized throughout the state and beyond. Rhonda began this program with the purpose of promoting, educating, and supporting future leaders of agriculture while teaching them about showing livestock. Not only has this program boosted Farm Bureau membership, but it has also created interest from youth to pursue a future in agriculture, and for their families to preserve and promote agriculture.

Barbara Glenn and Joe Dymek work extremely hard to promote Ag Education at the school level. Barb leads the MD Farm Bureau Ag Education and Extension Committee. She also works to support the Howard County FFA Program, including coordinating a speaker series that brings guest speakers to the classroom to share with students about different careers and opportunities in agriculture.

Joe Dymek has worked with MAEF for years, and now we are lucky to have him paving the way for an Ag Awareness Day for Howard County 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. For 2024, this event will be offered to Folly Quarter Middle School students (read more about this later in the newsletter), however we hope to be able to expand this event to other 7<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the county in the future.

The Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss ideas, opportunities, and challenges to promote and support agriculture. We all have busy schedules and time can be precious, especially during

planting and harvest, but the board members who show up every month realize agriculture isn't just important to them, it is important for the larger community, and they are committed to ensuring its future.

At a county level, we are lucky to have people like Kathy Johnson and James Zoller, who will always speak up to support agriculture, and look out for our best interest. Kathy works hard to assist farmers with marketing and business development. She also provides support with zoning and permitting issues. James, as the county agriculture coordinator, works with the Agriculture Land Preservation Program, as well as the Roving Radish, providing an outlet for local farmers to market their goods. Both also have grant programs to support our farming endeavors, which are also supported by the County Administration.

This is just a sampling of the many unsung heroes behind the scenes of Howard County agriculture. They are just a few of a much larger group (the list is endless), all working to preserve and support agriculture around us every day.

I hope these next few months will bring good things for your family and your farm. I look forward to giving you more farm bureau updates in May!

---

## **Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship**

The Howard County Farm Bureau will offer one \$1,000.00 scholarship for someone in the 14 to 16 age range and another \$2,000.00 scholarship to someone in the 17 to 19 age range. The 17 to 19 scholarship will be partially funded by Farm Bureau and partially funded by the Jackie Bauer Memorial Scholarship fund. To be eligible for the 17 to 19 scholarship, they would either need to be a current HCFB member OR a current or former 4-H or FFA member. The 14 to 16 scholarship is open to HCFB members only.

To apply, students must return the attached application form and write an essay.

The 14 to 16 age range essay is to be written on:

**" How can farmers connect with their local communities to enhance support for the agriculture industry?"**

The 17 to 19 age range essay is to be written on:

**"Studies show more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health issues. What can farmers, ranchers, and Farm Bureau do to proactively promote good mental health in both themselves and their communities?"**

We would guide the winners to use the money for school and or 4H/FFA projects. The deadline for applications and essays is **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

The Scholarships will be awarded at our annual Legislative Dinner

All decisions on the winner will be made by the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Essays are to be written in number 12 pt font and be no longer than 2 pages with one-inch margins.

Entries or questions can be sent to Zack Brendel at [Zack@levellandscape.com](mailto:Zack@levellandscape.com). If you would like to send a hard copy, please send to the attention of:

Zack Brendel, Po Box 142, Lisbon MD, 21765

\*Application form is attached on Page #9 of this newsletter.

## **Maryland Farm Bureau** **Scholarships**



**Deadline March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

*Agricultural and other students eligible for five \$2,000 scholarships*

The Maryland Farm Bureau is awarding five \$2,000 scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applicants must be current high school seniors with plans to start college in Fall 2024 or may be current full-time college students at any accredited community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians must be members, in good standing, of the Maryland Farm Bureau to be eligible to apply.

Three scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing academic degrees in food, agriculture and/or natural resources disciplines, and two scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing degrees in other academic disciplines or who are pursuing minors in food, agriculture and/or natural resources disciplines.

The application deadline is March 22nd, 2024, at 5:00 pm Eastern Time. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of the scholarship application.

Scholarships will be presented to selected applicants in conjunction with high school graduation programs or prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Scholarship checks will be made out to the student and the institution of higher education. The committee reserves the right to interview scholarship applicants if they feel it necessary for determination of final selection. Family members of Maryland Farm Bureau staff and directors are ineligible to participate.

For more information, or to [apply](https://mdfarmbureau.com/scholarships/), please visit the website: <https://mdfarmbureau.com/scholarships/>



## MAEF's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ag Literacy Week

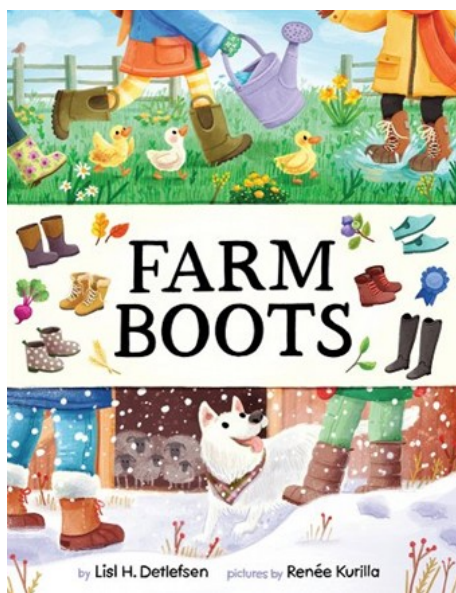
*Source: Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation*



MAEF invites ALL members of Maryland agriculture to join us as Volunteer Readers, during our 14th Annual Maryland Ag Literacy Week, **March 18-24, 2024**. Together, we can put a face to agriculture and increase student knowledge about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Click the following [link](https://form.jotform.com/223335075999064) for more info and to register today!

<https://form.jotform.com/223335075999064>

This year's featured book is "Farm Boots" by Lisa H. Detlefsen. For just \$10, you'll receive the hardback book and an activity kit designed for classroom use.



For more information or any questions, please reach out to **Tonya Wible** at [twible@maefonline.com](mailto:twible@maefonline.com). Thank you for bringing accurate agricultural books, engaging activities, and education to classrooms across Maryland!

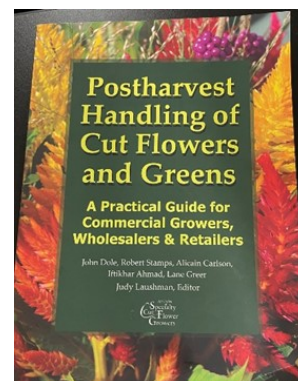
## Agriculture Seminar Series for FFA: A Busy Spring for Ag Science Academy High Schoolers

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

The Ag Seminar Series has been packed with exciting speakers this spring. Howard County Farm Bureau continues to work with the [Howard County Public School System Ag Science Academy](#), students by providing agriculture experts to speak during class. There are 38 juniors and seniors in the Ag Science Academy and all 38 are members of the **Howard County FFA Chapter**. **Kaitlyn Spicer is the 2023-2024 President, and Ellie Keefer is vice president!**

This spring **Dr. Mara Mullinix**, Mullinix Veterinary Hospital, Monrovia, spoke on veterinary science and her veterinarian story. **Howie Feaga**, Merry Acres Farm, Ellicott City, spoke on farming for equine, dairy and beef cattle production and on haying and other crops.

**Lisa Dirks**, Apricity Flower Farm, Dayton, gave an intriguing and inspiring story about the history of flower farming, being a flower farmer, and the growth of the local cut flower industry in Howard County and the region. Photos of Lisa speaking on February 26 show that the students were engaged and asking many questions, relating their flower stories, and asking her about how much work it is to grow flowers for gardening vs. farming! Lisa also shared resource books with the class, which the students eagerly paged through.



On tap for the rest of the semester are presentations on dairy cattle breeding and genetics by **Courtney Hoff**, Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding; sustainability in intensive agriculture by **Bryan Dillehay**, Bayer; **Rachel Mund**, Manor Hill Farm to discuss their successful farm brewery; agritourism by **Nora Crist**, Clark's Elioak Farm, and farmland preservation by **Joy Levy**, Howard County Ag Land Preservation Program. We have two animal scientists, **Dr. Dan Benz** and **Dr. Sharon Giduck**, retired from FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine speaking in April. On slate to be scheduled is a farmer operating one of the largest farms in Howard County, and a veterinarian who spent a career as a practicing swine vet and as an expert on global swine health with the US Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service.

**Wow! So many career opportunities in Agriculture!!** Exciting times at the Ag Science Academy. If you would like to help out and(or) speak to the students, or want more information contact Kathleen Wojcik, educator, Ag Science Academy, [Kathleen\\_Wojcik@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen_Wojcik@hcpss.org); Barb Glenn, chair HCFB Outreach and Education Committee, [glennbarb6@gmail.com](mailto:glennbarb6@gmail.com)

---

## **Howard County FFA Dominates!**

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



Three members of Howard County FFA participated in the Region 3 Public Speaking Leadership Development Event (or Contest!) on February 24, 2024 at Gwynn Park High School.

Kaitlyn Spicer and Natalie Davis placed 1st and 2nd in the Extemporaneous Speaking. Ellie Keefer placed 3rd in the Employment Skills LDE.

All three members won gold awards and earned the opportunity to compete at the Maryland FFA Convention in June.

Kaitlyn is president and Ellie is vice president of the Howard County FFA. Congratulations to our FFA students for their accomplishments! We wish you success at the Maryland FFA Convention! And also we appreciate the outstanding job that Kathleen Wojcik, Agriculture Academy, CASE Certified AFNR, ASA, APB, ASP, and FFA Advisor, is doing in educating our next generation of agriculture leaders in Howard County. For more information contact Kathy, [Kathleen\\_Wojcik@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen_Wojcik@hcpss.org).

---

## **Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting**

*By: Kristal McCormick, Education Outreach/Conservation Planner, Howard Soil Conservation District*



**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

The Howard Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), University of Maryland Extension, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will sponsor the annual Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall. Registration and a light meal will be at 6:00 PM, with the meeting beginning at 6:30 PM. Topics include federal cost-share opportunities, multiple-resistance in Mid-Atlantic weeds, soil cation exchange capacity & nutrient availability, tips and lessons learned through University of Maryland's research on transitioning corn and soybean

operations to organic while retaining soil health and keeping farming viable, and a Nutrient Management Update.

\*Attendees are eligible to receive two (2) Nutrient Management CEUs.\*

There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is requested, by Friday, 3/15/23. To pre-register, please call the Howard SCD, 410.313.0680, or email [kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov)

---

## Announcements

### ❖ Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 18, 2024**, 7:00 p.m., at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, West Friendship, MD. A dinner will be catered by Mission BBQ at a cost of \$25.00 per person. If you would like to RSVP by email, please email Katie Hereth at [kwhit1014@aol.com](mailto:kwhit1014@aol.com) and send checks made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737.

We have invited the County Executive, the County Council members, as well as our State Senators, Delegates and Congressman to discuss with us current matters relating to legislation and government on a local, state, and national level. This meeting provides Farm Bureau members with an excellent opportunity to meet their legislators and discuss issues of importance to them.

Please detach the reservation form on page #10, and mail it no later than April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, along with your check for the number of dinners desired.

We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ❖ Ag Awareness Day!

#### **Howard County Farm Bureau Presents the First-Ever 2024 AGRICULTURE AWARENESS DAY for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders**

##### **What?**

**On April 19, 2024**, Agriculture Awareness Day be the first-ever, one-day, science-based educational hands-on learning experience about agriculture.

*Seventh grade students from Folly Quarter Middle School* will learn from experts in ag about:

- Farming both livestock and crops
- Fruits and vegetables production and nutrition
- Ag technology
- Environment
- Climate
- Natural resources
- Careers, and more.

##### **When and Where?**

The Ag Awareness Day will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

##### **How Can You Help?**

We need help on April 19<sup>th</sup> with the set-up and take-down at the Fairgrounds. If you want to volunteer some time for an AMAZING cause, contact Joe.

##### **Who Can I Contact?**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Joe Dymek, [joeidymek@gmail.com](mailto:joeidymek@gmail.com),  
Chair of the Ag Awareness Day Planning Committee**

\*Supported by Howard County Youth Engagement Program (YEP!) Grant. Thank you Dr. Ball!

## ❖ HCFB 100 YEARS!!!

Save the date!!!

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

# Howard County Farm Bureau Turns 100 this year!

We are going to celebrate with a great  
get-together  
at

**Howard County Fairgrounds  
The ANNEX Building!**

More details to follow in the coming months. If  
you have any suggestions that may help us out,  
Please contact one of the committee's members:

**Zack Brendel, Howie Feaga: Co-Chairs**

**Rhonda Winkler, Georgie Borman, Tim Jones**

**After all, 100 years is a big deal!!!!**

---

## Calendar of Events

\*\*\* 2024 \*\*\*

### MAR 4 UMD INSTITUTE OF APPLIED AGRICULTURE OPEN HOUSE

Place University of Maryland Campus

Time 10:00 a.m.

\*Visit: [UMD college of AGNR](#)

### MAR 19 TRANSITION TO ORGANIC: SEEDING SUSTAINABILITY IN MARYLAND AGRICULTURE

Place Chesapeake College Eastern Shore  
Higher Education Center

1000 College Circle

Wye Mills, MD 21679

\* Visit: [UMD college of AGNR](#)

### MAR 19 HOWARD COUNTY MID-WINTER AG MEETING

Place Howard County Fairgrounds  
Annex Building

Time 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

\*Pre-register by 3/15/24

### MAR 20-24 MAEF'S 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARYLAND AG LITERACY WEEK

### MAR 22 MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

### APR 1 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

\*SEE APPLICATION ON PAGE #9

### APR 18 HCFB ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Place Howard County Fairgrounds  
Dining Hall

Time 7:00 p.m.

\*SEE RESERVATION FORM ON PAGE #10

### AUG 3-10 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/2021-fair/>

### SEP 28 HCFB TURNS 100 THIS YEAR!

Place Howard County Fairgrounds, Annex Bld



# Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application

Deadline: April 1, 2024

Name:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Parents/Guardians:

High School:

Date of Graduation:

High School GPA:

College of Choice/Trade School:

Major/Trade:

List Three References:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

PO BOX 282  
GLENELG, MD 21737  
443-812-1662  
[www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard)

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, 7:00 p.m., at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, West Friendship, MD. A dinner will be catered by Mission BBQ at a cost of \$25.00 per person. If you would like to RSVP by email, please email Katie Hereth at [kwhit1014@aol.com](mailto:kwhit1014@aol.com) and send checks made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737.

Please detach the reservation form at the bottom of the page and mail it no later than April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, along with your check for the number of dinners desired. We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Leslie Bauer  
President  
443-812-1662

NAME	PHONE
------	-------

# Thank You Sponsors!!!



**LEVEL LANDSCAPE**  
LISBON, MD

RW  
**WARNER**  
INC

**SELECTIVE**  
Demolition LLC

**The Brian  
Musgrove Family**

*Charlie's* **bobcat** *Service*

  
**ALLMASTER**  
SERVICES



**STEEL FIRE**  
farm

**PALMER**  
FABRICATION



**MURRAY**  
FINANCIAL  
GROUP, INC.  
Registered Investment Advisors  
Health, Wealth & Family

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