

Maryland Farm Bureau's

AG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



2024-2025 Rules & Application

What is the AG Ambassador Program?

The Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) AG Ambassador program is a competitive and educational initiative with the goal of cultivating young agricultural professionals. After submitting applications, resumes, and attending orientation, county ambassadors will compete in an in-person interview and Discussion Meet panel. Two MDFB AG Ambassadors will be selected at the 109th Annual Meeting of the Maryland Farm Bureau to represent Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland's agriculture for one year (December 2024-December 2025).

The purpose of the AG Ambassador program is to provide empowerment, farm-to-consumer engagement, agriculture advocacy, leadership development, and community outreach throughout Maryland through the next generation of Maryland's agriculture leaders.

Who is eligible?

Contestants **MUST** be selected by their County Farm Bureau to participate in this program. Contestants must be between the ages of 17 to 21, on or before September 20th, 2024. The participant, or their parent(s)/guardian(s), must hold an active MDFB membership prior to September 20th and that membership must be maintained throughout their year of service. This does include a student membership. Previous finalists are not eligible to compete again, however anyone who was not a finalist is encouraged to reapply.

Competition Structure & Flow

- Only **County Appointed Ambassadors** can apply to compete in the MDFB AG Ambassador Competition. Applications open May 1st and close **September 20th at 4 PM.**
- Once applications close, County Ambassadors will receive an email invitation to **mandatory** Orientation on **Saturday, October 12th** at the Davidsonville office.
 - The purpose of the orientation is to give ambassadors an overview of contest expectations/prep, registration, Farm Bureau's history & purpose, and networking with other county ambassadors across the state.
- The interview and Discussion Meet portion of the contest will be held at the 109th Annual MDFB Convention during the NextGen Summit on **Saturday, December 7th**.
 - Interviews will be conducted on Saturday morning starting at 9 AM, running every 20 minutes until all ambassadors have been interviewed.
 - Interview times will be given out at least two weeks prior to the contest based on the ambassador's travel distance and other accommodations.
- After interviews, ambassadors will have time to attend NextGen Summit events and/or prepare for their Discussion Meet panel.
 - Ambassadors will compete on a four-six-person panel. Panel's will be posted the day of the contest.
 - The Discussion Meet question will be given to ambassadors at orientation to prepare ahead of time.

- After the contest concludes, judges will meet and tally all the scores for the ambassadors. Winners will be announced on Sunday, December 8th. In the afternoon, there will be a “breakout session” for ALL ambassadors and county coordinators to discuss *what’s next* for the state and county ambassadors.

Scholarships & Awards

The selected MDFB AG Ambassadors will:

- Receive \$1,500 scholarship over their tenure as MDFB AG Ambassadors.
- Attend a trip to AFBF FUSION Conference in Denver, CO, March 7-10, 2025.
- Represent MDFB at Day-in-Annapolis, Maryland State Fair, Taste of Maryland AG Dinner, MDFB Annual Convention, and other events.

How to Apply?

Contestants **MUST** be selected by their county Farm Bureau to compete in the state contest. Each county Farm Bureau may select two AG Ambassador contestants. All applications must be certified by the County Farm Bureau President.

Applications should be submitted on our online application, here, or mailed to the Maryland Farm Bureau office, 3358 Davidsonville Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035. **All applications must be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, September 20th, 2024.** For any questions, please contact Kara Hutchison, Eastern Shore Regional Field Manager, at khutchison@marylandfb.org or 410-924-7275.



2024-2025 Maryland Farm Bureau AG Ambassador Application

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Ambassador's Contact Information

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Gender: Male Female Pronouns: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: _____ Parent/Individuals MDFB Membership #: _____

Schooling Status: High School College/Trade School Workforce/Military

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLEASE COMPLETE

Year in School: Junior Senior

Name of High School: _____

High School Address: _____

School Activities:

Community/Organizational Activities:

Future Plans:

COLLEGE/TRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS PLEASE COMPLETE

I am currently in: College Trade School Year in School: _____

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____

Major/Area of Study: _____

School Activities:

Community/Organizational Activities:

Future Plans:

WORKFORCE/MILITARY APPLICANTS PLEASE COMPLETE

Area of Work: _____

Years in Area: _____

Community/Organizational Activities:

Future Plans:

ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE

Briefly describe you and/or your family's involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture (1250 characters or less):

Write a short paragraph telling why you think you would make a good Farm Bureau Ambassador for agriculture (2500 characters or less):

REMEMBER TO ATTACH YOUR RESUME

CANDIDATE CONSENT: I have reviewed the guidelines for the Maryland Farm Bureau Ambassador Program. If I am selected, I will make predetermined appearances on behalf of Maryland Farm Bureau and agriculture. This may include but is not limited to special agriculture promotions deemed appropriate. I will also assist with the contest in December 2025.

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PARERNTAL CONSENT (IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18): I approve my child participating in the Maryland Farm Bureau Ambassador competition. I understand that they will be expected to participate in promotions and events as the 2025 Ambassador for Maryland Farm Bureau and Agriculture.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

COUNTY FARM BUREAU CERTIFICATION: *I hereby verify that this MDFB Ambassador applicant competed in our county contest and was chosen as our 2024-2025 County AG Ambassador.*

Name of County Farm Bureau: _____

Signature of County Farm Bureau President: _____

Name of County President: _____

By submitting this entry form. I waive any right to notice, inspection, or approval of any uses of the photographs which the MDFB may make or authorize, and I release the MDFB, and its licensees and assigns, from any claim or liability arising from or in connection with MDFB's use of the photographs or any alteration, processing, or use thereof in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise.