



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

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

I hope the past few months have been good on your farm. We have had the winds of March, as well as April showers. As we turn the corner to May, the ground is finally ready for planting, and all the spring and summer chores that life on the farm brings. While we have been waiting for this new season, Farm Bureau has continued to keep busy educating and advocating.

In early April, several farm bureau members – Barb Glenn and Joe Dymek – as well as Howard County FFA President Kaitlyn Spicer visited Lisbon Elementary School for an Agriculture Literacy Day. They read Kindergarten and First Grade students the book, Farm Boots. Just like a farmer seems to wear many hats, they also wear many boots in different seasons throughout the year. This book was a fun way to share a little bit about life around the farm with these young students.

The 2024 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly concluded in Annapolis on April 8. Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) followed 140 bills during this year’s General

Assembly. Of those, MDFB testified on 46 bills, supported 18 bills — on issues like deer management; invasive plant species, and a venison tax credit — and opposed 13. Of the supported bills, 10 of the 18 passed. Of the 13 opposed, MDFB was able contribute to successfully killing 12 of them.

While the legislative session for 2024 is complete, that does not mean that our legislative work is done for this year. Locally, our county council continues to meet throughout the year, and occasionally there are some topics that are covered that could have an impact on agriculture. In addition, as our state representatives are not as busy in Annapolis, this ‘off-season’ is a good time to reach out. We can have good conversations to help educate them on some of our agricultural issues. We can work to gain their support for some of our needs.

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A great way to celebrate the end of session, as well as set the stage to keep the conversation about agriculture going with local legislators is the Howard County Farm Bureau's Annual Legislative Dinner. This dinner has been a good way for farm bureau members to receive news and legislative updates on what happened during session, as well as what is happening within the county. I was happy to see a full house of farm bureau members, as well as legislators, for the dinner that took place on April 18.

After receiving legislative updates, Carey McIntosh, who chairs the Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade, gave an update on the 2023 parade. Just under \$20,000 was raised at this past year's parade. Checks were presented to Carroll County Food Sunday, Howard County Food Bank, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, as well as the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company.

Jaelyn Velisek and Samantha Dixon were both awarded Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarships. I would also like to recognize and congratulate Kylee Bingham for winning a MD Farm Bureau Scholarship.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the Friend of the Farmer Award. Howard County Farm Bureau created this award to recognize someone who, while not directly involved in agriculture, works to be an advocate of agriculture for both our county, as well as the farm bureau. This year the board presented the award in honor of Mickey Day. Mickey spent his life working tirelessly as a supporter of the agricultural community – from the county fair to ag preservation and even farm bureau. This was a bittersweet award to give, and Rhonda Winkler did an excellent job presenting this award to Mickey's wife, Susan, and the rest of the Day family.

Following on the heels of the Annual Legislative Dinner, many farm bureau members, and other volunteers, were back at the fairgrounds bright and early the next day, in preparation for the first Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural

Awareness Day. Modeled after a similar event in Queen Annes County, I was thrilled to see this vision come to life here in Howard County. Joe Dymek went above and beyond to make this day a success. With the help of funding from a county YEP (Youth Engagement Programing) Grant, Howard County Farm Bureau was able to host approximately 250 seventh grade students from Folly Quarter Middle School to teach them a little about how important agriculture is in their daily life. Not only were the kids thoroughly engaged as they learned about different aspects of agriculture – from farm animals to a farm equipment display, to careers in extension, veterinary medicine, soil science and drone demonstrations – the parent chaperones and school officials in attendance were also greatly impressed.

Be sure to mark your calendar and keep an eye out for more information regarding the Howard County Farm Bureau 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, planned for September 28, 2024. Howie Feaga, Zack Brendel, Rhonda Winkler, Tim Jones and George Boarman have been busy planning a fun and memorable event. I know I am looking forward to celebrating 100 years of Howard County Farm Bureau success, and I hope you will be there too.

In wrapping up this month's Message to Members, as we turn to a new season of spring planting, and the many other activities that fill our days as warmer weather approaches, I hope that whatever this season brings your way – for both family and farm - it is a good one for you!

Howard County Farm Bureau **2024 Legislative Dinner**

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

Howard County Farm Bureau had a great Legislative Dinner on April 18th!

Howard County Farm Bureau presented Dr. Calvin Ball, County executive, with gratitude and

thanks for supporting the first-ever HCFB Agriculture Awareness Day. President Leslie Bauer and AAD Chair Joe Dymek presented. During the dinner, Dr. Ball received the official AAD t-shirt, the backpack with "Agriculture Matters" and the book *Amazing Maryland Agriculture* (published by the MD Agricultural Education Foundation)! TY Dr. Ball for your support of HoCo Agriculture education!!



During the HCFB Spring Legislative Dinner, farmers were excited to hear remarks from Sen. Katie Fry Hester, Del. Natalie Ziegler, Del. Chao Wu, and Del. Jessica Feldmark.



In addition to an update on results of the recent Session in Annapolis from Tyler Hough, gov. Affairs director, MDFB, Sunday hunting and ag education was raised.

The Howard County Farm Bureau appreciates the work of our elected legislators on ag issues. Thank you for coming to talk to us!

HCFB and partners presented checks to our community organizations which are funds raised from The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade held in December 2023. Organizations receiving funding included Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, Carroll County Food Sunday, The Howard County Food Bank and Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department. Howard County Farm Bureau won the competition with Carroll County Farm Bureau on who had the most tractors, but Carroll County did have the bigger equipment! What a great community event!!



Agriculture Literacy Day at Lisbon Elementary School!

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



Today, April 9th, was Agriculture Literacy Day at Lisbon Elementary School. Farm Bureau members Joe Dymek, Barb Glenn, and Kaitlyn Spicer, president, Howard County FFA, read the MAEF Ag Book of the Year, “Farm Boots”, to KG and 1st grade students.



The day was made possible by LES Principal Anoff, Mrs. Kim Feaga, 1st Grade teacher Mrs. Lauren Martin, and Mrs. Kathy Patrick. Also helping out were Special Ed teacher Shannon Jones, Chrissy Johnson, and KG teacher Ms. Courtney Rein!

It was a great day to celebrate farming with these kids!

AG AWARENESS DAY Cultivates Excitement about Agriculture

On April 19, 2024, Howard County Farm Bureau hosted the first-ever Agriculture Awareness Day – a one-day, science-based educational hands-on learning experience about agriculture. The event was held at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Nearly 250 seventh grade students of Folly Quarter Middle School (FQMS), Ellicott City, heard from almost 15 experts in agriculture. Topics included farming both livestock and crops, ag technology (drones), ag equipment, veterinary science, conservation, environment, fruit and vegetable production and nutrition, and careers. **The Howard County Public School System, including the Howard County FFA, Howard County Extension – both ag and 4-H, and the Howard County Soil Conservation District were partnering organizations.**

Students learned – many for the first time- that “Agriculture Matters.” They had the opportunities to see big farm equipment, lambs, ewes, kids and goats, a dairy calf, pigs, drones in action, a fully equipped veterinary truck, plus tools of the trade for Ag Extension, soil sampling and conservation, and the 4-H Career Agsperience program. Based on the excitement of students, teachers, and VIPs who attended, the program was a huge success. During the energized closing ceremony, the FFA led the students in naming the pig “Porkchop”, and the lamb “Shepherd.”

An event of this magnitude takes leadership and All Hands on Deck by volunteer members of the Farm Bureau. First and foremost, President Leslie Bauer had the original vision to hold such an awareness day for students. Without her leadership from the beginning, this event would never have happened. We thank County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball for the Youth Education Program (YEP!) Grant. We also thank the Howard County Fair Association for providing use of the fairgrounds. A HUGE Thank You goes to Joe Dymek, chair, who led the partnership with HCPSS and FQMS, and who implemented the program, across numerous people and organizations and guided the Farm Bureau volunteers through to success.

Here we are – 30+ HoCo Farm Bureau Members Strong! Thank you to all our volunteers!



For more information about the event, contact Joe Dymek, joejdymek@gmail.com, Chair of the HCFB Ag Awareness Day Planning Committee



40 Years of Agricultural Preservation in Howard County

Source: DPZ Digest: An Update from the Department of Planning & Zoning



In 1984, Howard County established a groundbreaking land preservation program that set the example for subsequent similar programs in other counties. The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) allows Howard County farmers whose land meets certain size and soil criteria to sell a perpetual easement to the County while holding fee simple title to the land and continuing to farm.

The idea for this program can be largely credited to a forward-thinking Maryland State Senator named James Clark, a Howard County resident widely regarded as the architect of agricultural preservation in the state for creating the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program in the late 1970s and playing a significant role in establishing the ALPP soon after.

The ALPP was also revolutionary in its use of the installment purchase agreement (IPA) form of payment, which was established in 1989. The IPA helped the County leverage existing funding by immediately securing the easements while spreading out the payments. Howard County was the first in the country to use this creative approach, which continues to be very popular with local farmers.

Thanks to the ALPP, in conjunction with the MALPF, the County has preserved 23,100 acres to date! Despite competing pressures for farmland

over the past four decades, approximately 49% of the land in the Rural West is protected through various easements, parks, and open space. There are approximately 3,000 acres remaining that are eligible for the ALPP, so there is still work to do and the County remains committed to continuing these efforts.

DPZ-Administered Program Secures Winkler Agricultural Easement

Source: DPZ Digest: An Update from the Department of Planning & Zoning



Howard County's Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP), administered by DPZ's Joy Levy, offers property owners the opportunity to sell their development rights to the County in exchange for an agricultural preservation easement that protects the land in perpetuity.

In December, the County updated the financing terms of the ALPP to incentivize more farmers to preserve their land as "Farmland Forever." This March, the program finalized the easement settlement for Jeff and Rhonda Winkler's farm. The Winklers, long-time Howard County farmers, recently purchased a farm on St. Michael's Road in Woodbine to expand their local operations. Theirs is the first property to enter the ALPP under the updated terms and will officially add another 56 acres to the program.

To learn more about the ALPP, visit the [DPZ website](#).

Announcements

❖ Howard County Farm Bureau 100th Anniversary! (See flyer on Page 8!)

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Howard County Farm Bureau Turns 100 this year!

We are going to celebrate at
**Howard County Fairgrounds
The ANNEX Building!**

Come out and join us for dinner at 7 pm, followed by music and dancing!

Doors open at 6 pm.

Serving Beer, Wine & Friendship!

Purchase Tickets Here!

<https://form.jotform.com/241168571743157>

Please contact Howie Feaga with any questions:
(443) 472-6264

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

❖ Howard County Seeks Entries for Design of Official New County Flag



*Deadline to submit is Sunday June 30th!

Calendar of Events

*** 2024 ***

**JUN 30 DEADLINE FOR ENTRY SUBMISSIONS FOR
THE NEW HOWARD COUNTY FLAG**

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News040124>

AUG 3-10 78TH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

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

**SEP 28 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU 100TH
ANNIVERSARY**

Place Howard County Fairgrounds, Annex Bld

Time 6:00 p.m.



Join us

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

DINNER *at 7pm* **DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**
FOLLOWED BY MUSIC + DANCING
TICKETS: \$75.00

SERVING BEER, WINE + FRIENDSHIP!

Purchase tickets here...

<https://form.jotform.com/241168571743157>

**CONTACT HOWIE (443-472-6264)
WITH ANY QUESTIONS!**

CELEBRATING AT THE
Howard County Fair

NEW ANNEX BUILDING
2210 FAIRGROUNDS RD
WEST FRIENDSHIP, MD

Thank You Sponsors!!!

