

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 35, Issue 5

September 2025

~Contacts~

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

WEBSITE: www.mdfarmbureau.com/howard

Message to Members

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

As we step into a new fall season, I pause to reflect on the past few months. Spring brought an unusually late freeze that damaged early produce, as well as spring and fall tree fruits. July followed with record-breaking heat and near-daily threats of rain or thunderstorms. While this weather complicated haymaking, it worked wonders for field crops. Now, if only we could do something about grain prices—and why is livestock feed still so expensive?

The first week of August brought a welcome break from extreme weather during the 79th annual Howard County Fair. I can't recall another fair week with temperatures consistently in the mid-80s, low humidity, and no rain! While August has since turned dry—and we certainly could use some rain—I'm hopeful this stretch of good weather continues into October and November to support the start of fall harvest.

The Fair remains a highlight of the summer, offering me the opportunity to reconnect with farmers, friends, and neighbors from across the county. It's always inspiring to see the many exhibits and be reminded of the dedication,

diversity, and hard work that define our agricultural community.

Fair week began with the ever-popular Junior Showmanship Contest, now in its 11th year under the direction of Rhonda Winkler. Much happens behind the scenes to ensure its success—from planning and hosting workshops, arranging for show animals, coordinating the show itself, securing sponsors, and managing the countless other logistics. This program is a summer favorite for many families, offering young children a chance to gain hands-on livestock experience and sparking early interest in exhibiting. It also gives older youth the opportunity to mentor the younger participants. The show ring full of red shirts always draws a crowd, eager to cheer on this next generation of livestock exhibitors—and future farmers.

I'd also like to recognize Jen Poston and Amy Brown for their work in organizing another successful year of the Ag Ambassador, Jr. Ag

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Ambassador, and Future Farmer / Little Miss contests.

Last year, the Ag Ambassador and Jr. Ag Ambassador competitions transitioned to a discussion meet format, and it's refreshing to hear future leaders debate real agricultural issues.

This year, contestants tackled the question: "There seems to be a gap of knowledge and understanding between those in agriculture and those outside of agriculture. What information and methodology would best help to bridge the gap to increase agricultural support in cities and other arenas?"

Congratulations to our 2025 titleholders:

- **Ag Ambassadors:** Helen Quill and Sammie Boswell
- **Junior Ag Ambassador:** Abigail Nelson
- **Future Farmer:** Beau Brendel
- **Little Miss:** Reese Rhodes

Helen and Sammie will go on to represent Howard County at the Maryland Ag Ambassador Contest during the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Cambridge this December.

Creating meaningful programs for youth is no small feat. The time, energy, and dedication shown by Rhonda, Jen, Amy, and the many volunteers working behind the scenes are deeply appreciated. Thank you for your continued commitment.

Over the past two years, members of the agricultural community have worked closely with Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning to review and update agricultural regulations. This collaboration has led to the drafting of the Agricultural Zoning Regulation Amendment (Ag ZRA), a set of proposed changes aimed at increasing flexibility in permitted farm uses.

The Ag ZRA seeks to implement new policies from *HoCo By Design*, reduce conflicts in the existing code, and respond to evolving market

demands and agritourism opportunities. After much discussion and public input, the Ag ZRA is expected to be presented to the Planning Board this fall, likely in October. The Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the County Council, which will ultimately make a final decision.

Members of the agricultural community are encouraged to stay engaged and provide testimony as the Ag ZRA moves through the legislative process.

Be on the lookout for details about our annual policy meeting, scheduled for October 2. During this meeting, the Board of Directors will review and consider member-submitted resolutions for inclusion in our Farm Bureau policy. Approved resolutions will be forwarded to the state for discussion at the annual convention in December. These resolutions help guide our organization's goals and priorities for 2026. As a grassroots organization, your input is vital to ensure we're addressing the issues that matter most to you.

I'm also looking forward to gathering with members at our annual dinner on November 20th - always a great opportunity to connect with neighbors and friends. During the dinner, we'll also hold elections for our 2026 officers and directors. More information will be shared with members once plans are finalized.

As summer winds down and we prepare for the harvest season, I wish each of you a safe, successful, and prosperous fall.

Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassador Contests Winners!



Congratulations to the winners of our 2025 Agricultural Ambassador contests, held at the Howard County Fair!

Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau:
Reese Rhodes

Howard County Farm Bureau Future Farmer:
Beau Brendel

Howard County Farm Bureau Junior
Agricultural Ambassador:
Abigail Nelson

Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural
Ambassador:
Helen Quill and Sammie Boswell



Little Miss: Reese Rhodes (back, 2nd from left)
Future Farmer: Beau Brendel (front, 1st from left)
Other participants:

Little Miss: Lena Shipe, Kennedy Tomanek

Future Farmer: Daniel Franz, Alex (AJ) Long

Also pictured:

Ruby Church (back, 1st from left) - 2024 Little Miss

Greyson Velisek (front, 1st from right)- 2024 Future Farmer

“Did You Know” Series - Part 1: DYK Howard County Agriculture is Where it all Began?

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

*** This is the first in a series about the history of Howard County agriculture. Join us as we share our farming story!***

Howard County officially became the 21st of Maryland's 23 counties in 1851. It was originally part of Anne Arundel County and was designated the Howard District in 1839, in honor of John Eager Howard, statesman, soldier, and fifth governor of Maryland.

Howard County was mainly the farming and hunting grounds of Native Americans until 1608

when Captain John Smith of Jamestown sailed up the Patapsco River. However, the first colonial settler, a Puritan named Adam Shipley, came much later, in 1687, when Lord Baltimore granted him a home on the Patapsco River. It is also at this time when Howard County's tradition of farming started.

Howard County's Earliest Landowner

In the 1700s, the family of Charles Carroll, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, acquired nearly 13,000 acres of farmland and forests. He built an elaborate masonry home in grand plantation style, located several miles west of Ellicott City. It was named Doughoregan Manor. Today, descendants of the Carroll family still live on the property, of which only 3,000 acres remain. This is a private residence, not open to the public.

Mr. Carroll became a leader in diversifying farming from tobacco production. What new cash crop became a signature of Howard County? -

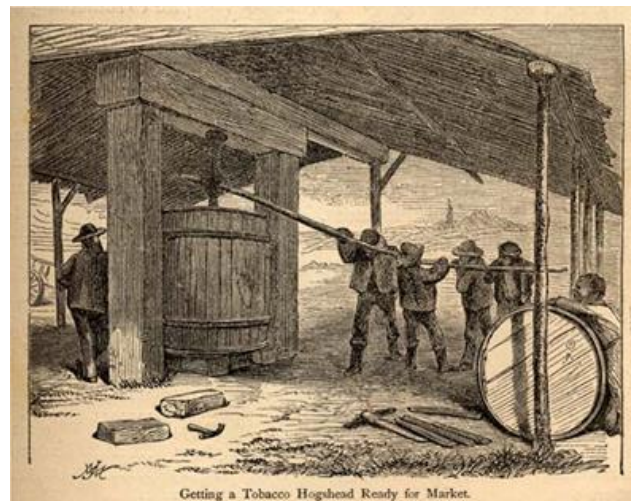
Compiled from

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/history> ; Holland, C.M., 1980. Ellicott City, Maryland, 18th Century Mill Town; and Feaga, B.W. etc. 2001. Howard's Roads to the Past, Born on the 4th of July, 1851.

Tobacco Reigned on Rolling Road

The western portions of Anne Arundel attracted successful planters who needed more and more land to raise the prosperous crop of tobacco. Others were interested in mining iron ore. On Howard County's eastern edge, a great port was established in the late 1700s. The Great Falls of the Patapsco River terminated the navigable route upstream, just northwest of what is today called Elkridge. It was a natural location for the establishment of Elk Ridge Landing, the first real community in Howard County, and a transfer point for goods. Ships coming from England and points farther east brought furniture, spices and other finished goods to trade.

The most compelling need for roads in the early part of the 18th century was a way to get their cash crop, tobacco, to market. The planters constructed a large barrel called a "hogshead" to hold the tobacco, and once cured and packed in the hogsheads, they were pulled by ox or rolled along roads to the nearest port. A standardized hogshead measured 48 inches long and 30 inches in diameter at the head (at least 145 US gal). Fully packed with tobacco, it weighed about 1,000 pounds.



Elkridge Landing was the Port of Entry for tobacco growers for many years. By 1763, there were 1,695 hogsheads of tobacco, more than half the crop in Anne Arundel County, inspected at Elk Ridge Landing. Hogsheads of tobacco and iron from the nearby furnace were shipped back to

England. Elk Ridge Landing became the largest colonial seaport north of Annapolis.

Parts of an early Rolling Road (and still named in Catonsville) can still be seen today starting at Elkridge and a portion of Old Montgomery Road, on to Old Annapolis Road, Homewood Road, Folly Quarter, parts of Triadelphia, Roxbury Road and on to Jennings Chapel Road to Florence. –

Compiled from

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/history> ;

Holland, C.M., 1980. Ellicott City, Maryland, 18th Century Mill Town; and Feaga, B.W. etc. 2001. Howard's Roads to the Past, Born on the 4th of July, 1851;

<http://historichomeshowardcounty.blogspot.com/2016/07/rolling-roads-to-roll-huge-tobacco.html>,
accessed 8 30 23.

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...**

**featuring tractors, saddle/carriage horses
kicks off Saturday December 13, 2025
at 12 noon sharp!**

Learn more at LisbonChristmasParade.org

Announcements

❖ Howard County Farm Bureau Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Held in the Dining Hall, Howard County
Fairgrounds.

At this meeting, we will consider resolutions submitted by members for inclusion in our Farm Bureau policy. This meeting will establish our goals and directions for 2026. We need you in attendance. Should you have a resolution to submit, please email it to Leslie Bauer, labauer5@verizon.net or mail PO BOX 7 Dayton MD 21036, by September 29, 2025.

****See Reservation Form on Page #7****

❖ Howard County Farm Bureau Annual Banquet Dinner

Our Annual Banquet will be held, **Thursday, November 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**, at the **Howard County Fairgrounds in the Dining Hall, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794.**

Dinner will be catered and will cost \$30.00 per person (\$35/person after November 10th). There will be a brief meeting following dinner, at which time we will elect the Officers and Directors for 2026.

Please send your reservations and money for the dinner to the attention of Katie Hereth no later than November 10th. If you would like to RSVP by email, please email Katie Hereth at kwhit1014@aol.com and send checks made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737.

****See Reservation Form on Page #7****

❖ Membership for HCFB QR Code



**Are you interested in supporting
agriculture in Howard County?
Are you actively farming in Howard
County?**

**Are you benefiting from agritourism,
farmers markets, and more?**

**No matter your interest, we welcome
you to join
Howard County Farm Bureau!**



<https://members.mdfarmbureau.com/#/>

❖ Pesticide Training and Private Applicator Training

For information on pesticide training and
private applicator training dates and tests, go
to:

[https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pesticide-
certifications/](https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pesticide-certifications/)

Calendar of Events

*** 2025 ***

SEP 4-7 MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Place Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium,
MD

OCT 2 HCFB ANNUAL POLICY MEETING

Place Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall
2210 Fairgrounds Rd
West Friendship, MD 21794

TIME 7:00 P.M.

*Details on Page #7

NOV 20 HCFB ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER

Place Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall
2210 Fairgrounds Rd
West Friendship, MD 21794

Time 7:00 p.m.

*Details on Page #7

DEC 6-11 MARYLAND FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION & MEETING OF DELEGATES

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

DEC 13 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/)

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

September 5, 2025

Dear Howard County Farm Bureau Members:

The Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau would like to invite you to two important functions which will be held in the very near future.

Thursday, October 2, 2025, our Annual Business Meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m.** in the Dining Hall of the Howard County Fairgrounds. At this meeting, we will consider resolutions submitted by members for inclusion in our Farm Bureau policy. This meeting will establish our goals and directions for 2026. We need you in attendance. Should you have a resolution to submit, please email it to Leslie Bauer, labauer5@verizon.net or mail PO BOX 7 Dayton MD 21036, by September 29, 2025.

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We look forward to seeing you October 2nd and November 20th.

Sincerely,
Leslie Bauer
Leslie Bauer
President

I would like to make _____ reservations @\$30.00/person (\$35/person after November 10th), for the Howard County Farm Bureau Banquet to be held November 20, 2025.

Please make a check payable to "Howard County Farm Bureau". Send to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737 no later than November 10, 2025.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Thank You Sponsors!!!



LEVEL LANDSCAPE
LISBON, MD



SELECTIVE
Demolition LLC

The Brian
Musgrove Family

Charlies **bobcat** *Service*



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