



FARM BUREAU NEWS

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WINTER 2009

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Cecil County Farm Bureau Members

This is the first newsletter of 2009 and I wish I could start off with great news about the upcoming year, but I can't. We all know what we have to look forward to. I recently attended the American Farm Bureau commodity meetings in Washington, D.C. and there was nothing at all optimistic presented. All I can say is keep your pencils sharp and shop for the best prices.

I would like to take a moment to encourage everyone to send in their membership renewals and I thank those who already have. In these tough economic times, Farm Bureau plays an even greater role in our future of agriculture.

The Comprehensive Plan Review is still going on and nearing the public hearing stages. Dan Derr has been Farm Bureau's representative on this committee and is bringing you details in this newsletter. I would like to thank Dan for all his time and effort.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Farm Bureau Banquet on April 4 at the North East Fire Company Banquet Hall.

Sincerely

Wayne Stafford
President

Notes from Caroline..... Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau 2008

It's hard to believe that the Cecil County Fair is only four months away! It's even harder to believe that I will soon be giving up my title. There is still so much left to do! This includes, however, helping to find the NEXT Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau. The requirements to run are simple: you must be a girl ages 16-19, and your parents must be Farm Bureau members. The decision to run can be scary. I remember wanting to drop out only days before I competed. The thought of speaking on a stage in front of so many people can be so intimidating, so I studied hard all of my Cecil County farm facts. When the big day finally came, I knew I just had to get up there and give it my all. Once I got on the stage, I felt comfortable going through the interview and answering the fish bowl question. I was so excited to get my sash and be announced the 2008 Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau. It was an experience that changed my life, and I hope you consider taking on the challenge!



To contact me about running, call 410-275-1283 and ask for Caroline!

Sincerely, Caroline Isaacson
2008 Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau

For more information about the **JUNIOR MISS CECIL COUNTY FARM BUREAU**, please contact Susan Knight or Sierra Bouchelle at 410-996-9780.

AFLAC INSURANCE

Included with your newsletter is a flyer containing information about AFLAC Insurance. As a member of the Cecil County Farm Bureau you are entitled to purchase this supplemental insurance at a much reduced rate. Please see the insert for more details and contact Mr. Jay Combs for additional information.



Dear Farm Bureau Members and Friends

The Cecil County Farm Bureau is hosting their 79th Annual Banquet on Saturday, April 4th at the North East Fire Company Banquet Hall. We will be holding a silent auction with a live auction right after dinner. Proceeds from the auctions will benefit the Cecil County Farm Museum, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, 4-H and county agricultural programs. Following dinner the Outstanding Farm Operation of the Year will be awarded.

Plan to join us for this evening beginning at 5:30 P.M. for bidding on silent auction items and fellowship. The buffet dinner begins at 6:30 P.M. The menu includes Roast Beef, Turkey Breast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, rolls, butter, coffee, ice tea, milk and pie. The price for this dinner is \$20.00. A cash bar will be available.

Please make reservations early as seating is limited. If you have any questions, you may contact the Farm Bureau Office at 410-392-4226.

For reservations, return this portion of the letter with payment by **March 17, 2009** to: **Cecil County Farm Bureau, 20 Peach Road, Elkton MD 21921.**

Make your check payable to Cecil County Farm Bureau.

Please adhere to the March 17 deadline as we will be unable to accommodate late reservations.

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of adults: _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE – Your cancelled check will be your receipt. Reservation listings will be at the door.

NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED.

CECIL COUNTY FARM BUREAU SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION

It is time to focus on our annual Farm Bureau Auction again. It will be held during and following the annual dinner meeting on Saturday, April 4th. The silent auction will begin at 5:30 P.M. and the live auction will start following dinner. Mr. George Gibney has again agreed to be our auctioneer.

As has been done in the past, the proceeds from the auction will benefit ag related programs including the Cecil County Farm Museum, local 4-H, the Maryland Ag Education Foundation and the Lead Maryland program.

We need help from the membership to donate items and to solicit items from area businesses. The items should be new, antique, or things that are nearly new and in good useable condition. No "yard sale" items please. Hand crafted items are welcome as are gift certificates from business people.

An auction donation form is provided. Completing and returning the form to Betty Moore will help in planning. We need to either have the item delivered to Betty Moore or have a firm commitment by Saturday, March 25th in order for your name to appear on the donor list. Betty can be reached at 410-398-3879 or by e-mail charbetmoore@zoominternet.net.

Also, remember to bring your checkbook on April 4th and bid on the items for sale. There are sure to be lots of things you can't resist.

Thanks, in advance, for you support.

Betty Moore, Fund Raising Chairperson

AUCTION DONATION FORM

Please return form to:
Betty Moore, 2745 Telegraph Road, North East, MD 21901
Phone 410-398-3879

Name_____

Address_____Phone_____

Item(s) to be donated_____

Please check one:

_____ I will deliver my donation to Betty Moore by March 25

_____ I will need someone to pick up my donation.

CECIL COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Cecil County Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee has been meeting periodically for over a year now, and things are starting to come together. As the appointed representative for the Cecil County Farm Bureau, I have been actively participating on both the Land Use and, Water Resources subcommittees as well as sitting in on the Agriculture, Preservation and Minerals subcommittee meetings. The consultant, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), is basically rewriting the comprehensive plan using updated material and submitted goals and policies drawn up by the various sub-committees.

The proposed Elkton West (sewer and water improvements) project will alleviate several of the issues that were bound to negatively impact the county in the near term. Future sources of drinking water will still be a challenge, but doable. I do not expect drastic changes in the land-use map for the county; however, there may be some changes in density. The Agriculture, Preservation and Minerals subcommittee has maintained agriculture's place in the county economics and has also emphasized the value of the green infrastructure in the Elk Neck area.

As you may or may not know, Farm Bureau has been concerned about the issue of further down zoning of property in rural areas. In 2007 property in the Rural Conservation District (NAR) was down zoned from 1 unit per 5 acres to 1 unit per 10 acres and property in the Resource Protection District (SAR) was down zoned from 1 unit per 8 acres to 1 unit per 20 acres (SAR). Furthermore in 2007, rural landowners were given Transferable Development Rights (TDR) equivalent to the old zoning densities, and a Transfer of Development Rights Ordinance was established. However, the TDR program has been ineffective and the associated development rights presently have no value. Currently some citizens are in favor of further down zoning. Farm Bureau is totally against further down zoning as it would further reduce the value of rural properties, and would potentially eliminate the need for the TDR program, as well as state and county Paid Development Rights (PDR) program. Farm Bureau is very supportive of improving and expanding the county TDR Ordinance to make it an equitable, effective and enforceable means to balance property rights with land preservation goals.

The Oversight Committee is scheduled to present a draft of the revised Comprehensive Plan at a public forum sometime in June. Following at a later date will be public hearings by the Planning & Zoning Board and Cecil County Commissioners. Please stay informed of this review process, as we may need your support to see that our collective interests as farmers and rural landowners are fully addressed.

Submitted by Dan Derr, Farm Bureau Representative on the Cecil County Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee

CECIL COUNTY YOUNG FARMERS NEWS

The Cecil County Young Farmers are off to a busy start for 2009!

New officers were elected in January and things have been non-stop since. The new officers are Michele Hahn, President; Chris Price, Vice President; Ted Patterson, Secretary; Jenn Caligiuri, Treasurer. Some new positions were created for 2009 too—Bill Cissel, Chief Recruitment Specialist and Jessica Price, Official Photographer for the group.

In February the club hosted a bowling night to introduce those 4-Her's approaching the time to transition to the Young Farmers. More events like the bowling night are in the works for the up coming year. Check future newsletters and mdfarmbureau.com for details. The Cecil County Young Farmers are always looking for new members!

Currently planning is underway for the 3rd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser to be held at Hopkins Game Farm in Kennedyville, MD on Sunday April 19, 2009. Again this year, a fully camouflaged 3" semi-automatic Charles Daly shotgun will be raffled off and many exciting door prizes will be given away. Additionally, the mouth watering pulled pork and bbq beef buffet lunch will be served to all attendees. Come out and support your local Young Farmers and show off your shooting skills at the same time! Prizes are given to top shooters in their class!

It is hard to believe but the Cecil County Fair is right around the corner! Plans for this year's ice cream booth are already being discussed. The ice cream booth is always a big event for the Young Farmers and a lot of time and effort goes toward this week-long event. If you or your group is interested in participating in the ice cream booth please contact the Young Farmers.

Of course this entire fund raising isn't in vain. The monies raised allow the Cecil County Young Farmers to achieve the club's goal of promoting agri-industry among young adults. One way this is achieved is by providing financial support to 4-Her's and agri-industry-focused young adults through sponsorship and scholarships. If you have a request that the Young Farmers could possibly assist with, please contact the Cecil County Young Farmers.

Michele Hahn, President (410) 275-9920