

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Newsletter



Calendar 2011-2012

Oct. 17-28,
Close Encounters
Ag. History Farm
Park

Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Banquet & Food
Drive, RSVP by
Nov. 9

Dec. 4-6, MD FB
Meeting, Ocean City,
MD, RSVP by Oct. 24

May 1, 2012,
Scholarship
application deadline

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farmbureau.mont.co.md@gmail.com 24110 Laytonsville Rd. Gaithersburg MD 20882
<http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/Montgomery.asp> 301-253-8867

Annual Banquet –Turkey Dinner November 15th by Carolyn Lechlida

The 92nd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. We are meeting at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Heritage Dining Hall at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Each Farm Bureau

membership entitles you to ONE FREE DINNER. Each Additional Dinner Will Cost \$16.00. Social hour with hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6:30 p.m. A buffet turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served at 7:15 p.m.

The Women's Leadership Committee is sponsoring a Food Drive –**Please bring specific non-perishable food items** (see page 3)

Donated items go to the Montgomery County Holiday Giving Program.

Please respond no later than November 9th using the reservation form on page 3.

Questions, contact Carolyn Lechlida at 301-253-1501 or thelecksfarm@aol.com

Young Farmers Highlighted by Tyler Butler

The Young Farmer highlighted this month is David Lechlida, a fourth generation farmer. He grew up in Laytonsville and showed hogs and cattle at the Montgomery County Fair, the Maryland State Fair and the Damascus Community Fair. While in 4-H, he met his fiancée, Kimberly Gregg.

David was also involved in Livestock Judging and participated on the Maryland State Judging team in 2002. David graduated from

Damascus High School in 2002 and attended business classes at Montgomery College. He began working on the farm at a young age and is now currently a partner in Sunny Ridge Farm. The farm focuses on the grain industry; growing corn, soybeans and wheat as their main crops, and raises beef cattle. The farm also focuses on current conservation practices to ensure that farming in the community is still viable for future generations.

The Montgomery County

Young Farmers are also proud to have served ice cream at the State Fair on August 31st. The proceeds go to the Maryland Young Farmers to help fund activities such as the annual leadership retreat in February.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and have a passion for agriculture, please join Montgomery County Young Farmers, by going to our Facebook page or emailing me at

tylercbutler@gmail.com

Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Abbey Linthicum was named 2011 Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau at our June 12th annual picnic. At the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, she participated in the 4-H Parade, attended the Pioneer Luncheon and the 4-H Livestock Sale, and led one of the barn tours. Abbey did a great job representing Montgomery County at the MD State Fair in the Miss MD Agriculture Contest. She attended the Damascus Community Fair and participated in the Damascus Livestock Club Auction.

Abbey looks forward to participating in Fall agricultural events. If you would like Abbey to attend your agricultural event, please contact her at abbeylinthicum@aol.com.

President's Thoughts by Lonnie Luther

Each day farmers seem to face a new challenge. Most of the time, farmers are able to meet the challenge of the day. But some challenges are so formidable that the farmer can't meet the challenge of the day without help and support from fellow farmers and others.

Alan and Kristin Hudson of Berlin, Maryland have two chicken houses and have been sued by the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance because of their use of biosolids [obtained from Ocean City] on their farm, an acceptable farming practice. The cost of defending themselves against this law suit could force the Hudson family into bankruptcy. If the Hudson's lose their farm, other farms will likely be

new targets for the Waterkeeper Alliance. I feel we have an obligation to support the Hudson family to stop such frivolous law suits, and avoid a legal precedence that might threaten all farms. Go to www.savefarmfamilies.org to learn more about this case.

I can't think of a better reason to be a part of the Maryland Farm Bureau family. Folks, this is why we exist. When the challenge of the day exceeds our capacity to solve the problem, we look to our fellow farmers for help. There is strength in numbers.

What can we do to support the Hudson family? Give money and perhaps draft legislation that will prohibit the Waterkeeper Alliance from filing such suits in the future. Tort

reform has been suggested for medical practices. Maybe it is time for tort reform for farming practices.

When the challenges are overwhelming, let's work together to further our noble calling – to produce food for ourselves, children, grandchildren, and neighbors. Hunger still exists in many places around the globe. Each farm family makes a small yet important contribution to increase the availability of food.

Thank you for your contribution, and thanks to the Hudson family for their contribution. Let's work together to help the Hudson family meet a challenge that could face us all.

Promote Farm Bureau Membership

Applications available online or by calling 301-253-8867

Each One Reach One by JoAnne Leatherman

Montgomery County Farm Bureau has 344 voting members. In order for this organization to be the strong voice for local agriculture that is needed in this urbanized county, every membership, new or renewal, is vital. Ask your neighbors and family

members if they belong to the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, especially if they are engaged in some aspect of agriculture.

If they don't, call the Montgomery County Farm Bureau at 301-253-8867 for an application or

information. Remember, you automatically become a member of the Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau, so a new member counts three times in strengthening the voice of farming.

Deer Donation Program by Jeremy Criss

Montgomery County launched the Deer Donation Program in 2004, as part of an overall deer management plan. Hunters and farmers are encouraged to harvest more deer in a responsible manner by providing local deer collection sites in Poolesville and Laytonsville. Over 49,000 pounds of venison has been donated to local food banks. The program is administered in partnership with William F. Willard Farm, LLC and Patriot Wildlife Management Services, to coordinate the collection, transportation, processing, and donation of the venison.

It is a huge success, but it is currently limited to a County budget of \$20,000. Before the end of the 2010-2011 firearms season, the Deer

Donation Program used up all of the public funding. The deer donations kept coming in, due to a deer donation contest sponsored and funded in the amount of \$1,000 by the Montgomery County Farm Bureau that provided 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place cash awards to the hunters/farmers who donated the most deer.

To help cover the costs of the program through March 2011, private funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, the Montgomery County Extension Advisory Council and the Green Industry Association of MC was contributed.

The Deer Donation Program could expand even further with the help of other private donations. The Agricultural Services Division is currently reaching out to the automobile insurance companies to educate them on the benefits of reducing the deer population and to solicit funding. Individuals and groups who want to help protect farmers' crops, should contact the Agricultural Services Division.

Visit Montgomery County Department of Economic Development- Agriculture for details <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agstmpl.asp?url=/content/DED/AgServices/aginitiatives.asp>

Cash For College by Susan Butler

I am pleased to report that we distributed \$6,000 in scholarship awards at our Annual Farm Bureau Picnic this June. The following six highly qualified recipients each received \$1,000:

Kaylene Lyons - an Honors student at Berry College in Georgia, where she is studying Animal Science with a pre-vet focus;

Cameron Irons – a junior at the University of Wyoming, studying Meat Science and Food Technology;

Erica Geary – currently attending Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine;

Chantal Agnew - a freshman at Wagner majoring in Education with a minor in Environmental Science;

Abbey Linthicum – currently studying at Montgomery College, majoring in Agriculture Education with a focus in Animal Science and Agronomy; and

Hannah Temple – attending the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture, majoring in Equine Business Management.

We'd like to congratulate our 2011 winners and encourage students to consider submitting an application for 2012 scholarships. Please contact Susan Butler at 301-428-0444 or by email at ButlersOrchard@cs.com after March 1, 2012 to obtain an application.

Completed applications and all attachments must be received by May 1, 2012. Awards will be presented at the 2012 Annual Picnic.

Additional details will be forthcoming.

Food Drive-November 15th-Specific Items Needed by Kathy Lyons

The Farm Bureau will be collecting food items and gift cards for the Montgomery County Holiday Giving Program at our upcoming annual meeting. This program is a county-wide coalition of congregations, municipalities, businesses and non-profit organizations whose goal is to provide a holiday dinner to all in need in the community. The mostly volunteer program has been in existence for more than 30 years and serves families and individuals throughout the county experiencing financial challenges during the holidays. Families are referred by schools and social service agencies working with them in the community.

The items will go to coordinating agencies in both upper

and lower county areas to support their Thanksgiving food program.

Specific food items are needed for this drive: 16 oz. cans/jars of turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, 16 oz. cans green beans (no home processed items), 64oz bottles of apple juice, 32 oz. cans of sweet potatoes/yams, and \$10 Giant or Safeway gift cards. These items will be used along with perishable items that the organizations will provide including either a turkey or one of the store gift cards and provided to a family in need to have the complete makings for a wholesome holiday meal! Please feel free to contact Kathy Lyons with any questions at 301-570-5577.

92nd ANNUAL BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ONE FREE BANQUET TICKET PER MEMBERSHIP _____

ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS @ \$16.00 EACH _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Mail Reservation Form and check made payable to Montgomery County Farm Bureau by **Wednesday, November 9th** to Montgomery County Farm Bureau, 24110 Laytonsville Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20882 Questions? 301-253-1501 or Thelecksfarm@aol.com.*

**Montgomery County
Farm Bureau**

24110 Laytonsville Rd.
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[http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/
Montgomery.asp](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com/Montgomery.asp)

Executive Committee

President, Lonnie Luther
First V. P., Eric Spates
President Women's Leadership,
Carolyn Lechlida

**Newsletter & Website
Committee**

JoAnne Leatherman,
Carolyn Lechlida,
Paula Linthicum,
Chuck Schuster,
Chair, Jane Evans

Member Benefits, Don't Discount Your Discounts!

Tangible benefits provide dollars-and-sense reasons to belong to MFB, especially the discounts through Nationwide on insurance to protect things that matter most to your family – like your farm, vehicles, home, boat, RV, condo, and even pets. Savings can often return your dues investment in Farm Bureau many times

over. Asking a local Nationwide agent for an "On Your Side" review, will help you learn how much you could save from the following Nationwide discounts.

Coverage	Save up to
Farm Insurance	10%
Home Insurance	10%
Auto Insurance	7%
Condo	5%

Boat 5%
Power Sports* 5%
Rec. Vehicle 5%
Veterinary Pet Ins. 5%
*Power Sports include motorcycles & ATVs

For more information, & to request an 'on your side' review, contact a nearby Nationwide agent, or visit nationwide.com/farm-insurance.jsp

Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, December 4-6, 2011

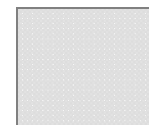
Open to all Maryland Farm Bureau members, this meeting provides time for learning, fellowship and networking. Held at The Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD, the agenda is in the Sept. 2011 Spotlight. It includes; Keynote speaker, Jane Jenkins Herlong "Don't throw tomatoes on my

field of dreams"; break out sessions on Social Media Review, Wildlife Issues, and the Septic Task Force Report and updates from Farm Bureau leadership.

Member Registration Forms are available from Carolyn Lechlida; call 301-253-8867. Registration policies: All reservations, with full

payment are due to Montgomery Co. F.B. by Monday, Oct. 24. Return the form to MCFB, 24110 Laytonsville Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882. Payment by credit card or check. Full cancellations may be made until Nov. 15. Cancellations Nov.16 or later are subject to hotel refund policy.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FARM BUREAU
24110 LAYTONSVILLE RD
GAITHERSBURG, MD
20882**



**MEMBER NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134**