



WCFB Newsletter

MARCH 24, 2009

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

Dates to Remember:

*March 21: Work day
at Misty Meadow
Farms @ 10 am*

*March 27-29: Ag-
Days at the Valley
Mall*

July 17-23: Ag-Expo

Ag-Education Workday!!!!

On March 21st starting at 10 am at Misty Meadow Farm in Ringgold, all Farm Bureau members are invited to come and help with the Ag-education display that our county Ag-education committee has. This display is the one that has been at the mall the past two years and at the Ag-Expo for the past 10 years. The current displays need to be cleaned and moved into the new storage and traveling trailer that we have recently purchased. There is also a list of repairs and new projects to start. Anyone is welcome to come and help us. We will be cleaning, painting, building, loading... You name it we will be doing it. Lunch will be provided for anyone who helps.

For more information or directions please call Betsy Herbst at (301) 824-7455.

Congratulations to Brooks and Katie Long on Winning the Young Farmer Achievement Award for Maryland!

Brooks and Katie Long will be representing not only Washington County but the entire state at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Seattle, Washington in January, 2010. They competed in the contest in December at the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Ocean City and then learned of their winning at the Maryland Young Farmers Leadership Retreat at the Wisp in February. They also have the opportunity to go to the National Young Farmers Leadership Retreat in Tulsa, Oklahoma in February, 2010.

Scrapbook items needed:

The Women's Committee is looking for your help with our scrapbook. We need any articles from the newspaper or local magazines about Farm Bureau members to put in our scrapbook. The Women's Committee will be having a scrap booking workshop close to the end of the year to put the scrapbook together to take with us to the State Convention in Ocean City in December. Send any articles to Katie Long 16136 A Spielman Rd Williamsport, MD 21795

Help Needed:

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Ag-education display as it travels to different events throughout the year. We need help setting up the display, helping man the area during the event by talking to people as they look around, helping with crafts or other hands on activities, and then finally tearing down and packing up the display. Dates that we know of currently that we will need help for are

March 27-29 – Valley mall Ag-days

June 14- Ag- center for a cancer benefit for two Williamsport students fighting cancer

July 17-23 Ag-Expo in the Ag-ventures and Birthing Center at the fair.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events please call Betsy Herbst at (301) 824-7455

Ag- Expo: July 17-23

Remember to mark you calendars for the Annual Farm Bureau Luncheon at the Ag-Expo in July. This is a free lunch for all Farm Bureau Members. Come enjoy lunch, take a look around the fair at all the exhibits including the Ag-Education display. Come back on Monday for the Farm Stock Tractor Pull sponsored by our county Farm Bureau and cheer on the local farmers who have brought their tractors to see what they can do. Also, don't forget about the Miss Washington County Agriculture Contest on Saturday evening which is open to all girls ages 16-21 who's parents or grandparents are Farm Bureau members. For more information contact Jamie Beckley at Jamieb6@gmail.com or at (301) 302-3737. Another thing that happens each year at the fair is the Barnyard Olympics put on by our county Young Farmers; this event is open to kids 5-15. Kids will participate in farm related relays and obstacle courses. This is held on Saturday at 11am. For questions call Katie Long at (301)223-8228.

For Questions about the Farm stock tractor pull contact Charlie Wiles at (301) 714-0992.

County Board and Committee Chairs

President: Galen Long
Vice President: David Herbst
Secretary: Bette Jo Shifler
Treasurer: Cindy Long

Board Members:

Brooks Long	Ronnie Shifler
Charlie Wiles	Ronnie Leggett
Steve Palmer	John Burtner
Ginny Gaylor	Jere Debaugh

Committees:

Women and Ag-Education Committee:	Betsy Herbst and Katie Long
Young Farmers	Katie Long and Brooks Long
Annual Banquet:	John Burtner and Ginny Gaylor
Legislative Luncheon:	David Herbst and Brooks Long
Nominating Committee:	Ronnie and Bette Jo Shifler
Farm Stock Tractor Pull:	Charlie Wiles and Ronnie Shifler
Shake 'N Cream Stand:	Ron and Betty Leggett and Charlie Wiles
Annual Picnic:	Cindy Long and Ginny Gaylor
Scholarship Applications:	Steve Palmer, Jere Debaugh, Bette Jo Shifler

Food For Thought:**State News: New Ag Census Shows diversity of Farming**

This is an excerpt from a Press Release posted on the Maryland Farm Bureau Website. To read the entire article go to www.mdfarmbureau.com

The 2007 Census of Agriculture found that:

- The counties with the greatest number of farms are Frederick (1,442), Carroll (1,148), Washington (844), Baltimore (751) and Harford (704).
- The counties with the largest value of production (in millions of dollars) are Wicomico (\$197.8), Somerset (\$192.5), Caroline (\$186), Worcester (\$185.7), and Dorchester (\$166.7).
- The average farm size decreased to 160 acres down from 170 acres in 2002.
- 146 farmers say they operate organically.
- 131 farms generated on-the-farm energy.
- 161 farms marketed products through community supported agriculture operations (CSAs).
- 76 percent of farmers have access to the Internet.
- Almost 60 percent of farms have less than \$10,000 in sales.
- 7 percent of farms have sales of \$1 million or more.
- 1,525 farms contributed 87 percent of the value of production.
- Government payments rose 1 percent from \$33.1 million to \$33.3 million in 2007.