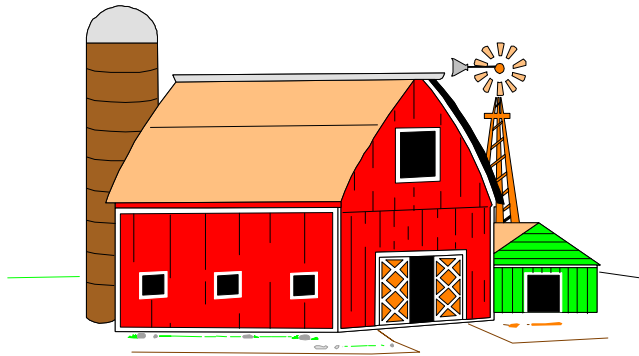


**CONGRATULATIONS
AND
WELCOME
TO THE
2009
MISS MARYLAND
AGRICULTURE
CONTEST**



February 1, 2009

Dear 2009 County Farm Bureau Contestant:

Congratulations on being chosen your County's Miss Farm Bureau!

What a wonderful opportunity to serve as a representative for agriculture, your family, your County, and your Farm Bureau. Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to participate in experiences that will create memories to last you a lifetime. Please contact Mary Amoss, Miss Maryland Agriculture Program Coordinator, by email at MissMDAg@aol.com, so that you may begin receiving important information concerning your role as Miss County Farm Bureau.

Your first official state activity will be the Miss Maryland Agriculture Orientation on Monday, August 3rd, 2009. The day will begin at **9:00 a.m.** and wrap up around **5:00** in the afternoon. Orientation will be held on the second floor of the Administration Building at the MD State Fairgrounds (2200 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093). You may enter the Fairgrounds by the North gate off of York Road and drive straight to the Administration Building. You, your parent(s), and your County FB Women's representative are invited to the orientation. **Please respond to MissMdAg@aol.com by August 1st, 2009 to verify your presence at Orientation.**

Orientation and the State Contest (August 27 and 28, 2009) are a very important part of the Miss Maryland Agriculture Program and you must attend to be eligible. The orientation agenda includes a contest rehearsal, an explanation of the contest, instructions for the State Fair, a glimpse of the past year's State Contest, hints from the 2008 Miss Maryland Agriculture, and speaking and poise tips. We will also be reviewing each contestant's business attire to be worn on the night of the contest. You must bring your suit and accessories with you to Orientation.

When you arrive at Orientation, be prepared to practice your 90 second speech that highlights your agricultural and community involvement. This verbal presentation should demonstrate your ability to represent the agricultural community. In order to prepare for the contest, we will be videotaping and giving helpful feedback to each contestant. Please do not make your talk so structured that it appears to be artificial.

During this time, individual pictures will be taken of each County Farm Bureau Contestant for the contest program, so please dress appropriately. Appropriate dress does not include jeans, t-shirts, halter tops or tank tops. Banners/Sashes will not be needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Miss Maryland Program Coordinator via email at MissMdAg@aol.com.

We are looking forward to meeting you on August 3rd!

Sincerely,

Miss Maryland Agriculture Committee

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Mary Amoss, Chair | Hannah Amoss | Janice Davis |
| Angela Bachtel | Julie Roop | Rebecca Lippy |
| Evelyn Wilcom | Laura Ruhlman | David Willoughby |

--ALL CONTESTANTS MUST ATTEND ORIENTATION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CONTEST.
--YOU MUST BRING THE OUTFIT THAT YOU WILL USE FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT
PORTION OF THE CONTEST, FOR APPROVAL

Contest Overview

The Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest is sponsored by the Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland State Fair. The contest was started as the former Farm Queen Contest and has evolved into a professional competition. The purpose of the contest is surface young women with an agricultural background to serve as leaders that will promote our agricultural industry and the Farm Bureau organization throughout the year and in the future.

The 2009 County Farm Bureau Contestants are required to attend the 2009 Orientation at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium on Monday, August 3, 2009. They are also required to attend the 2009 Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest on Thursday and Friday August 27-28, 2009. If for some reason a contestant cannot attend the Orientation and/or the Contest, the 1st runner up from that county will assume the role at the State level.

The Miss Maryland Agriculture Committee and the MD Farm Bureau Staff will serve as chaperones for the entire two-day contest. The contestants will be divided into groups and will be under the primary supervision of committee members. If there are any times during the two-day contest or fair week that contestants have conflicts with their schedule due to their 4-H or agricultural activities on the fairgrounds, they should fill out the schedule conflict form and return it to the contest committee chairperson in order to enable us to accommodate their schedule. Any health problems or medical needs that need attention during the two-day contest will need to be reported during the Orientation on a health form and returned to the contest chairperson.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | Agriculture, Farm Bureau Knowledge, Farm/Ag Responsibilities, Personality, Friendliness, Personal Presentation (10 points) |
| Allegany | <h1>SAMPLE</h1> |
| Anne Arundel | |
| Baltimore | |
| Calvert | |

FORMAL INTERVIEW FRIDAY

| Contestant | Agriculture, Farm Bureau Knowledge, Farm/Ag Responsibilities (30 points) | Personality, Friendliness (10 points) | Personal Presentation (10 points) |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Allegany | <h1>SAMPLE</h1> | | |
| Anne Arundel | | | |
| Baltimore | | | |
| Calvert | | | |
| Caroline | | | |
| | | | |

FRIDAY EVENING

| Contestant | Speaking Ability (20 points) | Agriculture, Farm Bureau Knowledge (20 points) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Allegany | | |

2009 Scholarships

(as of 12/2/2008)

2009 Miss Maryland Agriculture - \$13,000

- Maryland Young Farmers - \$1,000
- Maryland Farm Bureau Women - \$1000
- Maryland State Fair - \$8,000(\$2,000 per college year)
- Maryland Agriculture Fair Board - \$3,000 (\$1,750 expenses)

1st runner up - \$2,000

- Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers - \$1,500
- Maryland Farm Bureau Women - \$500

2nd runner up - \$1,500

- Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers - \$1,000
- Maryland Farm Bureau Women - \$500

3rd runner-up - \$1375

- Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers - \$875
- Maryland Farm Bureau Women - \$500

4th runner up - \$1125

- Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers - \$625
- Maryland Farm Bureau Women - \$500

18 contestants - \$1,800(\$100 each)

- Maryland Farm Bureau Women - \$1,800

2009 Total Scholarships/Expenses - \$20,800

***Please note all checks are issued by the Maryland State Fair. The Maryland Farm Bureau pays the State Fair and they (MSF) issue the checks when **receipts** are submitted.

[Your Name] (Large, Bold, Centered, and in a font that represents you)

[Enter Email Here]

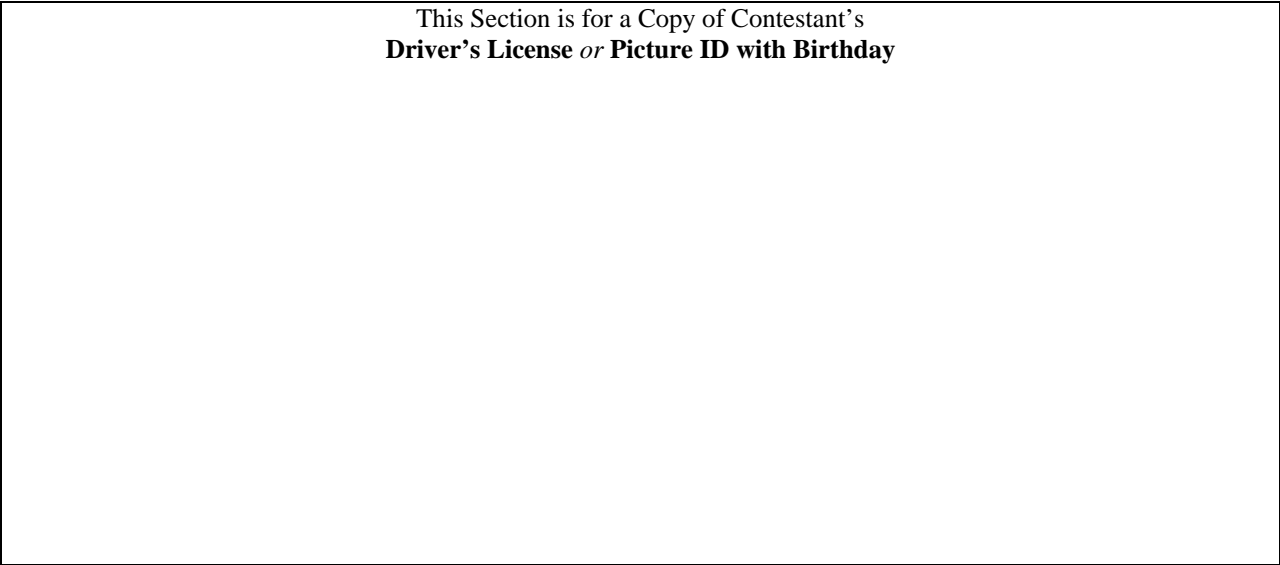
| | | |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Permanent Address: [#, Street] [City, State Zip] [(area code) phone #] | County | |
| | Birthday | |
| | Mother's Name | |
| | Father's Name | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Type Of Farm: | [Briefly describe the type of farm your family owns, or you are employed at, or familiar with etc.] (NOTE: Always leave an enter space between each section) |
| Outdoor Responsibilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bullet Format, • Tell Us Your • Outdoor Responsibilities (NOTE: Do not use sentences in this section, just phrases) |
| Home Responsibilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bullet Format, • Tell Us Your • Home Responsibilities (NOTE: Do not use sentences in this section, just phrases) |
| Current School Status: | In the Fall of 2009, I will be entering [enter grade] grade at [Enter High School Name or College Name.] |
| Agricultural Activities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bullet Format, • Tell Us About • Agricultural Activities • That You Are Involved In (NOTE: Do not use sentences in this section, just phrases) |
| School and Community Involvement: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bullet Format, • Tell Us About • School and Community Activities • That You Are Involved In (NOTE: Do not use sentences in this section, just phrases) |
| Hobbies and Special Interests: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Bullet Format, • Tell Us About • Hobbies and Special Interests • That You Have |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <i>(NOTE: Do not use sentences in this section, just phrases)</i> |
| Future Plans and Ambitions: | [In a brief paragraph explain your future plans including higher education, career goals, travel, etc.] |

NOTE: Entire application not to exceed 2 pages. Follow this format only.
Any Questions about the application, email Mary Amoss at MissMdAg@aol.com

This Section is for a Copy of Contestant's
Driver's License or Picture ID with Birthday



Farm Bureau Contestant Agreement

I have read and agree to abide by the Statement of Responsibility and Code of Conduct and Farm Bureau Contestant Guidelines. **If I am chosen as my County's Contestant, I will be able to participate in the Miss Maryland Agricultural Contest Orientation on August 3, 2009 and the Miss Maryland Agricultural Contest on August 27 and 28, 2009.**

Applicant's Signature

Parent's Signature

Code of Conduct

As a County Farm Bureau Contestant you represent a very large industry which extends far beyond your family and friends. When you are in public your behavior will be examined. The following rules are for you to follow throughout your reign. If you are found breaking these rules you will be prevented from serving as Miss Maryland Agriculture and/or runners-up, and in some cases as Miss County Farm Bureau.

- ◆ Do not use vulgar language
- ◆ Do not smoke
- ◆ NO alcoholic beverages or drugs are to be consumed at any time during the two-day contest or any other time you are serving as Miss County Farm Bureau or Miss Maryland Agriculture. Violation means immediate dismissal.
- ◆ Do not walk anywhere on the grounds alone.
- ◆ Do not be involved with boyfriends (holding hands, kissing, etc.) while at the MD State Fair or in any public situation as Miss County Farm Bureau. Friends are not permitted to be a part of your scheduled appearances as County Representative or Miss Maryland Agriculture.
- ◆ You are not permitted on the State Fair midway at anytime once the contest begins at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, unless otherwise noted.
- ◆ Do not wear denim skirts, denim dresses, jeans, colored denim, shorts, mini skirts, halter tops, mid-drifts, flip-flops and low riders etc. While appearing as Miss County Farm Bureau or Miss Maryland Agriculture at the MD State Fair, County functions, or State events, wear a dress, skirt, or dress slacks, unless the occasion calls for other forms of attire. In many cases the Miss Maryland Agriculture contest polo shirts will be acceptable. If you have any concerns about what to wear do not hesitate to call the host and ask.

Violation of any rule during any State activity is reason for dismissal from the contest and denial of further participation in any Farm Bureau event.

Statement of Responsibility

Representing Farm Bureau, The Maryland State Fair, the agricultural industry, and your own county's agricultural community is quite an honor and also a responsibility. You must, therefore, be aware of how your actions and behavior are perceived by others. As representatives of Maryland Agriculture you must behave in a manner that will bring honor and respect to yourself, your family, your County, your Farm Bureau, and your industry.

- ◆ SMILE..... A friendly, warm manner will help show your best side.
- ◆ Be courteous, considerate, and respectful to everyone. This includes other County Farm Bureau Contestants.
- ◆ Good manners are expected at all times.
- ◆ Do not chew gum
- ◆ No beepers or cellular phones...
- ◆ If you show animals or have other duties to be attended to during the MD State Fair you must inform the Miss Maryland Agriculture committee ahead of time.
- ◆ As Miss County Farm Bureau or Miss Maryland Agriculture you are expected to accept or decline invitations to events in a timely manner. This includes written invitations as well as verbal ones. Do not force your guests to call you back to see if you can participate. You should also write thank you notes to those who have contributed time energy, money, etc. so that you can be Miss County Farm Bureau or Miss Maryland Agriculture.