



Thanks to Carolyn and ready to jump in

By Beverly Burton
MFB Women's Chairperson

On behalf of myself and the Maryland Farm Bureau Women, we would like to thank Carolyn Lechliden for her leadership and dedication during her four-year term as chairperson of our organization. It was an honor to present her with a basket of Maryland agricultural products during our annual meeting.

At that gathering, I became the new chairperson. I reside with my husband Donald on a farm in Glen Arm in Baltimore County. Our farming operation consists of raising plants in our greenhouse, growing a wide variety of vegetables and small fruits like strawberries and blueberries, and raising cut flowers, hay and straw. We operate a produce stand on the farm and wholesale to the Baltimore Produce Market. We have two children and our first grandchild was born on November 11, 2001.

My Farm Bureau experiences through the years have taken on various roles to support my county. I served as vice chairman of the women's committee in our county. On the state level, I served as district director, one year as second vice chairperson and three years as first vice chairperson.

Other officers elected in Ocean City were Karen Callahan, first vice chairperson; Betty Long, second vice chairperson; and Evelyn Wilcom, secretary. Leona Dell serves as a consulting executive member and is on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Committee representing the Northeast District.

I just returned from the 83rd annual American Farm Bureau Convention in Reno. I served as a voting delegate along with Karen Callahan, and we have a lot to bring back to Maryland and share in the coming year. It was a great learning experience.

The Farm Bureau Women will be off and running with several activities this winter. On February 5, our Day in Annapolis will be open to everyone - men and women, county presidents and members. We will meet in the Calvert Room of the State House at 9:15 a.m. for a briefing and sit in on a session or make office visits beginning at 10 a.m. A hot luncheon at the Governor

Calvert House will be held at 11:45 a.m. and the cost is \$25 per person.

State plans are being finalized for the February 8th Food Check-Out Day. Counties are asked to plan their activities to demonstrate the safe, abundant and affordable food supply offered to Americans on or around that date. As in the past, the state and American Farm Bureau Women will celebrate the event in conjunction with their efforts to assist the Ronald McDonald House. Our state women's chairperson meeting will be held February 19th at the Ronald McDonald House. We will tour the local home and present them with our non-perishable food items. AFBF Women will be in Las Vegas, Nevada, presenting food to the "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment in area hospitals.

The Maryland Farm Bureau Women are also working on bi-district meetings in the spring and hope to have members attend the Northeast Regional meeting from April 24 to 26, in Mystic, Conn. All members are invited to attend.

Please feel free to call or write me to share ideas for programs, workshops, speakers or any concerns you have. Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization - let's pull together in 2002 and make a difference!



Hunting property wanted

A group of six to eight law enforcement officers who bow and black powder hunt are looking for property in Harford or Baltimore counties to lease from September through January. A smaller group of three hunters are also looking for a smaller area to bow hunt. The officers are willing to do work in exchange for hunting. For more information, contact Jeff Magness at (410) 529-0172.

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You have two opportunities to head to Annapolis

Maryland Farm Bureau's two strong entities - the Young Farmers and Women - are giving you two opportunities to make a difference in the state legislative process. The Day in Annapolis events will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, hosted by the Women and on Tuesday, Feb. 26, hosted by the Young Farmers. Both organizations strongly urge all members to attend one of both of the gatherings to demonstrate Farm Bureau's strength.

"You can never underestimate how important it is that our legislators hear from their constituents - especially during an election year and a year when we are facing some major environmental challenges," said Valerie Connelly, governmental relations director. "Every member should make an effort to attend one of the two events and meet their legislators on their turf."

Both events will use the same schedule. Members will meet in the Calvert Room of the State House for a welcome at 9:15 a.m., followed by a legislative briefing from the staff. We will encourage members to gather in the lobby of the State House at 9:45 a.m. to greet legislators arriving for session and then proceed to make office visits or sit in on Senate or House sessions.

All legislators have been invited to lunch both days to have more time to hear about agricultural issues. Both luncheons will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle. After lunch, you may visit committee hearings, make office visits or head home.

Registration for the Women's day is past due but space may still be available by calling the Maryland Farm Bureau office at (410) 922-3426. The Young Farmer registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 8. Send your name, address, phone, fax, e-mail address and county information to the state office at 8930 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD 21133, or fax it to (410) 922-6871.