



2018 Newsletter First Quarter

A Message from The President:

2018 is off and running, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to join a Washington County Farm Bureau committee. Our committees are the nuts and bolts that keep Farm Bureau running smoothly. Most committees will meet 2 – 3 times each year, and chairpersons can report at monthly meetings as needed. Contact us at washcofarmbureau@gmail.com to sign up for a committee today!

Washington County Farm Bureau will only be as successful as the effort put forth by the members. Farm Bureau members are the voice that educates, and being a Farm Bureau member is the best way to tell your story as a collective group. Membership should be a priority of everyone involved in Agriculture in any capacity.

WE NEED YOU!

Reach out to your family and friends. Encourage them to become a member. Their support will not only benefit our grassroots organization, but they will also reap the benefits of membership. With over 40 discount options to save at our membership benefit partners. Please contact me or any board member with questions on the variety of membership benefits!

Matt Schnebly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meet Your Board of Directors
- Annual Meeting Coming Up!
- WCFB Committees
- Women's Committee School Outreach
- This Legislative Session in Annapolis
- FFA News in our County
- 2018 Shake n' Cream Stand
- Miss WCFB Applications
- Member Savings App
- WCFB Scholarship
- Email/Mail Preference Options

2018 Washington County Farm Bureau Board of Directors & Officers

Matt Schnebly, President	Jesse Rohrer, Vice President	Leslie Cruz
Mike Drake	Brian Forsythe	John Heise
Galen Long	Ellen Matheny	Charlie Wiles
J.D. Repp, Secretary/ Treasurer		

Our Women's Committee Supports our Teachers!

Right before Christmas, Women's Committee Chair Ellen Matheny and WCFB President Matt Schnebly visited Boonsboro Elementary School to deliver school supplies for teachers and classrooms that teachers would have otherwise had to buy from their own pocket.



Pictured here is Matt with Susan Moore at BES and some of the supplies donated. Items the school received include: large chart paper, sanitizing wipes, classroom earbuds, hand sanitizer, aluminum foil, plastic spoons, rubber bands, reward stickers, paper plates, and sandwich bags. BES was very appreciative and WCFB was happy to help!

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7:00P.M.
WITH A CATERED MEAL**



**HELD AT
SALEM REFORMED CHURCH
13182 SALEM CHURCH ROAD
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740**

**R.S.V.P. TO J.D. REPP BY MARCH 30
VIA TEXT/PHONE: 240-313-5516
OR EMAIL: WASHCOFARMBUREAU@GMAIL.COM**

FREE MONEY!

Washington County Farm Bureau offers three scholarships and one grant to young people in Farm Bureau families pursuing a future in agriculture! Students pursuing a degree in an agricultural science may apply for up to three scholarships. Students pursuing a new business or enterprise in agriculture may apply for the WCFB grant. All applications are available at mdfarmbureau.com or by emailing WCFB at washcofarmbureau@gmail.com. Completed applications should be emailed or post marked by April 15th for the Scholarship Committee to review.

"MISS" CONTEST

Do you know a young lady between the ages of 16 and 18 that has a passion for agriculture? She may just be our next Miss Washington County Farm Bureau! This is a great opportunity for young women to represent agriculture in our county and be a contestant for "Miss Maryland Agriculture" Contact Jamie Bayliss at jbeckley.bayliss@gmail.com for more information on watch the next newsletter and social media for more information!

THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN ANNAPOLIS

What do I get by being a Farm Bureau member? Read some of these bills introduced to legislature just this session and you may be glad the Farm Bureau is there to be a voice for agriculture!

AGRICULTURE VIABILITY & PRESERVATION BILLS:

HB 252 - Department of Agriculture - Agritourism

This bill creates a definition in the Agricultural Article of state law for the term "agritourism." The bill defines "agritourism" as "an activity conducted on a farm that is offered to a member of the general public or to invited guests for the purpose of education, recreation, or active involvement in the farm operation." The bill includes, "farm tours, hayrides, corn mazes, seasonal petting farms, farm museums, guest farms, pumpkin patches, pick your own or cut your own produce, classes related to Ag products or skills and picnic and party areas offered in conjunction with the agritourism activity," in the definition. Lastly, the bill authorizes a local jurisdiction to adopt the definition of agritourism by local ordinance, resolution, law, or rule. **MFB SUPPORTS HB 252.**

HB 515 - Agriculture - Noxious Weeds - Palmer Amaranth

This bill adds Palmer Amaranth to the list of plants considered to be noxious weeds in the State. Currently, thistle (Canada, musk, nodding, plumeless, and bull), johnsongrass, shatter cane and wild cane are on the state noxious weed list. **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 515.**

HB 646 - Motor Vehicles - Gross Vehicle Weight - Agricultural Products

This bill creates a 5% tolerance on a grain hauling truck's Gross Vehicle Weight during the harvest season as long as the trip is 100 miles or less.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 646.

HB 698 - Agriculture - Industrial Hemp Pilot Program - Establishment

This bill establishes an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program to authorize and facilitate the research of industrial hemp and any aspect of growing, cultivating, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, transporting, marketing, or selling industrial hemp for agricultural, industrial, or commercial purposes. The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture to certify and register a site that will be used to grow or cultivate industrial hemp. This bill does create the ability for a grower that grows under the establishment of the pilot program to sell the products.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 698.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BILL:

HB 870 (SB 1065) - Public Schools - Agricultural Education Programs

This bill defines Ag Education in Maryland public schools and encourages county school programs to adopt and use this definition in their existing Ag education programs or when they are creating new Ag education programs. Each county board of education is encouraged to implement an agricultural education program that prepares students for: (1) successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices relating to global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems; and (2) a wide range of opportunities in agriculture-related employment and higher education by providing instruction and developing skills in science, math, technology, communications, leadership, and management through integrated:

- (i) classroom and laboratory instruction relating to agriculture, food, and natural resources;
- (ii) supervised agricultural experiences, which may include service or work-based learning; and
- (iii) leadership experiences and involvement in student organizations with an agricultural focus.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 870 & SB 1065.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS:

HB 26 (SB 133) - Community Healthy Air Act

This bill creates a Committee on Air Quality. The 8 member committee would consist of: one expert in regulatory compliance appointed by the Attorney General; the following members would be appointed by the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Health and the Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: 1. one expert in air pollution sampling and monitoring; 2. one expert in spatial statistics and monitoring; 3. one expert in exposure science; 4. one expert in environmental epidemiology; 5. one expert in toxicology; 6. one expert in human health risk assessment; and 7. one preventive medicine physician. MDE will provide the staffing for this committee. The committee will create an air quality sampling and monitoring protocol for the collection of air quality and public health data associated with all air pollutants from large animal-feeding operations. MDE is required to assess, evaluate and implement the protocol. The committee has 6 months to develop the protocol.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU OPPOSES HB 26 & SB 133

HB 116 (SB 500) - Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition

This bill bans the use of Chlorpyrifos in Maryland starting on January 1, 2019. Maryland Farm Bureau opposes state and local restrictions of pesticides beyond those that are currently approved by the federal government.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU OPPOSES HB 116 & SB 500

HB 361 (SB 314) - Bay Restoration Fund - Fee Exemption, Disbursements, and Financial Assistance (Septic Stewardship Act of 2018)

This bill exempts the user of an on-site sewage disposal system from paying the Bay Restoration Fee (\$60 per year) if the user has installed a Best Available Technology septic system and he or she did not receive any state or federal funding or a tax credit when the BAT system was installed. The bill also reduces the % of septic BRF money to be used for septic system repairs from 60% to 50% and increases the portion of the BRF septic money for the Maryland Cover Crop program from 40% to 50%. The bill expands the allowable uses of funds for septic repairs and upgrades to allow a local jurisdiction to provide financial assistance for pumping out septic systems if the local jurisdiction develops a Septic Stewardship Plan. The Plan must include routine pump-out intervals and inspections. MFB policy opposes a mandatory requirement for periodic pumping of septic tanks. This bill does not mandate that counties adopt a Septic Stewardship Plan, but if counties adopt one, it must contain a mandatory pump out requirement. MFB will offer an amendment to remove that mandate and replace with septic user education on proper septic tank maintenance.

MFB SUPPORTS HB 361 & SB 314 with Amendment

HB - Nutrient Management – PIA – Clarification of Info to Be Protected/Released

This bill will amend the Nutrient Management law to “clarify” what MDA must protect when a Public Information Act request is filed to collect data about farmer NM plans. Under current law, MDA “must maintain a copy of each summary for 3 years in a manner that protects the identity of the individual for whom the nutrient management plan was prepared.” Under this bill, MDA would protect “personal information,” rather than “identity.” Personal information is defined as name, address, DL #, SS#, medical or disability information, photo of person, and phone number. Five-digit zip code is not protected, nor is animal or crop type, even if that would lead to the identity of the farmer. This issue was debated in Court for 7 years.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU WILL LIKELY OPPOSE THE BILL AS DRAFTED.

HUNTING/ WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BILLS:

HB 7 (SB 182) - Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation - Feed the Hungry Organizations

This bill would allow an individual to claim a credit against his or her State income tax for the butcher and process expenses of antlerless deer donated to the Maryland Food Bank or the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. The maximum amount of credit \$50 per deer, \$200 per year unless the deer are harvested under a Deer Management Permit. **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 7 & SB 182**

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!

Year after year, our Shake n' Cream Stand at the Washington County Ag Expo & Fair proves to be our biggest fundraiser of the year, with annual profits averaging just under \$10,000 the past five years!

This wouldn't be possible without the help of countless volunteers that staff the stand the course of the entire week for 12+ hours each day.

WCFB needs your help again this year during the Fair July 14-21, 2018!

You and your family or agribusiness can volunteer to staff a 4-hour shift during the fair with shifts beginning at 10am, 2pm, and 6pm. You can fill as many shifts as you like.

Contact J.D. Repp at 240-313-5516 or email washcofarmbureau@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Do you want to receive your newsletter via email instead of snail-mail? Send an email to washcofarmbureau@gmail.com with "Email My Newsletter" in the subject line and your name as it appears on your membership in the email.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

MEMBER SAVINGS APP

Did you know that you're entitled to thousands of dollars of savings and discounts as a Maryland Farm Bureau member? You can find savings on tires, hotels, insurance, vehicles, office supplies, even restaurants and so much more!

Go to mdfarmbureau.com/members or scan the QR Code to the right for more information on the My Deals app!



National FFA Week

February 17-24 is National FFA Week!

Did you know that George Washington's birthday on February 22nd indicates National FFA Week every year? President Washington himself was a farmer held agriculture in high regard. Because of his passion for agriculture and influence on our young country, FFA honors his birthday with National FFA Week! Read below to see what's going on in our FFA Chapters!



Maple Sugar Festival Pancake Breakfast

When: Saturday, March 3, 8am to 11am

Where: Claude E. Kitchens

Outdoor School at Fairview

Why: To benefit Clear Spring FFA & FFA Alumni!

Are you interested in supporting FFA but aren't sure how? Consider sponsoring a Public Speaking Event or Ag Mechanics Contest for the Maryland FFA Western Region! Email Liz Rohrer at RohreEli@wcps.k12.md.us for more information!

BASKET BINGO

WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1:00PM

WHERE: BOONSBORO LEGION

COST: \$25/PERSON AT THE DOOR

WHY: TO SUPPORT BOONSBORO FFA!

Texas Roadhouse Night!

When: February 19 & 20

Where: Texas Roadhouse,
Hagerstown

Cost: Buy your dinner, and
FFA receives 10%!

Why: To support Clear Spring
FFA!

**Save the Date: April 21, 9:00am, Grand Opening of
Boonsboro FFA and Clear Spring FFA Greenhouses!**

Do you want to be part of the engine that keeps Farm Bureau going forward?

Here is your way to do that!

Email washcofarmbureau@gmail.com or contact J.D. Repp at 240-313-5516 if you're interested in serving on a committee. Committees will meet as needed once established

Young Farmers: This is a great opportunity for young people out of high school or young families wanting to stay active in agricultural organizations. With Discussion Meets, and award recognition the best of our young farm families have the opportunity to shine within the industry and socialize with other agriculturists- those on the farm and those in the support industry.

Women's Leadership: You've already read about one of the many projects of the Women's Committee. The committee conducts outreach to the community as well as general education and promotion.

Budget, Finance, and Audit: This committee will plan the annual budget and conduct the annual audit each year.

Don Schwartz Memorial Tractor Pull: Do you enjoy the free tractor pull that takes place during the Ag Expo & Fair each year? That's the hard work of Farm Bureau volunteers! The committee plans and coordinates the event each year so the community can enjoy an evening of farm fun.

Shake 'n Cream Stand: This committee coordinates the schedule of volunteers for the event, sets and reviews prices of ice cream and shakes, promotes and advertises the sales, and...you guessed it...eats a lot of ice cream during the week!

Scholarship: This committee reviews the scholarship applicants and presents the recommended recipients to the Board of Directors.

Membership: This committee is responsible for maintaining up to date membership records and correspondence and a Farm Bureau Program of Activity. The Committee recommends measures for disseminating information about the Farm Bureau and for encouraging interest in Farm Bureau activities among prospective members.

Annual Meeting: The committee schedules and plans the Annual Meeting each year with a meal.

Mobile Ag Literacy: You may have seen the Ag Literacy Trailer at the Ag Expo & Fair, elementary schools, Clear Spring Fall Fest, public libraries, and many other community events throughout the year. Serving on this committee allows you to be part of educating youth and their families on the importance of agriculture in our lives!

Legislative Affairs/Policy Development: Each year, the Maryland Farm Bureau Political Action Committee interviews and recommends candidates for election that have a history of supporting agriculture and legislature that benefit agriculture in our state. County's review local candidates and the state committee reviews individuals running for state delegate and senator. The committee also reviews proposed policy set by Maryland Farm Bureau each year based on the needs and state of agriculture in Washington County.



Washington County Farm Bureau
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