



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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~Contacts~

Howie Feaga, President (410) 531-2360
 Jay Rhine, Vice-President (410) 442-2445
 Leslie Bauer, Secretary (410) 531-6261
 Kerry Brendel, Treasurer (301) 606-2341
 Mandy Ackman, Newsletter Editor (240) 638-6174

WEBSITE: www.howardfarmbureau.org

Message to Members

By: *Howie Feaga, President Howard County Farm Bureau*

Well we all knew it would get here, yes winter, and a record snow storm to add to the books. We all lived through a historic couple of days. I hope everyone did OK and I want to thank the State and County road crews for all their hard work to get the roads cleared and open. We all appreciate your time and energy to help us get back to normal after such a big event. I know we are all looking forward to spring. We had a very warm start to winter but with the blizzard and cold we have had plenty of winter, and if you are like me you are ready for warm weather and getting back in the fields. So as we all get back on our tractors, try to be ready by working on getting your machinery ready now. Take your time and be thorough. Now is the time you need to prepare for spring.

We had a good “Day in Annapolis”, there were lots of legislators at the MD Farm Bureau luncheon, and that gave us a good chance to talk to them about some of the bills that have been introduced. One bill in particular is very important; a bill to put Ag Education back into all the counties in Maryland. I hope this one makes it through. I want to thank Senator Gail Bates for co-sponsoring the bill with

Senator Norman and Delegate Mike McKay from Allegany County. Great job!!!!

I hope everyone can make it to our last of the season’s “Breakfast for Dinner”. We will have the movie “Collateral Damage”. It is the story of the Hudson Family on the Eastern Shore that faced the Waterkeepers and won, but not until they were nearly put out of business. You will see how a minor thing turned really serious. So come on out on Thursday the 17th at 7 pm and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with us.

We have several changes that may come into our lives. One being the attempt of doing away with the Storm Water Management Fee. Another is a bill to change the “Tiers System”, and also a bill to allow Solar Energy on Ag. Preservation parcels. We will try and keep you up to date with all of these and let’s hope there will not be a lot of turmoil and stress over all of these possible changes. The “Mulching” issue may return later in the spring, but as far as I know, things are quiet for now.

So like I always say “Keep your plow in the ground, we’re all pulling for you”

--Howie Feaga, President Ho. Co. Farm Bureau

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Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast

By: *Maura Cahill, Breakfast Program
Coordinator*

The next Howard County Agri-Business “**Breakfast for Dinner**” will take place on **Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Dining Hall of the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this new date on your calendar and plan to join us!

*Remember this is an *Evening* event.

This will be the season’s last “Breakfast for Dinner”. We will be showing the movie *Collateral Damage: A Farm Family Under Attack*. This film, which won best short documentary at the 2014 Iowa Independent Film Festival, is about the Hudson Family of Berlin, MD located on the Eastern Shore, and their fight against the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance. This documentary was created by Save Farm Families; an organization whose goal is to help protect struggling farm families from bankruptcy triggered by environmental groups and their lawsuits (SaveFarmFamilies.org).

Please **RSVP by noon, Monday, March 14th** by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at **410-489-4510** or Martha Clark at **410-489-5152**.

The cost is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. We hope to see you on Thursday, **March 17th** at the next Howard County Agri-Business “Breakfast for Dinner”!

Let’s Support Ag Education in Maryland by Supporting SENATE BILL 770

By: *Barb Glenn*

Maryland Farm Bureau and Howard County Farm Bureau both support this bill. As one of the three counties in Maryland with no agricultural education,

(Somerset and Allegheny are the other two) we can join with Howard Soil Conservation Districts, Howard County Economic Development Authority, Maryland Ag Education Foundation and others to take action now to show our support.

The bill, **SB770, “Education – Public High Schools- Agriculture Science”**, requires each county board of education, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, to implement an Ag science curriculum in at least one public high school in each county or at least one career and technology education center using an approved curriculum. The bill is sponsored by **Senator Bates (District 9, Carroll and Howard counties) and Senator Norman (District 35, Harford and Cecil counties)**. A link to the bill’s page is here: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.asp?pid=billpage&tab=subject3&id=sb0770&stab=01&ys=2016RS> .

There is a hearing on February 24, 1:00 pm ET before the full Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. Senator Bates serves on this committee.

You can help support the bill! Deadline - by February 22 is best.

- 1) Email a comment, and(or)
- 2) Testify in person at the Hearing.

EMAIL – Send a note addressed to Chairperson Joan Carter Conway, joan.carter.conway@senate.state.md.us AND Vice chair Paul G. Pinsky, paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us . Copy Senator Bates gail.bates@senate.state.md.us and Senator Norman wayne.norman@senate.state.md.us

ORAL TESTIMONY – It is important that some of us speak in person! Contact Senator Bates’ legislative assistant Matt Arnold, if you wish to testify in person at a hearing to be held on February 24, 2016 at 1:00 pm ET. His email is marnold@senate.state.md.us or phone (410) 841-3671. You have **THREE MINUTES** to speak.

Senator Bates would welcome any testimony, either in person or written, that anyone would like to provide. If you have any questions, please contact **Matt Arnold**, in Senator Bates office (see above),

Howie Feaga, Howie@merryacresfarm.com or Barb Glenn, Howard County Farm Bureau, s_glenn@comcast.net. Thank you very much!

Maryland Farmers Attend National Convention in Orlando

Source: Katie Ward, Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Davidsonville, MD (January 15, 2016)—Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) officers, members and staff attended the 2016 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Convention in Orlando, FL from January 8-12. 6,000 Farm Bureau leaders from all 50 states collaborated to vote on national policy, elect a new President and Vice President, learn about new Ag trends and technologies, compete for Young Farmer & Rancher awards and celebrate agriculture in the U.S.

Maryland was well represented in the competitions at the AFBF convention. Michael Calkins of Howard County participated in the Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet competition. Michael and representatives from three other states discussed new technologies for producers and getting the public to support right-to-farm laws. Michael is a Soil Conservation Planner and Stormwater Management Specialist for the Howard Soil Conservation District. Along with his wife, Ali, they manage a horse riding and training business.

Jamie Tiralla of Calvert County participated in the Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture competition. This honor is to recognize those Farm Bureau members who do not earn the majority of their income from farming. Jamie presented her application at the AFBF convention, focusing on her transition from suburban living to the farm and how she balances her career, family and farming. Jamie is the Creative Director for an advertising agency in Baltimore. She and her husband, Benson, live on a 115-acre farm with their two children, Caroline and Henry. They raise grass-fed beef, lamb and goat, as well as pork and sell their meats at a farmers market.

Jeremiah and Janelle Weddle of Washington County participated in the Young Farmers & Ranchers

Achievement competition. This honor is presented to one Farm Bureau member from each state who earns the majority of their income from farming. They attended the AFBF convention to represent Maryland in the Achievement category. The couple co-owns and operates Creek Bound Farms, LLC and produce corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and small grain forages on the 2,500 acre farm. They also raise 350 replacement heifers.

After sixteen dedicated years of service as President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Bob Stallman of Texas retired and Zippy Duvall of Georgia was elected as the new President during the final day of convention. Scott VanderWal of South Dakota was also elected as the new AFBF Vice President, taking the place of former VP Barry Bushue of Oregon.

“I am honored to begin serving alongside you all as the new president of the American Farm Bureau Federation,” said Duvall. “For almost a century, AFBF has been the leading voice of agriculture, standing up for farmers and ranchers across our great country. But the real strength of Farm Bureau is our active grassroots membership. Like you, I learned a long time ago that I’d have to step outside my fencerows if I wanted to have a say in the matters affecting my farm. You are the backbone of the organization, and together we can address the toughest issues facing U.S. agriculture in 2016.”

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Maryland Farm Bureau is a private, non-profit membership organization. It is controlled by its members through the democratic process and is financed by voluntary membership dues. Its strength comes from the active participation of over 36,000 member families that belong to the state’s 23 county Farm Bureaus. For the last 100 years, Maryland Farm Bureau has served to promote and protect Maryland agriculture and rural life.

(<http://mdfarmbureau.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Maryland-Farm-Bureau-at-National-Conference-in-Orlando.pdf>)

Ranching and Dairy Farming in Florida! - AFBF Convention Ag Tours

By: *Mandy Ackman*

Typically when you think of Florida, the first thing that comes to mind as far as agriculture is oranges! And of course there is more to the state other than its sandy beaches, but large scale ranching and dairy farming comes as more of a surprise. This years American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Orlando offered almost a dozen agricultural tours by Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Some of the countries largest agricultural operations are located in Florida; and I don't just mean citrus groves or vegetable farms but also ranches raising beef cattle and dairies! Thank you to Howard Counties own Howie and Christina Feaga, and Zack and Kerry Brendel, for sharing your experiences on these Ag tours in Florida!

One of the tours visited Deseret Ranch; a 295,000 acre or 450 square mile, agricultural operation, stretching across Orange, Osceola, and Brevard counties. For over 60 years the land has been made commercially productive for beef cattle, citrus, and timber. From the beginning, the ranch has worked in cooperation with other local ranchers, government leaders, and academics from multiple universities to improve resource management and agricultural operations.

The Ranch's core business has been cattle ranching. Deseret maintains a herd of approximately 42,500 cows that produce 36,000 calves each year! The herd is divided into 14 management units and the average unit runs approximately 3,100 cows. At Deseret, a single cowboy typically manages about 1,200 cows. The cows on each unit are further divided into smaller herds, and each herd rotates among several pastures to promote pasture health and optimize cattle performance.



(<http://www.deseretranchflorida.com>, 2016)

Along with a large cattle operation the key to success at Deseret is their sustainable management of resources, stewardship of wildlife, wetlands, and water resources.

For more information about Deseret Ranch and how it continues to carry on central Florida's ranching heritage, visit www.deseretranchflorida.com.

Another Ag tour visited Davie Dairy, a 4,500-cow family-owned and operated dairy farm located in Okeechobee, Florida. The Dairy operates on 960 acres with several thousand additional acres where it raises heifers. The Dairy is operated by William Berman and Glynn Rutledge who are partners in the second-generation family-owned dairy business. The two have earned a reputation for ethical business practices, hands-on management, agricultural innovation and environmental stewardship, often partnering with State and Federal government agencies to participate in agricultural research and water management studies. William Berman currently serves as the President of United Feed Coop of Okeechobee, Florida. He is also a member of the board of Southeast Milk, the leading milk coop serving all of Florida and several Southern states.



(<http://daviedairy.com/index.html>)

Davie Dairy has stayed at the forefront of agriculture technology. It was the first dairy in South Florida to build and utilize free stall barns which has become the norm in South Florida today. They also later built an innovative “Maternity Barn” facility, creating better supervision of births which resulted in more live, healthy calves and reduced the incidence of Johnes’ Disease. After over 50 years, Davie Dairy is run by William and Glynn along with a team of over 40 employees, several of whom are second-generation members of the Davie Dairy family.

For more information about this family owned and operated dairy, visit:

<http://daviedairy.com/index.html>

HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) – ALSO KNOWN AS “BIRD FLU” – IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MARYLAND BY THIS SPRING AT THE LATEST

Source: MDA



The Maryland Department of Agriculture hosted a conference call briefing on Thursday, January 7, about high path avian influenza. The departments provided an overview of how information will be disseminated during an outbreak in Maryland, and provide an overview of the disease, how it spreads, and an update on preparedness efforts. The call was intended to provide background information and reduce confusion and misunderstanding in the event of an actual high path avian influenza outbreak in Maryland. For more information, or to listen or watch a recording of the Secretaries’ presentation visit:

www.mda.maryland.gov/avianflu

Announcements

❖ Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet

The annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet will be held **Thursday, April 21, 2016**, 7:00 p.m., at the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. A fried chicken dinner will be served by the Ladies Auxiliary at a cost of \$18.00 per person.

We have invited the County Executive, the County Council members and our State Senators and Delegates and Congressman to discuss with us current matters relating to legislation and government on a local, state and national level. This meeting provides Farm Bureau members with an excellent opportunity to meet their legislators and discuss issues of importance to them.

If you would like to attend, please send payment to the attention of Leslie Bauer no later than April 7. Checks should be made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau and sent to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737. There is a banquet reservation attached with this newsletter. We hope you will make an effort to attend on April 21.

❖ 2016 Farm Trucking Forum

These events are hosted by the Maryland Farm Bureau. Representatives from the State Highway Administration, Maryland State Police, and Maryland Vehicle Administration will be on hand to answer questions.

- Updated Farm Trucking Manuals will be available.
- Discuss the issues facing farmers on rural roads and state highways.
- Hear firsthand how the latest trucking rules and regulations can affect your business.
- Have a question about IRP's, permits, tags, and weight limits?

**March 10, 2016- Carroll County Extension Office
9:00am-11:30am
700 Agricultural Center Drive**

Westminster, MD 21157

Donuts and Coffee will be served. For more information, contact Bryan Butler at bbutlers@umd.edu or 410-386-2760.

❖ MD Farm Bureau Trucking Guide

Check out the following website for the motor vehicle laws affecting Farmers in Maryland:

- <http://mdfarmbureau.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/TM2014.pdf>

❖ Annual Maryland Farmers Market Conference



Come and learn all about the best marketing tips for your Maryland farmers market, the new and exciting opportunities for markets in Maryland, and current regulations in preparation for the 2016 season. We will have a range of speakers, as well as training & certification for farmers for the WIC FMNP/SFMNP & FVC Programs, Scale Certification, SNAP sign up, and a locally sourced lunch! Space is limited to the first 90 guests to register and send in payment.

REGISTER NOW!

**March 15, 2016 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
\$30 per person**

Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD
21401



Register & Pay Online with Credit Card or Check Here:

<http://events.egov.com/eventreg/MD/event.htm?name=2016marylandfarmersmarketconference>

For questions or concerns please contact Shelby.Watson@Maryland.gov or 410-841-5776.

Calendar of Events

2016

MAR 1 **GRAIN MARKETING WORKSHOP: PRE-HARVEST MARKETING**

Place Carroll County Extension Office
700 Agricultural Center Drive
Westminster, MD 21157
Contact: Bryan Butler (410) 386-2760

MAR 5 **MD 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST**

Place Hagerstown, MD
Time 8:00 a.m.

MAR 7 **2016 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE SESSION**

Place Baltimore County UME Office
Cockeysville, MD
Time 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MAR 8 **2016 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE SESSION**

Place Frederick County UME Office
Frederick, MD
Time 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MAR 10 **FARM TRUCKING FORUM**

Place Carroll County Extension Office
700 Agricultural Center Drive
Westminster, MD 21157
Time 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

MAR 17 **2016 FARMERS MARKET CONFERENCE**

Place Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
Time 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm
*Register online

MAR 17 **HOWARD COUNTY AGRI-BUSINESS “BREAKFAST FOR DINNER”**

Place Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds
Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD
Time 7:00 p.m.

APR 5 **2016 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE SESSION**

Place Frederick County UME Office
Frederick, MD
Time 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

APR 21 **ANNUAL HCFB LEGISLATIVE BANQUET**

Place Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall
Lisbon, MD
Time 7:00 p.m.
*Banquet Reservation attached! Please complete and mail in

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, if you need special assistance to participate, please contact the

