



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 25, Issue 5

November 2015

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Message to Members

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

Here we go, it's almost winter and there is so much yet to do. I know, but we always manage to get it done, and I'm sure we will this year also. We will have our Annual Dinner meeting on November 12th; hopefully you sent your reservation in. It should be a good time had by all. It's always good to see everyone, and catch up after the busy fall and late summer.

We had a good Business Meeting on Oct. 1st. We enjoyed having Senator Gail Bates, Council Women Mary Kay Sigaty, and Councilman Greg Fox sitting in on our meeting, and there was a great discussion on getting Agriculture back into the curriculum of the Elementary, Middle, and High schools. We are 1 of only 2 counties in Maryland that don't have Ag in the classrooms. We have such a diverse Ag community that the kids are really missing out on a lot of opportunities to see it all first hand, and learn how much Ag has to offer. I want to thank Barbara Glenn who has been working with Kathy Zimmerman and the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Foose, to try and make something happen. We will be heading to Ocean City in December for the MD Farm Bureau Convention. It will be the 100 year anniversary for us and that is quite an

accomplishment. We will go over policy and other business, as well as elect new county directors and the slate of officers as well.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving; it's a time to get together with family and friends. It's good food, and good memories of past years and good times to come. Christmas will be right behind that with all the crops in and the cattle taken care of. We will reflect back on what I think has been a good year, but an unusual year, with weather that could have been better but wasn't so bad we couldn't cope with it. We will spend a little more time inside and unwind with family and relatives and enjoy the treasures we have.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me and Ho. Co. Farm Bureau. Without you, we couldn't do what we do. I also want to wish everyone a **Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!** Like I always say, "Keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you"

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message To Members
- 2 Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast
- 2 Nutrient Management Update
- 3 3 Calls to Action!
- 4 Ag Education in Howard County-Enthusiastic Interest!
- 5 Agronomic Crop Insect Update
- 6 *Calendar of Events*

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, November 19, 2015 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.

James Zoller will be our guest speaker, talking about Roving Radish for this month’s event. He was born and raised in Howard County on his family’s farm, which his grandfather bought in 1936. He left Howard County for 4 years to attend Virginia Tech where he received a degree in marketing management. After receiving his degree, he returned to the family farm where he lives today next to his parents with his wife Kelly, son Joseph and daughter Charlotte. James was hired by Howard County in 2014 to take the concept of the Roving Radish and turn it into a viable program. James’ business experience in combination with his agricultural background has made him a perfect fit to run the Roving Radish. He feels fortunate to have the opportunity to support the local agricultural community that he feels strong ties with while promoting healthy eating.

Please **RSVP by noon, Monday, November 16th** 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, **November 19th** at the next Howard County Agri-Business “Breakfast for Dinner”!

Nutrient Management Update

By: **Krista Mitchell, Nutrient Management
Advisor for Howard County**
University of Maryland Extension----
(410) 313-2709; kristaw@umd.edu

Now that summer has left us and fall has begun, it’s time for producers to start thinking about their 2016 Nutrient Management Plan. Soil samples are needed every three years under current nutrient management regulations, however; if you’re planning on liming your fields this fall, you may want to take a soil sample prior to any lime application. Just send your soil test results to your Nutrient Management Advisor to find out your recommended lime application rate.

Soil sampling in the fall is great for two reasons: One, it has been about 6 months (for some producers) since they made their spring nutrient applications. It is a very good idea to monitor the residual nutrients in the soil at this point so you are aware of what nutrients will be left in the soil for next spring’s crop. The second reason many producers choose to soil sample in the fall is to find out the pH of their soil. It normally takes 6-12 months, depending on the type of lime that is used, for a lime application to take effect. Many people choose to soil-sample and lime accordingly in the fall because they want to have the pH adjusted to an optimal level, come next spring.

The Howard County Extension office has all the information you need on soil testing labs that can be used for the development of a new or updated Nutrient Management Plan. We also loan soil probes out to those who will be taking soil samples for their Nutrient Management Plans. Remember, all producers that make greater than \$2,500 Gross Annual Income and/or those operations that have 8 or more animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 lbs. live weight) are required to have a current Nutrient Management Plan for their operation.

3 Calls to Action: 2015 Federal Legislative Priorities- Please Take Action

By: *Matt Tefteau,*
*MFB Assistant Director of Government
Relations*

During this fall season, take a few minutes to make your voice heard by our elected officials in Congress! We need you to take action on three legislative priorities awaiting congressional approval, which have a direct impact on the agriculture community.

#1: DITCH THE RULE - TELL YOUR SENATORS TO STOP THE EPA!

Last year, Farm Bureau lead the way in spotlighting how farmers and ranchers and many other landowners would be hurt by the EPA's water rule. Why? Because it radically and unnecessarily expands the jurisdiction of the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers over farms and ranches—dictating how we can use our land and imposing burdensome permitting requirements to engage in routine farming practices.

Sens. Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Donnelly (D-Ind.) have introduced S. 1140 to force EPA to re-propose the Waters of the U.S. rule and follow the limits set by Congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court.

CALL YOUR U.S. SENATORS TO SUPPORT S. 1140

**U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski:
202.224.4654**

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin: 202.224.4524

Learn more about the proposed rule at:
<http://ditchtherule.fb.org/>

#2: SAFE & ACCURATE FOOD LABELING ACT

Urge your Senators to support the Safe & Accurate Food Labeling Act; legislation that will create a uniform, science-based food labeling law to protect consumers, farmers and food producers from misleading state-by-state labeling initiatives by establishing a consistent GMO labeling standard and a national GMO-free certification program.

We need Congress to pass legislation this year to establish voluntary national standards and guidelines in governing the use and labeling of GM technology. Your help is vital to the success of this effort, so take action now!

CALL YOUR U.S. SENATORS TO SUPPORT A BILL SIMILAR TO H.R. 1599

**Senator Barbara Mikulski: 202-224-4654
Senator Ben Cardin: 202-224-4524**

Leave the following message on the office's voicemail system
or with the staff member answering the phone.

WHAT TO SAY | PHONE SCRIPT

Hello. My name is _____. I am a constituent and my address is _____.

I am calling to let Senator _____ know that I support the recently-passed House bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1599, and want you to support the Senate version when introduced.

TALKING POINT 1: The Senate needs to act quickly to preempt state GMO labeling laws that go into effect next July to give certainty to farmers, manufacturers and consumers. Decisions are being made right now about products that will be on the shelf next July.

TALKING POINT 2: Biotechnology reduces the use of costly inputs and improves weed management, allowing farmers to reduce tillage for better soil, water and air quality. The patchwork of state labeling laws threatens the availability of these

tools to farmers, and therefore the production and environmental benefits are lost.

TALKING POINT 3: Inaction by the Senate will create a state patchwork which threatens the availability of biotechnology tools to farmers, and therefore the production and environmental benefits are lost. Vermont's mandatory labeling law will disrupt interstate commerce and increase consumer costs.

TALKING POINT 4: The House-passed bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1599, creates a uniform, science-based, national system governing the premarket review and labeling of GM foods. And, it allows those who wish to label their products as GMO-free to do so through a USDA-accredited certification process.

I hope farmers can count on Senator ____'s support of agriculture and the GMO Labeling bill.

#3: H.R. 3473 - Local Farm Vehicle Flexibility Act

This legislation would allow states to provide additional regulatory relief to the Agriculture community without the threat of losing federal transportation funding. Maryland Farm Bureau strongly supports this newly introduced legislation and urges members to become a co-sponsor in favor of this measure.

H.R. 3473 would help simplify some of the confusion Maryland farmers have addressed during recent farm trucking forums about the exemption process for farm vehicles and what Congress originally provided in the MAP-21 Transportation bill. Allowing the state's flexibility to adopt common-sense exemptions for farm vehicles will provide clarity and stop the possible threat from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to withhold all federal transportation funding.

Call Your Member of Congress Today!

MD-01- Rep. Andy Harris: 202.225.5311

MD-02- Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger: 202.225.3061

MD-03- Rep. John Sarbanes: 202.225.4016

MD-04- Rep. Donna Edwards: 202.225.8699

MD-05- Rep. Steny Hoyer: 202.225.4131

MD-06- Rep. John Delaney: 202.225.2721

MD-07- Rep. Elijah Cummings: 202.225.4741

MD-08- Rep. Chris Van Hollen: 202.225.5341

Ag Education in Howard County- Enthusiastic Interest at Board Meeting!

By: *Barb Glenn*

It's harvest time for farmers in Howard County, but how many of your neighbors really know that the food they eat starts with the harvest? At the October meeting of the Howard County Board of Directors, there was ample discussion of the Farm Bureau's support for starting up agricultural education in Howard County. Howard County is one of two counties in Maryland that do NOT include Ag education in the curriculum for grades kindergarten to 12th grade. Howard County is surging in interest in agriculture, local foods, agribusiness and farming. Just look at the popularity of agritourism with crowds visiting pumpkin patches, corn mazes, harvest days and festivals. The County 4-H program is growing. And a push for Ag education in the County supports the Maryland Farm Bureau's recent recommendations to the new Dean of the College of Agriculture at University of Maryland, College Park. **Now more than ever, it is time to provide our youth, who are the future leaders in food and agriculture, the opportunity to learn about**

agriculture and the production of the food we eat.

At the meeting, we were fortunate to have Senator Gail Bates, (R-MD, District 9, Carroll & Howard Counties, gail.bates@senate.state.md.us), and County Council chairwoman Mary Kay Sigaty (District 4, mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov) and Council member Greg Fox (District 5, gfox@howardcountymd.gov) present. All three provided positive support and guidance to the board. If you support Ag education in Howard County, email these folks and let them know!

Our efforts have been led by the Howard County Economic Development Authority in collaboration with the Maryland Ag Education Foundation. The board was receptive to establishing a work group that would determine how we can collaborate with the HCEDA and MAEF and reinvigorate a plan in partnership with the Howard County Public School System and Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Renee Foose. If you are interested in getting involved, please send a note to **Amanda Ackman** (e-mail: amandaackman@yahoo.com p. 240-638-6174) or **Howie Feaga** (Howie@merryacresfarm.com) so that we can get together.

Agronomic Crop Insect Update

*By Joanne Whalen
DE Extension IPM Specialist
jwhalen@udel.edu*

Alfalfa and Grass Hay Crops Continue to watch for defoliators in grass hay crops and alfalfa. We continue to see economic levels in an occasional field. Significant damage can occur in grass hay fields from true armyworm and fall armyworm. It is important to catch populations before significant damage has occurred and when larvae are small. In addition to checking labels for rates, be sure to check for all restrictions, including, but not limited to, comments on control under high populations and size of larvae; days to harvest and forage/silage restrictions. No thresholds are available; however, controls should be applied before significant defoliation occurs.

Small Grains As you make plans to plant small grains, you need to remember that Hessian fly can still be a problem. Since the fly survives as puparia (“flax seeds”) in wheat stubble through the summer, you should still consider this pest as you make plans to plant small grains. Although damage in our area has generally been the result of spring infestations, we can see damage in the fall. Plants attacked in the spring have shortened and weakened stems that may eventually break just above the first or second node, causing plants to lodge near harvest. Plants attacked in the fall at the one-leaf stage may be killed outright. Wheat attacked later in the fall will be severely stunted, with the first tillers killed and plant growth delayed. Plants infested in the fall can be recognized by their darker than normal bluish coloration and leaves with unusually broad blades.

The following combinations of strategies are needed to reduce problems from Hessian fly:

- (a) Completely plowing under infested wheat stubble to prevent flies from emerging.
- (b) Avoid planting wheat into last season’s wheat stubble, especially if it was infested with Hessian fly.
- (c) Avoid planting wheat next to last season’s wheat fields – the most serious infestations can occur when wheat is early planted into wheat stubble or into fields next to wheat stubble.
- (d) Eliminate volunteer wheat before planting to prevent early egg-laying.
- (e) Do not use wheat as a fall cover crop near fields with infestations.
- (f) Plant after the fly-free date.
- (g) Plant resistant varieties. You should look for varieties that have resistance to Biotype L. You will need to check with your seed dealers to identify varieties that our adapted our area.

The following link from Alabama provides additional information on Hessian Fly Management

<http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/HessianFly.php>

Announcements

❖ Farewell From Brittany Ramsburg

* The last 5 years have been an amazing beginning to my Career. My last day with Montgomery/Howard Farm Service Agency was October 15th. On October 19th I started a new job and adventure in Washington, DC with the USDA Farm Service Agency as an Agricultural Program Specialist. I will be working with Farm Storage Facility Loans and Margin Protection Program. I will be sad to leave as I have gained a lot of knowledge and a lot of Friendships. A Huge thank you to my producers for being amazing and making me feel welcome when I started. I am truly going to miss you all!!

Thanks ~ Brittany Ramsburg, Program Technician

❖ Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School November 17-19, 2015

*The **Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School** will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City on **November 17-19, 2015**. Individuals seeking advanced training in soil and water, soil fertility, crop production and pest management will have an opportunity at hands on, intensive sessions that also provide continuing education units (CEU's) for the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Program.

Register at:

<https://www.psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops>

Calendar of Events

2015 / 2016

NOV 12 YARDS AND FIELDS: A WATER QUALITY EVENT

Place 2319 Waverly Mansion Drive
Marriottsville, MD 21104
Time 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
*See Attached Flyer

NOV 12 ANNUAL DINNER

Place Lisbon Fire Hall
1330 Woodbine Road Woodbine, MD 21797
Time 7:00 p.m.

NOV 17-19 MID-ATLANTIC CROP MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Place Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD
*Register at: <https://www.psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops>

NOV 19 HOWARD COUNTY AGRI-BUSINESS "BREAKFAST FOR DINNER"

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

DEC 6-8 100TH ANNUAL MD FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

Place Ocean City, MD

DEC 9/10 CITRUS DELIVERY PICK-UP

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD
*Orders Due by Nov 20th - See Attached Form!

JAN 21 HOWARD COUNTY AGRI-BUSINESS "BREAKFAST FOR DINNER"

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

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.

[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

Maryland Farm Bureau

A Farmer - to Farmer Agricultural Commodity Marketing Service through
Maryland Farm Bureau Service Company and Florida Farm Bureau.

*Florida Citrus is thinner skinned than others,
giving a more edible product.
*Fruit must be kept cool.



Citrus Order Deadline November 20, 2015

Please Make Check Payable To:
Howard County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 282
Glenn, MD 21737

Questions?
Leslie Bauer
410-531-6261
lbaaur5@verizon.net

Citrus Delivery - December 9 or December 10 - exact date TBD - we will contact you to confirm - Pick-up
Pick-up at Howard County Fairgrounds

"FLORIDA'S BEST"			
	Price	Quantity	Amount
Navel Oranges 4/5 bushel	\$33.00	_____	_____
Red Grapefruit 4/5 bushel	\$22.00	_____	_____
Tangelos 4/5 bushel	\$25.00	_____	_____
Hamlin Juice Oranges 4/5 bushel	\$25.00	_____	_____
Tangerines (Sunburst) 2/5 bushel	\$22.00	_____	_____
Grand Slam Gift Box NEW! (16-20 Navel Oranges, 6 Red Delicious	\$25.00	_____	_____
6 Di Anjou Pears, 3 Golden Delicious)		_____	_____
Peanut Gift Pack (3 can pack)	\$10.50	_____	_____
Chocolate Nut Gift Pack (2 can pack)	\$12.00	_____	_____
Whole Cashews 1lb can	\$9.00	_____	_____
Skinless Peanuts 17.5 oz can	\$5.00	_____	_____
Roasted Almonds 9 oz can	\$7.00	_____	_____
Honey Krunch Peanuts 12 oz can	\$4.00	_____	_____
Berry Nut Trail Mix 15 oz can	\$10.00	_____	_____
Mixed Nuts 1lb can	\$6.00	_____	_____
Pecan Halves, Fresh Shelled 16oz bag	\$10.00	_____	_____
TOTALS		_____	_____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Yards and Fields: A Water Quality

 **Chesapeake
watershed
forumplus** **Event**



Members of the agricultural and residential communities unite to share their efforts to improve local water quality.

**Free breakfast
& lunch!**

RSVP by November 5th

www.cleanwaterhoward.com/ForumPlus

Network with the community & learn more about BMPs from:

Local Farmers
Howard County Government
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Howard Soil Conservation District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**Thursday,
November 12th
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**2319 Waverly Mansion Dr
Marriottsville, MD 21104**



Calling all tractors, combines,
zero turns, harvesters,
hay wagons and more!



Rally 3 pm at Food Lion
Convoy out of Food Lion 3:30pm
(see website for route map)



Entry Fee: Charitable Donation
payable at official start line of
Route 144 at Daisy Road
Entries must be decorated!

PARADE TO BE HELD
RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE!

The Great Lisbon **Farmers Feed The Hungry** **Christmas Parade**

FREE FOR SPECTATORS

Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 4 p.m.
"Main Street" (Route 144) Lisbon, Western Howard County

Post-Parade Activities

Fire Hall & NW Corner of Routes 94 & 144
Pony Rides • Bon Fire • Raffle
Christmas Vendor Village
Music & "Karaoke with the King"
Country Ham & Fried Chicken Dinner
ADVANCED TICKET PURCHASE: \$12/adult, \$6/child
TICKET PURCHASED AT DOOR: \$15/adult, \$7/child
Dinner starts at 4:30 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit

Howard County Food Bank
Carroll County Food Bank
Farmers & Hunters Feeding The Hungry
Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department

Donations stations will be located LVFD for donations of canned
and dry goods; new toys also accepted for WFVFD Toy Drive.

Proudly supported by

The Heritage Farm Museum
The Howard County Farm Bureau
The Howard County Fair Association
Merry Acres • The Town Grille • The Equiry

www.lisbonchristmasparade.com 

*The Lisbon Christmas Parade is an equal opportunity farm equipment celebration
& does not discriminate based on color of the tractor.*