

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

By: *Leslie Bauer, President Howard County Farm Bureau*

I believe it was Audrey Hepburn who said, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” I think that she spoke for farmers everywhere when she said this. As many are preparing for spring planting, these words come quickly to mind. It seems that each planting season presents its own set of challenges, and this year is no exception. Some parts of the country are currently too wet, too cold or both to plant, while other areas are too dry. Toss in record input costs this year for fertilizer and fuel, as well as increased machinery and maintenance costs, and it seems we have the makings of a perfect storm, albeit one that farmers are ready to rise up and face head on, as they look toward another season on the farm, and put their faith into the hopes of another crop.

The 2022 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly concluded in Annapolis on April 11. Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) followed 139 bills during this year’s General Assembly. Of those, MDFB supported 65 — on issues like wildlife damage to crops; supporting urban agriculture; and right-to-repair farm implements — and opposed 19. Of the 65 supported, 29 passed. Of the 19 opposed, only three passed and all three were

significantly amended to either remove MDFB’s opposition or lessen the impact to farmers.

While the legislative session for 2022 is complete, that does not mean that our legislative work is done for this year. Locally our county council continues to meet throughout the year, and occasionally there are some topics that are covered that could have an impact on agriculture. In addition, as our state representatives are not as busy in Annapolis, this ‘off-season’ is a good time to reach out. We can have good conversations to help educate them on some of our agricultural issues. We can work to gain their support for some our needs.

A great way to celebrate the end of session, as well as set the stage to keep the conversation about agriculture going with local legislators is the Howard County Farm Bureau’s Annual Legislative Dinner. This dinner has been a good way for farm bureau members to receive news and legislative updates on what happened during session, as well as what is happening within the county. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we were unable to gather these past two years. I was excited we were able to gather once

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again this year to have our Legislative Dinner, my first as President. The evening was a great success. It was a full house of farm bureau members, as well as legislators. There were plenty of good conversations to be had, and some fun presentations as well.

After receiving legislative updates, Carey McIntosh, who chairs the Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade, gave an update on the 2021 parade. Roughly \$24,000 was raised at this past year's parade. Checks were presented to Carroll County Food Sunday, Howard County Food Bank, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, as well as the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company.

Kylee Bingham and Peyton Hereth were both awarded Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarships. This year, scholarship applicants had to submit a two-page essay addressing their thoughts and ideas on "What components are necessary in a successful agricultural classroom?" In reviewing the essays that were submitted, there were plenty of great ideas shared, and I enjoyed the creativity of the applicants.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the Friend of the Farmer Award. Howard County Farm Bureau created this award to recognize someone who, while not directly involved in agriculture, works to be an advocate of agriculture for both our county, as well as the farm bureau. This year, Vicky Cutreono, current chair for the Howard County Board of Education, was recognized for her efforts to help support the Howard County FFA, and agriculture education within our schools. We were thrilled that we could surprise her with this award, and Vicky was a bit emotional as she accepted her 'golden pitchfork' – certainly this will be a highlight of her Board of Education career.

In wrapping up this month's Message to Members, as we turn to a new season of spring planting, and the many other activities that fill our days as warmer weather approaches, I hope that whatever this season brings your way – for both family and farm - it is a good one for you!

Agriculture Secretary Bartenfelder Sends Ag Education Priorities to MSDE

Source: Barb Glenn

April 25, 2022

On April 8, Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder sent a letter to Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to request continued and increased support for agricultural education in Maryland public schools. In that letter he noted the collaboration of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) and Maryland Farm Bureau, and he asked that the Superintendent advocate for several recommendations to strengthen agricultural education and literacy and invest in the future of Maryland agriculture - our state's largest commercial industry - with an economic impact of \$23.3 billion each year, supporting more than 94,500 jobs and generating nearly \$902 million in state and local taxes.

Howard County Farm Bureau is fortunate to have several members involved in advocating for Ag Education and Literacy as a top priority. The Maryland Farm Bureau has Ag Education as one of the top three policy priorities. MDFB has worked proactively with MAEF in a strong partnership to push for our positions with the Governor and his cabinet for about two years now.

Some of Secretary Bartenfelder's requests were to:

- Reduce barriers for students to obtain credentials and/or demonstrate proficiency
- Provide state funding to convert to State Affiliation for FFA, so that every agriculture education student is a member of FFA, a career and technical student organization.
- Invest in Existing Agricultural Education: Offer tuition reimbursement for successful completion of the CASE training courses for MD ag science teachers.

- Recognize Agricultural Science as a Science Graduation Requirement:
- Offer Agricultural Science as Middle School Science Credit: Provide AgXplore, the middle school curriculum from CASE, as a science or Career and Technical Education (CTE) credit.
- Combine Agricultural Literacy with Environmental Literacy.

For more information contact Barb Glenn, chair, MDFB Ag Education & Ag Extension Committee, glennbarb6@gmail.com.

Maryland Farm Bureau Talks Top Ag Priorities with Governor Hogan

Source: Morning Ag Clips



April 25, 2022

Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) board directors, committee members and staff were honored to meet with Governor Larry Hogan and his key agriculture cabinet March 23 for their annual fireside chat to discuss how policies affect farmers in the state.



Photo Credit: Maryland Farm Bureau

MDFB’s representatives shared their top concerns on topics including the agricultural scrap tire recycling program and Agricultural Education. The board also thanked Governor Hogan for seven years helping farmers combat economic damage to crops due to wildlife, namely deer.

MDFB expressed the need for additional funds to be added to this year’s budget to cover the cost of its tire recycling program through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MDE and the Maryland Environmental Service are offering the tire recycling program to seven counties this spring. The agriculture community is seeking funding to expand the program to the remaining 16 counties.

MDFB spoke to Governor Hogan about the importance of Ag Education in Maryland’s public schools, with a hopeful expansion into middle schools. With the incorporation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation starting to take effect, MDFB hopes to see Ag Education remain part of Career Technology Education, but also become part of the overall approved science curriculum.

The MDFB delegation also addressed the recent avian flu outbreak and biosecurity restrictions on the use of chicken litter as a low-cost and readily available form of fertilizer for this growing season; the need to reinstate the meat inspection program at the Maryland Department of Agriculture; and supporting the expansion of urban agriculture.

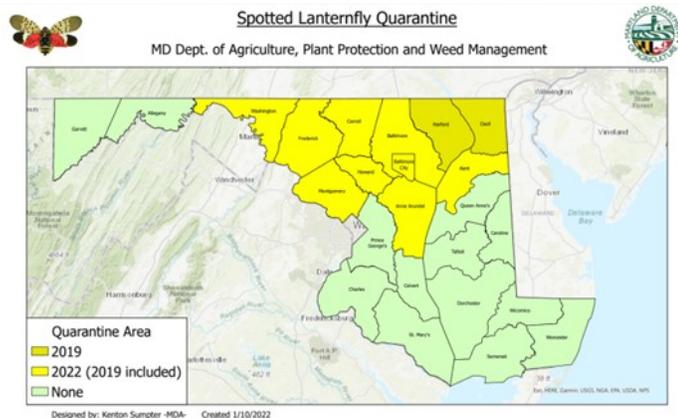


Photo Credit: Maryland Farm Bureau

Please contact President Bauer with any questions or reach out to MDFB director of Government Affairs, Colby Ferguson.

Department Expands Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone

Source: *Maryland Department of Agriculture*



January 20, 2022

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) today expanded its [spotted lanternfly quarantine](#) to include the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery and Washington, as well as Baltimore City. This quarantine is effective immediately, and restricts the movement of regulated articles that might contain the spotted lanternfly in any of its life stages, including egg masses, nymphs, and adults.

“While they are not known to pose any serious human or animal health concern, the spotted lanternfly is a destructive invasive species that has negatively impacted agriculture operations throughout the mid-Atlantic region,” said Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “MDA has taken steps to expand the quarantine zone out of an abundance of caution as we remain vigilant in controlling the spread of this destructive insect.”

The original quarantine order from 2019 included Cecil and Harford counties, which have established spotted lanternfly populations. The quarantine zone has now been expanded to nine additional jurisdictions based on the confirmed existence of known spotted lanternfly populations in these areas. A map of the new quarantine zone can be found [here](https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/SLF-Quarantine-Map-January-2022.pdf): <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/SLF-Quarantine-Map-January-2022.pdf>

Businesses, municipalities, and government agencies that require the movement of any regulated item within or from the quarantine zone must have a specialized permit. A permit can be obtained by taking a **free** online training course through [PennState Extension](#). Upon completion of the course and an online exam, individuals will receive a permit. Examples of regulated articles include landscaping, remodeling, or construction waste; packing materials like wood boxes or crates; plants and plant parts; vehicles; and other outdoor items.

Managers, supervisors, or employees of a business or organization operating in the quarantine zone must receive the approved training and pass the exam to demonstrate a working knowledge and understanding of the pest and quarantine requirements. Training of other employees, inspection of vehicles and products, and removal of living stages of spotted lanternfly must also be completed.

All spotted lanternfly permits for Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware are transferable and valid throughout the region — meaning a permit from any of these states can be used in Maryland.

The spotted lanternfly poses a major threat to the region’s agricultural industries as it feeds on over 70 different types of crops and plants, including grapes, hops, apples, peaches, oak, pine, and many others. Originally from Asia, the spotted lanternfly is not native to the U.S., and was first detected in Berks County, Pennsylvania in fall 2014. As a known hitchhiker, the spotted lanternfly has spread to Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia, as well.

Those living within the quarantine zone are encouraged to be vigilant in containing the spread of spotted lanternfly. You can report sightings through MDA’s [online survey](#). Other informational materials are available on the program’s [website](#): <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx>

Announcements

❖ MAEF Calling for Showcase Attendants Needed for 2022!

April 25, 2022

The Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF) is currently seeking seasonal part-time staff for the Maryland Agriculture Showcase that features interactive exhibits, colorful displays, and activities for kids! The Showcase travels to fairs, festivals, and events throughout Maryland.

Exhibiting season is March through October and work days vary from one to ten consecutive days depending on the event. This is a paid position with mileage reimbursed. Candidates must be dependable, friendly, personable, flexible, able to travel, and work well with kids and adults.

Some knowledge or interest in agriculture is a plus! Please contact Diana Tyler at 410-939-0030 x 386 or email dt Tyler@maefonline.com

❖ Hey Farmers and Others! – Tell Your K-12 Teachers about Career Agsperience and AGsploration

Come learn about the University of Maryland Extension Career AGsperience and AGsploration programs. The University of Maryland Extension Career AGsperience and AGsploration team will be offering a FREE in-service training for educators on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. The training will take place at the Howard County Fairgrounds in the dining hall from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM.

Interested farmers, and any one in Agriculture are welcome too!

Lunch will be provided. Register by Friday, June 3rd at:

<https://forms.gle/kMAF7DjUjPAMpNNp6>.

If you have questions, contact April Barczewski at adhall@umd.edu or 410-996-5280 or Sheryl Bennett at sheryl@umd.edu or 410-313-1912.

**See attached flyer on Page # 6.

❖ Avian Influenza

MDA is working with state, regional and federal partners in response to multiple cases of High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) on farms in Maryland and Delaware. Follow @MdAgDept on Twitter for updates.

Please go to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's website for more information for Poultry owners, such as: How to Protect your poultry from Avian Influenza, what to expect if you suspect HPAI in your flock, and an overview of HPAI Response Process.

<https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/AvianFlu.aspx>

Calendar of Events

*** 2022 ***

JUN 7 CAREER AGSPERIENCE AND AGSPLOATION TRAINING

Place Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall

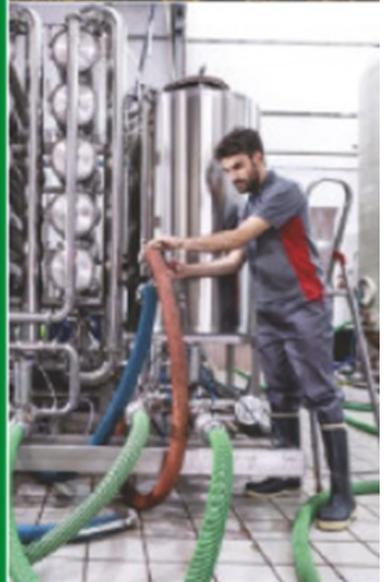
Time 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

AUG 6-13 76TH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairground Road,
West Friendship, MD 21794

<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/2021-fair/>

SAVE THE DATES!



Career AGsperience and AGsploration Training
Come AGsplore Careers and Ag Activities

Career AGsperience Explores:
Career Planning, Resume Development Internship Acquisition, Interviewing Skills Business Etiquette, Agriculture Related Careers and Beyond

AGsploration Explores:
24-peer reviewed lessons relating to animal, plant and environmental science and ag technology. Curriculum is geared towards middle school aged youth, but can easily be adapted.

FREE TRAINING
June 7, 2022
Howard County Fairgrounds
(lunch provided)
9:30am-3:30pm
Register by Friday, June 3rd at:
<https://forms.gle/kMAF7DjUjPAMpNNp6>



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EXTENSION



University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.