



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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January 2015

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Message to Members

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

I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year! We have certainly had a busy year. With the New Year comes the hope that this year will be better than the last. I can only hope at this time and you all know that having hope is half the battle.

There have been some changes to our Board of Directors. Two long time board members are stepping down and two younger ones are taking their places. Phil Jones, who has done a great job on the board and was your passed president before me is stepping down, as well as Allen Bandel, who has been our editor of the Newsletter for the past 18 years and served as a board member for some of those years. The new board members are Cathy Hudson and James Zoller. Cathy has a small farm in eastern Howard County and is also on the Ho. Co. Sustainability Board. James and his dad Joe, have a farm on Carroll Mill Rd, where he is trying the county's first crop of Hops. I look forward to working with these two and the rest of the board members in the coming year.

I would like to welcome Amanda Ackman, better known as "Mandy" who is the new editor of the Newsletter. She will be replacing Allen Bandel and

we look forward to working with her for the coming years. She has been around agriculture most of her life, growing up in Carroll County around the Harrison's and also working for Jim and Christie Steele of Shamrock Farm. I hope you all welcome her and if you have anything to add to the Newsletter, be sure to let her know.

We have had our second, and getting ready for our third "Breakfast for Dinner". We had 33 people attend on the 19th of November to watch the movie "FarmLand" which was a good watch and a great time had by all. I always consider we had a good meeting when everyone stays just a little while longer at the end, just to catch up with their friends; and that they did after the movie. We will have Lynn Moore at the next one on the 22nd of January to talk about her trip to Africa. Lynn does a great job and it should be a good evening.

The Mulch Task Force is winding down after what has been a very patience testing endeavor. The Ag Members and the others on the Task Force have all talked about everything from the height of piles of

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sticks, to composting our dead animals. We are hopeful that everyone has come away with a new admiration for all that we have done and would like to continue to do on our farms. We all have to maintain our properties as good stewards of the land. Those of us with animals need composting, Nurserymen and Landscapers need to handle tree trimmings, and some make mulch as a side business that is a secondary business to the main use of their property; all in an effort to survive on the land. Safety has always been an important part of agriculture and we all know it's not going to stop us from farming. We adjust and move forward with everything we do and safety is going to move forward with us, just as it has for centuries, it is what keeps us alive. We will all need to try to help pass a new bill that will let us all survive in the coming years and I hope you all will show your support for the agricultural industry when the time comes. I will try to keep you posted.

The Md. Farm Bureau met in Ocean City in early December to go over policy and to elect your new District Directors. Jay Rhine has served as one of our Directors for the past two years and he has done a great job. He could have run again, but chose to step down for many reasons, one of which was to allow someone from Montgomery County to take his place. I want to thank Jay for his time on the State Board. I would like to welcome our new District Director Paula Linthicum. She and her husband Tom farm in Montgomery Co. and she is a recent participant in the Md. LEAD program. They grow corn, soybeans, wheat and are very active in the MCFB. We look forward to working with her and if you have any concerns with Farm Bureau at the state level, don't hesitate to talk with her.

Well that's about it for now, I hope to see you in Annapolis on February 18th for our "Day in Annapolis" and again on the 18th of March for the "Drive into DC", we need to keep talking and educating our legislators, it's the only way they get the real story. Have a great and mild winter and like I always say "keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you"

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

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, January 22, 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.

The highlight of January's "Breakfast for Dinner" will be a slide presentation of Lynn Moore's trip to Tanzania Africa.

As customary, "breakfast" will be served at 7:00 p.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Monday, January 19th** by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at **410-489-4510** or Martha Clark at **410-531-3455**.

The cost is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. We hope to see you on Thursday, **January 22nd** at the next Howard County Agri-Business "Breakfast for Dinner"!

Ag Education in Howard County?

By: *Barb Glenn*

The Howard County Farm Bureau (HCFB) is fully supportive of including agricultural education into the curriculum of the Howard County School system. Howard County is one of only two counties in Maryland that does **not** have ag education! President Howie Feaga, was invited to attend a meeting about the feasibility of including agricultural education. This effort has been on-going for over two years, led by the Maryland Ag Education Foundation (MAEF) and the Howard County Agriculture Economic Development Authority (HCAEDA).

On December 15, a meeting was held at the Howard County Board of Education (BOE) with Dr. Foose, Howard County BOE Superintendent.

MAEF's Executive Director, George Mayo and Terrie Shank led the discussion along with Kathy Zimmerman, Agriculture Development Manager, HCAEDA. In addition to Farm Bureau, both the Howard County Council and the Howard County Department of Education were in attendance as supporters.

It was a positive meeting and the Superintendent appeared to support the idea. It was proposed that ag education could begin by the fall of 2017. However, it was acknowledged that many details will need to be fully developed such as funding as well as hiring a faculty member and other infrastructure. Farm Bureau strongly supported the effort and told the Superintendent that we look forward to assisting as the process moves forward. The MAEF and HCAEDA agreed to provide additional information. The HCFB board of directors will continue to discuss possibilities for initiating this program. It would be great to advance the focus of Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics, known as STEM, by adding the most important letter of all – A for Agriculture-- to give our Howard County students the opportunity to study STEAM!

Farm Bill 2014 NRCS Program Update

*By: Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS
District Conservationist Howard SCD*

The 2014 Farm Bill allows the federal Department of Agriculture to continue to provide technical and financial assistance for conservation measures on farms. **The Howard/Montgomery field offices of USDA are currently accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The first round of applications has a deadline of Jan 16, 2015. The second round of applications has a deadline of Feb 20, 2015.**

EQIP is the primary source of conservation financial assistance funds from the Farm Bill. Any eligible person may sign up for the program at any time. A visit to the Farm Services Agency (FSA) will create or update a farm operator's records so that application can be made to the federal programs. FSA can be

reached at 301-590-2846. Eligibility criteria includes that a participant must have an adjusted gross annual income of \$900,000 or less. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts the applications for the program and provides the technical and planning assistance. The local NRCS can be reached at 410-489-7987, ext 101, or at 410-313-0860. The local e-mail contact is james.myers@md.usda.gov.

The Agricultural Management Assistance program (AMA) also is continued and provides conservation assistance that also helps to manage risk in agricultural operations. Irrigation improvement is the main conservation measure under this program. **Applications for AMA are also due by Jan 16, 2015 for this program year.**

The Conservation Stewardship Program or CSP awards farmers for activities they are doing now and offers incentives to do more conservation activities. At least 2 new practices or enhancements must occur for each land use enrolled.

Another program that will be heard more about in the future is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This program, authorized under the latest Farm Bill, provides assistance to farmers and others through partnership agreements. The agreements can be with other agencies such as the state Department of Agriculture or conservation districts. They may also be agreements with non-government nonprofits with interests in conservation. The idea is to leverage the federal funds with private sector and other government funding sources. The first of these agreements for funding will be announced in January 2015 for requests made in proposals last summer.

Resource Concerns in Conservation Planning

*By: Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS
District Conservationist Howard SCD*

The Howard Soil Conservation District offers conservation planning technical assistance for farm operators and farm owners. The District, along

with its partners, Maryland Department of Agriculture and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service bases their conservation planning by looking at resource concerns. These resource concerns include **Soil, Water, Air, Plants, and Animals**, translated into a government acronym as **SWAPA**. Plans are developed with the individual farm operator as there are differences in management style, available labor, and economics that affect the conservation practices that may be adopted on any individual operation.

Soil resource concerns run a range of issues from sheet and gully erosion to soil health. Examples of practices to solve soil erosion include, no till, grassed waterways, diversions and terraces, or cover crops. Examples of soil health improvement include cover crops, no till, and crop rotations.

Water concerns mainly involve water quality, but also water quantity. Water quality is looking at the potential for surface or ground water pollution, whether from nutrients or sediment. An example of a water quality concern - animals currently access a stream for their water supply. They might be fenced from the stream. Water quantity could involve need for irrigation, animal water needs, or excess subsurface water causing erosion. Planning can call for animal water to be provided by a spring development or a trough pressure fed by a well.

Air quality concerns could be dust or odor issues. (Though many farm folks, like me, prefer to call that fresh country air.) Practices can be planned for reduction of odors or dust. A recent common practice has been the use of windbreaks to cut down on dust and odors affecting the neighbors of poultry houses.

Plant concerns can be related to plants needed for animal nutrition (pasture improvement), weed control (pest management), or crop improvement (crop rotation).

Animal resource concerns involve both domestic and wild animals. A domestic animal issue could be a need for more feed. Thus, practices with pasture improvement, may help the situation. Wildlife concerns normally will be the improvement of wildlife habitat. Examples include addition of plantings for wildlife and improvement of existing

stands whereby invasives may be controlled. Practices such as forest buffers and warm season grass plantings could be included, depending on the type of wildlife.

These are just a few examples of conservation practices that address resource concerns. As can be seen from those examples, many best management practices affect more than one resource concern. For example, crop rotations can reduce plant pests, improve soil health, and prevent soil erosion. Nutrient management implementation improves water quality and can improve crop growth.

For a conservation plan to address the resource concerns on your farm, contact the Howard Soil Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service local office. The new number is **410-313-0680** and we are located in **Cookesville at 14743 Frederick Road.**

Howard Soil Conservation District Announcements

*By: **Kristal M. McCormick,**
Education Outreach / Conservation Planner
Howard Soil Conservation District*

1) Same Services, New Location:

The Howard Soil Conservation District is excited to announce that our office has moved to a new location. This includes all partners: Maryland Department of Agriculture, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and of course the District. You can now find us at **14735 Frederick Road, Cooksville, Maryland 21723**. To reach us by phone, our main number is **(410) 313-0680**.

While our location and much of our contact information has changed please be assured that we are still here to provide assistance as we always have. Whether it be through writing conservation plans, designing best management practices, reviewing sediment and erosion control plans, helping homeowners with natural resource problems or even visiting classrooms, the Howard Soil Conservation District is here to support our farmers and our community.

We will have an Open House on **Thursday, January 29th**. From **4:00 PM to 7:00 PM** stop by to see our new building, have a little visit and enjoy some light refreshments. Mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing you.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page or Twitter for additional updates and events as well as informative and educational articles.

2) Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting:

The 2015 Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting will be held at the **Gary J. Arthur Glenwood Community Center** on **Tuesday, March 17th**. The meeting will begin at **6:30 PM**. Topics include MDA Nutrient Management Regulations and the Phosphorus Management Tool, The Next Generation P Index and Drone Technologies. Please join us for this informative meeting. The meeting is FREE but it is requested that attendees **pre-register** by calling the Howard Soil Conservation District at **(410) 313-0680** before 3/11/15. If special accommodations are needed please contact us by 3/3/15. The Mid-Winter Ag Meeting is sponsored by the Howard Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

New Year's Planning

By: *Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.*
JD, CFP, CSA
Attorney at Law

With the closing of each year comes a new opportunity to consider your estate plan and make sure it is up-to-date – or to make one if you don't have on already! Because we are time-bound mortals, the change of seasons reminds us of changes in our lives and of their fragility.

Have you ever drafted documents at all? If not, you should know that the State's choices on your behalf are not usually the best ones for you or your loved ones. That should not come as a surprise, but if you fail to plan, you have made the government's decisions your own.

Can you find the originals of your documents? Could your family find them? If the originals of your documents cannot be found after your death, your plan will be for naught, and your affairs will proceed as if you had no plan – using the State's plan, with all of its flaws.

If you have left your documents with your attorney, consider calling your attorney to be sure he or she still has them. You might decide to pick them up and store them yourself – attorneys close their practices and go out of business, change phone numbers and move their offices just like every other businessperson, and it would be more than just inconvenient if your documents couldn't be located when you needed them most.

Have you reviewed your documents recently? Are your fiduciaries – the people you named to serve your loved ones and manage your assets in the event of a tragedy – still alive? Do you still know them? Would they still be willing to serve?

Are your beneficiary designations up-to-date on wills, trusts, insurance, and retirement assets? Do you know where to find your beneficiaries? Could your fiduciaries find your beneficiaries? It's a shame to waste money trying to find people after the death of the only person who knew how to locate them. It's an even greater shame to have money going to the wrong people when it's too late to do anything about it.

Consider your choice of guardian for children or others under your care – disabled spouse, parents, minor grandchildren. Are the persons you have named still the best for the situation? In this most crucial of areas of responsibility, be sure you have discharged it well.

Be sure to include a list of updated beneficiary and fiduciary addresses, telephone numbers and other contact information with your documents. Include a list of your assets, including custodians, account numbers and contact information. Add digital assets – user names, passwords, challenge question answers. This step alone can save a great deal of time when you are unable to help locate them yourself, and when time might be of the essence.

Review amounts of insurance. Do you remember what the amount of insurance was to cover? Is that

amount still adequate? Is it too much? As our lives change, so do our responsibilities. The amount projected to pay off the mortgage, raise and educate the kids, and supplement the surviving spouse's retirement may not be needed as you approach retirement with the house mostly paid off, the kids finishing college and retirement income your pressing need. Conversely, the amount you took out when you graduated college and were still unmarried without children might not be enough now to protect those you love most.

Review your retirement plan. Are you investing enough? Are the earnings assumptions still correct? You might need to save more, invest differently, plan to work longer or take a part-time job upon retirement. Better to determine that now, as unpleasant as it might seem, than to find out only after bad assumptions lead to a bankrupt retirement.

Talk to your parents, and to your adult children. Have they created and updated their plan? Or are they remiss in this regard? Encourage them to take this important step.

If you're planning needs updating, make it happen before the end of the year. Consult with your professional advisors, and make sure that your planning meets your reality.

Farm Bureau Women

By: Merhlyn Barnes

THANKS ANNETTE FLEISHELL!

Annette Fleishell recently retired as chairperson of the Miss Howard County Farm Bureau contest (formally Farm Queen Contest). The Board of Directors and Farm Bureau Women sincerely thank her for the many years of excellent leadership in making the contest a success. Annette was presented with a silver tray, jewelry and flowers.



Annette - We hope you felt like a "queen" for just a little while and look forward to your continued support of the Farm Bureau Women.

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship

By: Mike Calkins

The Howard County Farm Bureau will offer one \$2,000.00 scholarship for someone in the 14 to 16 age range and also another \$2,000.00 scholarship to someone in the 17 to 19 age range. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be a member of the Howard County Farm Bureau to be eligible. To apply, students must return the attached application form and written essay. The essay is to be written on:

“How has Agriculture played a part in directing your decisions on college or plans in and after high school? How will Farm Bureau play a part in your future in farming and in life?”

The winners will receive \$2,000.00 to be used for what they need to buy for school or trade school, such as books, laptop computer.

**~The deadline for applications and essays is
February 25, 2015**

**~The Scholarships will be awarded at our
Legislative Dinner**

All decisions on the winner will be made by the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Essays are to be written in number 12 font and be no longer than 2 pages with one inch margins. Entries or questions can be sent to Michael Calkins at Clakins16@gmail.com. If you would like to send a hard copy please send to the attention of: Michael Calkins 1626 Daisy Road Woodbine, Maryland 21797.

*See Attached Application

Howard County Farm Bureau Rider Scholarship

The Howard County Farm Bureau will offer one \$1,000.00 sponsorship for someone in the adult riders age 18 and above range and also a \$500.00 sponsorship to someone in the 17 and under age range. To apply return the written essay. The essay is to be written on:

“How will Farm Bureau's Sponsorship play a part in your future in riding and what are you planning on accomplishing in the next riding and show season/year?”

~**The deadline for applications and essays is February 25, 2015**

~**The Sponsorship will be awarded at our Legislative Dinner**

All decisions on the winner will be made by the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Essays are to be written in number 12 font and be no longer than 2 pages with one inch margins. Entries or questions can be sent to Michael Calkins at Clakins16@gmail.com. If you would like to send a hard copy please send to the attention of: Michael Calkins 1626 Daisy Road Woodbine, Maryland 21797.

Maryland Farm Bureau 2015 Scholarship

The Maryland Farm Bureau will offer **five \$2,000** scholarships. Applicants must be high school seniors starting college in the fall of 2015 or full time college students at any community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians **MUST** be members of the Maryland Farm Bureau. Three of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and two scholarships will be offered to non agricultural or agricultural curriculum majors.

Selection will be made by a committee designated by Maryland Farm Bureau. To apply, students must return the application form with a current photo (which will be used in a recognition program and a press release recipient announcement as well as on the Farm Bureau Webpage) and an essay on:

“How do you plan to use your college education to benefit agriculture?”

The Essay should not exceed two pages using minimum of 12 pt font size. **(NO identifying info. for example: NO college names, NO 4-H club names, NO town names, NO county names, etc.)** Any identifying information appearing in the essay would disqualify the application. The selection committee will evaluate each essay anonymously. No student can receive this scholarship more than four times.

Maryland Farm Bureau **MUST** receive applications and photos by **4:00 p.m. February 2, 2015**. Applications and photos should be e-mailed to Scholarship@mdfarmbureau.com, a confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of the scholarship application. Scholarships will be awarded to winning applicants in conjunction with high school graduation programs or prior to the beginning of the fall semester. The winner's scholarship check will be made out to the student **and** the college. The committee reserves the right to interview scholarship applicants if they feel it necessary for determination of winners. Family members of MFB Staff and Officers are ineligible.

Direct completed applications with a current photo
and any questions by email
Scholarship@mdfarmbureau.com

A Neighbor and Her Unique

Artistry

By: *Allan Bandel*

In the March, 2013 Newsletter, I wrote about the exploits of a legendary character living on a neighboring farm. Recently, I thought of another rather memorable person and decided that you might also enjoy hearing about **Mrs. Brown**. If you look closely at the folks around you, sooner or later a characteristic stands out that makes some of them uniquely more memorable than others.

There is an important connection between the struggling family I described to you earlier (the Hubers) and another more recent arrival (the Browns) (not their real names of course). The Browns purchased the old Huber place and later became our good friends.

Both of these families made their home for several years on the same farm, actually residing in the same old farmhouse. But, their times in residence were separated by a couple of decades. The Huber family arrived in the early 1940s. The Brown family became our neighbors in the mid 1950s and stayed through most of the 1960s.

Our interactions with both of these families generated many fine memories before they both eventually moved on. If you haven't already done so, you might want to review the story about the Hubers, especially about Mr. Huber's novel idea about heating his big drafty farmhouse.

In some ways, the Browns were nearly direct opposites to the Hubers. Mr. Brown was a professional architect and had a business office in downtown Baltimore. His business partner was a professional engineer. With so much expertise available, the Browns had soon renovated and upgraded their old farmhouse, even added modern a/c, since the days that it had been the home of the Hubers.

Mr. Brown even offered to design a new house for Mother and Dad to replace a former tenant house that had burned in the early 1950s. Dad accepted his offer, and part of that house, now greatly upgraded, is occupied by our daughter and son-in-law and their family.

Mrs. Brown was very artistically inclined. Her responsibilities on their modest farm was pretty much limited to housekeeping and making sure that the grounds were maintained at a level consistent with what she believed to be her family's "station" in the community. But there were a couple of her projects that she became quite well known for around the community.

One project involved some rather unusual, yet not unattractive, "jewelry" that she designed and created. She used to come by our house every week or so to replenish her supply of fresh eggs which she purchased from Mother. We'll elaborate on her unusual project later on.

Mrs. Brown was a very gifted, fun-loving person. You never knew for sure just what she might be thinking or going to say when she arrived at your door. Not being a farm girl herself, she was determined to fit in with her new rural neighbors.

Having decided that a farm really should have some animals on it to make it legitimate, initially, she attempted raising chickens and marketing their surplus eggs. Mr. Brown had even designed and built a huge two-story chicken house behind their home. The concrete block structure was sturdily built and featured expensive poured concrete floors on both levels.

It wasn't long before Mrs. Brown decided that poultry production just wasn't going to work out. Hens that were old enough to regularly lay eggs were by nature, messy creatures. They tended to be dirty and excitable whenever she entered the chicken house and surprised them. Beating their wings, they flew around and raised huge clouds of dust and feathers making normal breathing difficult.

Frequently, when Mary visited the nests to collect eggs, she sometimes found an old hen stubbornly sitting on the nest and protectively covering her

clutch of eggs. The hen resented being disturbed by Mary when she reached under her for the eggs. To protect what she thought were rightfully hers; the hen sometimes pecked at Mary's probing hand with her sharp beak, often adding a little twist with her head for more effect. Although this action hardly ever drew blood, Mary was always startled when the hen pulled that trick. Rather than being more aggressive, Mary angrily cursed the hen, and then walked away leaving the hen on the nest with her eggs. So, the Brown's egg production hit new record lows. It soon became apparent that the chicken/egg production project was not going to be a successful endeavor anytime in the near future on the Brown "Farm".

But Mary was optimistic about making her forty-acre "heavenly" corner of Howard County into a real farm, one that would be profitable. That next summer, while reviewing some of the various options that she might still have open, she remembered how Dad had given her another idea, a resource that she, having been raised in the city, would never have thought of on her own—And that was to another hazard was that it was only natural that from time to time, they would encounter poison ivy growing with the blackberries. On that first day of picking, it wasn't long before harvest the wild, juicy blackberries already growing on her farm. Dad explained to her how during the blackberry season, he would take off a few hours whenever he could find free time away from the cows, and do some "black berrying".

Surely, Mary thought, some of her good friends would enjoy receiving fresh, tasty blackberries from her farm. And they would be almost totally free for her to harvest because they were already available in plentiful quantities. Extensive patches of wild blackberries already thrived along the edges of her fields and along the edges of the woods. All that was needed on her part was to find the time to pick them. She had plenty of time. And she also had two young sons who she was confident could be recruited to help with the picking aspect. They could help her out and it would be a great family project. It would be good for them both physically and mentally – getting plenty of fresh air and exercise. What a great idea! It was a perfect "fit" for her and her young family.

But, this idea was short-lived because she discovered that there were some other problems that she had not considered, problems that took some of the gloss off of the "rosy" picture that she had painted for herself. The one big negative aspect was that the wild blackberry bushes were covered with sharp clinging thorns. That first time they ventured out to pick berries, the family discovered that unless they enjoyed being covered with numerous painful scratches, they needed to wear heavy shoes, heavy thick trousers and a long-sleeved shirt.

The three of them were bleeding from their thorny scratches, and their arms and legs were itching from unavoidable contacts with the poison ivy. The first few hours of blackberry picking ended without even coming close to filling their shiny new tin berry buckets.

But, the event that brought the whole blackberry picking project to a halt was something else that none of the family had yet even considered – the possibility that there just might be a snake or two hidden down in the undergrowth where the pickers might accidentally step on one, or even up higher in the vines, wrapped around some part of the bush itself, perched right next to the berries.

The first time that Mary reached for a cluster of beautiful prize-winning blackberries, only to find a small snake, probably a harmless garter snake, resting comfortably next to the berries, she almost dropped her tin bucket as she frantically backed away in a panic. Although encountering a poisonous snake in this part of Howard County would be a rarity, Mary still didn't like the idea of having to deal with ANY kind of snake. And in her hasty retreat out of the blackberry patch, she added a significant number of bloody scratches to her partially exposed limbs. So, the blackberry project abruptly came to an end.

Convinced now that there were just too many unknowns to deal with in the woods and fields, Mary decided that from now on, she would stay closer to their renovated farmhouse where it was more unlikely that she would encounter a snake or other unwelcome wildlife hazard. She decided to use her artistic skills to paint and decorate their new farm wagon. All real farms have at least one

wagon for hauling crops in from the fields. The family had also just recently acquired a shiny new tractor that was going to be just perfect for pulling the new wagon.

The tractor was a brand new Allis-Chalmers model "CA". It was a small tractor, but modern in every respect for its day. It had the convenience of hydraulics, spin-out rear wheels and live PTO. The new tractor was equipped with a 2-bottom plow and a mower for cutting hay. It was perfect. The family believed that they could really be farmers now, except for one thing. Their new wagon should somehow identify with their farm. Mary, being a gifted artist, decided to take care of this deficiency. It was easy to decorate the wagon with the farm's name and some original artistry. On each side of the wagon, in a flowery hand, she painted her farm's new name – **Friendly Farm**. The words were enhanced with colorful flowers, and some small, happy Walt Disney-cartoon animals.

Now trying to utilize more of her artistic talents, instead of farming, the Brown family did eventually stock their farm with a small flock of sheep. The sheep were gentle, and were a perfect fit for **Friendly Farm**. A helpful neighbor across the road gave them free advice and helped with the shearing. But, our memory of those sheep is a little different from what you might expect – unless you knew Mary Brown.

One day she stopped by our farm to buy some fresh eggs. Marilyn and Mother noticed that Mary had a rather attractive necklace looped around her neck and they complimented her highly on it. Mary laughed and said, "I made it myself. The "beads" are actually dried and varnished fresh sheep manure pellets. There are lots of them out in the sheep pasture. I collected and strung them myself. Do you like my new necklace? I can make you one too."

Announcements

❖ The Maryland Farm Bureau's Washington Drive-In Wednesday, March 18, 2015

~ Our annual Washington Drive-In will take place on Wednesday, March 18th, with a day-long trip to our Nation's Capital. We will start with a half-day of briefings and discussions at the headquarters of the American Farm Bureau Federation and then head to Capital Hill to visit our elected Representatives and Senators. We will conclude the day with dinner at the district ChopHouse & Brewery.

Tentative Schedule:

- 6:45 am Bus Departs from Salisbury
- 7:30 am Bus Departs from Easton and 2nd Bus Departs Frederick
- 8:15 am Buses stop in Davidsonville & Gaithersburg
- 9:30-10 am Buses arrive at the American Farm Bureau Federation offices
- 10:00 am, Legislative Issue Briefings by AFBF Staff
- 12:00 pm Lunch at AFBF w/ time to prepare for afternoon Hill meetings
- 1:30-4:30 pm Meet with Congressional Offices
- 4:45 pm Load buses for transport to dinner location
- 5:15 pm Dinner at the District ChopHouse & Brewery
- 7:00 pm Buses Depart Washington D.C.
- 7:30-9:00 pm Buses drop off participants at Davidsonville, Gaithersburg, Frederick, Easton, and Salisbury

The 2015 Drive-In is a one-day event to help hold down the cost to Farm Bureau members who give their time and energy to travel to Washington to lobby on behalf of the more than 36,000 members or our organization. Maryland Farm Bureau has also contributed to the cost of this event through the annual budget process.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – Wednesday February 18, 2015, Registration form is attached! Contact Matt Teffeau at (410) 924-4525.

❖ 2014-2015 Farm Trucking Forums

~ 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?

January 19th: Harford County- Level Fire Hall-
9:30-11:30 a.m.- Snow Date: January 26th

February 2nd: Queen Anne's County- 4-H Park-
9:30-11:30 a.m.- Snow Date:
February 9th

February 16th: Washington County Ag Center-
9:30-11:30 a.m.- Snow Date:
February 23rd

Donuts and coffee will be served. For more information, contact Matt Tefteau at Matt.mdfb@verizon.net or 410-924-4525

Calendar of Events

2015

**JAN 12-15 AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION
SAN DIEGO, CA**

**JAN 14 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER
TRAINING**

Place Carroll County Extension Office,
Westminster, MD

Time 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
*Call (410) 386-2760 to register

**JAN 22 HOWARD COUNTY AGRI-BUSINESS
"BREAKFAST FOR DINNER"**

Place Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds
Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD

Time 7:00 p.m.

**JAN 23 CENTRAL MARYLAND VEGETABLE
GROWERS MEETING**

Place Friendly Farms,
17434 Foreston Rd., Upperco, MD.

Time 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
*Cost is \$15 ahead of time or \$25 at the door. Call to register at (410) 771-1761 or email eblake@amd.edu

**JAN 29 HOWARD SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT (HSCD) OPEN HOUSE**

Place HSCD Office
14735 Frederick Road, Cooksville, MD
21723

Time 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**FEB 5 PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR
CERTIFICATION TRAINING**

Place Carroll County Extension Office, 700
Agricultural Center,
Westminster, MD 21157

Time 10:00 a.m. to Noon
*Call: 410-386-2760 to Register.

FEB 12 PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TEST

Place Carroll County Extension Office, 700
Agricultural Center,
Westminster, MD 21157

Time 10:00 a.m. to Noon
*Call: 410-386-2760 to Register.

FEB 13-16 AFBF FUSION CONFERENCE

Place Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, TN
*Contact MD Farm Bureau office for Info

FEB 18 "DAY IN ANNAPOLIS"

Place Governor Calvert House
58 State Street, Annapolis, MD
Time 8:15 a.m.
*Registration Form Attached!

FEB 28 2015 MARYLAND DAIRY CONVENTION

Place FSK Holiday Inn and Conference Center,
Frederick, MD
*GoTo: <http://marylanddairyindustry.org/> to Register or Call 301-349-0750

MAR 4 PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION

Place Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agricultural Center,
Westminster, MD 21157
Time 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
*Call: 410-386-2760 to Register.

MAR 11 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER TRAINING

Place Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agricultural Center,
Westminster, MD 21157
Time 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
*Call: 410-386-2760 to Register.

MAR 17 MID-WINTER AG MEETING

Place Gary J. Arthur Glenwood Community Center
2400 Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723
Time 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
*Free. RSVP to (410) 313-0680

MAR 18 THE MARYLAND FARM BUREAU'S WASHINGTON DRIVE-IN

*Registration Deadline-Wednesday, February 18, 2015. Contact Matt Tefteau at (410) 924-4525

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

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

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

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

OCT 03 AGNR OPEN HOUSE

Place University of MD Central Maryland Research and Education Center,
Clarksville Facility, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD
Time 10:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.
*For Information visit:
www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu

[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 person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Howard County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application
Deadline February 25, 2013

Name:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Parents/Guardians:

High School:

Date of Graduation:

High School GPA:

College of Choice/Trade school:

Major/Trade:

List Three References:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Name:

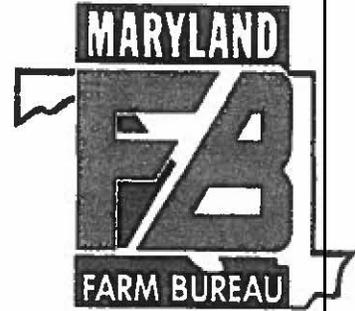
Address:

Phone:



Maryland Farm Bureau's Day-In-Annapolis

Sponsored by the MFB Women
& MFB Young Farmers



Wednesday, February 18, 2015

On Wednesday, February 18, 2015, the Young Farmers' and the Women's Committees will jointly sponsor our annual Day-In-Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The Day-In-Annapolis is timed to bring you to the State House at a very critical time during the 90-day session – a time when Committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

The day will begin with a legislative briefing by the MFB Government Relations staff, followed by a chance to sit in on the legislative session. A hot luncheon at the Calvert House will bring together farmers and legislators from across the state as all legislators will be invited to attend. With so many new legislatures in the General Assembly, we need now, more than ever, to educate our representatives on the value of agriculture to this state. This is a great opportunity to talk to the Senators and Delegates from your area and to help folks from the city districts better understand your farming business. With so many new faces and so many significant issues facing our industry your attendance this year is as important as ever!

Please join us for a very valuable day in our state capital. Our goal is to have representation from every county in the state. We look forward to seeing you in Annapolis on February 18, 2015!

Schedule of Events

- 8:15am - Meet in Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle
- 8:30am - Legislative Briefing by MFB Government Relations Staff
- 9:45am - Gather in lobby of the State House to greet legislators arriving for session
- 10:00am - Sit in on Senate or House sessions
- 11:45am - Lunch back at the Governor Calvert House located at 58 State Circle
- 1:00pm - Visit Committee hearings, stop by legislative offices or head back to the car

Parking and Directions on Reverse

clip & mail

Registration Form

Deadline – January 30, 2015

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

County Farm Bureau: _____

Registration fee is \$30 per person, which partially covers the cost of the event. Please include the payment with your registration.

If you are registering your entire county delegation, please list a primary contact person with address and the names of the other participants. All confirmation information will be sent to the primary contact.

Please mail or fax your registration to:
 Maryland Farm Bureau
 8930 Liberty Road
 Randallstown, MD 21133

Fax: 410-922-6871
 Phone: 410-922-3426

Washington Drive-In

Registration Form

Registration Deadline- Wednesday February 18, 2015

Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

County Farm Bureau: _____

Phone: _____

Check the location where you will catch the bus:

_____ *Salisbury @ the Cooperative
Extension Office*

_____ *Frederick @Fairgrounds*

_____ *Easton @ the Ag Center off Rt. 50*

_____ *Gaithersburg @ the Montgomery
County Fairgrounds*

_____ *Davidsonville @ MFB
Headquarters*

_____ *I will be driving to Washington*

The Registration Fee for each participant is \$##.##. This fee covers roundtrip bus transportation to Washington, Lunch at AFBF & Dinner at the District ChopHouse. Maryland Farm Bureau has contributed 40% of the cost per participant to reduce the rate to \$##.## for 2015.

Total Number of Participants: _____ Total Registration Fee Due _____ :

Please enclose a check for registration or include your Visa or MasterCard account information below:

Acct.# _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____ :

Signature if charging _____ :

Please mail registration to: Maryland Farm Bureau, 3358 Davidsonville Rd. Davidsonville, MD 21035. All participants will receive confirmation information with exact bus pickup directions approximately 1 week prior to the event. If you have any question please call Matt Tefteau at (410) 924-4525.