



# NEWSLETTER

## FCFB 2026 Calendar

### Upcoming Events

**February 4**  
Day in Annapolis

**February 14**  
Legislative Day  
9am at New Midway Fire Hall

**February 25**  
NRCS Conservation Day  
New Midway Fire Hall

**March 26**  
Spring Banquet  
7pm at Jefferson Ruritan Hall

**April 15**  
Spring Luncheon  
11:30am at New Midway  
Fire Hall

**July 15**  
Summer Picnic  
6pm at Mount Tabor Park

**September 3**  
Smart Soil Farm Tour

**September 18-26**  
The Great Frederick Fair

**October 16**  
Annual Meeting  
New Midway Fire Hall

**November 13**  
Women's Leadership Bingo  
New Midway Fire Hall

**December 5-8**  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Annual Meeting  
Cambridge, MD

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

DAVID BURRIER

I would like to wish our Farm Bureau members a Happy New Year. Each new year brings new hope and new opportunities to engage in our priorities to keep our industry and our organization strong.

Our top priority remains property rights, which have been tested this past year. In the 2025 Maryland session, there were severe budget cuts affecting agriculture today and our future.

Our governor cut deep into farmland preservation funds as well as our successful cover crop program funds to balance his budget. The Farm Bureau worked and lobbied on every bill that challenged agriculture.

We also remain at the forefront of opposing the MPRP powerline. We remain committed to defeating this project and continue to explore alternate opportunities for the transmission and generation of power. This project will negatively impact many Frederick County farms.

It is of no benefit to Maryland's self-induced power crisis nor does Frederick County receive any power from the proposed powerline.

Frederick County Farm Bureau also put an enormous effort into the data center bill enacted by our County Council. From the very beginning we engaged to protect our Rural Legacy and our Priority Preservation Acres from being included in the overlay zone.

The County Council voted to enlarge the overlay zone without any regard for our concerns. We feel this sets a dangerous precedent to future county proposals and therefore the future of our industry is very much challenged. We will continue to meet with our county officials to voice our concerns and to diligently advocate for our members to preserve our local agriculture industry.

At our annual meeting in October, Denny Ogg and Jarrod Burall were reappointed to the board of directors. Newly appointed board members were Beth Ahalt and Robert Black.

We have a strong board who works tirelessly on relationships with our legislators at all levels of government, enabling us to have a voice at the table.

At the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in December, Frederick County had another highly successful year. We worked diligently on our policy proposals affecting our county. Six of the proposed policies were adopted and can now be used by the Maryland Farm Bureau lobbyist in the upcoming legislative session.

Frederick County also received an Activities of Excellence Award for our Safety Fair at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Thank you to all the committee chairs and members for their hard work in our activities, putting together another successful year.

*President's Update  
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## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE CONTINUED

DAVID BURRIER

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Looking ahead to 2026, we have several great opportunities to meet our elected officials. Our day to meet our legislators in Annapolis is February 4th. This has been a successful opportunity to meet our legislators and get a snapshot of upcoming legislation. The Taste of Maryland Ag Dinner is February 5th, which enables us to meet one-on-one with our representatives and discuss our industry's concerns.

The Frederick County Legislative Day is February 14th at New Midway Fire Hall. There we will meet with our county officials and the members of the Board of Education in the morning, and our State and National officials in the afternoon. Every Farm Bureau member is encouraged to attend this event and participate in discussions on pending legislation. As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, we are committed to showcasing our rich agricultural heritage. It is so important to tell the story of our past and exemplify the role of agriculture in our future.

We are known as a grassroots organization, which translates into all our efforts begin with our county members. As we collaborate with our legislators, we see the disconnect with agriculture growing wider as each generation is further removed from any type of agriculture. This concern makes our membership the key to our organization's success now and in the future. Each and every Farm Bureau member needs to stand proud and tell our story to whatever audience we may be addressing. Please encourage family members, friends, and neighbors to join Farm Bureau, and please engage in any activity your schedule may allow. Also, if any member has a concern, please contact any board member or officer with your question or comments. Through good communication, we need to keep Farm Bureau "The Voice of Agriculture".

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## 5TH ANNUAL DIGGING DEEPER INTO SOIL HEALTH

The Frederick County Soil Conservation District invites farmers, landowners, and conservation partners to their annual Digging Deeper event.

- **When:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026
- **Registration:** 8:00am
- **Program:** 8:30am—3pm
- **Where:** New Midway Volunteer Fire Company

Get ready to dive into the fascinating world of soil health and learn from experts in the field. Discover innovative techniques, practical tips, and the latest research on how to improve soil health.

### Three Speakers:

- **Austin Unruh, CEO of Trees for Graziers:** See how silvopasture helps build healthier herds and landscapes with Trees for Graziers.
- **Dr. Amanda Grev:** Learn why shade matters for livestock in Maryland's hot and humid climate as Dr. Amanda Grev explores smart alternatives beyond trees.
- **Andrew Sekellick & Alex Soroka:** U.S. Geological Survey explains what water testing reveals about best management practice effectiveness and stream health.

Certified Crop Advisor and MD Nutrient Management continuing education credits are AVAILABLE!  
**RSVP by February 11 [online at Eventbrite](#) or call 301-383-8782.**

## 2026 Officers & Directors

**President:** David Burrier  
9005 Clemsonville Rd  
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443-340-9591  
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eric@linganorewines.com

**2nd Vice President:** Bill Allen  
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billallengr@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Kelsey Maslen  
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**Treasurer:** Joann Harshman  
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Derrick Zimmerman | 240-315-4012  
zimmermand@yahoo.com

**Women's Committee Chair:**  
Connie Palmer | 301-639-4668  
palmercj3@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor:** Morgan Figgins  
mfiggins@horizonfc.com

### 2026 Directors

Scott Montgomery	240-674-1240
Tom Ripley	240-674-6447
Denny Ramsburg	301-639-2740
Tom Barse	240-401-1517

### 2027 Directors

Brian Sweeney	240-446-5146
Lisa Gaver	301-305-2800
John Zimmerman	240-439-9309
Amy Jo Poffenberger	301-676-6732

### 2028 Directors

Beth Ahalt	240-694-8135
Robert Black	240-409-7491
Jarrod Burall	443-277-0089
Denny Ogg	301-748-6559

### Past President:

Denny Remsburg | 240-675-6378

**MD Farm Bureau Western Region**  
**Field Manager:** Kendall Abruzzese  
240-405-6988  
kabruzzese@marylandfb.org

## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP REPORT

CONNIE PALMER

Happy New Year from the Frederick County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee! As we begin 2026, we celebrate a successful year of activities and community support.

Our committee met on October 6, 2025, with updates on the Spring Luncheon, Farmer & Farmerette Contest, Ambassador Contest, participation in The Great Frederick Fair, and final planning for the Annual Bingo Fundraiser.

### Annual Bingo Fundraiser

Our November 14 fundraiser at the New Midway Fire Hall was our most successful since 2016. Proceeds supported scholarships, local food banks, Farm Safety Camp, the Ambassador Contest, the MAEF Agricultural Trailer, and other agricultural education projects. Thank you to all sponsors and volunteers.

### Annual Volunteer Luncheon

On December 1, we honored 29 volunteers at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant with lunch, entertainment, and a remembrance for Evelyn Wilcom.

### Maryland Farm Bureau Ambassador Contest

On December 6, our Ambassador, Lizzie Schuebel, competed among 14 contestants. Her interviews, roundtable participation, and final speech were outstanding, and she represented Frederick County well.

### Maryland Women's Leadership Annual Meeting

Held December 7, the meeting included a business session, an "Agri-Women in Agriculture" panel featuring past honorees, a memorial for Evelyn Wilcom, and the appointment of Leslie Lenhart as District 1 Representative.

### Community Support

Following the success of the Bingo fundraiser and in response to the government shutdown, the committee donated an additional \$200 to each of nine food banks and \$200 to Ronald McDonald House.

### January 8 Meeting Recap

Fifteen board members attended the first meeting of 2026. The committee confirmed that the Ambassador Contest will take place on July 9, 2026, at 6pm in The Great Frederick Fair meeting room, while the Farmer & Farmerette Contest will continue to be held at the annual picnic. Members also approved Women's Leadership administering four \$1,000 scholarships this year—three agricultural and one non-agricultural. Applicants do not need to be Farm Bureau members, though preference will be given to those who are.

We also launched "Meet the Member Monday," a weekly member spotlight. Follow the [Frederick County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee on Facebook](#) to stay connected.

A huge thank you to all members for your continued support and dedication.

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## LEGISLATIVE DAY

DAVID BURRIER

Legislative Day will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the New Midway Fire Hall. Soup and sandwiches will be provided for lunch.

This is a great opportunity to have one-on-one dialogue with our representatives from the county, state, and national levels, as well as members from our school board. I encourage all members to come participate, engage, and educate our representatives about our concerns.

Please contact David Burrier for any additional questions at 443-340-9591 or [burrierfarmsred@gmail.com](mailto:burrierfarmsred@gmail.com).

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## SPRING BANQUET

LAURA RAMSBURG

The Spring Meeting for the Frederick Country Farm Bureau will be held on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Jefferson Ruritan Hall at 6:45 pm. The evening's dinner will be turkey and shrimp. Cost is \$22.00 per person. For questions regarding reservations please contact Laura Ramsburg at 301-712-7499 or [jdlar@aol.com](mailto:jdlar@aol.com)

Registration deadline is **MARCH 11th**. RSVP form is available below.

RESERVATION FOR FREDERICK COUNTRY FARM BUREAU SPRING BANQUET  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26th  
JEFFERSON RURITAN HALL

DEADLINE: **MARCH 11, 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ \$22.00/person= \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Laura Ramsburg, 9400B Dublin Road, Walkersville, MD 21793

Laura Ramsburg

Please make checks payable to: **Frederick County Farm Bureau**

@Laura-Ramsburg-1

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PAY VIA "VENMO"**

<https://account.venmo.com/u/Laura-Ramsburg-1>

Please include in the comment section on Venmo: name and number attending. Deadline: **March 11, 2026**



FREDERICK COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

**PRESENTS**

**WOMEN IN AG:  
HEARTLAND OF AMERICA**



**CELEBRATING 250 YEARS**



**APRIL 15, 2026**  
LUNCH SERVED AT NOON

New Midway Fire Hall



FOR RESERVATIONS CALL OR EMAIL  
LESLIE LENHART  
240-469-5880 OR  
FREDERICKCOUNTYFBW@GMAIL.COM  
BY APRIL 8, 2026



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