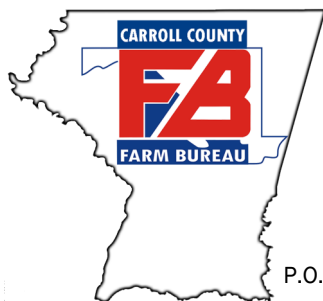


2026
issue



Carroll County Farm Bureau Newsletter

P.O. Box 547 New Windsor, MD 21776 // 410-857-5503 // ccmdfarmbureau@gmail.com

CARROLL COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Clas
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Celebrating the Farmers and Ranchers Who Feed America's Families. Yesterday. Today.

The history of the United States is written in every row of crops, pasture and dairy barn from sea to sea. The American Farm Bureau Federation is marking the nation's 250th anniversary through FARM 250, a celebration of the contributions of America's farmers in helping to grow America into the nation it is today.

- Feeding Families
- Advancing Innovation
- Rural resilience
- Mindful Stewardship

From the original colonists, who traveled to the new world and discovered fertile lands, to the modern farmer who uses satellite technology and automated tools to feed families nationwide, America's success starts at the farm gate.

FEEDING FAMILIES

The United States is an agricultural powerhouse. Farms across the country produce the equivalent of more than 5 million pounds of crops and animal products every minute! That's more than 54 million semi truckloads. Put another way, if the food, fiber and fuel U.S. farmers produce each year were liquefied to roughly the density of water, it would fill nearly 500,000 Olympic-

sized swimming pools.

You might be surprised to learn that almost all of the food grown in the U.S. comes from family-owned farms. In fact, of the 1.9 million farms stretching across the country, 97% of them are family owned.

The tradition of farming dates back to our nation's founding. In the late 1700's, approximately 90% of the population worked as farmers. The United States as it is shaped today is due in large part to farming. The desire for more farmland drove the nation's expansion as families searched for the fertile fields that would help create their American dream.

Growing the food, fiber and fuel America's families rely on is a monumental responsibility. Today, less than two percent of Americans work on the farm, yet they are able to grow an abundant food supply that the remaining 98% of America's families rely on. We're fortunate – we spend a smaller percentage of our disposable income on food than anywhere else on earth.

On average, one U.S. farm feeds 169 people annually. The challenge of supplying enough food for everyone continues to grow. The global population is expected to increase by 1.8 billion by 2050, which means the world's farmers will have to increase total annual grain production by almost 1 billion tons and total meat production by more than 200 million tons to ensure we have enough food for everyone.

ADVANCING INNOVATION

From GPS guided planting to robotic milking machines, and from sprayers that can target a single weed in a field of crops to vertical greenhouses, farmers are using cutting edge technology to grow food for America's families.

America has a rich history of innovation, dating back to the beginning of our nation.

Article continued on next page

The 1831 invention of the McCormick Reaper in Virginia sped up the ability to cut grain. The first working combine was patented in 1836, an invention of Hiram Moore and John Hascall of Michigan. In 1892, John Froelich of Iowa invented the first successful gasoline-powered tractor. Gone were the days when farmers had to plant or harvest many crops by hand. This meant one person could do in minutes what previously took a team all day to accomplish.

To help entrepreneurs grow their ideas into products, Farm Bureau developed a first of its kind competition more than a decade ago called Ag Innovation Challenge to serve as an accelerator exclusively for rural inventors delivering solutions for farmers. The 2026 winner, FarmMind, offers an AI assistant to automate a farm's back-office paperwork and optimize finances.

It's not just tools that separate today's farmers from their predecessors. Advancements in sustainability are helping farmers grow more food while using less water, fertilizer and land. Cover crops and no-till farming preserve important nutrients in the soil and help trap carbon underground. Rotational grazing keeps livestock from depleting vegetation. Conservation buffers reduce runoff, keeping fertilizer and pesticides on farm fields and away from waterways.

Continuing to make advancements in agriculture is critical to the future success of America's farmers. Unfortunately, investment in publicly funded agriculture research – the engine of innovation – is on the decline. In fact, China and the European Union now outspend the United States in publicly funded agricultural research. Farm programs, which include research, typically cost each American just pennies per meal and account for less than one-half of 1% of the total U.S. budget – a worthy and relatively small investment for an abundant food supply. The private sector continues to find ways to invest in innovation, but more resources are needed to keep American agriculture on the cutting edge.

RURAL RESILIENCE

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MINDFUL STEWARDSHIP

Farmers take seriously the responsibility to care for the resources they've been entrusted with. Advancements in conservation practices have enabled farmers to do more with less while working to achieve sustainability goals. In fact, it would have taken 100 million more acres just 30 years ago to match the production of farms today.

Progress is often driven by challenges. One of the most well-known challenges happened almost a hundred years ago when America suffered through the dust bowl of the 1930's. The natural disaster reshaped agriculture to focus on the protection of natural resources, in addition to production. It led to the creation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Act, now known as the farm bill.

Farmers today are dedicated to practices that protect the soil, preserve water, and reduce reliance on fertilizers and pesticides. Regenerative agriculture is a popular term for practices farmers have been employing for decades. Just in the past 40 years, careful stewardship by farmers and ranchers has spurred a 34% decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water.

More than 150,000 farms use renewable energy producing systems, which more than doubled in a decade. U.S. agriculture contributes just 10% of all greenhouse gas emissions in America, lower than many other sectors in the American economy.

More than half of America's farmers intentionally provide habitat for wildlife. These efforts have contributed to population increases in native wildlife such as deer, moose and certain species of birds. Farmers are committed to continued improvements into the next generation, which can be furthered by voluntary, market-based programs that advance both environmental sustainability and the economic sustainability of farmers.

Article sourced from [FARM 250 | American Farm Bureau Federation](#)

CCFB Annual Banquet and Meeting



will be coming to your emails and mailboxes in August!

will be Tuesday,
October 13
Pleasant Valley
Fire Hall
6:15pm
Delicious Meal,
Fellowship,
Auction, and a
Guest Speaker!
Invitations and
Reservation Forms

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to spring—finally!

After a long, drawn-out winter featuring bone-chilling cold and some snow, we have made it through. During this time, our board has been busy taking care of business vital to our livelihood.

Following the state convention in early December, where policies were reviewed, amended, and added, we rolled right into January, when we met with legislators. At that well-attended meeting, we had a casual conversation as well as a panel discussion with our current representatives. Moving forward, we nominated a candidate evaluation committee to interview and assess candidates running for office, asking questions related to the best interests of our organization.

The session in Annapolis was beneficial for the Farm Bureau this year, with many of our supported bills passing and opposing bills being defeated. Thank you to all who went to Annapolis in person or contacted legislators directly.

Our most recent event was the Sportsman's Gun Raffle, held in conjunction with the Ag Center. The event was well attended, and we are looking forward to next year. I would like to thank the members and volunteers who made it a success. In future board meetings, we look forward to meeting with our county commissioners to reinforce and prioritize our concerns.

Have a happy and safe planting season, everyone!

Dave Clas
Carroll County Farm Bureau President



CARROLL COUNTY AGRIBUSINESS BREAKFAST

Join us for our ongoing discussions about agriculture in Carroll County!

The first Thursday of every month from 8am-9am at Baugher's Restaurant,
289 West Main Street, Westminster, MD 21158

All are invited to join us. If interested, please RSVP to dhare@carrollcountymd.gov

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

Name	Position	Geographical Representation	Phone	Email
Dave Clas	President		410-746-5422	daveclas22@gmail.com
Gary Dell	Vice President		410-984-1723	gcdell522@gmail.com
Brooks Bachtel	District 1 Director	That part of Carroll County west of Route 97 and north of Route 26	443-340-4419	brobachtel@hotmail.com
Greg Dell	District 2 Director	That part of Carroll County east of Route 97 and north of Route 26	443-487-7239	gmdell1156@gmail.com
Michael Harrison, Jr	District 3 Director	That part of Carroll County south of Route 26	410-206-9118	michael.harrisonjr@bayer.com
Jason Watt	At Large Director MDFB District 2 Director	Carroll, Howard and Montgomery Counties	443-277-6891	jason.watt8310@gmail.com
Elizabeth Devilbiss	At Large Director		410-610-1138	egdevilbiss@gmail.com
Mary Rasche	Woman's Leadership		410-984-5489	maryarasche@gmail.com
Michael Nickoles	Young Farmers Chair		443-992-0072	mikejr@mechsys.com
Ashley Barber	Secretary/Treasurer		410-857-5503	ccmdfarmbureau@gmail.com
Howie Feaga	MDFB District 2 Director	Carroll, Howard and Montgomery Counties		howie@merryacresfarm.com

DON'T MISS OUT THIS SUMMER

2026 Maryland Fairs

Talbot July 9-10 **Allegany** July 17-25 **Washington** July 18-25 **Baltimore** July 14-18

Kent July 15-18 **Cecil** July 24-Aug. 1 **Harford** July 18-25 **Somerset** July 24-26

Carroll July 31-Aug. 8 **Garrett** Aug. 1-6 **Howard** Aug. 8-15 **Caroline/Dorchester** Aug. 5-8 **Worcester** Aug. 7-9

Montgomery Aug. 14-22 **Queen Anne's** Aug. 10-15 **Wicomico** Aug. 14-16 **Anne Arundel** Sept. 16-20

Charles Sept. 17-20 **Frederick** Sept. 18-26 **St. Mary's** Sept. 24-27 **Calvert** Sept. 30-Oct. 4



MARYLAND
PORK PRODUCERS

Maryland State Fair
Aug. 27-30 | Sept. 3-7
Sept. 10-13

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU'S
YOUNG FARMERS SUMMER PICNIC

FEATURING LUKE BORCHELT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU **YFR**

JUNE 6TH 2026
ANNE ARUNDEL CO.
FARM TOURS • FOOD • CONCERT

*CONCERT ONLY TICKETS AVAILABLE

CARROLL COUNTY YOUNG FARMERS ROAST SHINES IN THE BALTIMORE SUN



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY 16, 2027 FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL BULL & OYSTER

SOURCE: www.baltimoresun.com/2026/01/17/young-farmers-bull-and-oyster-roast-photos/ (Thomas Walker/Freelance)

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*1/8 of a page-\$25.00 (Business Card)

*1/4 of a page-\$50.00

*1/2 of a page-\$100.00

*Full Page - \$200.00

All prices are per newsletter

If you are interested in an advertisement please contact Ashley Barber at ccmdfarmbureau@gmail.com.

Our newsletter is delivered to over 600 members bi-annually!

Inquire TODAY!

CCFB YOUNG FARMERS

Hello everyone! I hope everybody is having a great start to their year! In the past year the Young Farmers have done many great things and are always building towards the future! We have volunteered at countless events and hosted some of our own. We had another successful Bull and Oyster Roast and would like to thank everybody who attended and contributed it is greatly appreciated. RK Catering and Mad House Oysters did an amazing job with the food and we plan to use them again next year. Another awesome thing we did was tour the Colonial Pipeline facility in Woodbine. It's incredible the things that we have in our backyard! As always if anybody is interested in joining the Young Farmers or would like to get involved we are always looking for new members! Hopefully everyone has a healthy and prosperous spring and fall!

- Mike Nickoles, CCFB YF Chair

A Year in Action: Carroll County Farm Bureau

Behind the scenes and in the public spotlight, Carroll County Farm Bureau has spent the past year advocating for agriculture, supporting the community, and strengthening connections across the county and state. From legislative meetings and educational outreach to fairs, conventions, and community service, members stayed busy making agriculture visible and represented.

Here's a look back at the past year in action.

May 2025

Volunteers from the Women's Committee participated in Ag-Venture, a program hosted by Carroll County Extension that introduces every Carroll County fourth grader to agriculture and the farming community.

May also marked the beginning of Carroll County Farm Bureau's participation in the Downtown Westminster Farmers Market. Throughout the summer and fall, volunteers staffed an "Ask a Farmer" booth on the second Saturday of each month, giving market-goers the opportunity to connect directly with local farmers and learn more about agriculture.



Dave Clas and Gary Dell stand behind the new "Ask a Farmer" booth at the Downtown Westminster Farmers Market

June 2025

Board Vice President Gary Dell began meeting with the Carroll County Planning & Zoning Commission as Farm Bureau's representative on the Agriculture Work Group, one of three County Master Plan committees formed to explore challenges and opportunities related to agriculture, housing, and the economy. The group's goal is to help shape future recommendations and ensure agriculture continues to have a voice in county planning decisions.

July 2025



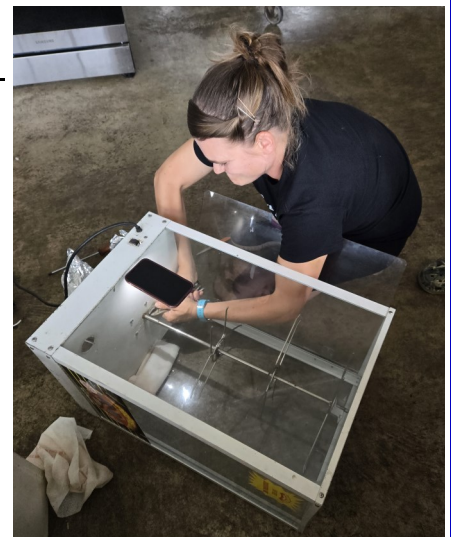
Dave Clas and Mike Nickoles present the Young Farmers Sponsored "Big Check" awards to the Outdoor Department Champions at the Fair.

Fair season brought one of the busiest months of the year.

Board President Dave Clas attended a district meeting with Maryland Farm Bureau leadership and fellow county presidents to discuss statewide agricultural priorities and collaboration between county organizations.

At the Carroll County Fair, Farm Bureau members volunteered throughout the week in the food stand while also hosting Farm Bureau Night at the Fair with 39 North and the Farmer Olympics. The Young Farmers and Women's Committee sponsored champion awards across the fairgrounds, continuing their support of local youth and agriculture.

Ag Ambassador Eli Barber stayed especially busy throughout the week — participating in Touch-a-Truck, assisting with the Pedal Pull, handing out awards, helping with photos, and volunteering at numerous events.



Beth Devilbiss fixes the pretzel warmer while volunteering in the Fair Food Stand.

Greg Dell and young volunteers test run the Farmer Olympics course at Farm Bureau Night at the Fair.



August 2025

The Young Farmers continued supporting Maryland agriculture by volunteering in the ice cream stand at the Maryland State Fair.

September 2025

Dave Clas attended the Maryland Farm Bureau Council of Presidents meeting in Washington, D.C., where county leaders met with legislators, discussed agricultural issues, and participated in leadership training.

October 2025

After months of discussion and meetings beginning in early September, the Board finalized policy resolutions to present to members at the Annual Banquet and Meeting.

Meanwhile, Ag Ambassador Eli Barber attended Maryland Farm Bureau Ag Ambassador Orientation, networking with ambassadors from across the state and gaining leadership experience and advocacy training.



The Lisbon Christmas Parade 2025

Meg Fulton and her lamb proudly represent CCFB in the Great Lisbon Parade in December

November 2025

The holiday season kicked off with community giving efforts as the Young Farmers sponsored a tree for Shepherd's Staff Festival of Trees. And the Women's Committee made their Holiday Giving commitments to the community



Dave Clas accepts an Award of Excellence for CCFB at MDFB State Convention.

December 2025

Fifteen delegates from Carroll County attended the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention, where members voted on policies shaping the future of agriculture in Maryland and attended breakout sessions focused on current agricultural challenges and trends. Carroll County Farm Bureau also donated a Christmas tree decorated with scratch-off tickets that raised \$400 during the live auction benefiting the Maryland Farm Bureau scholarship fund. They also received a County Awards of Excellence for the Farmers Market initiative.

Members also participated in the Great Lisbon Farmers Feeds the Hungry Christmas Parade with tractors, combines, wagons, and animals!

January 2026

The Annual Legislative Dinner once again brought together legislators, Carroll County Board of Education members, and agricultural leaders for important discussions on issues impacting the county.

Topics included:

- agricultural program funding
- wildlife crop damage
- infrastructure and renewable energy projects
- zoning and private property rights

The Young Farmers also hosted their Annual Bull and Oyster Roast, drawing a large crowd and another successful community event.



County and District Legislators along with Tyler Hough from MDFB answer panel questions at the Annual Legislative Dinner.

February 2026

Board members, alongside Ag Ambassador Eli Barber, attended Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis to advocate for agriculture and meet with legislators.

Dave Clas also attended Taste of Maryland, networking with state officials and leaders from agricultural and nonprofit organizations while showcasing Maryland agriculture and cuisine.

March 2026

Ag Ambassador Eli Barber attended the Carroll County Commissioners' Agriculture Day Proclamation, while several board members supported the Ag Center's Annual Dinner.

The month concluded with the highly anticipated Annual Gun Raffle, which once again proved to be a major success.

April 2026

The Young Farmers attended the Green Spring Valley Hounds Point-to-Point, while Farm Bureau volunteers supported the Buckwild Truck and Tractor Pull by working the gates, food stand, and event ring.

Additionally, the Candidate Evaluation Committee submitted recommendations to Maryland Farm Bureau for endorsement consideration.

Ongoing Efforts Throughout the Year

In addition to special events and programs, Carroll County Farm Bureau remained active year-round through meetings, advocacy efforts, and committee work.

- The Board met monthly with representatives from Carroll County Extension, the Ag Center, and Maryland Farm Bureau to discuss agricultural issues and upcoming events.
- Dave Clas participated in weekly Zoom meetings with Maryland Farm Bureau, neighboring counties, attorneys from Pessin & Katz, and members of Stop MPRP to stay informed on ongoing powerline discussions and advocacy efforts.
- The Young Farmers Committee continued focusing on issues affecting young and beginning farmers while building relationships with local FFA chapters and supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders.



Bill and Mary Rasche along with CCFB Ag Ambassador, Eli Barber attended the MDFB Day in Annapolis.



If you or a member that you know would enjoy a nice breakfast and a controlled group setting at the State House to speak with our Legislators, please consider attending the Maryland Farm Bureau's Day in Annapolis. Details for 2027 will be released in the Fall and the Carroll County Farm Bureau pays the registration fees for up to 4 members to attend. It's a great experience and the perfect opportunity for you to personally speak about your concerns and the issues that are affecting agriculture in your community.

Member Benefits

How aware are you of your membership benefits? Let's list them...

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Farm Bureau Healthcare | 10. HipCamp | 19. StoneX |
| 2. Nationwide | 11. MDFB Travel Program | 20. BJ's |
| 3. Avis and Budget | 12. Case IH | 21. Choice Hearing Benefits |
| 4. Choice Hotels | 13. CAT | 22. Delmarva Farmer |
| 5. Ford | 14. Grainger | 23. Dungrees |
| 6. IHG Hotels and Resorts | 15. VA Farm Bureau Products Division | 24. Farm Bureau Discount RX Card |
| 7. Wyndham Hotels & Resorts | 16. John Deere | 25. Life Line Screening |
| 8. Motel 6 | 17. Farm Bureau Bank | 26. Office Depot |
| 9. Orlando Member Benefits | 18. Griffith Energy Services | 27. SMO |
| | | 28. Staples Advantage |
| | | 29. WBWorkbooks.com |

Visit <https://marylandfb.org/benefits/> to learn more

Honoring a Lifetime of Service: Bryan Butler's Lasting Impact on Carroll County Agriculture

After decades of dedicated service to Maryland agriculture and the local farming community, Bryan Butler has officially retired from University of Maryland Extension. His career marks an extraordinary legacy of education, innovation, and unwavering support for farmers—particularly in Carroll County, where his influence will be felt for generations.

Bryan began his Extension career in 1989 as a Horticulture Extension Agent in Frederick County. From the outset, he demonstrated a deep commitment to helping growers succeed through research-based education and practical solutions. Between 1995 and 2000, he served Carroll County as a Faculty Extension Assistant in Horticulture and Farm Management, building strong relationships with local producers that would define much of his career.

In 2001, Bryan stepped into the role of Extension Agent in Horticulture and Agronomy, a position he held with distinction for over two decades. His expertise and leadership continued to expand, becoming an Area Fruit Agent in 2009 and later earning promotion in 2013 to Principal Extension Agent—the highest level of achievement within Extension.

Throughout his career, Bryan also served in key leadership roles as County Extension Director and Area Extension Director for Carroll, Baltimore, and Harford Counties. In these roles, he not only guided programming but also mentored colleagues and helped shape the future of Extension outreach in the region.

Bryan's work covered a wide range of agricultural topics, reflecting both the diversity and evolving needs of Maryland agriculture. His contributions included research and programming in areas such as vegetable production—particularly okra and potatoes—season extension techniques for vegetables and small fruit, integrated pond management, and small farm viability. He was instrumental in advancing the use of high tunnels in the Mid-Atlantic, helping growers extend their growing seasons and improve profitability.

His expertise extended to fruit production and pest management, including work with blueberries, tree fruit systems, apple rootstock evaluation, and emerging challenges such as spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug. Bryan also supported niche and specialty crops, including hops, cut flowers, and pumpkins, conducting variety trials and field evaluations that provided growers with valuable, locally relevant data.

Bryan's commitment to education went far beyond the field. He authored numerous fact sheets, journal articles, and presentations at the regional and national level, ensuring that his knowledge reached a broad audience. Locally, he played a critical role in organizing and hosting the annual Mid-Winter Meeting, which regularly brought together around 100 producers each year for education and collaboration. And, work tirelessly to welcome over 900 county fourth graders each May to the Ag Center to be immersed in agriculture with the beloved AgVenture program.

He worked closely with the Maryland Department of Agriculture on nutrient management programs, helping farmers navigate regulations while maintaining productive operations. Bryan also provided pesticide training and made a lasting impact through his outreach to the growing Amish farming community in Carroll County, ensuring that all producers had access to critical agricultural education.

In addition to his Extension work, Bryan served as a dedicated member of the Carroll County Farm Bureau Board. His insight, experience, and steady leadership were invaluable assets to the organization. He consistently advocated for the needs of local farmers and strengthened the connection between Extension, policy, and the agricultural community. We're sure we missed things but we truly wish him a relaxing, enjoyable, much earned retirement.

As Bryan steps into retirement, the Carroll County Farm Bureau and the broader agricultural community pause to recognize and celebrate his remarkable career. His work has improved farms, strengthened families, and advanced agriculture across the region.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bryan Butler for his years of service, his passion for agriculture, and his lasting contributions to Carroll County. His legacy will continue to grow in the fields, farms, and communities he has touched.





Meet Eli: A Year of Advocacy, Confidence, and Community

Most people think being an Ag Ambassador is just another volunteer title.

Eli thought that too — until he found himself speaking with legislators in Annapolis, networking with agricultural leaders across Maryland, and realizing he had a real voice in conversations shaping the future of agriculture.

Now, after a year serving as Carroll County Farm Bureau's Ag Ambassador, Eli says the experience gave him more than memories. It gave him confidence, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of the agricultural community he hopes to keep serving in the future.

And for teens wondering whether they should apply for the next Ag Ambassador contest this June, Eli has a pretty simple answer:

"Just do it."

"Memorable, enlightening, and fun."

When asked to describe his year as Ag Ambassador in three words, Eli didn't hesitate:

"Memorable, enlightening, and fun. I learned so much while having great experiences and meeting a ton of interesting people."

Before taking on the role, Eli expected it would mostly involve volunteering at events. Instead, he discovered the position was really about advocacy.

"I thought it would just be another volunteer role. Then I learned it was much more than volunteering — it was advocating. Advocating for a community much larger than just the people around me."

That realization became especially clear during Maryland Farm Bureau's Day in Annapolis and the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention, where Eli had opportunities to speak with legislators and agricultural leaders from across the state.

"It was eye-opening, and I felt like I was really making a difference."

One conversation, in particular, changed how he viewed leadership and advocacy.

"I had a conversation with Delegate Stuart Schmidt that made me realize legislators aren't really that intimidating. They're just normal people willing to listen."

Finding Confidence

While Eli gained agricultural knowledge throughout the year, he says one of the biggest changes was personal growth.

"I definitely feel more confident now than when I started."

That confidence didn't come instantly.

At the Carroll County Farm Bureau Annual Banquet, Eli gave the invocation in front of a large crowd — something that initially made him nervous.

"I was anxious to be on a microphone in front of such a large crowd, but everyone was so encouraging and supportive that once I got up there, it wasn't hard at all."

The role also helped him develop skills he believes will benefit his future in agriculture, leadership, and beyond.

"It gave me a lot more confidence speaking with legislators and in front of people. It also helped me network and make connections that I may be able to use in future leadership roles."

Those experiences have already helped shape his next steps. Eli recently applied to serve as a Maryland FFA State Officer and says his time as Ag Ambassador strengthened his application.

Balancing It All

Between school, wrestling, 4-H, FFA, and Ag Ambassador responsibilities, Eli had a packed schedule.

So how did he manage it?

"I let other people help me — especially my mom."

He also wants future applicants to know the role is more flexible than they might expect.

"It's not as much as you think. The role was flexible, and not every event was mandatory. Everyone on the CCFB Board was really understanding and willing to work around conflicts when they had to."

The Best Part? The People.

When asked about the most fun part of being Ag Ambassador, Eli's answer was immediate:

"The people I met."

And while he says he enjoyed the entire experience, some of his favorite memories came from unexpected moments — including matching patriotic overalls with his boss at the Annual Gun Raffle while selling 50/50 tickets.

He even picked a soundtrack for his Ag Ambassador year:

"Life's a Dance" by John Michael Montgomery.

Use that as you will but that seems pretty inspirational; Just go with it, take every opportunity.

Why Run for Ag Ambassador?

For students considering applying this June, Eli says the opportunity offers experiences you simply can't find anywhere else.

"It teaches you about agriculture in a way that literally isn't available anywhere else."

He believes the ideal Ag Ambassador is someone who can be:

"Energetic, flexible, and professional."

And for anyone nervous about applying?

"Just do it."

In fact, Eli says he's even considering running again in hopes of becoming the Maryland Farm Bureau Ag Ambassador in the future.

"I wouldn't run again if I didn't think it would help me in the future or if I didn't enjoy it."

Looking Ahead

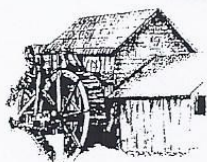
Eli believes having young agricultural advocates matters — not just for Farm Bureau, but for the entire community.

"Having a young person who's passionate about agriculture and willing to advocate for it makes a big impact in the eyes of community leaders."

As for what's next, Eli plans to continue building on the leadership, advocacy, and communication skills he developed during his year as Ag Ambassador.

William Harrison & Sons Run of the Mill Farm

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410-795-0753

6901 Eden Mill Road, Woodbine, MD 21797

Passionate for Agriculture?



The Carroll County Farm Bureau Agriculture Ambassador Program

Scholarship for the Winner!

Apply today!

Prize \$ for Participants!

The Carroll County Farm Bureau is seeking applicants for our Ag Ambassador Program. This program is for young men and women, who have an interest in promoting agriculture and growing as leaders within the agriculture industry. The Ag Ambassador program is for Carroll County Farm Bureau member-families.

The contest will be held on Sunday July 19th, 2026

One winner will be selected as the Carroll County Farm Bureau Ag Ambassador.

Contest Requirements:

Ages 17-21

(on or before 9/25/26)

Attend Activities/Events

(County Orientation, monthly meetings, Fair activities, State requirements, and the Annual Banquet)

Participant or their immediate family, must be active members for the 2026 calendar year.

- Individual Interviews
- Public Address
- Extemporaneous Question

Apply by July 1st!

For more info...
Contact Heather Boose



443-744-5487



cowgirlh@hotmail.com

COME OUT AND ENJOY

FARM BUREAU NIGHT AT THE FAIR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

**ENTER THE
FIELD TO FORK SHOWDOWN
ICE CREAM • FACEPAINT • CRAFTS**

**PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
AND EVENTS STILL IN PLANNING**

FREE TO MEMBERS



Activities tent at 7:00 PM

**KEEP AN EYE ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES
ALL ACTIVITIES, DATE, AND TIMES
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

CCFB WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Spring 2026 Women's Committee Report

Our Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee continues to stay strong and very active in our Ag community! During 2025 members attended the Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner, Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis, the annual Farm Bureau county banquet, the state Farm Bureau convention, just to mention a few things.

Community involvement and support are very important to our organization.

Some of the activities in 2025 we sponsored, participated in, or volunteered our time with included:

- Visited the 4 year-old classes at Little Friends of Grace preschool during National Ag Literacy Week, doing activities with the children related to agriculture and provided each child with a "How A Seed Grows" book to take home
- Sponsored a table and attended the Shepherd's Staff Empty Bowls for Hunger fundraiser
- Sponsored a raffle prize, volunteered our time, and donated desserts to the annual Ag Center and Farm Bureau Sportsman raffle
- Volunteered at the Carroll County Extension Ag Venture Program
- Worked the Farm Bureau membership tent at the downtown Westminster's Farmers Market
- Sponsored awards for several indoor departments at Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair
- Made a donation of \$600 to the Carroll Hospital Center for Breast Health
- Collected monetary donations at the annual banquet for the Shepherd's Staff Rx program
- Purchased Christmas gifts for several folks at the Carroll County Bureau of Aging, provided Christmas gifts for a child with the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster, and filled holiday stockings and gift bags for Shepherd's Staff
- Celebrated our busy year with a holiday dinner meeting at Bullock's Family Restaurant on Dec 1, 2025

To support many of the donations we made, we again held our annual Surf, Turf and dessert raffle and netted a profit of \$2,800.00.

We have already participated in a good number of the above mentioned activities so far in 2026. We plan to have another Surf, Turf, and Dessert Raffle, with tickets going on sale in June. And a very exciting and new project we will be undertaking this year will be the Joan Myers Memorial Scholarship Award, to honor the life and memory of our former Women's Committee Chair. Information on both the scholarship and the raffle will appear in this newsletter. If anyone would like to join us at a meeting sometime, please reach out to me. Have a great spring!!

Mary Rasche, Chair

Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's Committee



Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee 2026 Scholarship Application

MISSION STATEMENT

The Joan Myers Memorial Scholarship has been established in 2026 by the Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee to honor the enduring legacy of Mrs. Joan Myers and her deep commitment to the community she served. Joan served as chairwoman of the CCFB Women's Leadership Committee for over 30 years, volunteered with countless organizations, and was a strong leader in her community. The recipient of this scholarship **MUST** demonstrate meaningful community involvement, exemplary citizenship traits, and display strong leadership skills in both academics and extra-curricular activities while attending their high school and/or college. The award will go to a graduating high school senior or a current college student continuing their education. **In recognition of Mrs. Joan's distinguished career as an educator, strong consideration may be given to a student pursuing a career in education.**

**The Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's
Leadership Committee will be offering
One \$1,000.00 Scholarship**

Applicant must be a high school senior starting college in Fall 2026 OR a current college student studying at any community college, four-year college, or a technical school

Selection will be made by a sub-committee from the Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee

No student can receive the scholarship more than twice

The scholarship will be paid directly to the college/university or technical school

Applicant's family does not have to be Farm Bureau members, however, priority will be given to those who are

Application Criteria

- ♦ Typed scholarship application is due by **July 1, 2026**
- ♦ Current high school or college transcript
- ♦ A resume which includes community involvement, citizenship traits, leadership skills, and extra-curricular activities
- ♦ Two letters of reference, including one from a teacher or professor with knowledge of the student's academic and extra-curricular background
- ♦ A letter giving reasons why you have selected your program of study, your future plans, and any additional explanation as to why you feel you are deserving of this scholarship

Applications may be scanned and emailed to maryarasche@gmail.com or by mail to Carroll County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, c/o Mrs. Mary Rasche, Chair, 3680 Senft Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. Applications **MUST** be received by July 1, 2026 at 11:59pm. Late applications will not be accepted.

The selection process will begin immediately and the recipient or their parents will be notified by phone once the selection is made. The scholarship will be awarded during the 2026 Carroll County 4-H and FFA Fair. The date and time of the award ceremony will be provided, please plan to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS JULY 1, 2026

**To receive a full application, please email Mary Rasche at maryarasche@gmail.com
or by phone at 410-984-5489**

CCFB Annual Banquet and Meeting

The Carroll County Farm Bureau held its Annual Banquet and Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the Pleasant Valley Fire Hall, welcoming 164 attendees for an evening of fellowship, policy discussion, recognition, and organizational business. Members were joined by local and state legislators, as well as officers and advisors representing Carroll County FFA chapters.

The evening also featured a live auction, which raised nearly \$3,000 for the Carroll County Farm Bureau Scholarship Fund to support future agricultural leaders. A major focus of the evening was the consideration and approval of policy resolutions to be forwarded to both the American Farm Bureau Federation and Maryland Farm Bureau for further review during their upcoming conventions.

American Farm Bureau Policy Resolutions

Members approved the following resolutions for consideration at the national level:

- Opposition to the use of cryptocurrency as mandatory legal tender. Members stated that if cryptocurrency becomes more abundant in society, it should remain optional and be federally regulated within the financial system in the same manner as legal tender and coin.
- Opposition to tariffs that limit exports or decrease the price of agricultural goods.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy Resolutions

Members also adopted several resolutions to be forwarded to the Maryland Farm Bureau, including:

- Support for data centers only when constructed on commercially zoned land and utilizing self-sustaining energy sources such as nuclear generation.
- Opposition to agricultural land being rezoned for commercial or industrial use.
- Support for extending at-home producer licenses to both landowners and land lessors.
- Strong encouragement for studies on the effects of stray voltage on humans, livestock, and equipment prior to the placement of public utilities.
- Support for allowing off-duty DNR officers to hunt on Deer Management Permits (DMPs).
- Support for Sunday hunting of waterfowl.
- Opposition to banning lead ammunition.
- Opposition to new regulations on Deer Cooperative Permits requiring community approval and adjacent landowner notification before each hunt.
- Opposition to government or commercial data centers being constructed on Class I or Class II agricultural soils.

Carroll County Farm Bureau Policy Priorities

Additional county-level policy positions approved by members included:

- Opposition to legislation allowing public access to or through private property without the permission of the property owner or authorized agent, while supporting full compensation for government actions that diminish property rights.
- Support for stronger enforcement of noxious weed control, including Canadian thistle, shattercane, johnsongrass, Palmer amaranth, and marehail on railroad rights-of-way, road banks, and agricultural land throughout the county.
- Continued support for the current 180-day school calendar and opposition to school scheduling changes that interfere with student participation in Maryland State Fair educational activities and work experiences.
- Support for addressing liability insurance concerns related to agricultural education opportunities on farms, including school insurance coverage for farm visits and affordable one-day insurance policies for farmers.

Elections Held

During the annual meeting, members elected officers and directors in accordance with the organization's bylaws.

The following slate of nominees was elected:

- President: David Clas
- Vice President: Gary Dell
- District 1 Director: Brooks Bachtel
- District 2 Director: Gregory Dell
- At Large Director: Jason Watt

The Carroll County Farm Bureau thanks all members, guests, legislators, FFA representatives, volunteers, and supporters for their participation and continued dedication to agriculture in Carroll County.



CARROLL COUNTY FARM BUREAU AWARDS MORE THEN DESERVING MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONS AT ANNUAL BANQUET...

Distinguished Member of the Year

Jason Myers was presented with the **2025 Distinguished Member of the Year Award** in recognition of his exceptional service and longstanding dedication to the Carroll County Farm Bureau.

Members described Myers as another unanimous selection for the honor, citing his years of leadership and commitment at both the county and state levels. Over the years, he served as a county board director, board president, and district director on the Maryland Farm Bureau Board, while also contributing to numerous committees and initiatives.

His leadership and community relationships were credited as playing a major role in building the strong financial position the Carroll County Farm Bureau enjoys today. Beyond his accomplishments, Myers was recognized for his generosity, approachable personality, sense of humor, and willingness to share both practical advice and encouragement with fellow members.

Though he termed out of leadership last year, members noted that he continues to remain actively supportive of the organization and is always willing to lend a helping hand when needed.



Distinguished Supporter of the Year

The Carroll County Fair Board was honored as the **2025 Distinguished Supporter of the Year** for its outstanding support and partnership with the Carroll County Farm Bureau.

Each year, this award recognizes a business or organization that has gone above and beyond in support of the Farm Bureau's mission and activities. This year's recipient was described as a unanimous choice by the board.

This year marked a transition from the organization's traditional membership picnic to a new "Farm Bureau Night at the Fair." While the idea created exciting opportunities, it also brought new logistical challenges during one of the busiest times of year for the fairgrounds and fair staff.

From the beginning, the Carroll County Fair Board embraced the partnership enthusiastically and worked closely with Farm Bureau leadership to make the event successful. When weather complications arose the evening of the event, fair board members, maintenance staff, and volunteers quickly adapted by adjusting plans, relocating activities, and assisting wherever needed.

Although the event did not unfold exactly as originally envisioned, the evening remained meaningful and memorable because of the dedication, flexibility, and support shown by the Carroll County Fair Board and its volunteers.

Carroll County Farm Bureau

2026 Scholarship Application

Deadline June 30, 2026

The Carroll County Farm Bureau will be offering two (2) \$1,500 scholarships.

Applicants must be high school seniors starting college in the Fall of 2026 **OR** current full-time college students at any community college, technical school, two-year institution, or four-year institution.

One of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and one scholarship may be offered to either a non-agricultural or an agricultural curriculum major.

Selection will be made by a committee designated by the Carroll County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. The selection committee will evaluate each application anonymously.

No student can receive this scholarship more than two (2) times.

Application Criteria:

1. Applicants or their parents/guardians **MUST** be members in good standing with Carroll County Farm Bureau as of May 30, 2026.
2. Applicants must submit a completed application form by the deadline given.
3. Applicants must provide a current transcript.
4. Applicants must provide a resume including community service projects and hours and after school extra-curricular activities.
5. Applicants must submit an essay answering the essay question, typed and under the guidelines highlighted below.
6. Applicants must provide at least one or up to 3 reference letter(s) from a person(s) not related to them.
7. Applicants must provide a current photo (Example: A senior picture)

(If ONE or more of the above listed criteria is NOT met the application will be disqualified)

Essay Question:

“Carroll County has long prioritized farmland preservation, but growing interest in data center development is creating new challenges. What role should farmland play in the county’s future, and how should decisions be made when development interests compete with agricultural preservation?”

The essay should be typed using 12-point font size, Times New Roman, double spaced, with 1-inch margins, and not exceed three pages.

The Carroll County Farm Bureau office **MUST** receive applications **NO LATER than June 30, 2026** via mail or email to ccmdfarmbureau@gmail.com. If mailing in the completed application, they must be **postmarked by June 27, 2026**.

Scholarships will be awarded to winning applicants prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Winners will be notified in July. The recipients will then be announced at the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair, date still to be determined, and presented their scholarship at that time. Please make arrangements to attend. If you cannot, please notify the Carroll County Farm Bureau Secretary at 410-857-5503 at your earliest convenience that you will need to make other arrangements to collect your scholarship certificate.

The committee reserves the right to interview scholarship applicants if they feel it is necessary to determine the winning recipients.

The provided references may be contacted as the judging committee feels necessary to determine the winning recipients.

Direct completed applications to Carroll County Farm Bureau, Attn: Elizabeth Devilbiss, P.O. Box 547, New Windsor, Maryland 21776.

OR

Completed Applications may be scanned and emailed to the Carroll County Farm Bureau Secretary, Ashley Barber at ccmdfarmbureau@gmail.com. **Applicants have until 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2026 to send in completed applications via email.**

Any applications received after the designated time will NOT be eligible.

Any questions please contact Ashley Barber at ccmdfarmbureau@gmail.com or call or text 410-857-5503.

Please be aware that pictures provided by applicants will be used to recognize the scholarship winners at future Carroll County Farm Bureau Events, in newsletters and on the Carroll County Farm Bureau Facebook Page. By sending in your completed application you are agreeing to these terms.

Checks will be mailed directly to the applicant.

Carroll County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application

Deadline June 30, 2026

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

College or Trade School Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Farm Bureau Membership #: _____

Parent or Guardian Name(s): _____

High School(s) Attended: _____

Date of Graduation: _____ High School GPA: _____

Name of College or Trade School: _____

College or Trade School Billing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Student ID #: _____ Year in College: _____ Current GPA: _____

Major(s) and Minor(s): _____

How can/will your education contribute to the Agricultural industry? _____

REFERENCES:

Please list three references below:

#1 Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

#2 Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

#3 Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please attach your most recent transcript, essay and resume including community service hours and extracurricular activities.



★ 2026 ★
**CARROLL COUNTY
4-H & FFA FAIR**



*Live in
Concert!*

★ HEADLINER ★

**AUBREY
NICOLE**

FROM
the Voice



— WITH SPECIAL GUEST —
BILLY HARRISON
★ AND THE HAYWIRE BAND ★

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

★ **BUCK MILLER ARENA** ★
AT THE CARROLL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



EVENT STARTS
6:00 PM



GATES OPEN
5:00 PM

★ **TICKETS** ★
\$25
EACH

LAWN SEATING ONLY

SPECIAL
Meet & Greet
TICKETS
\$50
EACH

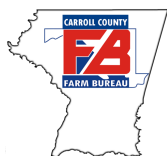
★★ SPONSORED BY ★★



all events, dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice

TODAY!
to renew your membership
www.marylandfb.org/member-application
visit

We would love to have you back!
Carroll County Farm Bureau family.
If you are receiving this newsletter,
you were once part of the
Carroll County Farm Bureau family.
Hey there!



Carroll County Farm Bureau, Inc
P.O. Box 547
New Windsor, MD 21776

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