

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 36, Issue 5

September 2026

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Message to Members

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

As I sit down to write my September Message to Members, children have been back in school for two weeks—whatever happened to school starting *after* Labor Day? The Howard County Fair wrapped up a few weeks ago, and we are now entering the second of three weekends of the Maryland State Fair. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer.

Although it has been a busy season, one of the highlights for me—and for many others—was the 80th annual Howard County Fair. This year's fair did not disappoint. The fair always gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on all the wonderful things agriculture brings to our county. I enjoy seeing the many exhibits, from farm and vegetable crops to livestock and home arts/indoor entries. I also appreciate the opportunity to catch up with so many people and learn what is happening on farms throughout the county. The Farm Bureau-sponsored contests were once again a great success.

The Junior Showmanship Contest, held on the first Saturday of the fair, continues to draw tremendous turnout. I would like to take a moment to

recognize and thank Rhonda Winkler for her continued hard work with this contest. 2026 marked the 12th year of the event, and a great deal of effort goes on behind the scenes to make it happen. Rhonda oversees and organizes everything from scheduling and hosting workshops before the fair, to arranging for animals to be available during the workshops and show, finding sponsors, and managing the many other details that go into a successful event.

This program is a summer favorite for many families because it gives children who are too young to participate in 4-H an opportunity to gain livestock knowledge and develop an early interest in exhibiting animals. The program also involves older youth, allowing them to serve as mentors to younger exhibitors. At a time when there seems to be so much division in the world, the Junior Showmanship program reminds us that there is still a great deal of good around us. Whether you are directly involved in the program or simply watching all the red shirts in the show ring at the fair, this event is a feel-good experience that touches and inspires everyone.

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Not to be outdone, the Women's Leadership Committee put together another successful Agriculture Ambassador program for our Farm Bureau youth. This contest provides scholarship and leadership-development opportunities for both male and female participants. The judges were presented with an impressive selection of contestants in every age group.

We are pleased to have Jaidyn Mantua and Jaelyn Velisek represent us as the 2026 Howard County Farm Bureau Agricultural Ambassadors. Ava Brendel and Mikayla Willie were named Junior Agricultural Ambassadors, while AJ Long was named Future Farmer and Kennedy Tomanek was named Little Miss. All will have opportunities to represent and promote Howard County agriculture during the coming year.

I would like to congratulate all of the contestants who participated and did such an outstanding job in the Agriculture Ambassador, Junior Agricultural Ambassador, Future Farmer, and Little Miss contests. If our future rests with our youth, Farm Bureau has a bright future with these young people leading the way.

As August came to a close, I was honored to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Charles C. Feaga Agricultural Center, which will be located at West Friendship Park. This new facility will create a central "home" for the Howard County agricultural community. It will include office space for the Howard County Office of Agriculture and University of Maryland Extension; satellite offices for the Howard County Economic Development Authority's agricultural lead, the Department of Recreation and Parks' Natural Resources Division, and the Agricultural Land Preservation Program; office space for the Howard County Farm Bureau and the Maryland Dairy Shrine; meeting rooms; and a teaching and demonstration kitchen. You can find more information about the groundbreaking ceremony later in this newsletter.

Please watch for notices about our annual policy meeting, to be held on October 1, and our annual dinner, scheduled for November 12. During the

annual policy meeting, the board of directors will discuss and consider resolutions submitted by members for inclusion in our Farm Bureau policy. Approved resolutions will be forwarded to the state to be presented and discussed during the annual convention in December. These resolutions will help establish Farm Bureau's goals and priorities for 2027.

As a grassroots organization, we need input from all members to ensure that we address your priorities and concerns. The annual dinner in November will include the election of new board members and other Farm Bureau officers.

I hope all farmers have a safe and successful fall harvest. I will continue working behind the scenes to support and advocate for Howard County farmers, who work hard every day to provide food and so much more—not only for this county, but also for our state and country.

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball Unveils Multi-Use Charles C. Feaga Agricultural Center

Source: Howard County, Maryland



The Agricultural Center will be home to the Office of Agriculture, UMD Extension Offices, Howard County Farm Bureau, and others, as well as meeting rooms for workshops, trainings and events.

Press Release: 08/26/2026

ELLCOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Calvin Ball broke ground on the County's first-ever Agricultural Center, named after former Howard County Councilmember Charles C. Feaga. Photos of the event can be viewed on the Howard County Flickr page. Video of the announcement can be viewed on the Howard County Executive's Facebook page.

"Farming in Howard County has always been much more than a business. For many, it's a cherished way of life. That is why, in my nearly eight years as your Howard County Executive, I have made it a priority to help our agricultural community meet its needs, both in terms of doing business and in ensuring its continued viability as a way of life. The Charles C. Feaga Agricultural Center will be the centerpiece for this place to bring together key agricultural partners for training, meetings, education, and innovation. This will strengthen and support the vitality of Howard County's farming community for decades to come."

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

Ball allocated \$1 million in 2025 to advance planning and design for development of the Agricultural Center in West Friendship Park. He invested another \$3.3 million this year to begin site development.

The Charles C. Feaga Agricultural Center will house:

- The Howard County Office of Agriculture;
- the University of Maryland Extension offices;
- a satellite office for the Howard County Economic Development Authority's agricultural lead;
- a satellite office for the Department of Recreation and Parks' Natural Resources Division;

- a satellite office for the Agricultural Land Preservation Program;
- the Howard County Farm Bureau, and
- Maryland Dairy Shrine.

There will also be a teaching and demonstration kitchen to support agricultural education, local food programming, and opportunities to connect farmers and the community. Additionally, there will be state-of-the-art meeting rooms to host meetings, workshops, training, and events for the agricultural community. Construction is slated to begin in July 2027 with an expected building opening date in December 2029.

Since 2019, the County has provided more than \$3.5 million through various grant programs to help local farmers deal with droughts, emerging challenges and to grow their businesses. In 2024, the County opened its first-ever Office of Agriculture in Western Howard County.

"The new Ag Center provide the platform for more collaboration between UMDE, and the Office of Agriculture," said James Zoller, Administrator for the Howard County Office of Agriculture. "This collaboration will allow for better service being provided to our agricultural community."

The Office of Agriculture has launched several successful programs that have grown significantly over the past couple of years. In 2025, Howard County launched its first-ever New & Beginning Farmer Program to support aspiring farmers as they build profitable and sustainable farm businesses in Howard County. Located at West Friendship Park, the program provides approximately 16 acres of deer-fenced growing space, including 30 quarter-acre plots with water access to each plot. Farmers also have access to shared equipment and a greenhouse. This year funding was allocated to install a wash/pack station to further support participants by providing the infrastructure needed to prepare and store produce before bringing it to market.

The program began with seven farmers in its first year and expanded to ten farmers in 2026. This program enables participants gain access to farmland, shared equipment, hands-on production experience, and business development support.

The Office of Agriculture partnered with UMD Extension and HCEDA to provide technical education, field training, and one-on-one guidance to help participants build viable pathways into agriculture. The program is designed to address some of the biggest barriers facing new farmers, including access to affordable land, equipment, infrastructure, and technical knowledge. By reducing these barriers and providing the resources and support needed to grow successful businesses, Howard County is cultivating the next generation of farmers and strengthening the future of agriculture in our community.

“HCEDA is proud to join our partners as we break ground on the new Agricultural Center, an investment that strengthens one of Howard County’s most essential sectors,” said Jennifer Jones, President of the Howard County Economic Development Authority. “This Center gives us the infrastructure and support that our agricultural community needs to grow.”

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of a strong and resilient local food supply chain. Howard County’s protein farmers have expressed concerns about the limited number of meat processors in Maryland. While attracting a meat processor to Howard County remains a long-term and complex effort, the County allocated \$150,000 to the Howard County Economic Development Authority to study this issue and explore potential solutions.

To alleviate farmers’ transportation and storage challenges, two walk-in freezers have been installed at West Friendship Park. Howard County farmers are able to lease on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis at reasonable rates. The program will be operational by the end of August.

The County’s popular Roving Radish Program received a satellite location at West Friendship Park in 2025 to provide a convenient and efficient location for the program’s Mobile Market and for local farmers to deliver produce. By utilizing an existing pole barn, the space has been transformed into a functional facility with the installation of a walk-in refrigerator, a new concrete floor, updated electrical service, and new windows. The improvements created a dedicated space where farmers can conveniently drop off fresh produce to be used by the Roving Radish Program.

The FY27 budget includes funding for the purchase of a mobile deer donation cooler that will be housed at West Friendship Park. This initiative will provide an important resource for both our agricultural community and Howard County residents. The deer donation cooler will encourage hunters to harvest and donate more deer by providing a convenient, free location to drop off their deer for donation. This project has the potential to provide environmental, public health, agricultural, and economic benefits for Howard County residents. The cooler is currently being put out for bid.

About Charles Feaga:

The Agricultural Center is named after Charles Feaga, a lifelong farmer from the West Friendship area, and the longest serving Howard County councilmember in County history. Feaga served three terms on the Council from 1987-1998 and 2004-2006, representing District 5. Feaga raised dairy cattle and beef cattle. In other public service roles, he was president of the Howard County Farm Bureau, the Glenelg High School PTA, and the West Howard County Civic Association.

Here’s what others had to say:

“I just want to thank County Executive Ball and members of the County Council for honoring Charlie, who is a good friend of 30 years,” said Maryland’s Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Steven Connelly. “You couldn’t have picked a better location and it’s great when you can have

all the services for the farming community in one location.”

“This has just been kind of an ‘all-hands-on-deck’ effort to get us here in a very short time,” said District 5 County Councilmember David Yungmann. “Howard County has some good supports and resources for farmers and now with this Agricultural Center we’ll have a centralized place to bring all these resources together.”

“Today’s groundbreaking for the new Agricultural Center honors Howard County’s rich agricultural history while making an important step in the broader activation of West Friendship Park,” said Director of Recreation and Parks Nick Mooneyhan. “This, together with our other improvements, will help transform West Friendship Park into a more active, welcoming destination for agricultural education, outdoor recreation, and community gathering.”

“Howard County Executive Ball’s announcement of the Charles C. Feaga Agricultural Center shows a deep recognition of the importance of agriculture to our community,” said Timothy Warfield Feaga, son of Charles Feaga. “Dr. Ball’s efforts, along with others who showed strong support for this endeavor, should be commended. My father’s recognition is appreciated beyond words for both my father and his family, but his name is really representative of the larger collective of agricultural supporters throughout the County’s history including supportive government agencies, University of Maryland Extensions services, the Howard County Farm Bureau and many other private organizations and farmers who continue to support the perpetual growth of agriculture.”

“This is a significant milestone for Howard County, University of Maryland Extension, Howard County’s Office of Agriculture, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the whole Howard County community,” said Sheryl Bennett, County Extension Director and 4-H Youth Development Educator with the University of Maryland Extension program. “This facility

will provide a state-of-the-art environment for our Extension educators to deliver critical workforce training in culinary arts, environmental sciences, and agribusiness.”

“Our members have long advocated for a centralized facility that addresses the evolving needs of the rural West,” said Leslie Bauer, President of the Howard County Farm Bureau. “This facility is another important step forward and precisely the kind of strategic investment needed to ensure that our agricultural sector remains strong and viable for generations to come.”

Link to the Article:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News082626>

“Did You Know?” **A Series about the History of** **Howard County Agriculture**

By: Barb Glenn

#1: DYK Howard County Agriculture is Where it all Began?

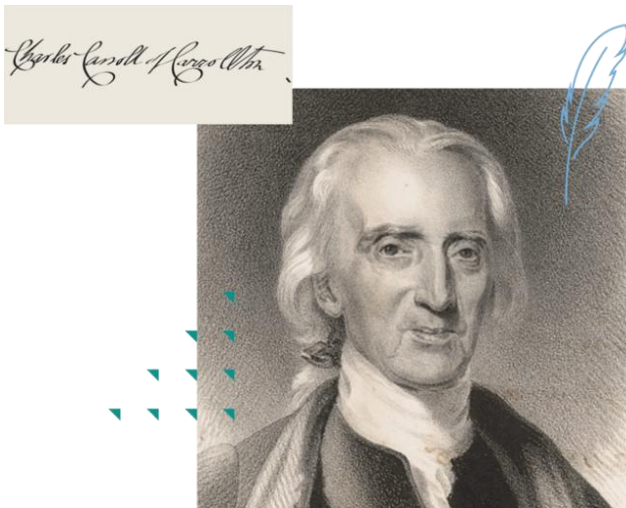
Howard County officially became the 21st of Maryland’s 23 counties in 1851. It was originally part of Anne Arundel County and was designated the Howard District in 1839, in honor of John Eager Howard, statesman, soldier, and fifth governor of Maryland.

Howard County was mainly the farming and hunting grounds of Native Americans until 1608 when Captain John Smith of Jamestown sailed up the Patapsco River. However, the first colonial settler, a Puritan named Adam Shipley, came much later, in 1687, when Lord Baltimore granted him a home on the Patapsco River. It is also at this time when Howard County’s tradition of farming started.

Howard County's Earliest Landowner

In the 1700s, the family of Charles Carroll, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, acquired nearly 13,000 acres of farmland and forests. In 1768, son Charles Carroll of Carrollton. married a distant cousin, Mary Darnell, but both she and his father died fourteen years later in 1782. His father's death made him heir to a vast agricultural estate that made him the wealthiest man in the colonies. His manor, Carrollton, in Frederick County, was a 10,000-acre estate that housed about 300 enslaved workers.

In Howard County, he built an elaborate masonry home in grand plantation style, located several miles west of Ellicott City. It was named Doughoregan Manor. Here crop production focused heavily on tobacco, corn, and wheat harvests, alongside milling operations that produced commercial flour for sale. Today, descendants of the Carroll family still live on the property, of which only 3,000 acres remain. This is a private residence, not open to the public. Doughoregan Manor is now a National Historic Landmark.



Doughoregan Manor, 1936

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughoregan Manor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughoregan_Manor))

Charles Carroll of Carrollton was a wealthy Maryland planter and an early advocate of independence from Great Britain. He was a farmer but also an American politician, and a Founding Father as signatory of the Declaration of Independence. He was the only Catholic signatory of the Declaration as well as the last surviving and longest-lived, dying 56 years after its signing at the age of 95. He was a continental Congress delegate and a US Senator for Maryland. Mr. Carroll also became a leader in diversifying farming from tobacco production. What new cash crop became a signature of Howard County?

-Compiled from:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/history> ;
<https://constitutioncenter.org/signers/charles-carroll-of-carrollton> ;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Carroll_of_Carrollton ; Holland, C.M., 1980. Ellicott City, Maryland, 18th Century Mill Town; and Feaga, B.W. etc. 2001. Howard's Roads to the Past, Born on the 4th of July, 1851.

Announcements

❖ MAEF Scholarship Golf Tournament

Grab your clubs and play for a purpose at the MAEF Scholarship Golf Tournament!



Join us on **September 9, 2026**, at Oakmont Green Golf Course for a fun day of golf, great food, and supporting the future of agriculture. Every swing helps fund MAEF scholarships for students pursuing careers in ag education and related fields. Thanks to the success of last year's tournament, MAEF was able to award six scholarships in 2025 to help students continue growing their futures.

Click here to Register or Sponsor the Tournament <http://maef.golfgenius.com/>

❖ Maryland Crop Scouting School at CMREC Clarksville



Thursday, Sep 24
9:00 AM - 2:45 PM

Join us for a hands-on Crop Scouting School focused on building practical skills for identifying and managing pests, diseases, and crop issues in the field. Participants will learn how to scout effectively, recognize key problems, and make informed management decisions using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles. This program is designed for farmers, crop consultants, and ag service providers looking to improve their field diagnostics and decision-making. This event covers common pests in row crop and vegetable production systems.

Location: Central Maryland Research & Education Center

Audience: Faculty, Farmers/Producers, Public

Cost: \$10

❖ HCFB Annual Business Meeting

The Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to invite you to the Annual Business Meeting!

Thursday, October 1, 2026, our Annual Business Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall of the Howard County Fairgrounds. At this meeting, we will consider resolutions submitted by members for inclusion in our Farm Bureau policy. This meeting will establish our goals and directions for 2027. We need you in attendance. Should you have a resolution to submit, please email it to:

Leslie Bauer
labauer5@verizon.net
or mail

PO BOX 7 Dayton MD 21036,

Please submit by September 29, 2026.

❖ HCFB Annual Banquet

Our Annual Banquet will be held, **Thursday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Howard County Fairgrounds in the Dining Hall, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794.

Dinner will be catered by Clarksville Catering and will cost \$30.00 per person (\$35/person after November 5th). There will be a brief meeting following dinner, at which time we will elect the Officers and Directors for 2027.

Please send your reservations and money for the dinner to the attention of Katie Hereth no later than **November 5th**. Reservation form found on the invitation letter on Page #11 of this Newsletter.

If you would like to RSVP by email, please email Katie Hereth at kwhit1014@aol.com and send checks made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737.

❖ MAEF Ag Education Forum, Social & Banquet

New venue. New format. Big plans for the future of Maryland agriculture! 🌱

This year, we are bringing Maryland's agricultural community together to help shape a new strategic plan for agricultural education and literacy in our state. After the forum, stick around for a social and banquet celebrating the people and programs that have helped us grow to where we are today.

Come ready to share ideas, make connections, celebrate our progress, and help cultivate the future of Maryland agricultural education!



November 4, 2026



2 to 8 p.m.



Harvest Hall at the Maryland State Fairgrounds

More details are coming soon. For now, mark your calendar and stay tuned!



❖ 2027 American Farm Bureau Convention



If you want the inside scoop when it comes to policies and perspectives that will affect your farm or agribusiness in 2027, don't miss the 108th consecutive American Farm Bureau Convention. This is your opportunity to help set the agenda for the leading voice of agriculture in Washington, DC, and so much more.

Participate in educational workshops to advance your leadership skills, expand your business acumen, and gain deep insight into the trends and realities impacting food production. Witness cutting edge innovation in agriculture, hear from powerful speakers, and explore the trade show to build a stronger network, shop featured products, and idea-share with other state and county Farm Bureaus.

Don't miss the chance to look beyond the horizon at the future of agriculture, sharpen your skills and help set the agenda in Washington.

Charlotte, NC
January 8 - 13, 2027

<https://convention.fb.org/>

❖ Mid-Atlantic Meat Summit



Bringing the Mid-Atlantic Meat Industry Together

The Mid-Atlantic Meat Summit is a regional conference designed to strengthen local and regional meat value chains by bringing together everyone involved in producing, processing, marketing, and serving locally raised meat.

Whether you raise livestock, operate a processing facility, own a meat market, purchase local meat for your restaurant, provide technical assistance, or support the industry through research or policy, the Summit offers opportunities to learn, network, and build partnerships that strengthen our regional meat system.

The event will feature educational sessions, panel discussions, networking opportunities, and industry exhibits led by experts and professionals from across the Mid-Atlantic region.

Save the Date!

Date: January 14-15, 2027

Location: The Maritime Conference Center, 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights, Md.

Hosted by: University of Maryland Extension

Planning is underway, and additional details will be announced over the coming months.

Who Should Attend?

The Mid-Atlantic Meat Summit welcomes participants from across the meat value chain, including:

- Livestock producers
- Meat processors and butcher shops
- USDA and state inspected facilities
- Custom processors
- Chefs and food service professionals
- Meat retailers and wholesalers
- Food hubs and distributors
- Agricultural service providers
- Government agencies
- Economic development professionals
- Students interested in meat careers

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/mid-atlantic-meat-summit/>

Calendar of Events

***** 2026 ~ 2027 *****

SEP 3-7 MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Place Maryland State Fairgrounds

SEP 10-13 MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Place Maryland State Fairgrounds

Sep 9 MAEF Scholarship Gold Tournament

Place Oakmont Green Golf Course

Time 10:00 a.m. shotgun start

Sep 24 Maryland Crop Scouting School at CRMEC Clarksville

Place Central MD Research & Education Center

Time 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Oct 1 HCFB Annual Business Meeting

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

Time 7:00 p.m.

Nov 4 MAEF Ag Education Forum, Social & Banquet

Place MD State Fairgrounds – Harvest Hall

Time 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Nov 12 HCFB ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

Time 7:00 p.m.

DEC 12 THE GREAT LISBON FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Place Lisbon, MD

Time 12:00 p.m.

[HTTP://WWW.LISBONCHRISTMASPARADE.ORG/](http://www.lisbonchristmasparade.org/)

JAN 8-13 108TH AMERICAN FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

Place Charlotte, North Carolina

Jan 14-15 Mid-Atlantic Meat Summit

Place The Maritime Conference Center, 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights, Md.

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

September 1, 2026

Dear Howard County Farm Bureau Members:

The Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau would like to invite you to two important functions which will be held in the very near future.

Thursday, October 1, 2026, our Annual Business Meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m.** in the Dining Hall of the Howard County Fairgrounds. At this meeting, we will consider resolutions submitted by members for inclusion in our Farm Bureau policy. This meeting will establish our goals and directions for 2027. We need you in attendance. Should you have a resolution to submit, please email it to Leslie Bauer, labauer5@verizon.net or mail PO BOX 7 Dayton MD 21036, by September 29, 2026.

Our Annual Banquet which will be held, **Thursday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Howard County Fairgrounds in the Dining Hall, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794. Dinner will be catered by Clarksville Catering and will cost \$30.00 per person (\$35/person after November 5th).

There will be a brief meeting following dinner, at which time we will elect the Officers and Directors for 2027.

Please send your reservations and money for the dinner to the attention of Katie Hereth **no later than November 5th**. If you would like to RSVP by email, please email Katie Hereth at kwhit1014@aol.com and send checks made payable to Howard County Farm Bureau to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737.

We look forward to seeing you October 1st and November 12th.

Sincerely,
Leslie Bauer
Leslie Bauer
President

I would like to make _____ reservations @\$30.00/person (\$35/person after November 5th), for the Howard County Farm Bureau Banquet to be held November 12, 2026.

Please make a check payable to "Howard County Farm Bureau". Send to PO BOX 282, Glenelg, MD 21737 no later than November 5, 2026.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Thank You Sponsors!!!



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Musgrove Family

Charlie's bobcat Service



**William Harrison
& Sons
Run Of The Mill
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