

Montgomery County Farm Bureau



National Agriculture Day Proclamation

BY JEREMY CRISS

On March 15, 2016 the County Council presented a Proclamation for National Agriculture Day. The Proclamation was sponsored by Council members Berliner, Rice and Navarro. At the ceremonies in Rockville, from left to right: Linda Lewis, John Frendrick, Tim McGrath, Councilmembers Roger Berliner and Nancy Navarro, David Weitzer, Councilmember Craig Rice, Dennis Kamber and Jeremy Criss. MCFB



NEWSLETTER

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Mangum Scholarship

BY LISA MANGUM MCCARTHY

\$2,000 Scholarship, Ornamental Horticulture & Related fields

May 1, 2016 at 5 p.m. is the deadline to apply for the \$2,000 annual Robert & Shirley Mangum Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing collegiate studies and a career in horticulture and related fields. Administered since 2004 by the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, the scholarship honors the contributions of lifelong Montgomery County residents, Robert & Shirley Mangum, who were pioneers in the local ornamental horticulture and interior landscape contracting industry. The website robertmangumscholarship.com has been created containing information about eligibility, application, deadlines and contact information. Information must be submitted prior to deadline for consideration. Questions email l.mccarthy@aol.com. MCFB

MCFB Scholarships

BY JILLIAN LEVINE

Montgomery County Farm Bureau (MCFB) recognizes the importance of supporting the next generation to keep agriculture viable and to keep family farms and agriculture related businesses in Maryland. The MCFB Board of Directors is pleased to offer \$15,000 in scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year. These scholarships are designed to assist Montgomery County students who have demonstrated character, scholarship, and talent in an agricultural related field of study at a vocational, two-year, or four-year institute. MCFB Member families are eligible for these scholarships in any field of study.

The completed application with attachments must be received by Monday, **May 2, 2016**. Applicants will be notified of the results by email. For applications, contact Jillian Levine, MCFB Secretary at 240-308-2978 or email mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com. MCFB

Calendar 2016

- May 1**, Deadline Mangum Scholarship
- May 2**, Deadline MCFB Scholarship
- May 18**, Volunteer Recognition
- May 25**, Deadline Miss MCFB
- June 1**, Deadline Grain Producers Scholarships
- June 1**, Deadline Safety Camp
- June 5**, MCFB Picnic, 4:00 p.m.
- July 23 & 24**, Annual Farm Tour
- July 7-9**, Farm Safety Camp
- August 10-20**, Montgomery County Agricultural Fair
- Sept. 17**, Farm to Table Dinner

MD Grain Producers Scholarships

BY JANE EVANS

The Maryland Grain Producers Association will award up to four \$2,500 college scholarships in 2016 to students pursuing an agriculturally related career. Applications are due by **June 1**. For details go to www.marylandgrain.com or email marguerite.mdag@gmail.com. MCFB

Top banner photo by Julie Buric, Buric Angus Beef; Agricultural Day photo by Neil H. Greenberger, Legislative Information Officer, Montgomery County Council

Updates from the Office of Agriculture

BY JEREMY CRISS

Office of Agriculture (OAG). OAG will not function independently until DED is closed sometime this coming spring-June 30, 2016. The Agricultural Services will continue to operate under the DED until it closes. All staff assigned to the OAG will be located in Derwood at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC needs one more new farmer member. Please contact Jeremy Criss if you are interested in serving on the AAC.

The Council is looking for a new Planning Board member to replace Amy Presley (Republican) the deadline to apply is April 20, 2016. The new candidate can be either a republican or an independent.

MDA Weed Control Program. The Governor's proposed budget reinstated the State Weed Control Program and two veteran staff. The Montgomery Weed Control, Inc. President-Eric Spates and the AAC Chairman-David Weitzer and MSCD Chairman-Robert Butz wrote letters to the members of the County Delegation and the Secretary of MDA that helped convince the Governor and MDA.

ZTA 16-02. On March 21, 2016 the Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee reviewed ZTA 16-02 Agricultural Zone-Transferable Development Rights Requirements. The amended ZTA reinstates the understanding that Farm Tenant Dwellings which are accessory to the farming do not require a retained TDR. The Sugarloaf Citizens Association recommends the ZTA be remitted back to the Planning Board and amended to require that a farm tenant dwelling must be on at least 100 acres.

Ag Education Outreach Team. Gene Kingsbury, Greg Glen, Caroline Taylor, Doug Tregoning and Jeremy Criss are presenting to high school students. Poolesville High School was scheduled in January and Damascus and Sherwood High Schools were scheduled in March. Field trips to farms will be scheduled in late April for Butler's Orchard, Rock Hill Orchard, and Stadler's Nursery. MCFB

2016 Annual Farm to Table Dinner

BY KATHY LYONS

Our national award-winning farm to table dinner is in the planning stages for 2016! Designed to educate Montgomery County residents about local agriculture, our Farm Bureau will be hosting another farm to table dinner on Saturday, September 17, 2016. Scott and Melody Brown, have graciously offered their farm, Maryland Manor, in Damascus, for the event. We will showcase a gourmet buffet meal prepared by a local chef using meats and produce from county farmers! Information booths will again be set up.

We welcome any additional suggestions about the event. Look for more information on the MCFB website. We need help to make this a sustainable event. MCFB members are needed to make donations of meats and produce, to deliver items to the chef, to volunteer as a farmer to dine with the attendees and/or to set up an informational table, for set up and clean up, or to make a financial contribution to offset event costs. Please contact Kathy Lyons at kmhlyons@aol.com, Paula Linthicum SenecaAyrFarms@aol.com, for more information, Hallie Butler hallie@butlersorchard.com for food donations or Marla Luther luther.marla@gmail.com to volunteer to help. MCFB

Ag Tire Collection Event. In February the County Government partnered with the MFB and MES to conduct an Ag Tire Collection Event. Over the two days 15 farmers dropped off tires filling one and a half containers. The event was successful. We hope to schedule it again next year. **Contact Jeremy Criss for more information.**

Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau Contest

BY MINA LUTHER

We are seeking applicants for the 2016 Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau contest to be held on **Sunday, June 5, 2016** at the Annual Summer Picnic. One contestant will be selected to promote agriculture in Montgomery County during the 2016-2017 year and represent Montgomery County at the Miss Maryland Agriculture contest at the 2016 Maryland State Fair. Educational scholarships will be awarded to the contest winner, first and second runner-ups. The contest is open to all single girls age 16-19 that are part of a family farming operation and/or have a 4-H/FFA agricultural project. The applicant's parents must be members of Montgomery County Farm Bureau prior to the contest date. Applications are available at the Montgomery County Farm Bureau website at www.mdfarmbureau.com or by contacting Mina Luther at 301-253-6084. The application deadline is **May 25, 2016**. Please also contact Mina Luther with names of potential Little Farmer and Little Farmerette participants. They too will be selected at the Picnic and gifts awarded to them. MCFB

Annual Picnic

BY ROBIN LECHLIDER

The 2016 Montgomery County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 5, 2016** at 4:00 p.m. at L&M Farm. Our picnic hosts are Lonnie and Mina Luther. Voting members will receive invitations in late April with RSVP to Jillian Levine at mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com or 240-308-2978 by May 30. MCFB

Safety Camp Opportunity for Youth Ages 8-13

BY JOANNE LEATHERMAN

The Farm Safety Camp will be held July 7-9, 2016 at Round Meadow Campground, Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont, Md. Sponsored by the Frederick County Young Farmers, this annual rural/farm safety camp is open to youth ages 8-13. Over 1,000 youth have learned important safety lessons from this innovative camp.

The camp has hiking, swimming, and campfires, but includes educational sessions focusing on many aspects of safety. This year's camp is tentatively featuring Fire Safety, Farm Safety, Sun Safety, Wilderness Safety, Small Animals, and Lawn Mower Driving. Sessions are taught by local volunteers who are experts in their field.

Cost is \$30, which includes registration, meals, lodging, a camp T-shirt, group picture and a water bottle. Registration opened March 1 and closes June 1, 2016 on a first come, first served basis. Youth from Frederick, Montgomery, Howard, Washington and Carroll Counties are welcome.

MCFB partners with Frederick County Young Farmers to provide support. Any MCFB member family can send their child(ren) at half price with Farm Bureau paying the other half as a member benefit. Contact JoAnne Leatherman at joanneleatherman@hotmail.com for further information.

Registration forms can be downloaded from <http://frederick.mdfarmbureau.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2013/06/2016-Registration-Form.pdf>. MCFB

Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference 2016

BY TYLER C. BUTLER

One Montgomery County young farmer was busy touring and networking with nearly 800 other young farmers and ranchers from around the country, this winter. I want to share the wonderful experience Jillian Levine had during the 2016 Young Farmer & Rancher Leadership Conference.

This year Kansas City hosted the event where young farmers had an opportunity to develop leadership skills through unique seminars, workshops, and by sharing ideas with other leaders. Jillian summed up her experience best stating, "even though we all come from different corners of the country and diverse ag enterprises, it was surprising to realize we all face similar challenges. I left the conference feeling inspired and energized to continue advocating for agriculture!"

To learn more about the YF&R Conference and other great opportunities to join Montgomery County Young Farmers go to our Facebook page or e-mail me at TylerCButler@gmail.com. MCFB

Visit the King Barn Dairy Mooseum

BY JOANNE LEATHERMAN

In the early 1900's, there were over 600 dairy farms in Montgomery County. Now just six remain active. The James and Macie King farm in Germantown was a vibrant dairy operation from 1913 to 1962. Acquired by the MNCP&P Commission, the farm's cement block barn is now a dairy heritage museum dedicated to interpreting the rich history of dairy farming in Montgomery County. Located in the South Germantown Recreational Park (where Soccerplex is) the county maintains the physical facility and a nonprofit organization manages the exhibits. The Mooseum is chockful of interactive exhibits for all ages, as well as artifacts important to dairy history. There is a gift shop and a library of farm histories

It is open every Saturday May to October from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On the fourth Sunday of each month, a local farm family is featured from 1-4 p.m. Arrangements for tours at other times can be made.

Featured Farms for 2016 include:

- May 22 Charles & James Crown, Fields Rd., Gaithersburg, MD
- June 26 Edwin & Lorraine Fry, Fair Hill Farm, Sundown Rd., Laytonsville, MD
- July 24 Sherwood Duvall, Hawkins Creamery Rd., Damascus, MD
- August 28 Charles & John Linthicum, Seneca Ayr Farm, 13100 Old Baltimore Rd., Boyds, MD
- September 25 Riggs & Stiles Farm, Green Hills Farm, Huntmaster Rd., Goshen, MD

For further information, go to <http://www.mooseum.org/> or email dairymooseum@aol.com Arrangements for tours can be made through the website. MCFB

The University of Maryland Extension Office Programs

April 14 Urban Nutrient Management Turf Grass Training and Exam for those applying fertilizers commercially to lawns. 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Derwood, MD

April 15 Farmer Market Meeting 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Derwood, MD

May 18 Volunteer Recognition Program, If you volunteer for Extension this is your evening to come celebrate with us at our annual recognition program.

May 24 Urban Nutrient Management Turf Grass Training and Exam for those applying fertilizers commercially to lawns. 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Derwood, MD

May 25 Urban Nutrient Management Recertification Program, 2 Continuing Education Credits offered for those that hold a Professional Fertilizer Applicator license. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Derwood, MD

Contact Chuck Schuster if interested in attending any of the above programs.

Damascus Heritage Museum Celebrates Town's 200 Years

BY JOANNE LEATHERMAN

The Damascus Heritage Society Museum is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Damascus in 1816 with three sequential exhibits in 2016. The current exhibit is entitled, "Founding Families of Damascus", focusing on the families prominent in the town's development, many of which have been farm families. This will be displayed through May 31. The Damascus Heritage Society Museum is located next to the Damascus Library and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays noon to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit the society's web site at <http://dhsm.org/>. MCFB

MAEF Mobile Science Lab Kept Busy

BY TOM HARTSOCK

The (MAEF) Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation's, Food, Fiber and You Mobile Science Lab has been in Montgomery County nearly full-time this year. The Lab has visited 18 of our elementary schools so far. And 8 more are on the schedule. After being refurbished over the summer, the lab will be back next fall to visit the 2nd cohort of MOCO elementary schools. The Science Lab is funded through the Montgomery County OAG budget. Following our success, Howard County is in the process of setting up a similar program for their elementary schools. And MAEF has ordered the construction of another lab because of the increase in demand! MCFB

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Face Book at Montgomery County Farm Bureau

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