

Montgomery County Farm Bureau



Exploring India's Agriculture with LEAD MD

BY TYLER C. BUTLER

This past January along with 15 other LEAD Maryland fellows I headed off to the United Arab Emirates and India. This trip is the culmination of our two year program. The purpose of the international trip is to put our group of up and coming agricultural leaders out of our comfort zone and to give us the opportunity to gain different perspectives on other cultures. I was fascinated with the agriculture in India and would like to briefly share a few takeaways with you.



LEAD Maryland fellows group on their program culmination trip. Pictured here in India learning about the country's agriculture and culture.

Seventy percent of farms in India are less than 2.5 acres. No that is not a misprint! This country that is roughly the size of one third of the United States is comprised of tiny family owned farms. In January India's agricultural state called Punjab can be described in two colors, green and yellow. On our drive through the country we passed vast fields of wheat and seas of yellow mustard. Rice is the most important crop in India, but since we were visiting during the winter season rice was not yet planted. The

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NEWSLETTER

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\$2,000 Mangum Scholarship

BY LISA MANGUM MCCARTHY

Ornamental Horticulture & Related fields scholarship available to students pursuing studies in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, Greenhouse Growing, etc.

May 2, 2017 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. For further information, 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.

2017 MCFB Scholarships

BY JILLIAN LEVINE

The Montgomery County Farm Bureau, Inc. realizes the importance of supporting the next generation to keep agriculture viable and to keep family farms and agriculture related businesses in MD. The MCFB is pleased to offer \$15,000 in scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. These scholarships are designed to assist students who have demonstrated character, scholarship, and talent and who are interested in pursuing an education and career in the agricultural, or plant related industries, and/or Maryland education. MCFB member families are also eligible for these scholarships in any field of study.

All applications and attachments must be sent to Eric Spates, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com. Questions can be directed to Jillian Levine, Secretary at mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com or 240-308-2978. **Deadline: May 1, 2017**

Calendar 2017

May 1, Deadline MCFB Scholarships

May 2, Deadline Mangum Scholarship

May 26, Deadline Miss MCFB application

June 1, Deadline Grain Producers Scholarships

June 3, MCFB Picnic

June 9, Pesticide & Nutrient Mgmt. Program

June 15, Deadline Safety Camp application

July 6-8, Safety Camp

July 22 & 23, Annual Farm Tour

August 11 to 19, Mont. Co. Agricultural Fair

Sept. 23, Farm to Table Dinner

Top banner photo: Farmer in India growing peppers; Top banner and LEAD group photos by Tyler C. Butler

President's Thoughts

BY MICHELE CROPP

What an honor it is to represent you as your President. I am humbled and in awe of the opportunity you have given me. Thank you for your votes of confidence and I will do my best to live up to your faith in me.

These are exciting times to be in agriculture. Our country, and most especially our community members, are discovering the value of knowing where their food comes from and the delight of eating locally raised foods, produced and harvested within an hour of their residence as opposed to moved 3,000 miles or more across the country or from other continents. The pleasures of biting into an ear of corn harvested only hours earlier compared to corn, which was picked days earlier and trucked one thousand miles has become, more clear to the general public.

We are fortunate to have Governor Hogan who is supportive of Agriculture and the tide may be slowly turning in our favor with more of our fellow citizens. We at the Farm Bureau have a unique opportunity to help our fellow citizens here in Montgomery County.

Recently I became aware of one of our citizens who was having some trouble with a specific agency of the County Government due to a common practice of her farming operation. Once I spent some time researching her problem, I contacted our county Office of Agriculture and enlisted their support to meet with the county department in question and see if we could amicably resolve the situation. A meeting was arranged and we were able to resolve the problem without legal action or even additional time. In many ways, it was a perfect example of fellow citizens working together. We explained why her agricultural practice made sense, why it was valuable and then listened to their concerns. Together we solved the problem sitting around a table and within an hour what could have been a protracted disagreement with devastating outcomes for not just this farmer but for many was resolved and settled. I encourage any of you who are having a conflict to call on us, YOUR farm bureau representatives and allow us the privilege of helping you reach a favorable outcome. Please contact me any time. MCFB

2017 Annual Farm to Table Dinner

BY KATHY LYONS

Our award-winning dinner is in the planning stages for its 5th Annual Event! Following four successful dinners designed to educate Montgomery County residents about local agriculture, our FB will be hosting another farm to table dinner on **Saturday, September 23, 2017**.

Doug and Robin Lechluder, have graciously offered their farm, Laytonville Turf Farm to host the event. We will showcase a gourmet meal prepared by a local chef using meats and produce from county farmers! Information booths will be on site to raise awareness of ag related issues in the county. More FB farms are needed to set up information booths for this milestone event.

Ticket sales will be via Eventbrite, flyers at local farms and farmers' markets, past attendees, and by your making your non-Ag friends aware! Look for more information soon on the FB website.

We need help to make this a sustainable event—FB 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 at kmhlyons@aol.com, to volunteer to help or sponsor the event and Hallie Butler, hallie@butlersorchard.com, for food, wine or beer donations. MCFB

Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau Contest

BY MINA LUTHER

Would you like to represent Montgomery County Agriculture? Apply for the 2017 Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau contest. MCFB is seeking applicants for the 2017 Miss MCFB contest to be held on Saturday **June 3, 2017** at the Annual Summer Picnic. One contestant will be selected to promote agriculture in Montgomery County for the 2017-2018 year and to represent Montgomery County at the Miss Maryland Agriculture contest at the 2017 Maryland State Fair. Educational scholarships will be awarded to the county contest winner, first and second runner-ups and at the MD State Fair contest. The contest is open to all single girls age 16-19 who 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 <http://montgomery.mdfarmbureau.com/> or by contacting Paula Linthicum at 301-391-6091. The application deadline is May 26, 2017 and should be submitted to the MCFB Secretary, Jillian Levine at mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com. MCFB

Annual Picnic

BY MINA LUTHER

The 2017 Montgomery County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic will be held on **June 3, 2017** at 4 p.m. The Potomac Hunt Club has graciously made their facilities available to us. Bring the family and join in the fun as we crown the winner of our Miss MCFB Contest, and introduce the recipients of MCFB Scholarships for 2017. Voting Members will receive invitations with more details soon. Please RSVP to Jillian Levine, MCFB Secretary at mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com or 240-308-2978. Hope to see you there! MCFB

MD Grain Producers Scholarship

BY CHUCK SCHUSTER

Are you aware of the Maryland Grain Producers scholarship? The purpose of the scholarship program is to provide financial support to students interested in pursuing an agriculturally related career. Scholarship funding is provided by the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program, which supports promotion, education and research projects beneficial to the grain industry. More than \$160,000 in college scholarships has been awarded since the program was established in 1991. The program is administered by the Maryland Grain Producers Association, which will be awarding up to four deserving students pursuing a career in agriculture with scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each.

To be eligible for these scholarships one must be a resident of the state of Maryland and be enrolled or accepted to a four-year institution working toward a Bachelor of Science Degree or enrolled or accepted to a two-year institution with an agricultural program. The applicant or the applicant's immediate family, must be involved in the production of grain in Maryland.

Interested individuals should return a completed application. <http://www.marylandgrain.com/Scholarships.htm> Additional information may be requested as part of the selection process. Applications must be received by **June 1**. Mail to Maryland Grain Producers Scholarship Committee, 209 Jarman Branch Drive, Centreville MD 21617 or email to danielle.mdag@gmail.com. MCFB

Youth Welcomed to Summer Safety Camp

BY JOANNE LEATHERMAN

Frederick County Farm Safety Camp is scheduled for **July 6-8** at Camp Round Meadow in Catoclin Mountain Park, 4840 Manahan Road, Sabillasville, Md. Montgomery County Farm Bureau will again partner with Frederick County Young Farmers to recruit campers and provide financial support. Camp is open to any interested youth, ages 8-13.

Over the last 22 years, the camp has emphasized safety for approximately 70 youth per year. It was started by farm community leaders Jane and Charles Smith of Jefferson.

Besides traditional camping activities, interactive sessions will include food safety, fire safety, electric safety, farm safety, lawn mower safety and wildlife safety. There will be swimming, hiking, sports and a campfire.

Cost for the three day, two-night camp is \$30.00. Registration is open until June 15, 2017 on a first come, first served basis. Montgomery County Farm Bureau is offering \$15.00 scholarships to the children of Farm Bureau members.

For registration information or scholarships, contact JoAnne Leatherman at 301-253-5469 or email joanneleatherman@hotmail.com. MCFB

University of MD Extension

BY CHUCK SCHUSTER

The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and University of Maryland Extension has recently held listening sessions across the state as part of a comprehensive project designed to identify trends and issues affecting our society, state, and industries. We want to hear directly from individuals in the community. Your feedback will help us determine how we can best serve the State of Maryland and its citizens. Please continue to provide your feedback to Extension Educators.

Upcoming Extension program June 9, 2017. Pesticide and Urban Nutrient Management Recertification Program; University of Maryland Extension Office—Derwood, MD. Contact Chuck for more information. MCFB

Legislative Affairs Committee

BY PAULA LINTHICUM

MCFB has been working very hard in Annapolis on deer hunting bills to help decrease the deer population. HB310 Deer Hunting Sundays adds an additional 11 partial days of Sunday hunting in the County during the hunting season. HB313 Archery Hunting Safety Zone decreases the safety zone from 100 yards to 50 yards where an archery hunter can discharge a bow from a public street or occupied dwelling. The MC Delegation House and Senate members voted in favor of the bills. HB310 passed the House 3/20/17.

Twelve MCFB members met with legislators February 8 to discuss agriculture issues during MD Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis. Delegate Eric Luedtke recognized Miss Montgomery County Farm Bureau Sara Lechlinder during the House Session for her service to Montgomery County Agriculture.

The County Council approved Bill 31-16 Urban Agricultural Tax Credit allowing property owners within 1,000 feet of Metro Station Policy Area where their property is between ½ acre up to 3 acres to apply for an Urban Agricultural Tax Credit provided they generate at least \$5,000 in sales or donated agricultural products. MCFB

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climate of India sets up a rotation of wheat in the cooler winter months and rice in the monsoon summer months. A few other crops we noticed were sugarcane, cauliflower and potatoes, which are also very much a part of the Indian diet.

Education and agriculture extension programs are desperately needed in order for this country to sustain its massive population growth which now exceeds 1.2 billion.

If you are interested in learning more about LEAD Maryland, or Montgomery County Young Farmers please go to our Facebook page or e-mail me at TylerCButler@gmail.com. MCFB

Calling all Members of Farm Bureau

BY LINDA LEWIS

This is how you can help us with new membership. Please spread the word of all the benefits of a member.

As some of you know Nationwide Insurance partners with Farm Bureau with Auto, Farm, Travel, Long-Term Care, Mortgage, and Pet Insurance. Benefit Design Group helps with Health Insurance. Product and Service Discounts are available through Industrial Suppliers like Caterpillar (CAT) Inc., Case Agriculture, Grainer, Griffith Energy, Safemark Products and SMO Energy. As are vacation discounts from Avis, Budget, Hertz, Disney/Orlando Discounts, Choice Hotels, Wyndham Hotel Group and Intercontinental Hotels Group. But my favorite is the \$500 discount on all GM models purchased or leased at GM Dealerships. I have gotten two members in the last month. How many do you think you can get? MCFB

MCFB Newsletter Opportunity

BY JANE EVANS

There's an opportunity available for the person who wants to become the new Chair of our MCFB Newsletter Committee. And also opportunities for new members of the committee. After 6 ½ years as the chair, this is my last MCFB newsletter. Many thanks to all the newsletter committee members and other article writers who have made our newsletter a success. If helping with the newsletter sounds good to you, email our secretary Jillian Levine at mcfarmbureausecretary@gmail.com. It's been a great way to make friends and promote agriculture in Montgomery County. MCFB

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Face Book at Montgomery
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