

# MAEF, CCPL join forces to promote agriculture and reading

Friday, November 17, 2023



Photo courtesy of the Cecil Whig

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RISING SUN — Cecil County Public Library and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation joined forces Wednesday for a Maryland Agriculture Night Showcase from 6 until 8 p.m.

Families came out to tour the Mobile Lab, play a few games for prizes, sample some

Chesapeake Gold Farms cheese and yogurt and meet Charlie, Cecil County's official cow.

"He's a Jersey-Angus cross," Cecil County Councilman Al Miller said as he tried to get the 5-month-old bovine to participate in the meet and greet. Charlie got his name from Charlie Robinson, a Rising Sun-area farmer who passed away earlier this year. RISING SUN — Cecil County Public Library and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation joined forces Wednesday for a Maryland Agriculture Night Showcase from 6 until 8 p.m.

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"Charlie was picked up in Colora," Miller said. "He was a very sick calf. He had scours and

pink eye. A lot of people came together to make him well.”

“Charlie is a pet,” said Miller’s wife Karen as she fed the animal apple slices. “We will use Charlie to spread the news about agriculture.”

Next month, Charlie will be part of the living nativity at several churches.

“He’s going to be a holy cow,” Al Miller said, laughing.

As part of the festivities, Morgan Miller, Director of Cecil County Public Libraries, presented Charlie with his very own library card. In doing so, she paraphrased words from Dr. Seuss: “The moo you read, the moo you know, the moo you learn, the moo you grow.”

She also enrolled Charlie into the library’s “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program. The program encourages establishing an early love of reading and learning.

At the Chesapeake Gold Farms table, Bob Miller showed off products made “with real cows.”

“We are a real farm that’s been here a long time,” Miller said, adding that the farm’s 6th generation is working the lands today and the 7th generation will do likewise.

“We are using our cows to make milk, cheese and yogurt,” he told the crowd.

Tiffany Semmons and her children, Jace and Journee, were enjoying everything the showcase offered; including sampling the Chesapeake Gold cheeses.

“We love it. We had the yogurt too,” Semmons said.

Ben Brown, Director of Communications for MAEF, said this kind of interaction is what these showcases are all about. Held outside of school hours, these events help the public understand the value and importance of the agriculture happening in their neighborhoods.

“We try to reach more families,” Brown said. “The showcase reached over 60,000 people at events last year.”

To learn more about the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation go to <https://maefonline.com/>.