

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 14, NO. 1

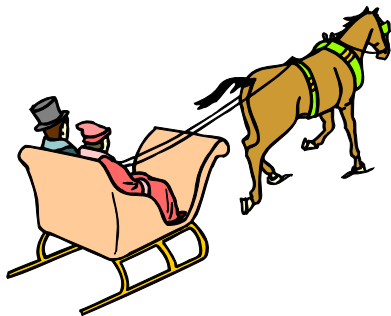
JANUARY, 2005

PHILIP JONES, PRESIDENT, (410) 442-2679; VACANCY, VICE-PRESIDENT;

MERHLYN BARNES, SECRETARY, (410) 489-4465;

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The Officers and Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau wish each and every one of you a very happy and prosperous new year!

Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast. The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast meeting will take place at **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2005** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fair Grounds. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

The guest speaker will be our neighbor, Delegate Gail Bates, who represents Howard County in the House of Delegates in Annapolis. She will address some of the important issues that are expected to come up in the 2005 session of the Maryland General Assembly, i.e., a timely Legislative Update. This meeting will also present an excellent opportunity for local citizen input to the legislative process.

Don't miss this important and informative session. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, fine fellowship and lively information exchange. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am and the program begins at 8:30 am.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, January 11, by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-3455. The cost of the breakfast is \$6.00 per person, payable at the door.

The formal part of the program will conclude by approximately 9:00 a.m. You may stay longer if you wish. We look forward to seeing you at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast on January 13.

Farm Bureau President's Message. The Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Convention was held in Ocean City, Maryland from December 5 through December 8. Those attending from Howard County were Bucky and Martha Clark, Bill and Merhlyn Barnes, Jim and Ruthie Welling, and Phil and Sharon Jones. Also, Mike and Nancy Mullinix attended the Banquet on Tuesday evening where they received an award for being one of Maryland's top Safemark dealers. Let's keep buying Safemark tires and batteries so that next year they can be top in the state.

Howard County Farm Bureau won stars on everything but the Discussion Group and National Affairs categories. Special THANKS to all those whose work enabled us to win those awards.

Frederick County won the award for Outstanding County Farm Bureau in the state. They have won this award

numerous times in the recent past. Theirs is a terrific County Farm Bureau, and we congratulate them.

The Howard County Board of Directors would like to express appreciation to those directors going off the board and to welcome several new members. I look forward to working with them in the coming year. They are; Lori Moxley, Justin Brendel, Sherri Smith, Bryan Streaker and Micky Day.

We give thanks for a good year in 2004 and pray for you a prosperous 2005.

— J. Philip Jones, President
Howard County Farm Bureau

“Bin Buster” Corn and Soybean Yields Predicted.

According to the November 24, 2004 issue of *Maryland Agri-Facts* published semi-monthly by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland farmers are expecting excellent corn and soybean yields this season. Based upon a survey conducted the first week of November, yields for these two crops are expected to be second only to the records set in 2000.

Maryland corn and soybean grain yields for 2004 are expected to average 152 and 42 Bu/Ac respectively. In the record-setting 2000 season, corn and soybean yields averaged 155 and 43 Bu/Ac respectively.

Talk about progress. Improved production practices over the last 50 years or so have resulted in some phenomenal yield increases from these crops. According to *Maryland Agricultural Statistics: 1919-1952*, average Maryland grain yields for 1952 were just 46 Bu/Ac for corn and 18 Bu/Ac for soybeans. Now, if only prices had kept pace with yields.

— Allan Bandel
Newsletter Editor

Highlights of Government Conservation Cost Share Programs. The federal government and Maryland state government have historically offered conservation cost share programs for implementing best management

practices on private lands. In Howard County these programs are administered by the Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) and the local office of USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All programs require an agreement between the landowner or farm operator and the government. For more information, contact the HSCD at 410-489-7987. More information about the EQIP, WHIP, and CREP programs can be found on the web at www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs. Here is a general overview of the programs. The EQIP and WHIP programs are currently in a sign-up period that lasts through Feb 28.

MACS - Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program.

- Pays up to 87.5% of eligible costs for best management practices that solve a water quality or erosion problem on agricultural land.
- Eligible costs are based on flat rates for the county.
- Administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the local soil conservation district.
- Sign up for this program at any time.

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

- The main federal cost share program for implementing best management practices for conservation.
- Pays up to 75% of the eligible costs for conservation related to agricultural waste management.
- Pays 50% of the cost of other conservation practices.
- Incentive payments offered for nutrient management, pest management, and prescribed grazing.
- Competition for funding with other applicants across the state by measuring environmental benefits.
- Sign-up for this program runs from now through February 28.

CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

- Program goals are water quality improvement and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Pays up to 87.5% of the eligible costs of conservation practices.

- 50% paid by the federal government through NRCS.
- 37.5% paid through the MACS program mentioned earlier.
- Offers an annual rental rate for keeping land in the conserving cover.
- Eligible land includes highly erodible cropland and marginal pasture.
- Continuous sign up with no competition among applicants for funds.
- Current practices include - riparian forest buffer, filter strip, conservation cover on highly erodible land, wetland restoration, and shallow water areas for wildlife.
- Requires a 10 to 15 year contract.

WHIP- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

- Pays up to 75% of the eligible costs for several wildlife practices in Maryland.
- Eligible land is privately-owned land that can support wildlife habitat improvement.
- Can be non-agricultural land.
- Competitive statewide - all applicants compete based on wildlife benefits.
- Requires a five year contract.
- No annual rental payments.
- Part of the program involves grants to schools for educational projects.
- Practices include conservation cover like warm season grass or cool season grass mixtures, riparian forest buffer, shallow water areas for wildlife, and filter strips.
- Sign up for this program through January 28.

Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Program.

- Pays up to 80% of the cost of a project to improve water quality or prevent soil erosion.
- The program is administered by Howard Soil Conservation District.
- For the Patuxent watershed **only**.
- Geared towards those small operations that do not meet the eligibility requirements of other programs.
- Main cost shared items are - stream bank fencing,

stream crossings, water troughs, riparian forest buffers, and filter strips.

- Conservation practices must be within 300 feet of a stream.
- Sign up at the Howard Soil Conservation District any time.

— Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS
District Conservationist
Howard SCD

Youth Ag Business Development Grant Offered. The Agriculture Committee of the Howard County Economic Development Authority has established an Agricultural Business Industry Youth Grant. A total of \$750 has been dedicated from the County's Agricultural Marketing Program's local branding program -"Howard County Grown"- for the expressed purpose of providing an entrepreneurship grant for a Howard County youth. The grant will be available annually to a Howard County youth (18 years of age or younger) who would like to begin an agricultural enterprise or would like to make modifications to an existing agricultural practice. The intention of the grant is to improve the economic viability of agriculture in Howard County by encouraging youth to try new business ventures that they may not have the capital available to start without assistance.

Examples include: Purchasing materials for a greenhouse to grow herbs or cut flowers, creating marketing materials for direct-sales outlets such as roadside stands, developing a specialty services business such as "relief livestock caregiver", starting a vegetable business on a dairy farm or purchasing superior genetics to improve brood stock performance.

The applicant may be a sole proprietor or form a joint venture with another Howard County company, partnership, sole proprietor or cooperative. Projects carried out on existing farming operations in Howard County also qualify. All projects must be completed in Howard County and the applicant must be a Howard County resident. Applications will be available starting January 28, 2005. All applications must be received by February 28th and the final selection will be announced not later than March 31st.

To request a grant application, please contact: Ginger Myers, Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500, Columbia, MD, 21046, 410-313-6500, or request the form via email by contacting gmyers@hceda.org.

— Ginger S. Myers
Agriculture Marketing Specialist
Howard County Economic Development Authority

Grain Variety Trial Results. Appropriate variety selection is very important for good yields. Check out the 2004 University of Maryland corn and soybean variety trial results which can be found on the internet at: <http://www.nrsl.umd.edu/extension/crops/>

If you need a printed copy, please call the Howard County office of Maryland Cooperative Extension at 410-313-2707.

Soybean Rust and Fungicides. Since it's winter, we have some time to plan strategies for Asian Soybean Rust. As of this writing, the rust has been found in 9 states. The fungus needs living host tissue to survive, so it is not likely to overwinter north of the deep South. If the disease arrives in this area, it is likely to come as spores blown on the wind from infected areas to our south and/or west. Will you need to treat your fields with fungicide? It all depends on the timing of the infection. Infections very late in the season won't need treatment. So be sure to scout your fields. If you find some suspicious looking plants with reddish brown or tan lesions, please call my office at 410-313-2707.

The following active ingredients are already labeled for use on soybean rust:

Chlorothalonil (Bravo® WeatherStik, Echo® 720, Echo® 90DF).

Azoxystrobin (Quadris® 2.08SC) (High resistance risk)

Pyraclostrobin (Headline® 2.09EC) (High resistance risk)

Three more active ingredients have been approved through EPA's Section 18 process:

Propiconazole (Tilt® 3.6EC, PropiMax™ 3.6EC, Bumper® 41.8EC)

Tebuconazole (Folicur® 3.6F)

Myclobutanil (Laredo™ 25EC, Laredo™ 25EW)

Only two total applications of these Section 18 materials can be used in the growing season. Remember that if you use these products, you need both the regular EPA label and the Section 18 label. Waiting in the wings are a few more materials, where the Section 18 has not yet been approved.

If you would like more information about these materials or how to manage them to minimize resistance, please call me at 410-313-2707.

(Adapted from Arvydas Grybauskas, University of Maryland and Dennis Howard, Maryland Department of Agriculture.)

— Caragh B. Fitzgerald, Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Maryland Cooperative Extension
Howard County Office

Maryland Farm Bureau's Day-In-Annapolis. On Tuesday, February 1, 2005, the Young Farmers and the Women's Committees will jointly co-sponsor our annual Day-In-Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will bring you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The Day-In-Annapolis event is timed to bring you to our state capital at a very critical time during the 90-day session – a time when committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

The day's events will include a legislative briefing by

Maryland farm Bureau Government Relations staff, time to sit in on the legislative session, and luncheon with legislators at the Calvert House. In the past, more than half of the General Assembly has stopped by during lunch. This is a great opportunity to visit with the Senators and Delegates from your area and to help folks from the city districts to better understand your farm businesses. Hope to see you in Annapolis on February 1, 2005.

There is a registration fee of \$20 per person for this event which partially covers the cost of the luncheon. Registrations must be received by Maryland Farm Bureau by Friday, January 21, 2005. For more information and registration forms, please contact Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 465-4465.

Maryland Farm Bureau's Washington Drive-In. This one-day event will focus on our lobbying goals on Capitol Hill. Farm Bureau members from across the state can participate by catching a bus at one of six stops between Salisbury, Frederick, and Washington, D.C.

The Drive-In will feature legislative briefings from AFBF staff, lunch with the Maryland Congressional Delegation, meetings with Legislative Assistants who specialize in agriculture, dinner at one of D.C.'s finer restaurants, and more.

The Registration Fee for each participant is \$75.00 which covers roundtrip bus transportation to Washington, lunch at the Holiday Inn and dinner in Washington. MFB has contributed 33% of the cost per participant to reduce the rate to \$75.00. If you drive, the registration fee will be reduced to eliminate the cost of the bus. Call Val Connelly to determine the correct registration fee (410) 922-3426 or (410) 269-0656. The registration deadline is Monday, February 28, 2005. For more information and registration forms, please contact Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 465-4465.

Planning For Your Pets. This writer is finalizing the administration of an estate, and happened to glance one last time at the will. In amongst the

provisions for the payment of taxes and distribution of assets, he left his dog to his daughter.

Bequests of pets are commonplace. Because animals are treated at law as property, they can be, and are, bequeathed as any other asset. Sometimes the animal's value is significant, as in the case of a prize stud, but often the value of the animal is only sentimental.

More problematic is the bequest of the pet and money for his care: "my horse Felix, and \$50,000 for his care, to my daughter Esmeralda," or "\$25,000 to my son Josh, in trust, for the care of my dog, Homer." Equally difficult is "my tarantula Leggs and \$500 to the Animal Shelter for his care." Any of these bequests is known as an "honorary trust," because it depends on the recipient's honor to fulfill the terms of the trust.

Because the pet does not have standing to enforce the provision in the will or the trust, the recipient could legally accept the bequest and immediately euthanize the animal. This is an unacceptable risk for most pet owners. While most animal shelters and rescue societies would not euthanize an animal without cause, clients of this writer have voiced a concern that certain of these organizations do so too quickly.

One way to "draft around" this problem is to specifically provide in the instrument that the local animal rescue or humane society has standing to enforce the trust. Another solution would have the proposed caretaker sign a contract during life, for the benefit of the pet and the animal rescue organization, so that the organization could sue for breach of contract if the promise were unfulfilled. Either approach would seem to work, but both have their problems, and neither has been tested in the Courts.

Even more difficult is the bequest of "\$50,000 in trust for the care of my cat, Isolde." Because a trust must have a beneficiary, and because Isolde is not a person but property, despite her undeniable personality, the

trust fails and the funds are distributed in other ways, usually at the behest of a beneficiary who stands to gain by the alternate distribution. Some states have passed laws specifically allowing for the creation of such trusts, but Maryland is not one of them.

And there are strange cases out there. One gentleman left his poodle, Fluffy, to his nephew, and provided that Nephew could live in the gentleman's home and care for Fluffy until Fluffy died, whereupon the house was to be sold and the proceeds distributed. The neighbors noticed that Fluffy, age six or so at the time, seemed to have a suspiciously lengthy life. In fact, Fluffy seemed to become more, not less, vigorous with age.

Upon filing a lawsuit and making inquiry, the neighbors found, not just one, but two Fluffies in the freezer. It seems that each time Fluffy met his maker, Nephew perpetuated his rent-free lifestyle by the purchase of more and more Fluffies.

The solution is straightforward. If you know your pet's future caretaker to be honorable, these concerns are simply eliminated.

If you do not, or if you do not have anyone to care for your pet, consider a bequest of your pet and a sufficient sum to an animal shelter or rescue society that has an acceptable policy against early euthanasia. This might require revisiting your financial plan to be sure you can leave an adequate amount for the care of your pet and still realize your other goals.

Review your will and be sure that you have made proper provision for those most dependent on you.

— Timothy S. Barkley, Sr., JD, CFP, CSA
Attorney at Law

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005

- Jan 3-7 **Advanced IPM Short Course.** College Park, MD. Contact: Michael Raupp at (310) 405-8478 or Mraupp@umd.edu. *
- Jan 5 **Basic Feeding Concepts for Horse Owners and Record Keeping & Financial Management for Equine Businesses.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*
- Jan 6, 11 **Pasture Management and EQIP Financial Assistance Workshops.** 6:30-9:00 pm. Finzel and Belair respectively. Contact Elmer Dengler (443-482-2922) or Les Vough (301-405-1322).
- Jan 12 **Weed Control Update.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*
- Jan 13 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds. West Friendship, MD. (See announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- Jan 13 **Pesticide Re-certification for Private Applicators.** (Registration required). 7-9 pm. MCE, Montgomery County, (301) 590-9638.*
- Jan 13,18 **Pasture Management and EQIP Financial Assistance Workshops.** 6:30-9:00 pm. Westminster and Waldorf respectively. Contact Elmer Dengler (443-482-2922) or Les Vough (301-405-1322).
- Jan 14-15 **Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference.** Hagerstown, MD. Sustainable and alternative agriculture. Keynote speaker: Temple Grandin.*

- Jan 19 **Plant Disease Update.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*
- Jan 20-23 **University Seminars, Horse World Expo.** Timonium, MD. For a detailed schedule, see: <http://www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/hwe2005.html> *
- Jan 20,31 **Pasture Management and EQIP Financial Assistance Workshops.** 6:30-9:00 pm. Hagerstown and Denton respectively. Contact Elmer Dengler (443-482-2922) or Les Vough (301-405-1322).
- Jan 24-?? **Tilling the Soil of Opportunity . . . A NxLevel™ Training.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *
- Jan 25 **Central Maryland Pasture Conference.** 9:30-3:30, Focus: Dairy and Livestock Production. 6:00-9:00, Focus: Small Acreages. Westminster, MD. Contact: Doug Tregoning (301-590-2809).
- Jan 25 **Chesapeake Green Conference.** Maritime Institute, Anne Arundel County. Contact: Hank Doong, MGGA, (310) 937-4166 or Vanessa Finney, MNLA, (410) 823-8684.*
- Jan 26 **Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Topics.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD*
- Jan 26 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification.** 10 am - 12 noon. MCE, Carroll County, (410) 386-2760.*
- Jan 26 **Pasture Management and Nutrient Cycling Workshop.** 9:30-3:30. Laurel, MD. Contact Earle Canter (410-841-5959).
- Jan 26 **Delmarva Agronomy & Technology Conference.** Pasture and Grazing Management Session I. 6:00-9:30 pm. Focus: Small Acreages. Harrington, DE.*
- Jan 27 **Delmarva Agronomy & Technology Conference.** Pasture and Grazing Management Session II. 6:00-9:30 pm. Focus: Profitability. Harrington, DE.*
- Jan 27 **Frederick Association of Landscape and Nursery Association (FALCAN) Winter Conference.** Contact: John Bradshaw, FALCAN, (301) 473-5678.*
- Jan 28 **Central Maryland Vegetable Growers' Conference.***
- Feb 1 **Maryland Farm Bureau's Day-In-Annapolis.** Sponsored by MFB Young Farmers and MFB Women. Register by Friday, January 21st. See announcement elsewhere in the *Newsletter*. Contact: Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 489-4465.
- Feb 7 **Tilling the Soil of Opportunity . . . A NxLevel™ Training.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *
- Feb 8 **Quicken/QuickBooks for Farm Applications.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *
- Feb 9 **Let's Talk Hay and Pasture.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*
- Feb 14 **Tilling the Soil of Opportunity . . . A NxLevel™ Training.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *
- Feb 15 **Quicken/QuickBooks for Farm Applications.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *

Feb 16 **New Transgenic Hybrids.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*

Feb 16 **QuickBooks for Equine Businesses.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *

Feb 23 **Bin-Buster Corn Crop is Establishing 'Picket Fence' Stands.** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*

Feb 23 **Bay Area Fruit Meeting.** Wye Research and Education Center. *

Feb 23 **QuickBooks for Equine Businesses.** Carroll Community College. Westminster, MD. *

Late February/early March - **H.O.R.S.E.S. Seminar.** Contact Caragh Fitzgerald (410-313-2707) or Kristal Lull (410-489-7987).

Mar 2 **Pesticide Re-certification for Private Applicators.** (Registration required). 1-3 pm. MCE, Frederick, MD. (301) 694-1594.*

Mar 2 **New Private Pesticide Applicators: Optional Training.** (Registration required.) 10 am - 12 pm. MCE, Frederick County, (301) 694-1594.*

Mar 2-3 **Pennsylvania Forage and Grazing Conference.** Grantville, PA. Contact Les Vough for more information. (301-405-1322).

Mar 9 **Maryland Farm Bureau's Annual Washington Drive-In.** Register by Monday, February 28. See announcement elsewhere in the *Newsletter*. Contact: Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 489-4465.

Mar 9 **New Private Pesticide Applicators: Optional Training.** (Registration required.) 7 - 9 pm. MCE, Carroll County, (410) 386-2760.*

Mar 9 **New Private Pesticide Applicators: Exam.** (Registration required.) 10 am - 12 pm. MCE, Frederick County, (301) 694-1594.*

Mar 9 **Beef Carcass Data: What Does It Mean and How Can I Use It?** Winter Wednesday Series. 10:00-12:00 am. Maryland Cooperative Extension, Carroll County Office. Westminster, MD.*

Mar 10 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds. West Friendship, MD.

Mar 16 **New Private Pesticide Applicators: Exam.** (Registration required.) 7 - 9 pm. MCE, Carroll County, (410) 386-2760.*

Equine Quickbooks (Financial Management). Program consists of two sessions at any one location.*

Feb 3&10	Frederick
Feb 16&23	Westminster
Feb 16&23	Baltimore County
Feb 24&Mar 3	Keedysville
Mar 9&16	Derwood (Montgomery County)

*[NOTE] Unless otherwise indicated, contact Caragh Fitzgerald, Maryland Cooperative Extension — Howard County, (410) 313-2707 for more information. Many **programs require pre-registration and/or a fee.** For programs sponsored by Maryland Cooperative Extension, if you need special assistance to participate, please contact the person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Some Thoughts for Today.

About education, Will Rogers once said

All I know is what I read in the papers, and that's an alibi for my ignorance.

And also

I have a lot of big ideas, [but] they just don't seem to work out. There must be a bit of college professor in me somewhere.



My, how times have changed. Throughout the early years of the 20th century, whenever a Howard County farmer harvested surplus hay or straw that he could sell off-farm for extra income, he would often bale part of his crop to facilitate handling. His only option might have been a stationary wire-tie (manually hand-tied that is) baler (or press as some called them) such as this antique belt-driven stationary *Frick* machine owned by the Frank family. It is obvious from this photo taken during a threshing and baling demonstration at the 2004 Howard County Fair, that at least six hard-working people were required to get this dusty, dirty job done. In more recent times, using a more modern pickup baler with automatic knotters to tie the bales and a mechanical thrower to toss the bales into a wagon towed behind the baler, the entire job could be accomplished with just one person, the tractor operator. Still longing for the “good ol’ days?”