

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The January Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2008** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We hope that you will join us.

Our guest speaker will be **Mr. John Frank**, president of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club. Mr. Frank's topic will cover some past accomplishments, current activities and future plans of the Club. We expect that much of his emphasis will focus on the continuing development of Howard County's new Living Farm Heritage Museum.

There has been much visible progress on the museum which is ideally located on some county-owned property directly across Route 144 from the Howard County Fairgrounds. Some funds have been raised and significant progress has already been made on renovating several old farm buildings on the property. Highly visible progress can also be seen for example, on construction of the new 20,000 square foot display building which will be named after one of the Club's formerly very active past members, the late Senator James Clark.

We hope that you will attend this program and learn how you might become involved in this exciting effort to help preserve Howard County's rich agricultural heritage. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, the fellowship and a lively and friendly exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM and the program will begin at 8:30 AM.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, January 8th, by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-3455. The cost of the breakfast is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door.

The formal part of the program will conclude by 9:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you on **January 10** at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

President's Message

by **Howie Feaga, President**
Howard County Farm Bureau

I hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving, a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a healthy and prosperous New Year!

This past December, I had the privilege of attending the 92nd Annual Maryland Farm Bureau Meeting in Ocean City. There was a lot of time spent working on Farm Bureau policy and we all worked hard to see that they were the way you all would like to have them written I was really impressed with the process and must admit that I learned, and am still learning, how this process works. If you don't think your dues are worth the \$60.00 you pay, you need to experience these meetings. The Farm Bureau is our voice when it comes to having valuable input in the policies of our State and County laws.

We heard several very good speakers, one being Chad Hymas a young paraplegic farmer who had a terrible accident with a round bale that rolled over him while on the tractor. His message of encouragement was that you should be ready and able to change your life when things change, and that you should be thankful for what you have whether it is good or bad, it is what you make it.

Gov. Martin O'Malley spoke on making agriculture profitable to our family farms and promised to help make that happen. Dr. Cheng-I Wei, Dean and Director of the College of

Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, was also there to update us on the college's latest improvements and programs.

Your Board of Directors, after taking a much needed break for the Holidays, is ready to go back to work for all of you. Thank you for all of your support during the past year. I would also like to thank the Board and your Secretary Merhlyn Barnes for all their help during my first year as your President and like always don't forget – keep your plow in the ground we're all pulling for you!

Day-in-Annapolis
by **Merhlyn Barnes**

On Wednesday, January 30, 2008, the Young Farmers' and the Women's Committees will jointly sponsor the annual Day-In-Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The day will begin with a legislative briefing by the MFB Government Relations staff, followed by an opportunity to sit in on the legislative session. A hot luncheon served at the Calvert House will bring together farmers and legislators from across the state. This is a great opportunity to talk to your Senators & Delegates to help them better understand your farming business and concerns.

The Day-in-Annapolis begins at 9:15 am in the Calvert Room of the State House. Please call Merhlyn Barnes, 410-489-4465, if you would like to attend. Carpooling can be arranged. A registration fee of \$25 per person will cover the cost of the luncheon.

Show Your Pride in Preservation
by **Joy Levy**
Ag-Land Preservation Administrator
Department of Planning and Zoning

At the request of County Executive Ken Ulman, the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is in the process of creating a roadside sign for property owners in the ALPP to display,

indicating that their farm is preserved. You may have noticed signs like this in other counties and states as you drive along their rural roads. They usually have a logo with an agricultural theme and a message that the farm is protected by a preservation easement. What a great way to let others know that you've made the commitment to preserve your farm! We are in the early stages of development, and don't yet have a design, but hope to by the end of the year. At that point, the ALPP will send a letter to all property owners in the program, which will include a mock-up of the sign and an order form. There will be no cost to program participants for the sign or its installation.

It would be helpful for us to get an idea early on of the interest ALPP property owners have in displaying a sign. If this is something you would like to consider, please contact Joy Levy, ALPP Administrator, at 410-313-5407 or email jlevy@howardcountymd.gov

Changes to Tenant House Rights
by **Joy Levy**

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) has been working with members of the agricultural community to refine the regulations regarding tenant house rights on land under easement. The Howard County Economic Development Authority's Ag Committee initiated the effort by asking the County to examine the treatment of tenant houses, and amend the regulations governing them to be more responsive to the needs of the County's farmers. Specifically, the Committee requested that the County allow part-time farm employees to be eligible for tenant housing, and to consider regulating the size of tenant houses.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee, County staff drafted a proposal that was then presented to various boards representing the farm community. The feedback from those presentations shaped the proposed legislation as it is now written. The amendments affect several subsections of Subtitle 5, Agricultural Land Preservation, of the Howard County Code, by increasing the review responsibilities of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) and by making the

Code more consistent with provisions in the Zoning Regulations.

The definition of tenant housing in the Code is proposed to be amended to mirror the definition in the Zoning Regulations, which allows both full and part time employees to be eligible. Up until now, the ALPP has always required that an employee be fully engaged in the operation of the farm. Due to the changing nature of agriculture in the County, the Committee felt strongly that the criteria for eligibility should be broadened to include part time workers. If the legislation is approved, it will be up to the ALPB to determine the merit of any given request.

In addition, the proposed amendments would give the ALPB the authority to take size into account when reviewing tenant house requests, in addition to their current responsibility to consider location and demonstrated need. We are not proposing a maximum square footage, but instead giving the ALPB the flexibility to consider the appropriateness of size on a case-by-case basis.

There was a public hearing at the December 17, 2007 meeting of the County Council, at 7:30 p.m. in Ellicott City. Persons interested in presenting their views regarding this issue were welcome to be in attendance to testify. For more information about the meeting and the legislation, check for updates on the County's website at www.howardcountymd.gov.

For any questions about the ALPP, please contact: Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-5407, or email jlevy@howardcountymd.gov

New Law Regarding Sale of Encumbered Property
by Joy Levy

Last year the state legislature enacted a law that impacts the sale of property under any easement held or co-held by a state agency. The new law requires a seller of easement property to provide the purchaser a copy of all conservation easements encumbering the

property. The seller must also include in the sales contract a statement with specified information about the conservation easement and the purchaser's rights and responsibilities regarding the conservation easement. If the seller fails to meet these requirements, the purchaser has the right to rescind the contract.

Although the new law does not apply to agricultural easements held by Howard County, the ALPP strongly supports its intent, and encourages all sellers of land in preservation to make easement documents available. If you are selling your farm and cannot locate your deed of agricultural easement, please feel free to contact Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, at 410-313-5407, or email jlevy@howardcountymd.gov

Two New Easement Properties Enter the Program
by Joy Levy

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is pleased to announce that the County recently purchased the development rights on two farms. The 166-acre Murray property in Mt. Airy, and the 52-acre Grimes property in West Friendship are now encumbered by perpetual agricultural easements. Both Mr. Murray and Mr. Grimes chose the newly offered 10-year Installment Purchase Agreement method of payment. Settlement on the Murray farm occurred on July 10, with the Grimes farm following on October 25.

This is particularly good news because prior to Murray and Grimes, the County last purchased an easement in June of 2002, on the 400-acre Waterford Farm. It appears that the increase in the maximum price to \$40,000 per acre, combined with greater flexibility in payment options, had the desired effect of reinvigorating the Program. There are now 20,390 acres of land in agricultural preservation. This figure includes 180 acres that have been dedicated to the County in 2007 as sending parcels in our Density Exchange Option program.

For any questions about the ALPP, please contact: Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, Howard County

Department of Planning & Zoning, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-5407, or email jlevy@howardcountymd.gov.

Equine Demonstration Project
by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS**
District Conservationist
Howard SCD

The Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) is involved with several agencies in developing a demonstration project at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center or CMREC on Folly Quarter Road. Among the agencies are Maryland Department of Agriculture, the University of Maryland, Cooperative Extension, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the staff of the farm at CMREC.

The project, designed to educate small horse farm owners and operators, will look at many aspects of pasture management. Some of these topics include pasture species to plant, seedbed preparation and planting methods, machinery needs for the small farm, weed control, horse health issues while on pasture, maintenance of established pasture stands, management of manure and nutrients, among many others.

The agency group intends to host events at the demonstration site several times a year. These will include pasture walks in which a farmer-to-farmer discussion is encouraged and folks can learn from one another. Field days may be held. The group is hoping to hold a field day in late winter or early spring which will highlight types of machinery that can be used for pasture renovation and planting.

The demonstration area should be a huge asset for Howard County and to other regional counties all of which have experienced major growth in small scale horse farms over the past couple of decades. The events will be advertised within this publication and horse-oriented publications as well on the HSCD web site. All the local representatives of the aforementioned agencies look forward to seeing you at these events in 2008 and beyond.

New Equine Specialist
by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS**

There could soon be a new face at the Howard Soil Conservation District. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has obtained a grant to work with small horse farms in the counties of Howard, Carroll, Frederick, Baltimore, and Harford. MDA will hire two people who will work specifically with small horse farms. One of those hires will be housed at the Howard District's office in Woodbine and will hopefully be on board by midwinter.

The targeted operations for this grant are those small farms with fewer than 8 horses which usually are not eligible for help from the various other government programs. The Maryland state program requires that there be at least 8 animal units on an operation. The federal program requires that there be at least \$1,000 a year earned on the farm from agricultural operations.

The goal of this program is not just to spend financial assistance dollars, but it is to provide technical assistance as well to a part of the equine community which often falls by the wayside in conservation assistance.

Alternatives To POA
by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.**
JD, CFP, CSA
Attorney at Law

"Why is this document so long?" Mrs. Jones sat in trepidation at her lawyer's office shuffling the many pages of her new power of attorney (POA). "Why can't I just say that I want my children to be able to pay my bills, and handle my affairs if I can't?"

The lawyer smiled. "You can. That's what this POA does."

His client shook her head ruefully. "Why can't it just say my son John can do anything he thinks he needs to do?"

"Well," her attorney began, "there are these nasty things called computers, and these awful creatures called lawyers . . ."

Both smiled. The lawyer continued, "With the advent of word processing, it became simpler to make documents longer.

"About the same time, banks and brokerages were getting sued because powers of attorney that contained general language like 'manage bank accounts' were being used to do things like close out CDs. A CD is not, technically, a bank account as that term is usually understood. The bank was often found liable to a disgruntled child who objected to the actions of another child named as agent under the power of attorney.

"So, the banks and other asset custodians began to insist that powers of attorney be more and more specific. The real question, then, isn't 'is it too long,' but, 'is it long enough.'"

Mrs. Jones was not convinced. "Why can't life be simple? Isn't there anything I can do besides sign this big thing?"

Her attorney nodded. "You could just do nothing, but then if you can't pay your own bills and take care of your own affairs, your son will have to go to court and be appointed guardian. That's expensive, embarrassing and time-consuming. Not a very good option.

"You could go to your bank and your stockbroker, and see if they have a power of attorney form. It will probably be shorter, but will only deal with your account with that bank or broker. So, you trade one long form for several shorter ones.

"Not every bank or brokerage has a form. Some only have a power of attorney designation on accounts for agents named under a power of attorney drawn up by a lawyer.

"And because these forms only apply to a particular account at a particular bank or brokerage, your son couldn't use it to open a new account at a new bank if your bank was sold or closed the local branch. And he couldn't use it to open a CD at a different bank if that bank's rates were better than the rates at your bank.

"You could make your son a joint owner of all the accounts. That means he owns the assets

right now, so he can write checks or liquidate securities. That's simple, but it's a very bad idea. Even if your son would never steal your assets, making him a joint owner means that his creditors could enforce his legal right to those assets and take your accounts.

"That's why I use this document. It works, it's flexible, and it keeps you out of court."

Mrs. Jones nodded. "I still don't like it," she said, "but I understand now why you use it. I'll take it home and read it, and have my son look at it. But I'll probably fall asleep, so don't expect me to hurry!"

The attorney nodded laughed. "My power of attorney is apparently a cure for insomnia. So it works in more ways than one!"

"The Acre" Revisited
by **Allan Bandel**

Have you ever noticed how one thought can sometimes lead to another, and then on to another, and so on, sometimes almost ad infinitum? I experienced this phenomenon several years ago when I was first attempting to write about some of my recollections of growing up on a dairy farm in a then very rural, mid-20th century Howard County, Maryland.

In the beginning, I believed that my final written account would not be very extensive. But, as I got more into the project, I discovered that frequently, one experience would stimulate the memory of another related happening. And before too long, instead of just a few paragraphs, I had quite a few pages typed, several chapters in fact, of some very fond personal memories. A similar type of process seems to have taken place following the recent publication of my short article about the Acre. As a result, the article inspired a couple readers to volunteer some additional related information. The material that they provided was interesting. So I decided to share some of it with you and hope that you in turn will also find it of value. Perhaps it will stimulate even more thoughts.

Doug Creswell, current Treasurer of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club, has a

good friend, Peter Davies, who lives in Gloucestershire, England, a 1,000 year-old town established in the year 1007. (How's that for having a long history?) Doug sent his friend a copy of *The Rusted Plow*, the Antique Farm Machinery Club's newsletter. It wasn't very long before Mr. Davies, in a return e-mail, stated that he "liked the article on the Acre" and that he was currently working on a project run by the Gloucestershire Archives in which he was transcribing into a computer database, some local land records from the early 1800s. He reported that "in these records, the land is measured in acres, roods and perches." Some simple calculations on his part determined that a perch was the same as a square rod, i.e., an area 16½ feet square (or 272.25 square feet). The rod was also apparently used in measuring the dimensions of some of the older buildings. Mr. Davies reported, for instance, that the living room of his home, built around 1800, was exactly 16 and a half feet square.

Doug's friend also came up with another term that I was not familiar with – the rood. My first inclination was that perhaps he had misspelled the word "rod" by accidentally inserting one too many "o"s into it. An old Webster's Collegiate Dictionary that I have had on my desk since my undergraduate college days did not even list the word "rood". So initially, I questioned its authenticity. But then, I decided that I had better check another source, possibly a better one. The source was a huge old two-volume set of Funk and Wagnalls Dictionaries published back in 1946. The rood was listed in there and was defined as "a square land measure, SQUARE ROOD, equivalent to one fourth of a statute acre, or 40 square rods."

Mr. Davies informed me in his e-mail that one of the Gloucestershire land record entries of 1812 that he was transcribing described the size of one particular parcel as "containing two acres, two roods and ten perches..." His investigation also confirmed that there are 4 roods to the acre and 40 perches to the rood. So, we learned something new. Also, sounds like this word "rood" might be the basis for a good clue on the popular TV program, Jeopardy.

Those of you who read *The Delmarva Farmer* may have noticed that the *Acre* article was also published there recently. Subsequently, Mr.

Andrew Zahn, a retired math and science teacher from Accomack County on Virginia's Eastern Shore, was inspired to e-mail some additional information about some basic differences between the English and metric systems of measurement.

Mr. Zahn pointed out that the metric system was developed by scientists in order to make the math easy when converting from one unit of measure to another. One excellent example would be the conversion from centimeters (2.54 of them to the inch) to kilometers (1.6093 of them to the mile). Simply move the decimal point five places to the left. An equivalent calculation in the English system would be that of changing inches to miles. To accomplish that calculation though, you must divide inches by 63,360. Without a calculator, this could be quite a time-consuming and intimidating arithmetic calculation, one that could quite possibly lead to errors in arithmetic. There is no doubt as to which conversion calculation would be the easier and safer one to perform.

Even the Romans had a better idea for the length of the mile than what we are stuck with today. In Latin, the words for mile were "mille passus", or 1,000 paces. The standard step for a marching Roman soldier was 30 inches, and a pace equaled two steps. Therefore, the Roman mile was 5,000 feet long, a nice round number to work with. But, the King decided to change this value to 5,280 feet for some now obscure reason. One theory has it that the King might have ordered one of his men, probably a tall palace guard with a long stride, to walk the 1,000 paces and then actually measure the distance, which in this case turned out to be 5,280 feet. Another theory is that the King chose to make the English mile an even eight furlongs in length. Remember the furlong? Eight times 660 feet equals 5,280.

Another example that Mr. Zahn offered was in regard to the conversion of volume measurements in one system versus the other. In the metric system for instance, to convert from cubic centimeters to liters, all that one has to do is move the decimal point three places to the left. An equivalent conversion in the English system would be in converting from cubic inches to quarts. Since there are 231 cubic inches in a

gallon, one must divide 231 by four to arrive at the correct answer, 57.75 cubic inches per quart. **MESSY!!**

Finally, Mr. Zahn offered a couple of good illustrations that help to explain why the English system is often so “messy” in comparison to the metric. One major reason is that when many of the English units of measurement were defined, hundreds of years ago, there was no permanent, constant, or unchanging basis for many of those definitions. The length of a yard, for instance, is a good example.

According to the on-line Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia, it has been postulated that the yard (3 feet) might have been derived originally from the cubit which is defined as the distance from the thumb to the elbow, or about 18 inches. But this standard depends of course upon the length of the forearm of the particular person that was measured. And we all recognize that people come in all shapes and sizes. Measurements of any particular body part will vary from person to person. There is no standard forearm length that fits the whole human population.

Another theory offered in Wikipedia is that the yard might have been used initially for purchasing cloth, or “yard goods”. To measure “yard goods”, some believe that the merchant simply wrapped the material around his waist. One time around his girth was considered a “yard”. Obviously, a portly merchant’s yard was going to be considerably longer than that of a slender merchant.

Mr. Zahn suggested that most likely it was the King of England (probably King Henry I) who set the standard for the yard by proclaiming that it would henceforth be the distance from the King’s nose to his thumb. But again, even using the King’s system, the actual length of a yard was still somewhat inconsistent. At what exact points on the King’s anatomy was the measurement actually taken? Was the measurement unerringly reproducible?

In contrast, Mr. Zahn informed us that the length of a meter (now standardized as 1.0936 yards or 39.37 inches) was based on a constant value. In this case, the meter was defined as one ten-millionth of the distance from the north

pole to the equator. This distance is an unvarying 10,000 kilometers. And that distance will not deviate every time that a new king happens to ascend the throne.

Obviously, once you get used to it, the metric system really is much easier to work with than the English system. But, because we Americans are so used to that awkward antiquated English system, and because metrics do require a slightly different “mind set”, and because we are so reluctant to try to learn a newer and better system which most Americans are not yet comfortable with, any chance that the USA will join most of the rest of the modern world any time soon and fully adopt the more sensible metric system is not something that I would recommend betting anything of value on anytime soon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2008

- Jan 9 **Maryland Forage Conference.** Waldorf, MD.
- Jan 9 **Winter Wednesday Series - “Soil Fertility”.** Dr. Josh McGrath. 10:00 am - noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Jan 13 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 AM. Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, West Friendship, MD.
- Jan 16 **Winter Wednesday Series - “Cropping Systems Research”.** Mr. Ron Mulford. 10:00 AM - noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Jan 17-20 **Horse World Expo.** Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD. Contact: Kelly Bannan, (301) 405-8746.
- Jan 18 **Nursery/Greenhouse Nutrient Management Plan Writing Certification.** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Two-day commitment. 2nd day is March 13.) University of MD, College Park. Call MDA at (410) 841-5959 to register. \$35.00 cost. Program details at <http://www.mda.state.md.us>

- Jan 18 **Future Harvest.** Hagerstown, MD. Details TBA.
- Jan 22 **Farmer Training and Certification.** Washington County Maryland Cooperative Extension Office, Boonsboro, MD. Contact: Mike Webster, (410) 841-5957.
- Jan 23 **Winter Wednesday Series - "Agronomy Update".** Dr. Bob Kratochvil. 10:00 AM - noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Jan 24-25 **2008 Regional Women in Agriculture Conference.** Dover Downs Conference Center, Dover, DE. Contact: Laurie Wolinski, (302) 831-2538.
- Jan 24 **Nursery/Greenhouse Operators Applicator Training (Voucher).** Two morning classes 8:45 am to noon. 1st session at Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD. 2nd session on Feb 15 at Wye REC, Queenstown, MD. No cost. Call MDA at (410) 841-5959.
- Jan 25 **Central Maryland Vegetable Grower's Meeting.** Upperco, MD.
- Jan 28 **Advanced Nutrient Management Training - "Sustainable Nursery and Greenhouse Production IV".** For Nursery/Greenhouse Operators. 8:45 am to 3:30 pm at Wye REC, Queenstown, MD. \$15.00 cost. Call MDA at (410) 841-5959 to register.
- Jan 30 **Winter Wednesday Series - "Weed Control".** Dr. Ron Ritter. 10:00 AM - noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 6 **Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference.** Dover, DE.
- Feb 12 **Pre-Test Private Applicator Pesticide Training.** 10:00 am - noon. Rooms A & B, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 12 **Farmer Training and Certification.** Baltimore County MCE Office, Timonium, MD. Contact: Mike Webster, (410) 841-5957.
- Feb 16 **Maryland Dairy Convention.** 8:30 am. Lynfield Event Complex, Frederick, MD.
- Feb 16-18 **2008 AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference.** Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, MD. Contact Dawn Watkins @ (301) 253-2921 or Merhlyn Barnes @ (410) 489-4465.
- Feb 19 **Private Pesticide Applicator Test.** 10:00 am - Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 25 **Pesticide/Voucher Training.** 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 26 **2008 Cut Flower Short Course.** Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. Contact: Suzanne Klick. (301) 596-9413.
- Mar 4 **"Advanced" Applicator Training for Nursery/Greenhouse Operators.** Location and details to be announced later. Contact MDA at (410) 841-5959.
- Mar 5 **"Changing Ag Markets-New Opportunities".** Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Contact: Ginger Myers. (301) 432-2767.
- Mar 12 **Women in Agriculture Forum.** Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Contact: Kathy Zimmerman. (410) 313-6500.
- Oct 4 **University of Maryland CMREC Open House.** Clarksville Facility, Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. For more information or to offer suggestions, contact Frank Allnut at fallnut@umd.edu

[NOTE]: Some 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.

Something to Smile About

A local farm wife was so busy trying to complete a sweater that she was even knitting while she was driving her car. A police officer noticed her car was weaving down the street. He pulled alongside her, turned down his window and said, "Pull over."

Keeping one hand on the wheel, the woman held up the unfinished sweater and shot back, "No, cardigan."

And then there was the one about ...

The two farmers who were driving on a curving road in a rural area and crashed their pickups into one another, head-on. While the two men were exchanging license and registration numbers, one man said to the other, "You seem a little shaken up. How about a drink?"

The drink was accepted gratefully. After a few swallows, the other driver said to his host, "Aren't you going to have one yourself?"

"Not now," said the first farmer. "Not until after the police get here."

And finally ...

A vacationing farm family drove on the busy interstate highway during the afternoon rush hour. The farmer was bewildered by the missile-like speed of the other cars. But he drove at his usual rate, much slower than the minimum speed.

After a while a highway patrolman overtook him and had him pull over to the side of the road. "I suppose you know why I stopped you," the officer said.

"Sure do," the farmer replied. "I'm the only one that you could catch."

— from: *Country Chuckles, Cracks
& Knee-Slappers*
Edited by Mike Lessiter

In the Spirit of the Holiday Season, the Officers and Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau and the Howard County Farm Bureau Women wish each and every one of you a very happy, safe, peaceful, and prosperous New Year!