

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2011** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

Our guest speaker for January will be **Dr. Joseph A. Fiola, Principal Agent and Regional Extension Specialist, Viticulture & Small Fruit**. Dr. Fiola conducts research and extension programs out of the University of Maryland Research & Education Center at Keedysville, MD. He has over 25 years of academic and industry experience in extension and research in small fruit production and breeding, Viticulture (grape growing) and Enology (wine making). From 1988 to 2001, prior to arriving in Maryland, Dr. Fiola was engaged in similar activities at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

In his discussion, Dr. Fiola is expected to devote a significant portion of his presentation on a new and very serious insect pest, the **brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB)**, a difficult to control invasive insect species from Asia. This very timely topic would be interesting at any time, but is especially apropos now because of the serious nature of the current and surprising stink bug infestation.

This breakfast meeting presents an excellent opportunity for you to interact with an expert on small fruit production and the **BMSB**. Come learn the latest on prospects for developing the wine industry in Howard County as well as contending with that nuisance, the **BMSB**. Bring your spouse

and/or a friend. Enjoy the excellent food, the fellowship and a lively and friendly exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program is scheduled from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

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 \$10.00 per person, payable at the door.

The speaker's part of the program should conclude by about 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **January 13**, at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

President's Message

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

Well, winter is here, we have already had a couple of light snows, but it made driving a mess. Unfortunately, we most likely haven't seen the worst yet. Let's hope that we don't have a winter like last year. That should be a once in a lifetime event. Hopefully most crops are now out of the field and we can take care of our animals without too much trouble.

The recent Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Ocean City went well. We adopted a few new policies and have a battle on our hands with the lawsuit filed against the Maryland Department of Agriculture, but hope to do well with that.

I would like to congratulate our 1st Vice President Chuck Fry and 2nd Vice President Jim Steele on being reelected; they have done a great job and work well with everyone. Pat Langenfelder, President of the Maryland Farm Bureau, has done a great job as well and has a couple more years on her term. I am looking forward to traveling to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in January. I hope to return to Howard County with a lot of new ideas for the future.

I hope everyone enjoyed our recent Annual Dinner at the Lisbon Fire Department Social Hall. It is always good to see all of you and it was good to have some of our neighboring county Farm Bureau Presidents as well as our State President in attendance to enjoy a great evening.

We have had a good year and hope to have another one next year. So, like I always say, "Keep your plow in the ground. We're all pulling for you."

Concern about Coyotes Moves
Beyond Farm, Ranch
 by **Stewart Truelson**
 reprinted from **FBNews**
November 1, 2010

In the late 1970s, the American Farm Bureau Federation produced a television documentary called *The Lost Sheep*. It was about coyote predation of America's sheep population. The producer of the film, the late Jack Angell, a former NBC newsman, hoped to change the public's attitude about predator control. Many if not most Americans viewed the coyote sympathetically as a symbol of the Old West.

Sheep producers, on the other hand, knew the coyote far more intimately – as a cunning, persistent killer. Sheep, meanwhile, are defenseless.

Coyotes account for half of all predator kills, which in a recent year numbered almost a quarter million head of sheep. In dollar terms, livestock losses due to coyotes are in the tens of millions of dollars annually.

The U.S. sheep population once numbered more than 50 million head, but is only about 6 million today. Coyotes and other predators are not entirely to blame for the steep decline, but they play a significant role.

The Lost Sheep contained dramatic footage of a coyote killing a sheep and interviews with sheep producers attesting to how devastating the losses can be to a livestock operation, to say nothing of the terror inflicted on the sheep. But environmental and wildlife groups opposed a number of the lethal means available to stop predators, and the public was either uninformed or just didn't care.

Decades after the Farm Bureau documentary, public attitude is finally changing, and the reason is captured by the title of a new book, *Coyote at the Kitchen Door*. The author of the book, Stephen DeStefano, an eastern wildlife biologist, said until recently people in the East were disgusted with the killing of coyotes and were unconcerned about large losses to livestock.

"Now that we suspect that coyotes may kill and eat some of our pets, we in the East wage a war of our own against the species. It is nothing that the coyote hasn't seen before, so it adjusts and moves in the suburban terrain just the way it has on the plains and prairies of the West," he wrote.

Last summer in Rye, N.Y., the southeastern tip of the state, there were two separate coyote attacks on children. In one instance, a 6 year-old girl running alongside her house at night was knocked down by two coyotes and bitten before being rescued by her mother.

Eastern coyotes are larger than native western populations and carry wolf DNA, which they acquired in the species' migration eastward across the northern United States and southern Canada.

Rather than humans encroaching on their habitat, coyotes are advancing on us, and they like what they see – plenty of food, no larger predators and no hunting or trapping in metropolitan areas.

When it comes to the issue of controlling these predators, lost sheep is a valid reason in itself, but it appears the issue is taking on added urgency as the coyote is striking closer to our neighborhoods.

**Ag Preservation
Easement Settlements Continue**

by Joy Levy

**Ag-Land Preservation Administrator
Department of Planning and Zoning**

As the year comes to a close, the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) has been busy bringing additional Batch 14 properties to settlement. Within the past month, three farms have become permanently preserved by an ALPP easement.

The John L. Carroll, Jr. property, located on Manor Lane (54 acres), settled on November 22. The James R. Ferguson, Sr. property, located on Frederick Road (70 acres), settled on December 21. Both of these properties applied in the Batch 14 application period and the County has purchased the development rights from the owners.

In November, a very special opportunity presented itself to the ALPP in the form of a donated easement. Calvin Murray offered to donate an easement on his 53-acre farm on Florence Road. Mr. Murray's adjacent 166-acre home farm was the first Batch 13 applicant property to go to settlement in 2007, and the easement on another adjacent property of 125 acres was dedicated to the County in 2004 as a density sending parcel. The ALPP settled on Mr. Murray's donated easement on November 19.

Of the seven Batch 14 properties that were made offers (does not include Murray), four are now permanently preserved. The ALPP is hopeful that the remaining three will settle within the first few months of 2011.

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Show Your Pride in Preservation

By now, you've probably seen the beautiful new "Farmland Forever" sign posted on a neighbor's farm. The sign is available to any property owner whose land is in the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP). All you need to do to let others know that you've made the commitment to preserve your farm is fill out a form. There will be no cost to program participants for the sign or its installation. The sign is made of aluminum and is 24" x 30" in size, and a sample of what it looks like is on the ALPP website, along with the form. The County will construct the sign post and do the installation.

If you would like to show your pride in preservation, please complete and return the on-line form to Joy Levy, ALPP Administrator, at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Joy can also be reached at 410-313-5407 or jlevy@howardcountymd.gov. The link to the ALPP web page is <http://howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/agriculture.htm>.

**New Phosphorus-based Rules Allow for
Manure Application to Soybeans**

After discussions with the agriculture community, agronomists, and the University of Maryland (UM) scientists, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is allowing farmers with livestock to **apply manure to meet the phosphorus needs of their soybean crop.**

Although farmers may use manure nutrients up to the phosphorus crop removal rate, manure applications may not provide more than 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This policy helps farmers utilize manure, which is a valuable nutrient source, to meet soybean phosphorus needs. The existing policy allows manure application on soybeans using a nitrogen rate. MDA's recently proposed policy to prohibit any manure application to soybeans is being modified. The new policy is officially considered

draft until it goes through the state regulatory process.

University of Maryland scientists advise that using manure to meet the phosphorus needs of soybeans is agronomically sound as long as neither the nitrogen nor the phosphorus in the manure exceeds the crop's uptake ability. To help animal producers deal with their manure utilization plans now, MDA is allowing the phosphorus-based policy to go into effect immediately.

The nutrient management software, NuManPro, will be updated to incorporate the provision in plans to be developed for the upcoming crop season. As always, farmers should keep records of fertilizer and manure applications on their farms. These records provide information to be summarized for annual reporting requirements and show how they implemented their nutrient management plan. Manure application rates for soybeans shall be determined based on soil phosphorus recommendations based on soil test results or crop uptake of phosphorus, based on estimated yield. Manure applications may not provide more than 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre. For more information, consult a UM Extension plan writer, a MDA Nutrient Management staff person, or a certified nutrient management consultant.

Farm Management Classes for Women

The University of Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension will conduct Annie's Project during the winter of 2011 at sites in Maryland and Delaware.

Annie's Project focuses on the many aspects of farm management and is designed to empower women in overall farm decision making and to build local networks throughout the state. The target audience is farm women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation.

Topics for the sessions cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Risk and Human Resources. This course is

open to anyone interested in farm management practices.

The course will be 8 sessions held at a variety of sites in Maryland and Delaware. The cost of the entire course including meals and materials is \$75.00.

Please register by January 14th - space is limited. For more information visit the website www.anniesproject.umd.edu or call 410-758-0166. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior.

2011 Master Gardener Training **Registration Is Open** by **Georgia Eacker** **Master Gardener Coordinator**

Both new and experienced gardeners are invited to register for the Master Gardener Training Program offered by the University of Maryland Extension, Howard County Office. Training will cover plant, insect and disease problems, and a variety of other topics related to sustainable and environmental impacts of gardening practices.

Training is scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, January 26, 2011 to Wednesday, March 30, 2011**. An orientation is scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011 from 10 a.m. – 12 Noon. Classes will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon on Mondays and Wednesdays at the University of Maryland Extension Office in Ellicott City. Cost of the training is **\$195.00**.

The mission of the Master Gardeners is to provide education to consumers; therefore, willingness to volunteer time is essential. Lack of hands-on experience in the garden should not deter potential applicants. Anyone with a keen interest in gardening - and especially those with other skills and interests, such as writing, graphics and computer knowledge - is encouraged to apply.

The registration deadline is **December 17, 2010**. Class size is limited.

To receive a Master Gardener registration packet, call the University of Maryland Extension - Howard County office at 410-313-2707.

New Farmer Trainee Program

Submitted by **Kathy Zimmerman**
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Howard County Economic
Development Authority

The New Farmer Trainee Program (NFTP), a program of the Maryland Agricultural Resource Council, is now accepting applicants for the 2011 training year.

The Program, started in 2008, is expanding its offerings this coming year. In addition to training opportunities in organic produce and viticulture, depending on funding and demand, we will be including trainee-ships in fruit and livestock production. Please help us to spread the word. Visit the following website to view an article and video http://www.gazette.net/stories/09302010/uppenew162552_32538.php.

To date the NFTP has trained (or is currently training) eleven farmers. Of the trainees, seven are currently farming in Maryland, one is looking for a management opportunity in viticulture, another is looking for a land opportunity (with inexpensive housing) for organic produce farming, and two who have moved out of the state to pursue non-farm opportunities.

Our graduates and trainees currently sell produce at several farmers markets around the Baltimore and DC area and they also offer CSA memberships. We are particularly proud of the impact our new farmers are having on the city farms, nurturing not just the soil, but also the communities.

Stop by and visit our organic mentor farmers, Jack and Becky Gurley of Calvert's Gift Farm, at the new Baltimore County Farmers Market at the fairground

entrance off York Road on Wednesdays between 2 and 6 pm. Visit one of Serpent's Ridge Vineyard events or stop by on Saturday or Sunday 11-5pm and say "hello" to our mentors Greg and Karen Lambrecht (see www.serpentridge.com for more details).

This year the NFTP workshops will be held at the new Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center on Shawan Road in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The eight sessions will be held in February and March and will be announced later. Sign up for your Extension Newsletter (410-771-1761 for Baltimore County) to keep up to date on local educational opportunities in farming. For more information on the workshops, workshop speakers, and instructions/desired qualifications for applicants, email Cathy Tipper at crtipper@aol.com or call 410-218-3620. Additional information can be found on www.northcountypreservation.org and www.marylandagriculture.org.

More Power to You!

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

Mrs. Schultz walked into her attorney's office frustrated and confused. Dispensing with the usual pleasantries, she vented her displeasure on the hapless lawyer.

"You drafted this power of attorney for my brother," she said, throwing the document on the conference table, "and it doesn't work!"

The target of her ire was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

"I took it to the bank and they said it wouldn't work. I brought him here to you so I could take care of things if he got dementia like our parents had. You said I could use this to pay his bills, but the bank won't let me."

“What did they tell you?”

She was sitting on the edge of her chair, her face tight, back taut. “They said they only honor their own form. They don't honor forms drawn up by lawyers.”

The light begins to dawn!

“Now I know where your brother banks! He didn't bank there formerly, did he?”

She shook her head and began to subside. “Nope. They bought up the bank where he used to have his accounts.”

Her attorney nodded. “That bank is known for not honoring powers of attorney. And bank policies change, too, so a bank that used to honor powers of attorney can stop. Other banks sometimes review them so rigorously that none actually qualify.

“Right now, your brother's bank and other banks, and securities brokers and insurers can refuse to honor powers of attorney. There is no Maryland law that requires them to. But that's about to change. On October 1, a new law will come into effect that requires everyone to honor powers of attorney.

“But there's more. If your brother is still able to sign a power of attorney, we can have him sign the new statutory form power of attorney. Then if the bank refuses to honor it, we can sue them to enforce it, and get them to pay our attorney's fees.”

“That's encouraging,” she sighed.

“Now I know your brother is suffering from dementia,” her attorney commented. “How far has it progressed?”

She shrugged, and relaxed a bit. “He's still 'with it,' but every once in awhile has really bad days when he doesn't know who I am. I went to the bank for him this morning because he's had an operation and can't get out.”

“Has he ever been certified to be incompetent?”

“No,” she shook her head, “but his doctor has told me that he's worried about the dementia progressing.”

Her attorney nodded. “Why don't we get together with him. Where can we meet?”

“You'll need to come to my house,” she replied. “He really can't get around too well.”

OK, I'll come to your house and we can discuss updating his power of attorney and signing the new statutory form. If he's willing and understands what's going on, we can get the new forms signed and you can use them in the future.”

“That sounds good. But what do I do now? I can't wait until October 1 to pay his bills! I need to transfer some money from savings to checking to write the checks.”

“Why don't you go back to the bank and ask them if they will let you take their form to your house for your brother to sign. Some banks will do that for you. See if the manager will come to your house to watch him sign, if they're worried about you forging his signature.

If they absolutely won't work with you, tell them you know about the change of the law, and let them know that you'll move his accounts on October 2 if they won't work with you!”

“It's a plan! Can you come to my house on . . . ?”

**FDA Approves First Drug to Prevent
Life Threatening Disease in Horses**
Source - Carroll County *Farm Notes*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today the approval of Equidone Gel (domperidone) for the prevention of fescue toxicosis, a disease that can cause serious reproductive problems in horses.

Equidone Gel, the first FDA-approved drug to

prevent fescue toxicosis, is a dopamine antagonist (D_2 receptors) that works at the cellular level to block the agonistic action of toxins produced by an endophytic fungus living on fescue grass. Equidone Gel is administered orally by syringe once a day.

Fescue is a type of grass and makes up over 35 million acres of pastureland in the U.S. The endophytic fungus, called *Neotyphodium coenophialum* (previously known as *Acremonium coenophialium*), lives on the grass and produces toxins that interfere with the hormones involved in pregnancy and milk production. Mares grazing on tall fescue pastures infected with the toxin can suffer from the following: increased length of pregnancies; difficulty giving birth; mare and foal deaths; weak, stillborn, or immature foals; agalactia (absent milk production after birth); retained placentas; premature separation of the placenta at birth; and increased placental weights and thickness.

The safety and effectiveness of Equidone Gel was evaluated in both laboratory and field studies. The laboratory studies included a margin of safety study in healthy mares and an effectiveness study evaluating mares with induced disease. Two field studies corroborated the findings of the laboratory studies under field conditions.

The most common side effects reported in the studies were premature lactation (dripping of milk prior to foaling) and failure of passive transfer (immunoglobulins to the foal).

Equidone Gel is marketed and distributed by Dechra Veterinary Products of Overland Park, Kansas.

Source: FDA

Television – When it was a Novelty to Watch, and Truly Entertaining
by Allan Bandel

I well remember the first time that I ever saw a working television set, or as they later came to be known – a “TV” set. It was near the beginning of the busy Christmas season in 1947 or 1948. One crisp

evening, our family had piled into our old 1937 Chevy sedan, and with Dad driving, we had traveled to downtown Baltimore just to visit the “big department store” shopping district along Howard Street. The purpose of this special evening excursion into the city was to treat my brother and me to the sights and sounds of the fantastically exciting Christmas window displays that the big downtown department stores were then so famous for. Who knows? We thought that perhaps we might even see Santa Claus. We primarily window shopped that evening, but because of the dazzling window displays, we also did a lot of excited Christmas wishing and dreaming.

Walking around a street corner in our wanderings, we couldn’t help but noticing a relatively large and animated crowd that had gathered on the sidewalk in front of one of the bigger store windows further on down the street. It wasn’t until we had moved closer that we understood just what the big attraction was. In that large store window, there was one of those marvelous new black and white TV sets on display. It was turned on of course, and being broadcast on it’s tiny little 10-inch screen was one of the funniest variety shows that any of us had ever seen.

The excited sidewalk crowd was entranced by the antics and slapstick comedy of the celebrated vaudeville comedian, Milton Berle, starring in his new variety show, *The Texaco Star Theater*. We all agreed that Milton Berle, sponsored for many years by Texaco, who was performing one of his famous slapstick comedy routines, was simply hilarious. People were laughing their “fool” heads off. Never having seen anything like it before, we too were soon overwhelmed by Milton Berle, and by that new wonder – TV. **We thought that it was simply the greatest marvel!**

Looking at, for the first time, those flickering, grainy, black and white images of such great live entertainment coming over the air, like the more familiar media, radio, but now with a picture, seemed almost like MAGIC! For the first time in our lives, we could actually **see**, as well as **hear**, the performers. And we didn’t have to pay any

admission fee to enjoy them in person in an expensive theater. This amazing holiday experience was overwhelming, almost too much for us to comprehend.

We had heard of television before, of course. But TV sets were not all that common in homes and businesses as yet. And they were very expensive in those early days. Not many folks yet believed that they could ever afford one. So none of us seriously considered that we would have one in our own living room anytime soon.

One special day though, not too many months after that first exposure to TV in downtown Baltimore, we noticed as we were driving by the home of one of our neighbors and close friends, that one of those unique, tell-tale “H” shaped TV antennas that we had begun to see scattered around on a few roofs in the area, had “sprouted up”, seemingly overnight, attached to the highest point on their house, the top of one of the tall chimneys on their big two-story farmhouse.

The sudden and unexpected appearance of that antenna on our neighbor’s house was about the same as if the home’s owners had raised a big bright-colored flag on a tall flagpole, waved the flag about, and then shouted out to everyone within earshot, “Hey, folks. Look at what we have, a new television set at our house.”

It wasn’t very many days after that exciting discovery of course, before our parents paid a “casual” visit to those good neighbors. As a result, we soon received a “surprise” invitation for the whole family to come visit and watch TV with them one Saturday evening after all the milking was done and the supper dishes had been cleared. As you might expect, it didn’t take any extra encouragement for us to accept.

It wasn’t very long before word about our neighbor’s new TV set had spread all over the “close-knit” Glenelg community. One thing lead to another and it soon became customary on Saturday evenings, after all of the evening farm chores had been completed, for as many as 20 to 25 friends and neighbors, adults and children alike, to gather around our neighbor’s marvelous new floor-model Philco 10-inch black and

white TV set, intent upon enjoying a great evening of entertainment.

In spite of the fact that in TV’s infancy, there was no such thing yet as “round-the-clock” programing broadcast over the air, we nevertheless enjoyed some really great parties while waiting to watch more of *Milton Berle* and his funny antics as well as numerous other famous entertainers like the *Marx Brothers* for instance, or *Jimmy Durante*. Between network shows, there were many hours of “test patterns” broadcast which were accompanied by a steady high-pitched “hum”. Test patterns were broadcast by the few available TV channels so that folks could check to be sure that their sets were operating properly when no actual live programming was on the air.

In TV’s early days, there were only three channels in the Baltimore area – 2 (WMAR), 11 (WBAL) and 13 (WAAM, which later became WJZ). For the best picture reception, the antenna had to be rotated so that its components were lined up precisely with the distant transmitter towers. Some of the better antenna installations were equipped with a small electric motor called a “Tenna-Rotor”. This handy device was used to rotate the antenna remotely from inside the house. Adjusting a controller near the TV set, the antenna could be rotated until the clearest picture was being received.

Antenna rotation became even more necessary after three new channels (4, 7, and 9) in Washington, DC came on the air. If the roof-mounted antenna was oriented for the best reception from a Baltimore station, then it usually had to be rotated several degrees for the finest tuning when a channel from the Washington area was selected.

There were also many other different kinds of indoor antennae that could be conveniently positioned right on top of the TV cabinet. Some of those devices, because their two arms were oriented in a “V” shaped configuration, were referred to as “rabbit ears”.

With our parents comfortably seated on chairs and

sofas for the show, and we kids sprawled out across the neighbor's living room floor, we especially enjoyed watching the ever popular Saturday night show called *Frontier Theater* in which old western movies were broadcast. Famous cowboy actors such as *Hoot Gibson*, *Tom Mix*, *Hopalong Cassidy*, *Gene Autry*, *Roy Rogers* and many others brought us the wild west excitement of "thundering" stagecoaches being chased by bandits or hostile Indians as they raced across the dry dusty desert, but viewed safely from the comfort of our neighbor's living room.

Some of the other great kid's shows of the day (which the adults often enjoyed as well because there was not much else for them to watch on those expensive sets back then), included 'Captain Video', and puppet shows like 'Howdy Doody' and 'Kookla, Fran and Ollie'.

Unlike today's "reality" TV shows, the "good guys" on the wild west shows, typically wore white hats, and often were even mounted on white horses. In the end, they always prevailed over the "bad guys" in those movies. The bad guys, of course, you could always identify because they wore dark clothes with black hats, and were inclined to start unprovoked attacks on the good guys.

I do not know how our neighbors ever survived that onslaught of friends. But they seemed to enjoy their sudden exponential increase in popularity as much as we enjoyed the great fellowship generated while watching "community" TV in their spacious living room.

Much to our delight, around 1949 or 1950, Mother and Dad somehow found the means to purchase a TV for our living room. It was a huge table-model Stromberg-Carlson set that featured a "big" 12½-inch black and white screen. It was enclosed in a handsome, finely polished dark mahogany cabinet.

Stromberg-Carlson was a highly respected brand name in those days. It was well known for its high quality radios. Thus, their TVs were considered to be one of the better brands available at that time. The TV's price tag, I remember, was something over \$400, a virtual fortune back in those days. I suppose

that, unlike today perhaps, our parents considered that the novel entertainment and educational aspects of bringing good TV programs conveniently into the home were well worth the sacrifices necessary in order to own a receiver.

Aside from some of the other great Vaudeville performers that we looked forward to watching, such as *Milton Berle*, *Jack Benny*, *Eddie Cantor*, *Abbott and Costello*, and many others, one very popular show that aired on Sunday evenings was "*The Ed Sullivan (Variety) Show*", later known as "*The Toast of the Town*". It was sponsored by Lincoln-Mercury automobiles and was a "must-see" show for us. "*Crusade in Europe*", a documentary series about World War II and the heroic exploits of Allied forces under the command of Five-Star General *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, was also eagerly looked forward to each week.

The Bandel's new TV set also became popular in the neighborhood for awhile. On many Friday evenings for several fall and winter months in 1950 or 1951, while the men of Westwood Methodist Church worked hard on renovating and modernizing the interior of the church's historic old pre-Civil War era social hall in Glenelg, many of the ladies gathered at our house to socialize and watch TV. The ladies occupied themselves this way for a couple of hours on those work evenings until it was time to take their overflowing hampers of food and refreshments to the hungry, exhausted work crew.

One of the regular highlights that we looked forward to as part of those refreshments was taking a bite, or perhaps even several bites, out of one or more of those delicious, fresh, honey-dipped donuts or twists that had been purchased fresh just that afternoon from the family-owned Heinmuller's Bakery in Catonsville.

We enjoyed that sturdy old Stromberg-Carlson TV set for many years. When 90+ year-old Grandpop Bandel came to visit for several weeks at a stretch, he would usually find a comfortable chair and position himself just to the side of and very close to the front of that big boxy TV console, about the

same position way that he used to take in front of his little table-model Philco radio, literally resting his left arm across the top of the set and bringing his face up very close to the screen for the best view. I suspect that he really had to be up close in order to best hear and see without missing any of the action.

Being in such close proximity to the TV's small grainy flickering picture tube, I cannot imagine how Grandpop's eyes could withstand the strain for very long. I suspect that his eyes were probably not all that sharp anymore at that advanced stage of his life. He was already well into the 10th decade of his life. Having been a young boy during the final days of the Civil War, he had actually watched by the roadside at his home near Sharpsburg, as Confederate troops marched by on their way to engage Union forces in one of the bloodiest battles of the war, Antietam. Obviously, when he was a young boy, there was no such marvelous thing as TV, or even radio. Radio broadcasts did not become widespread until Grandpop Bandel was well into middle age. He witnessed a "world" of technological changes over his lifetime.

Considering all the changes that he had seen, Grandpop Bandel probably considered that the mysteries of the TV set was the ultimate in modern technology. To him, there was probably no better word for it than *magic*. I often wonder, if he could come back today, what would he think of the huge, flat screen, high definition color TV sets that so many folks have in their homes today. I expect that he would have to be highly impressed with just about everything – except perhaps, the frequent absence now of quality TV programming.

Even though he would never admit it, I am convinced that during those last couple years of his life, Grandpop Bandel experienced a tremendous amount of wonder and enjoyment out of watching shows on that modern electronic miracle called television. For the first time in his life he could not only hear, but he could also see his favorite newscaster, Lowell Thomas, who always signed off at the end of his regular broadcasts every evening with those then very familiar words, "So long, until tomorrow!"

On-Line Membership Processing is Now "LIVE"

by **Mel Hollingsworth, Administrator**
Maryland Farm Bureau
(410) 922-3426

The long awaited and much anticipated on-line membership processing is finally here. **We went live today – Monday, September 20, 2010.** Now anyone can go to the Maryland Farm Bureau website and **join** our organization with a valid credit card. Likewise current members can go to the website and **renew** their membership, eliminating the need to mail in the renewal notice with a check. Renewing members will need their membership number.

When you have a minute check out this new feature. Just go to www.mdfarmbureau.com and click on "Become a Member Today" in the top right hand corner. If you have questions or comments please contact us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2011

- Jan 13 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am, Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.
- Jan 13,20,27 **Agricultural Entrepreneurial Business Plan Course.** 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office. Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Jan 19 **Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference.** Izaak Walton League Outdoor Education Center, Waldorf, MD. Contact: Ben Beale at (301) 475-4484.

Jan 20 **Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference.**
8:15 to 4:30 pm. Salisbury Hall,
Salisbury, PA.

Jan 20-23 **Maryland Horse World Expo.** Maryland
State Fairgrounds. Timonium, MD.

Feb 8 **Maryland Agricultural Pesticide
Conference.** Hampton Inn, Frederick,
MD. Contact: Dave Martin, Baltimore
County Extension Office at (410) 771-
1761.

Feb 9 **Maryland Nutrient Applicator Voucher
Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Carroll
County Extension Office, Westminster,
MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Feb 10 **Maryland Agricultural Pesticide
Conference.** Caroline County 4-H Park,
Denton, MD. Contact: Jim Lewis,
Caroline County Extension Office at
(410) 479-4030.

Feb 22 **Crops Meeting.** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Carroll County Extension Office,
Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-

2760.

Feb 26 **Maryland Dairy Convention.**
F r e d e r i c k
Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD.

Mar 1 **Private Pesticide Applicator
Certification Training.** 10:00 am to
noon, Carroll County Extension
O f f i c e ,
Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-
2760.

Mar 8 **Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.**
10:00 am to noon, Carroll County
Extension Office, Westminster, MD.
Contact: (410) 386-2760.

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration
and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by
University of Maryland Extension, if you need
special assistance to participate, please contact the
person indicated at least two weeks in advance of
the event.

*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 a very
happy, safe, peaceful, and prosperous New Year!*
