

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 22, NO. 1

JANUARY, 2013

HOWIE FEAGA, PRESIDENT, (410) 531-1872;  
JAY RHINE, VICE-PRESIDENT, (410) 442-2445;  
MERHLYN BARNES, SECRETARY, (410) 489-4465;  
DONALD BANDEL, TREASURER (410) 531-7918;  
ALLAN BANDEL, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, (410) 489-7875

WEB SITE - [www.howardfarmbureau.org](http://www.howardfarmbureau.org)

### Howard County Agri-Business

#### Breakfast

by Maura Cahill

Breakfast Program Coordinator

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2013** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar now and plan to join us.

Our guest speakers will be Colleen and Michael Histon from New Windsor who will tell us about their very unique farming operation in neighboring Carroll County – Shepherd's Manor Creamery.

The unique aspect of their operation is that they have established a herd (or flock?) of milking sheep. Theirs is an interesting story about how they first thoroughly researched their idea, in the process traveling all across the country and interviewing similar dairies. Then they built their operation from "scratch". Ultimately, the raw product, sheep's milk, is converted into special kinds of cheese. It is an interesting, and inspiring story that they have to tell. You shouldn't want to miss it.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the

program is scheduled for 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Tuesday, January 8** by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or MarthaClark at (410) 531-3455.

The cost of the breakfast continues to be \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. The speaking portion of the program normally concludes by 9:00 a.m. We look forward to greeting you on Thursday, **January 10** at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

### Message to Members

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

It's 2013 already and it seems like we just got started with 2012. Where did the year go? It's been so much fun we can hardly stand it in our area. Some of our neighbors have not had it so good, with the drought and storms. But we can really count our blessings in our local area. Hopefully everyone had a great Christmas, and you are ready for another fast-paced year of accomplishments and triumphs over life's challenges.

I want to welcome our new board members. They are, Mitzi Jones, Martha Anne Clark, Guy Moore, Jamie Brown, Mark Hereth and

Mark Iager. I look forward to working with them in the coming years. I also want to thank those board members who are retiring (for now) for doing a great job. I wish them luck in the coming years. They are Lynn Moore, Charlotte Mullinix, Shelly Bulhman, Charlie Feaga, Bucky Clark, and Tim Dowd. It has been a pleasure serving with all of you.

By now I'm sure you know that the Md. State Farm Bureau Board has been reconfigured to a smaller size. The counties were divided into districts to reduce the number of State Board members. Our district consists of Carroll, Montgomery and Howard Counties. Our district has two representatives on the State Board. They were elected by a caucus election at the Ocean City Convention in December.

As you know, we tried to elect them with the combined membership, but due to some complications, we had to reconsider that approach and move forward. We have Jay Rhine now as our 2-year representative and Tom Hartsock as our 1-year representative. Tom will also serve on the Executive Committee. Congratulations to both of you.

It will be interesting to see how things work out. Like most any new change in procedure, there will be some bugs, I'm sure. But please be patient and bear with the new State Board of Directors as they work through the "rough spots" and continue to move forward once again. We will elect someone next year for a 2-year term. After that, we will be on a regular cycle of electing a new representative every year who will serve a 2-year term.

There was a little sadness expressed at our December board meeting. We had to wish a fond farewell to our retiring secretary, Merhlyn Barnes. She has served as secretary for 30 years and has been the heart and soul of the Howard County Farm Bureau during that time. We could not have been better represented during that period. I could not have had a better teacher of all the duties I had

to learn when I took office. She had more patience than a saint with me as I went through those first couple of years. I will always be indebted to her for all her help, as will the entire county for the countless hours of time she spent as our WONDERFUL secretary and friend.

Merhlyn is handing over the minutes to Leslie Bauer who will take the job of secretary. Together with Merlyn's help and mine, I'm sure that Leslie will do a great job. Leslie and her husband Ricky have 3 children. They grain farm as well as raise hogs and beef cattle near Dayton. She has helped with the Sheep and Wool festival for several years and I look forward to working with her.

So as we begin a new year and venture into the unknown, I wish everyone a good New Year. Like I always say, "keep your plow in the ground; we're all pulling for you."

---

**National Safe Tractor and  
Machinery Operations  
Certification Program Training**

by **Stanley W. Fultz,**  
**UMD Ext. Senior Agt., Dairy Science**

A tractor and machinery safety training program for youth 14 to 15 years of age has been planned to be held in Frederick County. The program is a joint effort of the Frederick County Office of University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County Farm Bureau, and the local tractor dealers.

The program will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on nine consecutive Monday evenings January 21 to March 18. The skills test will be administered March 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a \$25 dollar registration fee and the registration deadline is January 7<sup>th</sup>.

This training program will enable young workers to obtain Hazardous Occupation

Order in Agriculture certification, which is required for youth 14 and 15 years of age who wish to work as a hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian, and operate a farm tractor that is 20 hp or greater. It is highly recommended that ALL farm and equipment operating youth attend this program even if they will only be working for a parent.

The program will provide attendees with the necessary 24 hours of instruction, including group discussion, demonstrations, field trips, hands-on activities, independent study, and field assignments. Although the target audience is 14 and 15 year olds, it is available to anyone over the age of 12, however only individuals 14 and older will be able to operate equipment and become certified. Individuals over 15 are also encouraged to attend as are adults who are new tractor operators. Preference, however, will be given to the 14-15 year olds.

To register or to obtain additional information, contact the Frederick County Office of University of Maryland Extension at 301-600-3578. A parent/guardian consent form will need to be completed with registration. This program is open to any youth interested in becoming certified for production agriculture, nursery, or landscaping employment. Participants need not be residents of Frederick County. Equal access programs/equal opportunity employers.

---

**Days of Taste**  
by **Barbara Wasserman**

***Please Join the Days of Taste Team***

The Howard County Farm Bureau generously supports Days of Taste, a program geared toward Howard County fourth graders who learn about tastes associated with fresh foods, the farm to table connection, during a visit to

a local farm, and the pleasure of preparing and eating a fresh salad with the help of a professional chef.

This past fall 355 students from the following elementary schools participated in Days of Taste, visited Gorman Farm operated by Dave Liker and created a delicious salad under the guidance of Howard County chefs:

Deep Run – Chef Matt Milani (The Rumor Mill)  
Forest Ridge – Chef Nina Swartz (Aida Bistro)  
Jeffers Hill- Chef Tom Caswell(Cattail Creek Country Club)  
Running Brook – Chef Darrick Granai (Baldwin’s Station)

During the spring of 2013, we are committed to bringing Days of Taste to Thunder Hill and Talbott Springs elementary schools. In addition, we hope to include an additional 4-5 elementary schools including Cradlerock, Swansfield, West Friendship, Stevens Forest and Triadelphia Ridge.

Days of Taste brings an important message to students about the importance of farmers who supply our food and showcases Howard County farms. Our program has received financial support not only from the Howard County Farm Bureau but also the Howard County Medical Society, the Horizon Foundation, Creig Northrop Realty, Sunrise Rotary and Ellicott City Kiwanis. We also need help from Howard County farmers who would be willing to host our students for the farm visit. The students are chaperoned by teachers and parents. A visit lasts about two hours. The farmer receives a stipend and the happy smiles of students, many of whom are enjoying their first ever visit to a farm. If Farm Bureau members would like more information on hosting, please contact Barbara Wasserman (301-854-0033; [bpwasserman@jhu.edu](mailto:bpwasserman@jhu.edu)), a Farm Bureau member and Days of Taste volunteer.

Finally, a parent who volunteered at one of our fall Days of Taste programs wrote an excellent article in the November 2012 issue of Business Monthly. See below the link to the online article.

<http://www.bizmonthly.com/days-of-taste-program-stresses-healthy-choices-in-classroom/>

---

### **2013 Winter Agronomy Meeting** **Frederick, Montgomery &** **Howard Counties**

The agenda is now complete for the Tri-County Agronomy Winter Meeting scheduled for February 27, 2013 at the Urbana Fire Hall. The program will offer updates on weeds, insects, diseases, nutrient management and other agronomy-related topics. Specific details can be obtained by calling one of the telephone numbers at the end of this announcement.

The meeting will count for both nutrient management and pesticide applicator recertification credits. There will be a fee of \$10.00 payable at the door for lunch.

Register by calling the Frederick County UME office at 301-600-3578 or the Montgomery County UME office at (301) 590-9638 before February 19<sup>th</sup>.

---

### **Mid-Winter Ag Meeting** **Howard County**

The Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting will be held February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center, and will begin at 6:15 pm. There is no cost, but attendees must pre-register as space is limited. For questions, or to pre-register, call the Howard Soil

Conservation District at (410) 489-7987.

Topics include: Use of Manure & Industrial By-products to Improve Soil Fertility, Small Grain Management, and Nutrient Management Updates from MDA. Attending this meeting qualifies individuals for the nutrient applicator voucher from MDA. The meeting also qualifies for two (2) Maryland Nutrient Management continuing education credits.

---

### **The 2013** **Maryland Dairy Convention**

Date and location are Saturday, February 23, at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Registration and exhibits open at 8:30 with the program kicking off at 9:30. Using Technology to Improve Dairy Profits is the theme. Dino Giacomazzi, dairyman from Hanford, California, will be giving the keynote address "Is There an APP for That?"

Other topics include: Opportunity to Save on Electric Costs Using Solar and Wind Energy; Understanding Sire and Cow Genomic Evaluations; and Automated "Robotic" Milking System – Would it Fit Your Farm?

Each topic will include at least one local producer to provide first-hand experience on how they are using the technology. A separate youth program is scheduled for the day so plan to come as a family.

The Maryland Dairy Industry Association will hold a very brief annual meeting which will include the presentation of the youth scholarships.

The Dairy of Distinction Awards will be presented and a tour to Sowers Dairy's Locust Valley Farm to see their two DeLaval robots will be held between the day meeting and evening banquet.

The evening banquet will feature the announcement and recognition of the new Maryland Dairy Shrine inductees and a silent auction with proceeds benefitting the scholarship programs of the various breed organizations, Dairy Shrine and MDIA.

For registration, exhibitor information, or other questions, contact Laurie Savage at [secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org](mailto:secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org) or call 301-349-0750.

---

### **2013 Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo**

The University of Maryland Extension will host the Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo on Saturday, February 2, 2013 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the University of Maryland Extension-Carroll County Office & Carroll County Agriculture Center, 700 Agriculture Center Drive, Westminster, Maryland, 21157.

The expo will feature educational seminars on poultry nutrition, disease prevention and control, chicken breeds, egg and meat production basics, housing, pasturing, feeding and watering systems, regulations on selling meat and eggs, breeding and egg incubation, turkey production, poultry in diversified livestock operations, exotics, egg grading and handling, marketing and economics, urban poultry production, predator control, showing poultry, coop construction, and injured bird first aid.

Vendors will be available with live poultry and poultry related items. A poultry processing equipment demonstration will be conducted. Producers and Extension specialists will be available for technical questions about production practices. 4-H will conduct activities and competitions. Door prizes will be awarded. Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase.

Registration:

- Adults: \$10 pre-registration fee, \$20 at the door
- Youth 10-18: \$5 pre-registration, \$10 at the door
- Children under 10: Free
- Free Registration for 4-H Members and Volunteers with Membership Card (must pre-register).

For additional information about the Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo visit <http://carroll.umd.edu/ag/poultry.cfm>.

If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in this program please contact the Carroll County Extension Office at (410) 386-2760, Fax: (410) 876-0132, at least two weeks prior to the program.

*Source: UMECC*

---

### **Estate Planning**

Estate taxes are likely to change in this year so it is important to know how to best plan for the transfer of your estate upon your death. Many estate plans take years to implement, so beginning the process early while everyone is in good health and of sound mind will help your loved ones from having to sell the farm to pay the death taxes.

To assist you with this process, we have scheduled a three-week Farm Transition and Estate Planning Workshop. This workshop will be held at the Frederick County Extension office on Tuesdays February 26, March 5, and March 12 from 9:30 to 12:30. Fee is just \$25 per family and multiple family members are encouraged to attend together. Register before February 19 by calling (301) 600-3576.

---

## Farm Management Classes for Women

The University of Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension will conduct Annie's Project during the winter of 2013 at five sites in Maryland. 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, 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. Locations include: **Cecil County Administration Building**, Elkton MD, **Washington County Extension Office** Boonsboro MD, **Wor-Wic Community College** Salisbury MD, **Harford Community College**, Bel Air MD and **Baltimore County Ag Center**, Cockeysville MD. Classes will begin in January 2013.

The cost of the course including meals and materials is \$75. Please register by January 15<sup>th</sup>, space is limited. For more information visit the website [www.anniesproject.umd.edu](http://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.

Annie's Project has been approved for FSA Borrower Training. For more information, please contact your FSA loan officer.

---

## 2013 Beekeeping Class

The opening session of the 2013 Beekeeping Class will be held at the Wye Research and Education Center on Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

There will be five classes in the Spring and two classes in the Fall. All classes will be held on a Saturday.

If you have an interest, for program questions, please contact Michael Embrey at (410) 827-8056 ext. 148, or by email at [membrey@umd.edu](mailto:membrey@umd.edu).

For registration, please contact Jean Hopkins at (410) 827-8056 ext. 114, or by email at [jhopkin2@umd.edu](mailto:jhopkin2@umd.edu).

---

## New Year's Planning by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.** **JD, CFP, CSA** **Attorney at Law**

With each new year comes a new opportunity to consider your estate plan and make sure it is up-to-date – or to make one if you don't have one already! Because we are time-bound mortals, the change of seasons reminds us of changes in our lives and of their fragility.

Have you ever drafted documents at all? If not, you should know that the State's choices on your behalf are not usually the best ones for you or your loved ones. That should not come as a surprise, but if you fail to plan, you have made the government's decisions your own.

Can you find the originals of your documents? Could your family find them? If the originals of your documents cannot be found after your death, your plan will be for naught, and your affairs will proceed as if you had no plan – using the State's plan, with all of its flaws.

If you have left your documents with your attorney, consider calling your attorney to be sure he or she still has them. You might decide to pick them up and store them yourself – attorneys close their practices and go out of business, change phone numbers and move their offices just like every other

businessperson, and it would be more than just inconvenient if your documents couldn't be located when you needed them most.

Are your powers of attorney and medical directives up-to-date? These documents are often minimized, but with them you name someone to assist you with your own affairs if you are unable to manage them yourself. The law and standards change, and these documents need to be continually revised to reflect reality.

If your will and power of attorney do not authorize your fiduciary to gain access to your online and electronic "digital" assets, they need to be updated. These matters are not adequately provided for at law, and need to be included in your documents.

Are your fiduciaries – the people you named to serve your loved ones and manage your assets in the event of a tragedy – still alive? Competent? Do you still know them? Trust them? Would they still be willing to serve? Are your beneficiary designations up-to-date on wills, trusts, insurance, and retirement assets? If your IRA is still payable to your deceased spouse, it will likely be distributed to your estate, causing immediate income taxation.

Do you know where to find your beneficiaries? Could your fiduciaries find your beneficiaries? It's a shame to waste money trying to find people after the death of the only person who knew how to locate them. It's an even greater shame to have money going to the wrong people when it's too late to do anything about it.

Consider your choice of guardian for children or others under your care – disabled spouse, parents, minor grandchildren. Are the persons you have named still the best for the situation? In this most crucial of areas of responsibility, be sure you have discharged it well.

Be sure to include a list of updated beneficiary and fiduciary addresses, telephone numbers and other contact information with your documents. Include a list of your assets, including custodians, account numbers and contact information. Make sure this list includes "digital assets" - online access user names and passwords for bank and other financial assets; email and messaging access; social media sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter; personal data repositories such as Shutterfly; and "cloud" access. This step alone can save a great deal of time if you are unavailable to point your fiduciary in the right direction, when time might be of the essence.

Review amounts of insurance. Do you remember what the amount of insurance was to cover? Is that amount still adequate? Is it too much? As our lives change, so do our responsibilities. The amount projected to pay off the mortgage, raise and educate the kids, and supplement the surviving spouse's retirement may not be needed as you approach retirement with the house mostly paid off, the kids finishing college and retirement income your pressing need. Conversely, the amount you took out when you graduated college and were still unmarried without children might not be enough now to protect those you love most.

Review your retirement plan. Are you investing enough? Are the earnings assumptions still correct? You might need to save more, invest differently, plan to work longer or take a part-time job upon retirement. Better to determine that now, as unpleasant as it might seem, than to find out only after bad assumptions lead to a bankrupt retirement.

Review your long-term care plan. Have you made provision for your own care during a period of incapacity or extended convalescence?

Talk to your parents, and to your adult children. Have they created and updated their

plan? Or are they remiss in this regard? Encourage them to take this important step.

If your planning needs updating, make it happen now. Consult with your professional advisors, and make sure that your planning meets your reality.

---

### **Smucker's Meats Hosts Tour for Maryland Meat Producers**

The Agricultural Marketing Program of the University of Maryland Extension is pleased to announce that Smucker's Meats, LLC, in Mt. Joy PA., will host a tour of their facility for Maryland's Farm-raised Meat Producers on **Thursday, January 24, 2013 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.**

Attendees will get an up close look at slaughter procedures, food safety processes and value-added product development through a comprehensive tour of the meat processing plant. A question and answer session with plant staff exclusive for attendees will follow the tour. Limited space is available to processor attendees that are 18 years or older.

The tour is part of an educational seminar series for Maryland's Farm-Raised Meat Producers titled, "Managing Risks in the Farm to Table Marketing Model for Small Farm Meat Producers in Maryland." The project aims to provide participants - producers, Extension Educators, and any other Agricultural Service providers attending - a total overview of the farm-to-table marketing model from birth to sales. This project received grant funding from the Northeast Center for Risk Management.

There is no fee to attend the tour, but pre-registration is required. Number of tour attendees is limited to 25. The tour will begin promptly at 9:30 am.

To register, contact **Ginger S. Myers**, Western Maryland Research & Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, Maryland 21756, TEL (301) 432-2767 x338, FAX (301) 432-4089, [gsmyers@umd.edu](mailto:gsmyers@umd.edu).

*Source: UME*

---

### **Making Moonshine? ...in Old-Time Howard County?**

by Allan Bandel

You bet! It's an authentic part of our amazing rural Howard County agricultural heritage. Prohibition became the law of the land when the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920. The possession or consumption of alcohol remained illegal until 1933 when ratification of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment repealed the 18<sup>th</sup>. During that period, many legends and folk tales were created as countless citizens devised clever ways to thwart the unpopular and difficult to enforce law.

There are usually two sides to every story, especially with this one. During the *Roaring Twenties* when the *Great Depression* was in full swing, many citizens were unemployed, often forced to stand in "soup lines" just to obtain enough food to survive. In spite of the many problems created by prohibition, there were those folks who still believed that temperance was the right way, in fact, the only way, to live.

But then, on the other side of the issue, there were many who proclaimed the opposite persuasion, folks who believed strongly in their rights to produce, sell or consume "distilled spirits" if they so chose. The more violent and corrupt side of this latter group was frequently portrayed on TV and in the movies, most notably perhaps, as in *The Untouchables* where Eliot Ness worked hard to bring to justice the racketeering mobs associated with bootleg whiskey in crime-ridden Chicago.

From what I heard from my elders as a youngster, the violence portrayed in the 1950s era TV shows that dramatized racketeering during Prohibition was not a serious problem here in Howard County. But, we were frequently reminded that during this brief historical era, some of our more respectable, enterprising neighbors, and perhaps even some of our family as well, may have been involved in activities devised to skirt the intent of the law of the land at that time, a difficult, if not impossible law to fairly enforce.

The Prohibition era took place well before I was even born, so I must accept it on faith that any such reputed local legendary “moonshinin” activities were bona fide. The term “bootlegging” was frequently associated with this activity. It is believed that this term had its origin during colonial times in reference to selling alcohol to Native Americans, a practice frowned upon by some. So, the more determined colonists hid bottles of liquor in the top of their boots and covered them with their pants leg.

“Moonshine” is a widely used term associated with the activities of individuals who choose to clandestinely distill or smuggle illegal (untaxed) alcoholic spirits, an activity that favored night work, i.e., by moonshine. The term originated in Europe in the 1700s. “Moonshine” activities were favored to reduce detection by the authorities and subsequently, to avoid arrest.

As young Howard County farm boys during the 1940s, my brother and I, in our exploring expeditions around the neighborhood, especially the woods, never discovered any conclusive evidence suggesting that any of our family or neighbors, were really involved in moonshine activities. But, some old timers, all of whom are now long gone to their heavenly rewards, claimed that there was a time that it was no secret locally that a number of illegal moonshine stills were once in regular

operation, deep in the dense woods that once existed on the secluded southern edge of the family farm. This remote area was heavily wooded and involved several properties. Some of the woods belonged to our family, of course, and the rest was owned by a half dozen or more neighbors to the south and east.

The select group of friends sharing these woods was alleged to have been involved in what was regarded officially then as a popular, but nevertheless illicit, activity of the time. Some outsiders were also asserted to have been involved. It was remembered that there was once even an alleged, rather formal, business arrangement existing between some of our neighbors and a group of clearly well educated, always finely dressed professional men who supposedly were out-of-state college professors, faculty members at one of the finer, more highly respected institutions of higher learning. They regularly traveled north to Maryland from their homes in one of our neighboring states to the south.

According to one account, these well-attired, refined “gentlemen” visited Howard County regularly, and frequently. When here, they had arranged to “fire up” a couple of the stills that were reserved for their use. These stills were hidden well back in those shared woods. The distilled spirits that they produced were then allegedly “spirited” back across the state line to the anticipated delight of their thirsty, less adventurous scholarly friends down to the south.

According to legend, each of the neighbors involved in the moonshine “business” was responsible for a specialized task in the profitable, illicit operation. Some of the “partners” were delegated to acquire and deliver raw materials (such as grain, usually corn, barley or wheat) to the site of the still(s).

The stills had to be relocated frequently to avoid easy detection by the Federal Revenue Agents. Although the “Revenuers” were

apparently not of the “rootin’ tootin’ shootin’” variety often associated with moonshining in the TV and movie portrayals, it was known that they still had to make at least a token effort to locate illegal stills and put them out of business – at least temporarily.

Other members of the local “moonshinin’” group were given the task of collecting firewood to heat the boiler and cook the mash. Others took charge of the final product – bottling, storing, and if time allowed, permitting it to age properly before being sold to the many willing and thirsty customers who were always waiting. The storage phase was often of short duration though, since local demand for the distilled product was said to be rather brisk.

And of course, to facilitate distribution, there had to be a “hauler”, or a “transporter”, as they were sometimes identified. Transporting the product occasionally turned out to be an exciting, if not a hazardous, occupation. What makes this story even more interesting is the fact that the local “group’s” regular transporter was not a man at all, but a woman. This woman though, was unlike any female that most of us have ever encountered, and possibly hope to never meet. Generally, the rough loose clothing that she wore, topped with an old flimsy and soiled golfing cap was all “hand-me-down” men’s apparel. She was not only regularly mistaken for a man, but it was said that she could “swear like a sailor”, and even fight like one if she were provoked. She was known to be one tough lady, to put it mildly.

Dad recalled hearing of one incident in which the transport vehicle that she was driving one night was intercepted en route by the Federal Revenue authorities. Consequently, suspecting (correctly this time) that her vehicle was carrying a shipment of illicit moonshine whiskey, she was pursued at high speed.

In the excitement of the chase, the transporter

lost control of her heavily loaded vehicle and was rendered unconscious when she crashed her car into a ditch. Because immediate application of first aid was called for, it was necessary to unfasten the front of the unconscious driver’s loose-fitting work shirt. Surprised and highly embarrassed when her chest was exposed, the revenue agents were heard to exclaim, “Gawd, he’s a woman!” Fortunately though, the “transporter’s” injuries were not deemed to be of life threatening nature and she survived the incident and lived to transport moonshine again, many times, in fact.

During Prohibition, most of the local “moonshiners” had newly installed telephones in their homes, one of those magnetically powered wall phones that had to be manually cranked to make it ring along the party line. The telephone mechanism was contained in a distinctive wall-mounted cabinet of finely finished hardwood.

In the 1920s and 1930s, those crude telephones represented “cutting edge” communications. To call long distance, one long ring had to be cranked out to summon the operator in Ellicott City. For local calls though, we could ring any of our neighbors along the party line ourselves without any assistance from the operator. I remember the party line number that we were assigned in later years (early 1940s) was 52-F-15. Our distinctive, ring consisted of 1 long and 5 shorts. One of our neighbors had a shorter, more convenient number to ring, 52-F-11. It’s distinctive ring was simply 1 long and 1 short.

Perhaps some of you might remember those old party lines in which everyone could, and often did, “tune in on” everyone else’s calls. There could be as many as 15 families wired to that party line at one time. The more “nosy” ones frequently tried to listen in on their neighbors’ calls to keep up with neighborhood news and gossip. “Conference calls” are not really all that new an idea. The telephone was

also an indispensable tool during the Prohibition era.

According to some of Dad's early recollections, one of the more active members of the "moonshine enterprise" lived on Triadelphia Road, which was on the west side of the area of operation. He was known as the "West-side Lookout". If the "Lookout" learned that the "Revenuers" were planning a raid and were most likely to approach from his side of the woods, then it became his duty to warn all the others of the impending "attack".

The "West-side Lookout" apparently enjoyed an excellent relationship though with the local revenue officer in Ellicott City. It was known that from time to time, the local federal revenue officer would forewarn a contact person, often the important "West-side Lookout". This usually took place by telephone several days in advance of the raid. His message usually went something like this; "Mr. Xxxx, this call is to let you know that we are planning to 'hit' your operation along about Tuesday, two nights from now."

With the warning of an impending raid received, it was the duty of the "lookout" then to put his modern communication tool, the telephone, to use and ring up all the involved neighbors to spread the word (and that was just about everybody). The first person that he contacted was duty-bound to help spread the alarm by calling some of the other group members.

All available hands were then expected to hurry out to the woods and dismantle the most expensive, and most valuable, components of the still(s), but usually leaving the less expensive mash barrels intact. They would then set up some old worn-out, junk apparatus for the "Revenuers" to actually "destroy" when they arrived a couple of nights later. On at least one occasion, the federal raiding party was even considerate enough to not destroy the barrels of mash. The mash was

subsequently salvaged and fed to, what turned out to be, a very happy bunch of hogs that were being fattened up.

After the "raid", the "Revenuers" returned to their offices over in the county seat to write their official reports. The report was to document that they were actually doing their official jobs. And after a reasonable passage of time, the local moonshiners could quietly go back about their business. Everyone was happy and no one got hurt, physically or financially. Apparently, the West-side Lookout, and the "Revenuers" shared an exceptionally good relationship. Perhaps, like the moonshiners, the "Revenuers" also appreciated some quality distilled spirits when they found it.

During the Prohibition era, the "West-side Lookout" was also allegedly responsible for distribution of part of the product, said to be some of Howard County's finest "bootleg" whiskey. The product was stored and aged in wooden barrels maintained in a small barn near the "Lookout's" farmhouse.

The distilled spirits must have been a good quality product because customers did not allow it to stay around long enough to age as long as it should have. One of the reasons might have been that the product was top quality. Some of the group's illicit product was stored in fine wooden barrels made from charred oak staves, casks that had once been used to store Coca-Cola. It was known that since the product rarely remained in the barrels long enough to age properly and absorb some of the flavor from the charred oak, a little caramel was often blended in to add more color and flavor. The local clientele obviously loved the final product.

An incident occurred near the end of the Prohibition era, most likely around 1930 or 1931, that could have been disastrous for the "West-side Lookout". According to one witness, a small storage building on the farm

unexpectedly caught fire late one dark night and soon burned to the ground. The small frame structure was located very close to the farmhouse. It was an important part of the moonshine operation because it was of a large enough size to fulfill a very special purpose. Inside that little barn, on specially built racks, were neatly stored a number of those excellent, well-seasoned 10-gallon wood stave barrels mentioned earlier, all filled to the top with a supply of the local "enterprise's" popular bootleg whiskey.

Soon after the fire was discovered, the closest volunteer fire department was summoned by telephone. But the firefighters were headquartered some distance away in Ellicott City, a good 10-mile journey over rough unpaved country roads. According to the fire chief, the fire's red glow against the dark sky could be seen from as far away as the firehouse in Ellicott City. By the time the volunteer firemen arrived, the flames were raging and the barn was well beyond saving. But they did take the precaution of spraying water on the walls and roof of the nearby farmhouse, thereby saving it from almost certain destruction by fire as well.

One witness to the fire said that the wood-shingled exterior walls of the farmhouse became so hot in places that firemen could not touch it with their bare hands. As streams of water were pumped onto the farmhouse, even remembering later years, the witness could still visualize the sight of clouds of steam rising off of those outside walls closest to the burning barn. Adding to the fire danger was another factor. Primarily for appearance's sake, when the house was being built, its now tinder-dry wood-shingle siding had been stained a dark brown color by soaking it with used crankcase oil. If the shingles had ignited spontaneously from the intense heat, the house would surely have burned very quickly. But the hard-working firemen fortunately, were able to save it.

The barn fire was reported to have been an unusually hot one for a simple wooden structure. Most everyone suspected (or perhaps knew for a fact?) that a quantity of moonshine whiskey had undoubtedly helped to accelerate the intensity of those hungry flames.

Have we been given the true story about some of the moonshine activities conducted in Howard County during Prohibition? Are these the real facts? Now that more than 75 years have passed and all of those involved are long gone, can we realistically separate fact from fiction? Or are all of these tales just a fascinating part of local legend? I expect that it is probably a little bit of both.

Since the principle alleged participants in this saga no longer dwell among the living, I doubt that we will ever really know all of the facts for certain. But, you will have to agree that tales like this certainly do add some intriguing color to this part of Howard County's fascinating history and its agricultural heritage. After all, during those unique years, moonshine whiskey was considered by those producing it to be just another convenient, but unfortunately illegal, way to more profitably market a portion of their corn, wheat and barley crops.

---

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2013**

Jan 10 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

Jan 15 **Delmarva Hay & Pasture Conference.** Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE. For information, contact: [www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm](http://www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm)

Jan 15 **A Cow-side Forum for Enhanced Dairy Care and Well-being.** 9 am to 2:30 pm. Teabow Dairy Farm, 10201 Glade Road, Walkersville, MD. No fee, but registration required by January 8. Call (301) 600-3576.

Jan 16 **Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference. Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE.** For information, contact: [www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm](http://www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm)

Jan 17 **Tri-State (MD, PA & WV) Hay & Pasture Conference. Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE.** For information, contact: [www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm](http://www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm)

Jan 19 **2013 Beekeeping Class (opening session).** 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Wye Research and Education Center. Five Saturday classes in the spring and two in the fall. For details, see announcement in this newsletter.

Jan 24 **Smucker's Meat Tour.** 9:30 to noon, Mt. Joy, PA. Contact: Ginger S. Myers, (301) 432-2767, [x3382\\_gsmyers@umd.edu](mailto:x3382_gsmyers@umd.edu).

Feb 2 **Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo.** 8:30 to 3:30 pm, Carroll County Extension Office & Carroll County Ag Center, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Feb 12 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10:00 am to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Feb 13 **Eastern Shore Pesticide Conference.** The Fountains, Salisbury, MD.

Contact: Ginny Rosenkranz, (410) 749-6141.

Feb 14-15

**Chesapeake Green: A Horticulture Symposium.** Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD.

Feb 23 **2013 MD Dairy Convention.** 8:30 am to 9:30 pm. Frederick County Fairgrounds Building 9, 797 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD.

Feb 23 **Maryland Christmas Tree Association Winter Meeting.** Friendly Farms Restaurant, Upperco, MD. Contact: Wilma Muir at (410) 452-9793.

Feb 26 **Farm Transition & Estate Planning Workshop.** 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Feb 27 **Tri-County Winter Agronomy Meeting** for Howard, Montgomery and Frederick Counties. 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Urbana Fire Hall. For details, see announcement in this newsletter.

Feb 28 **Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting.** 6:15 pm at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center, Glenwood, MD. Pre-registration required. Call (410) 489-7987.

Mar 5 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10:00 am to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Mar 5 **Farm Transition & Estate Planning Workshop.** 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Mar 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10 am to 12 noon. Exam March 13 at 10 am. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Mar 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 1 pm to 3 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Mar 12 **Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam.** 10:00 am to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Mar 12 **Farm Transition & Estate Planning Workshop.** 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Mar 26 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training/Recertification.** 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Mar 27 **Certified Nutrient Management Consultants / Farmers Recertification Meeting.** 9 am to 1 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Oct 6 **AGNR Open House.** University of

MD Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Clarksville Facility. 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. Information: [www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu](http://www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu)

Oct 15 to

Nov 12 **Nutrient Management Farmer Training Certification** (7 or 8 classes), 7 pm to 9 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 5 **Nutrient Applicators Voucher Training/Recertification.** 10 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 3 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10 am to 12 noon. Exam November 13 at 10 am. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 1 pm to 3 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

\* \* \* \* \*

[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, healthy and prosperous New Year!*

