

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 16, NO. 2

MARCH, 2007

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Hugh Bailey Hill, Jr.

September 8, 1920 to February 7, 2007

Hugh B. Hill, Jr., a life-long farmer and resident of the Clarksville area and a long-time active member of the Howard County Farm Bureau, passed away on February 7, 2007. He was 86. Mr. Hill took an avid interest in public affairs, especially those related to agriculture. He was considered by many who knew him to be a solid "pillar" of the local agricultural community. He belonged to a now "vanishing fraternity" of more traditional agriculturalists whose wise members helped to guide and direct the building of modern-day Howard County.

Born on September 8, 1920 in Olney to Hugh B. Hill and Edith Mae Phelps Hill, he graduated from the "old" Clarksville High School in 1936. In 1944, he married Eleanor Jane Gaither whom he met at a church supper. He has been a life-long member of that church, now known as the Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church in Clarksville.

On his family farm, located between Clarksville and Dayton and known as Altogether Farm, he specialized in raising prize beef cattle. Before becoming a modern housing development in recent years, the Hill farm had been in the family for nearly 100 years. To supplement his farm income, he operated a school bus for 16 years, serving nearby schools in the Atholton, Clarksville and Glenelg communities.

Hugh Hill was a local leader of the Dayton 4-H Club. He was a steadfast believer in the benefits that 4-H programs offered to young people. He will also be remembered as a strong advocate of and steadfast hard worker who supported the growth and development of the Howard County Fair. For many years he

headed up the Fair's Beef Cattle Department and helped with the Fair's annual 4-H Live-stock Sale. He served honorably and tirelessly for 18 years, from 1966 until 1984, as a member of the Howard County Fair Association's Board of Directors. He also served many years on the county's local ASCS Committee, some as its chairman.

On a more personal level, Hugh had a great passion for deer hunting, especially in Garrett County. He also loved to go fishing with his friends on the Chesapeake Bay. It is not surprising that Hugh was one of the founders of the popular Dayton Rod and Gun Club.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Eleanor Jane Hill of Sykesville; a son and daughter-in-law, William Bailey and Barbara Jean Hill, of Havre de Grace; a daughter and son-in-law, Martha Jane and Albert Wilford, Jr. of Sykesville; three grandchildren; Kimberly Jean Hill, of Baltimore, David Hill of Havre de Grace and Kristie Jean and husband, Wayne Miles of Clarksville; and a great-granddaughter, Sierra Amber Miles of Clarksville.

Services were held on Monday, February 12, 2007 at Haight Funeral Home & Chapel in Sykesville. The Rev. Dr. Lisa Bandel-Sparks officiated. Interment was private.

Memorial donations may be made to: Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church Fund, P.O. Box 165, Clarksville, MD 21029.

Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast will be at **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2007** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please join us.

Our guest speaker will be **Delegate Gail Bates**, who, along with Delegate Warren Miller, represents Howard County in the House of Delegates in Annapolis. She will address some of the important issues that are expected to be discussed in the 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly. This meeting will also be an excellent opportunity for local Howard County citizen input to the legislative process.

Delegate Bates has been well-received as a featured speaker at some of our previous agri-business breakfast meetings. She is familiar with the issues and we are confident that she will do an excellent job bringing us up to date on what is happening in Annapolis.

This promises to be another interesting, informative, and timely program. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, the fellowship and a usually lively and friendly information exchange. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM and the program will start at 8:30 AM.

The formal part of the program concludes by approximately 9:00 AM. You may stay longer if you wish. We look forward to seeing you at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast on Thursday, March 8.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, March 6, by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-3455. The cost of the breakfast is \$8.00 per person, payable at the door.

**Howard County's Caragh Fitzgerald
Leaving Maryland**

In a surprise announcement during the closing moments of the January 11, 2007 Agri-Business Breakfast held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, Caragh B. Fitzgerald made it public that she was going to be stepping down soon from her current position and accepting a similar post up north in her native state of

Maine. Caragh has been Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Howard County (i.e., University of Maryland Agricultural Extension Agent) since 1998. The following is her personal farewell message.

To my Howard County Friends:

At the end of February, I will be leaving Maryland Cooperative Extension to take a position with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in the Kennebec and Waldo County offices. There I'll be programming in both commercial and home horticulture and collaborating on a four-county team of educators.

While I'm excited about this chance to return to my home state, it is very difficult to leave my Maryland friends, clients, colleagues, and programs. In the past eight years, I have enjoyed your insight, experience, energy, and creativity as we've worked together to keep agriculture in Howard County viable and visible. There are still many opportunities and challenges ahead, and I will miss working with you to be a part of this.

Some of you have asked what will happen with the position once I leave. In the short term, continue to contact my office for help; they will be able to refer you to nearby Extension colleagues for assistance. At the same time, our Regional Director, Mary Ellen Waltemire will be seeking input about what the county needs in agriculture and natural resources might be. If you have comments, feel free to contact her directly:

*Ms. Mary Ellen Waltemire
Regional Extension Director
MCE West Region
18330 Keedysville Rd.
Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-4490 (phone)
301-432-4089 (fax)
mewalt@umd.edu (e-mail)*

I want to thank you all for your enthusiasm and friendship through the past eight years. The agriculture community here has made this

a wonderful place to work. I wish you all the best in the future!

(signed)
Caragh Fitzgerald

Caragh's presence will be keenly missed here in Howard County as well as in many other areas of the state of Maryland. Although we tried to claim her as our own, her program activities were more widespread and have had an impact on more than just one person, group, or county. Among other accomplishments, she is the immediate past president of the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA).

We wish you the best of luck, Caragh, as you return to "the north country"!

Philip Jones Resigns as Howard County Farm Bureau President

After serving five very successful years as the hardworking President of the Howard County Farm Bureau, Philip Jones, because of personal and medical reasons, unexpectedly asked this month that his resignation be accepted by the Board of Directors. At the February Board meeting, Vice-president Howie Feaga agreed to step into the office of president for the remainder of Philip Jones' 2007 term.

Phil's presence "at the helm" of Howard County Farm Bureau will be greatly missed by the membership, and especially by the Board of Directors. He had, and continues to possess, a genuine interest in Farm Bureau and its many valuable program benefits available to Howard County farmers and their non-farming neighbors.

Thank you, Phil, for a job well done. We sincerely wish you and your family the best of everything for the future.

"Buddy" Hance Accepts MDA Position

On Friday afternoon, February 16, 2007, we received the following e-mail message from Roger Richardson, Maryland's newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture,

"I am pleased to announce that we have a new Deputy Secretary. Earl "Buddy" Hance accepted the position this morning and will start on Tuesday (February 20). Most recently, he has served as president of the Maryland Farm Bureau and as Chairman of the Maryland Tobacco Authority, among other roles. Buddy is a farmer from Port Republic in Calvert County. Once a tobacco farmer, Buddy now grows flowers commercially as well as corn and soybeans.

He and I both look forward to working with all of you."

The District and Conservation Planning by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS **District Conservationist** **Howard SCD****

One of the primary roles of conservation districts, including the Howard Soil Conservation District, is to provide conservation planning assistance to farmers and other land managers. With the help of USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, district office employees give technical assistance in conservation planning and design of best management practices. The conservation plan reflects a person's decisions about the management of the natural resources for the farm or land being managed. The plan's main aim is to balance the economic or other needs of the owner/operator with the needs of the natural environment in such a way that not only is a quality environment maintained, but the ability to produce crops and livestock is enhanced.

A conservation plan includes the following:

1. Producer or landowner objectives and goals
2. Aerial photograph of the farm and fields
3. Soils maps, descriptions, and capabilities of the soils (including yield potential)
4. List of treatment decisions
5. Schedule of conservation practice implementation
6. Location of the conservation practices
7. Information sheets about the specific conservation practices for your acreage
8. Plan of operation and maintenance needs of conservation practices

In the planning process, the planner and producer/manager will discuss alternatives for a particular resource problem or challenge. Consideration in the planning process is given for the effect of the proposed practices on neighbors, the local watershed, and aquifers.

The practice must be "practical" for the site and the producers/land manager's ability to manage it. Ability to manage may include:

1. A person's time can be limited, especially in areas like central Maryland where many work away from the farm.
2. For certain conservation practices, the success of the practice may take a series of trial and error for the producer/landowner. Such things as converting from conventional tillage to no-till crop farming or converting to a rotational grazing system that optimizes production are practice types that can be more complicated since so many natural processes can affect them.

Follow-up assistance is provided by the district office to check on the continued maintenance and success of the conservation practices. These conservation plans are done without a need for a producer/landowner to be involved with a government farm program. If someone wants to know how to better manage the land's resources, a conservation plan can be developed.

For more information about managing the natural resources on your land, contact the Howard Conservation District at 410-489-7987, or stop by and visit with us at the Lisbon Shopping Center.

Workshop for Horse Operators

A workshop for horse operators will be held on March 20th at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Visitors Center in Laurel, MD. The event is divided into two sessions - one during the day and another during the evening.

The daytime session begins at 9:00 AM and runs through 3:30 PM. The topics offered include:

1. Horse Fence issues
2. Composting and Other Useful Manure Options
3. Managing Mud on Horse Properties
4. Grazing for Cover or Forage Production
5. Nutritional Needs of Horses on Pasture
6. Growing More Pasture for Large and Small Places

The evening session will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and will feature re-runs of the following topics covered during the day:

1. Nutritional Needs of Horses on Pasture
2. Growing more Pasture for Large and Small Places
3. Mud Management

A nationally known speaker, Alayne Bickle, will be on the program. Ms. Bickle raises horses on a 10-acre farm near Seattle, Washington. She has been an environmental educator for 12 years and is the director of an organization called Horses for Clean Water. She was recognized for her environmental stewardship efforts when she received the Green Globe award on Earth Day.

To register for this event, call 443-482-2934. This workshop is sponsored by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the

Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maryland. If you have special needs, please inform when you register.

The Visitors Center is located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop. From the Baltimore-Washington Expressway, take Powder Mill Road east to the entrance road to the visitors center.

Small Farms Energy Workshop

by **Ginger S. Myers**

Howard County Economic Development Authority

Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms Workshop features Farmer Speakers, Agency Experts, Funding Resources

The Howard County Economic Development Authority's Agricultural Marketing Program, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Future Harvest-CASA, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, have partnered to offer *Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms*, a day-long workshop targeting energy conservation and renewable energy options for small farms.

The workshop will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Md. on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

Escalating energy costs have become a concern for all agricultural producers. While biofuels and ethanol production hold economic promise for larger scale grain producers, small farms, dairies and greenhouse operations must look to energy conservation and other renewable energy options for controlling their energy costs.

Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms will offer timely information and practical examples of on-farm renewable energy uses. Some of the presentations will include discussions on solar electric systems,

drip irrigation, renewable energy such as solar, wind, biomass and streams, composting, straw bale building construction, etc.

Cost: Registration fee is \$25 per person.

Registration Deadline: March 14, 2007

Contact Information:

Ginger S. Myers
Howard County Economic
Development Authority
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive
Suite 500
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: (410) 313-6500
E-mail: gmyers@hceda.org

Fifth Annual Kidz Konvention

submitted by **Merhlyn Barnes**

The Howard County Farm Bureau will be participating in the *Kidz Konvention* on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at the Turf Valley Resort. There will be an exhibit promoting Farm Bureau, but especially promoting the Little Miss and Future Farmer contests. Please plan to attend.

What is more important to us than our kids? We want them to have it all... lovable pets, fun vacations, help with learning, good nutrition, reliable daycare, cool clothes, the latest games and music. The *Kidz Konvention* is a place where it all comes together... and it benefits Howard County General Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Kidz Konvention will feature performances and activities such as:

- ❖ **Pet Expo:** Activities and demonstrations featuring the "other kids" in our family... our pets.
- ❖ **Toy Land:** Showcase of special and unique toys, games and entertainment, with hands-on opportunities for gaming fun.
- ❖ **The Sports Complex:** Surprise sports favorites & lots of activities.

- ❖ **Special Appearances:** **Bob the Vid Tech** of Maryland Public Television and **Brooke Stevens** of “Good Morning with Brooke Stevens and Friends” of V1370 WVIE-AM.
- ❖ **Performances:** Dance, gymnastic, cheer-leading and martial arts demonstrations by local kids.
- ❖ **“Doctor is In” Booth:** Medical advice.

Sponsors: Turf Valley Resort, WCBM Talk Radio AM 580, and WVIE-AM V1370 “The Voice”.

When: Sunday, March 11, 2007 from 11AM to 4PM. Special activities & performances all day.

Where: Turf Valley Resort, 2700 Turf Valley Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Who Should Attend: Moms, Dads, Children & Families who want to have fun while contributing to a good cause.

Admission: Free. Donations are encouraged and will be accepted to benefit Howard County General Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Information: Regina Ford, Turf Valley Resort Director of Public Relations and Special Projects. (410) 423-0811.

Update on “Batch 13”
by **Joy Levy, Administrator**
Agricultural Land Preservation
Program

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is pleased to announce that the three properties that recently applied to sell an agricultural easement to the County, collectively referred to as “Batch 13”, were presented to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) at their February 12, 2007 meeting.

A public hearing was held for the ALPB to

accept testimony on the applicant properties. ALPP staff presented the staff reports and easement valuation score sheets for the following properties: Calvin Murray’s two farms on Florence Road that total 168 acres, Thomas Grimes’ 60-acre farm on Fairgrounds Road and the 35-acre de Fries property on Woodbine Road. Mr. Grimes spoke on behalf of his property, as did Grace de Fries and George Halterman, who pastures beef cattle on the de Fries farm. The ALPB voted unanimously to accept all three properties into the ALPP.

Each property owner will soon receive an offer letter containing the price offer and the terms of the payment plan if an installment purchase agreement (IPA) will be used. The County Executive will then make a formal offer via a commitment letter to those owners who accept the County’s offer. The County Council must approve any easement acquisition that utilizes an IPA. The ALPP is hoping to settle on the easements before the end of the year. When these three properties totaling 263 acres are added to the program, the county will have preserved 20,150 acres in agricultural easements.

For more information 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.

Recollections of Howard County’s
“100 Bushel” Corn Club
by **Allan Bandel**

In the January 23, 2007 issue of *The Delmarva Farmer*, there was an interesting article by Bruce Hotchkiss about the 55th anniversary meeting of the Talbot County Corn Club, ostensibly the oldest such club in the nation. The story reminded me that for a dozen years or so back in the 1950s and 1960s, we enjoyed having such a club here in Howard County. After reading that article, and in an

attempt to “jog” my memory a little about the Howard County Club, I made a quick trip to Ellicott City to visit the archives of the Howard County Historical Society and see what I could learn. With some really great assistance from the Society’s volunteer staff, some interesting details were revealed about the activities of the once popular Howard County “100 Bushel” Corn Club.

The “100 Bushel” Corn Club, sponsored by the Howard County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Group and the Cooperative Extension Service, was active for 14 seasons, from 1955 to 1968. Traditionally, there was an awards banquet each year where all participants achieving 100 Bu/A or more were awarded an official certificate. In addition, the Howard County farmer achieving the highest corn yield received an engraved trophy.

Most importantly though, in addition to the fun and fellowship in being part of the Club, participating growers learned from one another. The Data Sheets prepared and distributed each year allowed members to exchange production information. They could then study the results and evaluate the pros and cons of the cultural practices their neighbors used to grow their corn crop.

In my visit to the Historical Society files, I was especially interested in learning more about Club activities in 1961 since my dad, Vernon M. Bandel, was recognized that year for producing the Howard County Corn Club’s top yield. Dad received his trophy at an evening banquet on Monday, February 26, 1962. The event was held in the conference room of the W.R. Grace Company Laboratories on Route 32 near Clarksville. W.R. Grace hosted the dinner that evening and one of the Grace scientists was the featured after-dinner speaker. A tour of some of the modern laboratory facilities was offered prior to the dinner and the awards program.

Mr. Warren G. “Buddy” Myers was County Agent back then and Mr. Robert E. Stansfield was Associate County Agent. Recalling a few

details surrounding the affair, I was enrolled in graduate school at the University of Maryland at the time working on my PhD. But because of classes, or perhaps it was exams the next day, I was unable to attend the program that evening. But, I do remember being approached on campus a few days before the awards banquet by Mr. Joseph L. Newcomer, popular University of Maryland Extension Agronomist. Mr. Newcomer, who coordinated corn club affairs statewide, informed me that Dad’s corn yield had been the highest in Howard County that year and that my dad would be receiving the trophy at the upcoming banquet. I could hardly believe the good news and was quite excited and happy for my dad’s accomplishment.

According to the Corn Club’s Data Sheet distributed that evening, Dad planted the variety Pioneer 305 for his winning entry. His winning yield was **156.0 Bu/A** (not bad considering that, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the state of Maryland’s average corn yield in 1961 was just 60 Bu/A).

Dad’s final plant population was recorded at 14,372 plants per acre. The row width, 40 inches, which seems rather wide by today’s standards, was fairly typical for corn planters in use at that time. Similarly, the plant population was not very high either by today’s standards, but typical at the time.

His fertilization program was interesting and also rather typical for the era. The crop plowed down ahead of his record corn crop was a clover-timothy sod. The practice of no-till corn production was essentially unheard of at that time and was discounted by many to be pretty much a “crank” idea. Its “time”, we know now, had not yet arrived.

For fertilizer, Dad applied 250 lb/A of 5-10-10 in the row. He applied no broadcast fertilizer that year. That doesn’t seem like very much nitrogen, etc. to produce a winning yield. But, being a dairyman, he did apply manure, perhaps quite a lot of it. There is no way of know-

ing today, or even then, how much cow manure was actually applied. Most farmers would have probably estimated a rate of about 10 T/A and assumed an average analysis of perhaps 10-5-10 (lbs per ton of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O). In reality, it could have been much more than that, perhaps even as much as 20 T/A since the field was located conveniently near the barn and would have probably received a fairly heavy application of manure on a somewhat regular basis.

He also applied 1 T/A of ground limestone. On the Club Data Sheet, there was no mention of soil pH. The planting date was May 20, 1961, a little later than what he considered ideal. I've heard Dad remark more than once that the best time to plant corn was during the week of May 8 (easy to remember because it was near my birthday). His winning corn field was cultivated twice for weed control. No chemical weed control was applied.

The 1961 Howard County "100 Bushel" Corn Club consisted of 33 members who submitted 47 entries in the contest. The club data sheets provided some very interesting information regarding the cultural practices county farmers followed when growing corn nearly 50 years ago. Row widths, for instance, varied from 36 inches (one entry) to 42 inches. Several growers reported planting in 38-inch rows. But the great majority of growers planted in 40-inch rows. Obviously, by 1961, farming techniques were still heavily influenced by the horse-drawn equipment era. Not enough years had passed yet for growers to entirely "wean" themselves from the wider rows that had been necessary for so long to comfortably accommodate the width of the horse.

Weed control by club participants was accomplished primarily by mechanical cultivation (1 to 3 times over). But, a few growers did report using 2,4-D and/or atrazine. The chemical 2,4-D, which is effective only on broadleaf plants, had been available for several years, and although sometimes tricky to use, was fairly economical to purchase. But atrazine was still pretty new on the scene and was still

considered to be "cutting edge" technology. Not a whole lot was understood yet about how best to manage its use.

Most club members reported that the crop grown immediately prior to corn was either an alfalfa or a clover-timothy sod. Ladino clover and lespedeza were also occasionally mentioned. Corn plant populations ranged from 9,906 to 19,422. Plant density in most fields was in the range of 12,000 to 15,000 plants per acre, also somewhat low by today's standards.

There was a wide range of corn varieties reported. DeKalb 805 was very popular at the time. This variety tended to grow tall (perhaps 10 to 12 feet) and usually produced an impressively large, long ear. Many farmers preferred varieties like this because, in addition to being good grain varieties, they also produced a lot of forage. DeKalb 805 was a good dual-purpose hybrid that could be used equally well for grain or for silage.

Some of the other more popular varieties listed that year were Funks G91, Connecticut 870, Pioneer 312, Southern States Pocahontas, and US 13. Now that it's the year 2007, it's been a long time since we've seen or heard any of those names and numbers mentioned.

The 1961 growing season must have been a favorable one for corn in Howard County. All but two of the 47 entries yielded over 100 bushels per acre. There was one entry at 87.4 Bu/A and another at 88.8 Bu/A. The other 45 entries produced yields ranging from 101.9 to 156.0 Bu/A, all well above the state average at the time.

Making comparisons across all of the entries, row fertilizer applications ranged from just 100 lb/A of 10-20-10 to 500 lb/A of 10-10-10. Broadcast applications ranged from 0 to 800 lb/A of 3-12-6 (a long-time favorite analysis). In 28 of the 47 entries, manure had been applied. The estimated manure application rates were not reported. Most farmers back

then had no convenient way to determine how much manure (by weight) was actually going on their fields. Nor did they have a convenient way of determining the actual available nutrient content of the manure. Nutrient management was not yet a “household word”.

All of the entrants reported applying lime, anywhere from ½ T/A of ground burnt lime to 2 T/A of ground limestone. There was no mention of soil testing nor of soil pH. So, lime was applied often as a routine matter of course. This was considered to be a good practice because most farmers included alfalfa in their normal crop rotations. And alfalfa, being a legume, did best at a soil pH near 6.5 to 7.0. The higher pH didn't hurt the corn either.

Finally, planting dates ranged widely from May 1 to June 15. But most fields were planted between May 15 and May 25.

As mentioned earlier, the Howard County “100 Bushel” Corn Club was active from 1955 to 1968. After 14 seasons, it came to an end. The club started out in 1955 with 14 members and 19 entries, **none** of which yielded 100 bushels per acre. Club participation grew and appeared to peak in the early to mid-1960s. By 1967, interest had dropped off. There were again only 14 members participating and just 16 entries in the contest. In 1968, the 14th, and final year, 21 members took part with 27 entries. Subsequent Annual Reports filed by the Howard County Cooperative Extension Service staff made no further mention of the “100 Bushel” Corn Club.

Having become somewhat personally familiar with the actual “day-to-day” work involved in gathering data for a corn club while employed by the University of Maryland Agronomy Department and the Cooperative Extension Service, I can state from experience that there was **a lot** of work involved. At some point, those persons responsible for collecting and organizing the data must have come to the conclusion that for the amount of time and

effort involved, after 14 years there simply were not enough people interested any longer to continue the endeavor.

The Howard County Club membership consisted mostly of dairymen and cattlemen, farmers who perhaps were not so much interested in high grain yields as they were in improved silage yields. A lot of Howard County corn production at that time went into the silo rather than into the crib.

While they were in existence, the corn clubs across the state did serve a very important educational role. According to annual Maryland Agricultural Statistics Reports, average state corn yields hovered in the 30 and 40 Bu/A range from the 1920s through the 1940s. By 1979 and 2000 though, the average state yields had risen to 101 Bu/A and 155 Bu/A respectively.

Much of this dramatic yield improvement can be attributed to many factors – genetically improved varieties, better fertilizer management practices, the introduction and perfection of no-tillage crop production, better weed control practices, the advent of narrower rows (mostly 30-inches now), and many other elements.

Helpful and useful information regarding these significant corn production factors were assembled, analyzed and readily made available to growers through a range of educational activities, not the least of which was --- the Howard County “100 Bushel” Corn Club.

Reviews

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

“I got a will form online. Can you review it? They said that would be cheaper than having an attorney draft the will.”

"I copied my brother's will. Can you look it over to see if it will work for me? That won't cost much, will it?"

"I used TurboTax® to do taxes for me and my business. Can you look it over and be sure everything's okay? And that will be cheaper than having you actually prepare the return, right?"

This writer, like other professionals, gets calls like these regularly. The callers thought that they could save money by getting documents – wills, tax returns, whatever – from someplace, and having them reviewed.

Unfortunately, life does not work that way. Whether reviewing a tax return produced by a tax preparation software package or a will produced by will kit software, the professional is being asked for his or her imprimatur, a seal of approval that will calm the prospective client's anxieties. That imprimatur carries with it unwaivable liability.

By reviewing and approving the instrument, the professional is representing that it will work – that it will produce the result intended, without creating problems for the client.

That's precisely the same representation made by a professional to a client when the professional drafts a will or prepares a tax return. It carries the same liability, too. Not only that, but even if the client agrees not to sue the professional for malpractice if the document doesn't work, the professional can't enforce that promise.

In the case of a will, the liability of the attorney is even greater after this sort of review than if the attorney had drafted the instrument itself. If an attorney drafts a will, his or her liability is only to the client – the beneficiaries can't sue if the document doesn't work. If an attorney only reviews a will, however, the beneficiaries could likely sue the attorney for any loss, real or imagined.

The time spent reviewing a document is

nearly the same as the time spent preparing it. In each case, the professional must meet with the client, review the facts and circumstances of the situation and understand the client's intentions. Then, the professional either reviews or drafts the document.

Finally, the professional and the client must meet to go over the document and ensure that everything has been covered adequately and that the client understands what has been drafted.

So, the cost really can't be the same. It might actually be higher, in the case of a will. But it isn't reasonable to expect that it would be lower.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2007

- Mar 4 **New Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** Ellicott City, MD. *
- Mar 6 **Mid-Winter Ag Meeting.** Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training. 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. (Snow date - March 13.) *
- Mar 8 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. (See detailed announcement on front page of this newsletter.)
- Mar 11 **5th Annual Kidz Konvention.** 11 AM to 4:00 PM. Turf Valley Resort. Ellicott City, MD. (See detailed announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- Mar 12 **New Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** Ellicott city, MD. *
- Mar 12 **Pasture and Field Crop IPM Workshop.** Davidsonville. MD. *

- Mar 14 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** Ellicott City, MD. *
- Mar 15-17 **Southern Maryland Equine Conference.** Contact: Southern Maryland Ag Development Commission, (301) 274-1922, or www.somarylandsogood.com/events
- Mar 16-17 **Beginning Sheep Shearing School.** 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Ridgely and Harvey Thompson Farm, Westminster, MD. *
- Mar 20 **Horse Farm Management Workshop.** 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, or 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. U.S. Fish & Wildlife National Visitors Center, Laurel, MD. Contact: (443) 482-2934.
- Mar 23 **Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner.** 7:00 PM. Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, Lisbon, MD.
- Mar 24 **Maryland Department of Agriculture Open House.** 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, MDA Headquarters, 50 Harry Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD. Free. Info: (410) 841-5882.
- Mar 31 **Advanced Sheep Shearing School.** 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Ridgely and Harvey Thompson Farm, Westminster, MD. *
- Apr 4 **New Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** Ellicott city, MD. *
- Apr 12 **New Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** Ellicott city, MD. *
- May 6 **Annual Maryland Two-Cylinder Club Show and Central Maryland Antique Tractor Club Spring Pull.** Gladhill Brothers Tractor Mart, Route 340 and Mt. Zion Road, Frederick, MD. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

May 20 **Rogation Sunday. Annual Service for Blessing of the Tractors and this Year's Growing Season.** Bring your tractor to church this Sunday. 11:00 AM, Lisbon United Methodist Church, Lisbon, MD.

NOTE: When an *asterisk* (*) follows an event unless otherwise indicated, please contact Maryland Cooperative Extension — Howard County, (410) 313-2707 for more information. **Most 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

During the farm picnic, a snooty old lady from town went around sniffing and asking, "What's that terrible odor I smell?"

The farmer said, "Lady, that's fertilizer."

The old lady was astonished and said, "Oh, for land's sake!"

The farmer laughed and said, "That's right, ma'am."

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The young farmer was telling his city aunt that the best thing to use for flowers is manure. The aunt scolded, "Please, Henry, around here we call it fertilizer."

Henry's answer shocked her. "Easy, Aunt Hazel," he said, 'it took us three years back home just to get them to say manure."

— from: *Country Chuckles, Cracks & Knee-Slappers*

Edited by Mike Lessiter