

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 16, NO. 5

NOVEMBER, 2007

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

**Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** The November Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2007** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We hope that you will join us.

Our guest speaker this time will be **Chief Joseph Herr** of the Howard County Fire and Rescue Service. Chief Herr, who is in his 7<sup>th</sup> year as Chief, is expected to present some of the latest information available about happenings in Howard County relating to fire protection and safety, especially in regards to some of the ever changing requirements of Howard County's modern and frequently non-traditional agricultural community as well as the county's expanding commercial and residential needs.

Chief Herr may discuss the new West Friendship Fire Station, the continuing importance of agriculture in Howard County and the unfortunate average of at least one major barn fire in the county every year. He may also discuss the proposed water storage tanks that may be placed strategically around the county for fire protection.

Plan to attend this program. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, the fellowship and a lively and friendly exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM and the program will begin at 8:30 AM.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, November 6, by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-3455. The cost of the breakfast is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door.

The formal part of the program will conclude by 9:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you on **November 8** at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

### ***President's Message*** by **Howie Feaga, President** **Howard County Farm Bureau**

I would like to welcome on board the new members of the Board of Directors; David Patrick, Mike Clark, and Shelly Buhlman. David is a well known dairy farmer and breeder of champion Ayrshire and Holstein dairy cattle as well as an artificial inseminator. Mike is a beef, hogs and crops farmer. Shelly board's horses, trains them and works with the Pony Club. Mickey Day is your new Vice President and I will be back for another year as President.

Will it ever rain? How many times have we thought, said, or been asked that question this year .I can say that we have made it this far and we will be wet before you know it .I have always thought that God steps on us until he steps on someone else so I guess we will just have to take our turn. Hang in there. You can do it!

We will soon be entering into the fall and winter seasons and along with that comes the Holidays. Halloween is a fun night, so be patient with all the knocks on the door. Remember, when was the last time you had that many people wanting to visit you.

Then comes Thanksgiving, a holiday that helps us get started on bringing our winter weight up. Soon afterwards, Christmas encourages us all to get into the spirit of giving. And then with the start of the New Year, we resolve once more that we are going to change our bad habits.

Hopefully we can enjoy all the things we've been given and stop dwelling on what we don't have. We are all ready for another year of hard work, so don't forget ... Keep your plow in the ground we're all pulling for you.

**2007**  
**Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau and**  
**Future Howard County Farmer**  
 by Merhlyn Barnes



As we reported in the September, 2007 issue of this Newsletter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau and the 1<sup>st</sup> Future Howard County Farmer contest was held on opening day of the Howard County Fair, with great participation from young people of ages 8 to 11. Unfortunately, we did not have a suitable photograph available in September of the two young people chosen for these honors, thus we could not include it with the article in September about the contest.

Not to be forgotten though, the photograph above shows our 2007 Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, **Miss McKensie Ridgely** on the left. Her smiling companion is **Mr. Charlie Coles**, our 1<sup>st</sup> "Mr. Future Howard County Farmer".

Although the picture is a little late, we nevertheless extend our heartfelt congratulations to them both!

**Do You Need a Great Gift Idea?**  
**Here's a Really Neat Suggestion!**

The Maryland Farm Bureau Women have just recently published a brand new cookbook. It is a beautiful three-ring, hardcover book, full of scrumptious favorite recipes submitted by Maryland farm women.

The books sell for \$20.00 each. Proceeds from the book sales will help to support the Maryland Farm Bureau Women's program.

To purchase a copy, please contact Merhlyn Barnes at 410-489-4465 or by email at [merhlynbarnes@aol.com](mailto:merhlynbarnes@aol.com).

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Horsemen's Party**  
 by **Kristen M. Wilson**  
**Regional 4-H Horse Specialist**  
**CMREC**

The 21st Annual Maryland Horsemen's Party was held on September 30, 2007 at Boulevard and Beyond, Westminster, MD. With over 210 people in attendance, this year's event featured great food, live entertainment, and both a live and silent auction. Recipients of the Maryland 4-H Youth Development Award (Tommy and Judy Smith) and Maryland 4-H Horse Program Volunteer of the Year Award (Dr. Al Starr) were also recognized.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Sallie Robertson Memorial 4-H Endowment Fund. This endowment fund helps send the horse teams to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, KY and also helps support the Maryland 4-H Program throughout the year. This year's event was a great success in that we raised approximately \$10,500 for the Sallie Robertson Memorial 4-H Endowment Fund.

A big thanks goes out to all of the members of the committee who put in so much time and effort to make this event such a huge success. This committee was made up of 4-H Horse Volunteers and educators from around the state. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers who helped during the day of the event and the donors and sponsors who supported this event.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maryland Horse Conference**  
 by Kelly Brennan  
**Equine-Poultry Extension Activities**  
**University of Maryland**

The University of Maryland's Equine Studies program invites you to the 3rd Annual Maryland Horse Conference on Saturday, November 10, 2007, from 8 am to 4 pm at the Montgomery College in Germantown, MD.

Equine researchers, industry leaders, and extension educators will make presentations on equine related topics such as equine nutrition and health, equine business management and pasture management.

We are excited to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Clint Depew, a professor and extension specialist from Louisiana State University. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Depew has worked successfully to improve horsemanship throughout Louisiana by offering seminars and founding projects aimed at increasing the skills and knowledge levels of riders. He has also been very active within various youth organizations that encourage children to develop confidence, responsibility, and leadership skills through interacting with horses. His years of experience as a teacher, trainer, and presenter in the equine industry have given him a vast array of entertaining and educational stories that are sure to captivate any audience.

Other exciting seminar topics include: bit selection and use, management of foot problems, the use of horses to improve child development skills, broodmare management, first time horse ownership, pasture management, horse facility improvements, hay quality and selection, horse farm drought management, and equine business management.

Veterinarians, trainers, horse breeders, horse owners, and anyone else involved in the Maryland equine industry should not miss this exciting opportunity to attend, to meet your colleagues, and to increase your knowledge about horses!

The registration cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth if registrations are received by October 27, 2007. All attendees will receive a conference proceedings, morning refreshments, and lunch.

For more information and information about the

speakers and vendors that will be attending, please visit our website at [www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/horseconference2007.html](http://www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/horseconference2007.html). If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-405-8746 or [kbrannan@umd.edu](mailto:kbrannan@umd.edu).

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**Do You Need Hay?**  
**or Do You Have Hay to Sell?**

If you are in need of hay, Maryland Department of Agriculture has a listing of hay sources on its web site, [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us). You may also call (410) 841-5770 and request a print-out of the listings. MDA is also interested in updating this listing to better connect hay buyers with suppliers. To list hay supplies, contact Mark Powell at the above number or log onto MDA's web site.

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**Howard County's**  
**New Agricultural Marketing Specialist**

The Howard County Economic Development Authority



recently announced the arrival of Kathy L.J. Zimmerman as the County's new agricultural marketing specialist. Bringing a wealth of agricultural, marketing, and management expertise to

the position, she will work to increase the awareness and importance of continual development of the agricultural industry in Howard County.

Zimmerman comes from a strong agricultural background which includes working with the Gettysburg Area School District as an adult young farmer advisor and a crop insurance adjuster. With the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, she provided financial advice and accounting services to bureau members. Kathy is also a life member

of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, National Young Farmer Educational Association, National Association of Agricultural Educators, National Dairy Shrine, and the National Holstein Association. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science from Delaware Valley College.

Zimmerman, who will be assuming the position recently vacated by Ginger Myers, is no stranger to the Maryland farming community. "I grew up on a dairy farm in Montgomery County," said Zimmerman. "I am very excited about working back in Maryland and with farmers in Howard County. It is like coming back home again."

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**Apply now for Cost Share Funds**  
**by Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS**  
**District Conservationist**  
**Howard SCD**

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) are now accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Applications will be accepted for the next three months and at the end of each month, all applications will be ranked statewide. Then those ranking the highest for environmental benefits will be selected for the program.

This year the program will continue to fund conservation practices on farmland that help to conserve soil and enhance water quality. Best management practices (BMPs) such as grassed waterways, diversions, ag waste management systems, heavy use areas for livestock, and roof runoff management are traditional practices that have been funded by the program. The program has also in recent years targeted grazing operations by offering cost share and incentives for rotational grazing systems, fencing, water troughs, pasture planting, and stream crossings.

There has also been an emphasis on crop management with incentives for implementing pest management and nutrient management plans that go beyond practices that meet state regulations. These practices not only can be a tool for environmental improvement, but can also improve the bottom line for a farm operation. For instance, in nutrient management, an incentive can be given for doing pre-sidedress nitrogen soil testing which can indicate whether additional

nitrogen must be applied during the early growth stages for corn. Or stalk tests can be taken during certain growth stages of the corn crop which will show nitrogen uptake levels by the plant which can indicate if there is an excess or shortage of available nitrogen for the crop.

In addition, this year several new incentives are added to the program. Among them is feeding management for dairy farms. This is to encourage the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus in the feed, which in turn, so say the experts, reduces the excretion of these nutrients in the waste. The initiative for an individual farm would involve results over three years.

There is also an incentive to improve soil quality on farms. Though not meant for farms to convert to an all-no-till system, it may require greater use of conservation tillage methods and cover crops. Practices would vary according to the soil type, use of grass in a rotation, among other considerations.

The program also will help with the construction of agricultural chemical mixing facilities. These structures help to safely contain ag chemicals in case of an accidental spill.

The many practices have different cost share rates and payment incentives. In general cost shared items are in the 50 to 75% range. Agronomic incentives are paid on a per acre basis. Feeding management incentives for dairies are based on number of cows and the need for improvement.

For more information on EQIP and what it may offer your farm operation, please contact the NRCS and HSCD at (410) 489-7987. As always, our office can help you understand how the program may fit into the improvement of your operation.

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**Mastering Marketing Newsletter**

*"Mastering Marketing"* is a quarterly publication from Maryland Cooperative Extension's new Agricultural Marketing Program. The Fall 2007 issue has been posted to the web at <http://extension.umd.edu/local/WMREC/files/AgMktgNewsFall2007.pdf>.

The newsletter may be viewed online or it may be printed out. If you have questions or comments

about this publication or have clients or colleagues that would value receiving it as well, please send their contact information to Ginger S. Myers at [gsmyers@umd.edu](mailto:gsmyers@umd.edu).

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**What Do I Need To Do?**  
by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.**  
**JD, CFP, CSA**  
**Attorney at Law**

The voice on the lawyer's phone was generally steady, but shook now and then. "This is Mrs. Jones. My husband just died last week. What do I need to do?"

The lawyer offered condolences – even though he had not known the Joneses, he sympathized with a grieving spouse. Mrs. Jones agreed to meet the lawyer in his office the following day. "What do I do now?" she asked. "He didn't have a will. Do I need to go to court?"

Her lawyer queried: "Was everything owned jointly?" "Yes," she replied. "The house, cars and bank accounts were all joint."

He nodded. "Everything is yours, then. How about IRAs, 401(k)s, insurance. Are you the beneficiary?"

"Yes," she said. "Then you need to file claim forms for the insurance, if you haven't already. Call your agent or the company; they will send you the forms. They are easy to fill out. Call me if you need help."

"Thanks," she replied. "I've talked to the HR department where he used to work, and they said I'd need to fill out forms for the 401(k)."

Again, he nodded. "The law allows you to roll out the balance of the 401(k) account to an IRA in your name. That means you can continue the tax-deferred growth, and name new beneficiaries, like your children, to reduce the required distribution amount and lengthen the tax deferral period. Of course, if you need the money, you can always take out more than the required amount."

"Oh, I'm OK. I get his pension, so I don't need to get into the 401(k) account yet."

"Then you can wait to draw out the money until you reach 70½," he said. "But be sure to ask the

401(k) plan administrator to put your options in writing. They probably have something they send to all surviving spouses.

"Some plans don't allow you to roll over your balance to an IRA, even though the law says it's allowable. That's rare – most 401(k) plans don't want to deal with spouses of employees.

"Other plans make you take out the entire balance within five years of the date of death. If that's the case, let me know, and I can help you work out a plan to get the money into an IRA without paying tax on it."

Now it was her turn to nod her head.

"Is there anything just in his name?" asked the attorney.

"No, not that I can think of," she replied.

"If you find something – a stock certificate, an old bank account, whatever – you'll need to go to the Register of Wills' office to get a 'Letter of Administration' to give you authority to liquidate the asset. The process is simple, as long as the value of the asset is less than the funeral cost plus \$5,000. The \$5,000 is the spousal share of the 'family allowance,' and is paid before any creditors or other beneficiaries receive anything.

"If the value is more than that, the process becomes more complicated. Let me know and I'll help you decide what to do."

She rose to go. "Thanks," she said.

He shook her hand and showed her to the door. "Call if I can help," he said as she left the office.

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**Deadline Looms on**  
**EPA Diesel Regulations for**  
**On-Farm Diesel Storage Tanks**  
by **Susanne Zilberfarb**

*[Reprinted with permission from the September 25<sup>th</sup> edition of The Delmarva Farmer. Susanne Zilberfarb, a member of the National Biodiesel Board and a biodiesel consultant to the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Checkoff Boards, is a former staff reporter for The Delmarva Farmer.]*

Farmers with on-farm fuel storage tanks larger than 550 gallons had until Oct. 1 to meet EPA

regulations regarding the sulfur content for their off-road diesel or face fines of up to \$32,500 per day per violation.

By Oct. 1, the diesel fuel in those tanks was required to contain 500 parts per million (ppm) or less of sulfur, as part of a national reduction of sulfur in off-road diesel. The high sulfur diesel previously allowed for off-road purposes may have contained fuel with a range of 2,000 to 5,000 ppm sulfur.

Farmers with tanks of less than 550 gallons of capacity have until Dec. 1 to achieve compliance.

In either case, "compliance" means that the fuel in the tank must be 500 ppm or less, says Bob Willis, regulatory director for the Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

The fuel in the tank must be low sulfur diesel, also called Non-Road Locomotive Marine, or "NRLM," with 500 ppm or less, which is the new requirement for off-road fuel, as authorized in the 2005 Energy Bill.

Many fuel providers have already started switching customers to the low sulfur fuel to allow fuel turnover in the tank to bring them into compliance, says Seth Powell of Tri-Gas & Oil in Federalsburg, Md. "... we have already started switching ... There has been a lot of education going on, but a lot of people still don't know and many don't realize that the fines could be significant."

Low sulfur diesel comes with a higher price tag – but not nearly as much as \$32,500 per day, Powell adds. "As of this morning (Sept. 17), low sulfur diesel is running about seven cents over high sulfur diesel."

Farmers who are concerned that their 550-gallon-plus tanks may not be in compliance have several options, Powell says.

Full clean-out is one option. Tank cleaning companies can remove the entire contents of the tank and clean out water, debris, sludge, rust and any other contaminants at the same time. After cleaning, a new delivery of low sulfur fuel should assure compliance.

Installing a new tank in lieu of a full clean-out is another option, as long as the fuel in any

remaining tanks is compliant by the appropriate deadline.

Draining existing tanks of high-sulfur fuel and then "blending down" existing tanks with the new on-road ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) is another way to achieve compliance. Farmers who still have large volumes of high-sulfur diesel can transfer that fuel to their home heating oil tanks, where it is not affected by these regulations, and then blend down the remaining fuel with ULSD.

To calculate the amount of sulfur in the blended-down fuel, multiply the number of gallons of high sulfur fuel in stock by its sulfur content (available from the fuel distributor). Then, multiply the number of gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel by its sulfur content (which should be 15 ppm or less). Add the two results together and then divide the sum by the total number of gallons.

Also under federal law, dispensers on fixed or skid tanks with a capacity of 550 gallons or greater must be labeled with special decals indicating the sulfur content. The decals must be placed near the dispenser mechanisms. Farmers may be able to obtain EPA-approved labels from their fuel distributor.

The new regulations cover a broad range of non-road diesel fuel uses.

Stationary engines built or modified after April 1, 2006 are also required to have low sulfur dyed diesel fuel in their tanks after Oct. 1. High-sulfur fuel (now referred to as "heating oil") may continue to be used in older stationary engines installed prior to April 1, 2006. Stationary engines include generators used to create electricity and operate compressors and pumps, including stationary but portable engines used in emergencies.

Truck refrigeration units are also required to use low sulfur dyed diesel fuel after Oct. 1.

Pure biodiesel, which is virtually sulfur-free, would be considered a compliant fuel under these regulations. However, since most biodiesel is blended with petroleum diesel, farmers who use biodiesel blends should check with their fuel provider to be sure that the petroleum blendstock is below the 500 ppm limit.

According to the New England Fuel Institute, the EPA classifies kerosene as a diesel fuel, and therefore has made off-road kerosene subject to

the new NRLM regulations. The only exception is for kerosene used in space heating applications.

The new regulations pertain to farmers, loggers, truckers, marinas and others in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic area, designated "NEMA" by EPA. The area includes Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C.

In addition, NEMA includes all of Pennsylvania except Beaver, Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Greene, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren and Washington counties. It also includes all of New York except for Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties; and all of West Virginia except for Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Mineral, Hardy, Grant and Pendleton counties.

Further sulfur reductions are set for phase-in beginning June 1, 2010, when the sulfur content for non-road diesel will be further reduced to a maximum of 15 ppm – the current requirement for on-road diesel.

The new sulfur reductions are expected to significantly reduce air pollution and improve public health, according to EPA. Pulmonary lung disease, chronic bronchitis and asthma have all been attributed to smog and fine particulate matter in the air.

Farmers seeking further information or clarifications should consult their fuel provider. All parties along the distribution chain are presumed liable for diesel fuel which does not meet the correct sulfur standard. According to the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, good record keeping is "the only way to prove that you did not cause the violation."

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### **Just What is an Acre of Land?**

by Allan Bandel

*[NOTE: When I wrote the following article a few weeks ago, my original intent was to publish it in the October, 2007 issue of The Rusted Plow, a periodic newsletter for members of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club. But when The Rusted Plow came out, the subject of the article generated so much interest that I decided*

*that, for what its worth, perhaps I should share its content with the readers of this newsletter.]*

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Here in the U.S., we have historically used the "acre" as our standard unit of land measurement. It's a unit that those of us who were born here have grown up with and naturally feel most comfortable with. But, while most of the world has gone metric, have you ever stopped to wonder why do we still use this unusual unit of measurement? Where did it come from? And, although we all probably claim to be very comfortable with the term, do we all really, and honestly, understand what an acre is? Do we even know what an acre's dimensions are?

Would you recognize an acre when you see one? When you gaze across an open field, for instance, or check out a building lot, can you confidently estimate how many acres are in that parcel of land (unless someone, a surveyor perhaps, that really knows, first clues you in)? Much of the modern world uses the more logical and easier-to-understand metric system (and I'm sure that not everyone will agree with that assessment) and thus expresses land measurement in terms of the hectare (10,000 square meters which equals 2.47 acres). Why then, do Americans use this cumbersome, antiquated and unwieldy unit of measurement that we call the "acre"?

Out of curiosity recently, I decided to do a little research on the subject in an attempt to discover something about the word *acre's* etiology, i.e., to uncover some of the reasons for the word's very existence. I learned very quickly that the "acre" has an interesting story behind it.

The history of the "acre" originated in England at least as far back as the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century. An 'Old English' translation interprets the word "acre" to mean "field". The word "acre" also has its roots in at least two of the world's classical languages. In Latin, "ager" is related to "field". And in Greek, the word is "agros". But, what was really interesting to me was the story behind how the actual area of an acre was originally determined.

The acre eventually came to be defined as the amount of land that a yoke of oxen could plow in a day. (Actually, in just half a day because the oxen, being living, breathing creatures, had to be given a full rest by mid-day since after exerting a half day of strenuous physical activity pulling the plow, the beasts desperately needed a rest and had to be turned out to pasture for the rest of the day so that they could "re-fuel" themselves.)

Farmers in the old days (and even today) preferred to plow in long straight furrows rather than in short or curving ones. Turning a team of oxen at the end of the furrow while pulling a heavy plow was a time-consuming task and sometimes very difficult to accomplish. So, the teamster preferred to work with as long and straight a furrow as possible before halting the team, turning them, and allowing them time for a short breather. So, the length of this long straight furrow was determined by how far the oxen could pull the plow before having to stop for a required breather.

In Old English, this long furrow was known as a "*furhlang*". Through repeated usage over the centuries, the word eventually became corrupted to "*furrow long*", and later to "*furlong*". For uniformity, the furlong was eventually defined by the King of England as being 40 rods in length (a rod being 16½ feet) – the same as 10 chains, or 220 yards, or 660 feet, or ⅛ mile. The term furlong has carried over to modern times and is still used widely in the U.K., U.S. and Ireland relative to distances in thoroughbred horse racing.

By the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, in England an acre had come to be defined as an area that was one furlong in length (40 rods or 660 feet) by four rods wide (4 times 16½ or 66 feet). The product obtained by multiplying the length by the width, 660 feet times 66 feet, equals 43,560 square feet. This definition for the size of an acre has stood the "test of time" and is still in use today.

An acre can assume any possible two-dimensional shape. It can be a square, or a rectangle, or a triangle, or a circle, or it can even assume an irregular shape, as long as it contains 43,560 square feet. To put the size of an acre in a little more perspective, if configured as a perfect square, it would have sides that are 208.71 feet long (the square root of 43,560 feet). For comparison purposes, an American football field measures 360 feet by 160 feet and is slightly larger than an acre, about 1.3 acres (1.1 acres if you don't consider the two 30-foot end zones). Hopefully, after reading this short account, you will have gained a little better understanding of just what an acre is and where it came from originally.

Obviously, another standard English unit of distance, the mile, also has its roots closely tied to the acre. Once it was established that eight furlongs represented a mile, then a mile had to

contain the rather unusual 5,280 feet, (660 feet times 8 furlongs).

My guess is that at some future time, America will undoubtedly join much of the rest of the world and adopt the metric system. We will then give up the "*acre*" and measure land area in terms of the "*hectare*". Until then though, we will without doubt continue to use the traditional "*acre*" as our standard unit of land measurement. The "*acre*" has long been an established part of our English heritage. "And now," as the popular radio personality, Paul Harvey, always states at the end of his show, "Now you know the rest of the story."

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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2007**

- Nov 7 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training & Recertification.** Training: 10:00 am to Noon. Recertification: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Contact: Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick County Office. (301) 600-3576.
- Nov 8 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 AM. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.
- Nov 10 **University of MD Horse Conference.** 8:00 am - 3:45 pm. Montgomery College, Germantown, MD. Contact: Kelly Brannan @ (301) 405-8746.
- Nov 13 **Emerald Ash Borer Conference.** Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD. Contact - Susan Soule-Motley at (301) 405-2436, or visit [www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EAB](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EAB)
- Nov 14 **Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** 10:00 am. Contact: Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick County Office. (301) 600-3576.
- Nov 14 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training & Recertification.** 10:00 am - Noon or 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Contact: Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick County Office. (301) 600-3576.
- Nov 16 **2007 Howard County Farm Bureau Annual Banquet.** 7:00 pm. Turf Valley Resort. Ellicott City, MD. For more

information, contact Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 489-4465.

- Nov 20 **Pre-Test Pesticide Training.** 10:00 am - noon. Rooms A & B, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Nov 21 **Pesticide/Voucher Training.** 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Nov 27 **Private Pesticide Applicator Test.** 10:00 am - Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Dec 2-5 **Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Convention.** Clarion Hotel. Ocean City, MD.
- Dec 8 **Lambing & Kidding School.** Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD.
- Dec 18 **Pesticide/Voucher Training.** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.

### 2008

- Jan 9, 16, 23, 30  
**Winter Wednesday Series.** Program to be Announced. 10:00 am - Noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 12 **Pre-Test Pesticide Training.** 10:00 am - noon. Rooms A & B, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 16-18 **2008 AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference.** Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, MD. Contact Dawn Watkins @ (301) 253-2921 or Merhlyn Barnes @ (410) 489-4465.
- Feb 19 **Private Pesticide Applicator Test.** 10:00 am - Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.
- Feb 25 **Pesticide/Voucher Training.** 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Carroll County Extension

Office, Westminster, MD. (888) 326-9645.

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

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### Some "Dry" Humor to Smile About

An agricultural college student said to his roommate, "The drought back home must really be bad this time."

"How can you tell?" his roommate asked.

"I just got a letter from Dad," he said, "and the stamp was fastened on with a paper clip."

### **And then there was the one about ...**

The northern farm hand who went to work for a Texas rancher. There had been a long dry spell and every man on the ranch was hoping for rain. One day it started to sprinkle and the farm hand, to show his delight, began to dance in the rain.

"Hey, you," shouted the ranch owner, "come in out of the rain!"

"Oh, I don't mind it a bit," the farm hand called back.

"That isn't the point," insisted the rancher. "I want every drop of that water to fall on Texas."

### **And finally ...**

One local TV weatherman was wrong on his forecasts so many times that he was publicly embarrassed and thus applied for a transfer.

"Why do you wish to transfer?" the station manager asked.

He replied, "The climate here doesn't agree with me."

— from: Country Chuckles, Cracks & Knee-Slappers

Edited by Mike Lessiter