
Howard Ag



A multi-agency newsletter serving the agricultural community

Changes to County Agricultural Land Preservation Program

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) and County staff continue to discuss ideas to make easement sales more attractive to farmers. Further refinements to the easement price scoring system are expected. The Board will likely recommend that the maximum per acre offer amount be increased significantly from the current \$20,000 an acre maximum. The Board is also exploring alternative payment options that might be more attractive, such as cash settlements, shortening the length of installment purchase agreements and spreading out principal payments to improve the income stream and reduce final balloon payments.

In addition, the ALPB has reviewed several staff recommended changes to the Agricultural Land Preservation section of the Howard County Code. These are mostly "housekeeping" measures to ensure consistency within the Code. One additional proposed amendment would give added flexibility to the composition of the ALPB. The County Council must approve all potential changes to the ALPP or the Code.

Farm-City Celebration "Routes to Our Roots"

The 2005 Howard County Farm-City Celebration represented months of planning, scores of volunteer hours, and a leveraging of departmental resources and sponsorships that culminated in a 16-day schedule of events aimed at both celebrating and promoting the agriculture industry in Howard County.

(Farm-City Celebration..., page 3)

Answering Questions on Your Own Farm

Caragh B. Fitzgerald, Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Got a good idea to test out on your farm? Wondering if that new variety or different insecticide will work as well? If so, it sounds like you're ready to do evaluations on your farm.

You might just want to know how well something works. In that case, give it a try in a corner of a field. Keep some notes about pest problems, management activities, yield, and sales, and you'll have a good idea if the system might fit for you.

On the other hand, if you actually want to know if the new one yields more than the old one, then you'll want to be sure to use the three basic components to good research: using a reference, repeating the treatments, and randomizing (or mixing) the treatments.

(Answering Questions..., page 2)





(Answering Questions..., from page 1)

The reference is your current practice—what you're comparing against. Repeating the treatment (usually at least 3 times) helps you see if differences are real or by chance. For many agricultural practices, it's also useful to repeat the test in more than one year. Mixing up the treatments keeps the experiment free from bias, like putting all new varieties plots closest to the treeline, where there's little airflow and there are better conditions for disease.

The size of each treatment area depends on the crop, your equipment, the size of your farm, and what data you plan to collect. If you're comparing strips within a field, make your treatment area equal to one or two equipment widths. On a small vegetable farm, as little as 10 row feet might be sufficient size.

Try to decide ahead of time what you want to compare, and be realistic about the time you'll have to collect that information. Yield is usually important, so do you have a yield monitor? Will you be measuring boxes, bushels, or quarts? Does your harvest crew understand what they need to measure?

If you'd like some guidance in designing some test plots on your farm, let me know (410-313-2707, cfitz@umd.edu). Winter is a great time for making these plans. Also, we'll be conducting a seminar about conducting on-farm research on January 13, 2006, as part of the Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference in Hagerstown. See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for more information. This is a pre-conference session so be sure to register for it separately. Happy researching!

7th Annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference

The 7th annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference, January 13-14, 2006 in Hagerstown, Maryland, will bring together outstanding farmers, nationally known researchers and experienced educators in the field of sustainable agriculture.

Vern Grubinger, director of the University of Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Center, will deliver Saturday's keynote address. Grubinger is widely known throughout the Northeast for his innovative, holistic programming.

The conference will open at 1:30 p.m. Friday. George and Melanie DeVault of Pheasant Hill Farm in Emmaus, Pa., will describe their diverse direct-market operation and Chris Fullerton, long-time manager of the Tuscarora Organic Cooperative in south central Pennsylvania, will discuss the 17-year history of the Tuscarora co-op. The co-op works with 25 farmers who deliver produce to the Washington, D.C. area.

A Friday evening social hour and dinner will be followed by a farmer panel whose members will describe their successful farming enterprises. On Saturday, choose from among 16 workshops on marketing, live-stock production, specialty crop production and risk management.

Two new pre-conference workshops will run from 9:30 am to noon on Friday. "Value Added Products – How Am I Going to Sell All of This Stuff?" will provide insight into marketing value-added products and services. "Taking Research into Your Own Hands" features farmers who are doing research on their land.

For registration information contact: Future Harvest-CASA, Phone: (410) 549-7878 Email: fhcasa@verizon.net

2006 Youth Agri-Business Development Grants Available

The Agriculture Committee of the Howard County Economic Development Authority is offering two Agricultural Business Industry Youth Grants. Each grant is for \$750. These funds have been dedicated from the County's Agricultural Marketing Program's local branding program - "Howard County Grown" - for the expressed purpose of providing an entrepreneurship grant for a Howard County youth. The grants are available to a Howard County youth (18 years of age or younger) who would like to begin an agricultural enterprise or would like to make modifications to an existing agricultural practice. The intention of these grants is to improve the economic viability of agriculture in Howard County by encouraging youth to try new business ventures that they may not have the capital available to start without assistance.

Examples include: Purchasing materials for creating marketing materials for direct-sales outlets such as roadside stands, developing a specialty services business such as "relief livestock caregiver", starting a bedding plants business or purchasing superior genetics to improve brood stock performance.

The applicant may be a sole proprietor or form a joint venture with another Howard County company, partnership, sole proprietor or cooperative. Projects may also be carried out on existing farming operations in Howard County. All projects must be completed in Howard County and the applicant must be a Howard County resident. Applications will be available starting January 27, 2006. All applications must be received by February 28th and the final selection will be announced not later than March 31st.

To request a grant application, please contact: Ginger Myers, Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500, Columbia, MD, 21046, 410-313-6500, or request the form via email by contacting gmyers@hceda.org.

(Farm-City Celebration..., from page 1)

Finishing its second season, there's more to celebrate than just the completion of the Farm-City events. This year:

- Three new organizations joined the Council - The Howard County Conservancy, Stillridge Herb Farm and Roots, an organic food store.
- Six new sponsors joined the ranks - Comcast Cable, Eyre Bus, The Howard County Conservancy, Maryland Life Magazine, Piedmont Insurance Group and University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Three new major events were added - the Iron Chef Cook-off at the Howard County Fair, the Open House and Kick-off Breakfast at the University of Maryland Research Farm and the Square Dance at the Guldasky Center.
- The Farm-City Celebration Council was recognized by the Howard County Volunteer of the Year Program.

By all accounts, the Farm-City Celebration Council can declare "mission accomplished".

2006 Farm Recordkeeping Tool Available



Many farmers keep farm records solely for the purpose of filing federal and state income tax returns. But the problem is, many erroneous management decisions can be made from a set of "tax" records.

The Howard County Agricultural Marketing Program has designed a convenient-sized Farm Records Journal where producers can record information like bales fed, hours worked, first calves born, transplanting dates, spraying dates, cutting dates, seeding dates, etc. This information will help the producer understand WHY the financial records turned out the way they did. Keep this handy journal on your dashboard or in your tool box.

This record book /journal is not a replacement for the financial records your accountant requires. It is a supplemental management tool. Keeping complete records, including production activities entries, will help the producer compare the operation from one year to the last. But, more importantly, he/she can use this information to make INFORMED farm management decisions. To receive a free copy, please contact.

Ginger S. Myers
Agricultural Economic
Development Authority
410-313-6500
gmyers@hceda.org.

2006 FUTURE HARVEST Pre-Conference Business Skills Training

Value-Added Products: *Where am I Going to Sell All this Stuff?*

What's the difference between value added and value created products? Why aren't more farmers making money with value-added products? If I make it, where can I sell it?

In a 2 ½ hour pre-conference business development training session at the 7th Annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference in Hagerstown, Maryland in January, Ginger S. Myers, Agriculture Economic Development Specialist, Howard County Economic Development Authority, will share business development information that will increase your understanding and competitive knowledge about:

1. The pros and cons of producing a value added product.
2. Outlets for value-added products and why direct marketing of these products often fails.
3. Maximizing your marketing tools for marketing your value "enhanced" products and services.

This presentation includes real-life examples, worksheets, and a wide variety of resources. Notebook included. For registration information, please refer to the conference announcement on page 2 of this publication or contact Ginger Myers at 410-313-6500 or gmyers@hceda.org.

Electronic copy of Howard Ag is hosted
by the Howard County
Economic Development Authority
www.hceda.org

Private Pesticide Applicators—Recertification

Below is a list of **recertification** sessions scheduled in Howard and nearby counties for 2005 and 2006. Please call the Cooperative Extension office listed for details and to register.

Howard (410-313-2707)
March 22, 2006 6 pm – 8 pm

Carroll (410-386-2760)
November 23, 2005 6 pm – 8 pm

Frederick (301-694-1594)
Nov. 2, 1pm -3 pm
March 1, 2006, 1 pm-3 pm

Montgomery (301-590-9638)
December 21, 2005 7 – 9 PM
January 10, 2006 7 – 9 PM

Baltimore (410-666-1022)
December 8, 2005 9 am – 3:30 pm
(Field Crops Day)
January 27, 2006 9 am - 3:30 pm
(Central MD Veg Growers)
February 28, 2006 1 pm – 3:30 pm

Anne Arundel/Prince George's
(410-222-6757)
December 19, 2005 7 pm – 9 pm
February 8, 2006 8 am – 4 pm
(S. MD Vegetable & Fruit Meeting)
March 13, 2006 6 pm – 9 pm

Private Pesticide Applicators—NEW

Anyone interested in a private applicators' certificate must take and pass an exam written and offered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Study materials are available from the Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE) county offices. The MCE offices also offer optional pre-exam training to landowners wishing to take the exam. The exam is then scheduled at the office a week or two after the training. Farmers can also make arrangements with MDA to take the exam in Annapolis. Below are **training and exam dates** for private pesticide applicator certification:

Howard
(410-313-2707)
April 5, 6 pm – 8 pm Training
April 12, 4 pm – 6 pm Exam

Carroll
(410-386-2760)
November 23, 10 am – 12 pm Training
December 1, 7 pm – 9 pm Exam

Frederick
(301-694-1594)
November 2, 10 am – 12 pm Training
November 9, 10 am – 12 pm Exam
March 1, 10 am – 12 pm Training
March 8, 10 am – 12 pm Exam

Montgomery
(301-590-9638)
December 14, 7 pm – 9 pm Training
December 21, 7 pm – 9 pm Exam

Baltimore
(410-666-1022)
October 25, 9 am – 11:30 am Training
November 1, 9 am – 11 am Exam
February 28, 9 am – 11:30 am Training
March 7, 9 – 11am Exam

Anne Arundel/Prince George's
(410-222-6757)
January 9, 6 pm – 8 pm Training
January 23, 7 pm – 9 pm Exam



MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS



Most events require registration or a fee. Please contact the number indicated or the Howard County Extension Office for more information.

See below for information about private pesticide applicator recertification, new applicator training, and new applicator exam dates.

December 8, 2005. Field Crops Day.
Upperco, MD

December 16, 2005. Nursery Pest Management Conference.

Audience: Landscape managers, nursery managers, ground maintenance, lawn maintenance managers and certified pesticide applicators for landscape, ponds and nurseries.

Westminster, MD. Info: 301-596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET.

Counts for re-certification for category III, ponds weeds, industrial weed and private applicators pesticide license renewal.

December 19, 2005. Alternative Ag Enterprise Challenge.
Davidsonville, MD

January 2–6, 2006, 8:00 – 5:00 each day. UMD Advanced IPM Short Course.

Plant Science building, College Park, Maryland
Info: 301-405-8478. Info: 301-596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET

Counts for re-certification for category III, ponds weeds, industrial weed and private applicators pesticide license renewal.

January 9, 2006. Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

Howard County Fairgrounds. Contact Joy Levy.
410-313-5407.

January 11-13, 2006. Maryland Nursery and Trade Show (MANTS).

Baltimore Convention Center
Organized by: MANTS Committee
Info: 410-823-8684

January 13-14, 2006. Farming for Profit and Stewardship.

Hagerstown, MD. Info: 410-549-7878,
www.Futureharvestcasa.org

January 18 and 19, 2006. Maryland Arborist Winter Conference.

Audience: Arborists, Landscape Managers and Turfgrass managers.

Turf Valley Country Club, Ellicott City, MD
Info: Jeanne Brooks at 888-638-7337

Session on January 19, 2006 counts for re-certification for category III, ponds weeds, industrial weed and private applicators pesticide license renewal.

January 18, 2006. Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference.

Garrett County, location to be determined

January 19, 2006. Southern Maryland Hay and Pasture Conference.

Waldorf, MD

January 19 and 20, 2006. Delmarva Hay and Pasture Conference.

Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington.

Contact: Richard Taylor, rtaylor@udel.edu,
302-831-1383

January 21, 2006. Pasture Walk—Winter Grazing of Tall Fescue.

Wye Research and Education Center,
Queenstown, MD

January 23-27, 2006. 8:30 – 4:00 each day. Introduction to Greenhouse Management.

Audience: Greenhouse Growers
UMD Cooperative Extension Office, Montgomery County office, Derwood, Maryland
Info: Suzanne Klick 310-596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET

January 24, 2006. Central Maryland Grazing Conference.

Westminster, MD

Info: Doug Tregoning, dwt@umd.edu, 301-590-2809

January 27, 2006. Central Maryland Vegetable Growers' Conference.
Upperco, MD

February 1, 2006. FALCAN Winter Conference.
Location: Urbana Fire hall, Urbana, MD. Co-organized by FALCAN and University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Info: John Bradshaw, 301-473-5678

February 4, 2006. Grape Pruning Clinic.
Upper Marlboro Research and Education Center

February 7, 2006. Chesapeake Green Conference.
Audience: Nurseries, Garden Centers, Landscape Managers, Greenhouse Operations
Linthicum, MD
Info: 410-823-8684, MNACMA@aol.com
Pesticide re-certification credits are available for this conference.

February 8 – March 1, 2006. (March 8 snow date) 6:45 – 9:15 PM - Wednesday evenings. Beginning Farmer Series.
MCE-Howard Office, Ellicott City
Contact: MCE—Howard (410-313-2707) or Howard County Economic Development Authority (410-313-6500)

February 8, 2006. Southern MD Vegetable and Fruit Meeting
Davidsonville, MD

February 13, 2006. Agricultural Land Preservation Board.
Howard County Fairgrounds. Contact Joy Levy. 410-313-5407.

February 13, 2006. Maryland Ag Forum.
Prince George's County Equestrian Center

February 14-16, 2006. Landscape Contractor's Association Winter Workshop.
Audience: Landscape architects, landscape designer, landscape managers, ground management, turfgrass managers
Ellicott City, MD
Info: 301-948-0810, www.lcamddcva.org
Session on February 14, 2006 counts for re-certification for category III, ponds weeds, and industrial weed applicators pesticide license renewal.

February 27-29, March 1-2, 2006. Introduction to Cut Flower Production.
Audience: Commercial cut flower growers
Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD
Info: 301-596-9413

March 9, 2006. Advanced IPM Training.
Audience: Landscape and Nursery managers who utilize IPM methods
Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD
Info: 301-596-9413

March 13, 2006. Agricultural Land Preservation Board.
Howard County Fairgrounds. Contact Joy Levy. 410-313-5407

March 13, 2006. Pasture and Field Crop IPM Workshop.
Location: Davidsonville, MD

Date: to be determined in 2006. Master Nursery and Garden Center Conference.
Organized by: American Plant Food Company and Master Nursery and Garden Center Association
Location: Chevy Chase, MD
Info: 301-770-7729



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**Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Agricultural Land Preservation Program**

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**Howard County Economic Development Authority
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