
HOWARD Ag



A multi-agency newsletter serving the agricultural community

What's New in Ag Preservation

At the request of the County Executive, on April 3, 2006 the County Council approved two important pieces of legislation pertaining to the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP). Council Resolution 34 amended the ALPP's pricing formula to double the maximum offer amount from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per acre. The increase was necessary to keep pace with escalating land values in the County, and will hopefully attract owners of high quality agricultural land to apply. The easement pricing formula was changed to

(See "What's New", page 4)

Agriculture & Food Entrepreneurs Have New Web Tool

Interested in starting a new farming enterprise? Want to start a food processing business featuring your family's special smoked bologna? Then you need to visit the Howard County Electronic Agriculture and Specialty Foods Resource Center at www.hceda.org. This innovative, web-based resource offers tools for assessing, developing, and marketing new agricultural enterprises and specialty food processing businesses.

The site consists of a wide array of business development resources, both web-

(See New Web Tool, page 2)



FARM-CITY

2006 Howard County Farm-City Celebration "Farms, Friends and Families" September 23 - October 7

More days to celebrate. More activities for kids of all ages. More opportunities to learn, reminisce, and add another page to the chronicles of agriculture in Howard County. Our farms grow more than food. They foster long-time family values, provide a great place to meet friends and experience farm-life and serve as stewards for both our rural traditions and the environment. Celebrate the interdependence of Howard County's towns and farms during fifteen of the prettiest days this Fall.

(See Farm-City Celebration, page 3)

MALPF 25-Year Easement Terminations

Joy Levy, ALPP Administrator and Lisa O'Brien, Counsel to the ALPP with the County Office of Law, continue to work closely with Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and Office of the Attorney General (OAG) staff to prepare for the potential termination requests from our oldest MALPF easement properties. Until recently, the MALPF program has had a provision that allows property owners to petition to buy back their development rights from the State once the easement has been in place for 25 years, if it can be shown that profitable farming is no longer feasible on the property.

The Maryland Annotated Code and the Code of Maryland Regulations govern the process for easement termination. Upon the anniversary date, a property owner can request termination by completing an application that will provide an opportunity to document their inability to profitably farm the land. A parallel process requires the State and the County to conduct their own review and make their own determination about the eligibility for termination.

The State's responsibility is to judge economic feasibility. In addition, an easement cannot be terminated without the County governing body's approval. The five counties with the oldest easements (Howard, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford and Frederick) have decided collectively that county criteria should involve land use policies, including consistency with comprehensive planning goals and the effect of termination on vicinal properties. Howard County is creating a policy statement that will describe its criteria and review process.

The original intent of the MALPF easement was that it would be perpetual, and that termination would require extraordinary

circumstances. Howard County has 4,000 acres under MALPF easement out of a total of over 19,500 agricultural easement acres. The County will work very hard to protect the investment it has made in agricultural preservation over the years, and recognizes the potential negative impacts of terminated MALPF easements on adjacent County easement property. Please contact Joy Levy at 410-313-5407 if you have any questions.



(*New Web Tool, page 1*)

based and printed, that support new and existing agricultural and food processing enterprises in Howard County generally found throughout the State of Maryland. Information is grouped into four main topic areas: Small-Scale Entrepreneurship, Specialty Food Processing, Value-Added and Alternative Agricultural Enterprises, and Resources Developed by the Howard County Agricultural Marketing Program.

Information on the website can assist agricultural entrepreneurs in researching market and industry trends, new production technologies, and sourcing of production inputs and equipment. The overall goal of the site is to provide agricultural entrepreneurs an entry portal for gathering business development information including: business planning and management; local, state and federal regulations; and one-click access to County zoning and health code regulations.

This site was developed by the Agricultural Marketing Program of the Howard County Economic Development Authority. For more information contact: Ginger Myers, Howard County Agricultural Economic Development Specialist, 410-313-6500, or gmyers@hceda.org.

Farm-City Celebration- It's All About Farms, Friends & Families

Fall is the perfect time to take a hayride, pick a pumpkin, or enjoy an outing in the country! The Howard County Farm-City Celebration is **15 days of fun for families**, celebrating the County's strong agricultural heritage and promoting the mutual benefits farmers and their city cousins share. Come join the fun September 23 - October 7 and learn more about this year's Celebration theme- "Farms, Friends & Families."

Activities scheduled include:

Farm Tours & School Visits
Open House at the University of Maryland's Central Maryland Research and Education Center
Job Exchange between County Executive Jim Robey and Bob Manfuso, Chanceland Farm
Fall Festival at the Farmers' Markets
Special Activities at Local Farms
Special Programs at all Howard County Libraries
Demonstrations by the Howard County Antique Machinery Club
View a real Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds Fox Chase
Howard County Farm Heritage Days Celebration...
And much, much more.

Farms Open to Visitors

(Please call ahead to check times and availability of products.)

Sharp's at Waterford Farm

Denise Sharp
4003 Jennings Chapel Rd.
Brookville, MD 20833
301-854-6275

Triadelphia Lake View Farm

Jim & Linda Brown
15155 Triadelphia Mill Rd.
Glenelg, MD 21737
410-489-4460



Clark's Elioak Farm

Martha Clark
10500 Route 108
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-730-4049

Larriland Farm

Lynn Moore
2415 Woodbine Rd.
Woodbine, MD 21797
410-442-2605

Mt. Pleasant Farm

The Howard County Conservancy
10520 Old Frederick Road
PO Box 175
Woodstock, MD 21163
410-465-8877

Watch for more details at the
Howard County Fair
or check on the web at
www.Farmheritage.org.

Howard County Farmers' Markets

Featuring the season's freshest, locally grown produce, baked goods, fruits of the season, flowers, transplants, organically grown produce and specialty items.

East Columbia Library

6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia
Thursdays, May through mid-November, 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Glenwood Library

2350 Route 97, Glenwood
*Saturdays, June through October
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM*

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church

5901 Cedar Fern Court, Columbia
*Tuesdays, May through October
3:00 PM- 6:00PM*

Oakland Mills Village Center

5851 Oliver Place, Columbia
*Tuesdays, May through October
10:00 AM -1:00 PM*



Buy Fresh...
Buy Local

Plant your dollars close to home. Purchases from local farms help support county farmers, their businesses, their families, and the community.
Howard County Grown products featured here.

WIC and Senior FMNP Checks Accepted
at all of these markets.

(Clip and Put on Your
Refrigerator Door!)

(*What's New, page 1*)

simplify its use and to place equal priority on the three land characteristics most critical to preservation: size, soil quality and adjacency to land already protected. Now that the changes have been approved, the ALPP anticipates the opening of an application period within the next several months. If you are interested in learning more about the ALPP, or might consider selling a preservation easement to the County, please call Joy Levy at 410-313-5407.

The County Council also approved amendments to the Agricultural Land Preservation section of the Howard County Code. Most of the amendments are "housekeeping" measures that clarify issues and create better consistency between the Code and the easement documents, and between the Code and the Zoning Regulations. In addition, one of the amendments will provide greater flexibility in filling vacancies on the Agricultural Land Preservation Board. The Council did not approve a proposed change to the definition of the term tenant housing.

The ALPP recently acquired four dedicated agricultural easements. The 33-acre Mattingly property and the 26-acre Waterford property were preserved when they sent their density to other properties in the Rural West using the County's Density Exchange Option program. The 51-acre Roxbury Farm, LLC property and the 44-acre Winchester Homes, Inc. property were preserved as cluster subdivision preservation parcels. In addition, there are almost 700 acres currently under review as potential dedicated agricultural easements. This includes 450 acres of density sending parcels and 240 acres as cluster subdivision preservation parcels.

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

Broadleaf Herbicides for Horse Pastures



Caragh B. Fitzgerald
Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources

With the typical high animal density and horses' notorious spot grazing, weed management on horse pastures can be a real challenge. Broadleaf herbicides do not kill existing grass, and so they can be a very useful tool for increasing pasture productivity. This article reviews grazing and replant restrictions of materials labeled for use on permanent pasture. As always, you must follow the pesticide label: the label is the law! Also, the mention of specific products does not constitute an endorsement by the University of Maryland.

Many horse operations have very limited land, so I'm often asked what herbicides can be used without any grazing restriction. The following active ingredients have no grazing restriction for horses (it may differ for other animals): metsulfuron-methyl (Cimarron®), dicamba (Banvel®, Clarity®), 2,4-D+triclopyr (Crossbow®, no restriction for horses if rate <2.0 gal/acre), diflufenzopyr+3,6-dichloro-o-anisic acid (Overdrive®), clopyralid (Stinger®), triclopyr+clopyralid (Redeem®). 2,4-D formulations vary, so you will need to check the specific label for these products. 2,4-D and dicamba are salt-based. Residues of these materials will make the treated foliage attractive to grazing animals. Although the label might not require it, you may want to consider excluding horses from the treated pasture until after a rain ($\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch). If you cut hay from your pastures, be sure to check the haying restriction, too.

Of course, you also must be sure that the herbicide will kill the weeds in your pasture. For example, Stinger® is effective on Canada thistle and dock, but for multiflora rose and plantain, you'd be better off with Crossbow®. Extension Bulletin 237, the Pest Management Guide for Field Crops, has a chart that can help you choose the best herbicide based on your weeds. If you have internet access, you can also find the information at <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/MCE/Publications/EB237online/index2.cfm>

If weed populations were high, you'll probably want to replant the pasture after using the herbicide. There is no replant restriction for grass following the use of Banvel®, Clarity®, or Redeem®. Crossbow® and Overdrive® have 1-month restrictions for replanting grass. Cimarron® is 6-18 months, and with 2,4-D, you must wait until the next season. Check the label for replant restrictions for clover, corn, or other crops. If the problem pasture is newly-established, be sure to check the label for a restriction about that as well.

To get the most of your herbicide application, be ready to make any other needed changes to improve pasture quality. Taking soil samples and fertilizing appropriately, altering grazing patterns, and using a sacrifice lot to reduce damage to the pasture can all help reduce future weed problems.

If you have any questions about plant identification or about specific herbicides, please contact me at 410-313-2707 or cfitz@umd.edu.



MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS



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

High Tunnel Production of Commercial Cut Flowers

June 1, 2006, Brookeville, MD

Information: 301-596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET

Maryland Horse Health and Disease Prevention Seminar

June 8, 2006, Originating from Laurel Racetrack, broadcast to locations in Wye Mills, Keedysville, Aberdeen, and LaPlata

Information:

www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/health2006.html

MD Grape Growers Field Day

June 17, 2006, CMREC—Upper Marlboro

Fundamentals of Nutrient Management Planning

June 29-30, 2006, Annapolis, MD

Maryland State Horticulture Society Summer Tour

July 6, 2006, Howard / Anne Arundel Counties

Maryland Grain Checkoff Program Referendum

July 28, 2006 (tentative), Howard County Extension Office
(and other County Extension offices)

Managing Forages and Pasture Nutrients

August 8, 2006, MDA Headquarters, Annapolis, MD

Who Should Attend: Certified NM consultants and operators, others interested.

Crops, Twilight & Barbecue

August 24, 2006, CMREC-Upper Marlboro

Practical Experiences in Nutrient Management

September 6, 2006, UMD Hayden Farm

Who Should Attend: Certified operators and consultants; any operator interested in learning management skills.

Basics of Farming Short Course

September 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2006

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Frederick County Extension Office

Information: Wilma Holdway, 301-631-3576, wholdway@umd.edu

Nutrient Management – Farmer Training Certification

September 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28, and October 3 and 5, 2006

(Participants must attend **all** sessions.)

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Frederick County Extension Office

Information: Terry Poole, 301-631-3577, tepoole@umd.edu

Open House—UMD Clarksville Research Farm

September 30, 2006, Ellicott City

Deer Management for Nurseries

October 19, 2006, Ruppert Nurseries

Information: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413, www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET

University of Maryland Horse Conference

November 18, 2006, location to be determined.

Save the Date!

Maryland Women's Agriculture Forum

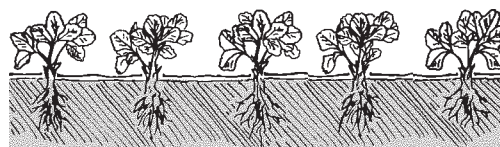
When: Tuesday, November 16, 2006 8:30 AM - 3:15 PM

Where: Howard County Fairgrounds

Who: Farmers, growers, service providers, educators, and those who care about food, fiber and the viability of agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Why: An increasing number of women own or assist in the operation of profitable farms and ag-related businesses in Maryland. This daylong forum will recognize and validate their roles as producers and marketers. The program is designed to help meet the growing need for educational programs dedicated to women farmers.

What: Come spend the day with people with similar interest and concerns. Speakers and group activities will focus on topics that are vital to the viability of all agricultural enterprises and to the quality of life for all Maryland farmers.



Watch for upcoming details and registration information. This event is co-sponsored by Future Harvest-A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, Howard County Economic Development Authority and the Maryland Cooperative Extension-Howard County Office. For more information contact Ginger Myers, HCEA, at 410-313-6500 or Caragh Fitzgerald, MCE, 410-313-2707.

PA/MD Twilight Meetings

June 7—Penn State Fruit Research and Education Center

(Rt. 34 to Biglerville. Turn at the PNC Bank onto Rt. 234 W. Turn right onto University Dr.)

June 8—PA, MD and WV Meeting at Allenberg Orchards, 22319 Barth Spring Ln., Smithsburg, MD—Host, Henry Allenberg

(Rt. 997 S, which becomes MD 64; left on Rt. 491 just past a railroad overpass; ¼ mile on right, turn into Barth Spring Ln.)



61st Annual Howard County Fair

August 5 - 12, 2006

Located at
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, Maryland
(Exit 80 off I-70)

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