
HOWARD Ag



A multi-agency newsletter serving the agricultural community

County Executive Announces New Easement Application Period

County Executive Jim Robey recently announced the opening of a new application period for the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP). The County seeks to acquire preservation easements to protect its agricultural industry and rural character. Referred to as "Batch 13", the application period will run from September 1 through November 15, 2006.

To qualify for the ALPP program, properties must be 50 acres or larger; however, properties that are 20-50 acres qualify if they are adjacent to agricultural preservation easements, environmental preservation parcels, parkland, donated easements or other permanently protected land. Properties must also meet certain soils criteria to be eligible.

The County Council has approved increasing the maximum offer amount to \$40,000 per acre. The County uses a scoring system to determine the easement purchase price. Applicant properties are awarded points based on a variety of characteristics, including size, the capability and productivity of the soils, adjacency to protected land and other factors that impact agricultural viability. The higher a property scores, the greater the easement offer will be. The

(See New Batch, page 2)

Women in Agriculture Survey Underway

Various sources now document that more women in the United States are actively pursuing careers related to farm business development and production agriculture. As a result, there is a greater need for women to participate in business development training seminars and production agriculture programs.

Out of a total 5,351 women who identified themselves as farm operators in Maryland in the 2002 USDA Census of Agriculture, 1,917 classified themselves as the principal farm operator.

(See Survey, page 3)

Howard County Farm-City Celebration

September 23 through October 7
featuring
"Farms, Friends & Families"



For a complete Schedule of Events
visit www.farmheritage.org.

(*New Batch, page 1*)

average easement offer will likely be \$25,000 to \$35,000 per acre.

The County will be offering a variety of payment options in Batch 13. In addition to the traditional 30-year installment purchase agreement (IPA) that the ALPP has used exclusively since 1989, we will also be offering cash settlements and shorter term IPAs. We are hoping that the increase in the maximum offer amount and the added flexibility in payment arrangements will encourage property owners to consider making the commitment to preservation now, as it is uncertain whether there will be future opportunities.

Applications and information may be obtained from 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@co.ho.md.us.

Save the Date...



Estate planning for farm families and agribusinesses will be the topic of a special conference scheduled for January 17, 2007, at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

This event is sponsored by the Maryland Cooperative Extension. Look for a complete program listing and reservation information closer to the conference date.

Find It Fast in the New Farms & Services Guide

The Agricultural Marketing Program of the Howard County Economic Development Authority has just released the 2006 edition of the Howard County Farms and Services Guide. This colorful, 32 page booklet is available to assist consumers who desire to purchase agricultural produces and services directly from farmers or the Farmers' Market.



Listings include easy-to-reference icons for each farm providing a quick reference to the products they offer. Included in the guide are Howard County farms that sell produce and farm products, farms that provide agri-tourism activities and educational experiences, horse stable listings, Howard County Grown Program Partners listings, agricultural support agencies and organizations, Howard County Farmers' Markets, a Maryland Harvest Calendar, and much more.

The Agricultural Marketing Program has distributed this guide to the Howard County Tourism Office, libraries, welcome centers, the county extension office, the county agricultural preservation office, and participating farms.

To request a copy, contact Ginger S. Myers, Agriculture Economic Development Specialist, Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500, Columbia, Maryland 21046, 410-313-6500 or gmyers@hceda.org

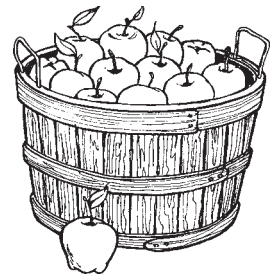
Electronic copy of Howard Ag is hosted by the Howard County Economic Development Authority
www.hceda.org

Guy Moore Receives Service to Agriculture Award

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA) awarded its Service to Agriculture Award to Guy Moore of Larriland Farm. "Guy has always been willing to help move the industry forward, from serving as president of the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association, to giving feedback about the land-grant universities at the local and national level, to providing space and resources for research projects," says Caragh Fitzgerald, past president of MACAA, who presented the award. "He and his family are very generous with their time, opening their farm to visiting farm and non-farm groups in addition to their regular agritourism customers."

With the work of siblings Guy, Lynn, and Fenby, and continued contributions from parents Larry and Polly, Larriland Farm is a very visible agritourism destination in western Howard County. Originally a dairy farm, it evolved to a sod farm, before reinventing itself as a pick-your-own fruit and vegetable operation with a farm stand, hayrides, and fall activities. Be sure to stop by Larriland Farm or any of the other local agritourism businesses this fall to pick up your pumpkins and enjoy the end of the growing season.

For a listing of Howard County farms that welcome visitors, check out the agriculture section of the Howard County Economic Development Authority's website at www.hceda.org.



(Survey, page 1)

The largest segment of farm women and women in agribusiness are the spouses of principal operators. Since the labor and contributions of the spouses of principal operators is not documented in the Census, there is no official record of farm contributions in management and labor provided by this second group. Several regional groups have started collecting data to support women's contributions to the vitality and profitability of our farms. Mary Barbercheck, Amy Trauger, et. al., recently conducted a survey of Pennsylvania farm women.

The Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forum will be held on Thursday, November 16, at the Howard County Fairgrounds. An exciting and educational program has already been planned. However, to provide participants with a snapshot of women's farming roles in the region and for future program planning, we need more information from women actively engaged in agriculture within the region. A brief survey designed to collect this data and other indicators was recently sent to women throughout Central Maryland. If you did not receive a survey and would like your information included in the data set, please contact Ginger Myers at gmyers@hceda.org to receive an electronic copy.

All information will be kept confidential and since no name or address is required, the identity of individual operations will remain secure. If you received this survey in an electronic format, please print, complete, and send in the copy. **Please complete the survey and mail to Ginger Myers, Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500, Columbia, Maryland 21046, by September 8, 2006.**



MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS



Most events require registration or a fee. Please contact the number indicated or the Howard County Extension Office for more information at 410-313-2707.

Maryland State Fair

August 25 – September 4, 2006
Timonium, MD

General Forestry Correspondence Course

September 1, 2006 – December 15, 2006
For more information contact: Nancy Stewart, nstewar1@umd.edu
Wye Research & Education Center,
410-827-8056, ext 112.
For a course description go to:
www.naturalresources.umd.edu/course_forestry.cfm

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.

Western Maryland Research & Education Center Open House

September 9, 2006 10 am – 3 pm
18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD

Agriculture Land Preservation Board

September 11, 2006 7:30 pm
Howard County Fairground

Basics of Farming Short Course

September 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2006
1 pm – 3 pm
Frederick County Extension Office
For information on registration call:
301-631-3576 or email
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 pm – 9 pm
Frederick County Extension Office
For more information call: Terry Poole at 301-631-3577 or email at tepoole@umd.edu

Women in Agriculture

UMD's 150th Anniversary Celebration Event
September 14, 2006
College Park, MD

Horse Pasture Walk and Pasture Planning Workshop

September 16, 2006 9 am - 3 pm
Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Ellicott City, MD

Pumpkin Twilight Tour

September 28, 2006
Wye Research and Education Center,
Queenstown, MD

Open House—UMD Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 4240

September 30, 2006 10 am - 3 pm
Folly Quarter Rd., Ellicott City, MD

Agricultural Land Preservation Board

October 10, 2006 7:30 pm
Howard County Fairground

Down on the Farm: Certified Organic
October 4, 2006
Howard County Central Library, Columbia

Deer Management for Nurseries
October 19, 2006, Ruppert Nurseries
Information: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET

Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forum
November 16, 2006
Howard County Fairgrounds

University of Maryland Horse Conference
November 18, 2006
Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, MD

It is the policy of the University of Maryland, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Maryland Cooperative Extension, that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability.

Nationwide Farm Bill Input

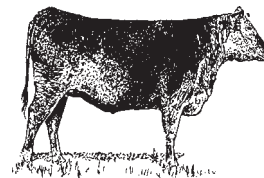
Representative Bob Goodlatte announced the launch of a web-based Farm Bill feedback form on the House Committee on Agriculture website. The web-based form allows producers throughout the nation to provide the Committee with feedback about current farm policy as well as input about the future of farm policy. The form can be accessed at <http://www.agriculture.house.gov> and clicking on the Farm Bill Feedback icon or directly at <http://www.agriculture.house.gov/inside/feedbackform.html>

The information submitted to the Committee via the website will not be part of the Congressional Record, but will be shared with Members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Beef Production Feasibility Study

Earlier this year, the Maryland Angus Association, Inc., commissioned a study to evaluate the potential to retain and expand beef production in Maryland. The study has been completed. The results will be shared at a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:30 pm at the Carroll County Ag Center. The meeting is sponsored by the Maryland Angus Association, Inc., and is opened to all Maryland cattlemen. Ed Burchell of Roseda Beef will deliver the report.

For more information, contact Mary Bewley, Secretary-Treasurer, Maryland Angus Association, 410-489-4916, lochinvrangus@att.net.



Agritourism is Now in the Dictionary

Agritourism: *noun, the practice of touring agricultural areas to see farms and often to participate in farm activities.*

Wow! This is great news. "Agritourism" is now included in the new Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, one of the less than 100 new words added this year. Only two new business terms made the cut this year, and perhaps these words tell America about their choices: the two words added in the business category are "agritourism" and "big box."

Lets all do what we can to help folks see more agritourism, and less of those "big box" stores in 2006!

The Perfect Pumpkin

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

What would fall be without that perfect pumpkin on the front stoop or the collection of pie pumpkins on the dining room table? So what goes in to growing that perfect pumpkin?



It all starts with the varieties the farmer chooses. Variety dictates traits like the deepness of the ribs (the vertical indentations) on the fruit (Yes, pumpkins are technically fruit, not vegetables). The smooth pumpkins with no ribs are great for painting. The variety also determines, in part, how large the pumpkin will be: from small pumpkins less than a pound to 30-pounders, to giant pumpkins (technically they're squashes) that are 50 pounds or more. And while the typical jack-o-lantern pumpkin is fairly round, there are some varieties that produce more upright fruit, and they provide a nice vertical accent by the front door. Then, of course, there's the color. For pumpkins, a dark orange color is very attractive, and it's best set off by a long, dark green stem, or handle. As with any crop, though, appearance and quality is also influenced by growing conditions.

Adequate moisture is essential for good pumpkin growth, and proper fruit development. While most farmers don't irrigate their pumpkins, they do work to control weeds, which can compete with the crop for moisture. Some also use cover crops like rye or hairy vetch before the pumpkins. By planting no-till into the killed cover

for moisture. Some also use cover crops like rye or hairy vetch before the pumpkins. By planting no-till into the killed cover crop residue, this helps conserve soil moisture, inhibit weed seed germination, and keeps the fruit clean.

Although many insect pests of pumpkins will kill plants or reduce the number of fruit, some will also directly affect the quality of the pumpkin fruit. While cucumber beetles can cause problems early in the season, in the fall they may begin to feed on the pumpkin fruit. The scarred fruit are not only less attractive, but they can also be more susceptible to a fungal disease called black rot. Aphids can transmit a number of different viruses to the plants. If the infection occurs early enough, the virus can interfere with proper ripening of the fruit, leading to a mottled or speckled orange-green appearance.

Pumpkins, similar to other cucurbits like summer squashes and cucumbers, are susceptible to many different diseases. Powdery mildew is one of the most common, and customers can sometimes see the effects of this disease. The fruit from infected plants may turn orange prematurely, leaving it a light, rather than dark, orange color. The handles of infected fruit are often shriveled and brown, too. Pumpkin breeders are continuing to introduce lines that have some resistance or tolerance to powdery mildew. This helps farmers reduce losses from this disease, and it can also help them reduce the use of fungicides. Management to minimize other diseases helps to ensure that your fall pumpkins will still be solid and attractive through the fall season.

CENTRAL MARYLAND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE FORUM

"Farming- for All It's Worth"

When: Thursday, November 16, 2006 8:30 am to 3:15 pm. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Program begins promptly at 9:00AM.

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 day long 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: Spend the day with people who share similar interests 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.

Speakers:

Rich Hood, Summer Creek Farm & Watershed Advertising

"Do You Need a Website?"

Andy Bennett, Farm Family Insurance Company

" Farm Insurance and Liability Issues"

Marion Bowler, PA Farm Link

"Passing on the Farm"

Terra Brownbeck, Spiral Path Farm

"The Rest of the Story- Market Outlets that Keeps Us in Business"

This event is organized by Future Harvest- CASA, Howard County Economic Development Authority, Howard County Farm Bureau Women, and Maryland Cooperative Extension- Howard County Office. For more information contact Ginger Myers, HCEDA, at 410-313-6500 or Caragh Fitzgerald, MCE, 410-313-2707.

Name _____

Organization _____

Job Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cost is \$20 per person. Lunch is included. Please send check made payable to HCEDA with enrollment form. Mail to:

Ginger Myers
Howard County Economic Development Authority
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500
Columbia, MD 21046

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

Joy Levy
Program Administrator
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
410-313-5407 www.co.ho.md.us



**Howard County Economic Development Authority
Howard County Agricultural Marketing Program**

Ginger Myers, Agriculture Development Specialist
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500
Columbia, Maryland 21046
410-313-6500 www.hceda.org



Maryland Cooperative Extension Program- Howard County Office

Caragh Fitzgerald, Extension Educator
3525-L Ellicott Mills Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
410-313-2707 www.agnr.umd.edu/users/howardcty/



6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500
Columbia, Maryland 21046
410-313-6500