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# Howard Ag



Howard County  
Department of  
Planning and Zoning



*A multi-agency newsletter serving the agricultural community*

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## Changes at Economic Development

The Howard County Economic Development Authority would like to wish Ms. Ginger Myers great success in her new position as Agriculture Marketing Specialist for the Western Maryland Research Center. Ms. Myers was a tremendous asset to agriculture in the county and we look forward to continuing our working relationship through her new endeavors.

Coming on board as the Agricultural Marketing Specialist for the Howard County Economic Development Authority is Ms. Kathy Zimmerman. Ms. Zimmerman grew up on a dairy farm in Montgomery County, Md. where she was active in the Montgomery County Holstein 4-H Club and the Montgomery County Agriculture Center. After receiving a degree in Dairy Science from Delaware Valley College, Ms. Zimmerman has resided in Pennsylvania the last several years working in various areas of the agriculture industry. When asked about her new position Ms. Zimmerman had this to say, "The quality of agriculture programs in

*(continued on page 3)*

## Two New Easement Properties Enter Preservation

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is pleased to announce that the County recently purchased the development rights on two farms. The 166-acre Murray property in Mt. Airy, and the 52-acre Grimes property in West Friendship are now encumbered by perpetual agricultural easements. Both Mr. Murray and Mr. Grimes chose the newly offered 10-year Installment Purchase Agreement method of payment. Settlement on the Murray farm occurred on July 10, with the Grimes farm following on October 25.

This is particularly good news because prior to Murray and Grimes, the County last purchased an easement in June of 2002, on the 400-acre Waterford Farm. It appears that the increase in the maximum price to \$40,000 per acre, combined with greater flexibility in payment options, had the desired effect of reinvigorating the Program. There are now 20,390 acres of land in agricultural preservation. This figure includes 180 acres that have been dedicated to the County in 2007 as sending parcels in our Density Exchange Option program.

For any questions about the ALPP, 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 e-mail [jlevy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlevy@howardcountymd.gov).

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## Changes to Tenant House Rights

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) has been working with members of the agricultural community to refine the regulations regarding tenant house rights on land under easement. The Howard County Economic Development Authority's Ag Committee initiated the effort by asking the County to examine the treatment of tenant houses, and amend the regulations governing them to be more responsive to the needs of the County's farmers. Specifically, the Committee requested that the County allow part time farm employees to be eligible for tenant housing, and to consider regulating the size of tenant houses.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee, County staff drafted a proposal that was then presented to various boards representing the farm community. The feedback from those presentations shaped the proposed legislation as it is now written. The amendments affect several subsections of Subtitle 5, Agricultural Land Preservation, of the Howard County Code by increasing the review responsibilities of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) and by making the Code more consistent with provisions in the Zoning Regulations.

The definition of tenant housing in the Code is proposed to be amended to mirror the defi-

inition in the Zoning Regulations, which allows both full and part time employees to be eligible. Up until now, the ALPP has always required that an employee be fully engaged in the operation of the farm. Due to the changing nature of agriculture in the County, the Committee felt strongly that the criteria for eligibility should be broadened to include part time workers. If the legislation is approved, it will be up to the ALPB to determine the merit of any given request.

In addition, the proposed amendments would give the ALPB the authority to take size into account when reviewing tenant house requests, in addition to their current responsibility to consider location and demonstrated need. We are not proposing a maximum square footage, but instead giving the ALPB the flexibility to consider the appropriateness of size on a case-by-case basis.

There will be a public hearing at the December 17, 2007, meeting of the County Council, at 7:30 p.m. in Ellicott City. Anyone who is interested in presenting their views regarding this issue should attend and testify. For more information about the meeting and the legislation, check for updates on the County's website at [www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov).

For any questions about the ALPP, 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 e-mail [jlevy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlevy@howardcountymd.gov).

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## Show Your Pride in Preservation

At the request of County Executive Ken Ulman, the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is in the process of creating a roadside sign for property owners in the ALPP to display, indicating that their farm is preserved. You may have noticed signs like this in other counties and states as you drive along their rural roads. They usually have a logo with an agricultural theme and a message that the farm is protected by a preservation easement. What a great way to let others know that

you've made the commitment to preserve your farm! We are in the early stages of development, and don't yet have a design, but hope to by the end of the year. At that point, the ALPP will send a letter to all property owners in the program, which will include a mock-up of the sign and an order form. There will be no cost to program participants for the sign or its installation.

It would be helpful for us to get an idea early on of the interest ALPP property owners have in displaying a sign. If this is something you would like to consider, please contact Joy Levy, ALPP Administrator, at 410-313-5407 or e-mail [jlevy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlevy@howardcountymd.gov).

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# Nutrient Management Update

by Krista Mitchell,  
Nutrient Management Advisor

It's time for producers to start their 2008 Nutrient Management Plans. Nutrient Management Plans MUST be in producer's hands prior to any 2008 nutrient applications. Please don't delay in contacting your nutrient management advisor to get started on your 2008 plans! Your Nutrient Management Advisor covers multiple counties, which means that Howard County only gets a nutrient management advisor for 10 days a month. In order to get all producers' plans completed before February or March, producers need to get started NOW. We usually start a wait-list in the fall, and if your name isn't on it, or if you're not prepared with current soil and manure analyses and field histories, you may have to hire a private consultant to compile your nutrient management plan. MD Cooperative Extension's nutrient management advisors are free, your tax-payer money at work, so utilize this free resource!

Soil samples are needed every three years under current nutrient management regulations, however; if you're planning on liming your fields this fall, you may want to take a soil sample prior to any lime application. Just send your soil test results to your Nutrient Management Advisor to find out your recommended lime application rate.

Soil sampling in the fall is great for two reasons: One, it has been about 6 months (for some producers) since they made their spring nutrient applications. It is a very good idea to monitor the residual nutrients in the soil at this point so you can know what will be left in the soil for next spring's crop. The second reason many producers choose to soil sample in the fall is to find out the pH of their soil. It normally takes 6-12 months, depending on the type of lime that is used, for a lime application to take effect. Many people choose to soil-sample and lime accordingly in the fall because they want to have the pH adjusted to an optimal level by planting time next spring.

Your Nutrient Management Advisor has all



the information you need on soil testing labs that can be used for the development of your new or updated Nutrient Management Plan. We also can loan soil probes out to those who will be taking soil samples for their Nutrient Management Plans. Remember, all producers that make greater than \$2,500 Gross Annual Income and/or those operations that have 8 or more animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 lbs. live weight) at any time during the calendar year are required to have a current Nutrient Management Plan for their operation. For more information, contact Krista Wilson Mitchell at the Howard County office of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension at 410-313-2709.

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Howard County is excellent and I look forward to being a part of an organization that recognizes the important role of agriculture as a business in the continued growth of Howard County's economy."

Ms. Zimmerman can be reached by phone at 410-313-6500 or by e-mail at [kzimmerman@hceda.org](mailto:kzimmerman@hceda.org).

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## New Law Regarding the Sale of Encumbered Property

Last year the state legislature enacted a law that impacts the sale of property under any easement held or co-held by a state agency. The new law requires a seller of easement property to provide the purchaser a copy of all conservation easements encumbering the property. The seller must also include in the sales contract a statement with specified information about the conservation easement and the purchaser's rights and responsibilities regarding the conservation easement. If the seller fails to meet these requirements, the purchaser has the right to rescind the contract.

Although the new law does not apply to agricultural easements held by Howard County, the ALPP strongly supports its intent, and encourages all sellers of land in preservation to make easement documents available. If you are selling your farm and cannot locate your deed of agricultural easement, please feel free to contact Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, at 410-313-5407, or email [jlevy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlevy@howardcountymd.gov).

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## SAVE THE DATE Changing Ag Markets

Save the Date – March 5, 2008 to attend a marketing seminar that could change the future of your operation. Changing Ag Markets– New Opportunities is a one-day seminar hosted by the Maryland Cooperative Extension that will feature speakers and producers who are pursuing new options and alternatives for their operations. Some of the topics featured include: which alternative energy crops to grow, trading carbon and green credits, critical food trends and consumer preferences shaping tomorrow's food industry, the prospects for profitable livestock production in Maryland and much more.

Watch for more details or contact Ginger Myers at [gsmyers@umd.edu](mailto:gsmyers@umd.edu) to request a registration brochure.

## Calendar of Events

### December

- 8 *Lambing and Kid-ding School*, Carroll Community College, Contact Cindy Mason, 301-432-2767, ext. 301
- 10 *Alternative Crop Workshop*, Davidson, MD
- 14 *Winning the Game-Post Harvest Workshop*, Calvary Methodist Church, Mt. Airy, MD, Contact Doug Tregoning, 301-590-2809
- 14 *Pesticide Recertification Conference for Landscapers and Arborists*, Montgomery College, Germantown, Contact Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413
- 15 *Drought Recovery Fund Applications Due to MARBIDCO*



### January

- 9 *MD Forage Conference*, Waldorf
- 17 *Horse World Expo*, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, Contact Kelly Bannan, 301-405-8746
- 18 *Future Harvest Conference*, Hagerstown, MD
- 22 *Farmer Training and Certification*, Washington County MCE Office, Boonsboro, MD, Contact Mike Webster, 410-841-5957
- 24 *The 2008 Regional Women in Agriculture Conference*, Dover, DE, Contact Laurie Wolinski, 302-831-2538
- 25 *Central Maryland Vegetable Meeting*, Upperco, MD

### February

- 6 *Mid Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference*, Dover, DE, Contact Shannon Dill 410-822-1244
- 12 *Farmer Training and Certification*, Baltimore County MCE Office, Timonium, MD, Contact Mike Webster, 410-841-5957
- 12 *Private Applicator Training*, MCE Carroll County Office, Mike Bell, 410-386-2760
- 26 *The 2008 Cut Flower Short Course*, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD, Contact Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

### March

- 5 *Changing Ag Markets-New Opportunities*, Howard Co. Fairground, Contact Ginger Myers, 301-432-2767
- 12 *Women In Agriculture Forum*, Howard County Fairgrounds, Contact Kathy Zimmerman, 410-313-6500

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## Census Gives Farmers a Voice in Their Future

### *2007 Census of Agriculture Coming Soon*

Annapolis, MD—America's farmers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come.

That opportunity will come to their mail-boxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

"The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else—information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways," said Barbara Rater, director of the Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural

and rural programs. Community planners use Census data to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses," she explained.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site.

"We're committed to making this Census the best count ever. It's about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state," Rater said. "Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, Maryland farmers will help themselves and their communities by filling out the Census of agriculture and returning it promptly," she added.

We want Maryland farmers to know: the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility."

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, please contact the NASS Maryland Field Office at 410-841-5740 or visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) online.

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## Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forum

The Howard County Agricultural Marketing Program and the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service are presenting the next Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forum on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 8:30 AM - 3:15 PM at the Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd., in West Friendship, Md.

The forum will focus on bringing in the next generation, business management, and marketing your new product.

Featured speakers include Dr. Dennis Hall, Pennsylvania Center for Farm Transitions,

Phyllis Kilby, Kilby Cream, and others.

The registration is \$20.00 and will include lunch and light refreshments.

For more information, please contact Kathy Zimmerman or Jill Joubert at the Howard County Economic Development Authority by calling 410-313-6500. Register on-line using a credit card visiting <http://www.hceda.org/agriculture/agEventDetail.aspx?id=46>.



Join us for our 2008

# Buyer-Grower Meetings!

**Are you a local grower, or a buyer in the food industry?**

If so, these meetings are a great opportunity to make new connections!  
Talk to buyers from grocery chains, restaurants, hospitals, colleges & more; or if you're in the food industry, speak one-on-one with Maryland farmers and producers.

Download the Registration Form or fill it out online at

[www.marylandsbest.net](http://www.marylandsbest.net)

Register by January 4, 2008 for **one or all** of the meetings listed below.

Hope to see you there!



## Large Volume Grocers and Growers:

**Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9 am - 12 pm**

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Annapolis, MD

## Food Service Buyers and Growers:

**Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**1 - 4 pm**

Villa Julie College  
Owings Mills, MD

**Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**1 - 4 pm**

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Annapolis, MD

**Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**1 - 4 pm**

Tidewater Inn  
Easton, MD

### **For Questions or More Information:**

Contact – Kate Mason

Maryland Department of Agriculture

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, MD 21401

410-841-5779

[masonkb@mda.state.md.us](mailto:masonkb@mda.state.md.us)

[www.marylandsbest.net](http://www.marylandsbest.net)

### **Hosted by:**

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Maryland Cooperative Extension

Mid-Shore Regional Council

Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment



# **SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE**

## **Howard County Agriculture Logo Promotion Program Partner Application**

— **\$35** **Annual Registration Fee** must accompany this application. Checks should be made payable to:  
Howard County Economic Development Authority.

## Promotion Partner Application for 2008

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY/ORGNIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

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Your participation makes this program possible. You can make a difference.

### Promotion Partners:

- Have use of the Howard County Agriculture Logo, logo stickers, and promotional poster.
- Are featured in publications, webpromotions, and Howard County Fair Promotion
- Participate in the Agricultural Marketing Program database listed on our web site and available to buyers
- Support Youth Ag Entrepreneur Grant
- Have access to joint advertising opportunities
- Receive marketing support
- Receive announcements of upcoming marketing events and Industry News

## **Thank you for your support**

Return completed application and membership fee to:  
Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500  
Columbia, Maryland 21046 410-313-6500

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