
Howard Ag



A multi-agency newsletter serving the agricultural community

Ag Preservation News: Update on "Batch 13"

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is pleased to announce that the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) has recommended that the County acquire agricultural preservation easements on the three properties collectively referred to as "Batch 13." The ALPB voted unanimously to accept all three properties into the program at their February 12, 2007 public hearing. A brief summary of the highlights of each property follows:

- Calvin Murray owns two adjacent farms on Florence Road totaling 168 acres. The property is farmed by David Patrick and is planted in a corn and soybean no-till rotation. There are 1,800 acres of land in agricultural preservation within a mile of the Murray parcels. The ALPB awarded this farm the full 50 extra bonus points on the easement valuation score sheet in recognition of its large size and strategic location.
- Thomas Grimes owns a 60-acre property on Fairgrounds Road that is farmed by both Mr. Grimes, who has a small beef cattle operation, and Bruce Brendel, who has the majority of the farm planted in wheat and beans. The property is located in an area with a high concentration of preserved farmland. The ALPB awarded the full 50

(See Ag Preservation News, page 3)

Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms Workshop Features Farmer Speakers, Agency Experts, Funding Resources

The Howard County Economic Development Authority's Agricultural Marketing Program, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Future Harvest-CASA, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have partnered to offer Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms, a day-long workshop targeting energy conservation and renewable energy options for small farms. The workshop will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Md. on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

While biofuels and ethanol production hold economic promise for larger scale grain producers, small farms, dairies and greenhouse operations must look to energy conservation and other renewable energy options for controlling their energy costs.

(See Energy Workshop, page 2)

**Controlling Energy Costs:
Practical Solutions for
Small Farms Workshop**

Improving Small Farm Viability

Thursday March 22, 2007 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, Maryland
(Exit 80 of Rt 70)

(Energy Workshop, from page 1)

Controlling Energy Costs: Practical Solutions for Small Farms will offer timely information and practical examples of on-farm renewable energy uses including presentations by:

- Don Campbell, Donald Campbell Associates, Northfield, MA. Campbell will talk about how to understand what sort of system might work for you, from your own simple first pass to getting a professional overview.
- Bruce Howden, Howden Farm, Sheffield, MA. Howden Farm currently uses a 1.1 kilowatt solar electric system to power drip irrigation for growing their fruits and vegetables.
- Kyle Teamey, Switch, LLC, Montgomery Village, MD. Renewable energy systems from Switch help farmers benefit from the naturally occurring energy resources on their land, including sunlight, wind, biomass, and streams.
- Tom McConnell, West Virginia University Extension Specialist- Farm Management, Morgantown, WV. McConnell will address, "what's the potential for wind generated energy in the Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia triangle?"
- Matt Steiman, Manager, Fulton Farm, Chambersburg, Pa. Renewable energy projects on the farm include processing bio-diesel from waste vegetable oils, solar and wind power, and experimentation with straw-bale building construction.
- Agency Panel. Funding and Support Opportunities for Implementing Energy Conservation Measures and Renewable Energy Generation.

Cost: Registration fee is \$25 per person.

Registration Deadline: March 19, 2007

Contact Information: Ginger S. Myers, Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500, Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: (410) 313-6500 E-mail: gmyers@hceda.org or mail in this registration form.

Small Farms Energy Workshop

Number attending _____ @ 25\$ each

Meals and Workshop materials included in the registration costs.

Name: _____

Company Or Farm: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

extra bonus points recognizing the desirable size and location of the Grimes property.

- The 35-acre de Fries property on Woodbine Road is farmed by George Halterman, who pastures beef cattle. The property is proximate to a significant amount of State Park land and is within the boundaries of the County's Upper Patuxent Rural Legacy Area. The farm has historic significance, having once belonged to the Ellicott family. The ALPB awarded the full 50 extra bonus points in recognition of the property's location and history.

Each property owner will soon receive an offer letter containing the easement price and the terms of the payment plan if an installment purchase agreement (IPA) will be used. The County Executive will then make a formal offer via a commitment letter to those owners who accept the County's terms of acquisition. The County Council must approve any easement acquisition that utilizes an IPA. The ALPP is hoping to settle on the easements before the end of the year. When these three properties totaling 263 acres are added to the program, the county will have preserved 20,150 acres in agricultural easements.

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@howardcountymd.gov.

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



Wanted: Farmers' Market Vendors

Full-season and short-season vendors are wanted for Howard County's Farmers' Markets. Four markets are planned for 2007 - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, & Sunday. These are producer-only markets. Re-selling is not allowed. For more information contact, Ginger Myers, 410-313-6500 or gmyers@hceda.org

Active Agriculture Committee

The Agriculture Committee, of the Howard County Economic Development Authority, serves to enhance the profitability and sustainability of Howard County's agricultural community through the promotion, marketing and support of agriculture as a viable and vital industry.

If you have a concern about agriculture in Howard County, please pass your comments and ideas onto the committee. Committee members for 2007 are:

Ricky & Leslie Bauer	Linda Brown
Martha Anne Clark	Joy Levy
John & Virginia Frank	Terri Minford
Judy Iager	Linda Martinak
Lynn Moore	Erik Rosenbaum
Denise Sharp	Natalie Ziegler

From the Desk of Caragh Fitzgerald

Howard County Friends:

At the end of February, I will be leaving Maryland Cooperative Extension to take a position with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in the Kennebec and Waldo County offices. There I'll be programming in both commercial and home horticulture and collaborating on a four-county team of educators.

While I'm excited about this chance to return to my home state, it is very difficult to leave my Maryland friends, clients, colleagues, and programs. In the past eight years, I have enjoyed your insight, experience, energy, and creativity as we've worked together to keep agriculture in Howard County viable and visible. There are still many opportunities and challenges ahead, and I will miss working with you to be a part of this.

Some of you have asked what will happen with the position once I leave. In the short term, continue to contact my office for help; they will be able to refer you to nearby Extension colleagues for assistance. At the same time, our Regional Director, Mary Ellen Waltemire, will be seeking input about what the county needs in agriculture and natural resources might be. If you have comments, feel free to contact her directly:

Ms. Mary Ellen Waltemire
Regional Extension Director
MCE West Region
18330 Keedysville Rd.
Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-4490 (phone)
301-432-4089 (fax)
mewalt@umd.edu (e-mail)

I want to thank you all for your enthusiasm and friendship through the past eight years. The agriculture community here has made this a wonderful place to work. I wish you all the best in the future!

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS



Unless otherwise indicated, contact the Maryland Cooperative Extension—Howard County, 410-313-2707 for more information. 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 host location at least 2 weeks in advance of the event.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification March 14, 2007

Ellicott City, MD

New Private Pesticide Applicator Training

April 4, 2007

Ellicott City, MD

Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

April 9, 2007 7:30 pm

Howard County Fairgrounds

New Private Pesticide Applicator Exam

April 12, 2007

Ellicott City, MD

ALLP Website Enhancements

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) is happy to announce several additions and improvements to the ALPP page on the County's web site. The ALPP home page has been reorganized to provide better access to pertinent information and relevant publications. In addition, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board now has its own page, complete with meeting agendas, minutes and staff reports. To access the ALPP home page, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/Agriculture/dpz_agricultural_preservation.

2007 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, the information can be used to make INFORMED farm management decisions. To receive a free copy, please contact:

Ginger S. Myers
Agricultural Economic
Development Authority
410-313-650
gmyers@hceda.org.

Agricultural Easement Lot Rights

If you are the original grantor of a "pre-1993" Howard County purchased easement, this article is designed to remind you of certain rights you have regarding 1-acre lots. The County program initially allowed lots only for the grantor and his or her children, at a density of one 1-acre lot per twenty acres or portion thereof. When the law changed in 1993, there were three major adjustments to the lot right provisions. First, lot rights became more flexible in that the lots could be conveyed to anyone, and so are called unrestricted lot rights. Second, unrestricted lot rights could be exercised by subsequent owners and did not expire when the easement property was conveyed. The third adjustment altered the lot right density, decreasing it to one 1-acre lot for every fifty acres *or portion thereof*. In October of 2003, the County Council passed a bill which allowed more properties to qualify for the ALPP, but altered the unrestricted lot density. The 2003 law allows one 1-acre lot for every *full* 50 acres to be released from the easement and subdivided from the farm. This change affects any easements that are purchased after 2003. It also affects the easements that the County purchased prior to 1993 where the rights have not yet been exchanged.

Over the years, many people have elected to exchange their rights. Whether or not exchanging is advantageous depends on a combination of factors. If you have a relatively small farm and several children who all desire a one-acre lot, it may be in your

(Continued, page 6)



(Lot Right Exchanges, from page 5)

best interest to retain the rights you have. If, however, you have a large farm, or if none of your children are interested in having a lot, it may be to your advantage to exchange. The ALPP wants to remind all original grantors that the option to exchange lots rights still exists. We are encouraging people to exchange primarily because the grantor/child lots are personal to the original grantor, and expire once the property transfers. Only the original grantor has the right to exchange lot rights. The right to create an unrestricted lot can be exercised by the original grantor or any subsequent owner of the easement property.

If you are interested in exchanging your rights, or have questions regarding this topic, please contact Joy Levy, ALPP Administrator, at 410-313-5407 or email jlevy@howardcountymd.gov.

Resources for Women Entrepreneurs

The US Small Business Administration has recently unveiled a new website designed to support women entrepreneurs. My BIZ for Women includes lots of resources for women business owners, including listings of government programs, a calendar of events, and guest columns from fellow entrepreneurs. It also includes a new on-line newsletter, *Women's Perspective*, which discusses issues of interest to women business owners.

To access the US Small Business Administration website for women entrepreneurs, My BIZ for Women, visit <http://www.firststepfund.org/>.

2007 Howard County Farmers' Markets

Mt. Pisgah AME Church
5901 Cedar Fern Court, Columbia

Tuesdays

May through October

2:30 PM - 6:00 PM

East Columbia Library
6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia

Thursdays

May through mid-November,

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Glenwood Library
2350 Route 97
Glenwood, Maryland

Saturdays

May through November

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

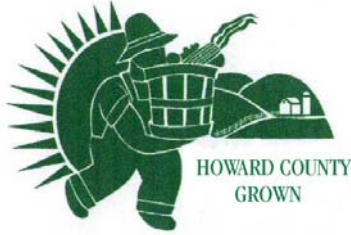


Oakland Mills Village Center
5851 Oliver Place, Columbia

Sundays

May through mid-November,

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Howard County Grown Logo Promotion Program Partner Application

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

2007 Partner Application

NAME: _____

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

WEBSITE: _____

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED:

Your participation makes this program possible. You can make a difference.
Promotion Partners Receive:

- Use of the "Howard County Agriculture" Logo, logo stickers, and promotional poster
- Featured in publications, web promotions, and Howard County Fair Promotion
- Participation in the Agricultural Marketing Program database listed on our web site and available to buyers
- Support Youth Ag Entrepreneur Grant
- Joint advertising opportunities
- Marketing support

Thank you for your support

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

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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
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Maryland Cooperative Extension Program- Howard County Office

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



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