

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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### Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The January Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled at **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2010** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us.

Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Kurt Karsten**, a sustainable energy consultant, who will present an interesting program on solar energy production. With the cost of gasoline and electricity seemingly constantly on the increase, perhaps it is time that we give more serious consideration to sources of alternative energy. Mr. Karstens will be presenting information on the use of solar photovoltaic panels for the generation of electricity. A bill was submitted, but did not pass, during the last session of the General Assembly that would allow such use on land within the state's preservation program.

If interested in the possibility of lowering your electric costs, perhaps by "solar farming", you should plan to attend what certainly promises to be a very interesting, different, and informative program. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, the fellowship and a lively and friendly exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, January 12, by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-3455. The cost of the breakfast is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door.

The formal part of the program will conclude by 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **January 14**, at the Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

### President's Message by **Howie Feaga, President** **Howard County Farm Bureau**

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. We all need to put last year behind us and start looking forward to the new year. Not that last year was that bad, it just really got old with that weather. We have had a little bit of winter and there are a lot of crops that have not been harvested yet. The only thing I can say is that you are not alone. This past fall was just one of the wettest that I can remember. Try to be patient and sooner or later things will get better.

Several of us went down to Ocean City to the annual Maryland Farm Bureau Convention and we left with a new President. She is former Howard County farmer Pat Langenfelder. She and her husband, "Dutch", farmed in Clarksville and moved to Kent County several years ago where they now have a very successful hog and grain operation. Congratulations to Pat.

Chuck Fry has moved up to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president and Jim Steel is our new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president. I would like to express a fond farewell to our outgoing president, Mike Phipps. He has done a great job and will always be remembered for his humor and talents as well as being a great Maryland Farm Bureau President. Good luck to all of these hard working, dedicated people.

Here at our county level we have a new Vice-president, Jay Rhine. Jay is a former dairy farmer and now farms part time, but also has a very successful landscaping business. I look forward to working with Jay.

We have two new board members now, Zack Brendel and Allan Bandel. Zack farms part-time and operates an excavating business that he and his brother Justin started along with a new septic

pumping business. Allan Bandel, the other new director, you all have known as our newsletter editor for many years. I would like to welcome the new officers and directors and thank the rest for a great 2009. I am looking forward to another great year together.

So, like always, "Keep your plow in the ground. We're all pulling for you".

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### **Montgomery County** **Equine Seminars**

You are invited to attend a series of two Equine Seminars being planned for February and presented by the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and the Department of Economic Development.

The time and dates are 6:30 to 9:00 pm on February 2 and February 9, 2010 (In case of snow, the alternate dates will be February 4 and February 11, 2010.) Location will be the Ag History Park (Offices of Montgomery SCD and Cooperative Extension), 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855.

Some of the topics to be presented include: the digestive system of the horse, how to conduct a fecal egg count, hay quality, basic soil fertility, plant identification, cost-share programs in Maryland, and some others to be announced.

To sign up for the seminars, or for additional information, please contact Beth Canetti of the Maryland Extension Service, at (301) 590-2825 or [ecanetti@umd.edu](mailto:ecanetti@umd.edu).

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### **Maryland/Delaware** **Forage Council Southern** **MD Hay & Pasture** **Conference** **January 20, 2010**

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Hay & Forage Conference, **January 20, 2010** at the Isaac Walton League Conference Facility in Waldorf, MD. Topics will be presented covering all aspects of hay and pasture production. The programs will address key issues and concerns

facing hay and pasture producers.

The conference also features displays and exhibits by numerous agribusinesses. Attendees will be able to obtain information on seed, fertilizer, equipment, fencing, etc. needed for hay and pasture production and management. More detailed program information on the Southern Maryland conference will soon be available on the Web at:

<http://www.mdforages.umd.edu> or through local county Extension and NRCS/Soil Conservation District offices in Maryland.

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### **Report from Annapolis** **by Delegate Gail Bates**

As 2009 comes to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the past and prepare for the future. 2009 has been the "best of times and the worst of times" to quote Charles Dickens. It has been a turbulent year worldwide and close at home. So many Americans have either lost jobs or had their incomes ratcheted back. Whatever the cause of the economic collapse, those of us in elected office should be careful not to exacerbate the situation as we seek remedies.

Those employers who have not gone out of business will be paying greatly higher unemployment taxes. This can be as much as 4 times the current rate if the legislature does not act to change the rate. Our unemployment insurance fund has dropped from a safe balance of \$800 million to less than \$300 million in less than one year due to increased claims and benefits as well as fewer employers and fewer employees on which taxes are assessed. If our unemployment trust fund becomes insolvent, our employers could lose the credit against the Federal Unemployment Tax rate – potential increase in FUTA of 5.4%, thus causing a Federal increase while lessening the state rate.

The Governor is looking at as many as ten ways to help small businesses in Maryland employing the same techniques that have emerged from Washington – spend more tax money to create Maryland's first ever Commission for Small Business (more Government jobs). He is also planning to make borrowing easier, credit more available, etc. for small businesses and offering a tax credit if businesses hire the unemployed.

In reality, Maryland could best help all taxpayers and businesses by reducing the tax burden on individuals and businesses. Rolling back the tax increases of the 2007 special session would put more money in the hands of all Marylanders, not just a select few who qualify for tax credits. Re-coupling with the Federal tax breaks (accelerated depreciation, expensing of new business assets, etc.) would help ease the cash flow of Maryland businesses.

These policies would encourage business investment and help create or sustain jobs. The increased money in the hands of all Marylanders will have a multiplier effect as it would be spent in the community sustaining and creating non-governmental jobs. Real economic recovery comes from growing the private sector, not growing government.

We have some serious challenges ahead of us. The 2010 session will be a roller coaster ride complicated by the fact that it is the last session ahead of the election. Hopefully, we will spend as much time fixing our serious problems as we will on trying to get re-elected. Hold on to your hats and buckle up, it could be a wild ride.

On a happier note, as I reflect on 2009 and look forward to 2010, representing you and your family is an honor. Your kind words of encouragement and support are invaluable. Here's hoping that you and yours are blessed in 2010 with good health and peace.

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### **Field Crops & Pasture IPM Workshop** **March 22, 2010**

Make plans to attend the Field Crops & Pasture IPM Workshop, **Monday, March 22, 2010** at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC) from **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** This workshop will explore advanced concepts of pasture and field crop production in the Southern Maryland region from establishment to harvest, including animal utilization.

Topics will include: Crop selection; integrated crop management; soil fertility; weed control; insect control; and disease control for soybeans, corn, wheat, barley and hay crops.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher Recertification

will be awarded for full class participation.

To register for this event contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at (410) 222-6759.

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### **The War Years** **Colonel L.G. Shreve.** **by Allan Bandel**

On occasion throughout these recollections of rural Howard County life in the "old days", reference was made to one of the farms, "*Wavertree*", which adjoined our place. It was a 100+ acre farm that we rented for many years. But little reference was ever made to the illustrious owners of this important historic property.

Colonel Levin Gale Shreve, or L.G. Shreve as he was known locally by his friends and neighbors, and his wife Barbara Harris Shreve were interesting people. Mrs. Shreve was a descendant of the historic Warfield family of Maryland. A childless couple, they had lived and traveled extensively all over the world. When at home in Maryland, they spent summers in the old renovated, and historic, stone farmhouse on their Howard County country estate, "*Wavertree*". Their property had once been owned by the Tilghman Iglehart family and was complete with an interesting old family cemetery located several hundred feet west of their colonial style farmhouse. The house had been built mostly from fieldstone collected from the neighboring farm fields.

When in residence in Maryland, since the nearly mile-long gravel farm lane at *Wavertree* often became impassable after the first heavy snowfall of the year, the Shreves usually planned to spend their winters in downtown Baltimore where they had renovated an old historic carriage house. More than once though, after the arrival of an unexpected early snowfall, we would receive a frantic telephone call from Col. Shreve asking if we could please help him out by driving one of our tractors across the snowy windblown fields to his place, bringing along a tow rope to pull his heavily loaded car through the drifts and out to the plowed main county road. For the next several months then, until the threat of threatening winter weather diminished, the

couple made their home more comfortably in downtown Baltimore.

During World War II, Col. Shreve served in the South Pacific as a General Staff officer on the combined Army-Navy staff of Admiral William F. Halsey. Later, he served with General Albert C. Wedemeyer at Headquarters, U.S. Forces China. While on this tour, he came into official contact with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, where he was asked personally by the Generalissimo to prepare a definitive plan-of-action for the postwar reconstruction of rural China. This posting led him into the CIA where he served for more than 20 years in the Middle East, Far East, Washington, Baltimore and Honolulu.

Upon retirement from government service, he became an officer in a major Maryland bank, but then resigned after two and a half years to devote his efforts to writing.

His first novel was widely acclaimed by authors such as D.A. Phillips, Scott C.S. Stone and J. Bryan, III and was entitled "*The Phoenix with Oily Feathers*". This chilling novel of suspense and intrigue involved the CIA, German war criminals intent upon reviving the Reich, and the 1956 sinking and later attempted re-floating of the Italian liner *Andrea Doria*.

Col. Shreve completed a second spy novel in 1988, "*The Tides of Sligo*", which centered around the violence in Northern Ireland. He also finished a critically acclaimed biography entitled "*Tench Tilghman: the Life and Times of Washington's Aide-de-Camp*". When Cornwallis was defeated in 1781 at Yorktown, effectively ending the Revolutionary War, Tench Tilghman was the patriot who carried the news to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Col. Shreve had long expressed a desire to write about Tilghman's life and wartime accomplishments. He believed strongly that historians had largely ignored Tilghman and denied him the attention and credit that he should have received as a result of his highly important activities during the American Revolution.

Because they were so eloquently and masterfully written, Dad often said that he wished he had maintained a file of the personal

letters that Col. Shreve had written to him over the years, many of them from far corners of the globe. In Dad's opinion, those highly articulate personal letters were "works of art" in themselves and would have made some extremely interesting reading today, had only they been preserved. Unfortunately, because Colonel Shreve's letters dealt heavily with the routine upkeep of the property, cropping plans, and some of the mundane business aspects of our renting the farm, longtime preservation of the letters was not viewed as a priority at the time they were received and those letters, sadly, no longer exist.

In the real world, time moves relentlessly on, and Col. Shreve, sadly, passed away in Baltimore at the age of 88 on May 3, 1998. Most of the *Wavertree* property is now owned by Howard County Government and, along with much of our farm, is a part of the yet undeveloped Benson Branch County Park. Much of that parkland is currently rented to local farmers. The non-farmed portion is maintained by Howard County's Department of Recreation and Parks.

The historic old stone house once occupied by Colonel and Mrs. Shreve, plus about five acres surrounding it, is currently the privately owned estate of another prominent Howard County family. The old Tilghman Iglehart Family cemetery, which had for many years fallen into a high degree of neglect and disrepair, has now been largely restored and is once again being properly maintained. It is heart warming that this historic old property continues to be held in caring hands and by appropriate upkeep, is being carefully preserved for future generations.

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**Taxing Exemptions**  
by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.**  
**JD, CFP, CSA**  
**Attorney at Law**

Mr. and Mrs. Richards entered their lawyer's office with measured confidence. Their latest quarterly investment statements showed a strong uptick in their portfolios, the neighbor's house had sold for a bit more than listed, and Mr. Richards had just heard that the planned layoffs at his company had been canceled. They were still concerned about what the future might hold, but were cautiously optimistic.

They shook hands with their attorney and seated themselves around the conference table in front of steaming mugs of freshly brewed coffee. After a few preliminary pleasantries, Mrs. Richards addressed the topic of discussion.

"We're here for new wills. Our old ones were done when we were younger and our two kids were just babies. Now they're married with kids of their own. We still want everything to go to our kids, but they're old enough that my brother doesn't need to hold the money in trust now."

"Yeah," Mr. Richards chimes in, "then, we were worried about what would happen if we died too soon. Now, we just want to be sure we're taken care of, and that the kids get their inheritance."

"Oh, and we want to take care of our dogs, too. Now that the kids have moved out, the dogs are like our children – but our real children won't take them. My son's wife is afraid of dogs, and my daughter is allergic to them."

Their attorney nods commiseratingly. "Tell me about what you own. What's in your estate?"

Mrs. Richards pulls out a sheet of paper and hands it to him. He scans it.

"So, your house is worth about \$350,000 and your IRAs and 401(k)s total around \$500,000. I see other investments and bank accounts in the \$150,000 range. How current are those values?"

"As of a few weeks ago," says Mrs. Richards. Her spouse adds, "That's still down from a couple of years ago, but definitely up from last winter."

"A good thing," opines their attorney.

"Now, here's one issue for you to consider. Since you live in Maryland, your estate is just at the Maryland estate tax threshold. If your estate is over \$1.0 million, you'll have to pay Maryland estate tax – or, your kids will, since you'll be dead."

"Right now, the federal estate tax exemption is \$3.5 million, so that's not your problem – yet. But the President and Congress haven't done anything yet to keep the estate tax exclusion from going back down to \$1.0 million in 2011. In

2010, the federal estate tax is repealed, for a whole year. Then, it comes back in 2011 with a \$1.0 million exemption."

"So, if your estate grows at all, you'll have to pay both Maryland and federal estate tax at the death of the second to die of the two of you. That's not a pretty picture."

Mrs. Richards asks, "how much is the tax?"

"At \$1.5 million," replies their attorney, "the Maryland estate tax is \$63,500 and the federal estate tax – if the exclusion is \$1.0 million – is \$210,000, so the total tax bite is just under \$275,000. That's an approximation, of course."

"That's a lot of tax," interjects Mrs. Richards. "I thought President Obama was going to raise the exemption or freeze it at \$3.5 million or something."

"That was the plan," their attorney replies, "but nothing has been done yet and it's early December. Congress is so fixated on the healthcare issue that nobody's really moving forward on the estate tax."

"The Democrats seem to want to freeze the exemption at present levels, but it looks like the Republicans will wait until 2010 when the estate tax is repealed, and then try to make the repeal permanent. The Democrats don't want the estate tax to expire at all. The Republicans are concerned that they don't have enough votes to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent, and that the Democrats will just wait until 2011 when the exemption drops."

"So the answer is that nobody knows."

"You're not very helpful," complains Mr. Richards.

"Hey," their attorney replies, "I'm just the messenger. If you don't like how this is playing out, call your Congressman! What worries me is either hasty legislation that causes more problems than it fixes, or retroactive legislation passed sometime in 2010 that undoes planning."

"The real question is whether you want to plan to avoid an estate tax to which you're not subject yet. Remember, you only have \$1.0 million right now. Maybe we should defer that discussion

until Congress acts on the estate tax.

“In the meantime, you have your children to plan for, and you wanted to make sure the dogs were cared for.”

“That's right,” nods Mrs. Richards. “The kids are responsible enough that we're not worried about them wasting their inheritance. We are worried about the dogs, though. Our daughter-in-law and our daughter simply can't abide the dogs. We're thinking about leaving them to friends, along with some money for their care, but want to be sure that the money goes for the dogs, and not someplace else. We trust our friends, but . . .”

Their attorney agrees, “The problem with people is that they're people, and even good people can be tempted to do bad things.

“How about putting the money in trust for the dogs. Under the new Maryland pet trust law that went into effect October 1, the money in the trust may be used only for your dogs' benefit, as long as it's a reasonable amount, so your friends can't just use the money to take a nice vacation. You can appoint an 'enforcer,' maybe your son, to be sure the terms of the trust are carried out. When the dogs have died, left-over money can be given to a charity, maybe an animal rescue.

“We can put this in your will, so it's part of your estate plan. The pet trust should provide instruction on diet and exercise, medical care and permissible euthanasia, burial or cremation and disposition of remains and other things that are important to you. Because your dogs might need care during your lifetime, such as during a period of incapacity, pet trust provisions should be included, not just in your will, but also in your Durable Power of Attorney. I have a form on my [www.barkleylaw.com/barkleylaw\\_pettrustchecklist.pdf](http://www.barkleylaw.com/barkleylaw_pettrustchecklist.pdf), that might be helpful.”

“That's a lot to think about,” comments Mrs. Richards. “Let us mull over this and we'll get back to you. Can we get together in a few weeks?”

“Certainly,” affirms their attorney, standing up and shaking their hands, “let's go ahead and schedule our next meeting for mid-January”

## **County Makes Preservation Offers** by Joy Levy, Administrator **Ag-Land Preservation** **Department of Planning and Zoning**

County Executive Ken Ulman is very pleased to announce that easement acquisition offers have recently been made to 7 of the 13 applicants in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program's (ALPP) “Batch 14” application cycle. These offers have the potential to add over 1,000 acres to the 20,500 acres already preserved by the Program.

The Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) completed its review of the 13 applicant properties in November, after several months of public hearings. The ALPB was charged with completing the scoring of each property, a process which determines the final price per acre that the County will offer the property owner for their development rights.

The scoring system is based on characteristics that rate a property based on its agricultural viability – factors such as size, soils capability and adjacency to other protected land. The maximum score is \$40,000 per acre; however the average of the 7 properties being made offers is \$32,200 per acre. The score is also used in a competitive batch such as the current one to rank the properties in the order in which acquisitions will be made, from highest to lowest. There is not enough funding currently available to purchase easements on all of the applicant parcels, so only the following 7 property owners will be made an offer at this time: Camilla and Philip Carroll (500 acres), Genevieve Carroll (61 acres), Teige Carroll (61 acres), Ian Carroll (56 acres), Leona Stedding (90 acres), Marshall Rea (160 acres) and Mario and Serafina Mannarelli (107 acres).

The present economic situation's effect on the real estate market has provided an excellent opportunity for the County to acquire agricultural easements since development pressure has eased significantly, making the ALPP a very attractive option.

The funding for the acquisition of ALPP easements comes from a dedicated portion of the local real estate transfer tax. The ALPP receives ¼ of the 1% tax collected whenever

property is transferred within the County. In addition to the 20,500 acres of land currently in the ALPP, there are also 7,708 acres in environmental easements and almost 11,000 acres in state and county parkland (and land owned by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission). This totals almost 39,000 acres in the Rural West that are protected in some way, which is 41% of the overall land area.

For questions regarding the ALPP, please contact Joy Levy, Administrator at (410) 313-5407 or [jlevy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlevy@howardcountymd.gov)

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### **National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations Certification Program Training**

A tractor and machinery safety training program for youth 14-15 years of age has been planned for Frederick County. The program is a joint effort of the Frederick County Office of University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County Farm Bureau, and the local tractor dealers. The program will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on nine consecutive Monday evenings January 25 to March 22. The skills test will be administered March 27<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$25 dollar registration fee and the registration deadline is January 11<sup>th</sup>.

This training program will enable young workers to obtain Hazardous Occupation Order in Agriculture certification, which is required for youth 14 and 15 years of age who wish to work as a hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian, and operate a farm tractor that is 20 hp or greater. It is highly recommended that ALL farm and equipment operating youth attend this program even if they will only be working for a parent.

The program will provide attendees with the necessary 24 hours of instruction, including group discussion, demonstrations, field trips, hands-on activities, independent study, and field assignments. Although the target audience is 14 and 15 year olds, it is available to anyone over the age of 12, however only individuals 14 and older will be able to operate equipment and become certified. Individuals over 15 are also encouraged to attend as are adults who are new tractor operators. Preference, however, will be given to the 14-15 year olds.

To register or to obtain additional information, contact the Frederick County Office of University of Maryland Extension at 301-600-3576. A parent/guardian consent form will need to be completed with registration. This program is open to any youth interested in becoming certified for production agriculture, nursery, or landscaping employment. Participants need not be residents of Frederick County. Equal access programs/equal opportunity employers.

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### **Got e-mail? Then, Why Not Try Receiving Your Newsletter electronically?**

If you have a computer with access to the internet, then why not help the Howard County Farm Bureau save a significant amount of money on the cost of postage and paper by choosing to receive *The Newsletter* by e-mail?

As you know, postage rates just keep on increasing. There just seems to be no end in sight. With each issue, there are approximately 1,300 copies of the Newsletter printed and sent to members through conventional mail. The cost, not counting time and labor, is nearly two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for every issue. The cost of using e-mail is but a tiny fraction of this amount. The Howard County Farm Bureau can obviously save many dollars out of its limited budget by using e-mail instead of the U.S. Postal Service.

Another great advantage to making more use of e-mail is that whenever any color photographs or other visuals are used, the e-mail version will come to you with those visuals in full color instead of in black and white. Please consider making the switch to electronic mail.

If you would prefer to receive your monthly meeting reminders by the much more economical e-mail route, then please inform Merhlyn Barnes at [merhlynbarnes@aol.com](mailto:merhlynbarnes@aol.com).

Simply indicate in a short e-mail message that you prefer to receive future issues of *The Newsletter* by e-mail rather than through the US Postal Service. It's easy, efficient, and "green". And you will be making a significant contribution toward helping with your local County Farm Bureau's limited finances.

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## **Beekeeping 101** **January 16, 2010**

Mike Embrey, University of Maryland Extension Apiculturalist, will be offering a beginning beekeeping class at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown, Maryland.

The opening session will be held on **Saturday, January 16, 2010** from **9:00 am -12:00 noon**. Registration fee is \$100.00, which includes the textbook, "The Beekeeper's Handbook, Third Edition" by Diana Sammataro. If you have your own book, the fee will be \$75.00.

### **You will Learn ...**

- About bees, in general
- About beekeeping equipment
- How and where to set up and establish a hive (i.e. location, wind, etc.)
- How to use a smoker
- How to hive a package of bees

The classes will be held one Saturday per month through April. A final session will be held approximately the third week of September and will teach how to winterize and protect your hives and bees from diseases and pests.

For registration, contact:  
Debby Dant at [ddant@umd.edu](mailto:ddant@umd.edu) or

Wye Research and Education Center  
PO Box 169, Queenstown, MD 21658

(410) 827-8056 X115, Fax: (410) 827-9039

**Registration deadline is January 9, 2010**, in order to purchase books for each registrant. Please make check payable to: University of Maryland. For program information, contact Mike Embrey, (410) 827-8056 X148, [membrey@umd.edu](mailto:membrey@umd.edu)

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## **Extension Unveils New Name and Logo to Better Reflect Mission and University Ties**

What's in a name? Despite Shakespeare's assertion that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," an organization's name can mean a great deal in terms of its identity, marketing efforts, and ability to thrive.

There's no doubt that the University of Maryland (UM) is a well-recognized name, or "brand." And in an effort to strengthen public recognition of its university affiliation, the organization formerly known as Maryland Cooperative Extension has been renamed the University of Maryland Extension (UME).

"Extension programs are based in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) at the University of Maryland, College Park, and at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and are delivered to state residents in every county and Baltimore City," says Dr. Nick Place, associate dean and associate director of UME.

"Our new name formally recognizes this connection and Extension's role as the outreach vehicle of university research and teaching throughout both campuses, the University of Maryland System's many institutions, and across the entire state."

With the new name comes a new look, including a new logo. But don't worry; we haven't changed our focus: you. If anything, says Dr. Place, we're working to keep UME even more responsive to the needs of the community, economy, and environment by focusing on four impact areas:

- local food and agricultural systems,
- environment and natural resources,
- healthy living, and
- Resilient communities.

Unbiased, research-based programs related to these impact areas are available through offices in the city of Baltimore and all 23 Maryland counties.

The traditional Extension programs of 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, Sea Grant Extension, Agriculture, Home Horticulture, and Natural Resources will serve as keystones in this client needs-focused effort.

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## **Farm Management Classes for Women at Nine Sites in Maryland & Delaware**

The University of Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension will conduct Annie's Project during the winter of 2010 at nine sites.



Annie's Project focuses on the many aspects of farm management and is designed to empower women in overall farm decision making and to build local networks throughout the state.

The target audience is farm women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation.

Topics for the sessions cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Risk, and Human Resources.

This course is open to anyone interested in farm management practices.

The course will be **8 sessions starting on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 6-9 pm (Washington County dates differ)** with classroom and computer lab work. Sites range from Western Maryland, Central Maryland, Southern Maryland and Delmarva.

The cost of the entire course including meals and materials is \$50.

**Please register by January 8th - space is limited.**

For more information visit the website [www.anniesproject.umd.edu](http://www.anniesproject.umd.edu) or call (410) 758-0166.

If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior.

### **Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting January 29, 2010**

This well sponsored, large grower meeting always offers a great deal of vegetable industry information.

The **Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting** will be held on **January 29, 2010** from **8:00 am to 3:30 pm** at the Friendly Farm Inn, located on Foreston Rd. in Upperco, MD.

Pesticide recertification credits are awarded for attending this meeting. **For full meeting details, and to register call the Baltimore**

**County Extension Office at (410) 666-1024 today.**

### **Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting**

The annual Howard County mid-winter ag meeting will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Glenwood Community Center. Tentative time is 6:30 to 8:30 pm, possibly earlier. This event will also help satisfy Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.

For more information, call Kristal McCormick at the Howard Soil Conservation District office, (410) 489-7875.

### **Maryland Dairy Convention Theme: Managing Through Difficult Times**

#### **Educational Program for All Ages Awards to be Presented**

The theme of this year's Maryland Dairy Convention is "Managing Successfully in Difficult Times," with a focus on dairy animal care and quality assurance, feeding strategies in difficult economic times and robotic milking on large and small operations, as well as an update on the current status of milk marketing and the dairy industry.

The event, the joint annual program hosted by the Maryland Dairy Industry Association and the Maryland Dairy Shrine, is set for Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Frederick County Fairgrounds in Frederick, a new location.

Registration and trade show open at 8:30 a.m. with the day program kicking off at 9:30 a.m. Headlining the event will be Mike Hutjens of the University of Illinois, who, after appearing via camera at last year's event, was invited back live and in person this year due to his popularity. Robert Gray of the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives is also featured on the program.

The first ever Maryland Dairy of Distinction awards, as well as youth scholarships and an auction will be included in the day program.

A daylong junior dairyman contest will run concurrent with the program starting at 9:30 a.m.

The contest includes a written exam, feedstuff analysis, sire selection, DHIA record evaluation, reproductive tract ID and equipment ID. Mike Hutjens will offer a program for the juniors.

The evening program features a milk punch reception beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Maryland Dairy Shrine banquet. The banquet features shrine inductees, scholarships and award presentations.

Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available.

For more information on the program, visit [www.marylanddairyindustry.org](http://www.marylanddairyindustry.org), e-mail [secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org](mailto:secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org) or call (301) 349-0750.

For more information on scholarships, visit <http://dairy.umd.edu>.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2010

- Jan 10-13 **American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Convention.** Seattle, WA.
- Jan 11 **Ag Preservation Board Public Hearing.** 7:30 pm, Board Room, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Contact: Joy Levy at (410) 313-5407.
- Jan 13 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Glenwood Community Center, Glenwood, MD. To register, contact Carolyn Kulp at (410) 313-2707.
- Jan 14 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds. West Friendship, MD.
- Jan 14 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10:00 am. to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. To register, contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Jan 16 **Beekeeping 101.** 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Wye research and education Center, Queenstown, MD. Refer to article in this Newsletter for information.
- Jan 20 **Maryland/Delaware Forage Council Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference.** Isaac Walton League Conference Facility, Waldorf Facility. Contact: Local County Extension or Soil Conservation District Office.
- Jan 21 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. To register, contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Jan 21-24 **MD Horse World Expo.**
- Jan 22-24 **Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmer Retreat.** Hyatt Chesapeake, Cambridge, MD.
- Jan 25-  
Mar 22 **National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm on 9 consecutive Monday evenings. Call: (301) 600-3576 to register. See article in this newsletter for details.
- Jan 29 **Central Maryland Vegetable Meeting.** 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Friendly Farms, Foreston Road, Upperco, MD.
- Feb 2 **Carroll County Open Forum Crop Meeting.** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 2 **Montgomery County Equine Seminars.** 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Ag History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855. Contact: Beth Canetti, (301) 590-2825. See announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- Feb 5-11 **North American Farmers Direct Marketing Conference.** Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Lancaster, PA. Registration Info: [www.nafdma.com](http://www.nafdma.com)
- Feb 8 **Ag Preservation Board Public Hearing.** 7:30 pm, Board Room, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Contact: Joy Levy at (410) 313-5407.
- Feb 9 **Montgomery County Equine Seminars.** 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Ag History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855. Contact: Beth Canetti, (301) 590-2825. See announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter.

- Feb 11 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. To register, contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 17 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Glenwood Community Center, Glenwood, MD. To register, contact Carolyn Kulp at (410) 313-2707.
- Feb 18 **Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. To register, contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 23 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10:00 am. to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. To register, contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 24 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Glenwood Community Center, Glenwood, MD. To register, contact Carolyn Kulp at (410) 313-2707.
- Feb 25 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 27 **Maryland Dairy Convention.** 8:30 am thru evening banquet. Frederick County Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD. For more information, see article in this newsletter.
- Mar 2 **Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting.** 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Glenwood Community Center, Glenwood, MD. Contact: Kristal McCormick, HSCD at (410) 489-7875.
- Mar 4 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. To register, contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Mar 8 **Ag Preservation Board Public Hearing.** 7:30 pm, Board Room, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Contact: Joy Levy at (410) 313-5407.
- Mar 11 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds. West Friendship, MD.
- Mar 22 **Field Crops and Pasture IPM Workshop.** Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Davidsonville, MD. Contact: Anne Arundel County Extension Office at (410) 222-6759.
- Mar 27 **National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program - Skills Test.** See article in this newsletter for details.
- Jun 24-26 **Pioneers of Ag... Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference.** Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD. Contact: [www.maefonline.com](http://www.maefonline.com) or [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)

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**[NOTE]:** Some 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 person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.

*In the Spirit of the Holiday Season, the Officers and Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau and the Howard County Farm Bureau Women wish each and every one of you a very happy, safe, peaceful, and prosperous New Year!*

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