

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 19, NO. 3

MAY, 2010

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### Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast for the month of May is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2010** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us.

Our guest speaker this time will be **Sen. Allan Kittleman**, a prominent Howard County resident as well as Senate Minority Leader in Annapolis.

Senator Kittleman will discuss some of the important issues, many of them controversial, that came before this year's General Assembly in Annapolis and their expected impact upon the state and especially upon Howard County residents.

This will be a great opportunity to interact with one of our state legislators who represent us in Annapolis. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the excellent food, the fellowship and have 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, May 11 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 about 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **May 13**, at the Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

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

I hope everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the food at the Legislative Dinner on April 15. Those nice ladies at the Lisbon Fire Hall sure know how to prepare a good meal.

Did everyone listen closely to their legislators trying to make sense of this year's session in Annapolis? Remember, this is an election year, and you need to really evaluate what went on and prepare to make a decision next fall that will be best for you.

Your Board of Directors has been working hard to get our membership up so that our voice is heard loud and clear. We are all being asked to sign up one new person, each of us, starting in July. But I think that is an unrealistic goal. Nevertheless, we should still try to do our best to increase membership.

Well, who would have thought that we were going to have such an early spring. It is very welcome though isn't it? After all that snow last winter, I'm sure no one is complaining. With the weather getting better, we all are anxious to get out to the fields. But once again, please take your time. You will still be able to get your work done. Try not to rush through to the next job. You will still get it all done.

With all the snow in February, it will seem as though we will have had only an 11 month year because we lost that whole month. But we will catch up. You just need to work at it and re-

prioritize. You will get through it. Like all of you I am looking forward to a great summer and just like a farmer I am hoping for "PERFECT" weather.

You all take care and I hope to see you at the Ho. Co. Fair, and like always "keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you".

### **Your Most Useful Tools in Equine Parasite Control**

**by Ann Swinker, Extension Equine  
Specialist, Penn State University  
Re-printed from Farm Notes  
UME Carroll County Newsletter  
April, 2010**

Some livestock parasite populations have developed to be increasingly resistant to the drugs. The issue of anthelmintic resistance has become more publicized and important over the past few years. With no new anthelmintic drugs on the market, how does this developing resistance impact your horses? Will "super worms" develop as a result of this resistance?

Many available tests are capable of detecting one or more types of internal parasites. Always consult your veterinarian regarding the best test for your current needs and for the interpretation of results. Examples of available tests include: Fecal Flotation, Fecal Centrifugation, Home Fecal test kits and ELISA (enzyme-linked Immunosorbent assay) blood tests for tapeworms.

One of the more useful tools in a parasite control program is the fecal egg count — microscopic examination of fresh manure for parasite eggs. This simple test allows the veterinarian to determine which parasites are present and whether the infection is light, moderate, or heavy. This information is important in developing a deworming program for your horse or farm, and in monitoring the effectiveness of the program.

**Fecal egg count** involves collecting two or three fresh manure balls from the horse to be tested by sending the manure sample to a veterinary laboratory. Results are expressed as eggs per gram (epg) of manure. A fecal egg count of less than 200 epg suggests a light parasite load. Horses with high fecal egg counts of 500-1000 epg suggest the interval between de-worming is too long.

It is important to note that a negative fecal examination does not mean the horse is free of internal parasites. Some types of parasites produce eggs only intermittently. Larvae do not produce eggs at all, and may be present in large numbers in a horse with a fecal egg count of zero. Tapeworm eggs may be missed with routine fecal egg count techniques. The results are most useful when several horses on a farm are tested on the same day. This information gives the veterinarian and farm manager a good idea of the level of parasitism on the property.

**De-wormers** - There are several different de-wormers, or anthelmintics, currently available. Most are broadspectrum, meaning that they are effective against several different types of parasites. It is generally best to use a broad-spectrum de-wormer as the basis of your de-worming program. If a specific problem is identified, such as tapeworms or encysted small strongyles, a more specific de-wormer can be used.

No de-worming product is 100 percent effective in ridding every horse of all internal parasites. However, it is not necessary for a product to kill every worm in order to improve the horse's health, minimize the risk of serious disease, improve feed efficiency, and reduce pasture contamination with parasite eggs and larvae.

Consult your veterinarian about the controlling of parasites. Remember, de-worming is no longer a simple do-it-yourself procedure. For more information, contact your veterinarian or the American Association of Equine

Practitioners, 4075 Iron Works Parkway,  
Lexington, KY 40511.

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### **A Leyland Cypress Question**

Source: UM Extension TPM/IPM Weekly  
Report – April 9, 2010

*Some people are asking about their Leyland cypress trees that are browning. The question is, will they recover from this? And if so how long will it take?*

#### **Stanton Gill's Response:**

Leylands cypress start their new growth pretty late in the season but continue to flush growth right up through the fall. This is part of the problem with this plant with new growth in the fall not hardening off before it goes into winter. It will probably be June or later that enough new growth comes out to cover the old damage. You could trim off some of the really brown growth now. The customer just has to realize that replacement growth does not come until June.

*[Note: Stan Gill is Principal Agent & Regional Extension Specialist, Nursery & Greenhouse Management, Central Maryland MCE.]*

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### **Let the Games Begin** **by Delegate Gail Bates**

Now that the 2010 Legislative Session is over, the election campaign begins. The spin doctors are crafting messages that polls tell them the voters want to hear. Fortunately, I represent voters who pay attention to the issues and who don't fall for empty rhetoric.

The leadership in Annapolis continued to spend your hard earned dollars at lightning pace, while at the same time telling voters they were "Restoring Fiscal Responsibility, Restoring Progress" (from the Governor's end of session message. They site such things as "Creating a smaller, more effective government", having

reduced spending by a total of \$5.6 billion and reducing more than 4200 State positions.

The FY 2011 budget, which we just crafted, is nearly \$5 billion more than the total budget 4 years ago and the positions that were eliminated were unfilled positions that have been kept on the books for years. Even after the 2007 massive tax increase, State controlled revenues have decreased. However, the General Fund spending, which these revenues support, have been expanded at an unsustainable rate due to an infusion of Federal stimulus money and fund transfers.

Claiming to have made "tough choices", our fiscal backs are now to the wall. If the economy does not substantially recover, have two choices to make – cut spending or raise taxes.

Federal laws and the lure of Federal dollars continue to drive our State policy and our State budget. Whether it is Unemployment, Medicaid or Education our leadership quickly jumps at the prospect of more dollars. A friend often says, "with the shekels, come the shackles".

The two fastest growing areas of State budget are Medicaid and Education, both routinely driven by Federal policy. As directed by the Federal Health Care legislation, Maryland has established a federal high risk pool of people who are either uninsurable, or who do not have insurance. This expansion of an already growing program was triggered by a promise of Federal dollars. What will we do if those dollars don't materialize?

Education spending has increased dramatically due to the "Bridge to Excellence" program. This spending has outpaced increases in student population. While we passed Education Reform legislation that will provide more accountability, the answer to most problems is more spending.

Again, following the Federal lead, our Governor and Legislature set job creation as

a priority. Rather than reducing taxes across the board on businesses, their plan was to provide a tax incentive for hiring people who have been on the unemployment roles. High school and college graduates entering the work force are put at a disadvantage with this discriminatory program. The \$5000 tax credit is an incentive, but for businesses without work to create revenues, it is doubtful it will improve the employment picture.

You are business people who work hard to pay your taxes. You spend your money thoughtfully and responsibly. As this election season moves into high gear, carefully scrutinize the messages sent by all the candidates. Remember, the dollars being spent – whether Federal, State or County – are your tax dollars. Vote as if your financial well-being depends on it.

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### **Spring Observations from WyeREC**

by **Michael Newell**

#### **Horticultural Crop Program Manager**

source: UME *Vegetable & Fruit*

*Headline News*, Issue #3, April 15, 2010

#### **High Tunnel Strawberry Production:**

With the recent unusually warm temperatures, harvest has begun in the high tunnels here at WyeREC. There was a noticeable amount of deformed berries with the first harvest. This is not all that unusual with the first harvest. Low temperatures during late flower bud formation and decreased pollinator activity at the start of bloom are the usual causes. At times, we can see the same results with the outdoor production systems.

Proper ventilation to reduce the humidity levels in the tunnels is very important to reduce the incidence of gray mold. Two sprays during bloom are the only fungicide sprays we intend to use in the tunnels.

#### **Field Strawberry Production:**

The annual plasticulture Chandler plots are at 50% bloom. It is extremely important to keep an eye on the weather forecast for any chances of

frost/freeze events. Sprinkler irrigation and a frost alarm are the most efficient means of providing protection. Pulling floating row covers on and off gets old real fast but they still have their place in the annual production system. Leaving the floating covers on for extended periods (raining, too windy to remove) during bloom can reduce pollinator activity and increase humidity levels which will increase gray mold development.

Recent warm periods also increased the possibility of blossom blast (damage to the flower). This can occur if blossom temperatures reach into the 90F and above range. The only method of monitoring blossom temperature is to use thermal-coupled sensors inserted directly into the blossoms and monitor with a hand-help digital read-out device. Intermittent sprinkler irrigation during the hottest part of the day to allow for evaporative cooling is very effective in reducing blossom temperatures. If sprinkler irrigation is not an option, keeping the plants well hydrated to increase plant transpiration, with drip applied water can help limit blossom damage.

Leaf petiole sampling for nutrient analysis is really the only way to know the nutrient status of the plant.

Sufficiency ranges are for petioles taken from the most recently matured trifoliate leaf are:

<b>Nitrogen.....</b>	<b>3.0-4.0%</b>
<b>Calcium.....</b>	<b>0.5-1.5%</b>
<b>Iron.....</b>	<b>50,300 ppm</b>
<b>Copper.....</b>	<b>3-15ppm</b>
<b>Phosphorous....</b>	<b>0.2-0.4%</b>
<b>Magnesium... </b>	<b>0.25-0.45%</b>
<b>Manganese.....</b>	<b>300ppm</b>
<b>Boron.....</b>	<b>25-50ppm</b>
<b>Potassium.....</b>	<b>1.1-2.5%</b>
<b>Sulfur.....</b>	<b>0.15-0.40%</b>
<b>Zinc.....</b>	<b>15-60ppm</b>

Nitrogen and potassium are the two main elements we are most concerned with during the spring followed by calcium and boron. In

general we are looking for 3000-4000 ppm of nitrogen as we begin fruit harvest and gradually decline to about 500ppm at the completion of harvest. Nitrogen petiole levels in excess of 10,000 ppm can depress yields and quality. There is increasing evidence from NC State that potassium is very important for highly flavored berries. Applying potassium through the drip as potassium nitrate or potassium sulfate are two options. At the very least, we would like to apply nitrogen and potassium as a 1:1 ratio, although some research suggest that a 1:2 ratio is even better. For many growers (and here at WyeREC) combinations of 30% liquid N, potassium nitrate and calcium nitrate are used to meet the plants needs.

### **Tree Fruit Production:**

Our earliest blooming Asian pears were in full bloom the week of April 6th. According to the "Maryblyt" program for predicting potential Fire Blight infection periods, we had an infection April 8/9. We applied our bactericide prior to the rain event on April 8th.

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### **Weed of the Week**

by **Chuck Schuster,**  
**UM Extension Educator,**  
**Montgomery County, MD**

Source: UM Extension TPM/IPM Weekly  
 Report – April 9, 2010

A weed that is often taken for granted, yet hard to control for some, Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, is a weed that should be known to all. The name for this plant is often believed to have come from the French "Dent De Lion" or lions tooth for its deeply toothed leaves. Some will seek this plant out to add to a salad; they are best harvested soon after emergence or later in the fall. Found being sold at farm markets, they are sautéed or steamed greens and they are also used to make wine. At one point it was actually imported to the Midwest from Europe to provide nectar for the bees in the early spring.

The dandelion is a perennial weed which occurs

with a deep taproot, sometimes reaching 1.27 centimeters in diameter. This weed, while well known, is difficult to control if not handled properly. Attempting to hand pull is most often much less than successful. Found in all landscape, nursery and turf settings, it forms a basal rosette, from which will arise a hollow flowering stem with a bright yellow flower that will be from 3.75 to 4.0 centimeters in diameter (Figure C). Stems for this flower can reach 5 to 30 centimeters in length with a single flower occurring at the end. Leaves are lobed forming around the rosette 10 to 25 centimeters in length. The fruit of this weed is the characteristic puff ball seed head that allows seeds to be dispersed in the wind to new sites.

Control of this weed can be obtained in turf using many different broadleaf herbicides. Turf herbicides that control dandelion include isoxaben, MCPA (remember recent law changes) and 2,4-D products. In landscape settings Clopyralid (Lontrel, Confront) isoxaben and oxyfluorfen (Gallery) as well as glyphosate are all excellent methods of control. In landscape settings remember that 2,4D is not an appropriate herbicide as damage to many ornamentals may occur.

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### **Thunder Storms:**

### **Do Animals Have a Sixth Sense?**

by **Allan Bandel**

There have been many recorded incidents of certain, often mystifying, forms of animal behavior that makes one wonder if some animals might not possess a unique gift, or a "sixth sense", that helps to alert them to future natural events. This would be an often useful talent that most of us humans do not seem to possess. This gift apparently enables some animals to sense the impendency of many out-of-the-ordinary future events. There have been verified reports, for instance, of animals that apparently sensed the approach of a severe electrical storm, or a volcanic eruption, or a tidal wave, a devastating earthquake, or

even perhaps, the imminent passing from this life of a terminally ill person.

Such observations have been reported for both wild and domestic animals. One suggested explanation has been that some animals just might possess some sort of a "sixth sense" that enables them to be forewarned of the approach of danger or certain other natural events. If it does really exist, then this apparent "sixth sense" that the majority of us humans do not seem to possess, may possibly be due to the animal's more acute sense of hearing, or of smell perhaps, or their ability to more efficiently utilize some of their other more heightened senses.

Most modern-day humans do not seem to possess these enhanced senses, at least not anymore. Humans probably lost some of their sharpened senses as a result of the evolutionary process because they were not fully utilized. I suppose that we have all heard the phrase at one time or another, "use it or lose it". Although not proven scientifically, there have been enough verified observations reported from around the world to make it difficult for us to believe otherwise that there is not something bona fide about this hypothetical animal "sixth sense".

One interesting example involves a quite ordinary house cat named Oscar. Oscar had been rescued from an animal shelter and became a valued and respected resident of a Providence, RI nursing home. This talented animal seemed to have an uncanny ability to accurately predict, well in advance of the medical staff, the imminent passing of terminally ill patients. He regularly chose to visit the patient's bedside during their final hours and was always found curled next to the dying patient. His habit was to remain with the patient until death occurred. Although there was no scientific explanation offered for this cat's

unusual behavior, his predictive conduct was so consistent, so accurate, and so amazing that his activities were eventually written up by the home's resident physician and published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Publishing such an "unscientifically-based" topic was highly unusual for such a prestigious medical journal.

Another example that comes to mind involves the tragic Indian Ocean tsunami that occurred on December 26, 2004. Approximately 230,000 people died that day and there were millions of dollars in damage reported when huge tidal waves, some of them over 100 feet high, unexpectedly swept ashore. Unexpectedly, that is, for most of the human population, but perhaps not so unexpected for the resident animal population. There were very few wild animal casualties reported after the waves receded. Did these surviving animals sense what was coming in time for them to escape to higher ground?

There were reports that as much as an hour before the first tidal wave struck the beaches of Sri Lanka and India, elephants were heard screaming loudly and seen running for high ground. Flamingos abandoned their normal low-lying breeding grounds. Dogs refused to go outdoors. One resident reported that his two dogs normally looked forward to a daily run on the beach with him. But on the morning of the tsunami, they could not be coaxed from the safety of their kennel, thereby probably saving their owner's life.

And then, there was one of my own personal experiences. It involved an unexpected encounter that I came close to having with an approaching electrical storm. It was on a hot, sultry, Sunday afternoon. The conditions were building for a storm. But at first, for me, the risk did not seem to be imminent.

I had chosen to take a casual stroll across one of our more distant hay fields that afternoon. Eventually though, I became increasingly uneasy as I sensed the unexpected build-up of static electricity around me, a condition that occurs normally, they say, just before a potential lightning strike. And this uneasy feeling was building just a little too close to me for comfort. I learned another very valuable lesson that day though, and subsequently gained a very healthy respect once again, for the power and the potential perils associated with lightning.

A major part of this lesson about the hazards of lightning was not learned in a formal classroom setting being lectured by some educated instructor either. My mentor this time was, with a little assistance from some of his friends in Mother Nature's wildlife community, our family's humble, untrained, pet farm dog, a product undoubtedly of some wildly random and unknown breeding. When just a little puppy, because of his unique color, we had named him "Dusty". He had no registered pedigree nor any special training in his background. He was just a friendly old farm dog, a companion.

The weather that summer day was hot and humid, a very sultry afternoon. The time was in the early 1960s. When I began my hike out across the fields that afternoon, there was only a slight hint that a thunder storm might blow up anytime soon. And if it did, I did not believe that it would come up so fast that the rain would catch me out in the open before I could safely return to shelter.

As usual, our friendly, very companionable, family dog, took a notion this time to accompany me on my walk. He was a carefree sort, and for most of our tramp across the fields, he ran ahead, gaily playing his own kind of games, running in wide circles with his nose to the ground, apparently chasing stale scents left by

rabbits or groundhogs perhaps, prey that were probably long gone by then. Or perhaps he was just having fun with his imagination.

As we were crossing the south slope of the hay field, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away from the barn, I became aware of a strange, even weird sensation involving the hair on the back of my neck. Those short hairs, instead of laying flat, close to the scalp like they normally do, felt like they were beginning to rise up, perhaps like the quills on the back of an aroused porcupine. The frightening thought crossed my mind then that static electricity must be building up on my body. The once blue sky to the west had turned an ominous shade of dark gray to black and the sultry atmosphere had suddenly seemed to have gotten "heavier". All of these factors combined, were giving me a very uneasy feeling. Obviously, an electrical storm now did seem to be imminent.

Then I made another unusual observation. My surroundings had suddenly become "deathly" quiet. Previously, there had been the natural sounds of birds singing merrily and flying from place to place. The normal sounds of an occasional cow's lowing and dogs barking in the distance had ceased. Even the birds had disappeared and become silent. Only the remarkable, eery silence prevailed. It was as if someone had suddenly told Mother Nature to "turn down the volume – way down."

When I looked across the field for "Dusty", he was no longer running playfully about. Instead, he was now crouched down as low to the ground as he could get, and was hardly moving at all. He seemed to be focused entirely upon keeping his body (his head, nose and tail, everything), buried down as deeply in the drying hay as he could get. This wise old canine seemed to sense that something out of the ordinary was in the air,

and he had sense enough to “hug” the ground for protection.

Being caught out in the middle of an open field, on a hill as we were, it occurred to me that if I remained standing, thus presenting myself as the tallest object in the immediate area, I might very likely soon find out in a very personal way just what it might be like to be struck by lightning. Feeling a little foolish perhaps, I nevertheless dropped to the ground, mimicking “Dusty’s” odd behavior. And I stayed there, “hugging” the ground, for several minutes until I felt that bothersome charge of static electricity dissipate, the charge that had just a few moments earlier crept slowly up the back of my neck.

After lying prone on the ground for several minutes, I noticed that “Dusty” had eventually, very slowly and cautiously, risen back onto his feet, and although now a little more wary of his surroundings perhaps, was once more frolicking about in the hayfield. The wildlife sounds had also returned. I felt confident then that the most serious phase of the lightning danger had passed.

Although I felt a little silly at first about dropping to the ground and “hiding in the grass” the way that I had, I am convinced that “Dusty” and the wildlife in the field, perhaps because of some unusual sixth sense that they might have, were more conscious of what had almost transpired than I had been. I also decided that “Dusty” wasn’t such a useless, dumb old “mongrel” dog after all. I gained a lot of respect for him and his animal friends, both wild and domestic, that afternoon. That keen sixth sense of his and his friends was pretty “darned” sharp. It was a sense that I obviously did not seem to possess.

We were also very lucky that day for another reason. The rainy part of the gathering storm also missed us and we returned safely back to

the farm buildings without getting wet, or being struck by lightning either. The partially cured hay didn’t get rained on that day either, and remained in great shape, now ready for baling the next day, more appropriately perhaps, a Monday.

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### **Why a Will?**

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

“Why do I need a will? Everything is going to my kids!”

Maybe. Or maybe not. This author has served families in which assets went, not to the children of the deceased as intended, but to the estranged spouse who lived in another state. Evidently, there was never a legally effective divorce.

“I don't need a will. Everything is joint with my kids.”

That could be a disaster waiting to happen. This writer has served families in which the children's creditors used joint ownership to claim the parents' assets. The stress on the parents was devastating, leading in one case to a parent's premature death.

“My kids know what to do.”

And maybe they do; but the bank, your broker, your benefits department will only honor an order of Court after your death. Without that, the folks holding your money will follow the legal defaults, which might not be what you wanted.



"My daughter will take care of everything and give her brothers and sisters equal shares. She's joint on all my accounts."

Even if your daughter has no creditor or divorce problems, her distribution to siblings might be considered a taxable gift to them. This can create problems for your daughter later.

"My oldest will use my money to take care of his disabled brother."

Probably he will try, but unless you have executed a will and/or created a trust, your assets will pass to the disabled child and likely be used by the State to reimburse itself for benefits extended. If you have left your estate to your "well" older child, his or her creditors (or departing spouse) might be able to take the money intended for the care of your disabled child.

"I'm leaving everything equally to my kids. My oldest daughter will take care of her minor brother."

Good, but if you leave more than \$10,000 to a minor child, the law requires that someone hold those assets for the minor. If you don't have a trust in your will or a living trust, the Court will create a "custodial" arrangement for your minor child. You can't control the terms of that arrangement without the trust.

Moreover, your minor child will receive his share when he turns eighteen. Unless your estate is very small, that could be catastrophic. A young client of this writer inherited \$400,000 immediately upon her father's death, and managed to destroy her life and end up broke at the end of only one year.

Without a will or living trust, you can't control what happens when you die. Without careful planning, you could unintentionally harm those

you love. Only by considering what is best for them and constructing a plan to implement your care can you be faithful to the charge entrusted to you.

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### **Got Internet Access? Then, Why Not Access 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* electronically? Just go to the Howard County Farm Bureau's website, [www.howardfarmbureau.org](http://www.howardfarmbureau.org) and access the current, or even past issues. It's quick, easy, economical, and sometimes in color. The electronic version also makes it easy for you to copy, print, and save certain articles, even the entire newsletter if you choose. Why not give it a try?

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 the internet 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 the internet instead of the U.S. Postal Service.

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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2010**

Apr 30    **Is It Arthritis or Lyme Disease?**  
7:30 to noon, Mac Center, 909

Progress Circle. Salisbury, MD.  
Contact: (410) 749-6141.

May 1-2 **Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival.** Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

May 2 **Teacher Appreciation Week.**

May 6-20 **Basics of Small Ruminant Management.** 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Frederick County Extension Office. Contact: (301) 600-3576.

May 15 **Sheep, Goat Producers' Workshop.** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, UMES, Princess Anne, MD. To register, or for more information, call (410) 651-6206 or email [mce@umes.edu](mailto:mce@umes.edu).

May 16 **Rogation Sunday.** 11:00 am, Lisbon United Methodist Church. Bring your tractors, tillage equipment, combines, etc. to church this Sunday and have them blessed in preparation for a bountiful and safe 2010 cropping season.

Jun 9 **MAA Pest Walk.** Howard Community College, Columbia, MD. Contact: (410) 321-8082.

Jun 11 **Pesticide Recertification Conference.** Montgomery College, Germantown, MD. Contact: Chuck Schuster, (301) 590-2807.

Jun 16 **Delmarva Poultry Industry College Scholarship Golf Tournament.** Nassawango Golf Course, Snow Hill, MD. Contact: Paul Chesnik, [pchesnik@gmail.com](mailto:pchesnik@gmail.com).

Jun 17 **Horse Pasture Walk Series – Grass**

**Cover & Pasture Improvement.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Central Maryland Research & Education Center, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. Contact: [www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG](http://www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG)

Jun 17 **MNLA Field Day.** Location: Homestead Growers. Contact: MNLA, (410) 823-8684.

Jun 18-19 **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Delmarva Chicken Festival.** Delaware State University, Dover, DE.

Jun 24-26 **Pioneers of Ag... 2010 National Ag in the Classroom Conference.** Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD. Contact: [www.maefonline.com](http://www.maefonline.com) or [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)

Jun 28-30 **Maryland State FFA Convention.**

Jun 28 **Cut Flower Conference and High Tunnel Tour.** Howard Community College, Columbia, MD and University of Maryland Research Farm, Ellicott City, MD. Contact: Suzanne Klick, (301) 596-9413.

Jul 22 **LCA Mini Seminar – Hands-on IPM Session.** Location: TBA. Contact: (301) 948-0810.

Aug 7-14 **65<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard County Fair.** Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

Aug 12 **Horse Pasture Walk Series – Weed Identification & Control.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Central Maryland Research & Education Center, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott

City, MD. Contact:  
[www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG](http://www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG)

Aug 12 **UME/MGGA Program.** Location: The Perennial Farm. Contact: Suzanne Klick, (301) 596-9413.

Sep 1-  
Oct 6 **Beginning a Successful Small Farm Part I.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Frederick County Extension Office. Contact: (301) 600-3576.

Sep 11 **2010 Horse Pasture Seminar.** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Central Maryland Research & Education Center, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. Contact: [www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG](http://www.ansc.umd.edu/ERG)

Dec 17 **Pest Management Conference.** Howard Community College, Columbia, MD. Contact: Suzanne Klick, (301) 596-9413.

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**[NOTE]:** Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, if you need special assistance to participate, please contact the person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.



Everything's relative, you know. Reality "set in" with a vengeance last February. The anticipated routine "drudgery" of regularly mowing grass in a couple of months when summer returned, sure didn't seem to be all that unacceptable anymore.