

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Howard County Agri-Business

Breakfast

by Maura Cahill

Breakfast Program Coordinator

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2012** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Tim Titus**, a trained **mediator and facilitator with the Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service (ACReS)**. This is the official USDA certified agricultural mediation program for Maryland. Conflicts involving Right-to-Farm issues, financial disagreements, land use conflicts, estate succession, farm financing, etc. are eligible for this cost-free service.

We are confident that many of you will want to learn more about this MDE/USDA program. So, bring your spouse, or a friend. Enjoy the excellent food, the fellowship and expect a lively and friendly exchange of useful information.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program is scheduled for 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Tuesday, May 8** 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 guest speaker's portion of the program normally concludes by 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, May 10**, at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

President's Message

by **Howie Feaga, President**
Howard County Farm Bureau

Well here we are, all as busy as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. We had way more rain last fall than we could use, and now we are so dry. Now we wonder what this summer will bring. I hope that by the time you read this we will all have received a good soaking rain.

In our efforts to get as much done as we can in a short period of time, don't forget to take a moment to slow down and check, then double-check your equipment. You have more time to do it right the first time than to do it over again. Also I want to remind you of another important safety consideration. As you and your kids, relatives, and/or friends start out to take a quick ride on your 4-wheeler, please slow down. I recently lost my cousin's husband to a 4-wheeler accident and I lost a cousin several years ago to a 4-wheeler accident also. They are great tools and are a lot of fun, but just be careful with them. I don't want to have to add your name to my list of losses.

The General Assembly session in Annapolis is now over, and I hope they don't get called back in. If

they couldn't get the job done during the regular session, then why waist our tax money on bringing them all back. We did manage to get the Estate Tax exemption of \$5 million on agriculture as long as the farm stays in ag for 10 years after the owner's death. We can be very thankful for that success. It has been a long time in coming.

We will have had our Legislative Dinner by the time you receive this Newsletter, and I hope that all of you had a chance to attend. It's always been a good dinner and an excellent chance to meet our representatives and question them first-hand about any concerns that you may have had. As always, I want to thank our elected representatives for taking their valuable time to visit with us.

The following report concerns the proceedings of a very important Tri-county Farm Bureau Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 in Gaithersburg. In an effort to reduce the current large, and somewhat unwieldy, size of the Maryland State Farm Bureau Board of Directors, a new, re-structured, State Board with fewer members is in the works. Delegates representing the Carroll, Montgomery and Howard County Boards convened to work out a plan for equitably selecting two representatives from our new tri-county district to serve on the re-structured, down-sized Maryland Farm Bureau Board.

This new Board structure was adopted by the Maryland Farm Bureau last December at the State Convention in Ocean City. The new plan divides the state into districts that in effect, makes the state board smaller and more efficient. Our new district is composed of Carroll, Montgomery, and Howard Counties. These three counties will be represented on the new State Board by two directors.

The purpose of our Tri-County Board meeting was to work out a fair way to select the two directors who would represent the three counties. After much discussion about possible ways to do this, we came up with the following procedure. The FB Voting Membership will vote (bring in your card) at each county's Annual Dinner Meeting, or you will be able to vote by mail.

It was also agreed that by September 1st, each County Board will nominate no more than two candidates from their county for their state director's position. Another Tri-County Board meeting will then be convened during September at which time the candidates will present their resumes and be interviewed. Your County Board will then make that information available to the Voting Members.

The Voting Members will vote for two of the six possible nominees. The two nominees receiving the highest number of votes will represent all three counties on the State Board. Initially, one director will serve a one-year term, and the other will serve a two-year term. After the first year, one director will be elected each year and will serve a two-year term.

We thank you for your patience as we work our way through this re-structuring process. We hope that everyone is clear on just what we are doing, and the reasons for doing it. Regardless, I hope that you will, once again, remember what I always say. "Keep your plow in the ground. We're all pulling for you."

Howard County Farm Bureau Contests **Are YOU Interested this Year** **In Participating?**

Miss Howard County Farm Bureau
Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau
Howard County Future Farmer

Contests are sponsored by the Howard County Farm Bureau Women and will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2012 during the Howard County Fair.

- Contests will be held on Sunday, August 5th at the Howard County Fair.
- Contestants will ride in the Opening Day Parade.
- Cash awards to all contestants.
- Gifts and scholarships awarded to winners.
- Family must be a member of, or join, the Howard County Farm Bureau.
- Fun and rewarding for all participants.
- Must carry agricultural-related 4-H project.
- Must be age-eligible to participate:

- Little Miss & Future Farmer Contests: 8 to 11 years of age as of August 1st.
- Miss Contest: 16 to 19 years of age as of State Fair Contest.
- Miss Howard County Farm Bureau stage portion of contest held 3:00 pm in the Show Pavillion.
- Future Howard County Farmer and Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau presented during intermission of Miss Contest in Show Pavillion.

Age-eligible contestants who belong to the Howard County 4-H Program will receive a detailed letter regarding these contests in early June.

Are YOU interested? Do you know someone who might be interested?

- Please call or email:
 - Annette Fleishell at (410) 795-6119 or leishellfarm@aol.com for Miss Contest.
 - Mary Jean Coles at (410) 489-4717 or cmjcoles4@aol.com for Future Farmer or Little Miss Contest.

Nutrient Management Update

by **Krista Mitchell**

Nutrient Management Advisor
Anne Arundel & Howard Counties
University of Maryland Extension
(410) 313-2709
or kristaw@umd.edu

Existing University of Maryland Extension clientele will be contacted in the near future, especially horse operations, to get started on 2013 nutrient management plan updates, in order to accommodate a planned maternity leave of mid-August – mid-November. Producers should check their most recent soil analyses and if they will expire (soil analyses are good for 3 years) before or during the 2013 growing season, be sure to plan soil sampling ahead of time to be ready for nutrient management plan updates.

Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test for Corn

Most producers are aware of the importance of applying nitrogen at the right time for the corn crop to absorb and utilize it. With the cost of nitrogen this year, and the amount of rainfall we had last year which depleted much residual soil nitrogen, it will be even more important to feed grain corn at the appropriate time this growing season. While University of Maryland nutrient recommendations for grain corn already recommend appropriate times and amounts of nitrogen fertilizer applications, there is a tool that can help determine if a producer needs to adjust their nutrient management plan grain corn recommendations for sidedress nitrogen by applying more or less to achieve optimum yields. That tool is the pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT) for corn and the analysis can be run by a nutrient management advisor in any county's Extension office.

If you grow corn and forage legumes in rotation, have a history of manure applications, and have applied less than 50 pounds per acre of commercial fertilizer nitrogen to your corn this season, you may benefit from the PSNT. Call your nutrient management advisor a couple weeks prior to when your corn is 6-12 inches tall to obtain instructions on soil sampling, which differs greatly from normal soil sampling procedures, and to schedule your analysis.

Nutrient Management Plans for Fruit Growers

If your operation includes tree fruit, brambles, grapes or blueberries, the small window of time to take plant tissue samples is coming up soon.

Timing for plant tissue sampling:

- Blueberries: 1st week of harvest
- Grapes: at full bloom
- Fruit trees: July 15th - September 1st
- Brambles: August 1st - 20th

Contact your county's nutrient management advisor for plant tissue sampling instructions and a list of approved labs that conduct plant tissue analysis. Soil samples taken from the area where tissue samples were gathered are also needed. Like soil samples, tissue samples are an integral part of

a nutrient management plan, and are required content. Tissue and soil analyses are needed in order to generate fertilizer recommendations for tree and small fruit crops and to keep producers in compliance with MD's Nutrient Management Law.

As a reminder, nutrient management plans are required for all agricultural operations that make or exceed \$2,500 gross annual income or who have 8 or more animal units.

Loan-a-Layer Project **University of Maryland Extension**

Gone are the days of collecting fresh eggs for breakfast. Well guess what, they're back!

Many people are starting to keep chickens in their backyards. Even urban and suburban municipalities are changing their ordinances to allow residents to keep hens.

Have you wondered what this would involve? It is better to experience small scale egg production before making the commitment to buy hens, coops, and equipment.

Through the University of Maryland Extension (UME) Loan-a-Layer Project, organizations and schools can borrow chickens for a day to demonstrate small scale layer production.

How does it work? A UME Educator will bring a small pasture coop to your school or organization and set it up in a suitable location outdoors. The coop houses several hens. It is the same type of equipment that many people are using in their backyards. The Educator will explain all aspects of layer production and answer questions.

Participants can feed and water the chickens, collect eggs, and move the pen like they would if it was in their own back yard. For now, demonstrations are limited to a day. In the future, there is a potential for organizations to keep and take care of the hens for several days.

What is the cost? UME charges \$150 per event to cover transportation and operating costs. The fee is negotiable for organizations with limited resources.

What chicken breeds are available for the demonstration? Chickens come in all colors. Even their eggs come in all colors. UME has the following breeds available.

- Araucana
- Golden Comet
- Barred Rock
- Golden laced Wyandotte
- Black Australorp
- Rhode Island Red
- Black Giant
- Silver laced Wyandotte
- Brahma
- White Leghorn
- Buff Orpington

How do I arrange for a demonstration? Demonstrations will begin in the spring of 2012. For more information, or to schedule an event, contact:

Dale Johnson
Farm Management Specialist
University of Maryland Extension
18330 Keedysville Road
Keedysville, MD 21756
(301) 432-2767 x325
dmj@umd.edu

The Loan-a-Layer project is great for schools, community gardens, food banks, churches, field days, Master Gardener events, or any other educational forums.

USDA Warns of Fraudulent Letters

Source: USDA

USDA officials learned recently that fraudulent letters are being sent by FAX to individuals and businesses in at least four states. The letters purportedly come from a USDA procurement officer and seek personal information.

These letters are false and in no case should a recipient respond with personal and financial

information. The fraudulent letters bear USDA's logo and seal and are signed by an individual identified as "Frank Rutenberg" using a title of "Senior Procurement Officer".

Letters have been received by FAX in Alabama, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, but may have also been sent to other states. Recipients should not respond and should not supply the requested information. USDA is investigating this matter through the Office of the Inspector General.

If you suspect that you have received such a letter or have questions, please contact USDA at: procurement.policy@dm.usda.gov or call (202) 720-9448.

Days of Taste® Program

by **Barbara Wasserman**

Chairperson, Howard County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

For the past three years Howard County fourth graders have gained firsthand experience in learning where their food comes from and how good fresh food tastes. Local farmers and chefs have teamed up with volunteers from Days of Taste®, a national nonprofit program developed by the American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF). Using hands-on activities, students learn firsthand from the professionals who grow and prepare food for the table.

The Days of Taste® program at each school is generally one morning a week for three weeks. The first morning focuses on using all five senses to sample and compare diverse foods and to recognize the four basic "tastes" – sour, salty, bitter and sweet. The second morning is a visit to a local farm where students see firsthand how vegetables are grown or how animals are raised and then prepared for delivery to the market. The third morning brings it all together as students make their own farm-fresh salad and vinaigrette dressing guided by a professional chef, using many of the vegetables seen at the farm and balancing sour, salty, bitter and sweet ingredients.

Since Days of Taste® started in Howard County in 2009, over 1000 students in nearly a dozen elementary schools have participated in the program. Chefs taking part in the program have included Donna Crivello (Donna's), Erik Rochard (Café de Paris), Matt Milani (The Rumor Mill), Marc Dixon (Bistro Blanc), Scott Sommer (Iron Bridge wine Co.) and Dan Wecker (Elkridge Furnace). Farmers participating in Days of Taste® have included Lynn Moore (Larriland), Jamie and Linda Brown (TLV Tree Farm), Dave Patrick and family (Maple Dell Farm), Judy Iager (Maple Lawn Farm), Brian Hughes and Jenny Siebenhaar (Shaw Farm) and Dave Liker (Gorman Farm).

Whether the farm trip was to a dairy, a vegetable and fruit farm or a turkey farm, the students' and teachers' response has been extremely positive and rewarding. After a visit to Maple Dell Farm, Deep Run students wrote: "My favorite time was the trip to the farm to see the different animals like a baby bull and cows and how they transfer the milk to tanks. We went in the milking area, and it was pretty cool because they put tubes on the cow (sic) udders to get milk. I never ever knew the daddy cow was a bull! I wonder how big a bull can get?" "We learned about how long ago people milk the cows using their hands and then they all change from hand to machine. Also I learned how they use them.... I liked how I pet the calf and the cow - it was awesome."

After seeing the vegetables growing at Shaw and Gorman farms, Swansfield and Jeffers Hill students were equally enthusiastic: "I liked the farm because we got to eat really yummy garlic. And it was fun seeing the tractor." "I liked the field trip because I got to learn things I never knew before. I learned that there were different types of potatoes. There were different tools to garden too. We went into a greenhouse. We learned that the greenhouse absorbs more heat than outside." "The second day [farm trip] was my favorite because we learned about different types of plants. Also, we learned about how bugs harm plants. We talked about different types of machines too. The field trip to Gorman Farm was awesome!" Every student takes home something different from the farm visit, but each is a special and memorable experience.

As a Swansfield teacher explained: “They [the students] are thrilled when they can eat a vegetable straight from the field. The children only know what fruits and vegetables look like in the grocery store. They are amazed at what they look like and how they are grown on a farm. The students get off the bus saying things like, "I'm going to come here and get my apples", "My mom needs to go to the farmers' market to buy vegetables". If even 2 or 3 students help their parents to buy locally, the program is a success.” The response to Days of Taste[®] has been so positive that the program was asked to officially partner with the Howard County Public School System in the fall of 2011.

Days of Taste[®] is provided at no cost to schools, thanks to the generous support of the Howard County Farm Bureau, as well as the Baltimore/MD Chapter of the American Institute of Wine & Food, the Horizon Foundation, the Howard County Medical Society, the Kiwanis Club of Ellicott City, Sunrise Rotary, the Creig Northrop Team and other donors. Farmers are given an honorarium of \$175/school, but the program is “staffed” almost entirely by volunteers, including the professional chefs who provide food for the taste session/salad preparation as well as donate their time and expertise.

Participation of local farmers in Days of Taste[®] is vital to assure that elementary school students have an opportunity to see firsthand the role of farms in producing their food. This spring, fourth graders at Cradlerock, Stevens Forest, Swansfield, Talbott Springs and West Friendship elementary schools will participate in Days of Taste[®]. They will visit Shaw Farm with Dave Shaw and John Yelnosky, Gorman Farm with Dave Liker or Love Dove Farm with John Dove.

Farmers taking part in Days of Taste[®] will be invited to participate in the annual Farmer & Chef competition to support Days of Taste[®]. The fundraiser, organized by the Baltimore/MD American Institute of Wine & Food, pairs local farmers and chefs to create recipes highlighting the products of the farms. Over 300 people attended the event in September, 2011, which was

featured in an article by Susan Reimer in *The Baltimore Sun*. This year's Farmer & Chef event will be at The American Visionary Arts Museum on Monday, September 24, 2012. For additional information, check out the website, <http://vimeo.com/29696116>, for an eight minute video featuring farmers, chefs and students who recently took part in Days of Taste[®].

If you[®] are interested in participating in Days of Taste[®], please contact Barbara Wasserman, Howard County Nutrition & Physical Activity Coalition chairperson, at bpwasserman@jhu.edu or Riva Eichner Kahn, Days of Taste[®] chairperson, at reichner01@earthlink.net. To paraphrase Howard County Farm Bureau president, Howie Feaga, “Once the kids see you with your plow in the ground, they will be pulling for you.”

Police and Firefighters Warning Public about “Bottle Bomb” Pranks**

Howard County police and firefighters are warning citizens about a common prank in which empty plastic bottles are being turned into explosive devices. While there have been no serious injuries in Howard County related to these devices, police and fire marshals want the public to be aware of the potential dangers of these devices, sometimes referred to as “bottle bombs.”

People who make these devices, often juveniles, typically use corrosive chemicals that are hazardous to humans, pets and the environment. Police and fire marshal investigators have determined that many suspects are learning how to construct these devices on the Internet where they are presented to be nonhazardous. Victims exposed to the chemicals, however, could require medical treatment as a result of injuries to the skin, eyes and respiratory tract.

In Howard County, there have been five bottle bomb incidents since the beginning of the year. In 2011, there were nine similar incidents. These cases have resulted in property damage, but police want people to be aware of the dangers to ensure that no one is injured by one of these devices.

In two recent incidents, exploded bottle bombs were found near residences in Howard County. On March 11 at 10:50 a.m., a resident in the 16600 block of Ed Warfield Road in Woodbine called 911 to report finding parts of a plastic bottle and aluminum foil in the family's driveway. Investigators found remnants of an exploded plastic 2-liter soda bottle. On March 9 at 10:20 p.m., a 911 caller reported a bottle bomb detonated near a child outside a residence in the 5700 block of Thunder Hill Road in Columbia. The child was not injured.

In February, three juveniles in Howard County were investigated for detonating bottle bombs. The bottle bombs caused the complete destruction of metal mailboxes. All three juveniles were required to attend a fire and bottle bomb safety awareness class, a combined effort between the Howard County Police Department and Department of Fire and Rescue Services in order to educate juveniles about the serious dangers of bottle bombs.

Suspects, whether juvenile or adult, can face felony charges for the manufacturing and detonation of explosive devices, such as bottle bombs.

If a citizen sees a suspicious container, typically a plastic bottle that is significantly expanded and deformed, this is a sign that the device could be a bottle bomb and may explode. Anyone who sees one of these devices should call 911 immediately.

For information, contact: Sherry Llewellyn at **HCPD**, 410-313-2236 or Jackie Cutler at **Fire & Rescue**, 410-313-6039.

**[NOTE]. This news release was first made public on March 14, 2012. Thanks to Martin Hamilton for forwarding it to the *Howard County Farm Bureau Newsletter*.

Changes to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board

by Joy Levy

**Ag-Land Preservation Administrator
Department of Planning and Zoning**

There are some recent changes to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) to report. John Komsa, who has served for ten years, recently completed his second, and final, term on April 1. The Agricultural Land Preservation Program would like to thank Mr. Komsa for his dedicated service to the ALPB and to the farming community for the past decade.

The County Executive has submitted Mickey Day's name to the County Council for consideration to fill Mr. Komsa's vacancy. A public hearing on Mr. Day's appointment was held on March 19, 2012. Confirmation will be considered at the next Council legislative session on May 7. The same schedule applies to the reappointment of ALPB member Lynn Moore, who is up for her second term.

The ALPB is comprised of seven members, five of whom also serve as the State Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB). Both the ALPB and the APAB are responsible for reviewing all easement property owner requests, including one-acre lot releases and dwelling locations. The ALPB is responsible for making decisions regarding county ag easement properties and assisting the program administrator with policy creation and refinement for the county program. The APAB is responsible for making recommendations to Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation regarding state ag easement properties.

By law, the ALPB must always have at least three members who derive 50% of their income from farming, and at least two members who do not receive any income from farming. The other two members can be either a farmer or a non-farmer. The position that Mr. Komsa is vacating is one of the non-farmer positions. Board members serve a term of five years, with a maximum of two terms. The ALPB generally meets the second Monday of

each month at 7:30 p.m., and meetings take place at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

* * * * *

Permitted Uses on Agricultural Easements

Most of the questions that come into the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) office these days have to do with the types of land uses allowed on easement protected properties. These inquiries often require some research, for a variety of reasons.

There are three different types of ag easements (county purchased, county dedicated and state purchased), and the uses permitted on each type are not necessarily the same. In addition, regardless of whether there's an easement on the property, or what type it is if there is one, the underlying zoning must be taken into account. There may be uses that are permitted under the Zoning Regulations that are not allowed due to the easement. There may be uses that the zoning and the easement both allow, but the easement places additional restrictions on the use above and beyond that which is required by the zoning.

If you are considering a change or expansion in the use on your farm, or if you are thinking about purchasing a new farm, please contact Joy Levy, ALPP Administrator, prior to making any major decisions. Ms. Levy can confirm the presence and type of easement on the property and whether your desired use is allowed under the easement terms. This would be particularly relevant if the proposed use is something that is ancillary to farming. She will also direct you to the Zoning staff within the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Typically, staff will request that you detail your proposed use in writing. This is especially true if it doesn't fit neatly into the existing use categories within the Zoning Regulations. A written request provides staff the opportunity to fully review what is being proposed and give you a thorough, written response.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate

to contact me, Joy Levy, at jlevy@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-5407.

Adventures in Agsploration Summer Programs

The University of Maryland Extension AGsploration action team is excited to announce that they will be offering six "Adventures in AGsploration" programs this summer throughout Maryland. Each will be a one-day educational program for youth who have completed 5th through 8th grade by the end of the school year.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about agriculture by engaging in fun, hands-on science-related activities, network with people involved in the Agricultural Industry, tour and visit local agriculture operations, and learn about potential education and career opportunities based in agro-science and science, technology, engineering and mathematic skills (STEM) fields, all while having fun and making new friends!

2012 Dates and Locations include:

- Tuesday, June 19th- Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville, MD
- Thursday, June 21st- Queen Anne's County 4-H Park, Centreville, MD
- Tuesday, June 26th- Washington County Extension Office, Boonsboro, MD
- Tuesday, July 24th- Thendara 4-H Camp Center, Hurlock, MD
- Thursday, July 26th- Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD
- Thursday, August 2nd- Maryland 4-H Center, College Park, MD

The focus of the program is to enhance youth's STEM abilities through interactive lessons that focus on one of Maryland's top industries, Agriculture.

Registration cost is only \$15 for each participant and is limited to the first 50 youth at each site. The deadline for registration is June 1, 2012. The AGsploraiton program includes lunch, snacks, transportation to field trips, t-shirt and educational programming.

Registration materials are available online at: www.maryland4h.org

For additional information, please contact: April Hall Barczewski by phone at 410-996-5280 or 410-996-8134 or by e-mail at adhall@umd.edu

Executor 102
What Do I Do Now?
 by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.**
JD, CFP, CSA
Attorney at Law

Uncle Herman has just died, and you have been duly selected as the Executor of his Last Will and Testament. Hopefully, you were forewarned. Congratulations.

Your obligation is to marshal, preserve, and distribute the assets of the Estate in accordance with the terms of the Will and the Law; and to treat creditors, beneficiaries, and the taxing authority impartially. This can be no small feat.

If you are a beneficiary of the Will, you have an inherent conflict of interest, since you must (a) make sure all legitimate creditors are paid, while (b) making sure your own inheritance is not diminished. While this sounds simple enough for a reasonably moral individual, there are times when the issues are not clear, and it becomes difficult to reconcile your interests and your obligations impartially.

To open the estate, you will file paperwork with the Register of Wills of the County in which Uncle Herman died domiciled. The Petition for Probate and supporting documentation, including bond and notice for publication in the newspaper, suffice to open the Estate and, hopefully, provide for you to be appointed as Executor.

Marshaling the assets of the Estate is simple if Uncle Herman kept a detailed, up-to-date list of his assets and liabilities. All cash assets must be transferred to an Estate account. Securities must be retitled in the name of the Estate. Real estate need not be retitled, but should be administered with the obligations of the Executor paramount. Beneficiaries can reside in Estate real property, but only if consonant with the terms of the Will. Tangible personal property (“stuff”) must be inventoried before the beneficiaries remove it from the premises, and valued for tax purposes, if not directed by the Will.

Preserving the assets of the Estate requires keeping them insured, exercising reasonable care with personal property, and carefully tracking the receipt and expenditure of Estate assets for Estate purposes. Every dollar or item must be accounted for, and any discrepancies are resolved against the Executor. This writer advises his Executor clients not to make any expenditure or distribution without consultation, and to keep every slip of paper.

You must then begin the process of valuing assets. Real estate can be inventoried for Estate purposes at assessed value, but if the Estate is taxable, you should obtain a full fair market value appraisal. This can be more challenging than it appears; valuation for one purpose is not sufficient as valuation for other purposes, and an appraisal must take into account all factors. In one recent estate, the Executor unaccountably ignored subdivision potential in valuing the family farm, reducing value (and thus distribution) by approximately one-third. Beneficiaries were less than completely grunted.

Securities are valued at their average price in the markets on the date of death. Cash assets are valued using either the last statement value, adjusted for transactions prior to death, or a written statement from the bank or other custodian of the account. Tangible personal property is valued at fair market value, usually by an appraiser or auctioneer.

All of these values must be totaled on an Inventory of the Estate, and you must file it with the Register of Wills within three months of the date the Estate was opened. You must also file a statement of any

assets of which Uncle Herman was joint owner and any retirement assets, since these might be subject to tax.

All creditors' claims must be filed within six months from the date of Uncle Herman's death. Any claim not filed by that date is time barred. An important exception is for claims of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which can be filed at any time up to one year from the date of death. Claims must be filed in a legally determined format and property executed.

Thereafter, you need to decide which claims are to be paid, and which are to be contested or denied. In the latter cases, you should plan on a Court hearing to determine the rights of the parties. If you pay any creditor without receiving a claim, you are personally liable to the Estate for that amount if contested by another creditor or beneficiary.

Within nine months of the opening of the Estate, you must file an Accounting, showing the gains and losses in value of assets, receipts and disbursements, and distributions to beneficiaries during the Estate process. Again, every asset and every dollar must be accounted for, sometimes a significant burden in an active Estate or an Estate with many creditors and beneficiaries. State and federal death taxes are due by this date, and probate fees are paid with the Accounting. You will also petition the Orphan's Court for your commission and the attorney's fee.

Assuming that all creditors, beneficiaries and the taxing authorities are satisfied, and all Estate business is completed, the Estate is then closed. Nearly a year of your life has passed, and, if you are like many, you are now considering how to avoid placing this burden on your family upon your death.

Regional Agronomist Newsletter

The Regional Agronomist Newsletter is posted on several web sites. Among these are the following locations:

<http://www.grains.cses.vt.edu/> Look for Mid-Atlantic Regional Agronomy Newsletter, or

www.mdcrops.umd.edu. Click on Newsletter.

*Source: Dr. Richard W. Taylor, Editor,
rtaylor@udel.edu, University of Delaware*

Acquiring a John Deere 435 Diesel. Seemingly all of the Elements for "a Perfect Storm" by V. Allan Bandel

Most older farm folks, without much difficulty, easily recognize the distinctive exhaust sounds made by a traditional John Deere two-cylinder tractor. But many of those same folks may not at all be familiar with the completely different sound made by the Model 435 Diesel. One feature of this unique little tractor that is so different from its predecessors is its 2-cylinder, 2-cycle GM diesel engine which produces a totally different exhaust sound. This feature ranks the tractor not especially high on the priority list of some John Deere "purists" perhaps. Nor does it move it into the rare category. But it does at least, make the tractor *unique*.



My unplanned acquisition of a JD 435 started out pretty much as a "far out" fantasy. The whole affair, which culminated at a recent public auction, was not at all well thought out ahead of time by me. Consequently, safely transporting my surprising acquisition home after purchasing it presented a few unforeseen, and even stressful, challenges that I had to suddenly deal with.

Before identifying those challenges though, here's a

little background on this tractor and what makes it unique. At first, this little tractor seems not much different from any other green and yellow JD row crop utility tractor. But unlike its bigger cousins which were built at Waterloo, IA, the 435 was produced at John Deere's sprawling Dubuque, Iowa plant. Its production run was very short, less than a year. The first 435 rolled off the assembly line on March 31, 1959. The last one was assembled just 11 months later, on February 29, 1960. So, with such a short production run, its numbers were relatively small — 4,626 to be exact.

You might wonder why this model tractor was even built then. But during the 1950s, when decisions regarding development of this new small tractor were being made, John Deere executives determined that they must offer a small diesel-powered tractor if they were to remain competitive in that specific small tractor market. A small tractor powered by an efficient diesel engine was sorely needed to help meet growing competition from the other major tractor manufacturers.

Another major deciding factor involved the fast approaching release date of John Deere's innovative four and six cylinder *New Generation* tractors, tractors that were expected to replace the company's well-known two-cylinder models. The 1960 introduction date for the *New Generation* tractors was rapidly approaching. So, Deere elected to not invest heavily in the development of a completely new two-cylinder diesel engine just for this one unique tractor, a model that management speculated would probably be phased out very quickly after just a very short production run.

Therefore, management chose to use the already available GM 2-53, two-cycle, two-cylinder diesel engine. This engine could be mounted in the existing frame of the Model 430W row crop utility tractor. To distinguish it, the diesel-powered 430 would get a new number designation, the Model 435D. Another favorable factor in choosing to use the existing, and already proven, GM diesel engine was that it was scheduled to power John Deere's brand new industrial version of the 435, the Model 440ID.

Some John Deere Two-Cylinder "purists" even now refuse to accept the 435 as an example of a true John Deere two-cylinder tractor. The only reason being the totally uncharacteristic exhaust sound of the engine. The two pistons of a traditional John Deere two-cylinder engine each fires once every 720 degrees of rotation. But the firing is not evenly spaced, one every 360 degrees. Instead, they fire at 180 and 540 degrees which produces that well-known distinctive sound. The GM 2-53, two-cylinder, two-cycle diesel though, produces a power stroke every 180 degrees. Some critics claim that the 435's engine exhaust just does not sound like a John Deere. Therefore, *it just couldn't be* a John Deere. Some folks liken the exhaust sound more to that of an oversize two-cycle chain saw, or in extreme perhaps, to a "***chain saw on steroids***"!

The little GM diesel has a 3.875x4.5 inch bore and stroke giving it a displacement of 106.1 cubic inches. The supercharged unit has a compression ratio of 17:1. The two-cycle design enables this engine to put out twice as many power strokes per minute as a comparable four stroke engine. According to Nebraska tests, the 435 produced 32.91 hp at the PTO/belt and 28.4 hp at the drawbar. Having such a non-traditional two-cylinder engine in it compared to its many John Deere Two-Cylinder predecessors, this little tractor, because of that unique difference in sound, is now considered to be more desirable by many, but definitely not by all, John Deere tractor collectors. So, serious thoughts of my ever actually owning one only very rarely ever crossed my mind.

Quite unexpectedly though, an opportunity presented itself in which I ultimately did acquire a 435. The John Parlett Farm-Life Museum near Mechanicsville in Saint Mary's County, Maryland had one in its inventory. Mr. Parlett, who passed away in May, 2005, had assembled quite a large and diverse collection of farm-life memorabilia over a period of many years. Part of that collection consisted of an impressive display of vintage John Deere tractors and equipment. The Parlett Farm-Life Museum Collection was sizeable and a four-day auction extending over the 2011 Memorial Day weekend

was required in which to disperse it all. The tractor collection was auctioned on the second day of the huge sale, Saturday, May 28, 2011.

My brother, Donny, and I had decided well in advance of the sale date that we should attend, primarily just as observers, to see how the wide variety of items might sell. We had no thoughts at that time that we might actually bid on any items. This sale had been widely advertised – locally, nationally, and even internationally. We knew that the Parletts had meticulously restored and maintained many of their tractors, that buyers with a lot “deeper pockets” than ours would undoubtedly be present and bidding aggressively for some of those treasures. We expected that there might even be some off-site bidding over the internet or by telephone.

We decided that since the bidding competition would likely be intense, it would be wasteful to pull a heavy equipment trailer all of that distance to the sale. We weren’t expecting to participate in the bidding anyhow, much less purchase anything large enough to require a heavy-duty trailer to get it home. The other deciding factor was that since it was about 85 miles from Glenelg to Mechanicsville, if perchance we did successfully bid on something, then the sale location was still not so far distant that we couldn’t return home and “fetch” one of the trailers. Otherwise, why waste expensive diesel fuel unnecessarily pulling a heavy, albeit empty, trailer round trip all that distance. This logic soon turned out to be highly flawed. But it seemed to make perfect sense at the time.

The sale was not scheduled to start until 10:00 a.m. So we deliberately arrived at the Parlett Farm around 9:00 a.m. so that we would have plenty of time to view the vast array of items being offered. We also had plenty of time to enjoy visiting with a surprisingly large number of John Deere tractor enthusiast friends and acquaintances who we soon encountered before sale time.

The auctioneer started the bidding on small items first, such as collectible cast iron seats, John Deere and Waterloo Boy “hit and miss” engines, John

Deere LUC power units, etc. When he finally got to the full-size tractors, we began paying closer attention to what was going on. A beautifully restored big 830 diesel tractor sold for \$20,900. Then a John Deere 730 gas standard brought \$16,500. A nice little model 330 standard went for \$18,150. The most aggressive bidding of the morning was on a rare, un-styled 1938 John Deere low-radiator model “G” which went for \$31,900. “Whoa,” I thought. “We’re way out of our league here at this sale with substantial auction prices like these.” With such “healthy” prices, we were more convinced than ever that we had made the correct decision in not bringing one of our hefty equipment trailers on that long 170 mile round trip.

But then, perhaps it was only my imagination, but the enthusiasm among the bidders seemed to gradually lessen and the bidding seemed to be getting a little less intense. Perhaps the apparent sudden reduction in bidder exuberance was because the day was sunny, hot and humid. There wasn’t much shade around the auctioneer’s booth for shelter. Or perhaps the persistent heat and the lack of easy access to cold drinks and shade influenced the size and exuberance of the crowd. Perhaps the heat discouraged some potential bidders from standing around at that point, waiting any longer than they wished perhaps, especially if the specific item(s) that they were really interested in now were not going to come under the auctioneer’s gavel for some time yet. Because of the large number of items to be sold, it obviously was going to be a long day for some of the potential buyers.

When bids were finally asked for on the Parletts’ beautifully restored 1960 John Deere Model 435 Diesel tractor, it seemed to me that the buyers were responding with a little less spirit at first. The auctioneer and his spotters began working the crowd a little more aggressively. So, believing that this might be an opportunity, almost involuntarily, I “threw in” some bids. And virtually before I knew what had happened, I owned that tractor. To be honest, I was kind of stunned when the auctioneer looked directly at me, said the magic word, “SOLD”, and asked for my bidder’s number. It suddenly became clear to me then that this classy

little tractor was now all mine. All that I had left to do was pay the cashier and take it home. The action had all happened so quickly. Suddenly it was over. But thinking about it afterwards, I was very pleased with myself because I was convinced that I had made a good purchase.

Oh, well. Now we were going to have to drive the 85 miles back to Glenelg and retrieve that trailer after all in order to haul the 435 home. Obviously, it was beginning to look like this was really going to be a long day for us. At that point, I just didn't know how long a day it had the potential of eventually becoming. The sale wasn't over yet.

A few minutes later, and after several other tractors had been sold, I became aware that my brother was now bidding on a good looking 1956 John Deere Model 720. And lo and behold, wouldn't you know it? A few minutes later, he owned the 720. Now we had **two tractors** that we had to find a way of hauling back to Howard County. And our one available trailer was still back in Glenelg – some 85 miles away.

Although we own two equipment trailers, there was now another atypical, and complicating factor. One of those two trailers was already in use that weekend. It was on the road somewhere far south of us, many hundreds of miles away. Over the last several months, my son-in-law, Scott, had been conducting a wide-ranging search attempting to locate a suitable cab and other vital parts for a rare 1-ton *Willys Overland Jeep* four-wheel-drive truck that he was restoring.

After an exhaustive internet search, he eventually found one, plus some scarce extra parts. Unfortunately though, those parts were located a long distance away, in Panama City, Florida, about a 2,100 mile round trip from Glenelg. I had promised him earlier that it should be ok if he wanted to use the smaller of our two trailers to haul his truck parts back to Maryland. At the time, we had already decided that we were going to attend the Parlett Farm Sale. There had always been a slight chance" that we might need the larger of the two trailers if perchance we did buy something. We

felt certain though, that we would not need both trailers on that busy Memorial Day weekend.

But as the situation developed, you might say that the merging of all elements in the scenario was like the coming together of the "perfect storm". We have two trailers which for most of the year, when they are not needed to transport tractors to the fair, shows, parades, etc., they remain parked on their concrete pads by the barn. Now, one of them was totally unavailable to us and we unexpectedly had **two tractors** to haul home within the next few hours, all the way from St. Mary's county in Southern Maryland.

Our only option it seemed then, was to "get cracking", drive home to retrieve our one available trailer and then plan on possibly making two more 170 mile round trips that day to get both of those tractors home. Because of their combined size and weight, we couldn't haul them both together on one trailer, and we didn't feel comfortable in leaving either one of them unattended at the sale site overnight. We resigned ourselves to some very long hours that day.

But then, after we had driven nearly all the way back to Glenelg, a possible solution came to mind. I remembered an equipment trailer that I had seen parked at a neighboring farm. If that trailer happened to be available, then perhaps we could arrange to borrow it. Using two trailers, we could haul both of those tractors back home at the same time, saving the time needed for one of those four-hour round trips. The idea of not having to spend an extra four hours on the road was very appealing.

Fortunately, after some hasty cell phone calls, we learned that the neighbor's trailer was available. So, borrowing that trailer is exactly what we managed to do. Our neighbor informed us that the trailer actually did not belong to him, but was owned by a friend. It was parked in the yard by his barn at that very moment. He very generously offered to call the trailer's owner, who in turn, very graciously gave us permission to borrow his trailer. The trailer was a very nice piece of equipment, a practically new *Pequa* tilt-bed model. Subsequently, we were able to

get hitched up and then successfully managed to haul both of those newly purchased tractors safely back home to Glenelg before nightfall.

Son-in-law, Scott, also managed to make it home safely with his hard-to-find *Willys Overland Jeep* truck parts, many of which were loaded in the back of his pickup as well as filling the bed of our other equipment trailer. He arrived home just a few hours after we returned with our treasures from the Parlett Farm sale. This was even in spite of his experiencing a trailer tire failure at 3 a.m. on I-95 near Fayetteville, North Carolina. Fortunately, he was well prepared for this emergency, having carried a spare tire, a hydraulic jack and other necessary tools with him on the trip.



So, at the end of the day, in spite of what could have been some insurmountable problems due to the coming together of that “perfect storm” of events involving a huge auction sale, two tractors, three equipment trailers, and numerous unwitting, but helpful, players in the drama, everything ultimately turned out fine for everyone by the end of that long, tiring, but highly memorable day.

Upcoming Events Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company

May 5th – Flea Market. Located at the corner of Frederick Rd(144) and Woodbine Rd(94). Spaces available! Go to www.lisbonvfc.org for details or call 410-489-4646

May 6th - Chicken and Ham Dinner. Dinner will be served at the Firehouse. Go to www.lisbonvfc.org for details or call 410-489-4646

May 13th – Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast will be served at the Firehouse. Go to www.lisbonvfc.org for details or call 410-489-4646.

May 17th – Spaghetti Dinner. Dinner will be served at the Firehouse. Go to www.lisbonvfc.org for details or call 410-489-4646.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2012

May 1 **Grow it, Eat it, Preserve it Workshop. Hot Water Bath Canning,** 5 to 9 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Ag Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

May 3 **Grow it, Eat it, Preserve it Workshop. Pressure Canning,** 5 to 9 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Ag Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

May 5 **Grow it, Eat it, Preserve it Workshop.** 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Ag Center, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

May 5 **Howard County Cup Races.** Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds. Pleasant Prospect Farm, 4389 Jennings Chapel Road, Brookville, MD 20833. Races, Parties, Family Fun. Tailgates & Program Advertising. Gates open at 12:00 noon, Post time 2:00 p.m. For questions or information, call: (410) 549-1669.

May 5-6 **Annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival.** Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

May 10 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., Dining Hall,

Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

May 24 **Tricks to Managing Horse Farmette Pastures.** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. University of Maryland Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Contact: Jennifer Reynolds at (301) 405-1547 or jenreyn@umd.edu

Jun 2 **Historic National Road Yard Sale.** 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. 824 miles of yard sale stretching from Baltimore to St. Louis, MO. Living Farm Heritage Museum Grounds, West Friendship, MD.

Jun 21 **Nutrition and Health of the Pastured Horse.** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. University of Maryland Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Contact: Jennifer Reynolds at (301) 405-1547 or jenreyn@umd.edu

Jul 19 **Au Natural! Non-Chemical Weed Control.** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. University of Maryland Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Contact: Jennifer Reynolds at (301) 405-1547 or jenreyn@umd.edu

Aug 4-11 **67th Annual Howard County Fair**, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

Aug 11 **Iron Chef Cook-off**, Howard county Fair, West Friendship, MD.

Aug 14-16 **Penn State Ag Progress Days**, Rock

Springs, PA. <http://agsci.psu.edu/apd>. For more information, contact Bob Oberheim at Penn State: (814) 865-2081

Sep 8 **2012 Horse Pasture Management Seminar.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., University of Maryland Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Contact: Jennifer Reynolds at (301) 405-1547 or jenreyn@umd.edu

Sep 24-
Oct 7 **Howard County Farm-City Celebration.** For information on sponsorship and a schedule of events, please contact Kathy Zimmerman at (410) 313-6500. Also, visit the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club website at www.farmheritage.org.

Sep 29-30 **17th Annual Howard County Farm Heritage Days.** Living Farm Heritage Museum Grounds, West Friendship, MD.

Oct 6 **University of Maryland College of Agriculture Open House.** Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Clarksville Facility, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. Contact: Frank Allnut by e-mail at fallnut@umd.edu.

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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.