

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 18, NO. 5

NOVEMBER, 2009

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Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The November Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2009** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please join us.

Our guest speaker will be local veterinarian, **Dr. Ramond Ediger** who will present an interesting program that he has given the title "**Ray's Adventures**". He will be showing slides and discussing adventures that he experienced on a recent visit to South America.

We hope that you can be present for what will certainly 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, November 10, 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, **November 12**, at the Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

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

Well here we are in the middle of harvest again and we are looking at Thanksgiving in just a few

weeks. The summer was a lot different than those that we have gotten the last few years. Plenty of rain, lots of sun at times, but our weathermen still struggle with being able to predict the future. But I think it was a good summer all in all.

With the wet summer and fall it is going to be a challenge to get all the harvest done quickly, so we will need to be patient, and don't let yourselves get into a worse situation by rushing. Take time to enjoy the fall with its cool breezes and wonderful colors. The colors of the trees are short-lived and before you know it, the cold winter winds will be here, the colorful leaves will be gone, and the winter will really be upon us.

I hope to see all of you at our Annual Banquet on the 12th of November. It's always good to visit with you. It will be a good meal, as usual, and you will have plenty of opportunities to catch up on how all of your farmer friends are doing.

Your Board of Directors has been working hard to increase our membership. They made their goal! And that was not so easy to do. With everyone tightening their belts it was a job well done. A special thanks to Susan Baker, Shelly Buhlman, and Merhlyn Barnes who are the ones who really deserve a congratulatory "slap on the back".

I want to congratulate our new Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Danielle Bauer. She also did a great job at the state contest. She is joined by the Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Rachel King, and Future Howard County Farmer, Mitchell Feaga. These kids did a great job! I think we have another great generation coming along.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the up-coming Holiday Season! Once again, remember to "Keep your plow in the ground. We're all pulling for you."

Congratulations to
Danielle Bauer
2009 Miss Howard County Farm
Bureau
 submitted by **Merhlyn Barnes**



Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Danielle Bauer, center, flanked by the other two outstanding 2009 contestants, Shannen Leigh Sullivan, left, and Joleen Putman, right.

On Sunday, August 9, 2009, the opening day of the 64th Annual Howard County Fair, Danielle Bauer, 17, was chosen to be Miss Howard County Farm Bureau. Miss Bauer is the daughter of Ricky and Leslie Bauer and lives on a 120 plus acre grain, cattle and hog farm in Dayton where her father is a full-time farmer.

Danielle breeds and shows hogs and is responsible for their feeding and care, including medical care. She cleans out the hog pens and uses sprinklers to keep her animals cool.

In 4-H, Danielle carries projects in market swine and market lambs, photography, food and nutrition, crafts and home environment. She participates in livestock judging and livestock skillathon, and is a Junior Member of the National Hampshire Swine Registry. Apart from 4-H, Danielle is on the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival Kids Committee. She also works

at Merry Acres Farm, and is a hostess/server at the CoHo Grill.

She is a senior at Glenelg High School, is Captain of the Varsity Cheerleading Squad, and Editor of the school yearbook. She plans to attend college and major in Agricultural Education to become an Ag Teacher.

Shannen Leigh Sullivan, 16, is the daughter of Hance and Barbara Sullivan and lives on an 85 acre Woodbine grain farm. She is a 5-year member of the Centaurs 4-H Club where she serves as President; and was a 3-year past member of Spur and Stirrup. Actively competing with her Quarter horse and Thoroughbred in Dressage, Eventing and Jumpers, she belongs to the Seneca Valley Pony Club. In high school, she has served on the Student Government Association and on the Yearbook staff. She is attending Howard Community College this fall with plans of transferring to a university to study agricultural programs combined with equine studies.

Joleen Putman, 17, lives on her family's 55 acre farm where they own, train and board horses. Joleen is a 6-year member of the Howard County 4-H Beef Club. She is also a life member of the All-American Quarter Horse Association, and a member of the Mid-Atlantic Congress Team. She hopes to work with her mother in the family business and one day have her own stable and manage a farm.

Congratulations also go to
Rachel King
2009 Little Miss Howard County
Farm Bureau
 and to
Mitchell S. Feaga
2009 Future Howard County Farmer

The Little Miss & Future Howard County Farmer competition was held on opening day of the Howard County Fair with great participation. The contestants, ages 8 to 11, created a poster featuring their personal agriculture project or activities. Rachel King, age 10 of Glenwood, is



Howard County Farm Bureau President, Howie Feaga, congratulates Mitchell S. Feaga, Danielle Baurer and Rachel King at the 2009 Howard County Fair.

our 2009 Little Miss. She is a member of the Dayton 4-H where she serves as Reporter. She has projects in sewing, crafts, goats, swine, rabbits, and livestock judging/skillathon. She has been a part of Ag Safety Day and the MD Sheep and Wool Festival.

Our 2009 Future Farmer, Mitchell S. Feaga, age 9 of Woodbine, is a student at Bushy Park Elementary School where he plays viola. He has been involved in Howard County soccer and baseball, Jr. Lions Club, 4-H Dairy Club, Holstein calf, vegetables, hay crop, fishing, shooting sports and riding a 4-wheeler.

Other participants included Shannon Nichole Jones, age 11 of Sykesville and Nate Brewer, age 9 of Woodbine.

Never Waste a Crisis by Delegate Gail Bates

To quote one of our new President's advisors, "never let a crisis go to waste." Maryland is in a financial crisis and the immediate future is extremely bleak. If our spending patterns continue, we will be facing a \$2 billion budget deficit for the budget we will enact next session. According to an article in the weekly Gazette (Oct. 9), leadership is considering drawing down the State's "rainy day fund" to minimize cuts to

programs and balance the budget for the year beginning July 1, 2010. The reserves in the "rainy day fund" are looked on favorably by bond rating agencies and help us maintain our AAA bond rating (allowing us to borrow money at lower interest rates).

Unfortunately, although some believe the economy has bottomed out, others believe we are headed for another dip before rebounding. Since unemployment continues at record rates, our State revenues will likely remain stagnant and drawing down the "rainy day fund" is short-sighted, leaving us in an even greater structural deficit for the budget year beginning July 1, 2011 (after the 2010 election).

Back to the idea of not wasting a crisis, responsible leadership would take advantage of the situation to examine the way our State provides services and implement efficiencies and new strategies to provide better services more economically. A thorough review of State agencies' missions and elimination of duplication of services would go a long way toward solving our spending problems.

Recently I have attended conferences on both Higher Education and K-12 Education where ideas were presented for improving output and reducing costs in these vital areas of our budget. These are rapidly growing areas of our State & local budgets, as well as the budgets of families with college students. Instead of increasing spending, we should be looking for greater efficiencies and new ways to provide quality education.

On the Higher Education front, we need to take a good look at factors which are causing costs to spiral out of control and begin to rein in costs without sacrificing quality. Suggestions include providing incentives to students to graduate in four years or less; separating university budgets by function (research vs. teaching) and implementing accountability measures according to function. With this separation of funding, we can more clearly measure the outcomes of that spending, resulting in better accountability and transparency. Other reforms include paying faculty a base salary with opportunity for bonuses based on student and parent satisfaction (ratemyprofessor.com) and success; improving communication between K-12 and post-secondary education personnel to assure that students are prepared for post secondary

courses, etc. Parents and students should be able to compare educational institutions for value delivered, rather than dollars spent. This would require a new reporting model which evaluates outcomes delivered so that parents and students can better evaluate the options available to them.

One of the major drivers of both our State and local budgets is K-12 education and we owe it to our citizens to make changes to improve quality and control cost. Our K-12 public education is being delivered the same way it was in the 1950's – a teacher teaching a class of students in a “one size fits all” format. We know that students are all different, learning in different ways and at different rates.

Could you imagine still driving those big gas guzzlers or watching a black & white TV with limited channels, or keeping your food in an ice box, or any of the other dinosaur-like technologies? Why do we expect schools to operate on a 1950's model. Granted, we use computers, but we don't really harness the possibilities those computers could provide. Consider your children or grandchildren taking on-line courses with some of the best educators in the world, working at his/her own speed and moving ahead quickly or slowly whenever he/she has mastered the subject matter. Consider the wide variety of courses students can take if they can use virtual classrooms, maybe more advanced placement courses, etc. The technology exists today and is being used in many school systems around the country.

Our current funding model for K-12 rewards failure rather than success. School systems with poor results get more money, while systems with good outcomes get less. Our teachers are paid for time in grade rather than for performance. There is no difference in pay for critical skill areas. We need to change our funding to reflect desirable outcomes. Pay for performance and rewarding excellent teachers brings improvement to schools. Michelle Rhee, Chancellor of Washington, DC schools is shaking up the status quo to improve the DC schools - a system in shambles – and is putting the focus on the kids, not the system. She is both firing poor teachers and rewarding good teachers, and as a result, is getting improved results.

As consumers, we demand choices in vehicles, phones, houses, etc., but we are content to send

our children to schools in close proximity to our homes, eliminating choice. Competition has improved nearly all the products we consume, but we draw the line at competition in our educational system. Charter schools and school vouchers allow parents to choose the school they believe is best for their children. Students in some states are permitted concurrent enrollment in both high school and college courses, earning college credits while still in high school. If we think “outside of the box – the bricks and mortar classrooms” - the possibilities are endless.

As part of the Educational Summit, we toured a Charter Elementary School in Washington, DC that operates on a language immersion model. Parents choose whether their children will be in a Spanish or French tract and each class is taught in that language and English. The students become fluent in two languages, preparing them for the diverse world we now live in.

K-12 education spending represents more than 50% of Howard County's budget and it is growing by nearly double digits each year even as school population grows at 1-2% per year. In addition, it is one of the major drivers of the State budget. If we tap into the opportunities technology offers, we can improve the outcomes for all our students and at the same time, lessen the tax burden on our citizens. If we don't waste our financial crisis, but show real leadership and use this pressure to reform the way we deliver services, we will see benefits long into the future.

Maryland Team Wins National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

Maryland received top honors in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin on September 28, 2009.

Congratulations to our Maryland 4-Her's who competed and won at the national contest. The team members are Chelsea Davis, Cecil Co.; Emily Gill, Harford Co.; Morgan Meisenheimer, Howard Co.; and Ariel Taxdal, Harford Co.

The program is coordinated by Kiera Finucane, Animal and Avian Sciences, and this year's team was coached by Loretta Wright, a long-time supporter of dairy and Maryland 4-H, from Carroll County.

Morgan Meisenheimer and Chelsea Davis led the team placing third and sixth overall respectively. Maryland also won High Team in Reasons, with Meisenheimer capturing High Individual in Reasons. Karen Anderson of Minnesota took home the honor of High Individual Overall. Rounding out the top five teams overall were; Michigan, second; New York, third; Ohio, fourth; and Minnesota, fifth.

6th Annual Small Farm Conference

submitted by **Christine Lothen-Kline**
County Extension Coordinator
University of Maryland Extension

If you own a small farm, plan to start one or just want to grow a garden in your backyard, there's a conference at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Princess Anne, MD designed especially for you.

Farmers, landowners, and gardening enthusiasts will be offered tips and tools at the upcoming 6th annual small farm conference. This year's small farm conference is being offered over 2-days at the Richard A. Henson Center, at UMES. Pre-conference sessions, reception and networking social will be offered on Friday, November 6, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Saturday, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., participants will explore sessions offered in alternative agriculture, production & marketing and business & legal educational tracks.

Workshop topics will include: a "Sheep and Goat Tour," "High Tunnel Demonstration," "Direct Marketing Farm Raised Meats," "Backyard Vegetable Gardening Tips," "Making Your Own Compost," "Growing High Value Specialty Crops," "Grant Funding Opportunities for Farmers," "Essential Tools & Equipment for Your Farm," and Much, Much, MORE!

Special guest, Mike McGrath, host of the nationally syndicated public radio show "You Bet Your Garden" and garden editor for WTOP news radio in Washington, D.C., will be the opening keynote speaker for Saturday's program. There will also be representatives from state and government Agriculture agencies, farm equipment and supply companies, and other local business and organizations available to

share information on current products and services offered.

Registration cost for the conference is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. All registrations should be received no later than Friday, October 30.

For more information, call 410-651-6206/6693 or by email: mce@umes.edu. The registration form can be downloaded at www.umes.edu/1890-mce.

New Member Benefits

It is our pleasure to announce three new member benefits that have been added or will be added in the very near future. They are Budget Truck Rental, Jiffy Lube, and a prescription drug discount program through United Networks of America. A brief description of each new service appears below.

We think these new services are great additions to our member benefits package. We continue to research new services that will add value to our membership.

Prescription Drug Discount Program – MFB members will be able to download a UNA Rx Card from the MFB Website or they can obtain one through the MFB Randallstown office. By presenting the UNA Rx Card at any of the more than 50,000 pharmacies nationwide, members will be guaranteed to receive the lowest price available on their prescription. The average savings has been calculated at 30%.

Budget Truck Rental – By using a special Maryland Farm Bureau Account Number (obtained from our website or through our office) members will receive a 15% discount when they rent a truck from Budget.

Jiffy Lube – When MFB members identify themselves as a "national cash fleet" customer and present the MFB account number, they will receive a 10% discount on all products and services, except inspections.

Agricultural Land Preservation Board Reviews "Batch 14" Applicants

by Joy Levy

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

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) has been very busy recently, conducting three public hearings to review staff reports and accept testimony on the thirteen Batch 14 applicants to the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP).

The next step in the easement acquisition process is for the ALPB to complete the scoring and rank the applicant properties. They will meet on November 2 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fair Board Office at the Howard County Fairgrounds to discuss each property and award their "Optional Points" - up to 50 discretionary points that the ALPB can add to (or subtract from) each property's score based on a variety of special agricultural characteristics. Once that has been accomplished, applicants can be ranked in the order in which easement offers will be made. The ALPP is hoping to have offer letters out to selected property owners by the end of the year.

Information may be obtained from Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-313-5407, or email jlevy@howardcountymd.gov.

The War Years - Receiving the News, and Finally, the War is Over!

by Allan Bandel

Unlike today when there is a big flat screen color television set in nearly every home, and many of us have access to the internet, during the World War II years, we had little choice but to rely heavily on our daily newspapers for news of the war. There was the Baltimore Sun (actually the Morning Sun and the Evening Sun back then), or the Baltimore News American. Not many Howard County folks living near us received the Washington, DC papers in those days because we just weren't DC "oriented". We also relied heavily upon the radio for the latest news.

On a small table in his big farmhouse kitchen over by the old fashioned wood cook stove, Grandpop Bandel could listen to his popular little *Philco* table-model radio. Like so many of those reliable little radios in those days, it had its own distinctive round-top wood grain cabinet.

For several hours every evening just after supper, in order to not miss a word, Grandpop would pull his chair up close to the radio, often actually draping one arm across the top of the cabinet in order to not miss a single word, and anxiously waited for the latest newscasts that would soon be reported over the air. Grandpop's hearing was not as sharp then as it had once been. So he needed to crowd as close as he could to the set's small monaural speaker in order not to miss a single word of the reporter's.

Over on the other end of our big duplex farmhouse, my parents owned a larger floor model *Philco* that they had located in the living room next to Dad's favorite overstuffed easy chair. The set was kind of old and the cabinet showed signs of wear when we got it. Its tubes were always a bit weak causing the sound to fade in and out. It was not unusual to have to frequently replace one or more of the vacuum tubes to get the best reception.

Consequently, we had a problem at times in getting enough volume out of the speaker to hear the broadcasts loudly and clearly. In order to prevent the sound from fading out so much, Dad had improvised a "fix" to help compensate. He discovered that by wrapping an end of the radio's soft copper antenna wire around one of his fingers while he sat in his easy chair, the volume would improve. As part of this "fix", it had been necessary for him to re-route the antenna wire out of the back of the cabinet and over the top, letting it hang down the front of the radio in the vicinity of its big circular tuning dial. It wasn't a very fancy "fix", but it did work.

Dad removed two or three inches of insulation from the end of the thin copper wire and twisted it into a loop through which he could stick one of his fingers usually his forefinger. That way, his body, or the body of whoever happened to be holding the end of the wire that evening, served as an extension of the antenna, and the volume was increased substantially. For obvious reasons, we were a little reluctant to listen to the radio

holding onto the antenna in this way when there was a violent electrical storm in the area.

Every evening, immediately after supper, we would turn on the radio, crank up the volume, and anxiously await the front line reports on how the war was going that day. These reports were often delivered by well-known eye witness reporters such as Edward R. Murrow, or Lowell Thomas. In his measured “trademark” voice, Lowell Thomas always signed off at the end of each daily broadcast with those iconic words, “So long, until tomorrow!”

On those rare occasions when we were privileged to attend a motion picture, usually at the little Ellicott Theater in Ellicott City, or the Alpha Theater in Catonsville, the Edgewood near Irvington, or occasionally the Westway on Edmondson Avenue a couple of blocks down the street from the home of some of my close relatives, we would wait expectantly for the RKO Movietone News Reels which always preceded the main feature film. These dramatic reports often presented exciting action movies actually filmed by war cameramen imbedded with the troops in the European or the Pacific war zones.

Of course, these RKO film clips had been heavily edited and censored as well as politically slanted for our “benefit”. For instance, rarely if ever, were any scenes of Allied defeats or major setbacks shown. The tone was always kept as positive as possible, obviously to keep morale at a high level on the home front.

Viewers in those days simply did not question the integrity of the news then as much as they often do now. Contrary to the way that things are done today, citizens back then expected reporters to broadcast the news as factually as possible and to leave their personal opinions out of it. It was widely accepted that whatever news was reported to the public was “the truth, and nothing but the truth”. It was a simpler time in history.

Japan Surrenders – World War II Ends. I still vividly remember some of the very personal events that took place on the day that Japan surrendered and World War II officially came to a close.

As I have mentioned previously, many times in fact, the war had been a part of our young lives

for as long as my brother and I could remember, almost ever since we had been born. At Christmas and on birthdays for instance, Donny and I often received gifts of fairly cheaply made war-related toys that were often made out of drab green-colored heavy construction paper. Remember, this was during war time and metal, rubber and plastics were scarce because these materials were needed for the war effort. So, many toys in those days were made from the much more available, and cheaper, cardboard.

We were given toy tanks, army trucks and guns that we punched out of heavy poster board. We often had to assemble these toys by folding the various parts along the dotted lines as per the printed instructions, then placing the lettered tabs into the correspondingly identified slots so that the toys became three dimensional.

These war-time toys were as much fun to put together as they were to play with. One toy that I remember in particular contained cartoon caricature images of the hated Axis leaders – Benito Mussolini (Fascist Italian Dictator), Hideki Tojo (Wartime Premier of Japan) and Adolf Hitler (Wartime Chancellor and Fuhrer of Germany).

The “game” consisted of placing these cut-out figures on a ledge and then aiming and shooting at them with a little toy “pop” gun that was included in the set. The “pop” gun actually propelled a small cylindrical piece of cork (like a bottle stopper) that was attached to a short length of string. The string prevented the cork from flying too far and perhaps striking something unintentionally, or even getting lost in the excitement.

Another memory was about living through the relatively tense days when many members of the adult population discussed their suspicions of what they thought the true objectives were of the secret U.S. Manhattan Project. It was rumored that the highly secret activities were to test a radically new concept in explosive devices, a bomb that might eventually be used to bring the war to a quick end. Although secret, we had heard rumors that the project had something to do with splitting the atom. And there were many more highly concerned rumors “floating” around concerning what might happen if this theoretical chain reaction actually did work.

Would it, or even could it, be a controlled

reaction? Perhaps it would work too well. In our minds we wondered if atomic fission, once initiated, would keep right on going, faster and faster, perhaps running out of control, and possibly even consuming the world in a "Fiery Atomic Hell? Isn't that actually what the sun is, a fiery nuclear reaction? We nervously waited through the duration of those tests until the authorities assured us that we were not all going to die as a result of the detonation of this horrible new weapon, the atomic bomb, a device that eventually would be more widely known as the "A" bomb.

Then one memorable day in early August of 1945, a huge B-29 Superfortress Bomber with the name "*Enola Gay*" stenciled on its fuselage, piloted by Col. Paul Tibbets, secretly left Tinian in the Northern Marianas Islands. The *Enola Gay*, accompanied by two other B-29s carrying observers and instrumentation, flew across the Pacific toward Japan. Its mission was to drop the first of the newly developed atomic bombs, code named "Little Boy", on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. A few days later, a second bomb was dropped over the Japanese city of Nagasaki. It was just a matter of days after those two momentous events that Japan announced its unconditional surrender to the Allies.

It's strange how you can remember almost every detail of what you were doing on an historic day like that, when Japan surrendered. Specifically, as a young eight-year old boy, I remember that I was playing happily in our back yard at Grandpop Bandel's farm. My playmates were my brother Donny and my city cousin, Richard Bandel. Richard and his parents had come for a visit that Sunday afternoon. My aunt was inside the house visiting with Mother, Dad, and my grand parents. My Uncle Johnny, Dad's brother and Richard's father, was relaxing in his relatively well-maintained, early 1940's era, pre-war Chevrolet *Fleetline* automobile. He was smoking his usual "smelly" cigar and listening to a ball game on his car radio when suddenly an announcer broke into the program with the message that Japan had surrendered.

Uncle Johnny very excitedly shouted out the news to us kids. I was the closest to the house. In my haste to run up the concrete back porch steps and into the back door of the house to be the first to make the exciting announcement to everyone inside, I tripped and fell, skidding

across the rough cement floor of the back porch patio, skinning both of my hands and knees. I was old enough to realize that something really momentous had just been announced. So, with adrenalin pumping and overpowering the pain, I picked myself up, and in spite of my painfully scratched hands and knees, I continued running into the house where I shouted the joyous news of "VJ Day" to my stunned and disbelieving elders.

Approximately 50 years after the Japanese surrender, some "misguided" U.S. citizens felt inspired to criticize the proposed display of the restored *Enola Gay* B-29 bomber at the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. These people even tried to rewrite the history books by making it seem that the Allies were the real "bad guys" when they attacked Japan with the "A" Bomb since so many innocent Japanese civilians had perished, either in the fiery blast, or later as a result of radiation poisoning.

These uninformed critics were primarily of a younger generation, a generation that had not actually lived through the horrible World War II years and who were not personally familiar with the extreme Allied sacrifices that had been endured as a result of Japan's aggressive acts of war. True, it was sad and unfortunate that so many innocent Japanese civilians became casualties. But we also must not forget to consider the potentially tens of thousands of Allied casualties that would have been suffered had an actual invasion of the Japanese mainland ever been necessary.

How quickly, and how convenient it is for some individuals to forget their history lessons. Fortunately, in the interest of historical accuracy, the *Enola Gay* has now been restored and is on public display at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum's facility at Dulles International Airport near Chantilly, Virginia. My son, David, was privileged to have had an opportunity to help in the restoration of one of the landing gears of that famous aircraft. Let's hope that wise leaders prevail in the future and that we are never allowed to forget the horrors of war and the sacrifices that were made.

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

“Who will take care of Fluffy when I die? How can I leave money to pay for her care and her vet bills? I want her never to be euthanized unless she is in pain.”

Even if you can readily answer the first question, the second used to present a challenge in Maryland. Until October 1, the only option was to leave funds to an individual and hope that individual used the money for your pet. This arrangement is called an “honorary trust” because it relied on the honor of the individual to fulfill the terms of the trust. Because there was no person who had legal standing to enforce the trust, there was no impediment at law to the individual pocketing the money and simply abandoning or euthanizing the pet.

Some attorneys, including this writer, had sought to put “teeth” into the trust by appointing the local humane society or no-kill animal rescue or shelter as a “guardian” of the animal, hoping to confer standing on the “guardian” to enforce the terms of the trust. That was the best anyone could do, but it was not as secure as pet lovers would have liked.

Fortunately for those concerned enough about their animals to set aside money for their care, Maryland joined 39 other states in providing a legislative solution. On April 14, 2009, Governor O'Malley signed into law the Maryland statutory pet trust, House Bill 149, codified in the Estates and Trusts article of the Maryland Code at section 14-112 and elsewhere. This law applies to pet trusts created on or after October 1, 2009.

The law provides that (a) the pet must be alive during the life of the “settlor” (the person setting up the trust); (b) the trust ends at the death of the last animal covered by the terms of the trust; (c) if the settlor did not appoint an enforcer of the terms of the trust, a Court may appoint an enforcer; (d) any person with an interest in the welfare of the animal may petition a Court to appoint an enforcer or remove an enforcer who is not performing adequately; (e) trust property may be used only for the pet's benefit unless the Court finds that the value of the trust property is excessive; and (f) unless the settlor provides

express directions, excess trust property passes to the settlor if alive or the settlor's “successors in interest” if the settlor is dead.

If this issue is important to you, you must now visit your attorney to be sure your estate plan comports with the terms of the new law. If you have an existing pet trust, you should have it redrafted and “republished” so that it will be effective. If you don't have a pet trust, but have simply left money to your animal's caretaker, consider implementing a pet trust in your estate plan.

Be sure that your trust appoints a caregiver and alternate or backup caregiver, and an enforcer and backup enforcer. If your caregiver is also handling the money, the enforcer should be someone you trust to look after the animal and apply reasonable standards. You don't want to make your caregiver miserable by injecting an “officious intermeddler” into his or her life – after all, he or she is giving love and care to your animal as a favor to you – but nor do you want your animal neglected. It's a balancing act, as always.

Your trust should provide instruction on diet and exercise, medical care and permissible euthanasia, burial or cremation and disposition of remains and other matters important to you. Because your animal might need care during your lifetime, such as during a period of incapacity, your pet trust provisions should be included, not just in your will, but also in your Durable Power of Attorney. If you have utilized a living trust for your estate plan, the pet trust provisions in the living trust should be sufficient.

You should decide where any remaining funds go after the death of your pet. Obviously, the money could be given to the caretaker, but that might introduce a conflict of interest. Alternatively, the funds could be distributed to a local animal rescue or shelter or other such charity, to continue your legacy of caring for animals.

Think through this matter with your loved ones, and then visit your attorney to be sure you have provided for those depending on you.

Receiving the Farm Bureau Newsletter Why Not Use e-mail?

If you have a computer with access to the internet, then why not help the Howard County farm Bureau to save a considerable amount of postage money by agreeing 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. The Howard County Farm Bureau can save a considerable amount in mailing costs by using e-mail instead of the U.S. Postal Service.

Another advantage to using e-mail is that whenever we use color photographs, the e-mail version will come through to you with those photographs in "glorious" color. 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. 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 to your local County Farm Bureau's finances.

Tractors Across the USA 2009

On Saturday, June 27th, five big orange and blue Chamberlain tractors from Australia, along with 14 adventurous men and women, visited the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum at West Friendship.

This group of friendly Australians was colorfully clad in their matching bright orange and dark blue shirts, much like the colors of their tractors. For comfort, some of them even wore the traditional knee-length short pants. And of course many of them had on their customary Australian-style "outback" broad-brimmed hats designed to ward off the sun's bright rays.

With tables set up under a tent erected beside the Hebb House just for that purpose, Farm



Machinery Club members hosted a hearty buffet dinner for their guests from "down under". After dinner and a brief program, they were taken on a guided tour of the museum grounds using one of the Club's tractor-drawn "people movers".

Quite a few Club members, as well as numerous visitors who just happened to learn of the Australians' expected arrival and of their well-planned, extraordinary tractor journey across the U.S., enjoyed several hours checking out their big orange, uniquely equipped, heavy-duty Chamberlain tractors and visiting with these extremely friendly people from half way around the world.

After spending the night on the Museum grounds, using some of the time to get acquainted with their five recently acquired camping trailers and their two motor homes, they headed west early the next morning, starting their odyssey, fittingly, following the Old National Road.

On Monday, September 7th, the "Aussies" finally ended their long and eventful journey at the Pacific Ocean south of Los Angeles in Huntington Beach, California. Many of us have been following the group's interesting 5,000 mile journey across America on-line. If you would like to review some of their photographs and read about some of their many adventures, and there were many of them, simply check out their website: www.transworldtractortreks.com.

[NOTE: This article was reprinted in part from the October, 2009 issue of The Rusted Plow, the newsletter of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club.]

All Aboard for the New and Improved CREP

by **Royden N. Powell, III, Assistant
Secretary,
Maryland Department of Agriculture**

If you are a farmer or landowner looking to earn additional income from your land, don't let this train leave the station without you. Recent changes to Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) now provide even more financial incentives to farmers who remove environmentally-sensitive cropland from production for 10 to 15 years and plant streamside buffers, protect highly erodible land or establish wetlands to safeguard local streams.

CREP—a federal-state conservation program—was reauthorized and revamped earlier this year to help even more farmers stabilize and protect marginal crop and pastureland. By simplifying program requirements, increasing land rental rates, and offering a one-time signing bonus of up to \$200 an acre, CREP helps landowners reduce soil erosion, protect water quality and create wildlife habitat while earning dependable income from enrolled lands. It's a good investment choice for landowners looking to supplement farm earnings with steady income.

Many farmers will find the new formula for determining the annual CREP land rental payment quite attractive. New this year, landowners receive the local soil rental rate (SRR) plus an additional incentive payment that ranges from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local SRR, depending on the environmental benefits of the practice installed.

Financial help to cover the costs of installing buffers and other best management practices (BMPs) is also available. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) program will provide landowners with up to 87.5 percent of the cost to plant buffers, protect highly erodible land install other best management practices (BMPs) on enrolled lands. New this year, cost-share to restore wetlands has increased from 50 percent to 87.5 percent. Cost-share is even available to help farmers install livestock fencing, stream crossings and watering troughs to protect local streams from animal

traffic.

In addition, USDA will provide a one-time practice incentive payment worth 40 percent of the total cost of establishing certain qualifying BMPs. This payment is in addition to the 87.5 percent cost-share that is available from MACS for most practices. Free technical assistance to install BMPs is provided by local soil conservation districts.

At a time when every dollar counts, CREP is an excellent way for Maryland farmers to protect local waterways and earn extra income. If you have marginal cropland or pastureland that is next to a stream or highly erodible land that is within 1,000 feet of a stream you may be eligible to participate in CREP. Keep in mind that CREP also offers easy re-enrollment of expiring CREP or CRP contracts at attractive rates.

Contact your local soil conservation district or Farm Service Agency today to find out if you qualify for CREP. But don't delay...or this train may leave without you. Sign-up is ongoing until acreage goals are met. To date, Maryland landowners have enrolled more than 70,000 acres toward a goal of 100,000 acres, so now is the time to get on board with CREP.

Department of Recreation & Parks Announces Additions to 2009-2010 Deer Management Program

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule for managing deer through sharpshooting. This program will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population on county lands where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity.

The sharpshooting program is different from the managed hunts, which were announced in August. Specially trained and qualified personnel using highly accurate, noise-suppressed rifles, remove deer under a special permit issued by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. All the meat from this operation is donated to charitable organizations in the area. All properties will be closed to the public during the hours of operation, 3:30 p.m. to midnight, unless otherwise noted. The sites and schedule for 2009-2010 are

as follows:

Alpha Ridge Landfill:

November 4 and December 9 (Dawn to 11:00 a.m.); February 9; March 15.

Belmont Conference Center:

January 4, 7, 25; February 1, 17.

Blandair Park:

January 18; February 11; March 11.

Centennial Park:

January 11; February 4.

Daniels Mill Overlook Open Space Lot:

December 21; February 22; March 8.

Gray Rock Open Space Lot:

November 3 (8:30 a.m. to Noon); January 14; March 1.

Hollifield Farm Open Space Lot:

December 21; February 22; March 8.

Mt. Hebron Open Space Lot:

December 21; February 22; March 8.

Rockburn Branch Park:

January 4, 25; February 17.

Timbers at Troy Golf Course and Troy Mansion Historic Site:

January 7; February 1.

Worthington Park:

January 21; February 15; March 4.

Since deer population reduction programs such as the managed hunts and sharpshooting are not possible in many areas of the county, the Department of Recreation & Parks has developed a Deer Management Reference Manual to help homeowners and gardeners live in harmony with white-tailed deer. The manual, which is available in all county library branches, contains information on the use of deer repellents, fencing to protect crops and property, how to avoid deer-auto collisions, and Lyme Disease prevention. There is also information about the county's deer management program available on the Department's website at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_DeerManagement.htm.

The Department of Recreation & Parks and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service can also arrange to have experts on the topic speak to homeowner associations, schools or other groups. Other Recreation & Parks' deer management programs include an effort to reduce ticks on deer through the use of "Four-Poster" devices which deliver an approved pesticide to deer attracted to a feeder baited with corn. Developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the devices have been shown to reduce tick populations by 90% or more.

For more information on the deer management program, call the Department of Recreation & Parks at 410-313-1675.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2009

Nov 5 **Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Dinner.**

Oct 19-

Nov 9 **Nutrient Management Farmer Training Certification.** (For a license to write your own Nut. Mgt. Plan) 7 classes, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Frederick County Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For Information, call (301) 600-3576.

Nov 4 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10:00 am to noon. Frederick County Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For Information, call (301) 600-3576.

Nov 4 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Frederick County Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For Information, call (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6-7 **6th Annual Small Farm Conference.** University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD. Contact: Berran Rogers at (410) 651-6693/6206.

Nov 7 **Small Farm Cooperative's Farmer Education Day.** For Information, call (301) 600-3576.

Nov 12 **Annual Banquet, Howard County Farm Bureau.** 7:00 p.m. Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. Contact: Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 489-4465.

Nov 12 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Nov 19 **Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Nov 27 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training & Recertification.** 10:00 am to noon or 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Free Registration. Frederick County Cooperative Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For Information, call (301) 600-3576.

Dec 3 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Dec 6-9 **Maryland Farm Bureau Convention.** Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD.

Dec 10 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

2010

Jan 10-13 **American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Convention.** Seattle, WA.

Jan 14 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10:00 am. to noon.

Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Jan 21 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Jan 22-24 **Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmer Retreat.** Hyatt Chesapeake, Cambridge, MD.

Feb 11 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Feb 18 **Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Feb 25 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

Mar 4 **Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 10:00 am to noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

[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.
