

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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NOVEMBER, 2010

HOWIE FEAGA, PRESIDENT, (410) 531-1872;

JAY RHINE, VICE-PRESIDENT, (410) 442-2445;

MERHLYN BARNES, SECRETARY, (410) 489-4465;

DONALD BANDEL, TREASURER (410) 531-7918;

ALLAN BANDEL, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, (410) 489-7875

WEB SITE - [www.howardfarmbureau.org](http://www.howardfarmbureau.org)

### Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2010** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

Our guest speaker this time will be **Howard County Chief of Police William J. McMahon**. Chief McMahon will bring with him a wealth of information concerning some often discussed issues related to the County Police Department. Specific points that might be discussed are the overall Police Department budget, the Police Retirement System and his department's plans for better serving Western Howard County. These issues would be interesting at any time, but are especially vital during this period of a less-than-robust economy.

This presents an excellent opportunity to interact with Police Chief McMahon. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the excellent food, the fellowship and have a lively and friendly exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program is scheduled from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, November 2 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 speaker's part of the program should conclude by about 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **November 4**, at the Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.



*Tess Gavagan, Miss Howard county Farm Bureau 2010, at the Glenwood Farmers' Market with Josh and Jason Hough of Woodcamp Farm.*

### President's Message

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

Wow. Did this summer ever go fast, or did it just seem that way to me? Fall is all but over now and it seems like we just got cooled down from a record hot summer. I hope everyone had a good summer. It seemed like it was an exceptionally hot one with rain arriving just in the nick of time. It wasn't the worst summer for most of us, but the weather did challenge a lot of areas in the state that weren't as fortunate as most of us.

With the harvest in high gear now, remember to take your time and be extra careful. We don't want to hear about you in the news. I would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Dell Family in Carroll County on the sad loss of Tommy Dell. You never know when life will take a tragic turn. We all know from our own experiences that it just takes a split second and we can be in trouble. Please slow down and enjoy life to the fullest, and good luck!

We will be heading to the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Ocean City on December 5 - 7. Among other items, we will be considering policy suggestions that have been submitted over the past year. We also will enjoy visiting with other delegates from across the state, some of whom we only get to interact with on these annual occasions.

Everyone continues to work hard in making Maryland Farm Bureau as effective as possible. We will soon have the newly elected legislators to become acquainted with and hopefully, to try and educate them about our needs. We must let them know what policies work best for us so that any future decisions they make are in our best interests.

I hope that everyone will plan to attend the Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Dinner on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing all of you there. We look forward to enjoying a great meal and fellowship with many of our friends.

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

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## **FRUIT ORDER FORM**

**Please note** that the order form for the annual Maryland Farm Bureau order for "Florida's Best" is attached at the end of this Newsletter. Unlike in past years, **there will only be one order placed this year!**

There **will not be a second chance** to order in February or later as in past years. Therefore, please order now an adequate supply of the various quality products available from Florida Farm Bureau.

## **So – Please Do Not Delay To Order**

**There will not be second Florida Farm Bureau Fruit Order placed this winter!**

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE!** **UNLESS YOU INDICATE** **OTHERWISE** **THIS MAY BE THE FINAL** **PRINTED HOWARD COUNTY** **FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER** **THAT YOU RECEIVE BY U.S. MAIL**

Because of the current high costs of producing and distributing this newsletter, the Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has decided that ways to economize must be found.

Subsequently, it has been decided that if members wish to continue receiving their newsletter by the traditional U.S. Postal Service route, then they **must complete the enclosed postcard expressing their wishes and return it immediately to:**

**Howard County Farm Bureau**  
**1878 Woodbine Road**  
**Woodbine, MD 21797.**

If Howard County Farm Bureau is not informed of your decision by **December 15, 2010**, then your name will be removed from the Newsletter mailing list. (This action, however, will not affect your Farm Bureau membership status.)

Fortunately, there are other, more cost effective, and convenient, options for you to receive the Newsletter. For instance, email is an excellent alternative. To utilize this option, on the attached card, please provide us with your email address. The Newsletter can then be delivered to you electronically, by email, in pdf format.

Another option that has been available for some time is the Howard County Farm Bureau website,

[www.howardfarmbureau.org](http://www.howardfarmbureau.org) where you can read, and even print out the current and some past issues. (Going to the web site actually makes the email option redundant.) The web version (and email) are quick, easy, economical options to access, saves a lot of paper, and are sometimes even in color.

We regret that we have to implement these changes. But, we have few alternatives if we are to continue publishing the County Farm Bureau Newsletter. **If you have any questions, please contact Merhlyn Barnes at (410) 489-4465 or Allan Bandel at (410) 489-7875.**

### **Potential Funding During Economic Difficulty: Federal Cost Share Programs**

by **Kristal McKormick,**  
**Howard Soil Conservation District**

Are you an agricultural operator? Would your operation benefit from best management practices? There may be cost share funds available to assist. Join us to learn the ins and outs of the federal cost share programs. Learn what practices may be available for funding and what you need to do to be eligible.

Two meetings will be held, each covering the same information. All are encouraged to attend. The meetings are free but registration is necessary.

Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center, Derwood. Registration at 6:15 pm with the meeting beginning promptly at 6:30 pm. To register, or if you have any questions, please call the Montgomery Soil Conservation District at (301) 590–2855.

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood. Registration is at 6:15 pm with the meeting beginning promptly at 6:30 pm. To register, or if you have any questions, please call the Howard Soil Conservation District at (410) 489–7987 or you may email [KristalMcCormick](mailto:KristalMcCormick@howardcountymd.gov) at, [kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov)

### **Corn Yields are Up, & Fertilizer Use is Down**

by **Allan Bandel, Newsletter Editor**

I really become irritated when I turn on the radio or a TV News program, or pick up the daily newspaper, and there find a prominently placed article highly critical of agriculture, specifically, blaming farming for being the largest contributor to the problems of the Chesapeake Bay. Sure, most of us have to agree that agriculture does contribute some to the Bay's pollution problems. We all contribute. And we need to accept that reality. But I question the accusation that agriculture is automatically the number one contributor of nutrients finding their way into the Bay and making it "sick". Unfortunately, this is the kind of questionable information that is often taught in our County Schools. (Just visit the science fairs in your local elementary schools.)

What is rarely ever mentioned is the fact that the agricultural community has been working diligently for years, for decades even, applying time-proven best management practices (BMPs) to the land in efforts to reduce costly, detrimental soil, water and nutrient runoff. And those efforts have been largely successful. Unfortunately, for the most part, these efforts have largely gone unnoticed and unheralded in the media.

But, according to a *Corner Post* article in the September 20, 2010 issue of *FB News*, an article based upon data supplied by *USDA* and *The Fertilizer Institute*, corn yields are significantly up and fertilizer use is significantly down. Quoting from that article, "The amount of fertilizer applied per bushel of corn produced continues to decline because of new technologies and practices. It is estimated that in 2005 (the most recent year for which fertilizer application data is available), U.S. farmers applied nearly 40 percent less nitrogen and 51 percent less phosphate per bushel of corn than was applied in 1980." It was also reported that potash applications (not considered a harmful bay pollutant) were down by almost 55 percent per bushel.

The article reported that total fertilizer used (million tons) declined by 10 percent while per acre corn yields increased by 62.6 percent. Quite a success story, in my opinion.

I bet that we won't see pro-agriculture information such as that reported in the printed media, or discussed favorably on radio or TV anytime soon.

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### **Guess What!**

#### **Another Important Program's Been Dropped by Maryland Extension**

According to an article in the October, 2010 issue of *Farm Notes* published by Carroll County Extension, the Maryland Extension Plant Nematology Diagnostic Laboratory closed in October.

Maryland residents requiring sample analysis for plant-parasitic nematodes will now be directed to submit their soil samples for nematode diagnostics to other out-of-state laboratories. Home gardeners should work with the Home and Garden Information Center (1-800-342-2507) or <http://www.hgic.umd.edu>.

The Delaware Plant Diagnostic Clinic and the Virginia Tech Nematode Assay Laboratory have both agreed to accept Maryland Extension nematode samples. Contact the Howard County Extension Office at (410) 313-2707 for information on how to submit samples.

First to go was Soil Testing, then the Plant Clinic, and now the Nematode Diagnostic Laboratory. Which important agriculturally oriented Extension program will be the next one slated for elimination?

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### **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Runs Amok**

by Jerry Brust  
UME IPM Vegetable Specialist

By now everyone has heard about the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys*,

that was accidentally introduced into the United States in shipping containers arriving from Asia. The first confirmed specimen was collected in Allentown, PA in October 2001, although there is evidence that it was collected from black light traps in New Jersey as early as 2000. Since becoming established in Pennsylvania, the BMSB has spread throughout the mid-Atlantic as far south as Virginia. It also has been found in several southern and Midwestern states.

The BMSB more than likely has a single generation per year in Maryland. Adults emerge from overwintering sites during late May through the beginning of June. They mate and lay eggs from June through August and probably into September. The eggs hatch into small black and red nymphs that go through five molts throughout July and August. Adults begin to show in mid-August. Their flights for overwintering sites start in mid-September and continue through October.

If you look at web sites that discuss BMSBs, many maintain that it is just a nuisance pest and mostly to home owners, but not to commercial fruit or vegetable growers. That has all changed this year. Fruits such as apple, peach, and raspberries have been attacked in western and to a lesser degree in north central Maryland. When BMSBs feed on apple they cause cat facing as well as deformation and internal brown spotting of peaches rendering all of the fruit unmarketable for fresh market. It also has been found feeding on sweet and field corn (where there is no kernel development), tomato (where there is fruit distortion and cloudy spot), pepper (fruit distortion and cloudy spot), and to a lesser degree on okra and sunflower in central and southern Maryland.

The damage from BMSB feeding is especially bad on some vegetables where it can deform the fruit more severely than other stink bug species. Whether this is due to greater amounts or different types of enzymes in its saliva is not known. The BMSB also seems to more readily introduce yeast contaminants into its feeding sites that further degrade the fruit. I have found some populations

of BMSB in almost every vegetable field I have looked at over the last few weeks. In most cases the pest is doing some damage, but not a great deal. The worst vegetables for damage appear to be tomato and pepper.

I do not know if BMSB populations will continue at these extraordinarily high levels in the next couple of years. We had a .perfect storm develop this summer for the Brown marmorated population to explode. We had a severe drought early in the summer along with extreme heat. These two factors literally dried up the usual wild plant hosts of not only BMSB but other pests as well and drove them into our fruit and vegetable fields. The dry weather appeared to be conducive to BMSB survival as their population exploded in August. We probably will not have these same conditions next year and will most likely not see these high populations again--hopefully. However, we just don't know enough to predict accurately what the situation will be in the coming years.

I, like many others, will be conducting studies next year to see if we can find some consistent strategies for their control (this will include organic treatments too). This pest is something we should be watching for in our vegetable fields and taking note of, but it should not cause panic.

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**Stink Bugs Becoming  
a Homeowner Nuisance  
and an Agricultural Menace**

**Annapolis, MD (Sept. 15, 2010)** – The brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), a native of Asia, is emerging as a major nuisance to homeowners and a devastating pest to orchardists and potentially to soybean growers in Maryland. Residents across Maryland are reporting large numbers of the insect in and around their homes and gardens and are seeking relief. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) recommends contacting the University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) to

learn more about the stink bug and ways to exclude them from buildings before contacting a licensed pest control company. Farmers will want to work with their University of Maryland Extension agents and crop advisors to devise strategies to control the stink bug and limit impact on other beneficial insects. The stink bug does not bite or sting and can't harm humans or homes.

These particular stink bugs are fairly new to Maryland and are making themselves known to residents and farmers in large numbers and in unpleasant ways, said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. While this is not a regulated pest for which MDA is able to run a control program, we do want to point people in the right direction for information and assistance. The University of Maryland Extension's Home and Garden Information Center is the best source of information for non-farming residents and backyard gardeners. While the University of Maryland Extension along with other research institutions are working to find solutions for farmers, there is currently no quick answer to control this new pest in agricultural settings. It is very trying for many farmers who have seen significant crop losses this year.

Native to Asia, the brown marmorated stink bug was first identified in Allentown, PA in 2001, though sightings may date back to 1996. Many sources of information maintain that it is just a nuisance pest and mostly to home owners, but not to commercial fruit or vegetable growers. That has all changed this year in Maryland with significant damage to commercial growers. It is a significant pest of fruit trees such as apples and peaches, and legumes such as soybeans, with extreme damage being reported in Western and Central Maryland orchards for the first time this year. Many backyard gardeners have noticed the stink bug on tomatoes, peppers, and raspberries for example. A number of tree species and ornamental plants also serve as hosts.

According to the UME HGIC, the brown marmorated stink bug adults emerge from overwintering sites during late May through the

beginning of June. They mate and lay eggs from June through August and probably into September. The eggs hatch into small black and red nymphs that go through five molts throughout July and August. Adults begin to show in mid-August. Their flights for overwintering sites start in mid-September and continue through October. The insects will start heading indoors to over winter as the weather cools.

For homeowners, the HGIC recommends preventing the insect from coming in the home by sealing up cracks with caulk, use weather stripping around doors and windows, remove window air conditioners, close all possible entry points. Once the insect is indoors, residents can vacuum them up and place in an outdoor trash receptacle. It should be noted that if many of them are squashed or pulled into a vacuum cleaner, their odor can be quite strong.

There are no chemical recommendations currently available for home use to control brown marmorated stink bug populations. Because these pests are so difficult to control, there have been situations in which pesticides not intended for residential applications have been improperly used or applied at greater rates than the label allows. While controlling these insects is challenging, consumers should never use, or allow anyone else to use, a pesticide indoors that is intended for outdoor use, as indicated on the label. Using the wrong pesticide or using it incorrectly can cause illness in people and pets. It can also make homes unsafe to live in – and may not solve the pest problem. For heavy infestations outdoors, contact a pest control professional.

***For more information, Homeowners and Gardeners should contact UMD Home and Garden Information Center; Farmers are referred to UMD Extension.***

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## **2011 Master Gardener Training**

### **Registration Is Open**

by **Georgia Eacker**  
**Master Gardener Coordinator**

Both new and experienced gardeners are invited to register for the Master Gardener Training Program offered by the University of Maryland Extension, Howard County Office. Training will cover plant, insect and disease problems, and a variety of other topics related to sustainable and environmental impacts of gardening practices.

Training is scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, January 26, 2011** to **Wednesday, March 30, 2011**. An orientation is scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011 from 10 a.m. – 12 Noon. Classes will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon on Mondays and Wednesdays at the University of Maryland Extension Office in Ellicott City. Cost of the training is **\$195.00**.

The mission of the Master Gardeners is to provide education to consumers; therefore, willingness to volunteer time is essential. Lack of hands-on experience in the garden should not deter potential applicants. Anyone with a keen interest in gardening - and especially those with other skills and interests, such as writing, graphics and computer knowledge - is encouraged to apply. The registration deadline is **December 17, 2010**. Class size is limited.

To receive a Master Gardener registration packet, call the University of Maryland Extension - Howard County office at 410-313-2707.

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### **4-H Participation Fee to Begin**

University of Maryland Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program begins a 4-H Participation Fee in 2011.

The challenging economic times our nation is in has directly affected the funding available to University of Maryland Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program. Substantial budget cuts over the past two years, and anticipated budget cuts this next year, have led to the need to institute a 4-H participation fee for all 4-H club members in Maryland. This fee will help ensure that Maryland 4-H can continue to be one of the leading youth development programs in our state.

Beginning with the 2011 4-H year, each youth club member will be required to pay a \$10 participation fee annually which equals \$0.83 cents per month. These funds will be used to sustain 4-H programming across the state of Maryland.

A statewide committee comprised of youth and adult volunteers, educators and administrators was assembled to work on the details of this plan and youth focus groups were held to work through the implications of the need to implement this new annual fee. University of Maryland's 4-H Youth Development Program is committed to continuing the long standing tradition of providing excellent 4-H programs for Maryland's youth.

A Frequently Asked Question document concerning the new fee is available. This document will more likely answer the majority of questions that people may have. However, several face to face sessions have been planned around the state of Maryland to provide opportunity for additional questions. Two of the sessions include call-in options. Pre-registration is required. The following information highlights some of the dates and locations.

November 13th at 2 pm. Wye Research & Educational Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive Queenstown, MD 21658-0169. (410) 827-8056. To register, click on the following link: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/seminars/Description.cfm?ID=130>

November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm. UMES, 2122 Richard A. Henson Center, Princess Anne, MD 21853 (410) 651-6206. To register, click on the following link: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/seminars/Description.cfm?ID=131>

Jeff W. Howard, Ph.D. University of Maryland Extension, Assistant Director, State 4-H Program Leader, 8020 Greenmead, College Park, MD 20740. (301) 314-7829 [jwhoward@umd.edu](mailto:jwhoward@umd.edu)

### **New Farmer Trainee Program**

Submitted by **Kathy Zimmerman**  
**Agricultural Marketing Specialist**  
**Howard County Economic**  
**Development Authority**

The New Farmer Trainee Program (NFTP), a program of the Maryland Agricultural Resource Council, is now accepting applicants for the 2011 training year.

The Program, started in 2008, is expanding its offerings this coming year. In addition to training opportunities in organic produce and viticulture, depending on funding and demand, we will be including trainee-ships in fruit and livestock production. Please help us to spread the word. Visit the following website to view an article and video [http://www.gazette.net/stories/09302010/uppenew162552\\_32538.php](http://www.gazette.net/stories/09302010/uppenew162552_32538.php).

To date the NFTP has trained or (is currently training) eleven farmers. Of the trainees, seven are currently farming in Maryland, one is looking for a management opportunity in viticulture, another is looking for a land opportunity (with inexpensive housing) for organic produce farming, and two who have moved out of the state to pursue non-farm opportunities.

Our graduates and trainees currently sell produce at several farmers markets around the Baltimore and

DC area and they also offer CSA memberships. We are particularly proud of the impact our new farmers are having on the city farms, nurturing not just the soil, but also the communities.

Stop by and visit our organic mentor farmers, Jack and Becky Gurley of Calvert's Gift Farm, at the new Baltimore County Farmers Market at the fairground entrance off York Road on Wednesdays between 2 and 6 pm. Visit one of Serpent's Ridge Vineyard events or stop by on Saturday or Sunday 11-5pm and say "hello" to our mentors Greg and Karen Lambrecht (see [www.serpentridge.com](http://www.serpentridge.com) for more details).

This year the NFTP workshops will be held at the new Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center on Shawan Road in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The eight sessions will be held in February and March and will be announced later. Sign up for your Extension Newsletter (410-771-1761 for Baltimore County) to keep up to date on local educational opportunities in farming. For more information on the workshops, workshop speakers, and instructions/desired qualifications for applicants, email Cathy Tipper at [crtipper@aol.com](mailto:crtipper@aol.com) or call 410-218-3620. Additional information can be found on [www.northcountypreservation.org](http://www.northcountypreservation.org) and [www.marylandagriculture.org](http://www.marylandagriculture.org).

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### **Trusting Yourself**

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

You set up a trust by agreeing with someone that they will manage some assets for the benefit of someone else. You are the "grantor." The person who agrees to manage your assets is the "trustee." The "someone else" is the "beneficiary."

In your living trust, you wear all three hats. You set up and manage the trust, for your own benefit during

your life, and you control the benefit to your loved ones at your death.

The stuff being managed – the "res" of the trust – has to be owned by the trust. Title to your property has to be transferred to yourself as trustee of your trust. This is accomplished in a process called "funding" the trust.

Funding a trust is not complicated, conceptually. It simply requires that you change ownership or beneficiary designations on insurances, retirement plans, and bank accounts; deeds to real property; and other titling mechanisms. Your attorney should explain the process and help you through it.

Running your trust after you have funded it is likewise a simple affair. The only difference is that, instead of acting in your individual capacity – "John Doe" – you would act in your capacity as trustee – "John Doe, Trustee of the John Doe Trust" or "John Doe, T'ee." This doesn't mean that you have to sign your name that way all the time. It just means that you have to make it clear that the asset is owned by the trust and that you are acting as trustee. That way, the trust will be respected at your death.

During your life, the trust does not have a separate tax identification number. You use your own social security number. Because you can revoke the trust – make it go away – the IRS considers you and your trust indistinguishable.

When you die, the assets owned in the trust are not subject to probate, the process for proving the validity of wills and governing the distribution of property. The successor trustee of your trust – the person whom you have selected to manage your trust at your death – simply manages the assets according to your directions in the trust document. This might mean distribution to loved ones, or it



might mean holding assets for their benefit, until they reach a responsible age.

Just as you had to act in your capacity as trustee during your life, even so your successor trustee must maintain the clear separation between his or her separate assets and the trust. Trust assets emphatically do not belong to the trustee individually. They belong to the trustee, in trust for the benefit of the beneficiaries. The trustee's duty to put the interests of the beneficiaries before his or her own interests - "fiduciary" duty – has been called the highest duty known to law, and is enforceable by the beneficiaries.

After your death (or the death of the survivor of joint grantors such as a married couple setting up a joint trust), the trust does have its own tax identification number, files its own tax returns, and holds its own investments. As long as the trust is in existence, which might be a very long or very short time, the trust property must be maintained separately from the individual property of the trustee and beneficiaries, and must be administered, distributed and held for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Because setting up a trust is the only way or the best way to accomplish many goals, such as providing for minor children at the death of their parents or providing for disabled beneficiaries, many of the author's clients have done so, as has the author. Consult with your planning professional to determine whether it is best for you.

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### **And Then? There Was Halloween!**

by Allan Bandel

Back in the late 1940s and early 1950s, my brother and I were still far too young, and completely innocent bystanders of course, to become personally involved with some of the Halloween pranks carried out in our farming community. So, we were never

accused of being among the guilty culprits behind some of the more notable pranks that were carried out at the expense of a few of our neighbors on Halloween night. We were just young kids then, pre-teenagers, but eager onlookers, nevertheless.

It never failed to be exciting for us to eagerly pile into the family car with our parents the morning after Halloween night, and travel up and down the county road past our place to see just what kind of mischief might have been levied upon some of our less fortunate neighbors the previous evening. Trees decorated with rolls of toilet paper and dented mailboxes were not an uncommon sight. But for some reason, and to our vast relief, our property was rarely targeted specifically for serious Halloween trickery in those days.

However, for some perplexing reason, the nearby farm of one of our neighbors always seemed to be a favorite target and always took the brunt of the local Halloween "tricks". If this neighboring farmer had unhusked corn stalks tied in neat shocks, for instance, still standing in long rows in his field by the county road, then you could almost bet with a high degree of certainty that one or more of those shocks would be found standing in the middle of the road, partially blocking traffic, the next morning. Luckily, county road traffic was very sparse in those days. Thus, the chances of a serious traffic accident occurring because of an unexpected corn shock or two piled in the middle of the road was rather minimal.

Another frequent target was this same neighbor's family car, a 1930's vintage Chevrolet two-door sedan. One post-Halloween morning, their car, which the night before was left parked, hopefully safely, in the farm lane beside, and very close to their large white frame farmhouse, was nowhere to be seen. After several hours of frantic searching, our neighbor's two young children eventually discovered their family car, stuck up to its hub caps in a poorly drained, swampy area, far

down the hill in the back cow pasture. The car was found partially hidden from view among the tall shrubby bushes growing there. The unknown Halloween “spooks” had very quietly and carefully pushed the car away from the house sometime during the “wee witching” hours of Halloween night, then escaped the scene completely undetected.

On another occasion, early the morning after Halloween night, this same neighbor again, a dairyman, as most of our neighbors were back then, ventured out to the barn as was his routine, to start his morning chores, milking his herd of dairy cows. But, the three stainless steel milking machine buckets that he had just used the evening before, and so carefully sanitized and stashed away, had mysteriously disappeared from their normal storage racks in the dairy adjacent to the barn. Again, after a long and frantic search, while the cows waited patiently in their stanchions, he finally uncovered his three bright shiny milking machine pails carefully hidden away under a pile of hay bales in the top of his overhead mow.

This particular neighbor wasn’t the only nearby family to receive unwelcome attention on Halloween eve. An elderly, and very popular couple, who owned and lived in the rear of a small general store in the community, were also regularly targeted. Back in those days, few people had yet installed modern indoor plumbing. A favorite prank was to upset, and sometimes physically move this couple’s outdoor privy to a new location. The outhouse was sometimes discovered some distance away from its normal location. What a surprise and spectacle for this elderly couple the next morning when their normal routine was interrupted.

Back again to our often-targeted dairy farmer neighbor. He happened to be a jolly sort of fellow who probably was not above pulling some of the same kinds of Halloween stunts himself at one time or another, especially during his youth. He really appreciated a good joke and a laugh. And this might

have been one of the major reasons why his farm was so often targeted.

It was also pretty well accepted that most everyone in the neighborhood suspected who the alleged guilty pranksters actually were. There really wasn’t much doubt about who was responsible for the “jokes” being played on this upstanding and well liked farm family.

Most of the alleged pranksters, our neighbor knew quite well, sometimes visiting and chatting with them regularly in church on Sunday or having a friendly bottle of pop with them at one of the nearby country stores. There was typically a lot of good natured joking between them throughout the year. But when Halloween arrived each year, these teen-aged young men just felt compelled to plan another stunt, usually something memorable.

When Halloween arrived, it would have just not been normal to not “hit” their friend’s farm once more. Perhaps one of the factors that fueled their desire for action was that they knew that they would most surely get some kind of a reaction out of the “victim”.

There were a couple of times though, that the intended “victim” had prepared a reception for his tormentors well ahead of time. It was during one of these events that he really did get a chance to “even the score”, if by just a little bit. One Halloween, for example, with a little outside help, our farmer friend quietly and patiently laid in wait and caught the pranksters in the act. He rounded them up, herded them into his old family car, and drove them several miles away from his farm, where he released them along a dirt, gravel road where, if they were to get back home anytime soon, they had to walk home, without their shoes.

Another Halloween night, this time with a little help from one of his big brawny and athletic relatives, he “captured” all of the surprised

pranksters and confined them temporarily in his then empty, little round metal silo-like corn crib. To finish the job, he took his heavy-duty electric cow clippers off the shelf, and one by one, he led them out of the corn crib. Finding a convenient spot where he could plug in his clippers, he casually clipped off most of their carefully groomed hair. Those guys sure looked funny until their hair grew back.

Following the hair clipping incident, it was rumored that one of the “boy’s” mothers was so incensed over this “unreasonable act of cruelty” against her dear “innocent” son that she threatened to hire an attorney and file legal action against that “awful” cruel neighbor who had wielded the cow clippers. But the cooler, more rational thinking father of the “boy” prevailed when he reminded his upset wife that “if they (the boys) had not been out there that evening, getting into Halloween mischief, then they wouldn’t have been caught and they wouldn’t have had their hair clipped.”

And that was the end of that exciting episode.... until the next year, of course, when Halloween night rolled around again, and for certain, several clever new pranks were going to be “cooked up”

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**On-Line Membership**  
**Processing is Now “LIVE”**

by **Mel Hollingsworth, Administrator**  
**Maryland Farm Bureau**  
**(410) 922-3426**

The long awaited and much anticipated on-line membership processing is finally here. **We went live today – Monday, September 20, 2010.** Now anyone can go to the Maryland Farm Bureau website and **join** our organization with a valid credit card. Likewise current members can go to the website and **renew** their membership, eliminating the need to

mail in the renewal notice with a check. Renewing members will need their membership number.

When you have a minute check out this new feature. Just go to [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com) and click on “Become a Member Today” in the top right hand corner. If you have questions or comments please contact us.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2010**

- Nov 3     **Maryland Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 10:00 am to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Nov 4     **Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Annual Banquet and Auction.**
- Nov 5-6   **Small Farm Conference.** UMES, Richard Henson Center, Princess Anne, MD. Contact: (410) 651-6206 or [bloggers@umes.edu](mailto:bloggers@umes.edu)
- Nov 6     **Lambco Processing Plant Field Day.** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, 722 Green Valley Road, New Windsor, MD.
- Nov 11    **Annual Banquet, Howard County Farm Bureau.** 7:00 pm. Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall. Lisbon, MD. Contact: Merhlyn Barnes no later than November 4, 2010 at (410) 489-4465.
- Nov 23    **Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

- Dec 1 **Potential Federal Cost Share Funding During Economic Difficulty.** Registration at 6:15 pm, Meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Agricultural History Farm Park Activity Center, Derwood, MD.
- Dec 2 – **Farmer Training & Certification - Nutrient Management Plan Writing.** Multiple daytime classes & exam. 9:30 to 4:30 pm. Wye Research & Education Center. Information: (410) 841-5959.
- Dec 5-7 **Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel,** Ocean City, MD
- Dec 9 **Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Dec 14 **Potential Federal Cost Share Funding During Economic Difficulty.** Registration at 6:15 pm, Meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Gary J. Arthur Community Center, Glenwood, MD.
- Dec 14 **Maryland Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Dec 17 **Pest Management Conference.** Howard Community College, Columbia, MD. Contact: Suzanne Klick, (301) 596-9413.

**2011**

- Jan 13 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am, Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.
- Feb 9 **Maryland Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 22 **Crops Meeting.** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Mar 1 **Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training.** 10:00 am to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.
- Mar 8 **Private Pesticide Applicator Exam.** 10:00 am to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Contact: (410) 386-2760.

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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.

# Maryland Farm Bureau

A Farmer - to Farmer Agricultural Commodity Marketing Service through  
Maryland Farm Bureau Service Company and Florida Farm Bureau.

\*Florida Citrus is thinner skinned than others,  
giving a more edible product.  
\*Fruit must be kept cool.



**Order Deadline: December 1, 2010**

**Please Make Check Payable To:**

**Howard County Farm Bureau**

send to: 1878 Woodbine Road  
Woodbine, MD 21797

Attn: Merhlyn Barnes  
**410-489-4465**

## DELIVERY WEEK OF December 13-17

"FLORIDA'S BEST"	Price	Quantity	Amount
Navel Oranges- 4/5 bushel	\$21.00		
Red Grapefruit-4/5 bushel	\$21.00		
Tangerines (Sunburst) 2/5 bushel	\$18.00		
Tangelos <b>DECEMBER ONLY</b>	\$20.00		
Premium Variety Pack (8 Navel Oranges, 6 Red Grapefruit, 4 Red Delicious Apples, 4 D'Anjou Pears)	\$18.00		
Orange Juice Concentrate 24/12 oz cans	\$43.00		
Peanut Gift Pack (3 can pack, 6 gift packs per case)	52.00/10.00 per pack		
Mixed Nuts (50% Peanuts) 12/1lb cans	57.00/6.00 per can		
Shelled Pecan Halves 12/1 lb. Pkgs	86.00/7.50 per bag		
Chocolate Covered Pecans 12/1 lb. Pkgs	86.00/7.50 per bag		
Honey Roasted Pecans 12/8.5 oz cans	59.00/5.25 per can		
Whole Cashews 12/1lb cans	80.00/7.00 per can		
Skinless Peanuts 12/17.5 oz cans	36.00/3.75 per can		
Roasted Almonds 12/9 oz cans	38.00/4.00 per can		
Brittle Bites 12/12oz cans	35.00/3.25 per can		
Honey Krunch Peanuts 12/12 oz cans	32.00/3.25 per can		
<b>TOTALS</b>			
<b>NAME:</b>	<b>PHONE:</b>		
<b>ADDRESS:</b>			