

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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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

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, November 8, 2012** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Ross Peddicord, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board. Some of the duties of the MHIB include stable licensing, promoting use and development of horses in Maryland, support research on equine health, developing and disseminating information on the equine industry, and advising MDA regarding matters affecting the horse industry in Maryland.

As usual, the breakfast on November 8th will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about Maryland's horse industry. So, bring your spouse, and/or a friend, your questions and concerns. Enjoy the food and fellowship, and plan to take advantage of this important, timely, exchange of information.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program will start at 8:30 and end at approximately 9:00 a.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Tuesday, November 6** by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-

3455. The cost of the breakfast remains at \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **November 8th**, at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The President's Message

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

Well, how about this weather? We have been so lucky to end the summer and go into the harvest with some of the most favorable weather since last spring. Everyone is asking me what the forecast is for the winter. I can only answer that the weather forecasters have trouble predicting what it will be for the next three days. So, I think that we will get what we get. We can handle it, we always have.

We tried our best to get the details of the election of our District Directors worked out only to be confronted by a "brick wall" right at the end. In an effort to be in compliance with the State by-laws, we will have to wait on a critical definition to be interpreted by the State Board before we can go forward. No one is more disappointed than I am. But, we will continue to do our best with the situation at hand.

I hope that the Director issue will be quickly resolved so that I can update you at our Annual Dinner on the 8th of November. We will be electing

six new County Farm Bureau Board members and a slate of officers at that meeting. So, I hope that all of you can be there to welcome these people to their new positions. Also, I hope that you will thank the directors who are retiring for doing such a great job for us all.

Speaking of elections, I would encourage everyone to get out and vote in the upcoming Presidential Election. In these trying times we need to continue to show an interest in who we elect. The outcome may not always be the way we want it to be, but at least if you vote you can say you were a part of history. Just knowing that you did your part by exercising your valuable freedom to vote, is a great reason to be proud of this country that we live in. Not everywhere do people have that right. So, be thankful and take advantage of what this country has to offer.

With the fall harvest beginning to come to an end, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving soon and then it's on to Christmas. It's a time to take a look back at all the things you and your family and friends have accomplished over the past year, and then look forward to next year, to try and do even better.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! And an even better Happy New Year! So as I always try to remind you, "keep your plow in the ground. We're all pulling for you"

Ho Co Farm Bureau presents....

by **Annette Fleishell,**

Howard County Farm Bureau Women

...participants and winners in the 2012 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau and Future Howard County Farmer contests. These outstanding young people were chosen to receive their respective honors on Sunday, August 5, 2012 at the 67th Annual Howard County Fair.



Miss Howard County Farm Bureau 2012 Molly Ousborne – 16, from Clarksville

Molly is in the 11th grade at River Hill High School, a member of Spur and Stirrup 4-H Club, and was our very first "Little Miss" in 2006. She is in the National Honor Society, on the River Hill Lacrosse and Equestrian teams, and Captain of the Field Hockey Team. Horses are her love, and Molly belongs to the US Pony Club, gives horse lessons to younger 4-H club members, and is on the Nationals Polocrosse team. She aspires to be a large animal veterinarian and specialize in horses.

Competition was stiff for the title with two other very competent contestants, Lindsay Chatkewitz, 16 from Glenelg; and Meredith Pecukonis, 16 from Glenwood.



It was also an exciting and fun contest for our **2012 Future Farmer, Mark Chaney**, 11 from Union Bridge; and **2012 Little Miss, Rebecca Herriotts**, 11 from Glenwood.

There were five other contestants for Little Miss: Makenzie Hereth 10 from Woodbine; Miranda Iager 11, from Woodbine; Grace Meyer, 9 from Ellicott City; Kelly Spicer 10, of Ijamsville; and Breanne Yencha, 10 of Sykesville.

There were three other contestants for Future Farmer: Matthew Pysh, 9 from West friendship; Karl Watkins, 10 from Damascus; and Michael Yencha, 9 of Sykesville.

The Farm Bureau Women are proud of all these “Young Farmers”.

Fall Fertilizer Nitrogen for Wheat Yes or No?

Many Maryland farmers plant wheat following either corn or soybean. University of Maryland Extension’s recommendation for fall fertilizer nitrogen (N) use at wheat planting is 0 - 30 lb/acre. The need for fall fertilizer N is dependent on the amount of residual soil nitrate that is present following harvest of corn or soybean.

For more information how to utilize the wheat fall nitrate-N soil test (WFNT), the results of which can be used as a decision-making tool for determining the need (or lack thereof) for fall fertilizer N on wheat, please contact the nutrient management consultant in your local University of Maryland County Extension office.

Maryland’s Nutrient Management Regulations

New Regulations Took Effect *October 15, 2012*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 5, 2012) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced that the *Final Notice to Adopt* its revised nutrient management regulations is published in the October 5, 2012, issue of the *Maryland Register*. The regulations will take effect October 15, 2012. They are designed to achieve consistency in the way all sources of nutrients are managed and help Maryland meet nitrogen and phosphorus reduction goals spelled out in its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The final regulations include one technical, non-substantive change in the provision that refers to nutrient application setbacks and the department’s consideration of new practices developed by the USDA’s National Resources Conservation Service and the University of Maryland. MDA revised the provision to add “and other land grant universities”.

To read the Final Notice to Adopt, visit the *M a r y l a n d R e g i s t e r* : <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDRegister/mdregister.aspx>. A copy of the final regulations is available on MDA's website : <http://www.mda.maryland.gov/pdf/finalnmregs.pdf>.

A Frequently Asked Questions document is available online at : www.mda.maryland.gov/pdf/nmfaq.pdf.

The Nutrient Management Advisory Committee has been working on the revised regulations for nearly two years. The new rules were originally introduced last October; however, due to overwhelming feedback, Governor Martin O'Malley asked that the proposed regulations be placed on hold to provide an additional opportunity for stakeholders to further discuss the proposal as well as input from his BayStat Scientific Panel. The regulations were revised and published in the Maryland Register on June 29. MDA then held a series of four public meetings across the state in July to provide information to farmers, environmental interests, local governments and other stakeholders on the proposed changes to Maryland's Nutrient Management Regulations and offer an opportunity for public comment.

Established in 1998 to develop and refine regulations and requirements for Maryland's Nutrient Management Program, the 16-member Nutrient Management Advisory Committee includes representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, MDA, University of Maryland, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Farm Bureau, Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, commercial lawn care companies, the biosolids industry, as well as local governments and the state legislature.

Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training **“Getting to Know Your Soils”**

Multiple Dates, Multiple Locations
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Course Description. Soils are one of your most important assets. Without soil, you can't grow your plants. So taking care of your soils is essential to your business success.

University of Maryland Extension educator Dr. Andrew Ristvey has customized the original Nutrient Applicator Voucher program to meet the needs of **in-ground nursery** operators. You'll be able to interact with the instructor to better understand how soils are managed to make the most of the applied nutrients.

- Learn to evaluate your soils
- Understand why and how nutrients are made available in soils
- Learn how to interpret a soils test and understand what amendments will do for you
- And more...

Cost & Registration. The program is free, but advanced registration is required. To register or for more information contact Debby Dant at (410) 827-8056 X115 or ddant@umd.edu

Who Should Attend. This is an advanced session for in-ground nursery growers who need an Applicator Voucher (necessary for 10+ acre nurseries that do not have an in-house certified Nutrient Consultant or Operator) or to those that need nutrient management credits to maintain certification. Attendance at this workshop awards 3 continuing education hours for Nutrient Applicator Voucher renewal or Maryland Nutrient Management Certification.

Dates and Locations. Each program will be from 1:00 to 4 pm

- November 13th 2012 – Wye Research and Education Center

- November 27th - University of Maryland Extension (UME) Baltimore County Office
- December 4th - University of MD Extension Montgomery County Office.

Does your nursery operation encompass 10 or more acres of growing (bed) area? If so, someone in the operation must have an MDA nutrient applicator voucher or certification by law. A minimum of two hours of training every 3 years is required to renew the voucher.

For more information about Maryland's Nutrient Management Law, follow the Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Program link on the Web at www.mda.state.md.us or call 410-841-5959.

November 2012 Ballot Questions

Del. Gail Bates

I recommend voting against Questions 4, 5, 6, & 7

DREAM ACT Question 4.

The bill passed the General Assembly in April 2011, and opponents launched a signature drive to put it before voters. The law would allow some illegal immigrants (who were brought here as children) to pay in-state tuition to attend state colleges, providing they graduated from a Maryland high school and first attended community college. *Note* - Parents or guardians are required to file Maryland State Income Tax Returns, not required to pay Maryland Tax. There is no requirement to confirm with the Comptroller that Maryland Income Tax Returns were filed.

Fiscal Note. Under the current statutory formula, general fund expenditures increase by at least \$778,400. This amount increases in future years as more students qualify for resident tuition. By fiscal 2016, the additional general fund expenditures resulting from the bill may exceed \$3.5 million.

A visa student does not receive the same financial benefit as the illegal immigrant.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.

Question 5.

Gov. Martin O'Malley and the General Assembly, as required by the U.S. Constitution, adjusted congressional district boundaries in light of 2010 Census. Critics say O'Malley and the Democrats designed districts to give themselves a political advantage, and in doing so diluted the voting power of African Americans and Hispanics.

Notable Quotes

- **Maryland congressional districts may be most gerrymandered in nation** - headline from the *Maryland Reporter*, December 29, 2011.

- **Maryland should reconsider its redistricting** headline from the *Washington Post*, September 5, 2012. - The map is so ludicrously drawn - and so crassly gerrymandered - that one critic, Montgomery County Councilman Phil Andrews, said the map of the Third Congressional District "looks like blood spatter from a crime scene rather than a congressional district."

- **Maryland is among "the top 5 Ugliest Districts: Partisan Gerrymandering 101."** *Roll Call Newspaper* online, November 10, 2011.

- U.S. Circuit Judge Paul V. Niemeyer described the 3rd Congressional District as a "broken-winged pterodactyl, lying prostrate across the center of the state."

- U.S. Circuit Judge Roger W. Titus called the state's map a "Rorschach-like eyesore."

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE Question 6.

The General Assembly legalized same-sex marriage earlier this year. This law amended a portion of Maryland's Family Law Article that stated that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in this state. Now, it reads, "Only a marriage between two individuals who are not otherwise prohibited from marrying is valid in this state." This change

was made to allow same-sex couples to be married in Maryland.

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Same-sex marriage is legal in the District of Columbia (2010) and five other states: Connecticut (2008); Iowa (2009); Vermont (2009); New Hampshire (2010); and New York (2011). In February, the Washington state legislature passed legislation which was signed by the Governor to legalize same-sex marriage. Forty-one states have laws that either prohibit same-sex marriages or deny recognition of same-sex marriages solemnized in another jurisdiction.

Thirty states have adopted constitutional amendments defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Same-sex marriage has failed in every state in which it has been put before the voters as a referendum.

GAMING EXPANSION, Question 7. Contingent on passage of the referendum:

- Authorizes a video lottery operation license to be awarded for a video lottery facility within Prince George's County;
- Increases from 15,000 to 16,500 the maximum number of video lottery terminals (VLTs) that may be authorized;
- Alters the distribution of VLT proceeds;
- Authorizes a video lottery licensee to offer table games;
- Provides for the distribution of revenues from table games and from a facility located in Prince George's County;
- Authorizes VLT facilities to operate 24 hours per day;

NOTE: The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily always reflect the views of the Howard County Farm Bureau.

Pet Trusts

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

“Who will take care of Polly 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.”

When our pets might outlive us, these questions are more than academic. Owners of exotic birds, horses and reptiles – whose life expectancies can rival or even exceed those of humans - should face these issues as part of their estate plan.

One option is 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.

Maryland has joined 39 other states in providing a more secure legal solution. 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, visit your attorney to be sure your estate plan comports with the law.

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.

...and Saturday Night? that was Bath Night!!

by Allan Bandel

Growing up in rural Howard County, I have long considered that the less complicated country environment provided me with some uniquely rich early-life experiences. Although I may not have much appreciated their value at the time, to have lived through that exceptional era undoubtedly exposed me to priceless experiences that I would have otherwise missed. Had I grown up in a more urban setting, I would have missed out on living through that unequalled country way of life, some of which continues to influence me even today.

In my youth, for instance, there were many lessons taken from just watching animal behavior. Most folks, for example, agree that dairy cows are notorious “creatures of habit”. This may not have been so strikingly noticeable to me back then because we were all so close to our farm animals. They were part of our everyday environment. It was not until years later when I was older that I had opportunity to reflect on a lifetime of these personal “growing up” experiences. It was then that I came to realize that in many ways, many of the habits of rural folks are similar to those of our farm’s gentle bovines. Like cows, we too are quite the creatures of habit.

It occurred to me that during the 1940s and 1950s at least, life on the farm revolved around creating a fixed order, or a set routine, in the way that everyday chores were organized, especially those activities of a more domestic nature. Just as depicted in one of those familiar old childhood nursery rhymes, Mondays were always set aside for washing the laundry. Logically, it followed then that Tuesdays were usually reserved for ironing and putting away the freshly laundered items from the day before. My mother usually reserved Wednesdays for shopping, or for attending her club meetings. And so it proceeded throughout the week, just like clockwork, only to be repeated , sometimes

with minor variations perhaps, in each and every week thereafter.

If on any given day there was no calendar handy and you were temporarily uncertain as to what day of the week it might be, around most rural households, there was no need for a calendar just to keep track. All that was needed was to observe what weekly domestic chores were underway on that particular day. Then you would know, with a very small margin of error perhaps, just what day of the week it had to be. Elaborating further on this theme, let's consider some of the other routines and see how they usually relate to specific days of the week.

According to the calendar, we know that Sunday is the first day of the week. At our house, Sundays were always set aside as a day of worship and quiet rest. The day was reserved primarily for attending church and Sunday School. Following church, if our family wasn't invited to a friend's house for a visit and to enjoy the Sunday mid-day meal, or if we were not ourselves entertaining the preacher and his family, or some neighbors and relatives, all family members were expected to be as quiet as possible and to not disturb the restful Sunday afternoon atmosphere. It was a Day of Rest.

Sundays had other restrictions. Any eating out always took place near mid-day. The twice daily milking of the cows and tending to the chickens on a morning and evening schedule never varied. These chores did not go away simply because it was Sunday. And remember, the farm animals are creatures of habit. They do not know any differently. So, their natural schedules had to be adhered to with minimum variation.

Other than milking the cows and caring for the other animals, no other farm work was permitted on Sunday. If we chose (heaven forbid) to do something physical, such as baling hay and storing it in the barn on Sunday, the pre-ordained weekly "Day of Rest", then we automatically were obsessed with a heightened level of guilt. From our youngest age, we had been indoctrinated with the

concept that no good could ever come from such a sacrilegious act. We just accepted as pre-ordained that a major disaster was inevitable as punishment. If lightening didn't strike the barn, burning it to the ground, then spontaneous combustion in the hay would surely do the trick. The outcome would be the same. The barn and its contents were henceforth at high risk.

We were all so confident of this notion that it wasn't until the 1960s and 1970s that we finally acquired enough courage to risk the "wrath of God" and harvest a crop on Sunday, after church of course. When no major disaster resulted after the deed was done, we then concluded that He must not be a vindictive God after all and that He must actually be a very forgiving God. We rationalized then that perhaps He recognizes that not all of Man's weaknesses are sinful, that after a stressful hard week's work off the farm, activities such as baling hay or combining wheat is an acceptable form of rest and relaxation, even if carried out on a Sunday afternoon during His Day of Rest and even if physical activity was required. Perhaps it was actually a little bit of both.

Back to the 1940s, and that weekly routine, every Monday morning, the ladies at our house (my mother and grandmother) began the day by heating large quantities of water on the wood-burning kitchen stove in preparation for washing the week's accumulated laundry. Before one of those modern electric washing machines equipped with a wringer attachment arrived at our house, washday duties meant expending lots of strenuous, back-breaking energy. These hard working ladies spent most of the day bent over one of several large square galvanized metal washtubs filled with warm soapy water. To reduce the bending and to ease some of the stress on their weary backs, the heavy washtubs were elevated on sturdy 18-inch high homemade wooden benches. Regardless of the weather, this routine always took place out-of-doors, usually on the somewhat protected south-facing back porch of our house.

Modern laundry detergents such as those we use

today were not available back then. And had they been available, it is unlikely that they would have been affordable. To help loosen the dirt and grime, and to facilitate its removal from the clothes, they often made their own soap, a harsh home-made lye concoction. It was an economical by-product of the family hog butchering process in which lard was combined with lye. The lye was obtained by leaching water through wood ashes that had been saved from the firebox of the kitchen cook stove.

To assist in cleaning the soiled clothes, a corrugated metal washboard would be propped at an angle against the side of one of those square washtubs. The previously soaked clothes were then rubbed repeatedly by hand, across the smooth metal corrugations. When at last satisfied that the dirt had been satisfactorily loosened, the laundry was transferred to a second washtub. This tub contained clean water for rinsing out the soap and loosened grime. Sometimes, the rinse water even had a little “bluing” added to make the bed sheets, linens and white shirts look just a little bit whiter.

Finally, water was “wrung out” of the wet laundry, twisting it firmly in a “rope” with both hands. It was then left up to Mother Nature to take the final step, drying. The garments were hung out on long wire clotheslines stretched out across the back yard. The individual pieces were secured on the sturdy smooth wire line with wooden clothes pins. The “clothes wire” had to be cleaned first by sliding a dampened cloth along its entire length lest the wire leave a dirty streak on the freshly cleaned laundry. Completing the laundry usually required most of all day Monday, providing, of course, that the weather cooperated and it didn’t rain, snow, or turn freezing cold and windy.

Eventually, some of the washday work became a little less stressful with arrival of one of those remarkable new electric, wringer-equipped, washing machines. This helpful device, purchased out of the Montgomery Ward mail order catalogue, featured a big round tub equipped with an agitator in the center, much like the top-loading automatic clothes washers of today. The agitator, using a

brisk back and forth circular motion, stirred the clothes in the tub of soapy water to loosen the dirt. But, the job was still not done. There were usually a couple of additional washtubs arranged close by on wood benches, one for pre-soaking the laundry, and another closer to the washing machine which contained the clean rinse water.

After the clothes had been soaked and agitated in the machine, they were fed slowly, by hand, through the washer’s wringer mechanism. The wringer, consisting of two counter-rotating hard rubber rollers, pressed the water out of the fabric as each piece was passed through.

Occasionally, instead of passing flawlessly through the wringer rollers as designed, a rogue piece of laundry might wrap around one of the rollers instead. The laundress would have to be constantly on the alert for this problem and be prepared to stop the rollers. The problem could sometimes be solved by briefly reversing the rollers’ direction of rotation. If this tactic did not solve the problem, then the reluctant piece of laundry had to be carefully unwound and pulled free after releasing the heavy-duty spring tension that held the rollers tightly against one another. The troublesome piece of laundry was then removed manually. Finally, since the troublesome laundry was still soaking wet, it had to be re-inserted between the rollers to press out the water.

After all of the laundry had passed through the wringer and had fallen into the tub of rinse water, the whole process with the wringer was repeated, this time to remove the rinse water. Finally, the clean laundry was hung outdoors on a line to air dry. Care had to be taken to assure that the clothes line was adequately supported with sturdy poles to carry the weight of the heavy wet laundry. It wouldn’t do to allow the cleaned laundry to become soiled by touching the ground. It was not until the early 1950s that we purchased our first modern automatic washing machine in which we did not have to contend with all of those heavy tubs of water, the sometimes contrary wringer rollers, and the back-breaking labor. Even then, the clothes still

had to be hung out-of-doors for drying. The electric clothes dryer didn't make its appearance at our house until the early 1960s.

As the week progressed, Tuesdays were reserved for completing any laundry chores that could not be finished on Monday. Typically, whatever was washed and dried on Monday, had to be ironed, folded, and stored away on Tuesday. Shirts, pants, tea towels, bed sheets, etc., they all had to be ironed. Permanent press? What was that? There were even special metal stretchers commercially available that could be inserted into still wet freshly laundered trouser legs so that when finally dry, the semblance of a sharp crease would be formed. This simple device saved much valuable time by eliminating the need for ironing trousers.

By Wednesday, if all had gone well the first of the week, then my mother used the day to shop, mostly for groceries, and often at the little A&P store on Frederick Road in Catonsville, or at the modern Acme supermarket across Frederick Road from the Doughnut Corporation mill in Ellicott City. If needed, we might also take time to visit a shoe store for a pair of new ones, or maybe stop by John Votta's shoe repair shop on Main Street to get new soles or heels on a pair of older ones. For a treat, we might shop awhile at Woolworth's Five and Dime in Catonsville, or wherever else we might need to go to obtain other necessities not available on the farm.

One or two Wednesdays each month were set aside by neighborhood women to attend daytime club meetings, such as the Glenelg Homemaker's Club, the Westwood Methodist Church W.S.C.S. (Women's Society of Christian Service), etc. But there really wasn't much free time available for casually sitting around with friends to enjoy gossiping over a cup of coffee.

Thursdays were reserved for routine weekly chores around the homestead, like gardening or mowing the lawn in the spring and summer. These tasks were not nearly as easy back then as they are today. In the early days, we did not have the luxury of a

power lawn mower or a motorized roto-tiller for cultivating the garden.

After the planting was done, the garden jobs were mostly all related to hand hoeing and hand weeding, jobs that we kids despised. Occasionally, Dad would hitch our big old work horse to a small one-row walk-behind garden cultivator for that job.

The lawn was mowed with a small reel-type push mower. These chores were not among our favorites and seemed to take forever. We were always looking for an easier way to get through these chores. Sometimes, if a weaned dairy calf was available, we would fasten the unlucky animal to a steel fence post with a long rope or a light chain attached to a leather collar around the animal's neck, or to a halter, if we had one. This arrangement allowed the calf to graze its way in ever widening circles across the lawn. This method certainly didn't produce as neat and tidy a mowing job as desired on well-manicured lawns today. But, letting the calf graze its way across the front lawn was far easier for us than pushing that dreaded little hand mower. And the calf was automatically being fed as he/she "mowed" the grass.

Mother and many of her friends usually reserved Fridays for house cleaning. Sweeping, mopping and dusting were a never-ending task for my mother and grandmother because of our constant "tracking" into the house of outside grime. Using wood to fuel the cook stove and to heat the house also brought in lots of dust and dirt. A newspaper article (2010) indicated that the average modern house accumulates more than 40 pounds of dust every year. It had to have been a lot more than that for a farm house back in the early and mid-20th century. So, for the sake of good health, regular house cleaning had to be an ongoing requirement.

We really looked forward to Saturday mornings around our house. This is when Mother always did her baking for the week. Usually, she baked batches of bread, both as tasty Parker House rolls and as hefty loaves with a crisp brown crust. Because we couldn't afford it very often, store-bought sliced

bread was considered a luxury. Today though, it's the homemade bread that we look forward to the most because it is the real treat. We just didn't realize how great her bread really was until many years later. In addition to the bread, sometimes, she would also treat us to freshly baked "sticky" buns covered with sugary icing, or apple and cherry pies. There could also be a selection to be made from various kinds of frosted cakes that we could look forward to at the end of the day. These culinary delights often lasted well into the following week.

And finally, hard as it might be to imagine now that we are well into the 21st century, Saturday night was considered by most country folks to be the traditional weekly night for taking a bath. Many present day folks who did not experience that earlier era, find it difficult to believe now that most country folks did not take more than one bath a week back then, unless of course, there was a public meeting to attend in which poor hygiene would have been readily noticeable and undoubtedly very offensive to others. Remember, back in the early 1940s, very few farm homes had the luxury of a bathtub or a shower, or hot running water. There was no such thing as a "quick shower". So, before modern indoor plumbing was installed, including a bathroom, preparing for the weekly bath was a major operation. For some, that bath was a major luxury.

Before drawing the wrong conclusions about country folks avoiding a daily bath, a weekly bath does not seem so bad compared to bathing in medieval times. Historical accounts tell us that in medieval days, and even in considerably more recent years, folks regarded bathing to be unhealthy, a good way to catch "the chills", sicken, and perhaps even die prematurely. It was accepted that many folks, including royalty, only chose to bathe twice a year, once in the spring after the weather had warmed up and once again in the fall just before cold wintry weather returned. (Wow! The six-months-old royal BO must have been pretty overwhelming.)

Before the Bandels' new bathroom was installed in

the early 1940's, there was no modern bathtub or shower in our house. Usually, the adults had to be content with a sponge bath using a washbasin placed on a stand in some convenient, private corner of the house. But, in the case of us little kids, a scant couple inches of warm water heated on the wood cookstove was poured into one of our square laundry tubs that had been placed in the middle of the linoleum-covered kitchen floor. Most of these inconveniences disappeared after bathrooms began to appear in rural homes. But, in spite of some folks, even until recent years, continuing to deny that the weekly bath was more the norm than the exception, I can assure you that before the modern bathroom became a reality, for many farm families, the Saturday night bath ritual represented the "big one" for the week.

Of course, in the interest of acceptable personal hygiene, there had to be some personal body cleansings during the week. Many routine farm jobs were carried out under unfavorable, even malodorous conditions. Although this routine may seem gross by today's standards, until recent years, Saturday night was for many rural families, the **big night** for baths. Historically, and out of consideration for family and friends, folks were expected to "freshen up" before Sunday and not have an annoying "air" about them when associating with friends.

We didn't give much thought back in those days to the existence of these fairly regularly occurring weekly routines that had quietly developed over the course of time. It was just that – routine. Everyone followed basically the same schedule. The routine didn't seem all that unusual to us. But looking back now at how "systematically" we all lived during those more simplistic times, it becomes obvious that, like those gentle old dairy cows contentedly chewing their cuds, while they followed the same single file path across the hillside pastures, or realizing without anyone actually coming for them that it was time for them to file into the barn for milking (or more likely, to be fed), what interesting "creatures of habit" we human beings had also become.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2012

- Nov 7 **Women in Dairy 2012 Conference.** From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Best Western Premier, Central Hotel and Convention Center, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. See page 3 for more details.
- Nov 8 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship MD. For information, see article on page 1.
- Nov 8 **Annual Banquet, Howard County Farm Bureau.** 7:00 pm, Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. Contact: Merhlyn Barnes no later than November 1 at (410) 489-4465.
- Nov 9 **Basket Bingo.** Fundraiser for the Living Farm Heritage Museum. Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall. Doors open at 5:30 pm. First game starts at 7:00 pm. Information: call (410) 489-2345 or check website www.farmheritage.org.
- Nov 13 **Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training.** 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Wye Research and Education Center. Information: refer to Newsletter page 4.
- Nov 13-15
Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School. Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Individuals seeking advanced training in soil and water, soil fertility, crop production and pest management will have an opportunity at hands on, intensive sessions that also provide continuing education units (CEU's) for the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Program. You may also register on line at: https://crayola.hcs.udel.edu/conf/registration/crop_management
- Nov 14 **Delaware Ornamental and Turf**
- Workshop.** Hockessin, DE 19707. Contact: (888) 448-1203.
- Nov 27 **Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training.** 1:00 to 4:00 pm. University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County Office. Information: refer to Newsletter page 4.
- Dec 4 **Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training.** 1:00 to 4:00 pm. University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County Office. Information: refer to Newsletter page 4.
- Dec 6 **Northern Maryland Field Crops Day.** Friendly Farms Restaurant, Upperco, MD. Cost: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information, Contact the Baltimore County Extension Office at (410) 771-1761.
- Dec 13 **Pest Management Conference.** Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD.
- Jan 10 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship MD.
- Feb 13 **Eastern Shore Pesticide Conference.** The Fountains, Salisbury, MD. Contact: Ginny Rosenkranz, (410) 749-6141.
- Feb 14-15
Chesapeake Green: A Horticulture Symposium. Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD.
- Feb 23 **Maryland Christmas Tree Association Winter Meeting.** Friendly Farms Restaurant, Upperco, MD. Contact: Wilma Muir, (410) 452-9793.
- * * * * *
- [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.*



***2012 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Molly Ousborne (left)
and her court,
Miss Lindsay Chatkewitz (center) and Miss Meredith Pecukonis (right)***

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: Order Form must be returned by **NOVEMBER 28, 2012.**

Please Make Check Payable to: Howard County Farm Bureau
Send to: Attn: Merhlyn Barnes (410-489-4465)
1878 Woodbine Road
Woodbine, MD 21797

DELIVERY WEEK OF DECEMBER 10TH-14TH - HOWARD CO. FAIRGROUNDS

	Price	Quantity	Amount
Oranges - Navel - 4/5 bushel	\$23.00	_____	_____
Grapefruit - Red - 4/5 bushel	\$21.00	_____	_____
Juice Oranges (Hamlin) 4/5 bushel	\$20.00	_____	_____
Tangerines (Sunburst) 2/5 bushel	\$18.00	_____	_____
Premium Variety Pack - 2/5 bushel (8 navel oranges, 6 red Grapefruit, 4 red delicious apples, 4 D'Anjou Pears)	\$19.00	_____	_____
Tangelos - 4/5 bushel	\$20.00	_____	_____
Orange Juice Concentrate 24/12 oz. cans	Case \$46.50	_____	_____
Brittle Bites 12 oz can (Peanut Brittle)	\$4/can	_____	_____
Lightly Salted Skinless Peanuts 16 oz. can	\$4.50/can	_____	_____
Honey Krunch Peanuts 12 oz. can	\$4/can	_____	_____
Shelled Pecan Halves 12 oz. bag	\$8/bag	_____	_____
Chocolate Covered Pecans 12 oz. bag	\$8/bag	_____	_____
Peanut Gift Pack, 1 can ea.(Brittle Bites, Honey Krunch Redskin Peanuts)	\$11/pack	_____	_____
Mixed Nuts (peanuts, cashews, almonds, brazils, etc.) 1 lb.can	\$6/can	_____	_____
Select Whole Cashews 1 lb. can	\$8/can	_____	_____

TOTALS **#Items** _____ **\$** _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____