NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast

by **Maura Cahill,**
Breakfast Program Coordinator

The next Howard County Agri-Business **"Breakfast for Dinner"** will occur on **Wednesday, November 19, 2014** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Dining Hall of the Howard County Fairgrounds. Remember to mark this new date on your calendar and plan to join us. Also, be sure to note that this event is currently scheduled as an **EVENING** event!!

The program for this "Breakfast" meeting will be a showing of the documentary film **"FARMLAND"**. It's about agriculture in the United States. The goal of the film is to help "bridge the gap" between food producers and consumers. Most Americans have never set foot on a farm or a ranch, or even talked to the people who actually raise the food that we eat. This film, funded by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, focuses on the lives and experiences of six farmers in their 20s who describe their experiences farming and ranching with modern agricultural practices. Some of the controversial topics discussed include genetically modified crops, antibiotics in animal feeds and treatment of farm animals.

As customary, "breakfast" will be served at 7:00 p.m. and the program is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Monday, November 17th** 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 program normally concludes by 8:00 p.m. We hope to see you on Wednesday, **November 19** at the next Howard County Agri-Business "Breakfast for Dinner".

Message to Members

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

As I write this article, we have all become increasingly busy with getting those last minute jobs done that help us prepare our farms for the cold winter months ahead. Here at Merry Acres Farm, we have been draining those hoses and waterlines that will not be needed when the weather turns cold and that might freeze. Some members of the ag

community may soon be installing plastic sheets over some of their loose-fitting windows, or perhaps they will be adding small pieces of insulation to those openings that tend to let cold air in.

We are also working hard to finish up our harvesting and bringing in those last few fields of corn and soybeans. We're moving the horses and cattle into our winter lots closer to the barns, and ordering a winter supply of that expensive propane and fuel oil.

The days on the calendar are now rapidly moving closer to Thanksgiving. It's that time of the year when we count our blessings and make plans to bring the family together for a big traditional dinner and then head right into making our plans for Christmas.

We should also take time to reflect on all the changes that have taken place over the past year. Some families have rejoiced as weddings took place. Some have witnessed the miracle of children and/or grandchildren being born into the world. Sadly though, some families have lost loved ones that the Lord took home way to early (in our opinion). We all know that He looks at the big picture and we only see through our small windows of the world.

We will be having our 2nd "Breakfast for Dinner" on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. Our first such scheduled "breakfast" was held this past September with, in spite of having an excellent speaker, only about 22 people were present. We are hoping that for future "breakfasts" we will be able to attract greater attendance, especially since we will have more free time then after our outside work slows down.

For our next "Breakfast", which will be on November 19th, Maura Cahill, our Breakfast Program Coordinator, has arranged for a showing of the approximately 44 minute version of the documentary movie entitled *FARMLAND*. So, I hope that you will make plans to attend for this presentation, a very interesting and timely movie.

I also hope to see everyone at our Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Banquet on the 13th of November at 7 p.m. in the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company social hall. This is a very important annual event since this is the time set aside to hold our annual election of officers and directors. It is always good to see everyone, especially at this event.

In other business, the special Mulch Task Force has been meeting quite often to try to get that controversial situation ready for fall legislation. I hope that after all of their work is complete it will produce a favorable outcome for everyone. We need to hold on to our ability to maintain our farms' right to make compost. Most importantly, we need to be able to keep our farms economically sustainable as the need for diversity comes along.

And finally, I have been asked to announce that this will be the last issue of the Howard County Farm Bureau Newsletter in which Allan Bandel will be serving as editor. He has decided to step aside after 19 years and doing a great job as editor. He first took on that job (temporarily, he thought) in 1996 when Ron Cashdollar was serving as President. Since then, there have been three more county presidents (Phil Jones, Charlie Feaga, and now me).

I can't tell you how enjoyable it has been to read the information he assembled, especially some of the stories he published in the Newsletter about his life growing up in rural

Howard County. I find many of them easy for me to relate to since we were close neighbors for many years. I well remember some of the characters in the stories that he has frequently written about.

Allan usually improved my *"Message to Members"* articles by correcting my grammar and rearranging some of my sentences so that you can better understand the points that I was trying to convey. I want to wish him well as I know you all will too. Take care, Allan, and "thanks for putting some of your memories" in print to share with the rest of us. Perhaps we can prevail upon you occasionally in the future to share a few more of those stories with us.

Well, until the next Newsletter, I hope that all of you experience a bountiful harvest and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs are Back

by: Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

[From: University of Maryland Extension TPM/IPM Weekly Report of October 3, 2014.]

On Saturday, September 27, while working in my orchard, I noticed some adult brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) feeding on some of my late maturing Asian pear varieties. There were not many, just 3 or 4 adults, at most, on over 350 trees.

When I broke for lunch I noticed adult BMSB on my farmhouse exterior walls, in my barn and on a light colored car. The interesting thing is that we have been monitoring for them all season long in the orchard using pheromone traps and never had more than a couple show up at any one time during the season. Suddenly, they showed up this weekend.

I called Jerry Faulring, Waverly Farm, to see if there was any activity in Frederick. He said he was seeing adults on Friday and Saturday in their office and around his house. They were not in huge numbers like we saw three years ago, but the adults are back and hanging out on the sides of buildings. Brian Scheck, Maxalea, Inc., also reported that stink bugs were out in huge numbers in Timonium on Saturday, September 27.

Ed Rhone, Rhone's Plants&Scapes, Chambersburg, PA, reports that it had been a quiet fall in 2013 and spring of 2014 regarding BMSB, but there has been a massive explosion in the farmlands around central Franklin County, PA last week. Ed noted that about 70% of the corn is harvested and after the cool rainy day on September 25 followed by a period of above average temperatures, high numbers of bugs have literally come out of the woods and fields this week.

With the bright sunny days and cool nights the adults BMSB are scouting out sites to overwinter. If you see large numbers hanging out in your area, please send me an email at sgill@umd.edu or call me at 410-868-9400. We are trying to keep track of where potential outbreak sites might occur. Thanks.

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Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Update

by: Stanton Gill

[From: University of Maryland Extension TPM/IPM Weekly Report of October 10, 2014.]

Last week I requested emails on brown marmorated stink bug adult activity in Maryland. Thanks to all who responded to our request. We had reports of activity in Fallston (Anne Arundel County), Hampstead (Carroll County), Adamstown (Frederick County), Silver Spring (Montgomery County), Reisterstown (Baltimore County) and Keedysville (Washington County).

We received no reported activity on the Eastern Shore or in Southern Maryland. When the cold weather came on Saturday and Sunday the adult BMSB activity dropped to almost nothing, but as it warmed up on Monday we started finding adults active on our building at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Clarksville. They (the BMSB) are present, but fortunately not at the levels we saw 3 years ago.

Soil: More Than Dirt

by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS**
District Conservationist
Howard SCD

Soil – most of us don't think about it, though we are walking, running, working, and playing on top of it every day. We see the fields of corn and soybeans or the freshly mowed lawns without understanding that below the surface an army of activity occurs.

Most people call it dirt including country singers, Florida-Georgia Line, in their recent hit. But DIRT is that stuff one cleans off their hands or from their clothes. SOIL is more than dirt. It is a living, dynamic system of interactions involving biology and chemistry that is a primary key to life on Earth.

A little bit about that soil we take for granted. The time to form an inch of soil is about 500 years. Christopher Columbus was around about then, claiming some soil for Spain. There are about 1000 tons in the top 6 inches of soil per acre. This topsoil is the vital part of the soil in which plants can grow, so it is important to keep it. Many soils can lose 3 to 5 tons per acre per year and still remain productive. Five tons of soil per acre is the thickness of a dime over that acre. The loss of topsoil has been one of we humans major miscalculations over the years – witness our history, such as the Dust Bowl,

In a gram of fertile soil, there are about 1 billion bacteria hanging out. There can also be many miles of fungi in an ounce of fertile soil. Studies have estimated that all animal life in an acre of soil (not counting groundhogs) adds up to 5 to 10 tons. Earthworms alone can be 100 to 1000 pounds worth on this acre. There are also protozoa, nematodes, and arthropods. With so many soil organisms, imagine the genetic diversity beneath our feet!

What are all these critters doing in the soil? They are eating away at organic material and becoming organic material themselves. As they chomp, they help to release essential nutrients into the soil, which will be more readily available for plant use. Thus, a great recycling mission is occurring!

The soil organisms support other aspects of soil health. They improve or maintain soil structure, thus preventing erosion, improving water infiltration, and increasing water

availability. There are many beneficial soil organisms in a healthy soil that fight the bad guys, thus protecting plants from disease. Other microorganisms improve water quality through buffering or degrading pollutants.

So, the next time you are romping over the landscape, take time to reflect on and respect the living, symbiotic ecosystem working below your feet. The soil – for food, feed, fiber, and fun.

More information about the biology of soil can be found on the USDA Natural Resources web site – *www.nrcs.usda.gov*.

Fall 2014 Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training: BMPs and Technology to Increase Efficiency

A Fall 2014 Nursery Nutrient Management Program will be given by University of Maryland Extension, designed for nursery owners/operators, certified nutrient management consultants, operators, and certified nutrient applicators.

This program will offer 3 hours of MDA approved Nutrient Management Continuing Education Credits or Voucher Credits.

The program will be offered on three separate dates at three locations from 9 am to 12 pm:

November 6th, Wye Research and Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658.

November 12th, Montgomery County Extension Office, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855.

November 25th, Baltimore County Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

The program is free, but advanced registration is required. For more information and to pre-register, please contact Debby Dant at 410-827-8056 or *ddant@umd.edu*

Probate: The Good, The Bad ...

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

Probate. The word has achieved a Dickensian notoriety conjuring up greedy lawyers, helpless widows and children, and unscrupulous creditors. The avoidance of probate is now a cottage industry, carried on in the back offices of lawyers and financial planners.

But the problems with probate are the problems with wealth transmission, not with the process itself. Yes, probate can be trying, expensive and time-consuming. But it can also be seamless, orderly and efficient. The difference lies in the people involved and the assets administered, not the process itself.

This writer's clients have three objections to probate, if they have any at all. First, all of your affairs become public record. The contents of your will, the list of your assets and the identity of your beneficiaries are all on file in the courthouse, for all to read. It's all public record. That fact alone makes some of this writer's clients want to avoid probate no matter what the cost.

Second, probate takes time. The estate has to remain open for a minimum of six months.

While there is no prohibition against distribution before that time, your Personal Representative is personally liable for any debts that cannot be paid due to early distribution. For that reason, many Personal Representatives are hesitant to make distribution before all debts, taxes and liabilities are known.

Third, probate can be expensive. While the costs of probate itself – court costs, appraisal fees and accountant fees – are generally not exorbitant, the costs of hiring legal counsel to shepherd the Personal Representative through the process can be high. Sometimes that is because the process is unusually difficult; sometimes that is because the Personal Representative doesn't know any better. Choose your attorney with care.

Probate does bring with it some benefits, often downplayed by strident "living trust" and "annuity" advocates. First, probate can shorten the "statute of limitations" for presentation of debts. A debt of or claim against you must be presented within certain time limitations in order to be enforceable. These time limits – called the "statute of limitations" - can run up to twelve years. By the filing of probate and sending notice of opening your estate to your creditors, your executor can sometimes shorten that deadline to two months from the date notice is sent.

Second, probate can provide needed supervision and protection of your estate plan if your family or creditors are likely to be contentious, overbearing, or unscrupulous. If you know that your children distrust each other – or your children hate your second spouse and your stepchildren – the Register of Wills or the court can impartially supervise administration of the estate according to the terms of your will. The fact that all dealings of the estate become public record can ameliorate the suspicion and disharmony that often accompanies estate administration. Appointing as executor a professional such as an attorney or accountant, or a trusted impartial friend, can ensure that the estate administration is likewise unbiased.

Third, a will is the only mechanism whereby you can name a guardian for your children in the State of Maryland. The appointment of the guardian named in your will be presumed to be in the best interests of your children, and anyone contesting this appointment must overcome high hurdles to defeat your selection.

There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to estate planning. Discuss these matters with your attorney and choose the tools best for your situation.

Moldboard Plows: Some of the Styles We Used

by **Allan Bandel**

By early 1940, the Bandel family's team of draft horses had been retired, literally, and "put out to pasture." It soon followed that Dad's old vintage, now nearly totally worn out, single-bottom **walking plow** was also retired and parked out of the way in a fairly secluded, but nearby, fence row.

Subsequently, by 1940, our horses and mules had been replaced by a shiny new John Deere model "B" All-Fuel, row crop tractor. From that time on, a variety of moldboard plows found their way onto the Bandel farm. From an old steel-wheeled trailer plow with two 12-inch bottoms, about all that the "B" could handle, to an integrally mounted three-point-hitch, three-bottom plow that cut a 48-inch swath behind

our much larger model "U-302" Minneapolis-Moline tractor many years later. The plows were all different, yet they possessed many basic similarities. Each plow was uniquely suited to handle the job for which it was designed.

A typical, antique, horse-drawn walking plow.

As the years passed, we owned many different brands and models of moldboard plows. **Chisel plows** were not on the list because they did not fit into our tillage practices at the time. Although a **semi-mounted moldboard plow** might have been suitable, we never acquired one because of their unique configuration. In addition to requiring a special hitch, most models carried four or five bottoms, a load that required significantly more horsepower than delivered by any of our tractors.

And finally, because they were largely unknown in this part of the country, we never considered a **disk plow** either. These plows were designed more for sticky gumbo soils, soils that did not easily "scour" off of a moldboard. The disk plow blades rotated as they moved along the furrow. This action helped to break up these unique soils. Subsequently, they also required more horsepower than did moldboard plows. One of our neighbors tried one briefly, but after a short time, he became dissatisfied with it and returned it to the previous owner.

One uniquely different type of moldboard plow that we "experimented" with briefly was a **two-way plow**. A very specialized plow, we soon discovered that the model we had purchased was not well suited for our needs. Subsequently, after just one season, we parked it permanently. This special-purpose plow was a rather primitive John Deere single-bottom model **"B-3"**consisting of two 18-inch bottoms, one that turned the furrow to the left, the other to the right. Thus, only one of those two bottoms was in the ground at any given time. Its plowing capacity was the same as that of a single-bottom plow. Using it was time-consuming, and much too inefficient when a large acreage had to be plowed.

The two-way plow had a unique design advantage though. At the end of the furrow, the tractor could be turned completely around (180 degrees) and guided back along the furrow just plowed. The second bottom, the one designed to turn the furrow in the opposite direction, was then put to use.

When Dad purchased this brand new integrally mounted two-way plow, he put it on our 1951 John Deere model "B" tractor. He acquired this unique plow primarily because one of our more sloping fields was somewhat more rolling than was considered desirable. This presented some more serious soil management problems. This field was more vulnerable to soil erosion unless it was managed more aggressively.

Being very conservation-minded, Dad decided that in order to cultivate this field with minimum soil erosion, it should be plowed in only one direction, i.e. – across

the slope. And the furrow should always be turned up hill. This feat could not be accomplished efficiently with a conventional one-way plow, unless plowing was done only when moving in one direction. This was a very inefficient method since the tractor and plow had to be returned to the starting point each time with the plow out of the ground. If plowed in both directions across the slope using a conventional one-way plow, then the furrow would have been turned up-slope in one direction and down-slope in the other.

By turning the soil only up-slope, Dad reasoned that this would reduce net soil movement down-slope. It would also eliminate the creation of potentially problematic"dead furrows" or "back furrows" in the center of the field.

An early John Deere model B-3, 18-inch, integral two-way plow mounted on a vintage un-styled, John Deere model "B" tractor equipped with a "modern" hydraulic lift.

This model of plow presented some other logistical problems. When attached to the tractor, the plow was permanently bolted to the tractor's frame. Subsequently, attaching, then removing the plow from the tractor was a slow, laborious process. There were no *"Quick-Tach"* pins for instance, to speed up the job. Once the plow was on the tractor, that tractor was essentially dedicated full-time to plowing and was unsuitable for most other jobs, even for simply pulling a hay wagon.

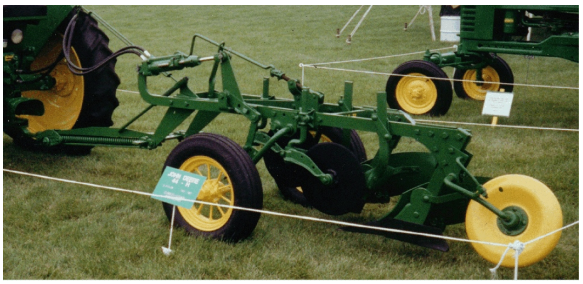
The two plow bottoms extended well behind the tractor's rear wheels, far enough that they interfered with hitching to other drawn implements. The interference was especially problematic when turning. And of course, the mounted plow also rendered the tractor useless for mowing or cultivating corn, two of the basic jobs for which that tractor had always normally been used.

Belatedly, we also discovered that the design of our two-way plow had been around for many years. It was not dissimilar to the **Model No. 1** two-way plow that John Deere originally offered for its model "GP" tractors back in the early 1930's. Our plow was a slightly later version, the **Model B-3**. Consequently, after plowing that sloping field for only one season, and then plowing a few modestly sized garden plots for neighbors, the two-way plow was removed from the tractor, parked permanently under a big maple tree near the barn, and never turned another furrow.

Although it did work quite well, this plow turned out to be quite an expensive learning experience for us. Had one of the newer model two-way plows been available at the time, one that could be easily hitched and unhitched from the tractor, then I suspect that

it would have been used for many years and not found its way so quickly to the junk pile.

In 1948, our larger John Deere model "A" tractor became our main plow tractor. With it, we pulled a succession of old-style, steel-wheeled trailer-type two-bottom plows, all equipped with a mechanical lift and two 14-inch bottoms. This was about all the load that the "A" could manage on some of our heavier clay-type soils, especially when turning an old established alfalfa sod.



John Deere Model 44-H two-bottom plow.

The last plow that we teamed with the "A" was a rubber-tired John Deere model **44-H,** again equipped with two 14-inch bottoms. It was our first plow that was raised and lowered with the modern, largely effortless convenience of a remote hydraulic cylinder.

When a new John Deere model 620 tractor arrived on our farm in 1956, replacing the "A", we continued using the relatively modern 2-bottom **No. 44-H** truss-frame trailer-type plow. While the model "A" tractor found this plow to be a full load much of the time, the larger, more powerful 620 tractor pulled it with ease. With 15 more horsepower than the "A", the 620 just seemed to "loaf" along pulling those two 14-inch plow bottoms.

Consequently, instead of continuing to plow in 2nd gear as we had always done with the "A", impatience soon prevailed, and we shifted the 620 up a gear, to 3rd. Plowing now at a much faster pace, the soil literally flew off the ends of those patented cast iron, chilled Syracuse moldboards. The newly plowed furrows neatly overlapped the previous furrows, resulting in a really great-looking plowing job!

But it soon became obvious that our older model **44-H** plow was simply not designed to be pulled at such a high rate of speed, especially when it encountered an immovable underground object. Occasionally, with the 620, if a hidden boulder was encountered, the force of collision would either break off the point on that brittle cast iron share, or even "twist" the share completely off of the plow. The cast iron shares were held in place by a single "eye" bolt that engaged a hook on the back of the share. Very little force was needed to twist the share completely off of the plow's worn support structure. This left the share buried somewhere beneath the new furrow.

The problem of the lost or broken plow share usually went unnoticed until the plow came out of the ground at the end of the field. The missing share was, for all practical purposes then, buried "forever". Without a metal detector, we were unlikely to find that missing share that day. Each time a share was lost, we had no choice but to return to the shop and install another of those expensive new shares.

After several new shares had been installed one day, Dad became annoyed with all the time being lost while replacing shares, not to mention the rapidly mounting cost of those

lost plow shares. Rather than argue about plowing at a little slower ground speed, he decided that "in the long run" it might be best if he tried "Plan B". So, he called the John Deere dealer about the availability of a new plow, a larger one that was matched more appropriately to the power of the 620 tractor. Fortunately, the dealer had one in stock.

When I came in from the field the next time, for another new share, we unhitched the old two-bottom plow, and Dad sent me to the JD dealership to fetch a new 3-point hitch model. The new plow had three high speed 14-inch bottoms. Dad believed that if we were to continue plowing without forcing the farm into early bankruptcy from replacing so many expensive new plow shares before they were worn out, then he had better find a way to get the new more powerful 620 tractor hitched to a larger plow, one with enough resistance to slow that bigger tractor down a bit.

The new 3-bottom 3-point-hitch plow was a John Deere **model F-45**. It was of a truss frame design and each bottom was equipped with a spring-loaded safety release. If one or more of the bottoms encountered a hidden, immovable underground object, spring tension allowed the affected plow bottom to "trip" out of the way before the impact damaged the plow. When a bottom tripped, the tractor was stopped, shifted into reverse and backed up briefly until the tripped bottom snapped back into plowing position. In a few seconds, about as fast as changing gears from forward to reverse and back again, the plow was re-set and ready to go again.

Acquiring this new plow increased our plowing efficiency and ended the frequent loss of plow shares before they were worn out. The new **F-45** plow was equipped with high speed steel shares instead of the older cast iron ones. The newer steel shares were attached with three short plow bolts instead of the single "I" bolt and were much more resistant to breakage than the old cast iron variety.

Another important improvement on the 620 tractor was that it was equipped with a relatively new concept, a ***Universal 3-point hitch***. This meant that the plow was attached integrally to the tractor. Unlike the old-style trailer-type plows, the 3-point hitch enabled the tractor's rear wheels to substitute for the trailer plow's two front wheels. This innovative design resulted in the transference of much of the plow's weight to the tractor's drive wheels thereby providing additional traction without weighting the tractor down excessively with additional wheel weights.

There was another unique feature on the 620, an option that John Deere referred to as its exclusive **"*Load-and-Depth Control*"**. This feature enabled the tractor's *Universal 3-point hitch*, through its hydraulic system, to sense changes in plow depth and draft load on the tractor. Once set, the *"Load-and-Depth Control*" sensed if plow depth was drifting deeper than the pre-set level. It automatically held the plow to its previously set depth. Conversely, the *"Load and Depth"* sensor allowed the plow to sink deeper if plow depth had drifted shallower than the pre-set level.

The system established a delicate balance between tractor load and plow depth. Ideally, it would be best if the plow could always operate at a constant depth which would

provide a constant load on the tractor. But, with varying soil conditions and uneven ground, this would normally be an almost impossible goal to achieve. The "*Load-and-Depth Control*" automatically balanced these two factors.

Under more dense soil conditions where the load on the tractor increased, then plow depth was automatically decreased, reducing load and shifting more of the plow weight to the drive wheels. Without this compensation, if the plow started running too deep, the tractor might become stuck or even stall without downshifting to a lower gear. Under less dense soil conditions, plow depth was allowed to increase to the previously set level. The system also automatically compensated for surface irregularities which might have otherwise altered plow load and depth.

Coupled now with the ease of power steering, a more powerful engine, better hydraulics, and the exclusive "*Load-and-Depth Control*", by the 1960s, most of the heavy physical exertion once associated with moldboard plowing was either eliminated or significantly reduced.

Our last plow was a John Deere **Model F-125**. It had three 16-inch bottoms. It was an integral 3-point hitch model equipped with safety-trip standards like the F-45. It also featured a heavy welded box-beam truss frame that provided more ground clearance than any of our previous older models. The increased clearance was an advantage when turning under trashy residues such as old, unshredded corn stalks. Without the extra clearance, some older model plows frequently "plugged up" under these adverse field conditions.

The F-125 was a very nice, easy to use plow. But, we did experience one unusual, yet easy to correct down-side with it. This John Deere plow was not 100 percent compatible with our largest plow tractor, by then the 55-horsepower Minneapolis-Moline model "U-302". Even though this tractor was not equipped with the more sophisticated "*Load-and-Depth Control*" feature like the JD 620, it had several more horsepower than the 620 and larger rear tires. With a torque amplifier (TA), we could effortlessly shift gears on-the-go without using the clutch. Coupled to a five-speed transmission, it offered 10 speeds forward and two reverse gears. So, the *"Minny-Mo"* became our primary plow tractor.

But, we soon discovered a compatibility problem between the JD plow and the M-M tractor. In order for the JD F-125 plow and the M-M tractor to work properly together though, some modifications had to be made in how the tractor and the plow were attached. Having experienced this problem before, J. David Mullinix, our local M-M dealer, personally customized the plow's central 3-point hitch post by adding 6 to 8 inches to its height. He left the original center-link ball in place at its original height for those random occasions in which we chose to plow with the JD 620 instead of with the Minneapolis-Moline U-302.

The Mullinix dealership also installed an integral four-foot-width *Midwest* brand spring-tooth harrow on this plow. This unique harrow featured a row of heavy-duty spring-loaded rake-like teeth that were designed to break up and level any soil clods left by the moldboards as the furrows were turned. This handy tool saved time by eliminating the need for an additional post-plowing tillage trip across the field during

seed bed preparation.
By the time that we had worked our way through these numerous different styles and advancements in moldboard plows, from the near-primitive to the most modern at the time, the practice of moldboard plowing had become less and less popular in Maryland as farmers became more familiar with, and began adopting the newer, more efficient and up-to-date, no-tillage crop production practices.

Although occasionally still used today, but to a much more limited extent than forty or fifty years ago, many perfectly good moldboard plows were eventually destined for a parking spot under a remote shade tree, or out of the way by a fence row. The exclusive plow-tillage era in this part of the country had mostly ended by the early 1980s.

We now tend to relegate examples of the moldboard plow by displaying them at farm museums or for demonstrations at public competitive "plow days". It's important that current and future generations who have become more distanced from their agricultural heritage, be reminded of the "old ways". Hopefully, they will not forget the basics and the importance of how soil preparation was once accomplished by their hard working Howard County forebears.

Calendar of Events

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Nov 5 **Nutrient Applicators Voucher Training/Recertification.** 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Exam November 13 at 10 a.m. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

Nov 6 **Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training.** Wye Research and Education Center. *[See article for details.]*

Nov 7, 14, 21
Agricultural Entrepreneurial Business Plan Course. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Register by November 4, 2013. For information: call (410) 386-2760.

Nov 12 **Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training.** Montgomery County Extension Office. *[See article for details.]*

Nov 13 **Annual Banquet, Howard County Farm Bureau.** 7:00 p.m., Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall, Lisbon, MD. RSVP by 11/3. Contact: Leslie Bauer, Secretary, at (410) 531-6261, or email at *labauer5@verizon.net*

Nov 13 **Private Applicator Certification Training.** 10 to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Contact: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Nov 19 **Howard County Agri-Business "Breakfast-for-Dinner".** 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD. ***PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED DATE & TIME OF DAY!!***

Nov 20 **Private Applicator Certification Exam.** 10 to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Contact: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Nov 25 **Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training.** Baltimore County Extension Office. *[See article for details.]*

Nov 20 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 10 to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Contact: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Dec 5 **Carroll/Baltimore Field Crops Day.** 8:30 to 3:30 p.m., Friendly Farms, Upperco, MD. Will count towards Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification. More information to follow.

Dec 6-8 **Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers Retreat.** Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD.

Dec 8-10 **Maryland Farm Bureau Convention.** Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD.

Dec 11 **Northern Maryland Field Crops Day.** 8:15 to 3:30 p.m.. Friendly Farms, 17434 Foreston Rd., Upperco, MD. Cost is $15 ahead of time or $25 at the door. Call to register at 410-771-1761 or email *eblake@amd.edu*.

*** * * 2015 * * ***

Jan 12-15 **American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Convention.** San Antonio, TX.

Jan 14 **Nutrient Management Voucher Training.** 6 to 8 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call 410-386-2760 to register.

Jan 22 **Howard County Agri-Business "Breakfast-for-Dinner".** 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, Fairground Road, West Friendship, MD. ***PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED DATE & TIME OF DAY!!***

Jan 23 **Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting.** 8 to 3:30 p.m.. Friendly Farms, 17434 Foreston Rd., Upperco, MD. Cost is $15 ahead of time or $25 at the door. Call to register at 410-771-1761 or email *eblake@amd.edu*.

Feb 5 **Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training.** 10 to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD

21157. Call: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Feb 12 **Private Applicator Certification Exam.** 10 to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Contact: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Feb 12 **Private Pesticide Applicator Test.** 10 to noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Contact: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Feb 28 **2015 Maryland Dairy Convention.** Francis Scott Key Mall Holiday Inn, Frederick, MD.

Mar 4 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 6 to 8 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Call: (410) 386-2760 to register.

Mar 11 **Nutrient Management Voucher Training.** 6 to 8 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD, Call 410-386-2760 to register.

Oct 03 **AGNR Open House.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., University of MD Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Clarksville Facility. 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. For information: visit *www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu*

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

Farmer Training & Certification

Where: University of Maryland Howard County Extension Office, 3300 N. Ridge Rd, Suite 240, Elllicott City, MD (410-313-2707

When: December 2, 4, 11 & 16, 2014 from 5:30-9 p.m.

Cost: $20

Farmer Training & Certification (FTC) workshops are designed for producers who are interested in becoming certified to write nutrient management plans for their own operations. The training consists of two sessions on December 4 & 16, 2014; December 11 exam; and December 16 plan writing. All sessions are 5:30-9p.m.

During the first part of the training, producers learn the fundamentals of nutrient management planning and have the opportunity to work through a model nutrient management plan. Take home study materials are given to help in preparation for the nutrient management certification exam, which is held several weeks later.

After passing the exam, producers use detailed information specific to their operation (such as farm size, farm map(s), soil and manure analysis results) to write a nutrient management plan for their own operation. Upon completion of the plan, producers are certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture as certified farm operators (CFOs).

FARMER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION
Winter 2014-2015
"Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan"

The Farmer Training and Certification course provides an opportunity for farmers to learn how to write nutrient management plans for their own operations. As a producer, you have firsthand knowledge of your own crops, animals, and equipment. Who better to write your nutrient management plan than you? This course will teach you how to do it!

You will receive:

- **A comprehensive training binder** – the training binder will be used during the class, serve as a reference during the exam, and as a valuable resource when you write future plans for your operation.
- **Certification** – producers who pass the exam will be certified by MDA to write their own nutrient management plans.
- **Voucher training credits** – this class will fulfill the nutrient applicator voucher training requirements.

You will have the opportunity to:

- **Complete a nutrient management plan** for your operation that meets MDA regulations.
- In order to work on your own plan, you need to begin gathering information **now.** You will need a map or sketch of your operation, soil tests that are less than two years old, and a recent manure analysis (if manure is applied to your land). Contact your county Extension office if you need assistance with this.

Registration Information

- Space is limited and registrations are accepted on a first-come basis; therefore, **register early.**
  Paid registrations must be received 10 days before the first class.
  For more information, please call 410-841-5959. Classes will be cancelled if there is lack of interest.

Evening Classes 5:30 – 9 PM ($20)

#1	**Operations with Pastured Animals and Cropland**	**University of Maryland Extension** – Howard County Office	**December 2 & 4** (training), **11** (exam) and **16** (plan writing)

Day Classes 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM ($35, includes lunch on first day)

#2	**Crop Operations using Manure and Fertilizer**	**University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center**	**January 20** (snow date January 23) and **February 2** (exam and plan writing) (snow date February 5)
#3	**Crop Operations using Manure and Fertilizer**	**University of Maryland Extension** – Washington County Office	**February 10** (snow date February 13) and **February 23** (exam and plan writing) (snow date February 26)

Keep this portion for your records

Return this portion with your payment.

Please register me for class # _____. Enclosed find my payment for the class.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

County _____ City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Special accommodations needed? _____

Submit a separate form for each person. Make check payable to *Maryland Department of Agriculture.*
Mail completed form and payment to: Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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.**

Citrus Order Deadline November 25, 2014

Please Make Check Payable To:
Howard County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 282
Glenelg, MD 21737

Questions?
Leslie Bauer
410-531-6261
labauer5@verizon.net

Citrus Delivery week of December 15 - exact date TBD - Pick-up at Howard County Fairgrounds

"FLORIDA'S BEST"	Price	Quanity	Amount
Navel Oranges 4/5 bushel	$35.00		
Red Grapefruit 4/5 bushel	$25.00		
Tangelos 4/5 bushel **DECEMBER ONLY**	$25.00		
Hamlin Juice Oranges 4/5 bushel	$25.00		
Tangerines (Sunburst) 2/5 bushel	$25.00		
Grand Slam Gift Box **New!** (16-20 Navel Oranges, 6 Red Delicious, 6 Di Anjou Pears, 3 Golden Delicious)	$25.00		
Orange Juice Concentrate 24/12 oz cans	$48.00		
Peanut Gift Pack (3 can pack)	$10.25		
Chocolate Nut Gift Pack (2 can pack)	$10.25		
Whole Cashews 1lb can	$7.50		
Skinless Peanuts 17.5 oz can	$4.00		
Roasted Almonds 9 oz can	$4.75		
Honey Krunch Peanuts 12 oz can	$3.50		
Mixed Nuts 1lb can	$5.75		
Pecan Halves, Fresh Shelled 12oz bag	$7.75		
TOTALS			

NAME: **PHONE:**

ADDRESS:

EMAIL: