NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 23, NO. 4 SEPTEMBER, 2014

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Howard County Agri-Business "Breakfast for Dinner"

by **Maura Cahill**
"Breakfast" Program Coordinator

The Howard County Agri-Business **"Breakfast for Dinner"** is scheduled for **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2014** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please note the **New Meeting Time of Day!!** You asked for a change and we listened. Now come out and join us for "breakfast" at dinner.

Our guest speaker for "Breakfast" will be Ms. Ann H. Jones, a native of Howard County and Director of *Partners for Open Space*, a coalition of more than 100 organizations working together for *Program Open Space*. Since 1980 more than $1 BILLION intended for parks and recreations facilities, preservation of our prime agricultural land, and protection of the best of our fragile environmental areas, has been transferred to other purposes. In this election year, it is essential that we show our support for these important programs.

"Breakfast" will be served at 7:00 p.m. The speaking program is scheduled for 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Tuesday, September 23rd** 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 Thursday, **September 25th** at our first Howard County Agri-Business "**Breakfast for Dinner**".

Congratulations to:

Katelin Johnson

2014 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau

Jillian Morgan

2014 Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau - and to

Erik Jacob

2014 Future Howard County Farmer

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(Note: See group photograph on last page)

Message to Members

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

Here we are already into September and it seems like we just got the chill out of the air and now that cool season is back with us. I hope that everyone had a good summer. The hay is in the barn and the corn and soybeans are about ready to be harvested. So we must count our blessings now that we are well on our way to a great fall season.

I must inform everyone of a problem that developed after the last newsletter (May) had gone to print, i.e., the **"Mulch Issue"**.

It seems that when Comprehensive Zoning was updated a year ago, the cap on the amount of acreage that you can use for a Conditional Use, such as mulch processing on our farms, was omitted. Several residents of the Dayton community made it into a huge deal and in that process got composting in the fight as well. Composting is a part of the mulch-making process.

None of us (in Howard County Farm Bureau) ever wanted to **not** have any cap on the size of the operation. We thought that approximately 5 to 7% of a farm's total acreage would not be too large, yet still be large enough for it to be profitable and add to the farm's bottom line. At the present, there is a task force at work trying to work out a compromise.

Several different groups have representatives on the Task Force. Our representative is Zack Brendel. The group has had several meetings to work out the differences. But, we may need all of you to help get a new bill passed that would allow us to gain back our composting and also allow small mulching operations to do a quality, valuable job for our county. We will try to keep you posted as this issue develops.

I next want to congratulate Katelin Johnson on her being named Miss Howard County Farm Bureau for 2014. The contest was held on Sunday, August 3rd at the Howard County Fair. She was selected over three other very talented young lady contestants. I was impressed with their performance before the judges and the large crowd that had gathered to see the contest in the show arena. It was a really good group.

I also want to congratulate our 2014 Little Miss, Jillian Morgan and our 2014 Future Farmer, Erik Jacob. I look forward to working with all the kids during the coming year.

I wish a warm farewell to our retiring 2013 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Laura Thomas. She did a great job and has a great future ahead of her, we wish her all the best!

I also want to thank Kelly Spicer for being a wonderful 2013 Little Miss and Michael Yencha for his help as our 2013 Future Farmer.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our first "Breakfast for Dinner" on the 25th of September at 7:00 pm. I hope the **new schedule** will allow more of you to be able to come and have breakfast food for dinner, enjoy our guest speakers, take time for fellowship with other Farm Bureau members and a chance to ask any questions that you may have.

Our regular Farm Bureau policy meeting is coming up in October. You are all invited to attend that public board meeting and discuss any new policy that we might try to add to our organizations long list of policies that are already in place.

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

2014 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Contest

by **Merhlyn Barnes**

Another wonderful day at the official opening of the Howard County Fair, August 3, 2014. The Farm Bureau sponsored Miss, Little Miss and Future Farmer contest is one of the many highlights.

Our 2013 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, Laura Thomas, the 2014 Contestants, Little Miss & Future Farmer Contestants all rode on floats in the opening day parade.

The contest began at 3:00 pm. Our MC, Michael Calkins, introduced and interviewed four excellent contestants, Jackie Bauer, Jennifer Carroll, Tess Janson and Katelin Johnson.

Congratulations to Katelin Johnson 2014 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau

Kaitlin, 17, lives on the family's eight acre farm in Mt. Airy, raising hogs, goats & cattle. She also has the privilege of working on her grandfather's eighty acre hay farm, tending to the cattle, chickens, horses & peacocks. She is responsible for the care & grooming of her animals, cleaning stalls & pens, mowing grass, and tending the family garden. A member of 4-H Beef Club, she is currently the Recording Secretary and belongs to the American Angus Assoc. She participates in "Relay for Life" & is a counselor at the Glenelg Boosters Camp where she teaches lacrosse skills to the younger players. Entering the 12th grade at Glenelg High, Katelin is on the honor roll, and a member of "Gladiators on the Horizon". She is part of the "Independent Research/Mentorship" program, where she hopes to work with a local vet on a research project. She is an avid varsity team lacrosse player and hopes to continue playing in college, majoring in Animal Science/Behavior. I'm sure she will do well at State and will do her best to promote agriculture in Howard County.

2014 First Alternate Miss Howard County Farm Bureau

Jackie Bauer, 17, from Dayton, attends Glenelg High School, where she is on the Honor Roll and in the National Honor Society. She enjoys playing volleyball for her High School as well as for MD Juniors Volleyball Club. She has been a member of the Dayton 4-H club since 2006, has performed the duties of president, vice president, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, reporter, community service coordinator, livestock promotion coordinator, and float committee coordinator. She has won Blue ribbon record book awards for seven years and been a junior leader to younger 4-Hers for three years. She participates in the MD State Livestock Skillathon Team and MD State Livestock Skillathon Judging Team.

The other outstanding contestants in the Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Court were **Jennifer Carroll**, 18, from Ellicott City and **Tess Janson**, 17, from Clarksville.

2014 Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau

Jillian Morgan, 10, of Ellicott City is a member of the Patapsco Valley 4-H Club and carries Poultry, Vegetable Gardening, Woodworking and Foods projects. She plays saxophone in her school band, is in her school chorus, and plays lacrosse.

2014 Howard County Future Farmer

Erik Jacob, of Sykesville, is a member of the Dayton 4-H Club & the Hare Raisers 4-H Club. He

carries Poultry, Rabbits, Market Swine & Gardening projects. He participates in the Gifted & Talented English & Social Studies classes in his school. He enjoys helping with family building projects.

Other excellent participants were: Peytin Hereth, 10, Taryn Scwartz, 8, Grace Meyer, 11, Evan Jacob, 9, and Anthony Poston age 10.

Special thanks go to Cattail Florists, Woodbine Shopping Center, for providing beautiful flowers for the contestants; Larriland Farm, Woodbine, for the produce baskets for the judges and MC; Oak Spring Bling, Woodbine, and Tractor Supply Company for contestants' gifts. And cash gifts for Escorts, Cash Awards and Gifts for all contestants from the Howard County Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Women.

Howard County Farm Bureau awards scholarships to the winners & contestants:

- $1500 College Scholarship for Miss Howard County Farm Bureau
- $500 College Scholarship for Alternate Miss Howard County Farm Bureau.
- $200 College Scholarships for Miss Howard County Farm Bureau Court
- $100 Project Scholarships for Little Miss and Future Farmer.

Many thanks to the Farm Bureau Women that helped to make the contest a success – and to the "helping hands" moving props to and from the stage area.

2013 Bay Model Progress Run: Agricultural Reductions in Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Loading

Source: Dr. Bob Kratochvil, Extension Agronomist, UME

The results of the 2013 Bay Model progress run have been released by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the results look excellent for Maryland agriculture.

Thanks to the efforts of farmers Maryland agriculture has surpassed its 2017 interim goal for sediment reduction and even achieved the 2025 target!

The results for nitrogen and phosphorous loading are amazing as well. Maryland agriculture has achieved 99.6% of the 2017 goal for phosphorous reduction and 95.6% of the goal for nitrogen.

Pollinator Habitat

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

In recent years the plight of honey bees and wild pollinators has become more and more a concern. At least two-thirds of the world's food supply depends on pollination by critters like bees, butterflies, moths, bats, and more. With colony collapse disorder, mites, habitat loss, pesticide use, and monoculture agriculture, bees are challenged to survive. In addition to agriculture, much of suburbia has become an ecological desert and monoculture of pristine lawns that does not provide the diversity of plants pollinators need.

With this in mind some organizations are attempting to reverse the loss of pollinator habitat

by offering programs to restore the diverse plant community. The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) is offering a project through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The program requires that at least half an acre is available on a tract for the pollinator seeding. MASCD will provide the seed and a contractor to plant the seed, at no cost to the landowner.

However, the landowner is expected to prepare the site for seeding. The area should be sprayed and disked, or if organic, disked several times to provide an appropriate seed bed. This also reduces competition from the existing cover which is critical during the first year after seeding. With assistance from the conservation district, the site will be flagged so the contractor can find it. The mixtures that are planted are based on the soils at the site – dry or wet. The mixtures contain a dozen or more native species. After planting, mow during the first year at the specified height for the planted species. By the second year, there should be many flourishing flowering plants.

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service also offers pollinator planting through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP. This program works with agricultural producers or farm owners and may be used for less than half an acre to several acres, if so desired. These plantings may be ideal for buffer plantings, field corners, or field borders that may otherwise be difficult to farm.

The mixtures follow the same idea as the MASCD program in that the appropriate species for the site are planted and the maintenance of the stand by mowing. However, with EQIP, the farmer or landowner must find a person to seed the site or do him/herself. The program does not necessarily pay for the full cost of the seeding, but is a flat rate per acre.

In addition to these programs, there are private groups promoting the planting of pollinator habitat. The Xerces Society, Pheasants Forever, and Master Gardeners (in some states) are just some of the organizations involved in the attempt to reverse the trend of disappearing pollinators. To find out more about the MASCD and EQIP programs, you may contact the Howard Soil Conservation District – 410-489-7987.

Seasonal High Tunnels

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

Seasonal high tunnels, or hoop houses, have become quite popular in recent years. This popularity has been driven because they are a relatively cheap structure to build as compared to a greenhouse and there has been financial assistance available for them through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of USDA.

The main advantage of a high tunnel system is the lengthening of the growing season. Crops can be planted earlier and harvested later, enabling a grower to capture more diverse markets. High tunnels can be very profitable near urban areas where customers want locally-grown fruit and vegetables. Many growers who have installed high tunnels report higher quality produce as there is less disease and insect pressure.

The high tunnel structure is a series of metal hoops that are attached to a base. A polyethylene cover is placed over the top of these hoops. Solar energy heats the inside of the covered structure, warming the soil earlier in the year and maintains the warm soil longer in the fall. The crops grow in the soil

within the high tunnel. Through USDA financial assistance, only in-ground culture is allowed. Since the heat can reach well over 100 degrees within the high tunnel, a cooling system includes side curtains that can be raised and lowered as needed and the ends of the structure open, providing air flow.

Through EQIP, there currently is a $7,370 cap for financial assistance for a high tunnel. This is just the cost of the high tunnel, not including any supporting practices. The supporting practices help control erosion and can include critical area planting, diversion, and waterways.

For more information about the high tunnel and how they may work for you, contact your local office of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service. In Howard County, the phone number is 410-489-7987.

Do I Need a Lawyer?

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

"Why do I need a lawyer? I can just download a will from the Internet." The technology has changed, but the question has been around seemingly forever. Twenty years ago, the will was a "freebie" on tax software, or was included in a software package bought at an office supply store. Before that, it was a form purchased at the stationery store, with blanks to be filled in by hand or on a typewriter.

The comment misses the point. Lawyers don't provide wills, anymore than doctors sell pills or accountants, 1040s. What professionals sell is wisdom – knowing how to spot the issues and problems, and approach them in the most efficient way to get the job done best.

The story is told that Henry Ford's assembly line broke one day. His factory workers, the foreman and the in-house engineer were unable to restore it to working order. In desperation, he called in the specialist who had designed and supervised the building of the line.

That individual asked the foreman to describe the machine's performance immediately before it stopped working, and the foreman pointed to a part of the machine and described an atypical noise. The specialist nodded, borrowed a flat-head screwdriver, and, moving a panel, made an adjustment. The assembly line resumed operation.

Mr. Ford told the specialist to send him a bill, which duly arrived, annotated "Twiddling, $10,000." Mr. Ford returned the bill with the prominent legend, "Please Itemize!" The bill was reissued and returned, as follows: "Twiddling, $5.00. Knowing how and where to twiddle, $9,995.00." Mr. Ford cheerfully paid the bill.

Henry Ford understood that he was not really paying for twiddling. He was buying applied wisdom. And that is what clients pay for from their attorney, their accountant, their medical professional – applied wisdom, "knowing how and where to twiddle" to produce the right result.

Yet the plethora of DIY websites and self-help books and volumes for Dummies attests to our culture's distrust of professionals and assurance that we really can figure it out, given enough time and information. And that might be true, or it might not.

It might be relatively simple to find online instructions for an operation on a pet – but what layperson would really poise a kitchen knife over Fido with confidence? A miswritten will might be just as disastrous as a misdirected knife, and the DIY will drafter, by definition, will not even be around to find out that a mistake was made that hurt his or her family and friends.

Wills can be created at no charge, but at a high cost to those left behind.

Mechanizing the Corn Harvest

by **Allan Bandel**

For some time after the introduction of a substantial series of important labor-saving machines during the corn binder era, several additional significant advancements also took place. These improved machines further reduced the labor-intensive requirements of harvesting field corn. Achievement of higher overall efficiency continued to be the ultimate goal. Corn husker-shredders, corn pickers and corn combines were some of the more noteworthy examples of these advanced machines that followed in theleading tracks of the corn binder.

The Brief Corn Husker-Shredder Era. According to the reference book *International Harvester Farm Equipment Product History 1831-1985* by Baumheckel and Borghoff, the first commercially available machine for mechanically separating the ears from the rest of the plant and finishing the job by stripping the husks from the ears, was the "corn husker and fodder cutter" (shredder). There were many different brands of this machine sold over the years, but the first known machine was produced in the 1880s by the Keystone Company of Sterling, IL. Keystone claimed that their machine made quick work of what was otherwise a tedious task. The market soon became crowded with the competitive offerings of numerous other manufacturers.

Attention-getting advertisements in contemporary farm publications encouraged farmers to try out the new husker-shredders. Manufacturers claimed that 40% of corn's economic value was often lost because the stover, (i.e., leaves, stalks and husks) were discarded. But, these "modern" machines enabled farmers to save that lost 40% by mechanically separating the ears and stalks, then chopping the stalks, and to various degrees, separating the husks from the ears.

Some machines accomplished a more thorough job than others. Efficiency depended basically upon the number of husking rolls built into the machine. The larger, more expensive husker-shredders boasted as many as 10 husking rolls. They required at least 20-horsepower to handle the load. Some of the smallest machines that had only two husking rolls could be powered with a modest 6-horsepower engine.

On the Bandel farm, during the late 1940's and into the early 1950's, we, sometimes hired a neighbor with his "well-broken-in" husker-shredder. This aging machine was well past its prime. But, using it was a lot less work than hand-husking all of that corn. This unique machine reduced the slow, tedious task of hand picking, then individually hand husking each ear. It also went a step further by shredding the leaves and stalks making the stover much more convenient to handle and to store in the barn. It also transformed the stover into a more conveniently usable form for use as cattle feed and even for bedding.

The power source for this "ancient" husker-shredder utilized a long flat belt connecting the pulley of a "big" un-styled John Deere model "D" tractor and a larger pulley on the machine. As I recall, there was very little original paint remaining on either of these machines. Their rusted, original appearance suggested that the previous owner(s) most certainly had routinely stored these machines out-of-doors where they were exposed to the weather much of the time.

At harvest time, the dried corn plants which had been previously stored in shocks in the field were loaded onto wagons and hauled to the barn. "Squeezed" into a small area between our bank

barn and the corn crib, there was barely enough space to set up the stationary husker-shredder. Physically, its appearance reminded the uninitiated onlooker of a small threshing machine. But, the husker/shredder was actually quite a bit smaller than most threshing machines that were a familiar sight locally at the time.

The entire above-ground portion of the corn plants – stalk, ears and leaves – were carefully fed into the throat of the husker-shredder via a feeder trough located on the top of the machine.

The first job carried out by the husker-shredder was accomplished by a pair of snapper rolls which physically separated the ears from the stalks. The ear-free stalks were then fed into the machine for shredding. The ears fell onto a "bed" of husking rolls down lower where most of the remaining husks were quickly stripped off. The partially to completely-husked ears were then elevated into a wagon for moving into the nearby corn crib. Our neighbor's machine was equipped with only a limited number of husking rolls, so it was not capable of accomplishing a 100 percent job of removing the husks from the ears.

Back in those early days of the 20th century, even with the best of machines, some corn husks still clung to the ears even after their exposure to the spinning husking rolls. Thus, if there was still more than an ideal amount of moisture in the grain, or in the husks, restricted air movement between the stored ears sometimes caused limited grain spoilage by mold. Unfortunately, the husks remaining on the ears also provided an abundance of material with which some well-fed industrious rats and mice could build their warm cozy winter nests.

After the ears had been separated from the stalks, the barren stalks were shredded by a set of rapidly spinning cutter knives. In a great cloud of dust, and with the help of a heavy-duty blower and a long metal delivery pipe, that old machine directed the chopped material into the loft of the adjacent barn where it was piled and stored until needed either as a rough cattle feed, or as bedding, or both.

However, the high fiber content of the shredded corn stalks and leaves did not produce a very high quality feed. It was also a difficult to handle, very dusty material when used for bedding. For obvious reasons, this harvesting method never gained much popularity in our area of the county. Subsequently, with few regrets by many, the practice died out quickly after only a few years. The introduction of vastly improved mechanical corn pickers soon brought an end to the brief husker-shredder era.

Corn Pickers. Next came corn pickers which were becoming popular in Howard County by the mid-1950s. According to the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, the concept of a mechanism to efficiently separate corn ears from their stalks goes back nearly another 100 years, to 1850. At that time, E.W. Quincy of Illinois patented an open-roll ear-snapping mechanism. Subsequent innovations and improvements, such as shielded snapping rolls, lead to the development of even more efficient corn pickers and eventually to corn heads for combines.

About the time that the husker-shredder era was ending, another one of our more progressive Howard County neighbors purchased a new corn picker. It was a one-row pull-type machine manufactured by the New Idea Company.

The New Idea brand of corn pickers was highly regarded by corn growers. These machines were considered to be one of the better, more advanced

machines of the time, i.e., the "Cadillac" of corn pickers. They not only accomplished a near perfect job of snapping the ears off of the stalks, but they were also known for a much advanced, "state of the art", husking bed.

The New Idea husking rolls also accomplished what was then considered to be an almost perfect job of removing the husks from the ears. For most of the last 15 or 20 years that we had ear corn to harvest on our farm, this same neighbor harvested most of our field corn for us. When it came time to replace his small one-row New Idea machine, he purchased a larger, two-row self-propelled Minneapolis-Moline Uni-Harvester that was equipped with a corn picker attachment.

The M-M Uni-Harvester was a unique machine in that it consisted of two basic components - a power unit, or tractor, that could be transferred fairly quickly from one machine to another, and, in this case, the second part was the two-row corn picker unit.

With just one power unit, the Uni-Harvester operator had the option of several different self-propelled harvesting machines. Our neighbor eventually acquired both a combine unit for harvesting small grains such as wheat and barley, and a corn picker unit for harvesting ear corn. Depending upon the season and his harvesting schedule, he could fairly quickly transfer his power unit back and forth between the two harvesting units.

We also were fortunate in having another neighbor who owned a corn picker. We occasionally called upon him as well to help with our corn grain harvesting. Both of the machines that he owned over a period of several years were manufactured by the J.I. Case Company of Racine Wisconsin.

The first of his two J.I. Case machines was a single-row Model "P" pull-type picker. It was a simple apparatus, essentially a "snapper" machine that did little more than snap the ears from the stalk. It did a relatively poor job of removing the husks from the ears. But eventually, he obtained a two-row Model 425 Case picker which he mounted on his big Case model 400 general purpose tractor. The two-row mounted picker did a much more efficient job of removing the husks from the ears than did his earlier one-row pull-type machine.

Corn Combines. Corn pickers lost much of their appeal with farmers after the 1960's for several reasons. One reason was that corn combines were gaining in popularity and were somewhat safer to operate than the more primitive ear corn pickers.

Also, with the decline in popularity of the tractor-mounted two-row corn picker, the trend had turned away from the once popular tri-cycle configured row-crop tractor equipped with either a single front wheel or dual narrowly spaced front wheels. With tractor-mounted corn pickers mostly a thing of the past, the trend moved more toward row crop tractors equipped with either a fixed or an adjustable wide front axle. This new wide front wheel configuration made it impossible to mount a two-row corn picker.

Another major reason for the decline in popularity of the mounted two-row corn picker was that it was difficult, even under the best of conditions, to - quickly attach and detach the two-row picker from the tractor. Mounting and removing the picker from the tractor were major undertakings, tasks that required many hours of time and labor, expensive resources that many farmers simply no longer had.

Thus the "picker tractor" for most farmers was totally "tied up" for as long as the picker was mounted on it. The dedicated tractor could be used

for only that one specific job during the busy corn harvesting season. This arrangement did not represent an efficient use of equipment, labor, and capital, and thus eventually lost favor, especially as the safer, improved, more comfortable, and easier to use corn combines increased in popularity.

Another factor in the picker's demise was that corn pickers could be notoriously dangerous machines to operate. The snapping rolls had a tendency to "plug up" under certain difficult field conditions. A large bulky woody or oddly shaped weed, such as Jimson Weed for instance, which could often be found thriving and growing to a huge size in the corn row. This plant could often become lodged, refusing to pass by the snapping rolls without some outside assistance. Or, perhaps, an ear of corn or a rogue corn stalk might become lodged crosswise in the throat of the picker.

The picker operator then, in his haste to unclog the machine with minimum down-time, would sometimes attempt to clear the rollers without first shutting off power to the machine. All too often, before the operator knew what had happened, his hand or some other body part, or perhaps a loosely hanging piece of clothing, could suddenly become snagged and subsequently pulled into the spinning rollers. Many farmers lost their hands, arms, legs, and all too often unfortunately, their lives, when they became accidentally entangled in the spinning rollers of these dangerous machines.

Fortunately, there have been many advances in the design of today's modern and more efficient corn harvesting machines. Not much corn is still harvested on the ear these days. Most of it is now shelled in the field which lends itself more handily to more efficient mechanized grain handling and storage.

Finally, not that present day machines aren't still dangerous, especially if operated in a careless manner, modern corn harvesting machines save time and labor and are undoubtedly much safer and easier to operate than the machines that many farmers had available to them just 50 or 60 years ago.

Calendar of Events

Aug 22-
Sep 01 **Maryland State Fair.** State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD.

Sept 4-
Oct 16 **Beginning a Successful Small Farm Part II Short Course (7 classes).** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. Call 301-600-3577.

Sep 5-7 **52nd Annual Mason-Dixon Historical Society Steam and Gas Round-Up.** Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St, Westminster, MD. Feature: Orphan Tractors. Contact: Robert Griesmyer at (443) 398-4242.

Sep 11-14 **Maryland Steam Historical Society 59th Annual Steam and Gas Engine Show.** Fire Company Grounds, Arcadia, MD. Feature: Case Tractors, Bulldog Gas Engines. Contact: Ken Warehime at (410) 374-1252.

Sep 20-
Oct 5 **Howard County Farm-City Celebration.** For information on sponsorship and a schedule of events, please contact Kathy Zimmerman at (410) 313-6500. Also, visit the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club website at *www.farmheritage.org*.

Sep 25 **Howard County Agri-Business "Breakfast for Dinner".** 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD. **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME OF DAY!!**

Sep 27-28 **19th Annual Howard County Farm Heritage Days.** Living Farm Heritage Museum Grounds, West Friendship MD. Contact: Virginia Frank at (410) 489-2345.

Oct 11 **AGNR Open House.** 10 am to 3 pm, 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*

Oct 21-Nov 12 **Nutrient Management Farmer Training Certification (7 classes) (may add 1 class).** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. Call 301-600-3577, or email *tepoole@umd.edu.*

Oct 2 **Howard County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting.** Policy Development Session. 7:00 pm, Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD.

Nov 5 **Private Applicator Training.** 10:00 am to noon. Exam November 13 (10:00 am).Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. Call 301-600-3577 .

Nov 5 **Private Applicator Recertification.** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. Call 301-600-3577.

Nov 13 **Nutrient Applicators Voucher Training/Recertification.** 10:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. Call 301-600-3577.

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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.

<u>Photo above, front row, left to right</u>: "Little Miss" Jillian Morgan and "Future Farmer" Erik Jacob. <u>Back row, left to right</u>: Tess Janson; Jennifer Carroll; Katelin Johnson, "2014 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau" (with ceremonial straw hat and silver plate award); and Jackie Bauer, "First Alternate".

<u>Photo at left</u>. 2014 contestant, Jennifer Carroll listens intently, as reigning "2013 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau", Laura Thomas of Ellicott City, highlights some of her interesting activities during the past year while representing Farm Bureau and promoting Maryland agriculture. Laura was last year's second runner up in the state contest. She closed her remarks with some inspiring words of encouragement for the 2014 Howard County contestants.