

Charles County Farm Bureau Newsletter

P.O. Box 374
La Plata, Maryland 20646

May/June 2011

President: Pat Wathen
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Interesting County Statistics...

415,000 acres is the total (land and water) area of Charles County

OF THIS

295,000 acres are land and **120,000** acres are water – remember, the county boundary line includes the Potomac River to the Virginia shoreline)

140,000 acres (48%) of the County land area is listed as “farmland” by the Charles County FSA

OF THIS

39,000 acres are cropland and **101,000** acres are forest land (woodland, streams, marshland)

52,000 acres (according to the County Planning Department) are in the Development District (includes Waldorf and St. Charles)

Annual Picnic...

PICNIC



Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 24, 2011
4:00 p.m.

Woodland Point
Allens Fresh, Maryland

Get ready for a great summer evening of fellowship and food. The Farm Bureau will provide meat, bread, drinks and paper products. Each family should bring a salad, dessert, and/or vegetable to share. Lawn chairs are also recommended. Bring your whole family and join us for a great evening.

Miss Charles County...



On March 5th, **Megan Hall** of Newburg was selected as the 2011 Miss Charles County Farm Bureau.

Megan lives on a 360-acre family farm in Newburg where the family raises grain, corn, soybeans and hay. She is the fourth generation raised on Bunker Hill Farm and the last generation to harvest a tobacco crop on the farm. Her agriculture activities in 4-H include a skill-a-thon in Hagerstown, raising and showing 4-H animals, being a member of the Farmers Fortune club since 2002 and raising steers. She volunteers to clean and set up stalls for the Charles County Fair and spring livestock show each year.

Megan is a member of the youth choir at St. Mary's Church Newport and she also volunteers at the Angel's Watch Regional Center for women and children. She will be entering her senior year in the fall and plans to attend the College of Southern Maryland and major in agriculture with a degree in animal science. She hopes to have the opportunity to work on the family farm, bringing back the cattle business which she truly misses.

Megan won \$300 and will compete against 22 counties at the state level for the title of Miss Maryland Agriculture in August.

Great job, Megan!

County Scrapbook...

If anyone has any activities, events and/or milestones to add to the Women's Committee scrapbook, please contact **Melinda Rice** so they can be included before the convention in December, where the scrapbooks are on display alongside books from all over Maryland.

Charles County Comprehensive Plan...

by: David Lines, Board Member

Every six years, Charles County goes through a long process to revise and update the County Comprehensive Plan. This time, the current Board of County Commissioners has also directed the County Department of Planning that this Plan Update be a total “from the bottom to top” overhaul. That process for the 2012 version has already begun with the initial public kickoff meeting in March and a series of four (4) public input “Regional Visioning” meetings held around the county in May and June. So far, the *Maryland Independent* county newspaper has done a great job of keeping citizens informed of the outcome of these meetings.

At each meeting, there was a large contingent of environmental activists whose ideas dominated the sessions. Unfortunately, the growing season is a difficult time for farmers to find time to attend meetings and, as a result, very few farmers were present. Nevertheless, “preserving farm and forest land” seemed to have emerged as the top choice overall from the four (4) meetings.

Charles County Farm Bureau Inc.
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Charles County Comprehensive Plan...

In addition to public meetings, the county has requested that about 75 county organizations (“stakeholders”) each provide a representative to participate in a detailed line by line review of the Comprehensive Plan and to help incorporate the public's ideas at another series of meetings over the next 18 months. As the representative for the Charles County Farm Bureau, I ask that you please feel free to contact me at 301-934-9396 with your ideas.

Every member (as well as each family member) of the Farm Bureau is strongly urged to **fill out the online survey** on the County Government website www.charlescounty.org. Look at the lower right side of the page and scroll down to the Comp Plan Survey box, click open and answer the questions. This survey is your best opportunity to personally express – in detail – what you think the future of Charles County should be like.