

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Howard County Agri-Business

Breakfast

from Maura Cahill

Breakfast Program Coordinator

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2013** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to be with us.

Our guest speaker will be Ms. Glori Hyman, Director, Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland, College Park. She plans to discuss admissions to the University and the Transfer Advantage Program with the IAA. This will be a great opportunity for you to ask questions and to keep up with many of the changes taking place at College Park

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program is scheduled for 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Please **RSVP by noon, Tuesday, September 10th** 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 9:00 a.m. We hope to see you on Thursday, **September 12** at the next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

Congratulations to:

Laura Thomas

2013 Miss Howard County

Farm Bureau

Kelly Spicer

2013 Little Miss Howard County

Farm Bureau

and to

Michael Yencha

2013 Future Howard County Farmer

These outstanding young people were chosen to receive their respective honors on Sunday, August 4, 2013 at the 68th Annual Howard County Fair. NOTE: Photos of the contestants are located on

page 16 of this issue of the *Howard County Farm Bureau Newsletter*.

Laura Thomas, 18 from Ellicott City, is Miss Howard County Farm Bureau 2013. She keeps market pigs at her uncle's farm, Heritage Hill in Glenwood and works at the farm with Holstein heifers, chickens, hay and straw. She's been a member of West Friendship 4-H for six years and volunteers at the Howard County Fair petting zoo, cleaning out pig barns, and volunteers at the MD Sheep & Wool Festival. She will be a Freshman at Howard Community College this Fall and at Salisbury University in the spring. Academic activities include the National Art Honors Society, Oyster Club, and Young Republicans.

First Alternate Miss Howard County Farm Bureau for 2013 is **Katelin Johnson**, 16, from Mt. Airy. She lives on her family's 8-acre farm where she raises hogs, goats, cattle. She works on her grandfather's 80-acre hay farm with cattle, chickens, horses, and peacocks. She is a 4-H beef Club member where she has served as Recording Secretary. She will be in the 11th grade at Glenelg HS this fall. She belongs to the "Independent Research/Mentorship program at Glenelg where she is an avid varsity lacrosse player and teaches younger players.

The other three outstanding contestants in the Miss Howard County Farm Bureau contest were **Amy Bodine**, 18, from Glenwood, **Meghan Ross**, 19, from Woodstock, and **Jenny Carroll**, 17, from Ellicott City.

The Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau for 2013 is **Kelly Spicer**, 11, of Iamsville. She belongs to the 4-H Dairy Club where she has served as Historian for the past 3 years. Some of her projects include market steers, breeding

and market goats, dogs, poultry, breeding and market sheep, rabbits, clothing, public speaking, woodworking, family life, healthy life styles, crafts/hobbies, natural resources conservation and vegetable gardening. She has participated in 4-H Livestock Skillathon, Livestock judging, Fashion weekend, 4-H camp, Girl Scout Bronze award; soccer, and Running Chicks. Likes birthing the puppies, lambs, calves, and goats.

The 2013 Howard County Future Farmer is **Michael Yencha**, 9, of Sykesville. He is a 4th grader at West Friendship Elementary School where he participates in the GT math and reading program. He helps with the family vegetable and flower gardens. He belongs to Cabin Branch Bunch 4-H where he has projects in Breeding Sheep, Tunis market goats, broiler poultry, free range chickens and egg layers. He is a Webelo in Boy Scouts, and is active in community service projects.

Message to Members
by **Howie Feaga, President**
Howard County Farm Bureau

I hope that everyone has been having a wonderful summer. It has been characterized by one of the most unusual weather patterns that I can ever remember. Crops are doing both well and not so well. With as much moisture as we have had. It has been a real challenge to harvest. But what is planted has never looked better. But looks can also be deceiving. If the soybeans don't get enough sunlight to bloom, yields will be hurt. Let's hope for a more normal fall for the sake of a good harvest.

Our new Miss Howard County Farm Bureau 2013 is Laura Thomas. Our alternate Miss FB is Katelin Johnson. 2013 Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau is Kelly Spicer and the 2013 Little Future Farmer is Michael Yencha. Congratulations to them all. Please check out the write-ups and photos of

these outstanding young people elsewhere in this newsletter.

I also want to thank Molly Ousborne our outgoing 2012 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau. She did a great job during her reign, and I am sure she will go on to bigger and better things in the future.

I also want to congratulate Mike Calkins who has won the Maryland “Excellence in Agriculture” Contest. He and his wife, Alli, will be going to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in San Antonio, Texas to compete at the national level. We all want to wish him the best of luck. It is a very tough competition that he will be participating in. I know that he will do his best.

We have finally completed the PlanHoward2030, which is the rewriting of the zoning laws in Howard County. We had a bit of a rush near the end, but with the help of the administration and other helpful participants we managed to get through them and hopefully accomplished establishment of a set of rules that we can all live with. In addition we were able to strengthen the “Right to Farm” law that will help us to continue our ever changing farm operations and protect our Agricultural economy as well.

We have also been working hard to prevent getting “soaked” by the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, better known as the “Rain Tax”. After much debate and testimony by both sides, the final outcome for our farms is a \$90.00 flat fee. We had hoped that we could have gotten a complete dismissal of the fee since we have the greatest percentage of permeable to impervious land coverage. But, our arguments were evidently not the most compelling, if you know what I mean.

We will continue to do our best to keep a watchful eye on new legislation, legislation that I am sure will be coming at us during the next session of the General Assembly in Annapolis.

Meanwhile, be safe, and enjoy the rest of the summer. Like I always say, “keep your plow in the ground, we’re all pulling for you”.

**Maryland Association of Soil
Conservation Districts (MASCD)
Recognizes
the Efforts of Those Who Serve
Howard County Agriculture**
by **Kristal McCormick**

At its summer meeting, the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts recognized Howie Feaga with the Outstanding Contribution Award.

Howie is President of the Howard County Farm Bureau and serves on the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. He is always willing to help with new programs. During the beginning of the Maryland Nutrient Trading Tool he shared nutrient management information so that we could learn more about the program and get things started. He allows his farm to be used by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as a training location for middle school and high school teachers to learn about agriculture conservation and best management practices. The District has also become part of this training.

Howie attends meetings crucial to the farming community including Nutrient Trading, stormwater management fees, the County’s General Plan and the growth tiers. He also testifies to issues that affect agriculture and the ag community itself.

Over the years Howie has completed many best

management practices on his farm. More recent practices include slow release drainage for rain coming off the arena barn, rotational grazing, nutrient management and pest management. He faithfully maintains waterways installed many years ago. Several other practices can be found on his farm. Included are watering troughs, waste storage facilities, stream fencing and conservation cover. Howie’s crop management includes use of no-till equipment, cover crop and conservation crop rotation.

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Also during its summer meeting, MASCD recognized William Barnes with the Outstanding Leadership Award.

William Barnes has been on the Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) Board of Supervisors for 20 years and has served as chairman for 15 years. Mr. Barnes is an avid supporter of the District and its mission. He is a well respected member of the ag community and a member of the Howard County Farm Bureau. Mr. Barnes is also an active member of the Glenwood Lions Club and the Antique Farm Machinery Club.

As chairman of the HSCD Mr. Barnes serves on the Policy Board of the Patuxent Reservoir Watershed Protection Group. The Board, with Mr. Barnes as chairman, has found it essential to take a stand on controversial issues such as the recent nutrient management policy established by MDA.

Mr. Barnes has allowed his farm to be used for numerous training sessions for District, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) personnel as well as private contractors to learn about best management practices. He also allowed his farm to be used

as a test and demonstration farm for the Maryland Nutrient Trading Tool.

In 2011 Mr. Barnes, Air View Farm, received a Business Appreciation Award from Howard County Executive Ken Ulman.

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During its summer meeting, MASCD also recognized Joe Rutter with the Outstanding Contributions by a New Supervisor Award.

Joe Rutter has served on the Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) Board since July 2011. Having previously held the position of Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning, Joe functions as a liaison between the county and HSCD. He has helped improve relations between the County and HSCD. He has provided insight to the District on controversial issues from the county government’s view and in turn the District’s perspective to the county. Joe stays abreast of issues pertinent to the District and the ag community it serves. He attends public hearings on these important issues. Joe’s insight and dedication has been invaluable to the District as we move forward.

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There are twenty-four (24) Soil Conservation Districts in the state of Maryland. This year MASCD recognized the Howard Soil Conservation District with the 2012 MidAtlantic Farm Credit Outstanding District Second Place Award. This award “emphasizes the concepts of planning for service, organizing to give service, and evaluating district services and activities.”

Howard County is very unique in its composition of land use and development. For such a small county there is still much agriculture, though not always traditional, making up the composition of the area. Howard Soil Conservation District is as unique as the county it serves.

MDA's "Professional Lawn Care Manual" Now Available Online

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 25, 2013) – *The Maryland Professional Lawn Care Manual* is now available on the Maryland Department of Agriculture website at www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer.

Developed in cooperation with the University of Maryland (UMD), the Maryland Professional Lawn Care Manual provides lawn care professionals with information on soils and fertility, soil testing, interpreting fertilizer labels, use and calibration of fertilizer application equipment, UMD fertilizer recommendations and other knowledge areas that will be covered by the newly created Maryland Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Exam.

Signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley in 2011, Maryland's lawn fertilizer law includes new requirements for fertilizer manufacturers, homeowners and lawn care professionals who must now be licensed and certified to apply fertilizers to properties that they manage. The law takes effect October 1, 2013 and is designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from excess nutrients entering its waters from a variety of urban sources, including golf courses, parks, recreation areas, athletic fields, businesses and hundreds of thousands of suburban and urban lawns.

Regulations to implement the law were published in the Maryland Register earlier this year. Certification testing is slated to begin this fall and expected to be ongoing in order to address demand and busy schedules as the program begins. For more information on training and testing dates, visit the MDA

website or contact MDA's Urban Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959.

The manual can be accessed on-line at the following website:

<http://mda.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/fertilizer/MDAProLawnCareManual6.24.13.pdf>

Scrap Tire Drop-off Day at Alpha Ridge Landfill

Howard County Department of Public Works will be participating in a State-Sponsored scrap tire drop-off day at the Alpha Ridge Landfill on Saturday, September 28 from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

There will be no charge for all tires brought to the landfill that day. Residents are limited to 10 tires and there is no limit for agriculture related tires. Tire hauler permits by the state have been given a waiver for the event. The only restriction we have is that the participant must be able to load their tires into a roll-off container.

The event is free and is open to agricultural type tires. For more information, contact: Alan Wilcom, Chief, Recycling Division, DPW, Howard County, MD. (410) 313-6433.

Maryland's New Lawn Fertilizer Law

Maryland's new lawn fertilizer law is designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay from excess nutrients entering its waters from a variety of urban sources, including golf courses, parks, recreation areas, athletic fields, businesses and hundreds of

thousands of suburban and urban lawns.

Nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, are key ingredients in lawn fertilizer. When it rains, excess nutrients can wash off the land and into the streams and rivers that feed the Chesapeake Bay. Once in our waterways, excess fertilizers fuel the growth of algae blooms that block sunlight from reaching Bay grasses, rob the water of oxygen and threaten underwater life.

Lawn fertilizer now accounts for approximately 44 percent of the fertilizer sold in Maryland. While certain restrictions on fertilizer use have been in place for farmers since 2001, additional stakeholder involvement is needed if Maryland is to meet new nutrient reduction goals outlined in its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to restore the Bay.

Maryland's new lawn fertilizer law affects fertilizer manufacturers and distributors, lawn care professionals and homeowners.

For more information, contact Maryland Department of Agriculture, State Chemist Section, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, Tel: 410-841-2721 (or MDA's Nutrient Management Program, Tel: 410-841-5959).

Maryland Agriculture is an \$8.25 Billion Industry

The impact of agriculture on Maryland's economy amounts to \$8.25 billion annually, according to a recent study published by the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

The study, conducted by Professor Loretta Lynch and graduate student Jeffrey Ferris, looks beyond the revenue generated from farm products (\$1.8 billion) and takes an in-depth look at how the agricultural and forestry industries weave their way into nearly every sector of Maryland's robust economy.

While agriculture and forestry uses occupy 66% of Maryland's land, agriculture only accounts for less than one-percent of the state's gross domestic product," says Loretta Lynch, Ph.D., co-author of the study and Director of the Center for Agricultural and Resource Policy at UMD. "We suspected, however, that evaluating the ripple effects generated by agriculture on Maryland's economy would tell us a different story."

Using an input-output analysis, the study takes into account the numerous industries that provide supplies and services necessary to process, manufacture and package products grown and harvested from Maryland's farms and forests. UMD researchers found that for every dollar generated directly by agriculture or forestry industries, 45 cents was added to other sectors in the state; and, for every five jobs generated in these industries, three

additional jobs were created around the state. The total economic impact of Maryland agriculture amounted to \$8.25 billion annually and 45,600 jobs.

The study was commissioned by Cheng-i Wei, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland. "Agriculture is a part of Maryland's economy that is often overlooked and underestimated. This study reinforces that it is essential to our state's economic health," says Wei, Ph.D. "It is important that we understand the full impact of agriculture so that we continue to discover innovative ways to keep the industry prosperous and train the next generation of leaders who will preserve it."

The study, the first of its kind since 2005, also highlights the changing face of agriculture in Maryland. While the number of farms in the state continues to decline, farmers are adapting, modernizing and becoming highly efficient, producing more with less for local, regional, national and international markets. Steady profits, however, are necessary to keep Maryland operations from shutting down and causing a snowball effect on the state's economy.

The decline of the agricultural and forestry sectors would have an impact on not just farm families and agriculturally based businesses," the study states. "It would ripple out to the entire economy, causing distress to workers in many sectors, and losses to taxpayers, businesses, and others who benefit from a strong Maryland economy."

Source: UM College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. Contact: Sara Gavin, (301) 405-9235 or sgavin@umd.edu

Surprise!

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

Susan's voice was urgent: "I'm at my mom's place at the assisted living. The social worker just told me that Mom signed a new power of attorney and replaced me. Our sister Mary, who hasn't been around or spoken to Mom for years, is the agent. The social worker said Mary showed up last week, and she thinks Mary brought a lawyer here to have Mom sign the power of attorney. Can she do that? What do I do now?"

The attorney took a deep breath, collecting his thoughts. "Yes, she can do that, but whether it works or not depends on whether Mom was competent when she signed it. What's Mom's mental state?"

"Not very good. She's confused most of the time, but she can hold it together for a little while sometimes."

"The law presumes your mother to be competent, so you'd need to prove otherwise. And Mom only needs to be competent at the moment she signs the power of attorney. I'm sure the lawyer would say she was."

"What can I do?"

“That depends,” the attorney reasoned. “Can you get a copy of the power of attorney?”

“No,” Susan answered, “the social worker says she can't give it to me. And I don't know how to get in touch with Mary to get a copy from her – even if she'd give me one.”

“Then your options are limited. If you can't work things out with your sister, you'll have to file for guardianship, and that can get messy – and expensive – really fast.

“Guardianship trumps a power of attorney, because a guardian has a court order, not just a document. But at least the guardian is accountable to the Court. Even if the Court named Mary as guardian, she'd have to account for your mother's finances every year.”

Susan pondered. “Let me see if I can wait around until Susan comes in to check on Mom. Maybe we can work something out. I'll call you.”

“Sounds good. Remember, anything that you can work out in your Mom's best interest is usually better than dragging things through the courts.”

Susan called back the next day. “It's worse than I thought. Mary is checking Mom out of assisted living and she says she's going to take her home. She doesn't even know anything about Mom's care or her meds, and she thinks she can take care of her at home – Mom's home, of course. Mary says she's going to live

with Mom and take care of her. I think she just wants to live rent-free. And she says I can't come to the house – that she'll call the police.

“This is driving me crazy. What happens if Mom doesn't get her meds? How does Mary know how to take care of her?”

“If you think Mom won't get good care you can call Adult Protective Services. They can send a social worker to investigate. And we can file for guardianship. We can ask the Court to grant emergency guardianship pending the whole hearing process.

“Check with your brothers. Make sure you're together on this. Then let's meet tomorrow afternoon to go over things.”

The following day, Susan and Ricky came to the office. Bob had called in, and wanted to be included by speakerphone. Susan opened the discussion: “It just gets worse and worse. Mary took the power of attorney and bought Mom a new car. She said that Mom's old car wasn't safe, and so naturally Mom needed a new high-end SUV. She's also got contractors at the house, and we're worried that she's running through Mom's money.”

The attorney took all this in. “I think we need to file immediately to try to stop the hemorrhage. Hopefully I can get in front of a judge in a day or two for an emergency hearing. The judge can appoint an attorney for Mom who can try to find out what's really going on. Since that attorney works for the Court, he or she might be more believable. And the judge can issue an order to maintain the status quo until the court-appointed attorney can meet with

Mom and review her chart, and make a recommendation to the Court.

“Here's a list of what we'll need for the guardianship petition. . . .”

To be continued next time.

Making the Switch from Horses to Tractors

by Allan Bandel

In 1940, Dad was still a relatively young man, struggling hard to become a more successful farmer. 1940 also marked the start of the decade in which he took an *important “step” forward* into the 20th century. It was the year in which he purchased his first tractor, a *modern* John Deere model “B”. Before the tractor arrived on the farm, he depended entirely upon draft horses and mules to pull his wagons and plow his fields.

Initially, Dad wasn't especially partial to any one brand of tractor. Selection of a new John Deere to replace his horses and mules was due mostly to convenience. A small John Deere dealership was located in nearby Ellicott City, and Dad had become well acquainted with the owners over time. He often stopped by just to chat with them. And that's how a new green and yellow tractor eventually made its way to our farm, and became the focus of this story.

Dad's first tractor had a streamlined, stylish appearance. Prior to the late 1930's, most farm

tractors were plain, even crude, in appearance. They were marketed simply on the basis of their *power, versatility, dependability* and *economy*. Appearance was not an important factor. But then, in the late 1930's, tractor makers discovered another important quality heretofore ignored – *styling*. Good styling gave tractors a much more pleasing appearance.

In the case of John Deere, company executives asserted that in addition to a tractor's many other positive attributes, a well-engineered product should also *look good*. Industry-wide, it was agreed that a *pleasing appearance implied quality*. Thus, the well recognized and highly respected New York industrial design firm of Henry Dreyfus was retained by Deere executives to “spruce up” their tractors' appearance. The charge given to Dreyfus was to stylize John Deere tractors in such a way as to create a pleasing association between *esthetics* and *performance*. The first results of Dreyfus' efforts appeared in 1938 with the *stylization* of the popular model “A” and “B” tractors.

Purchased from the Ramsburg Supply Company, Dad learned that his new model “B” was the first stylized John Deere row-crop tractor to be sold in our part of Howard County. The Ramsburg brothers, Alva and Lee, vigorously encouraged Dad to buy that tractor. They offered him an attractive price, one that they *said* was very close to their actual cost, about \$685 (or about \$11,000 in today's dollars). They argued that Dad's purchase of this tractor would help them to introduce this new kind of tractor to our Howard County neighbors. They hoped that its visibility on our farm would encourage more sales in our neighborhood. Surprisingly, it did seem to work.

The Ramsburg Brothers at that time sold feed (Beacon brand) and other farm supplies out of a small frame building next to the huge Doughnut Corporation (later Wilkens-Rogers) flour mill in Ellicott City. It was located just across the Patapsco River in Baltimore County. The original Ramsburg store buildings are now long gone. Years after the Ramsburgs vacated them, they were destroyed in one of the infrequent, but devastating, Patapsco River floods (Hurricane Agnes, June, 1972). The original store site is now used by the flour mill as a parking lot for trucks.

Fortunately, long before the Ramsburgs' original building was destroyed, they moved their business out of Ellicott City and over to the new US Route 40, just west of the current Home Depot and Giant Food stores. On a corner of the Ramsburg family dairy farm (Chatham), they built a much larger, more modern, structure to house their dealership. That building is now occupied by several unrelated small businesses (e.g., *Boston Market*, one of many fast food franchises in that area). The Ramsburgs continued to sell John Deere farm equipment, and later, GMC trucks, from this location.

Dad patronized the Ramsburg dealership for many years. The business was eventually turned over to one of their associates, C. Merritt Pumphrey, who operated it in partnership with Everette Ramsburg, Lee Ramsburg's son. The partners kept the dealership active for several more years before finally dissolving it in the early 1960's.

Before Dad purchased his first tractor, he had never more than just casually mentioned to the Ramsburgs that he might *someday* be interested in acquiring a tractor. These conversations took place during some of his frequent visits to the Ramsburgs' small original store. Being good salesmen, that was all the encouragement that they needed. Subsequently, one day in early 1940, the brothers encouraged Dad to accompany them out to their storage shed where they had just parked a brand new green and yellow tri-cycle configured model "B" tractor.

This tractor was one of the very first Dreyfus-styled models. Like many farm tractors of that era, it was a "bare bones" model. There were no options such as electric starting, lights or hydraulics. Most other make tractors of that era were started manually with a hand crank. But John Deere, because of its uniquely oriented horizontal two-cylinder engine with its crankshaft positioned parallel to and slightly forward of the rear axle, was cranked by manually spinning a heavy solid cast iron flywheel.

According to Dad's recollection of the event, after listing some of the tractor's main selling points, one of the Ramsburg brothers slowly turned the tractors heavy cast iron flywheel, and started the engine. They wanted Dad to hear how it sounded. With only two cylinders, the unique exhaust sounds coming from that engine were unlike anything that Dad had ever heard before in his life. His first impression was that there just had to be something terribly wrong with that new tractor. The engine sounded as though it was misfiring – and very badly, at that!

The Ramsburgs were not at all surprised by Dad's reaction. They had witnessed this kind of response before, so they just smiled and enjoyed Dad's

obvious discomfort. Eventually though, having fully anticipated his puzzled reaction, and now enjoying his concern about the tractor, they assured him that all was well. The unusual engine sounds were normal. Finally, perhaps with some apprehension, Dad agreed to try out that new John Deere tractor on our farm. But just to be safe, he let it be known to all those present, as he strode purposefully back to his truck, that he was most definitely **not** going to get rid of his horses and mules just yet.

The model "B" was delivered to the farm a few days later while Dad was off delivering produce on his Catonsville market route. The tractor was unloaded on the steep bank of a diversion terrace near the barn. The Ramsburgs returned a few days later to show Dad how to care for and operate this strange sounding new contraption. From then on though, it was mostly up to Dad to learn the finer points of operating and maintaining his new tractor, the tractor that finally did replace his horses and mules.

This early stylized John Deere "B" was a 1939 model. It was unique in several respects. It was an *All-Fuel* model, so was equipped with dual fuel tanks. There was a small 1-gallon tank for gasoline and a larger 13½-gallon tank for either kerosene or distillate (often referred to as tractor fuel). Distillate ranked about two steps above kerosene in the distillation process and was made especially for some of these early internal combustion engines. It was promoted during that era as being a more economical fuel than gasoline.

There was a small lever on the dash with three marked positions. This lever allowed switching fuel flow from one tank to the other, or to turn the fuel off entirely. This arrangement was for starting the engine on gasoline, the more volatile and expensive fuel of the two. Then, once warmed up, the fuel flow could be switched to the larger tank enabling the engine to run on the cheaper, more economical, kerosene or distillate. This unique valve system was why the tractor was identified as a, now rare, "*All-Fuel*" model.

Although made to run on the cheaper fuel, we never burned kerosene or distillate in our tractor since those fuels did not deliver as much power as gasoline. Another reason was that the exhaust could leave a greasy black carbon residue on the tractor's hood (and the operator for that matter). For us though, the smaller tank served as an excellent reserve gasoline tank. If the larger main tank ran empty, the smaller tank was a handy reserve. The small tank held enough fuel to run the tractor back to the barn for refueling. This was an important feature since running out of gas often seemed to happen in the field farthest from home.

Dad's early model "B" tractor boasted a modest four-speed transmission. But, many farm tractors of that era had only two or three speeds. So, a four-speed transmission at that time seemed to be almost excessive. The "B's" basic transmission had two speeds forward and one in reverse. To gain the 3rd and 4th gears forward, there was a high/low range. By shifting between high and low range, low gear became 3rd and 2nd gear became 4th. Fortunately, there was only one reverse gear, and that was always in low range. The transmission was automatically shifted into low range whenever the reverse gear

was selected. There was no need for a high speed reverse. And it would have been quite dangerous had there actually been one available.

At full throttle (1150 rpm) in 4th gear, the “B” could move along at a “blazing” road speed of up to 5¼ mph. Eventually this slow road speed became a major disadvantage when our farming operation expanded and we needed to move between fields on different farms. On 1941 and later model “B’s”, two additional gears, 5th and 6th, were added which provided two faster and very useful transport speeds – 5¾ and 10 mph. Unfortunately, because of WW II restrictions, many of these tractors were also equipped with steel wheels which made the higher speed road gears useless, even dangerous, until rubber tires became more available.

To reduce the effort required to manually turn the flywheel when “cranking” the engine, there were two petcocks (or valves) that could be opened to reduce compression. This made it easier to turn the flywheel. On the earliest tractors, the petcocks were easily accessible, located outside the tractor’s frame and beside each sparkplug. In later models, they were moved out-of-sight to the underside of the engine. After electric starters became standard, the two petcocks were eliminated.

Once the engine started, the open petcocks were manually closed. Care was needed to prevent the hot exhaust gases from burning our fingers. After being “burnt” a few times,

we learned how to safely close the petcocks which ended the loud “hissing” sounds created by the open petcocks as they released the hot exhaust gasses.

Another interesting feature of these early John Deere tractors was that although the engine was water-cooled, there was no water pump to circulate the coolant. Water flowed naturally by *thermosyphon* from the hot engine to the radiator for cooling, then back to the engine. Heated water flowed to the top of the radiator forcing the cooled water to the bottom and then back to the hot engine. This simple natural cycle required no water pump. When copper and brass radiators became scarce during World War II, less efficient steel radiator cores were substituted. Later, with higher compression engines that developed more heat, these tractors were equipped with a more efficient water pump-assisted, pressurized cooling system.

In addition to not being equipped with an electric starter, our first tractor also came without lights or hydraulics. The tractor’s usefulness was limited entirely to its drawbar and belt pulley. It could pull implements such as plows, mowers, manure spreaders, wagons, etc. It was equipped with rubber tires (9:00 x 38 rears), heavy cast iron rear wheels, and a rear power-take-off (PTO). But when Dad first purchased that tractor, he could not use either the PTO or the belt pulley. He simply did not have any implements that could take advantage of these alternate ways that the tractor could deliver power. This deficiency was overcome as time passed.

Soon after accepting delivery of the tractor, Dad purchased a set of two-row mounted cultivators for “plowing” corn. Since the tractor had no hydraulics, the cultivators were raised and lowered manually.

This task was daunting for anyone shy on upper body strength. Raising the cultivators was accomplished by working a long spring-loaded “master” lever. Significant arm strength was required which could quickly tire the operator after just a few hours of cultivating.

After struggling with this rather primitive manual lift for a season or two, Dad had the dealership install a modern, “cutting edge”, hydraulic rockshaft option. It fit onto the rear of the tractor and henceforth, hydraulic power assumed this heavy lifting chore.

The rockshaft, working through the action of a small mechanically activated hydraulic piston, was attached to the tractor’s main gear housing just behind the tractor’s small foot platform and directly beneath the metal seat. To raise and lower the cultivators, the operator depressed the two foot pedals located on the foot platform under the spring-loaded metal pan-type operator’s seat.

With the acquisition of this modern improvement, then even I, a young pre-teen kid, had enough strength (and weight) to raise and lower the cultivators and subsequently was capable of “plowing” corn “effortlessly” for many hours without tiring (as much). Since I was fairly young and not fully grown at the time, it did require that I jump forcefully with all of my weight on both of the connected foot pedals simultaneously to activate the rockshaft. (There was a fairly strong spring tension that had to be overcome in order to successfully activate the lift mechanism.)

I expect that Dad might have had my brother and me in mind when he decided to invest in the engine-powered hydraulic rockshaft. When Dad brought home a packet of illustrated literature that clearly showed how this fascinating new hydraulic lift mechanism worked, I spent many hours pouring over it, trying to learn as much as I could about how it functioned. Then, I did my best trying to explain the modern principle of tractor hydraulics to my aging and doubting 90-plus year-old Grandpop Bandel.

Thus began my early interest in John Deere two-cylinder tractors and their associated implements. Dad’s first tractor remained in the family until 1951 when he replaced it with a brand new, more modern version of his original model “B”. Starting a trend, several more new green and yellow tractors found a home on our farm over the years. The end of the line occurred on our farm in the spring of 1960 when Dad purchased a model “530”, the last descendant of that venerable old model “B”. That tough old tractor is mostly retired now, but is still in our family. Now more than 50 years old, it still looks as new as the day it first arrived on our farm.

To this day, I remain fascinated by these vintage machines and by the unique sounds made by their two-cylinder engines. In spite of what some sceptics claim, once accustomed to their onetime well-known exhaust cadence, their reliable, familiar two-cylinder sounds can impart a reassuring, yes, even comforting, impression on one’s inner peace.

Because these matchless old two-cylinder tractors are no longer manufactured, their legacy stems entirely from an earlier era. It’s sad that, with the exception of an occasional exposure to some of the

remaining well-maintained or restored John Deere two-cylinder models, future generations will miss out on routinely hearing those once everyday, unique, two-cylinder sounds from the past.

Calendar of Events

Sep 4 **Crop Insurance Industry Workshop.** 9 to 3 pm, Loews Hotel, Annapolis, MD. Contact: lkoch@arec.umd.edu

Sep 6-8 **51st Annual Mason-Dixon Historical Society Steam and Gas Round-Up.** Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St, Westminster, MD. Feature: Rumely, Oliver, Hart-Parr, Cockshutt, Co-op, White. Contact: Larry Airing, Sr. at (410) 984-6172.

Sep 7 **Pasture Management Seminar for Horse Owners.** 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Baltimore County Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, M D . C o n t a c t : <http://um,epastureseminarbalt.eventbrite.com>

Sep 12-15 **Maryland Steam Historical Society 58th Annual Steam and Gas Engine Show.** Fire Company Grounds, Arcadia, MD. Feature: Farmall, The International Family. Contact: (410) 374-1252.

Sep 21 **Pasture Management Seminar for Horse Owners.** 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Hassler Dressage At Riveredge, 1455 Cayots Corner Road, Chesapeake City, MD. Contact: <http://um,epastureseminarcecil.eventbrite.com>

Sep 21-

Oct 8 **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 28 **Scrap tire Drop-off Day at Alpha Ridge Landfill.** For more information, contact: Alan Wilcom, Chief, Recycling Division, DPW, Howard County, MD. (410) 313-6433

Sep 28-29 **18th Annual Howard County Farm Heritage Days.** Feature: Ford. Living Farm Heritage Museum Grounds, West Friendship MD. Contact: Virginia Frank at (410) 489-2345.

Oct 5 **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 12 **Old Fashioned Threshing Bee.** Free! 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Living Farm Heritage Museum, West Friendship MD. Contact:

Virginia Frank at (410) 489-2345.

Oct 12, 19 & 26

5th Annual 3-Mile Haunted Hay Ride. 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Living Farm Heritage Museum, West Friendship MD. Family Friendly for ages 8 & up. \$15 per person. Contact: Virginia Frank at (410) 489-2345. In case of rain, call first.

Oct 15 to

Nov 12 **Nutrient Management Farmer Training Certification** (7 or 8 classes), 7 pm to 9 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. For info: (301) 600-3576.

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

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

Nov 6 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification.** 1 pm to 3 pm. Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD. Call (301) 600-3576.

Nov 7, 14 & 21

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

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



Miss Howard County Farm Bureau 2013 & Her Court. Left to Right: **First Alternate** Katelin Johnson of Mt. Airy; Amy Bodine of Glenwood; **2013 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau** Laura Thomas of Ellicott City; Meghan Ross of Woodstock; and Jenny Carroll of Ellicott City.

Left to Right: **2013 Howard County Future Farmer** Michael Yench of Sykesville; and **2013 Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau** Kelly Spicer of Iamsville.

