

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Editor: Gerald F. Talbert

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We're Moving!

From August 23rd through 25th, the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District will be moving into the newly built Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture. The 149 acre property, located at 1114 Shawan Road, on the corner of Shawan and Cuba Roads, will promote agriculture in the County and State, and serve as an educational resource center.



Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture

Photo by Jim Ensor

The first phase of the Center will relocate the major support services to the agricultural community which includes the Soil Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA-Farm Services Agency and University of Maryland Extension Baltimore County Office.

The Center will eventually also house the headquarters of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. Organizations that have expressed interest in utilizing the Center for

The Center will consolidate many of the support services for the agricultural community, promote the future sustainability of the agricultural industry, serve as an educational resource center and field destination for school children and adults, and provide open space benefits of walking and equestrian trail riding.

The center will house agricultural support agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to the County's farming community. It is planned to promote public understanding of farming practices and technologies. The center will welcome visits from schoolchildren as well as adults.

About 100 acres will be kept in active agricultural uses to demonstrate research-based farming and gardening techniques. Programs such as the University of Maryland Extension's Master Gardener Program, equestrian programs and demonstrations from private groups like beekeepers and others are planned to be presented.

meetings and activities include 4h Clubs, Maryland Wineries Association, Master Gardeners, Central Maryland Beekeeper Association and other agricultural organizations.

In the winter of 2003, a group of concerned farmers and others met and decided to work towards the acquisition and development of a centrally located agricultural resource center. It was envisioned as a facility that could provide a variety of services that the agricultural community needs to remain viable in Baltimore County.

In 2004, the Maryland Agricultural Resource Center, Inc. was formed as a private non-profit 501(c)3 organization. It's mission is to enhance the rural economy and to foster conservation of agricultural and natural resources through educational and technical services. It's vision is that the center will provide educational activities for students and adults on a site that looks and feels like a farm and that is capable of crop production and livestock field demonstrations.

Pasture Walks

Several pasture walks have been scheduled this summer. Dave Martin, Baltimore County Extension Agent, Tim Clippinger, NRCS District Conservationist, Jim Ensor, District Manager and Ciara McMurtrie, MDA soil conservation planner/regional equine specialist, will discuss and answer questions on pasture management including fertility, mowing, grazing pressure and weed control. The events will be held rain or shine; indoor facilities are available if it rains. The walks are open to all and especially those who have horses, beef, sheep and other livestock.

Pasture Walk Schedule

July 22 (Thursday) 7:00-8:30pm

John Stafford; 2434 Garrett Road;
White Hall, MD 21161

Providing the forage needs from pasture for a beef herd.

August 24 (Tuesday) 7:00-8:30pm

Bob Prigel, Jr.; 4851 Long Green Rd;
Glen Arm, MD 21057-9725

Learn how a simple, yet sophisticated intensive rotational grazing system works to provide the basic nutritional needs for a dairy herd of over 150 cows. The discussion will be applicable to all livestock owners.

September 15 (Wednesday) 10:00-12:00

Tom and Joan Reynolds; 427 Cockeyes Mill Road;
Reisterstown, MD 21136

A multi-species livestock farm with a focus on thoroughbred horses; the farm has incorporated several new best management practices (BMPs) into their pasture and livestock operation.

Please call 410-666-1020 at the Baltimore County Extension office to register.

Baltimore County Agland Preservation Progress

The Baltimore County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has announced that 55,000 acres have been permanently preserved under the program which marks 60 percent of the County goal. The program is currently processing the applications for another 500 acres of farmland to sell land preservation easements. Contact Wally Lippincott at wlippincott@baltimorecountymd.gov or call at 410-887-3854 for more information.

Old Farmer's Advice:

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.



The Baltimore County 4-H Fair will be held July 14-18 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. There will be many judged exhibits of items made by 4-Hers including fashion, cuisine, plants, scientific displays and much more. Animals will also be judged including both traditional livestock and more exotic species such as alpacas, goats and rabbits. Nightly entertainment will be provided. On July 15th at 6:00pm, a picnic supper will be available followed by a Cake Auction. A Live-stock Auction will be held on Saturday, July 17th at 6:45pm. For a full schedule and all the happenings at the Baltimore County 4-H Fair, visit the 4-H website at: www.baltimorecounty4hfair.org

A New Newsletter From Extension

A new newsletter, *Agronomy News*, is now available, provided by the University of Maryland Extension's, Agriculture & Natural Resources Profitability Impact Team. This newsletter will be published twice a month during the growing season and will include topics pertinent to agronomic crop production. Articles will be contributed by University of Maryland Extension Specialists, Field Educators and other stakeholders. The articles will provide cutting-edge information on ways to increase productivity in a sustainable way.

To receive this newsletter through email, send an email to Rhonda Barnhart at rbarnhar@umd.edu. The subject line should be: Subscribe Agronomy News 2010. For a hard copy please contact your local county extension office to sign-up for the mailing list.



2010 Hereford High School Envirothon Team – From left to right: Elsbeth Heiss-Moses, Jenny Sparks, Ms. Campbell (advisor), Ms. Dinkins (advisor), Erin Spencer, Caitlin Armington, David Wood and Laura Greeley.

Hereford Wins County Envirothon

The 18th annual Baltimore County Envirothon was held April 16, 2010 at Days Cove Environmental Center in White Marsh. Hereford Team #1 beat 20 other teams from 13 schools including Carver Center, Catonsville, Chesapeake, Dulaney, Eastern, Franklin, Kenwood, New Town, Owings Mills, Perry Hall, Sparrows Point, Towson and Western.

This marks the seventh time in the last ten years that Hereford has won the County Envirothon. Hereford won six years in a row from 2001 - 2006. From 2007 through 2009, Towson, Eastern Tech. and Western Tech. were the victors.

The Maryland State Envirothon competition was held June 24 - 25, 2010 at the William Schmidt Center in Brandywine, Maryland. The Boy Scout Venturing Crew 202 from Carroll County won the state competition for the second year in a row and will then head to the National Envirothon scheduled for August 1 - 7, 2010 at the University of California in Fresno. The Hereford Team placed eighth in the state competition.

The Envirothon is a unique hands-on outdoor competition for high school students designed to challenge their environmental knowledge and problem solving skills. High school teams come together to compete with one another in five subjects: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, and a current environmental issue. This year, the current issue is protection of groundwater through urban, agricultural and environmental planning.

Students work together in teams of five. These teams are often made from school science clubs, FFA chapters or boy and girl scouts. There are opportunities throughout the year for each team to receive resource materials for use in the classroom, attend workshops geared to both teachers and students, and arrange for an environmental professional to visit the school.

At the state and local levels, the Envirothon is supported by conservation districts, federal and state natural resource agencies and school districts. Nationally, the Envirothon is sponsored by the Canon Corporation and the National Association of Conservation Districts. For questions regarding the Envirothon, contact your local high school or the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District at (410) 666-1188, ext. 3.

Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
 9831 Van Buren Lane
 Cockeysville, MD 21030
 Phone: 410-666-1188; Fax: 410-666-0179
<http://www.mascd.net/BCSCD>



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Enjoy a full color version emailed to you as soon as it is posted to our website. . **Register for our email group by calling 410-666-1188, ext. 101 or emailing to essy.frey@md.nacdnet.net**

BALTIMORE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A political subdivision of the State of Maryland, the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District was established in 1944. Its mission is to protect the natural resources of Baltimore County and assist landowners in implementing sound conservation measures. The District is managed by a Board of Supervisors, five appointed county residents who take an oath of office to serve their community. The staff is composed of federal, state and district employees.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Charles Conklin—Chairman
- Mike McGinnis—Vice Chair
- Stephen Smith—Treasurer
- Vernon Foster—Supervisor
- Hank Suchting—Supervisor
- David Martin, Secretary, Cooperative Extension
- Bud Sparks, Supervisor Emeritus

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

- Daniel Dorsey Pat Ghingher Lucy Wright
- Diana Gutierrez

DISTRICT STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Jim Ensor, District Manager
- Essy Frey, Administrative Assistant

AGRICULTURAL

- Tim Clippinger, District Conservationist, NRCS
- Andy Thomas, Soil Conservation Eng. Tech., MDA
- Ciara McMurtrie, Planner/Outreach Specialist, MDA
- Jared Wagner, Soil Conservation Planner, MDA
- Alex Shindledecker, Soil Conservation Technician

URBAN

- Jeff West, Urban Conservationist
- Quintin Cornwell, Urban Conservationist
- David Bachman, Urban Conservationist
- Sara Campbell, Urban Conservationist, Balto. Co.

All District services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP YOU!

The Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS) will pay up to 87.5% of the installation cost of these practices for qualifying landowners:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Storage | <input type="checkbox"/> Grassed Waterway |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Buffer | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Cover Crop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Border |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Fencing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strip Cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing | <input type="checkbox"/> Trough or Tank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Area Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter Strip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Use Area Protection | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roof Runoff Mngt. System | |

If you would like to see if you qualify or you'd like more information on these or other conservation practices, a conservation plan for your property or updating an old plan, mail or fax this form to us and we will contact you.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Fax to: 410-666-0179 or mail to:

Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
 9831 Van Buren Lane
 Cockeysville, MD 21030