

# NEWSLETTER

## HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

VOL. 17, NO. 4

SEPTEMBER, 2008

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### Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

The September Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2008** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Please join us.

Our guest speakers will be **Mr. Adam Orenstein and Mr. Marshall White** who are **Digital Mapping** specialists employed by Lippy Brothers, Inc. Of Hampstead, MD.

Their service utilizes modern GPS technology to create digital maps of cropland which is used to assist the producer in making more informed decisions, to improve operational efficiency, and to ultimately increase profits.

Specialized computer software is used to create digital maps of a farm's cropland acres. Then planting and pesticide data is entered. Some examples of data that can be included are crop, variety, yield, soil type, soil test, planting date, field conditions at planting, etc. The data output is organized and displayed on digital maps using layers of colors and patterns to distinguish each variable. This allows a visual understanding of both current and future crop plans.

In this time of rapidly escalating production costs (fuel, fertilizer, seed, etc.) and ever narrowing profit margins, the time has arrived when successful producers must utilize every possible modern technological aid available to them.

We hope that you can be present for this very important and informative program. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, the fellowship and a lively and friendly exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, September 9, 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 formal part of the program will conclude by 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **September 11**, at the Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.

### Congratulations to Caitlin Patrick 2008 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau submitted by Merhlyn Barnes



**Caitlin Patrick, 2008 Miss Howard County Farm Bureau, is flanked on her right by Jennifer Brigante, 2008 Little Miss; on her immediate left by Brittany Bowman, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up; and on her far left by Bailey Thomas, 2008 Future Farmer.**

On Sunday, August 3, 2008, the opening day of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Howard County Fair, Caitlin Patrick, 18, was chosen to be Miss Howard County Farm Bureau,

carrying on a tradition in the Patrick family. She is the 7<sup>th</sup> in the family to be chosen to represent Howard County Farm Bureau over the years. Miss Patrick is the daughter of Denny and Nancy Patrick and lives on Maple Dell Farm in Woodbine.

Caitlin is the current president of the MD Junior Holstein Association and Secretary of the Howard County 4-H Dairy Club. She has participated in Dairy Judging at local and national levels. She also served as MD State Dairy Princess. She helps in the milking of about 50 Registered Ayrshires and 110 Registered Holsteins. Other farm jobs include vaccinating, dehorning, training, clipping, foot trimming and preparing animals for show. She also helps Clover 4-H members prepare for shows and takes care of her market hog.

While attending Virginia Tech in the fall, she plans to major in Dairy Science and participate in dairy judging and the Dairy Club.

First runner-up, Brittany Bowman, 18, is a 10-year member of the 4-H Beef Club, where she has held many offices and is currently Treasurer. This is her 6<sup>th</sup> year as a Livestock Clover Club Junior leader, where she teaches young members about livestock, showing and feeding. She is an active member in both the Junior Shorthorn & Hereford Associations where she participates in numerous activities. Brittany graduated this year from Walkersville High School where she was very active in FFA, serving as President in 2007/2008. Through FFA, she wrote a livestock judging manual for FFA/4-Hers to use. Following college, Brittany hopes to teach high school and/or MAEF or work for Cooperative Extension. Brittany's parents are David & Heidi Bowman.

Also competing were Danielle Bauer, Melinda Gilmer and Joleen Putman.

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**Congratulations to**  
**Jennifer Brigante**  
**2008 Little Miss Howard County**  
**Farm Bureau**  
 and to  
**Bailey Thomas**  
**Future Howard County Farmer**  
 submitted by Merhlyn Barnes

The Little Miss & Future Howard County Farmer competition was held on opening day of the Howard County Fair with great participation. The contestants, ages 8 to 11, created a poster featuring their

personal agriculture project or activities. Jennifer Brigante, age 10 of Woodbine, is our 2008 Little Miss. She is a member of the Woodbine 4-H Beef Club and carries projects in sheep, hogs, cats, poultry and dog training.

Our 2008 Future Farmer, Bailey Thomas, age 8 of Woodbine, is also in the 4-H Beef Club with projects in swine and vegetable gardening. Other interests include soccer and art.

Other participants included Mikayla Athey, age 11 of Highland; Jackie Bauer, age 11 of Dayton; Kaitlyn Hollidge, age 12 of Laurel; Shannon Nicole Jones, 10 of Sykesville; Rachel King, age 9 of Glenwood; Moriah Ramsey, age 10 of Silver Spring; Nate Brewer, age 8 of Woodbine; and Caleb Driesman, age 9 of Ellicott City.

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***President's Message***  
 by **Howie Feaga, President**  
**Howard County Farm Bureau**

Where did the summer go? Seems that we were waiting for the weather to warm up just a few weeks ago. I hope everyone has had a good summer, a season that is quickly coming to an end. I do like the fall though. It is my favorite season.

I hope that you all got a chance to visit the Howard County Fair. We have a new Miss Howard County Farm Bureau. Miss Caitlin Patrick is the daughter of Denny and Nancy Patrick of Maple Dell Farm in Woodbine. I would like to thank Laura Bradley for the great job that she did as the 2007 Miss Howard County farm Bureau.

Seems that we are all busy with our comings and goings. But I hope that everyone will take time to enjoy the last of the summer. Before you know it, we will be into the busy fall harvest season and then the holidays.

Until next time, have a great end of the summer and a wonderful fall. And like always, "Keep your plow in the ground. We're all pulling for you."

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**Receiving Money for**  
**Doing What You Already Do**  
 by **Bob Ensor, Manager**  
**Howard Soil Conservation District**

I never thought that I would ever see the day when people would be willing to pay farmers for doing what they already do, but that day may almost be here.

Congress is expected to pass legislation that would set up markets for the environmental benefits of good farming practices. The State of MD is already working on a nutrient trading policy. This means that you could get money for doing what you already do!

Do you currently use no-till, maintain buffers and grassed waterways and keep your pastures in good shape? All of these practices improve water quality, provide wildlife benefits and sequester carbon. Believe it or not, someone may be willing to **pay you** for these benefits!

The Howard Soil Conservation District is able to assess your farming operation and determine if you would qualify for any of these opportunities and what more you might do to gain more income from these upcoming market opportunities.

We are also tracking and combining all of the benefits from agriculture available for sale so that a large block of nutrient credits, wildlife benefits and carbon credits can be offered to buyers. Give us a call at (410) 489-7987 if you are interested in more information.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Horsemen's Party**

**Kristen M. Wilson**

**Regional Extension Horse Specialist**

The 22nd Annual Maryland Horsemen's Party will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008 from 2 to 5pm at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD.

This year's event will feature great food, live entertainment, demonstrations by 4-H youth, a silent auction and a live auction. Recipients of the Maryland 4-H Youth Development Award and Maryland 4-H Horse Program Volunteer of the Year Award will also be recognized.

Proceeds will benefit the Sallie Robertson Memorial 4-H Endowment Fund. The goal of the Sallie Robertson Memorial 4-H Endowment Fund is to support 4-H equine educational programs and the annual trip for 4-Hers representing Maryland at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up in the areas of horse judging, hippology, horse bowl, demonstrations and public speaking. The fund may also provide scholarships for 4-H volunteers and members to attend leadership conferences and equine-related workshops.

Please visit our website at [www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/HorsemensParty.html](http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/HorsemensParty.html) for more information, or contact me at the address below. Tickets are now available and should be purchased by September 2, 2008. We are looking

forward to having you join us at this important event!

11975 Homewood Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
Email: [kswilson@umd.edu](mailto:kswilson@umd.edu)  
Ph: 301-596-9478  
Fax: 301-596-9632

### **4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HORSE CONFERENCE** submitted by **Kelly Brannan, Coordinator** **Equine & Poultry Extension Activities** **University of Maryland**

The University of Maryland and the University of Delaware will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Horse Conference at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD on Saturday, November 8, 2008.

Registration will open at 8:00 am and informative equine presentations will be given throughout the day, from 8:45 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Nationally recognized speakers will discuss timely topics on horse health and nutrition, equine business management and marketing, pasture management, careers in the equine industry and much more!

Veterinarians, trainers, horse breeders, horse owners, and anyone involved in Maryland's equine industry should not miss this opportunity to increase their knowledge about horses.

All attendees will receive conference proceedings, breakfast, lunch, and the opportunity to ask questions of participating experts.

For more information on this event, please contact Kelly Brannan at [kbrannan@umd.edu](mailto:kbrannan@umd.edu).

### **Merry Acres Goes "Pink"** **Fun Horse Show**

"Are you tough enough to wear pink?" You are invited to a fun horse show beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 13 at Merry Acres Farm, 3807 Walt Ann Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

The show is being conducted to benefit **Marathon of Miracles**, an organization that helps breast cancer survivors. During the day, there will be food aplenty, numerous raffle items, and of course, lots of fun.

Equine activities will include Dressage, Jumpers, Cross Country and Western Classes. For more information, go to [www.MerryAcresFarm.com](http://www.MerryAcresFarm.com), or call

Chris or Howie at (410) 531-2360. Or, you may email us at [Howie@merryacresfarm.com](mailto:Howie@merryacresfarm.com).

## HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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### **Equine Obesity** by **Dr. Amy Burk** **Extension Horse Specialist** **University of Maryland**

Equine obesity is a growing problem in horse and pony populations with a multitude of causal factors and implications on health. Horses that have a BCS of 7 or higher are at a greater risk for developing health problems.

A new fact sheet has been developed to help you with this condition. It is Fact Sheet Number 843 – *Trimming the Fat: Weight Loss Strategies for the Overweight Horse*. It can be found at <http://extension.umd.edu/publications/PDFs/FS843.pdf>

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### **Cooperator of the Year Award** by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS** **District Conservationist** **Howard SCD**

The annual Cooperators' Dinner was recently held by the Howard Soil Conservation District. This year's event was held in Pavillion "H" at Centennial Park on Thursday, July 31. During the dinner, the Cooperator of the Year Award was presented to Dale and Jan Hough of Mount Airy. The Houghs own and operate a beef operation along Hardy Road which consists of approximately 55 acres of pastureland and hay. They have 30 brood cows and 20+ young stock. They also have six horses on the property. In addition, the farm raises a few swine which are shown at the local Howard County Fair.

During the past two years, the Houghs have been improving their farming operation through implementation of conservation practices that help to reduce runoff pollution to their neighbors, to area streams, and to the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Hough first contacted the District in 2006 because of concerns that he had about the runoff from his operation. District personnel visited his farm, developing a conservation plan that addressed the resource concerns specific to his situation. As the District worked with the Houghs on the plan, the following best management practices (BMPs) were agreed upon – a waste storage structure, a roof

runoff management system, an underground outlet, a heavy use area, and a grassed waterway.

The waste storage structure enables the Houghs to store the animal manure until it can be spread on fields at a time that is closer to the time that growing plants can best utilize the nutrients contained in the manure. The structure will also contain the waste so that it is safely confined and unable to wash away.

The roof runoff system reduces the amount of rain and snowmelt water that will flow across the barnyard. This "keeping clean water clean" is a vital strategy in reducing runoff pollution. The runoff system consists of rain gutters and downspouts and a yard inlet that leads into the underground outlet. This underground outlet is a pipe that takes the water to a safe and stable outlet past the barnyard.

The cattle had been walking in an area that was unstable due to the excessive runoff. They have to cross this area in order to access the pastures. The area was stabilized with the heavy use area. The heavy use area is a stoned walkway that has an underlying geotextile fabric that prevents any mud from coming up through the stones when cattle or farm vehicles travel over it. This tremendously cuts down on the amount of mud available for any runoff to flow through.

The last practice addressed by the Houghs was a grassed waterway. The runoff from the barnyard and other parts of the farm was gullying an approximately 300 foot section through the pasture. The gully was graded and shaped into a grassed waterway that is stable and can handle the expected load of a 10-year storm. Planted to a mixture of pasture grasses and more conserving grasses, the waterway can still be grazed periodically by the cattle so it does not subtract from the farm's grazing acreage.

In implementing the best management practices in the conservation plan, Dale turned to a cost-share program of the federal Department of Agriculture. This program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, is the main cost-share program of USDA that helps farmers to install needed best management practices.

The HSCD presented the Houghs with a plaque to honor their work. The Maryland office of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service also presented a plaque. The Maryland Department of Agriculture, delegates Gail Bates and Warren Miller, and Senator Cardin's office also gave recognition for a job well done.

The Howard Soil Conservation District appreciates the interest of farmers and landowners in protecting their on-farm resources. We congratulate Mr. and

Mrs. Hough for their hard work and dedication to address resource problems on their farm. If you have questions or would like to work on problems on your property, call the District at 410-489-7987.

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### **Updates**

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

Your will and power of attorney is nestled in your safe deposit box. Your living will is in your file at your doctor's office. You feel prepared for all the uncertainties that life can fling at you.

But are you really as prepared as you hope you are? If your will is yellowing with age, if your power of attorney has your old address on it and your living will contains outmoded and legally problematic language like "heroic measures," then consider updating your documents.

Three circumstances can prompt an update: Changes in your life situation, changes in your family, and changes in the law.

Have you recently married? Divorced? Are you newly retired? Have you been told that you have a suddenly shortened life expectancy? Did you just win the lottery? Did you just start a new business, or did your old business just go down the drain? Or both?

In any of these and many other circumstances, a review and update of your estate plan is warranted.

If your children have all left home, or a parent has taken up residence with you; if you have just downsized from a house to a condo or retirement facility, or if you're the one moving in with your children, you need to review and revise your plans. Likewise, the death or relocation of a trusted family member or friend who was to serve as trustee, executor or agent should prompt a review and revision of your plans. Estrangement or reunion with children or parents, birth of your first child or grandchild can all prompt a rethinking.

In 2004, Congress enacted the medical records privacy laws (HIPAA). If your power of attorney, living will, medical directive or trust requires a certification of your incompetency before your agent or trustee takes authority, those documents might have become ineffective. Consider redrafting them.

In that same year, the Maryland General Assembly reduced the amount of money a Maryland resident can give tax-free at death. If your estate (combined with your spouse's estate if you are married)

exceeds one million dollars, including equity in real estate, death benefit of life insurance, investments and retirement plans, you might have a new-found tax problem.

The tax on an estate of \$1.5 million is nearly \$64,000; the tax on a \$2.0 million estate is about \$90,000. If you are fortunate enough to have enough of an estate that the government wants to help itself to a portion at your death, consider tax planning to avoid or reduce that drain on your hard-earned assets.

Seasons change, some suddenly and some gradually. Be sure your planning reflects your reality as you live life to the fullest.

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### **Buy-in Waiver for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs Underway in New Farm Bill**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will allow producers who would otherwise be ineligible for the new disaster assistance programs to become eligible by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

The 2008 Act requires producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs to have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for the land for which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest.

Every producer whose crops, including grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or NAP may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does not afford the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility only for either the catastrophic risk protection insurance (CAT) or NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to file the application for waiver and pay the applicable fees.

The applicable buy-in form must be completed and applicable fees paid by Sept. 16, 2008. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for benefits for losses under Supplemental

Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Because Congress did not provide a rulemaking exception for these programs, FSA must first publish a proposed rule seeking public comment, followed by a final rule. FSA is working to develop detailed regulations and software for these programs. Sign up for these programs is not expected to be held until this winter.

USDA/FSA

### **Position Announcement - Carroll County Nutrient Management Advisor**

Nutrient management advisor for Carroll County office of Maryland Cooperative Extension; individual will develop nutrient management plans; must be familiar with farming operations and use of personal computers; good communications and organizational skills a must. H.S. diploma or GED.

Individual must pass nutrient management certification exam within one year of employment, and once employed, must maintain certification. Three (3) years of experience as an agricultural producer (primary decision maker) or working with agricultural producers in an advisory capacity.

Position requires physical stamina, willingness to work outdoors under adverse weather conditions, the ability to lift 50 pounds and traverse uneven terrain. Current driver's license and access to vehicle are required. Preference given to certified nutrient management consultants. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience with base salary of \$34,479.

This is a contractual position which includes health benefits subsidy and retirement subsidy. For a detailed position announcement, access <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/jobs/agnrjobs/>.

To apply, send a letter of application, resume and 3 letters of recommendation, including name, mailing address, telephone number, and E-mail address to: Mr. Michael Bell, Maryland Cooperative Extension, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. EEO/AA

**For Sale.** Farmall F-140 tractor with 1-row mounted cultivators and an integrally attached single-bottom, 14-inch moldboard plow. All in excellent condition. \$4,500. Call Donald Baugher at (410) 465-6472.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2008**

- Sep 11 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 a.m. Dining Hall, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Speaker TBA.
- Sep 13 **Merry Acres Goes Pink Fun Horse Show.** 9:00 a.m. until. For the benefit of **Marathon of Miracles**, an organization helping Breast Cancer Survivors. For more information, go to [www.MerryAcresFarm.com](http://www.MerryAcresFarm.com), or call Chris or Howie at (410) 531-2360.
- Sep 20 **Pasture Walk and Field Day.** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hedge Apple Farm, 3760 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown, MD. Contact: Stan Fultz, Frederick County Extension Office by September 18. (301) 662-7638.
- Sep 21 **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland Horsemen's Party.** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville, MD. See article in this newsletter for details.
- Oct 4 **University of Maryland CMREC Open House.** Clarksville Facility, Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD. For more information or to offer suggestions, contact Frank Allnut at [fallnut@umd.edu](mailto:fallnut@umd.edu)
- Oct 14 **Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture Instructor Training.** University of MD, College Park, MD.
- Nov 8 **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Horse Conference.** 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD. Contact: Kelly Brannan at [kbrannan@umd.edu](mailto:kbrannan@umd.edu)
- Nov 25 **Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10:00 a.m. to noon. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.

- Nov 26 **Pesticide & Voucher Recertification.** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.
- Dec 2 **Pesticide Applicator Test.** 10:00 a.m. to noon. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.
- Dec 4 **Pasture Walk.** Wilnan Farm (Billy and Nancy Horton). 15102 Liberty Road, Mount Airy, MD. 10:00 a.m. to noon. Holstein and Holstein-Cross cows on 90 acres of grass. Contact: Stan Fultz, Frederick County Extension Office. (301) 662-7638.
- Dec 16 **Pesticide & Voucher Recertification.** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.

### 2009

- Jan 16-17 **Future Harvest – CASA's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.** Connect Locally: Food, Farms and Community. NEW Frederick Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Frederick, MD. Marketing, Farming Economics, Grass-Based Systems, Sustainable Hay, Grain, Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Production. For more information, visit [www.futureharvestcasa.org](http://www.futureharvestcasa.org).
- Feb 10 **Pesticide Applicator Training.** 10:00 a.m. to noon. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 17 **Pesticide Applicator Test.** 10:00 a.m. to noon. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.
- Feb 23 **Pesticide & Voucher Recertification.** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room CC, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. (410) 386-2760.
- Mar 21 **Howard County – Iron Bridge Race Meet.** Pleasant Prospect Farm, 4389 Jennings Chapel Road, Brookeville, Maryland 20833. For more information

and photos of prior race meets, please visit our website at [www.hcibhounds.com](http://www.hcibhounds.com).

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

### Something to Smile About

Since income tax day, April 15, is now behind us, the following tales might offer a little something to smile about now that the worst stress of this annual event is hopefully behind us.

- If you like golf, you will already know that golf and income taxes have a lot in common. In both cases, you drive hard for the green, but end up in the hole.

- Two farmers, an American and a Dutchman, were talking. "What does your flag look like?" asked the American.

"It has three stripes – red, white and blue," the Dutchman replied. "We say they have a connection with our taxes – we get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and we pay them until we're blue in the face."

The American replied, "With us, we see stars, too!"

And finally...

- A revenue man stopped a little mountain lad and offered him \$1 if he would take him to his dad's still.

"OK," the boy said, "but, I want the money in advance."

"Oh, no," the man said, "not until you point it out."

"Look here," the boy countered. "If I take you to my old man's still, you ain't coming back."

— from: *Country Chuckles, Cracks  
& Knee-Slappers*  
Edited by Mike Lessiter