

## Talbert gets Md. ag preservation post

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Gerald F. Talbert, 34, of Glyndon, Baltimore County, has been named Executive Director to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and has assumed his duties this month.

He comes to his new job with an array of experience in state and federal governmental program administration and with a strong background in soil conservation program work and administration.

For six years, he was employed by the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District as district manager, a post in which he coordinated the district's agricultural programs and its urban programs and acted as liaison for the district with Baltimore County and cooperating agencies. One of the district's highlight accomplishments during that time was the establishment of the Piney Run "clean lakes program" involving a 7,000 acre watershed in the central western portion of the county. Funded by a \$7,000,000 EPA grant, the program is currently providing technical assistance and cost sharing for farmers to install agricultural conservation practices.

Talbert joined MDA in Annapolis two years ago as assistant executive secretary to the Maryland State Soil Conservation Committee working with all 24 of the state's local districts. His time in that post is highlighted by his work on a district resources workload study designed to assess



Gerald Talbert

the districts capabilities against the demands made upon them and his work in setting up the new state cost-share program for agricultural water quality improvements which is now just getting underway.

Maryland Agriculture Secretary Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., in announcing Talbert's selection as Executive Director said "Of the approximately 170 applicants for the job, we found we had the most qualified person right in-house. The work that Mr. Talbert has done in seeing through to reality the cost-share program for agricultural water quality improvements is as stern a test in diplomacy, hard work and skill as

one could imagine. The skills he has shown in that task are ideal for his new position."

The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1975. In 1977, its authority was broadened so that it could certify establishment of voluntary "agricultural land preservation districts" in the state and was given funding so that it could enter into negotiations for the acquisition of development rights easements.

In 1979, the first ag preservation district was created. Since then, approximately 450 farms in 19 counties are in such districts comprising about 70,000 acres. In addition, easement rights have been acquired on 95 farm properties comprising almost 15,000 acres. Negotiations this fiscal year are being held on another 90 some properties which would add to the total of agricultural acreage protected from development.

The program is voluntary on the part of land owners and the participating counties and is overseen by a 11 member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor of whom Mr. F. Grove Miller of Northeast, Cecil County, is chairman.

Talbert is a graduate of Drexel University. He is married to the former Sheila Van Damm of Baltimore. The couple has two sons.

The post he fills became vacant several months ago when former Executive Director Alan R.

Musselman Resigned. musselman has begun similar duties in Lancaster County.

## Select Sires picks bull

PLAIN CITY, Oh. — Select Sires, has acquired an outstanding young Holstein bull from breeder Ray E. McMillen of Loysville. Based on his superior pedigree, Ray-MC Ford Mo-ET has been chosen as one of 130 Holstein bulls from throughout the United States to enter Select Sires' Program for Genetic Advancement (PGA) sire sampling system in 1983.

The dam of this "Select" sire is Ray-MC Ormsby Rag Apple, and Excellent (90) "Elevation" daughter. She has three records over 27,000M, 1,000F with a best record of 31,100 of milk. 4.0% test and 1,229 of fat. She is the dam of another young bull in "Select's" PGA program, 7H1422 Ray MC Golden Nugget Duke. The sire of this new young bull is I-O-State Chief FORD.



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