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Register Online Today: extension.umd.edu/annies-project

Annie’s Project

Annie’s Project focuses on the many aspects of farm management and is designed to empower women in overall farm decision making and to build local networks throughout the state. The target audience is women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation. Topics for the sessions cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Risk, Human Resources. This course is open to anyone interested in farm management practices.

The course fee is $75 which covers all meals and materials.

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:
* Anne Arundel County Extension Office, Gambrills MD
* Cecil County Administration Building, Elkton MD
* Washington County Extension Office, Boonsboro MD
* Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury MD
* Howard County Extension Office, Ellicott City MD
* Baltimore County Ag Center, Cockeysville MD

Shannon Dill, sdill@umd.edu or 410-822-1244

2014 Classes and Locations Have Been Announced!

Managing for Today and Tomorrow

Managing for Today and Tomorrow is a program designed to help you become involved in the journey of transitioning the farm legacy. Special focus will be placed on the woman’s role in transition planning, which is the process of creating and implementing an overall strategy to move the farm business from one generation to the next. Topics for the sessions cover Succession Planning, Estate Planning, Retirement Planning and Business Planning. The course fee is $60 which covers all meals and materials.

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:
* Chesapeake College, Wye Mills MD
* Cecil County Administration Building, Elkton MD
* Harford County Community College, Bel Air, MD
* Carvel Research & Education Center, Georgetown DE
Register Now for the Regional Conference!

13th Annual Regional Conference
Offering women involved in agriculture an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues, topics and best practices.

Session topics include:
- social media
- backyard flocks
- business plans
- much more!

To view the complete conference schedule, register online, or find event discounts, visit:

extension.umd.edu/womeninag

Room discounts available through Dover Downs by providing the code: "GWA14"

Special assistance available upon request

For more information contact Victoria Corcoran at vgc@umd.edu or Shannon Dill at sdill@umd.edu, 410-822-1244
2013 Women In Agriculture Fall Farm Tour

There were 30 participants from Maryland and Delaware that came together on September 18th to learn more about local agriculture by visiting three Kent County Maryland working farms. Women In Agriculture’s Fall Farm Tour is a yearly event that brings women across all areas of agriculture together to learn more about the industry. Grand View Farm was the first stop on our tour this year. This Worton, MD swine operation is run by the 5th and 6th generations of the Langenfelder family.

Next the group visited Mason’s Fawnwood Farm. Fawnwood is a 3rd generation dairy farm located in Chestertown MD. It also supplies the milk for Eve’s Cheese. The last stop on the tour was Crow Farm Winery and Vineyard located in Kennedyville, MD. In addition to the vineyard and winery at Crow Farm they also offer a bed and breakfast along with grassfed beef. Lunch was provided by Crow Farm and guest luncheon speaker, Judy Gifford, shared information about SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education).

Women In Agriculture’s Fall Farm Tour is an annual event. Last year’s farm stops included: SB Bison Farm, Harris Farms and Layton’s Chance. To receive more information about the farm tour, or any of our WIA events, please visit the website at www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag
It’s time for farmers to connect with consumers

By JENNIE SCHMIDT
Special to The Delmarva Farmer

While you may think your biggest agricultural challenge in the coming year is the grain market, or government regulations, or the lack of a Farm Bill, or the price of inputs — you’d better think again.

Your biggest challenge in the future is the American consumer.

For too long, farmers have been introverted, working on our farms, doing a good job producing food for a growing population, and in the meantime, the story of farming gets hijacked by the media and distorted to the point where we are now defending our way of life.

Now Mr. or Mrs. Consumer are more likely to turn toward Michael Pollan or Mark Bittman for the “truth” about food and farming.

These guys publish books and have international platforms for their message which apparently makes them “experts” in farming.

This sort of disconnect has been lurking for a long time.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower said “Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you’re a thousand miles from the corn field” in reference to federal farm programs being written by people he called “synthetic farmers behind Washington desks.”

While we have to battle policy formulated by folks (aka synthetic farmers) who have never stepped foot on a farm, I still submit to you that they are not your biggest challenge.

I believe your biggest challenge is Mr. and Mrs. American Consumer, the one who does the grocery shopping and makes the household food decisions.

The compete article can be read at: http://americanfarm.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2316%3Aschmidt-its-time-for-farmers-to-connect-with-consumers&catid=2

Farm to Harvest, MPT’s new series

To help increase the public’s understanding of Maryland agriculture, Maryland Public Television (MPT) in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is producing Maryland Farm & Harvest, a new series that will put a human face on farming, educate viewers about agriculture, and tell the stories of the industry that built this nation and continues to feed the world.

Most Americans once lived or worked on farms or had family and friends who did. With each generation, however, our nation grows further and further away from its agricultural roots.

Today, many Marylanders have never even visited a farm. As a result, many residents have not had an opportunity to develop an informed and realistic understanding of agriculture. Many don’t know where their food comes from or how the industry that produces it works. Most citizens have little appreciation for the economic, environmental, health, and political threats and dangers that will surely result should the agricultural industry falter or significantly weaken.

Episode 102 has a great segment on Annie’s Project! Watch this episode and the complete series at http://video.mpt.tv/programs/
Are you a “new farmer?” While this seems like a simple question, the definition of “new farmer” differs among agricultural support agencies and programs. This project is using the United States Department of Agriculture’s definition of “new farmer” which is anyone who has farmed for less than 10 years consecutively.

This definition spans a large audience including those just exploring their options in farming to those ready to turn their avocation into their full-time career. We realize this span of interest and experience with farming brings visitors to this site through many different doors. So, we have designed an interactive site map to help visitors locate resources more quickly based on their individual experiences and resources.

Find all the resources you need by exploring their website:

www.extension.umd.edu/newfarmer
Ag-knowledge

The cranberry, one of three fruits native to North America, is commercially grown in the United States. The country produced more than 8.0 million barrels of cranberries in 2012, valued at more than $385.5 million. More than half of the nation’s cranberries are produced in Wisconsin, followed by Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington.

More Ag-facts at:
http://www.agmrc.org/commodities__products/fruits/cranberries/

Kids Corner

Salt Dough Hand Ornament

To make: 1/2 Cup Salt, 1/2 Cup Plain Flour, 1/4 Cup Water (give or take) Knead until dough forms.
Make impression and cut out hand shape with a knife leaving a border.
Poke a hole in top for hanging. Bake at 100C/200F for 3 hours.
Paint, Seal and ready to hang :)

The Recipe Card

Minty Hot Cocoa Float
A scoop of mint chocolate chip ice cream transforms traditional hot cocoa into a dessert-like winter treat.
Find more Winter Treats at: www.realsimple.com
Upcoming Events

Do you have an upcoming event at your Farm or Small Business?
Please email the information to vgc@umd.edu so that we can let others know!

Agronomy Day
January 21 – Cecil County
January 23 – Dorchester County
January 29 – Lower Shore
February 19 – Caroline County
February 28 – Queen Anne’s County

Food For Profit
When: Thursday, January 9, 2014—8:30am to 4:00pm
Where: Anne Arundel County Extension Office
University of Maryland Extension’s Food for Profit workshop takes you step by step through the information necessary to start and run a small food product business. Although appropriate for any food business owners who want to develop their venture proactively, the workshop is especially directed to individuals who will be making and packing their products for resale.
More information at: www.foodforprofit.eventbrite.com

Wishing you a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous 2014
From MidAtlantic Women In Agriculture

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MidAtlanticWomenInAgriculture

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