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Time to "Sharpen Your Pencil"

Well it's that time of year most of us dread; working on getting all our information to our accountant for our taxes and all of the end of the year reporting and recordkeeping we need to complete. (IRS, Nutrient Management, Pesticide, DOT, just to name a few). By now you should have received your Nutrient Management Annual Implementation Report (AIR) from the Maryland Department of Agriculture. This year the form is yellow. There are two forms this year; you only need to complete one form for your farm operation. There is a Regular AIR (grain farmers) or a CAFO/MAFO AIR. If your operation is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) or a Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO) make sure you complete the correct form. The forms can also be found on the website at: http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/nutrient_management/air.php. You can submit your completed form online or by mail. If you need any help completing your AIR, Francis and I would be happy to help, just give us a call.

While your pencil is still sharp it's time to work on your crop budgets for crop year 2012 and maybe even revisit your 2011 crop budgets with your actual figures. We have recently updated the crop budgets on our MD Grain Marketing website: www.mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu. The crop budgets are ready to be downloaded to your computer. There is an inputs worksheet that has all the general prices of commodities as well as fertilizer and chemicals. We use generic prices so you can make changes to any of the figures with your own prices. These inputs will then populate to all the other worksheet tabs at the bottom of the page. You will see the following tabs at the bottom of the screen - No-Till Corn, Conventional Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Soybean Wheat Double Crop and even a Blank budget. We hope this will help make crop budgets a little easier for you and your farming operation. Feel free to call Jenny at 410-758-0166 or Jay at 410-778-1661 if you have any questions or need help.

Jenny Rhodes, Queen Anne's County



**MARYLAND
FOOD BANK**
UNTIL HUNGER ENDS.

Farm to Food-Bank Program

In the time you have spent farming, have you ever plowed under a field that has edible produce remaining, or left edible produce behind to rot on vines and trees? Have you ever thrown away produce because it has been sitting too long, but is still edible? If the answer to one or more of these questions is "yes," the Maryland Food Bank offers you a solution. The summer of 2011 saw the initiation of the "Farm to Food Bank" program. The "Farm to Food Bank" program is designed to get produce off farmer's hands, out of the fields, and into the mouths of the many that are hungry across the state of Maryland. .

Donations are tax deductible. No amount is too big, or too small to donate. There are over 600 agencies affiliated with the Maryland Food Bank across the state, working to feed the hungry. Last season, farmers from seven counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland donated over 470,000 lbs. of produce.

Many farmers do not grow with the intention of giving away their product but as Joe Bartenfedler, of Bartenfedler Farms in Preston says, ". . . when it's planted and it's grown and there's excess, you want to help people. I'd rather know that people in need get to eat it." Should you be interested or have questions, please contact Amy Cawley, Food Solicitor for the Maryland Food Bank—Eastern Shore by phone at (443) 735-0757 or by email at acawley@mdfoodbank.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January**January 3rd**

GRAIN MARKETING MEETING 6:30 am.
Higgy's Restaurant 5306 Church Hill Rd. Church Hill, MD

January 6th

WINNING THE GAME. 7:00 am. (Grain Marketing) Molly's Rte. 213 Kennedyville.

January 10th

EQUINE DENTISTRY. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Fox Wood Farm, 8041 Ironshire Station Rd., Berlin, MD.

January 11th

60TH ANNUAL TALBOT COUNTY CORN CLUB EVENT - Talbot County celebrates the 60th year of the Corn Club! 6-10:00 p.m., Talbot County VFW. *Contact:* Shannon Dill 410-822-1244.

January 12th & 19th**PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING.**

Upper Shore Class - January 12th; Exam - January 19th. Time: 7 to 9 p.m. for both. Location: Kent County Ext. Office, 709 Morgue Rd. Chestertown, MD. To register: 410-778-1661 or email jdouthit@umd.edu

January 17th

GRAIN MARKETING MEETING 6:30 am.
Higgy's Restaurant, 5306 Church Hill Rd. Church Hill, MD

January 17-20

DELAWARE AG WEEK. Location: Delaware State Fair Grounds, Harrington DE. For information contact Cory Whaley at 302-856-7303 or whaley@udel.edu. For more information: <http://rec.udel.edu/agweek/home.htm>

January 17, 2012

TIMBER TAX WORKSHOP. 6:30 - 9 p.m. Wye Research & Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658. Cost: \$10. Registration deadline 1/13. Contact Bob Tjaden, rtjaden@umd.edu, 410-827-8056

Wednesday, January 18th & the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month.

GRAIN MARKETING WEBINAR SERIES. 7:00 -8:00 p.m. Information and registration is available at: <http://goo.gl/mqQS2>

January 20-22,

2012 HORSE WORLD EXPO UNIVERSITY SEMINARS
University of Maryland University Seminars held at the Maryland Horse World Expo in Timonium, Maryland.

January 21st

BEEKEEPING 101 2012 SESSION, 9 a.m.-Noon, Wye Research & Ed Center,. Cost— \$120. Registration deadline: 1/13, contact Jean Hopkins, 410-827-8056 X114 or jhopkin2@umd.edu

January 23rd**LOWER SHORE AGRONOMY DAY**

Time: Daytime. Location: TBA. Register: 410-651-1350 or jnotting@umd.edu

January 24th & February 6th

FARMER TRAINING & CROP OPERATIONS USING MANURE AND FERTILIZER -9:30 a.m.-4:40 p.m. Learn how to write a Nutrient Management Plan for your operation. University Wye Research and Education Center. *Contact:* MDA 410-841-5959.

January 24th**CECIL COUNTY AGRONOMY DAY**

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Calvert Grange. Register: 410-996-5280 or dbehnke@umd.edu. Pesticide and Nutrient Management Credits may be earned.

January 25 – March 14**ANNIE'S PROJECT.**

Wednesdays 6:00–9:00 p.m.. Location: 6 Locations in Maryland and Delaware. www.anniesproject.umd.edu

January 25th–26th**Executive Program for Producers; Financial Management and Farm Marketing Workshop**

Location: Dover Sheraton Hotel, Dover, Delaware. To register go to: <http://www.theexecutiveprogramforproducers.com/>

Thursday January 26, 2012

POULTRY MORTALITY COMPOSTING SHORT COURSE AND DEMONSTRATION . 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Poultry Research Center. University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Princess Anne, MD. **Cost: \$40.** Register by 1/19. Call: 301-405-1198 or email tscites@umd.edu. **Maximum registration is 30 people.**

January 31st

GRAIN MARKETING MEETING 6:30 a.m.
Higgy's Restaurant, 5306 Church Hill Rd., Church Hill, MD.

January 31st**DORCHESTER COUNTY AGRONOMY DAY**

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Location: English Hall, Eastern Shore Hospital Center. Register: 410-228-8800 or samathew@umd.edu

February**February 4th**

POULTRY EXPO, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD. *Contact:* Dale Johnson 301-432-2767 x325.

February 8th

FORAGE CONFERENCE, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Waldorf, MD.
Contact: [Jamie Fleming](mailto:jamie.fleming@umd.edu) 301-475-4477

February 9–10th

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE. Location: Dover Downs, Dover DE. The conference goals are to offer women who are involved with agriculture an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues. <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/kent/womeninag.htm>

February 15th

2012 BAY AREA FRUIT MEETING - Annual fruit growers meeting. Preregistration is required. Time: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wye Research & Ed. Ctr., Queenstown, MD. Contact: [Michael Newell](mailto:Michael.Newell@umd.edu) 410-827-7388

February 14th

GRAIN MARKETING MEETING 6:30 am.
Higgy's Restaurant, 5306 Church Hill Rd. Church Hill, MD.

February 15th

CAROLINE COUNTY AGRONOMY DAY. Time: 5:30 – 10:00pm. Location: Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton MD. Register: 410-479-4030 or jlewis2@umd.edu

February 21st

EASTERN SHORE VEGETABLE MEETING. Location: English Hall, Eastern Shore Hospital Center, Cambridge MD. Register: 410-228-8800 or samathew@umd.edu

February 28th

GRAIN MARKETING MEETING 6:30 am.
Higgy's Restaurant, 5306 Church Hill Rd. Church Hill, MD

March**March 2nd**

QUEEN ANNE'S AGRONOMY DAY. Time: 8am – 1PM
Location: Queen Anne's County 4-H Park, Centreville, MD
Register: 410-758-0166 or jrhodes@umd.edu

March 6 - 7th

ANNUAL ORGANIC CROP, FORAGE & VEGETABLE WKSHP. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Chesapeake College, Todd Performing Arts Theater. For more info call 410-758-0166 or email jrhodes@umd.edu

Innovation Forum

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), in conjunction with USDA and ARS, is sponsoring the Mid/Upper Shore Agricultural Innovation Forum on March 15, 2012.

- "Listening Session" - January 12, 2012 at Chesapeake College.
- "Focusing the Issues" - January 26, 2012 also at Chesapeake College.

During this session discuss the issues and challenges expressed during the Listening Session and identify the top four agricultural issues in the region.

Annie Project ~ 2012 Farm Management Classes for Women

The University of Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension will conduct Annie's Project during the winter of 2012 at sites in Maryland and Delaware. 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 farm 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 will be 8 sessions held at a variety of sites in Maryland and Delaware. Locations include: **Carroll Community College** Westminster MD, **Cecil County Main Library** Elkton MD, **Chesapeake College** Wye Mills MD, **HEAT Center** Aberdeen MD, **Prince George's County Extension** Clinton MD, **University of Delaware Research and Education Center** Georgetown DE, **Washington County Extension Office** Boonesboro MD*, **Wor-Wic Community College** Salisbury MD. Classes will begin on January 25th.

The cost of the course including meals and materials is \$75. Please register by January 18th - space is limited. For more information visit the website www.anniesproject.umd.edu or call 410-758-0166. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior.

Annie's Project has been approved for FSA Borrower Training. If you require training through the FSA loan process you can attend Annie's Project and complete a follow up workbook for your training requirement. There will be an additional \$100.00 fee for the FSA Borrower Training. For more information, please contact your FSA loan officer.

Winter Safety Tips for Farm Animals

Although we have had a very mild fall and winter thus far, we all know those cold winter days will come. While the grain producers can spend their days in a heated shop or at an extension meeting, farmers with livestock always face a few more challenges. While most animals can handle the cold quite well, they still need their basics of food, water and shelter. Most animals will respond to cold temperatures by consuming more feed. This is not a time to sacrifice on feed quality however. A larger amount of poorer quality feed may not support the energy requirements of the animal. Check with your nutritionist before adjusting rations.

Make sure your animals will have an ample supply of water available. Reduced water intake will cause your animal to decrease the amount of dry matter it consumes as well. In buildings, make sure water lines are insulated if need be. Be sure that trough heaters are in good shape, especially the cord. If you have plastic troughs, make sure the heaters are “caged” to prevent melting the side. If you hand water your animals, consider using warm water to increase intake.

Depending on animal species, production level and weather, your animal’s needs for shelter will vary. For example, a dry beef cow may only need a wind break while chickens may need an enclosed shelter with supplemental heat. If you use heat lamps, make sure cords are in good condition and the lamps and all cords are out of the animal’s reach. Make sure nothing flammable is touching the lamps.

Lastly, have an emergency preparedness plan in case of an extended period of severe weather or blizzard. Make sure to properly take care of yourself first, so you can then take care of your animals. For more information, contact your local UME office.

Jay Douthit, Kent County

In the interest of conserving our environmental resources, we would like to send our monthly newsletter via email. If you are able to receive our email electronically, please contact your county office and share your email address. Thank you for helping to preserve our environment.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status or national origin.

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