Newsletter

Talbot County • 28577 Mary's Court, Suite 1 • Easton, MD 21601 • (410)822-1244 •

August - September 2009

Maryland Cooperative Extension has a new name!!

We are now…

University of Maryland Extension Talbot County

In an effort to strengthen the connection between the University of Maryland (UM) and its land-grant extension mission a name change has been approved by the University of Maryland Board of Regents from Maryland Cooperative Extension to University of Maryland Extension (UME).

It is very exciting that Extension programs, which are based in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) and delivered to Maryland citizens in every county and Baltimore City, will now be formally recognized as the outreach vehicle of the University's research and teaching across the UM campus, the University of Maryland Systems many institutions, and across the entire state, says Dr. Cheng-i Wei, AGNR dean and UME director.

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Easton Farmers' Market
Parking lot off Harrison Street
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. April 15 - December 23
Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. June 7 - August 30
Contact: Carolyn Jaffe 410-820-8822
WIC and Senior FMNP Checks Accepted

St. Michaels "FRESHFARM" Market
Muskrat Park on the St. Michaels Harbor: Corner of Willow St. & Green St.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - Noon April 22 - October 28
Contact: Elizabeth Beggins 410-745-3457

New Website for Eastern Shore Agriculture

Ever wonder where you could purchase local peaches, plants or meat? The new website www.easternshoreagriculture.com has directories listing local produce, vegetables, chesses, wines, plants, meat and more for Dorchester, Caroline and Talbot Counties. The website also has a gallery of agricultural pictures and statistics of agriculture.
This project was funded by the Maryland Ag Council.

What is Farm to School?

Farm to School is a program developed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland State Board of Education will bring more Maryland-grown products to school lunches and help educate students about where their food comes, how it is produced, and the benefits of a healthy diet.

The Jane Lawton Farm to School Program, so named in honor of the late Maryland House of Delegates member Jane Lawton of District 18, Montgomery County, was created during the 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly when SB 158 Farm-to-School Program - Activities and Promotional Events, sponsored by Senator Jamie Raskin, was signed into law by the Governor in May. In addition to facilitating the procurement of local Maryland produce for school menus, the bill also creates a Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week to promote Maryland agriculture through school meal and classroom programs and interaction between students and local farmers.

Kickoff Week: Sept 14-18, 2009

Statewide, the program has been an overwhelming success and shows great promise for the future. Almost every county in Maryland participated this year as are more than 30 different Maryland farms.

Just think of the tremendous impact on our families and our communities if even our local item is included in school lunches for each of the 950,000 Maryland public school students. Farmers would have additional income, thereby strengthening the local economy and keeping farm land open and productive. Our children would receive the nutritional benefits of fresh, local products as well as the knowledge of why this matters. And, the financial, environmental, and nutritional costs of transporting food would decrease.

Including local food in school lunches and related information in the classroom is good for our students and good for Maryland. We encourage students and parents to continue asking for fresh, local produce in school lunches.

Maryland Home Grown Lunch Week 2009 will be held from September 14-18, 2009.
For more details, contact your local school system, or call MDA at 410-841-5770 or email MarylandsBest@mda.state.md.us.

Buy Fresh! Buy Local! Buy Talbot County!

Be part of one of oldest traditions in Talbot County!!

Talbot County Corn Club and Soybean Improvement Awards

It is time to start thinking about corn and bean samples for the 58th Annual Talbot County Corn Club and the 39th Annual Soybean Improvement awards. It is great to continue this Talbot County Tradition. If you would like to submit a sample and did not get the yield packet please call the Extension Office at 410-822-1244. The awards will be held together, again, in January. The date will be announced.

The club would again like to thank the

participants, sponsors and unit leaders that make this event possible.

The current down turn in the economy has fueled the food gardening frenzy nationally. Sometimes the frenzy can turn to panic with the identification of a devastating disease like Late Blight of Tomato, currently being seen all up and down the east coast. The Home and Garden Information Center hurried to action with a public Late Blight Alert on the website, and continue to answer questions from the public and identify diseased tomato samples brought into the center.

Bookmark the www.growit.umd.edu, call the Home and Garden Information Center at 1-800-342-2507 to Ask the Experts all of your gardening questions or send an email via our website www.hgic.umd.edu. Or just bring it into the office and Heather Buritsch, Urban Horticulturalist will help to identify the problem right on the spot – we are right here in Queen Anne's County will and ready to help.

Pesticide Container Recycling

All containers must be made from high density polyethylene (HDPE). The container must have held an EPA-registered pesticide or adjuvant, crop oil, etc. Any size container will be accepted. All containers over 30 gallons must be cut into pieces prior to recycling (contact MDA for instructions). **Pesticide containers must be properly rinsed (pressure-rinsed or triple-rinsed).** Caps and other non-HDPE parts, such as metal handles and rubber linings, cannot be recycled. Stained containers are acceptable provided no material can be smeared or removed when touched by a rubber glove. ***Please remove lids and label booklets prior to recycling.***

LOCATION & DATES

MidShore Regional Solid Waste Facility on Barker's Landing Road in Easton, Maryland between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3p.m.

August 21
September 18

Did you know???

Although many people have preferences as to the color of sweet corn over another, the color has little to do with taste and texture.

University of Maryland 2009 Wheat & Barley Trial results

This newsletter includes some of the summary results. For the full report you can visit http://mdcrops.umd.edu and click on Small Grains or call us and we can print and mail you a copy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORESTRY COURSE

The University of Maryland Extension will offer the **General Forestry Course** for the fall 2009 semester**.** Both the **PAPER AND ONLINE** version will be offered. The course begins September 1 and runs until December 15, 2009. **Registration opens August 1. To register, go to our website at http://www.mdforest.umd.edu.**

As there are no formal classes, you work from the comfort of your home using your own woodlot, a friend's or a public forest. You will learn how to protect your trees from insects, diseases and fire; step-by-step procedures will walk you through a forest inventory and stand analysis; and the details of the forestry business are presented, including tax nuances and the sale and harvest of forest products. Ultimately, the course exercises help you develop the framework for a management plan for your forest.

The cost for this forestry course is **$300.00.** Included in the cost are copies of the supplemental readings (A Sand County Almanac, The Woodland Steward, American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery, and a small pamphlet entitled *What Tree Is That?).* The paper version text and appendices is in notebook form. Online users receive a CD of the text and appendices. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

But don't take our word for it. See it for yourself on our website at **http://www.mdforest.umd.edu.** There you can read a lesson from the text, view an interactive exercise, read through detailed course information and FAQs.

For more information, contact Nancy Stewart at the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Wye Research and Education Center, P.O. Box 169, Queenstown, MD, 21658; phone 410/827-8056, ext. 112; or email stewar1@umd.edu.

Coverts Project

Woodland owners and others who want to learn more about forests and wildlife are invited to apply for training as Maryland Woodland Stewards. University of Maryland Extension is offering this comprehensive three-day seminar, formerly known as the Coverts Project, September 17-20 at Camp Pecometh in Queen Annes County.

The workshop will feature both indoor and outdoor training with a variety of experts, as well as instruction in the development of a forest stewardship plan. There is a nominal fee of $95, which covers instructional materials, lodging, and food. In exchange for this subsidized training, participants commit to sharing their new knowledge with others in their community during the next year through at least 40 hours of service activities.

Since 1991, 409 Maryland residents owning 70,000 acres have been trained through this program to practice sound forest management that can make wildlife healthier, more diverse and more abundant. These Maryland Woodland Stewards have in turn taught thousands of other woodland owners these skills and concepts.
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all 24 openings are filled. An informational webinar will be held on July 22 at 7:00 pm at connect.moo.umd.edu/mws. Log in to learn more about the program and to hear testimonials from current participants. For information or an application, contact Carol Taylor at 410-827-8056 or carolt@umd.edu.

Information and application forms are also available at www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalMWS.html.

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Did You Know??

Corn always has an even number of rows on each ear. Most things in nature have an even number of rows or lines. Watermelon has an even number of stripes, cantaloupe, etc. One cell divides into 2 - as cell division continues, there is always an even number.

Annual Field Crops Research Twilight Barbecue & Ice Cream Social

CMREC, Upper Marlboro Farm
August 6, 2009
You are invited to attend a twilight wagon tour of the University of Maryland Upper Marlboro Research Farm, on **Thursday, August 6, 2009** from **4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m**. Maryland Cooperative Extension will host this **Annual Field Crops Research Twilight Barbecue & Ice Cream Social.**

Served after the barbecue, "old-fashioned" homemade ice cream! It's "old fashioned" ice cream because we will be using a 1929 Fair-Banks Morse antique gas engine to do the cranking. This event will highlight all field crops, agronomic and horticultural research projects currently conducted at the CMREC Upper Marlboro Farm, possibly including but not limited to the following:

- ♦ Vegetable IPM
- ♦ Weed Control
- ♦ Vineyard Projects - Table and Wine Grapes
- ♦ Corn Stalk Nitrate Test Study
- ♦ Phyto-Remediation Grain vs. Forage Systems
- ♦ Apple, Peach & Beach Plum Research
- ♦ Blueberry Project
- ♦ High Tunnel Specialty Vegetable Production
- ♦ Strip-Till/No-Till Vegetable Production Techniques

College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Annual Field Crops Research Twilight Barbecue & Ice Cream Social
Location: CMREC, Upper Marlboro Farm
August 6, 2009 4:40 pm – 8:30 pm

Easton Grain Marketing Club – Denny's Restaurant
Aug 19 – 6:30am

Ag Progress Days Bus Trip
August 19

Soil Conservation First Annual Cooperators Dinner – Easton Fire Hall
Aug 20, 2009

2009 Delmarva Poultry Conference
Ocean City, Maryland

Maryland State Fair – Timonium Fair Grounds
Aug 28 – Sept 7, 2009

Easton Grain Marketing Club - Denny's Restaurant
Sept 2 – 6:30am

Easton Grain Marketing Club - Denny's Restaurant
Sept 16 - 6:30am

Easton Grain Marketing Club - Denny's Restaurant
Sept 30 – 6:30am

Easton Grain Marketing Club - Denny's Restaurant
Oct 14 – 6:30am

Easton Grain Marketing Club - Denny's Restaurant
Oct 28 – 6:30am

Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to give us a call – we are here to help!

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