

SHORE FARMING

October - November 2011

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TALBOT COUNTY CORN CLUB and SOYBEAN IMPROVEMENT AWARDS



Samples are being taken now for the 60th Annual Talbot County Corn Club and the 41st 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 banquet will be held on January 11, 2012.

The club would again like to thank the participants, sponsors and unit leaders that make this event possible.

WILL THE OLDEST CORN CLUB IN THE COUNTRY PLEASE STAND UP?

By: Cathryn E.
Wojcicki,
National Corn
Growers Association



Now approaching its 60th anniversary, the Talbot County Maryland Corn Club came to Corn Commentary with a question: "Are we the oldest corn club in the country?"

Founded in 1951, the club was founded to facilitate a county-wide yield contest and host an awards banquet for the winners. At one point, the club even served as a model for fine similar programs in Maryland alone, but the majority of these organizations have disappeared with state and national organizations hosting most yield contests. The members of the Talbot County Corn Club continue their proud tradition citing the knowledge and ideas shared as reason enough to make the effort.

To help them celebrate, let's find an answer to their question. If you have knowledge of any corn club that has run continuously since 1955 or before, please submit the name of the club and a contact by October 30, 2011 to Corn Commentary via email.



SENSITIVE CROP LOCATER

Maryland Department of Agriculture has a new online tool to protect sensitive crops from unintended herbicide exposure. Growers of grapes, tomatoes, tobacco, fruit trees, ornamentals and other specialty vegetable crops are encouraged to register their crops and field locations with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to ensure they are included in the database.

Crop and field location information will be included in the new voluntary statewide Sensitive Crop Locator database to assist pesticide applicators in identifying locations where sensitive crops are grown in order to take extra precautions for preventing the potential exposure of these crops to spray drift from neighboring fields. Applicators can search, identify and locate sensitive crops adjacent to areas where they intend to spray pesticides. The database, developed with Maryland Specialty Crop Block Grant funding, will also offer pesticide applicators access to maps and aerial photographs.

To date Talbot County has three vineyards and a nursery recorded. If you have an orchard, nursery stock, vegetables or greenhouse you may want to consider this.

For more information contact MDA's Pesticide Regulation Section at 410-841-5710 or call your local Extension Agent.



Computer Classes

Check out Chesapeake College's Division of Continuing Education Computer Classes offering

sessions on Basic Computer Courses: Access, PowerPoint, Quick Books, Excel, Word and many more.... Check the website www.chesapeake.edu for more information and register.



PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

If you have any pesticides that are in need of disposal, PLEASE participate in this year's program. It is not known when the next will be offered due to budget constraints.

After a four year absence, the Maryland Department of Agriculture will once again offer an unwanted, unusable and/or obsolete pesticide disposal program. This program has operated "regionally" in the past. However, due to budget cuts, the Department has not had a program in place since 2007.

The 2011/2012 program will be offered throughout Maryland. This is a **FREE** program for any agricultural operation (farm, forest, nursery, greenhouse, etc.). As we cannot guarantee if and when this program will be offered again, MDA urges anyone with unwanted or unusable pesticides to take advantage of this year's program.

Registration forms are available on-line at www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/regform.pdf or by calling the Pesticide Regulation Section office at 410-841-5710. Registration forms will also be available, in limited quantities, at each University of Maryland County Extension Office.

For more information, please contact Rob Hofstetter at the number above or via email at hofsterj@mda.state.md.us. Registrations are due no later than January 16, 2012, with a scheduled on-farm pick-up date beginning April/May



INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

Emerald Ash Borer quarantine reminder: All of the MD counties west of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay are quarantined for this pest. Do not move firewood to the Eastern Shore! Here is a link to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's emerald ash borer page for detailed regulatory information: <http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/>.

For detailed information, photos, and links visit the Home and Garden Information Center's EAB web page at: <http://hgic.umd.edu/content/emeraldAshBorer.cfm>. MDA is still interested in reports of EAB within the quarantined area. Please report via the Home and Garden Information Center's toll-free number: 1-800-342-2507 or via the "Send a Question" form on the HGIC web site at: <http://hgic.umd.edu/faq/sendAQuestion.cfm>.

New pest alert for soybeans: Megacopta cribraria, called the kudzu bug, bean plataspid, lablab bug, or globular stinkbug is a potential pest of soybeans. It is about the size of a pea. It is currently found in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Not only is it a possible soybean pest but also a pest of homes as it has a habit of entering homes in the fall to spend the winter. Keep an eye out for this pest and report sightings immediately to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5920 or via the Home and Garden Information Center's toll-free number: 1-800-342-2507 or via the "Send a Question" form on the HGIC web site at: <http://hgic.umd.edu/faq/sendAQuestion.cfm>. Here is a link to an excellent YouTube video from the University of Georgia: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h59B67u7zOY>

Home and Garden Information Center

Monday - Friday 8 am - 1 pm

CALL 800-342-2507



Nutrient Management Frequently Asked Questions

Soil Test Expiration Clarification

Q. I'm developing a client's plan for wheat so he can participate in the commodity cover crop program. His soil tests will be 3 years old in November. Can I use these soil tests for this plan? (Posted August 9, 2011)

A. Soil test expiration should be treated the same way as nutrient management plans--a soil test informs the application of the nutrients ahead of time, and so cannot be expired when the planned nutrients go down.

For example: a soil test is 3 years old November 30, 2011. It may be used to plan the fall 2011 nutrient recommendation, but not for the spring 2012 nutrient recommendation (even though that application may be only nitrogen).

Consultants and producers will have to plan ahead to avoid having to update plans in similar cases by doing soil tests before the crop goes in. (Source: Jo Mercer, Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture)



UPCOMING EVENTS

SARE FARMER GROWER GRANT WORKSHOP



Date: October 14

Time: 9am – noon

Location: Chesapeake College, EDC - 27

Register: 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu

The goal of the Farmer Grant program is to help farmers explore sustainable and innovative production and marketing practices, often through an experiment, trial, or on-farm demonstration. SARE defines sustainable practices as those that are profitable, environmentally sound, and beneficial to the wider farm community.

Successful proposals define a problem, offer innovative solutions, and test new ideas. These ideas may come to you as you go about the daily work of managing your farm business and should reflect the concerns and the barriers to sustainability specific to crops or products in your area. There are no set restrictions on content—for example, you can experiment with a new crop, develop a machine or tool that does something new, try out a pest control or grazing technique, explore adding value, test a new way of marketing directly to the public, improve the skills of immigrant workers and those who manage them, or address issues related to farm labor and apprentices. These are just examples—the scope of the program is broad. Note: Proposal deadlines are December 1 with awards announced in March.

SARE Farmer Grant-Writing Workshop

Date: October 26

Time: 6 pm – 9 pm

Location: DSU Outreach and Research Center
884 Smyrna-Leipsic Rd Smyrna, DE 19977

RSVP by October 19, 2011 to Jason Challandes
jchallandes@desu.edu (302) 388-2241

FOOD FOR PROFIT:



A state-wide Entrepreneurship Training Program customized to meet the needs of local food entrepreneurs

Date: October 19

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Maryland Agriculture Research Center 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeyville, MD

This workshop is in collaboration with Penn State Extension, University of Maryland Extension, and the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center

Have you ever been told that your favorite homemade bread, or salsa, is “good enough to sell?” Do you have additional fruit or vegetables

from your farm or home garden that you would like to make into a commercial product? Food for Profit is a one day workshop designed to help you work through the maze of local and state regulations, food safety issues, and business management concepts that all must be considered in setting up a commercial food service.

\$40.00 per person (includes materials and lunch)

Pre-payment and registration are required.

Please register at:

<http://www.event.com/d/mcq73k> or call 877-489-1398

If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact:

Ginger S. Myers, University of Maryland Extension Marketing Specialist at 301-432-2767 x338 (gsmyers@umd.edu)

HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP

Date: October 21

Time: 9 am - 12 pm

Location: Wye Research and Education Center



High tunnels, or hoop houses, are low-cost, unheated greenhouses that can help producers extend their growing season and improve the profitability of their farms.

These structures are freestanding or gutter-connected, use passive ventilation for air exchange and an irrigation system for crop production. Are high tunnels right for your crop production? Learn the fundamentals of a high tunnel, how to build one, and crop considerations. All students pay \$25 course fee. Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu





**POULTRY FARM
MANAGEMENT:
FOR NEW &
EXISTING GROWERS**

Date: November 1
Time: 8 am - 3:30 pm, 1 session
Location: Chesapeake College, EDC 27

Learn the essentials of successful poultry farm management. This program is a perfect introduction for new growers and a great refresher for those who already have an operation. You'll explore key farm topics such as site management and maintenance, best management practices, litter and manure handling, windbreaks/vegetative environmental buffers, financial/recordkeeping and nutrient management plans. Concentrated animal feeding operation regulations, EPA inspections and emergency preparedness will also be covered. Each participant will receive a reference binder, a certificate of completion, breakfast and lunch. All students pay a \$30 course fee.

Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-758-0166 or jrhodes@umd.edu

**SMALL FARM COURSE:
FARM TRAINING BASICS**

November 1 – November 15
Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:15 pm, 3 sessions
Location: Chesapeake College

Learn the basics of starting a small farm operation. This course is ideal for beginners and a great refresher for current small farm owners. Topics include an introduction to agriculture, farm enterprise, business management, animal science, livestock management, soils and crop production. By the end of this course, you'll have the knowledge you need to start your own small farm operation. Course materials included. All students pay \$25 course fee.

Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu



**GPS TRAINING
WORKSHOP**

38.99°N 76.95°W

The University of Maryland Extension is again offering a series of fall workshops for Beginner GPS Training to teach those interested in learning how to use GPS handheld receivers with a computer, with applications specific to forestry and logging uses.

Handheld GPS receivers are a great resource for landowners, natural resource professionals, and other outdoor recreationalists. Current GPS units are accurate (+/- 15 feet) and can be used for marking hunting locations, structures, streams, your vehicle location, as well as for fun activities such as geocaching. Professional natural resource managers can save valuable field time by using GPS with a computer to locate inventory plots, access roads, outline timber sale and property boundaries, direct customers to sale locations, and much more. Workshops run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the cost is \$45. GPS units and laptops are provided for the workshop. Date: November 2, 2011
To register, contact Carol Taylor at carolt@umd.edu or 410-827-8056

**UMES SMALL FARM
CONFERENCE**

Info: Call 410-651-6693 or email blrogers@umes.edu

A two-day educational conference is to provide a venue for farmers, landowners and supporters of agriculture to come together to network and learn about new opportunities and strategies that promote farm profitability and sustainability. "Sustaining Small Farms – 360 Degrees" offers a holistic approach to helping farmers. From providing the latest technologies in production agriculture to offering new ideas on alternative ag-related ventures and by training farmers on how to become more business and marketing savvy to providing practical suggestions on how to improve their quality of life, the conference



program will take farmers on a 360 degree journey to successful farm living!
Registration: **ADULTS:** \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. **YOUTH:** Registration is free with registered parents. For youth who will not be accompanying a registered parent, registration is \$10.00 per child. November 4-5, 2011
Info: Call 410-651-6693 or email blrogers@umes.edu

All registrations should be received no later than Friday, October 28, 2011. We
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Lab 1107 Waters Hall Princess Anne, MD



Are you prepared for winter?

Topics for this session include water consumption, barn safety and hay storage considerations.

Date: November 10, 2011

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Wicomico Extension Office

Register: Please call University of Maryland Extension 410-632-1972 or email

jrenshaw@umd.edu

MID-ATLANTIC CROP SCHOOL



Date: November 15-17

Location: Ocean City, Maryland

Info: www.mdcrops.umd.edu



GREENHOUSE GROWERS WORKSHOP

This course is designed for new greenhouse operators and for those already in the industry. You will review

bedding plant nutrition, disease & insect/mites, weed control, greenhouse problem diagnostics, water quality, pesticide sprayers, and business management. Maryland Pesticide Re-certification and Nutrient Management credits will be available. *Offered in partnership with the UMD – Extension and the MD Greenhouse Growers Association.* All students pay a \$39 course fee. Fee includes breakfast, lunch and course materials.

November 18

9 am – 4 pm, 1 session

Location: Chesapeake College, H-103, Cadby Theatre

Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu

BI-ANNUAL LAMBING AND KIDDING SCHOOL

Date: November 19, 2011

Location: Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD
Dr. Susan Kerr from Washington State

University will be the featured speaker. In addition to being an extension educator, Dr. Kerr holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell University. The school should be of particular interest to people who have been raising sheep and/or goats for less than five years. There will be a separate educational tract for youth. Program details and registration information will be posted to the Shepherd's Notebook blog at

<https://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com> and included

in the Fall 2011 issue of Wild & Woolly at

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/main.html>.

For more information, contact Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu.

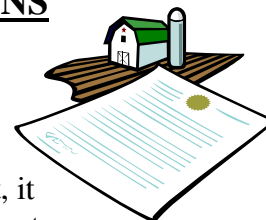
FARM TAX PLANNING: END OF THE YEAR DECISIONS

November 21, 2011

8 am – 10 am, 1 session

Location: Chesapeake College Room TBA

As you are finishing harvest, it is time to review your income tax situation. We will discuss end of the year planning as well as options for long-term depreciation. Unless you plan, you could miss



out on possible deductions or be required to recognize more income than you expected. \$15.00 covers all materials and lite breakfast. Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu November 21, 2011

**QUICKBOOKS
FOR FARM
BUSINESSES:**



**Advanced and One on One
Troubleshooting**

10:30am – noon

**Chesapeake College, Economic Development
Center EDC 26**

Are you using QuickBooks but would like more advanced information? This session is for QuickBooks users and will address more advanced topics. These include setting up fixed asset accounts, using a business credit card, lines of credit, enterprise accounting and payroll. This session will also allow time for one on one troubleshooting with your specific QuickBook questions. \$15.00 covers all materials. Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu

**QUICKBOOKS FOR FARM
BUSINESSES:**

Beginners

**Chesapeake College, Economic Development
Center EDC 26**

November 21, 2011

1pm – 3pm

Everyday tasks just got more efficient. QuickBooks can quickly organize your business finances and show you exactly where you stand. Instantly create invoices, track payments, manage expenses, and access information. Quickly locate any account, report, or invoice with just a keyword. Complete transactions faster with convenient access to your customer's or vendor's balance and transaction history. \$20.00 covers all materials. Register: Call University of Maryland Extension 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu

**UME CONTINUES TO OFFER
FARM MANAGEMENT CLASSES
FOR WOMEN**

Annie's Project

The University of Maryland Extension is again proud to offer the educational program titled 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 farmwomen 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. Classes begin on January 25, 2012 until March 14, 2012. For more information go to www.anniesproject.umd.edu or contact Jenny Rhodes jrhodes@umd.edu 410-758-0166 or Shannon Dill sdill@umd.edu 410-822-1244. Better to sign up early as this class fills up quick!

HAPPY THANKGIVING!

Thank you,

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