

## MARCH - APRIL 2009

### Talbot County Extension Welcomes Stephen Kraszewski

Stephen Kraszewski is the new Nutrient Management Advisor for Talbot County. Originally from upstate New York, he grew up on his family's small cow/calf beef operation. Farming inspired him to pursue a masters degree in agricultural and environmental management from Cornell University. After completing his graduate work he moved to Maryland in search of a career in agriculture. Stephen is pleased that he will be able to assist farm operators with nutrient management in Talbot County and understands that sustainable farming and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

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### Welcome to the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center!



This Center is an outreach of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. It is a one-stop-shop for the latest and most successful business development innovations and support for Maryland's agriculture and natural resources enterprises. If you are currently, or would like to be, an agricultural/natural resources entrepreneur, we invite you to explore this site.

You will find many resources presented in a variety of ways including our Distance Learning page where you will find podcasts on the latest topics. We want to hear from you, so please *contact* us with questions, comments or suggestions on how we can further improve the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center.

**[www.mredc.umd.edu](http://www.mredc.umd.edu)**



## 2007 Census of Agriculture

Early in January 2008, Maryland farmers found the Census of Agriculture report form in their mail boxes. This opportunity was to help shape the future of agriculture by responding to the Census only comes around once every five years.

Conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation

“The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in a multitude of ways,” said Barbara Rater, state director of the Maryland Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). “For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses.

“We’re committed to making this Census the best count ever. It’s about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state,” Rater said. “Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, Maryland farmers

will help themselves and their communities by filling out the Census of Agriculture and returning it promptly. We want farmers to know: the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility.”

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture:

- Call the NASS Maryland Field Office at 410-841-5740
- Visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

The 2007 Census of Agriculture for the State of Maryland



- The counties with the greatest number of farms are Frederick (1,442), Carroll (1,148), Washington (844), Baltimore (751) and Harford (704).
- The counties with the largest value of production (in millions of dollars) are Wicomico (\$197.8), Somerset (\$192.5), Caroline (\$186), Worcester (\$185.7), and Dorchester (\$166.7).
- The average farm size decreased to 160 acres down from 170 acres in 2002.
- 146 farmers say they operate organically.
- 131 farms generated on-the-farm energy.
- 161 farms marketed products through community supported agriculture operations
- 76 percent of farmers have access to the Internet.
- Almost 60 percent of farms have less than \$10,000 in sales.
- 1,525 farms contributed 87 percent of the value of production.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

surveyed all agricultural landowners during the first six months of 2008 about their farm operations for calendar year 2007. A farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold or would have been sold during the census year.

## **Solicitation of Input for the 2012 Census of Agriculture**



The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is soliciting suggestions for changes for the 2012 Census of Agriculture. All submissions must be received by August 28, 2009. Suggestions must be submitted in writing and preferably with the internet-based form. Written suggestions may also be sent to:

Census Content Team  
Room 6436B, MS 2052  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

## **Grain Marketing Website**

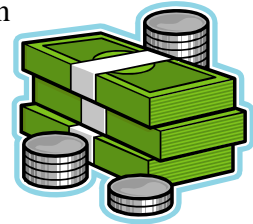


This website is growing so bookmark it and check it periodically. Listed on this site are upcoming trainings, historical information and crop budgets. A new page titled **LEASE AGREEMENTS** has been added to the site.

[mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu](http://mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu)

## **Maryland Custom Rates Available**

A survey was conducted in fall of 2008 for new custom rates for various farm activities in Maryland. For a copy of the custom rates contact the Talbot County Extension Office at 410-822-1244 or [sdill@umd.edu](mailto:sdill@umd.edu) or visit the University of Maryland's grain marketing website.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



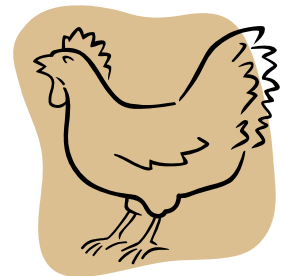
### **Intermediate Grape Growers Course**

A series of Intermediate Grape Growers courses will be held around the state in the spring of 2009. The sessions will include more in depth information about

the management and production of established vineyards.

Eastern – March 18 - Chesapeake College  
Southern – March 24 - Hughesville  
Western - April 9 - Howard County Fair Grounds

### **Delmarva Chicken Festival – Mark your Calendars!**

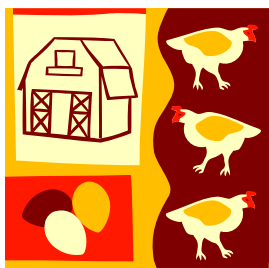


Organizers of the 60th Delmarva Chicken

Festival are seeking arts and crafts and commercial vendors to participate in the festival that will be held at the Queen Anne's County 4-H Park near Centreville, Maryland on June 19 and 20, 2009.

The festival's home and trade show is open to businesses, trade associations, government agencies, and other groups interested in promoting their products or services to an estimated general public audience of about 25,000. Crafters who create their own artistic wares are invited to share their products at the festival's arts and crafts show. Limited spaces for both commercial and arts and crafts vendors are available. Deadline for vendor application is Friday, May 1 pending space availability at that time.

### Small Flock Short Course Series



Interested in owning a small flock? Do you already have a small flock? Raising a backyard flock can be very rewarding for the entire family. Being informed on good

management practices and disease prevention is important to produce a healthy, productive flock. These short course series will discuss topics ranging from basic bird management, poultry nutrition, home processing, regulations, diseases and many more. There will be poultry specialists available at each location to answer poultry questions.

February 21, 2009 Charles County Extension Office - LaPlata, MD

March 14, 2009 Kingstown Farm Home & Garden - Chestertown, MD

March 28, 2009 Carroll Community College - Westminster, MD

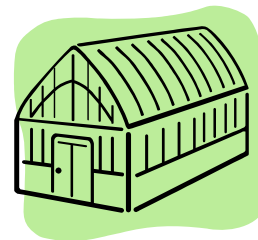
Courses are from 9am – 12:30pm. An Advanced Course will follow on May 2,

2008. All dates are open to all flock owners and anyone interested in poultry. Contact Jessica Renshaw at 410-742-1922 or [jrenshaw@umd.edu](mailto:jrenshaw@umd.edu) to register for a session and for driving directions.

### Principles of Substrate, Water and Nutrient Management for Nursery and Greenhouse Operations

The University of Maryland is offering a course entitled “Principles of Substrate, Water and Nutrient Management for Nursery and Greenhouse Operations” during the spring semester, 2009.

The course will cover the basics of soilless substrate management, irrigation system design and management, stormwater management and fertilization / nutrient management. The course is being offered primarily to undergraduate and graduate students (for credit), but will also be offered to extension professionals, growers and allied industry professionals (certificate-based). The course will be offered in four (1 credit) modules, which will be taught sequentially, i.e.



**Irrigation Management (PLSC 462):**

23 February – 20 March, 2009.

**Surface Water Management (PLSC 463):**

23 March – 10 April, 2009.

**Fertilization and Nutrient Management**

**(PLSC 464):** 13 April – 8 May, 2009.

Individuals can register for one or more modules. The cost for industry professionals is \$62.50 per module, with a price break for those registering for all four modules (\$200).

**NOTE: Each Module Qualifies for Three (3) Nutrient Management CEU's from the MDA The course will be limited to a maximum of 15 registrants, so early registration is recommended.** The course content will be primarily delivered over the internet using Moodle, so internet access and a basic proficiency with computers is required. However, beginner computer users will have little difficulty using Moodle to access the course content over the web.

If you have any further questions, please contact either Dr. John Lea-Cox at (301) 405-4323 (JLC@umd.edu), Dr. David Ross at (301) 405-1188 (dsross@umd.edu) or Dr. Andrew Ristvey at (410) 827-8056 (aristvey@umd.edu).

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

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Grain Marketing  
Denny's on Route 50 at  
6:30am  
March 4, 18 April 1, 15, 29

March 14 Small Flock Short Course, 9 a.m.– Noon. Location: Kingstown Tractor: Call Jessica Renshaw, 410.742.1922

March 17 4th Annual Organic Grain & Hay Meeting , 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Q.A. Co., 4-H Park, Centreville, MD. Register 410.758.0166

March 18<sup>th</sup> – Intermediate Grape Growers Course, Chesapeake College. Register 410-822-1244 or [sdill@umd.edu](mailto:sdill@umd.edu).

**MarylandAgriculture.inf** 

June 19-20 – Delmarva Chicken Festival,  
Queen Anne's County 4-H Park

July 8-11 – Talbot County Fair  
[www.talbotcountyfair.org](http://www.talbotcountyfair.org)

Sincerely,

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