

September - October 2008

In This Issue:

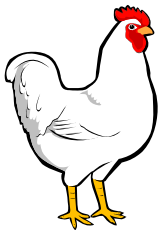
Feeding Operation Permit
Food Trader.org
Maryland Agricultural Mediation
Talbot County Corn Club
Small Grain Trials
Nutrient Management
Farm to School
Upcoming Dates
Calendar of Events

a revised version of the permit based on this input. MDE is now accepting comments from the public on the proposed permit requirements. Public hearings for the for MAFO regulations has been scheduled as follows:

November 10th, 6 pm Chesapeake College
November 12th, 11 am Wor Wic CC
November 13th, 11 am Frederick

Information on the permit proposal and notice of public hearings can be found on MDE's web site at www.mde.state.md.us/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/cafo.asp.

Adapted from *Maryland Nutrient Management News*. Spring/Summer 2008.



Animal Feeding Operation Permit Requirements Move Forward

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is moving forward with efforts to develop a permit that will update existing requirements for large animal feeding operations such as dairy farms. The proposal includes a requirement that poultry growers with 100,000 square feet or more of poultry houses get a Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO) permit. The intent of the permit is to develop a process that addresses water quality concerns without being overly burdensome for farmers. MDE estimates that about 200 of the largest poultry operations will fall within the MAFO requirements. MDE received more than 300 comments from farmers and other stakeholders on the draft requirements and recently published



Have a
question?

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Unlike most other resources on the web, we have experts from Universities around the country ready to answer your questions.

www.extension.org



Maryland's Online Farmer's Market- Foodtrader.org

The Environmental Finance Center located at the University of Maryland announces the launch of Foodtrader.org, a virtual farmer's market that will connect both buyers and sellers with local food as soon as it is harvested. In concert with its sister site Agrtrader.org, Foodtrader.org will give consumers access to the rich diversity of agricultural resources within the state of Maryland.

With Foodtrader.org, farmers can create an instantaneous listing that will identify the description, quantity, price, and location of their items. Consumers can search listings within specific categories and communicate directly with the farmer to buy the food at the farm, at a farmers market or at another prearranged location. This site also allows for producers and consumers to post listing for events and wanted items. It is a free website for Maryland that complements the Maryland Department of Agriculture's "Maryland's Best" program.

For any questions regarding Foodtrader.org, please contact Joanne Throwe at 301-405-5036.

Maryland Agricultural Mediation Service



Resolve Conflicts and Avoid Lawsuits

Using mediation before filing lawsuits in agricultural disputes is the law

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 29, 2008) – Farmers and others in the agricultural community who

may be embroiled in nagging disputes with family members, neighbors, government agencies, or even lenders can get a fresh start by trying mediation through the Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Service (Maryland ACRoS). Maryland ACRoS is a quick, confidential, no- or low-cost service offered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and is available to Marylanders to help resolve agricultural related disputes before they end up in court.

“There are no winners in agriculture when a disagreement goes to court,” said Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson. The time and cost associated with lawsuits and litigation strain everyone's resources and often result in outcomes that satisfy no one. We hope farm operators and their non-farm/off-farm neighbors will try our mediation service before a situation becomes unbearable or goes to court.”

MDA has provided U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified mediation services for nine years, through a program previously called Farm Sense, which is now known as Maryland ACRoS. Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process in which a neutral third party (the mediator) assists farmers, agricultural lenders, agencies, families and citizens to resolve disputes in a non-adversarial setting outside the traditional legal and regulatory process. Mediation is based on the voluntary cooperation and participation of all the involved parties. Working through the process, there is no finding of right or wrong and the mediator has no power to impose a solution. Maryland ACRoS has a roster of more than 20 skilled mediators trained to serve as non-adversarial, neutral, third parties to help resolve disputes. An initial consultation with program staff and initial mediation session is free of charge. If additional mediations sessions are needed, costs are shared by the parties, with full or partial waivers of fees based on income.

For more information about Maryland ACRoS or to request mediation services, log on to www.marylandacrs.org or contact Eddie Johnson at 410-841-5778 or johnsone@mda.state.md.us.



Equine Studies

at the University of Maryland

The University of Maryland and the University of Delaware will host the 4th Annual Horse Conference at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Registration will open at 8:00 am and informative equine presentations will be given throughout the day, from 8:45 am until 4:00 pm.

Nationally recognized speakers will discuss timely topics on horse health and nutrition, equine business management and marketing, pasture management, careers in the equine industry and much more! Veterinarians, trainers, horse breeders, horse owners, and anyone involved in Maryland's equine industry should not miss this opportunity to increase their knowledge about horses. All attendees will receive conference proceedings, breakfast, lunch, and the opportunity to ask questions of participating experts.

For more information on this event, please contact <http://www.equinestudies.umd.edu>

sponsors and unit leaders that make this event a success!



Small Grain Trials Available

Wheat and barley cultivar trials were conducted by the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture across Maryland in the 2007/2008 season at the following five locations:

- (1) Allen, in Wicomico County
- (2) Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center's (REC), Poplar Hill Facility near Quantico in Wicomico County
- (3) Wye REC at Queenstown in Queen Anne's County
- (4) Central Maryland, REC's Clarksville Facility in Howard County
- (5) Western Maryland REC near Keedysville in Washington County

Queenstown results are listed in this newsletter. For the full report log onto www.mdcrops.umd.edu or call 410-822-1244 for a copy.

Keep Nutrient Management Plans Current

Outdated plans are the top reason an implementation inspection results in a non-compliance warning. MDA reminds farmers that nutrient management plans must be current. The plan's expiration date is usually listed on the cover letter prepared by the consultant or on the plan itself. Plans are written for either one or three years, but must be updated if major changes occur in the operation. Remember, an Annual Implementation Report (AIR) describes how a plan was implemented during the previous cropping year. It does not replace a current nutrient management plan. If you have question, farmers can contact Richard Stewart, Talbot Cooperative Nutrient Management Advisor at



Did you know??
Talbot County is home to approximately 2000 horses

Talbot County Corn Club and Soybean Improvement Awards



It is time to start thinking about corn and bean samples for the 57th Annual Talbot County Corn Club and the 38th 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. Thank you to all of the participants,

410-822-1244 or the Regional MDA office at 410-479-4929.

What is Farm to School?

A new program being 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.



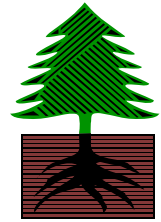
The Jane Lawton Farm to School Program, so named in honor of the late Maryland House of Delegates member Jane Lawton of District 18, Montgomery County, was created during the 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly when *SB 158 Farm-to-School Program - Activities and Promotional Events*, sponsored 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. 22nd to Sept. 26th

This year, Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week will be held September 22nd through September 26th with a kickoff event tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd at Takoma Park Middle School in Montgomery County. The program will also provide educational materials for teachers to integrate into lessons to help students make the connection between their lunch menus and the agricultural process.

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Forestry Online Course



The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension is offering an online Forestry course. This course will begin September 1, 2008 and will end on December 15, 2008. Registration begins on August 1. To register go to www.agnr.umd.edu/extension/elarning/general_forestry. For additional information please contact Nancy Stewart at (410) 827-8056 x 112 or email her nstewart1@umd.edu.

Beekeeping 101



Mike Embrey, University of Maryland Extension Specialist, will be offering a beginner beekeeping class at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown, Maryland. Learn about general beekeeping, beekeeping equipment, how to set and maintain a hive, how to use a smoker and how to have a package of bees. Classes will be held one Saturday per month through April. One final session will be held sometime in September of 2009 to teach how to winterize and protect your hives and bees from disease and pests. The opening session will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009, from 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon. Registration fee is \$100.00, which includes the textbook “The Beekeeper’s Handbook, Third Edition” by Diana Sammataro. If you have your own book, the fee will be \$70.00. Registration deadline is January 7, 2009. For registration please contact Debby Dant, ddant@umd.edu or 410-827-8056 x 115 or Mike Embrey, membrey@umd.edu, 410-827-8056 x 148.



www.talbotagriculture.com

Grain Marketing

Want to learn more about the Grain Market and what is happening now? The Easton Grain Marketing Club continues to meet every other Wednesday to discuss these issues and more. Everyone is welcome to attend. The club meets at Denny's in Easton at 6:30 am. Dates are: September 3, 17, October 1, 15, 29, and November 12, 26.



Four two-hour sessions will cover Introduction to Agriculture, Farm Enterprise and Business Management, Animal Science and Livestock Management, and Soils and Crop Production. The cost of the class is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple and includes all course materials.

The short course will be offered at the Extension Office in Easton, MD, from 7pm to 9 pm on four consecutive Wednesday evenings starting on October 15, 2008 and finishing on November 5, 2008. This class is open to anyone interested in farming. For more information, to register or if you require special assistance please contact sdill@umd.edu or call (410) 822-1244 by October 10.



Wye Pumpkin Twilight Meeting

Join us September 25, 2008 for an exciting twilight meeting!

University of Maryland experts will present results of the pumpkin research project at the Wye Research and Education Center to current growers, as well as those interested in starting their own pumpkin patch. You'll see 30 varieties of pumpkins; no-till on vetch; and information will also be presented for the Bt sweet corn research project. A lite fare will be available.

Time: 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Wye Research & Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Rd., Queenstown, MD 21658

Contact: Bryan Butler 410-386-2760 or Mike Newell 410-827-7388



The University of Maryland GPS Trainings 2008

Both beginner and advanced GPS courses will be offered this November in two locations: Keedysville, MD and Queenstown, MD. They are designed for natural resource professionals and forest landowners, but hunters, fishers, and hikers are also likely to find them valuable.

Each course will run from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and will cost \$55 per person per course. Garmin 76Csx GPS units and laptops will be provided for the training.

For more information visit our web site at <http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/GPS.cfm>

Did you know???



Talbot County boasts 2 wineries, two beekeepers and one cheese maker

Small Farm Course

Talbot County Cooperative Extension Office will offer a "Small Farm Short Course" to current and potential owners of small farms and anyone else interested in learning the basics of agriculture.



Pesticide Container Recycling

Last date for the year! September 19, 2008 at the MidShore Regional Solid Waste Facility on Barker's Landing Road.



Greenhouse Course



A Greenhouse Production Conference has been scheduled for anyone interested in starting a greenhouse to experienced greenhouse operators. The conference is sponsored by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension and Maryland Greenhouse Growers Association.

The seminar will be held on Tuesday December 2, 2008 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Talbot County Agricultural Center in Easton (10659 Hiners Lane). Topics will include: Energy Management, Bedding Plant Nutrition, Business Management, Diagnosing Disease & Insects, Water and Soil Monitoring, New Products to Grow and Growing in Cooler Greenhouses. These sessions will be taught by University specialists, educators, scouts and experts from the field. Maryland Private Applicator Pesticide Re-Certification credits will be available at this conference. Registration fee \$35 per person. This fee includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch.

For more information or to register contact the Talbot County Extension Office at 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu. **Registration is due by November 24th.**

The conference is open to everyone. If you have any special needs for the conference please contact the Extension Office a week before the conference.

University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Offers Farm Management Classes for Women

Annie's Project

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension is pleased to conduct a new 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. The course will be 8 evening sessions starting in January 2009 with classroom and computer lab work. Dates are being set now. For more information contact Jenny Rhodes jrhodes@umd.edu 410-758-0166 or Shannon Dill sdill@umd.edu 410-822-1244.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Grain Marketing

Sept 5, 19 Oct 3, 17, 31 Nov 14, 28
Denny's Restaurant,
Route 50 Easton

Rural Heritage Day

September 28, 2008
Queen Anne's County 4-H Park
Centreville MD

Small Farm Course

Thursdays 10/25 – 11/5, 7-9pm
Talbot County MCE
Register at 410-822-1244

Horse Conference

November 8, 2008
Chesapeake Community College



Did you know???

**Talbot County has over
600 miles of tidal
shoreline-more than any other
county in the United States**

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School
November 18-20, 2008
Princess Royale Hotel and Conference
Center, Ocean City MD
www.mdcrops.umd.edu

Annie's Project
January - 2009
Chesapeake College, Wye Mills MD

Horse World Expo
January 15-18, 2009
Maryland State Fair Grounds,
Timonium, MD

Richard Stewart
Nutrient Management Advisor
rstewart3@umd.edu



Future Harvest
January 16 – 17, 2009
Hagerstown, MD

Women in Agriculture
January 22-23, 2009
Dover Downs, Dover DE

Mid Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference
Atlantic City, NJ
January 13-16, 2009
www.madmc.com



Thank you,
Shannon Dill
AGNR Educator

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Heather Buritsch
Urban Horticulture
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