Look for the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) for the Production and Handling of Fresh Produce Class in Early Spring

A one-day program for commercial fruit & vegetable producers to learn about techniques and practices that can help minimize produce contamination. This program is suggested for growers who sell wholesale to grocery stores, organizations, food processors and selling directly to the public.  

About the Program

The goal of every produce farmer is to grow and sell wholesome products. And because of occasional disease outbreaks, agricultural producers of all sizes may soon be increasingly challenged with establishing and documenting methods of microbial risk reduction and prevention. 

Buyers for retail chains increasingly are requiring producers to establish and document a GAP program and may require third party auditing to verify compliance.

This overview program will provide a brief outline of the fundamental components of microbial food safety that should be part of any comprehensive management plan for growers, specialty crop producers, harvest operators, distribution and wholesale handlers, direct marketers, and fresh cut processors. Topics will include the discussion of key points and the guiding principles of food safety for fresh produce and auditable methods of documenting compliance with a food safety program.

Growers will also learn how to develop a food safety plan and conduct a self-audit. These are precursors that should be in place before requesting a third-party audit for GAPs certification.

Register Now!
Starting a Small, Intensive Commercial Farm for Local Markets

The focus of this program series is on small-scale, fruit and vegetable production; especially for people interested in starting or improving their small farm skills. Each of the sessions covers topics that are applicable to a variety of agricultural operations including small fruits, tree fruits and vegetables using conventional, sustainable and organic methods. The program series ends with a look at how livestock (large or small) can fit naturally into a small farming operation.

The selection of the topics in the series is done to highlight key subject matter that has been proven over time to be important in working with farm production operations of any size. This program is the result of collaboration between the Baltimore County office of the University of Maryland Extension, Future Harvest CASA, the Maryland Agricultural Resource Council, and several interested farmers.

To register go to: www.futureharvestcasa.org and register on the right hand side of the screen.

Rural Workshop Series

All courses are Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:45 pm at the Baltimore Agricultural Resource Center, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

January 30 - Marketing Essentials: Part of the Business Plan

Instructors: Ginger Myers and Amy Crone
Topics discussed briefly will include: developing a marketing plan, determining the potential of sales opportunities, finding a niche, value-added products, starting a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) on your farm, and other opportunities in direct marketing and wholesale.

February 6 - Cover Crops, Planning and Rotations

Instructors: Jack Gurley and Tom Paduano
Topics discussed include suitable cover crops and timing, determining what varieties to grow and when, succession and companion plantings, planting calendars and on-farm decision making. Discussion based on experiences on a long-term, organic, vegetable operation.

February 13 - Strategies for Pest Management

Instructor: Jerry Brust
Insects, disease, weeds and animals can hinder or devastate any type of crop production. Topics discussed will include Integrated Pest Management techniques to manage the production operations to minimize pest issues.

February 20 - Soil Fertility and Conservation on the Small Farm

Instructors: Jon Traunfeld, Jim Ensor, and Dave Martin
Topics will include: the basics of soils, including assessing, maintaining and enhancing soil fertility, plus overviews of conservation programs and nutrient management requirements. Interpreting soil fertility test reports will be discussed.

February 27 - Methods and Management of Season Extension Using High Tunnel Production

Instructor: Bryan Butler
Topics discussed will include management, location, crop selection and rotations within the high tunnel and other season extension techniques.

March 6 - Quality Assurance, Post-Harvest Handling and Organic Certification

Instructors: Dave Martin and Jack Gurley
The processes from land preparation to transporting your products to market offer many opportunities for product contamination and spoilage. This session focuses on the basics of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), raw food product safety and handling techniques to maintain product quality. The requirement for organic certification will also be discussed.

March 13 - The Business Plan and Management for Your Small Farm

Instructors: Dale Johnson and Sarah Rider
Topics will include: Tools for determining profitability, using production/cost data to make good business decisions, and understanding your farm operation within the context of your family finances. Actual small farm income and expenses are used in the discussion.

March 20 - Small Farm Business and Marketing Experiences

Instructors: David Paulk, Kristin Arbone and Elisa Lane
A panel of Beginner Farmer Training Program graduates share critical decisions and experiences with establishing and marketing their operation.

March 27 - Integrating Livestock into a Small Farm

Instructors: Susan Schoenian and Will Morrow
Small scale animal production fits well with vegetable production on a small farm. The discussion will include sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, and rabbits.
“Annie’s Project” Farm Management Class to be Offered in Baltimore County

The Baltimore County branch of University of Maryland Extension will conduct Annie's Project during the winter of 2013 at the Ag Center on 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030. The series that starts January 31 and goes to March 21. 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, and Human Resources. This course is open to anyone interested in farm management practices. Classes will begin on January 31st. The cost of the course including meals and materials is $75. Please register by January 16th as space is limited. For more information and registration forms, 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. For more information, please contact your FSA loan officer.

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training and Renewal

Part of Maryland’s Nutrient Management regulations requires farmers to have a Nutrient Applicators Voucher if they apply nutrients (such as fertilizer, manure or compost) to 10 acres or more. The University of Maryland Extension office is offering both training for people who need a new voucher and training for people who need to renew their voucher. Both sessions will be at the Baltimore County, University of Maryland Extension office; 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville (the Ag Center). There is no cost for the training session. The Voucher is good for a 3 year period.

The training for a NEW voucher
When: March 26, 2013 at 8:45 to 11:30

The training for Voucher RENEWAL
When: March 26, 2013 at 9:30 to 11:30

So that we can make the final arrangements we ask that you register for the training program. To register, get more program information, or to let us know of special needs please contact the Extension office at 410-771-1761

NEW Private Pesticide Applicator Certification

New private pesticide applicator certification

If you are a commercial agricultural producer and you do not currently have a private pesticide applicators license, and you need one to buy restricted-use chemicals, you can register for this Extension Training. The Program will be offered at the Extension Office, 1840 York Road, Suite J Timonium, MD 21093. Call the Extension Office at 410-666-1022 to register and get resource materials. Classes are limited to 18 participants.

New Certification Training
February 26, 2013
9:00 – 11:30 am
at the Extension Office,
1114 Shawan Road,
Cockeysville, MD 21030
(the Ag Center)

Private Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Training
February 26, 2013
1:00 – 3:30 pm
at the Extension Office,
1114 Shawan Road,
Cockeysville, MD 21030
(the Ag Center)

Exam date
March 5, 2013
9:00 - 11:30 am
at the Extension Office,
1840 York Road, Suite J,
Timonium, MD 21093.
### Upcoming Program Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td><strong>“Annie’s Project” Farm Management Class</strong></td>
<td>This is offered at the Baltimore County Extension Office, cost is $75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Vegetable Growers Meeting</td>
<td>8:15 am – 3:30 pm, Friendly Farms Restaurant in Upperco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>New Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training</td>
<td>9:00 – 11:30 am, at the Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Private Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Training</td>
<td>1:00 – 3:30 pm, at the Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>New Applicator Certification Test</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00 am at the Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training and Renewal</td>
<td>9:30 to 11:30 pm at the Extension Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Starting a Small Farm Intensive Series

All classes meet at the Baltimore County UMExtension Office at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>March 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>March 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>March 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>March 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Agricultural Science Series

The Baltimore County 4-H Program is committed to educating 4-Hers and the general public about the importance of Agriculture. We have created a series of Ag and Animal Science based workshops and opportunities for 4-H and non (future) 4-Hers. We encourage you to participate in these opportunities and spread the word. These will be wonderful opportunities for 4-Hers to add to their record books and animal person of the year nomination forms!

We hope to see you there! To register for a session, please call the 4-H office at 410-771-1761. Sessions will be held at the Ag Center/4-H Office at 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

**Fibers workshop**

February 9, 2013 1 pm – 5 pm