Hello Baltimore County,

It’s hard to believe that we are almost finished 2018! It’s been a tough growing season. I think I can vouch for everyone and say that we hope this year’s weather is not to become the “norm” in the Mid-Atlantic region. As we begin to wrap-up 2018 and get ready for 2019, winter is the time for many Extension meetings.

A summary of additional Extension workshops, meetings and regional conferences occurring this winter are listed below. Follow the links or call the number for additional details.

- **Northern Maryland Field Crops Day.** December 6, 9-3 PM. Friendly Farms Restaurant, Upperco, MD. $22 in advance, $30 at the door. Call (410) 887-8090.
- **Diversifying your Operation Workshop.** January 8, 15, & 22. 12-3 PM. Baltimore County Ag Center. $5. Call (410) 887-8090
- **Grain Marketing Workshop.** (Broadcasted live from Chesapeake College) January 10, 8-11:30 AM. Baltimore County Extension Office, Free. Call (410) 887-8090.
- **Farm Transfer Workshop.** January 17, 8:30-3:00 PM. Baltimore County Ag Center. $10 Register [here](#).
- **Carroll County Mid-Winter Farm Meeting.** January 17, 10-2:30 PM. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call (410) 386-2760.
- **Central Maryland Forage and Livestock Conference.** January 18, 9-3:30 PM. Jefferson Ruritan Center, Jefferson, MD
- **Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting.** January 24, 8:30-3:00 PM. Friendly Farms Restaurant, Upperco, MD. Call (410) 887-8090.
- **Beef Producers Short Course.** January 25-26. $75. Baltimore County Ag Center. Call 301-405-1392.
- **Urban Farmer Winter Meeting.** January 27, 12-5 PM. Baltimore, MD. Call (410) 856-1850 x 123.
- **Ag Conservation Leasing Workshop.** January 28, 8-3 PM. Baltimore County Ag Center. Call Nancy Nunn (410) 827-8056.
- **Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention.** January 29-31. Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA. $75-$165. Register online.
- **Harford County Agronomy Day.** February 12, 9-3 PM. Deer Creek Overlook, Street, MD. Call Andy Kness (410) 638-3255
- **Western Maryland Fruit Meeting.** February 14, 8-4 PM. WMREC, Keedysville, MD. Call Susan Barnes at (410) 432-2767 ext 301
**Beef Producer’s Short Course**

*Andy Kness, University of Maryland Extension-Harford County, Agriculture Agent*

The University of Maryland Extension has designed this short-course to provide producers educational information and hands-on training in several areas of beef production. Whether you’re just thinking of starting your own beef production operation or have been in the industry for years, this short-course will have something for all.

Topic areas that will be covered include: determining daily operating costs, understanding EPD’s, Veterinary Feed Directive, body condition scoring, forage sampling and storage, nutrition, nutrient management, pasture management, as well as many others.

Educational resources will include: body condition score guides, determining your unit cost of production, budget workbooks (cowherd system and purchased cows), estrus sync planner, grazing and hay records spreadsheets, resource binder, and USB electronic file resources.

To participate in the Maryland Beef Producer’s Short-Course, please submit a completed [application](#) and registration fee of **$75 by January 18, 2019**. All educational materials, meals (dinner and lunch), and breaks are included. *Enrollment is limited to 30 participants*, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than January 22, 2019.

Please contact Andy Kness at (410) 638-3255 or via e-mail at akness@umd.edu with any questions or concerns. More information can also be found [online](#).

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**Deadline to Apply Manure and Organic Nutrient Sources to Cropland is December 15**

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds farmers that December 15 is the last day to spread manure and other organic nutrient sources on cropland. Farmers may resume nutrient applications on March 1 as long as fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen.

To avoid nutrient losses on farmland and to reduce runoff into waterways, spreading manure in the winter is prohibited by Maryland’s Nutrient Management Regulations. Liquid manure sources generated on the farm must be stored in structures. The department is authorized to work with farmers to prevent overflows from storage structures in the winter and to minimize impacts to water quality. In these circumstances, farmers must contact the Nutrient Management Program for authorization before any spreading can take place.

Temporary field stockpiling of "stackable" organic nutrient sources with 60 percent or less moisture content is allowed when all other storage options are unavailable. "Stackable" organic nutrient sources should not be applied to fields in winter under any conditions.

Farmers should contact the Nutrient Management Program at (410) 841-5959 if they have storage concerns or questions regarding the regulations. For additional information, visit the program’s website.
University of Maryland Extension with Baltimore County 4-H is offering a program that will educate, train and prepare youth for college/career options in the equine industry.

- All courses in the program will be led by University of Maryland Extension faculty, as well as industry experts.
- Baltimore County has a growing horse industry and has a need for qualified persons to fill related careers.
- The goal of the course is to equip youth with the skills necessary to groom and maintain horses.
- Course capacity = 10 youth
- 4-H youth ages 14-18 years old
- The course is expected to run 8 weeks long.
- Each session will be scheduled for 4 hours to include lecture and hands-on practice time.
- Youth that complete ALL sessions of the course will earn a certificate of completion.
- Registration $10 non-refundable upon acceptance.
- Cost of the program - $325 (Note: program fees waived upon successful completion of all program session requirements)

A schedule of the project or time-line of events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications Open</td>
<td>November 15, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant Interviews*</td>
<td>December 7, 2018</td>
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<td><em>Parent/Guardian required to attend interviews</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Decisions Mailed</td>
<td>December 14, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1: Barn Basics</td>
<td>January 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2: Equine Basics</td>
<td>January 19, 2019</td>
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<td>Session 3: Conformation &amp; Parts of the Horses</td>
<td>January 26, 2019</td>
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<td>Session 4: Equine Health &amp; First Aid</td>
<td>February 2, 2019</td>
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<td>Session 5: Nutrition</td>
<td>February 9, 2019</td>
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<td>Session 6: Equipment &amp; Tack</td>
<td>February 16, 2019</td>
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<td>Session 7: Horse FarmTour</td>
<td>February 23, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 8: Career Day &amp; Exam</td>
<td>March 2, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Snow dates March 9 &amp; March 16</em></td>
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</table>

To register go to: https://ter.ps/4hegc19
Please call (410) 887-9080 for more information.
Labeling The Lactating Almond
Sarah Everhart and Allison Venable

The labeling of plant-based “milks” is a hotly debated topic among producers, regulators and consumers. The issue hits very close to the dairy sector, many of whom cite the proliferation of plant-based “dairy” products as one of the reasons for the sector’s economic hardships. The FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb recently commented on the fact that plant-based “milks” did not meet the legal definition or standard of identity of milk. The standard of identity for milk provides in part, “[m]ilk is the lacteal secretion, practically free from colostrum, obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows...” According to Commissioner Gottlieb, “an almond doesn’t lactate, I will confess.”

The FDA “has concerns that putting the “milk” label on some plant-based products which can vary widely in their nutritional content, is leading consumers to believe that those products have the same key nutritional attributes as dairy products.” Earlier this year, the FDA launched its Nutrition Innovation Strategy. “The Strategy promotes public health through efforts to empower consumers to make better and more informed decisions about their diets and health, fostering the development of healthier food options, and expanding the opportunities to use nutrition to reduce morbidity and mortality due to chronic disease.” As part of the strategy, the FDA is considering approaches to modernize standards of identity for plant-based “dairy” products.

In September, 2018, FDA began soliciting public input to answer the following questions:
• How do you use plant-based products?
• What is your understanding of dairy terms like milk, yogurt and cheese when they are used to label plant-based products?
• Do you understand the nutritional characteristics of plant-based products? Do you know how they’re different from each other? Do you know how their nutritional qualities compare with dairy products?

Although the public comment period was set to end on November 27, the FDA recently announced a sixty-day extension of the public comment period until January 28, 2019. The information gained from this public comment period could influence whether the FDA creates a new standard of identity for plant-based products or changes the requirements for products containing labeling that refers to a traditionally dairy product.

To submit electronic comments, go to https://www.regulations.gov to Docket Folder FDA-2018-N-3522. To submit written comments send to: Docket Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2018-N-3522 for “Use of the Names of Dairy Foods in the Labeling of Plant-Based Products.”

According to the FDA, while it “supports innovation and consumer choice in the market place”, the standards of identity and labeling requirements for plant-based products must be clear enough that a consumer’s choice is a well-informed one.

STARTING A SMALL, INTENSIVE Commercial Farm FOR Local Markets

In this workshop series, we’ll explore what it takes to be successful on a small-scale farm. Each session covers topics that apply to a variety of agricultural operations, including fruit and vegetable production.

What: A 10-part training for beginning farmers

When: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 9:00 pm starting January 22, 2019

Where: Pleasant Hope Baptist Church
430 E Belvedere Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21212

Cost: $10 per session or $60 for the whole series.

Register: Please call the office in advance at 410-856-1850 ext. 123 if you need assistance.
University of Maryland Extension Seeks Custom Rate Survey Responses
Shannon Dill, Agriculture Extension Educator
University of Maryland Extension, Talbot County

Calling All Custom Rate Operators:
We need your assistance in securing up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery rental rates and hired labor costs in Maryland. This information is being updated and published by the University of Maryland Extension. It is widely used across the state, so we need the best information available. Please respond even if you know only a few rates. We want information on actual rates, either what you paid to hire work or what you charged if you perform custom work. Custom Rates should include all ownership costs of implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel and lube.

Reported rates will be summarized in the Custom Rate Survey to show a range and average for the state. NO individual names or reported rates will be published in the Custom Rate Survey. Please complete the survey by December 15, 2018. The results will be available at local Extension Offices and will be available online at https://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing. We hope this publication will be beneficial to you as a custom farm operator and thank you for your cooperation with this effort.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the survey please contact me at (410) 822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu.

To complete the survey online go to: https://go.umd.edu/2019customrates or email sdill@umd.edu for an electronic copy. Thank you for your time!

DIVERSIFYING YOUR OPERATION WORKSHOP SERIES

When: January 8, 15, & 22, 2018 12 pm – 3 pm
Where: Baltimore County Extension Office
1114 Shawan Rd.
Cockeysville, MD 21030

What: Come join us in a 3-part series to learn how to diversify your operation. We will talk about Agri-tourism and how it might be right for your operation, adding value-added products, and marketing and pricing farm-raised meats.

Guest speakers will include: UME’s Ag Marketing Specialist, Ginger Myers, UME’s Ag Law Specialist, Paul Goeringer, local farmers, and many more!

Agenda to be available soon.

Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Register online via Eventbrite at https://dyo18.eventbrite.com or call the office at 410-887-8090

Cost: $5 per session

Women in Agriculture Annual Conference

The 18th Annual Regional Women in Agriculture Conference will be held on February 12 - 13, 2019 at Dover Downs Hotel in Dover, Delaware. The conference goals are to educate, engage and empower women in agriculture. The conference provides an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics in order to make informed decisions concerning the farm, business and family life. Sessions will cover marketing, financial management, farm production, business planning and much more.

A preconference will take place on February 12, 2019 from 1-5 pm. Participants can choose between two track offerings:

(Option A) The Family Farm Legacy: Keeping the “Family” in your Farm or (Option B) Connecting Through Effective Agriculture Communication: Building Trust, Respecting Voices, Engaging New Audiences. The evening will host a free reception in the harness racing area.

The full day conference will be February 13, 2019 and include 3 keynote sessions, 15 breakout sessions, 140+ participants involved in agriculture and 20+ exhibitors from around the region. Early bird pricing available through December 31, 2018. More information about this conference and other women in agriculture activities can be found at: www.extension.umd.edu/womeninaq.

Programs are a collaboration of the University of Maryland Extension, Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State Extension, Virginia Tech and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. For questions please call 410-822-1244 or email sdill@umd.edu. Programs are open to all, if you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact organizers at least two weeks prior.
## DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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