Kent County Harvest Breakfast

Hosted by:
University of Maryland Extension

Sponsored by:
Kent Soil and Water Conservation District & Kent County Farm Bureau

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company

Breakfast served from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Program begins at 8:00 a.m. with CEUs starting at 9:15 am

We are offering Nutrient Management & Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) from 9:15 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. If you are not in need of CEUs please don’t feel obligated to stay, but you are more than welcome!

Please RSVP to Kent Extension Office before December 1st - (410) 778-1661

Program includes Kent County Agriculture Updates

$5.00 - $15.00 Family
Children 5 & under – Free!

Happy Holidays!

www.Today'sPhoto.org
DECEMBER 2018

03 - Private Pesticide Applicator Optional Training, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Kent County Extension Office, Chestertown, MD. Call 410-778-1661.

03 - Private Pesticide Applicator Optional Training, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Queen Anne’s County Extension Office, Centreville, MD. Call 410-758-0166.

04 - Food for Profit: Introduction to Starting a Food Business, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Upper Marlboro, MD. For information and to register, https://pgfood4profit.eventbrite.com/, 301-868-8780, kimrush@umd.edu.

04 - Webinar: Is There a Best Way to Fertilize Corn with Nitrogen? (1 CEU), 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., https://www.agronomy.org/education/classroom/classes/606.

04 - Timely Ag Issues/Grain Marketing, 7:30 a.m., QA Extension Office, Centreville, MD, coffee, donuts.

05 - Kent County Harvest Breakfast, Details P1.

06 - Grow & Fortify Value-Added Agriculture Summit, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Kent Island, Maryland. For information visit http://growandfortify.com/summit/.

08 - Delmarva Small Ruminant Conference, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., WMREC, Keedysville, MD. For information, Susan Schoenian, 301-432-2767, x343, ssoehn@umd.edu. To register visit https://allwormsallday.eventbrite.com/.

11 - Palmer Amaranth Stakeholders Meeting #2, 9:00 a.m.- Noon, MDA, Annapolis, MD. For information, 410-841-5920, ppwn.mda@maryland.gov.

13 - Soil Health—Unlock Your Garden’s Potential, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Elkton, MD. For information and to register, call 410-996-5280.

14 - Poultry Farm Management for New & Existing Growers, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Rhodesdale, MD. Details P3

15 - Kissing Ball Workshop, 10:00 a.m., Elkton, MD. For information and to register, call 410-996-5280.

15 - DEADLINE: LAST DAY TO SPREAD MANURE & OTHER ORGANIC NUTRIENT SOURCES ON CROPLAND

17 - Private Pesticide Applicator Exam, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Kent County Extension Office, Chestertown, MD. Call 410-778-1661.

19 - WIA Wednesday Webinar— Using an LLC to Strengthen Your Farm Operation. For information and to register visit http://www.extension.umd.edu/womening/webinars.

25 - Christmas Day

JANUARY 2019

01 - New Year’s Day

04/07 - QuickBooks Computer Classes for Farm Businesses. For information contact Shannon Dill, sdill@umd.edu, 410-822-1244. To register online, visit https://computerclassforfarmbusiness.eventbrite.com.

08 - Timely Ag Issues/Grain Marketing, 7:30 a.m., QA Extension Office, Centreville, MD, coffee, donuts.

08 - Ag Conservation Leasing Workshop Series, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD. For information and to register visit https://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol. For questions, contact Nancy Nunn, 410-827-8056, nnunn@umd.edu.

09 - Poultry Mortality Composting Short Course and Demonstration, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Princess Anne, MD. For information and to register, call 301-405-1198, tscites@umd.edu, https://extension.umd.edu/events/wed-2019-01-09-0900-poultry-mortality-composting-short-course-and-demonstration.

09 - WIA Wednesday Webinar— Farm Bill Update. For information and to register visit http://www.extension.umd.edu/womening/webinars.

14-17 - Delaware Agriculture Week, Georgetown, DE. More details soon. For information visit https://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/, 302-856-2585, x 540.

22 & Feb. 05 - Farmer Training & Certification “Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan”, Wye REC, Queenstown, MD. For information call 410-841-5959.

22 - Starting a Small Farm: Class 1 of 10, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Baltimore, MD. For information and to register, call 410-856-1850, x 123, https://eventbrite.com/e/2019-starting-a-small-intensive-farm-for-commercial-markets-tickets-52960356853.

23 - Cecil County Winter Agronomy Day, 8:30 a.m., Calvert Grange Hall, Rising Sun, MD. Details P6

23 - Rotem Controller Workshop, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Denton, MD. Details P3

23 - WIA Wednesday Webinar— What to Grow in an Urban Market Garden. For information and to register visit http://www.extension.umd.edu/womening/webinars.

25-26 - Beef Producer’s Short-Course Series I, Cockeysville, MD. For information and to register, visit https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/maryland-beef-producers-short-course. For questions, contact Matt Morris, 301-600-3578, mjmorris@umd.edu, Racheal Slattery, 301-405-1392, rslatt@umd.edu.

29 - Update Your Nutrient Management Plan, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD. For information and to register, contact Paul Shipley, 301-405-2563, prs@umd.edu.

29-31—2019 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey, PA. For information visit http://www.mafvc.org/.

30 - Investing in Your Farm’s Future, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD. For more information, or to register online, visit https://investing-in-your-farms-future-winter18.eventbrite.com/. For information contact Paul Goeringer, 301-405-3541, lgoeringer@umd.edu.

SAVE THE DATE! – MARCH 1, 2019
QUEEN ANNE’S AGRONOMY DAY
8:00-2:00, QA County 4-H Park
More details soon.
The 18th Annual Regional Women in Agriculture Conference will be held on February 12 and 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 1-5pm. 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/womeninag.

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.

- **Poultry Farm Management for New & Existing Growers**

  The University of Maryland Extension has created a one-day workshop for new and existing poultry farmers on Delmarva focusing on poultry farm management. With today's environment, it is important to learn about the many aspects of poultry farm management.

  The topics that will be addressed are: farm management, site management and maintenance, best practices, mortality, plant handling, litter management, windbreaks, vegetative environmental buffers, financial/recordkeeping, concentrated animal feeding operations regulations, nutrient management, comprehensive nutrient management plans, inspections and emergency preparedness. We will also share all the information in a memory stick to take back to the farm for future reference. Certificate of completion will be awarded to each participant.

  **When:** Friday, December 14, 2018
  **Where:** Eldorado Brookview Fire Department (5752 Eldorado Rd, Rhodesdale, MD 21659)
  **Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

  Register by December 12 at [https://poultry-farm-management.eventbrite.com](https://poultry-farm-management.eventbrite.com) or by calling Sheila Osar at 410-742-1178 or email at soscar@umd.edu

  A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is a $5/person registration fee.

  Maryland and Delaware Nutrient Management Credits will be available.

  This workshop is open to all. If you need special assistance, including dietary needs, please register two weeks before the date. We will have a light breakfast, a lunch, and handout materials at the end.

  Please register by December 12. For more information, call or email Jon Moyle, jmoyle@umd.edu, 410-471-1178, or Jenny Rhodes, jrhodes@umd.edu, 410-758-0166.

- **Rotem Controller Workshop**

  **One Day, Two Sessions, Two Controller Modes**

  **Event Description**

  Rotem Controllers set new standards in the poultry industry. These controllers enable poultry farmers to raise their flocks under the best conditions possible while reducing operating expenses and increasing efficiency. These University of Maryland Extension Workshops will provide information to help you decide to use, whether you are a new grower or an existing grower. The morning training will be for standard mode users and the afternoon will focus on precision mode. Lunch will be provided. Any questions, contact Jenny Rhodes jrhodes@umd.edu 410-310-6773 or Jon Moyle jmoyle@umd.edu 410-742-1178. Seating will be limited.

  **Date, Location, Times**

  - Wednesday, January 23, 2019
  - Caroline-Dorchester County Fairgrounds’ 4-H Park
    8230 Detour Road
    Denton, MD 21629
  - Morning Session - Standard Mode
    9:00 a.m. – Noon
  - Afternoon Session - Precision Mode
    1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

  **Registration**


  **Sponsor**

  Rotem - a Munters company
GOOD NEWS FOR SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS: USDA’S HARMONIZED GAP PLUS+ NOW FULFILLS TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF GFSI, PRODUCE SAFETY RULE, PRODUCE GAP HARMONIZATION INITIATIVE, AND INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES

November 14, 2018 Nicole Cook

This summer brought some good news for specialty crop growers in terms of streamlining produce safety regulatory requirements for farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that USDA’s Harmonized Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Plus+ Audit Program for specialty crops is now accepted as technically equivalent by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). The agency also announced that USDA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) agreed to seek alignment of GAP with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. This is good news for growers because it means that growers who complete a USDA GAP Plus Audit also meet other U.S. and international regulatory and market requirements. That helps cut down on paperwork, saves time and money, and helps to grow markets for specialty crops.

The USDA Harmonized GAP Audit Program is an audit developed as part of the Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative (“the Initiative”), an industry-driven effort to develop food safety GAP standards and audit checklists for pre- and post-harvest operations. The audits assure buyers that producers have met required food safety standards and marketing practices. They verify adherence to the recommendations made in the FDA’s Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and industry-recognized food safety practices.

The Initiative is a collaborative effort on the part of growers, shippers, produce buyers, audit organizations and government agencies. The USDA Harmonized GAP Audit, in keeping with the Initiative’s goals, is applicable to all fresh produce commodities, all sizes of on-farm operations and all regions in the U.S. More information about the Initiative can be found here.

GFSI certification is a standard often required by international markets as well as large domestic food distributors. USDA undertook the GFSI technical equivalence process at the request of the specialty crops industry to align the USDA GAP Program with industry-recognized food safety audit requirements. and to provide the specialty crops sector with a single government-based certification program that meets multiple market access requirements.

As we’ve discussed in several previous posts on this blog, the FSMA Produce Safety Rule establishes science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. Large farming operations were required to comply with the rule in January 2018. The FDA, however, announced that inspections to assess compliance with the Produce Safety Rule for produce other than sprouts would not begin until Spring 2019, giving growers additional time to ensure they are able to meet compliance requirements. Small and very small farms have additional time to comply.

Although the requirements of USDA Harmonized GAP and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule are not identical, the relevant technical components in the FDA Produce Safety Rule, such as biological soil amendments, sprouts, domesticated and wild animals, worker training, health and hygiene, and equipment, tools and buildings, are covered in the USDA Harmonized GAP Audit Program. This means that specialty crop farmers who take advantage of a USDA Harmonized GAP audit will have a much greater likelihood of passing a FSMA inspection as well. The alignment will help farmers by enabling them to assess their food safety practices as they prepare to comply with the Produce Safety Rule. The USDA audits are not, however, a substitute for FDA or state regulatory inspections.

These alignments are part of an ongoing effort on the part of USDA to streamline produce safety requirements for farmers. They build on a formal agreement signed earlier this year outlining plans to increase interagency coordination regarding produce safety, inspections of dual-jurisdiction facilities and biotechnology activities. For more information about USDA’s Auditing and Accreditation services, visit the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Services webpage. And, for information about upcoming FSMA Produce Safety Rule Grower Trainings in Maryland, contact Deanna Baldwin at the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5769.

The Maryland Risk Management Blog, is provided by the Maryland Crop Insurance Project and the University of Maryland’s Agriculture Law Education Initiative. This blog provides readers with information on legal and risk management issues important to Maryland agriculture, upcoming events, and new materials that may interest readers. To subscribe to the blog, visit http://www.aglaw.umd.edu/. If you have issues or thoughts on topics Ashley, Sarah, Wele, and Paul should address, click here to send them.
Department Urges Farmers to Participate in USDA Year-End Crop Production Survey

ANNAPOLIS, MD (November 27, 2018) – As the 2018 growing season officially comes to an end, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end crop production numbers and the amount of grain and oilseeds they store on their farms. At the same time, NASS will survey grain facility operators to determine year-end grain and oilseed stocks.

“NASS surveys produce the most credible agricultural data available,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “The information obtained by this current survey helps to inform everyone from farmers to lawmakers and will surely have an impact on the agriculture industry. I urge all Maryland farmers to participate in the survey so we can ensure everyone is working with the most accurate data possible.”

“These surveys are the largest and most important year-end surveys conducted by NASS,” explained NASS Maryland State Statistician Dale P. Hawks. “They are the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States and year-end grain and oilseed supplies. Data from the survey will benefit farmers and processors by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing and marketing season.”

NASS will analyze the survey information and publish the results in a series of USDA reports, including the Crop Production Annual Summary and quarterly Grain Stocks reports, both to be released Friday, Jan. 11, 2019.

“Responses to the producer survey will also be included in the County Agricultural Production Survey and used in calculating county yields,” Hawks said. “USDA uses county yield information from the survey to evaluate and administer vital farm disaster and insurance programs. Farmers who receive this survey are not included in the County Agricultural Production Survey; therefore this is their only opportunity to be included in the calculation of Maryland county yields.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/. For more information call the NASS Maryland Field Office at (800) 675-0295.
Wednesday, January 23, 2019—8:30 a.m.

Calvert Grange Hall, Rising Sun, MD

Earn CEUs for Private Pesticide License and/or Nutrient Management Voucher renewals. If your license/voucher is due to expire by the end of 2018, plan to attend this meeting.

There is a registration fee of $5 per person which covers morning refreshments, lunch and handout materials.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO SECURE A LUNCH.

Please register by January 18.

Register online by visiting https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/agriculture/ agronomy-day-registration-form.

To register by phone, call the Cecil County Extension Office, 410-996-5280.