

Mountain Top Ag News

Growing Fresh Produce? Attend this March 5 training Food Safety Training will help you comply with FSMA Requirements

As you are preparing for the upcoming fruit and vegetable season, you may want to check out the requirements for produce safety training.

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) went into effect on January 26, 2016, however FDA phased in the requirements according to the size of the produce farm. For farms producing between \$25,000 and \$250,000 of fruits and vegetables, the phase in date was January 27, 2020.

One of the requirements of FSMA is to attend an approved Produce Safety Rule training. Maryland Department of Agriculture and University of Maryland will be offering the FSMA Produce Safety Rule training:

Thursday, March 5th, 8 am to 5 pm, in room 111 of the GIEC building at Garrett College.

The cost to attend the training is **\$25 per person** (if two people attend from one farm, the cost is \$50).

Hopefully you can take advantage of this session held in Garrett County as it will likely not be held here again for a few years. This training will also be honored by Countryside Produce Auction and Garrett Growers Cooperative for their internal produce safety training requirements.

If you are not annually selling over \$25,000 in fruit and vegetables (to all outlets), then you are not covered by FSMA requirements. However, it is

highly recommend that you consider attending this training. The training will cover good agriculture practices and procedures that lead to the production of safe produce.

While FDA provided the exemption for small farms, we do not want to have anyone getting sick from consuming local produce. While most of the food safety practices and procedures are common sense, it is a good idea to understand where critical control points happen with fruit and vegetable production, picking, packing, transportation, and selling.

If you have any questions about the training, please contact Willie Lantz at the Extension office at 301-334-6960.

Need Internet Service?

Garrett County Government is committed to helping its citizens and businesses get the services they need; which includes valuable high-speed internet service. In an effort to understand where service is deficient or absent, we have created an easy-to-use portal for Garrett County Citizens to test their current service levels as well as report locations with no high-speed internet options available.

Please visit this website to share this information:

garrettcountry.org/speedtest

If you cannot connect to the internet to complete the form, please call Cheryl DeBerry at 301-334-6968 and share: (1) your name, (2) complete address of the location without service, and (3) phone number.

Nutrient Management Annual Implementation Reports Due March 1

2019 Annual Implementation Reporting Forms and instructions were mailed in early January to Maryland farmers who are regulated under the department's Nutrient Management Program. These farmers are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure.

Reporting forms are due to the department by March 1 and are now available for download on the department's website. The forms outline nutrient applications made in calendar year 2019. Failure

to submit an Annual Reporting Form will result in fines and loss of eligibility to receive cost-share funds.

As a result of legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly, this year's reporting form asks additional questions on manure and other organic products, including poultry residuals, sewage sludge, and compost, that have been imported, exported, or land-applied in Maryland. The goal of the new reporting requirement is to ensure better compliance with Maryland's Phosphorus Management Tool

regulations.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should submit one combined reporting form along with a manure analysis to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Program.

Farmers should follow these guidelines when completing their Annual Implementation Reporting Forms:

- Use the pre-filled reporting form that arrives in the mail.

- Do not leave spaces blank. If nutrients were not applied, place a zero in the box.
- If the information requested does not apply, write N/A in the box.
- Use the pre-printed envelope to mail the report.
- Affix appropriate postage and mail by March 1.

For more information, farmers should contact Jill Hauser at the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Our Food, Our Future Conference April 3

The Western Maryland Food Council invites you to the second annual conference addressing all aspects of the food system in Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties on April 3 at Allegany College of MD.

This year's conference will feature education and action! Join us as we develop a plan to implement the amazing ideas generated from last year's conference. The 2020 conference will feature exhibitors with food system expertise, services and products. Interested in exhibiting? Contact us at 301-724-3320.

Sponsorships are available! If you want to see this event, and events like it continue in the future, please consider sponsoring! Call 301-724-3320.

WV Beef Producer's Survey

I am Rachel Waggle, a master's student in agricultural communications at Kansas State University. My graduate research is to better understand how beef cow-calf producers in the Southeast United States look for and process information about production risks. I selected this region of the country partially due to personal ties to the area. I was born and raised in central Virginia where I grew up raising and showing beef cattle. I built my own herd during my junior showing career and still maintain a small herd of cow-calf pairs in Virginia today. This passion for the beef industry is what led me to K-State to pursue my undergraduate degree in animal sciences and industry. My involvement in communications encouraged me to continue my education by pursuing a master's degree

The Western Maryland Food Council (WMFC) was formed in 2017 to assist with improving the local food system in Western Maryland. The WMFC includes Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties. While the WMFC is organized as a three-county organization, most of the work of the organization is done in local workgroups in each of the counties. The workgroups defined by the WMFC are Food Education, Food Access and Security, Food Economy, and Environmental Impacts.

For more information, please contact Willie Lantz or Cheryl DeBerry at 301-334-6960 or wlantz@umd.edu

You can learn more about the WMFC at www.wmdfoodcouncil.com or find us on Facebook.

in agricultural communications.

I have developed an online survey to gather data for this research. I am looking for any beef cow-calf producers in the state of West Virginia to participate in this survey.

To complete the survey, follow this link https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6m1zuufap9bw005

Survey responses are anonymous, and all information provided will be kept confidential and destroyed after the research is published.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this message, and I hope you will contribute to my research by completing the survey. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions or further information regarding this study. My e-mail address is rwags@ksu.edu

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Test March 9

If you need a private applicator pesticide license:

Maryland Department of Agriculture will give the test at the University of Maryland Extension - Garrett County office on Monday, March 9 at noon.

If you need study materials, call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Please register for the test by March 8 by calling 301-334-6960.

WMD Agronomy Meeting 3/11

The Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11th at the Pleasant Valley Community Building, 975 Joni Miller Rd, Oakland, MD 21550 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Agenda:

8:30- 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Pesticide Storage, Record Keeping, MDA Update

Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension

9:30 – 10:00 Is starter P fertilizer necessary in Mid-Atlantic soils with varying P Concentrations?

Nicole Fiorellino, Agronomy Extension Specialist, University of Maryland

10:00-10:40 Herbicide Resistance and Integrated Weed Management in Maryland

Kurt Vollmer, Weed Management, Extension Specialist, University of Maryland

10:40 – 10:50 Break

10:50 – 11:30 Crop Insurance Update

Dan Norris, Owner, Don Spickler Insurance, LLC

11:30 – 12:00 Benefits of poultry litter in crop production

Nicole Fiorellino, Agronomy Extension Specialist, University of Maryland

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 Hemp Production in Garrett County and Maryland

Nicole Fiorellino, Agronomy Extension Specialist, University of Maryland

Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension

1:30 – 2:00 Foliar Feeding of Plant Nutrients

Paul Miles, Monty's Plant Food

2:00– 2:30 What is the yield limiting nutrient on your crop(s)?

Ken Sechler, Senior Agronomist, Southern States

2:30-3:00

Understanding Glyphosate

Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension

- Participants will receive Private Applicator Pesticide (MD and WV) and Nutrient Applicator Voucher (MD) and Consultant recertification credits (MD and WV).

- Lunch is provided by Southern States Oakland Cooperative – there is no charge for the meeting.

- Register by calling Oakland Southern States at 301-334-3121 or the University of Maryland Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Hemp Opportunities in Western Maryland

Many people have heard about the benefits of CBD oil and hemp. With the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) was removed from the Schedule I controlled substances list. Industrial hemp is cannabis that has less than 0.3% THC. THC is the compound in the plant associated with psychoactive effects. THC in cannabis plants is often over 15% so there is a major difference between industrial hemp and other cannabis varieties. Farmers that grow industrial hemp must have their plants tested by an independent sampler and lab for THC levels. Any plants that have a test over 0.3% THC must be destroyed. Farmers must also have a FBI background check.

In order for farmers to legally grow industrial hemp, they must participate in the Maryland Hemp Program

which in 2020 requires growers to have a research project with an institution of higher education or Maryland Department of Agriculture. Anyone wishing to grow industrial hemp should visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture website at <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/Industrial-Hemp.aspx>

While many websites will tout the many uses of industrial hemp including the use of hemp for fiber, grain and oils, there are limitations in the processing and marketing of local hemp. Currently there are only a few processing facilities that can accept industrial hemp for processing into oils. The price on crude CBD oil has dropped to one-fourth of its value in early 2019. There are currently no facilities to process fiber within 200 miles of Oakland. Hemp

grown for fiber must be dried and is bulky therefore not lending it to long distance shipping.

In 2019, six farms in Garrett County grew industrial hemp. Growers interested in growing hemp for 2020 have been meeting to work toward shaping industrial hemp production into the future for Garrett County. The group is forming the Mountain

Maryland Hemp Alliance. The Alliance has goals to assist farmers with growing as well as processing and marketing hemp.

If you are interested in growing hemp in Garrett County or being associated with the Mountain Maryland Hemp Alliance contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Got Hay or Straw for Sale?

The Extension Office often fields questions about hay and straw for sale. www.GarrettFarms.org is where the office finds that info and/or refers people to.

Please contact the office and let us know what you have for sale:



- Type of Hay or Straw
- Type/Size of Bales
- Amount Available
- How it is Stored
- Pricing
- Contact Info

We'll be happy to put a listing on the website for free. Please let us know if you sell out: 301-334-6960.

Crop Insurance Deadline set for March 15

The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Maryland growers that the final date to apply for crop insurance coverage on most spring-planted crops for the 2020 crop year is March 15. Current policyholders who wish to make changes to their existing policies also have until March 15 to do so. Growers also have until March 15 to apply for coverage under the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) policy.

Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Coverage for corn, cucumbers, forage

seeding, fresh market sweet corn, fresh market tomatoes, grain sorghum, processing beans, processing sweet corn, processing tomatoes, soybeans, spring oats, and tobacco is available in select counties. Additional information can be found on the Actuarial Information Browser page on the RMA website.

Crop insurance coverage for sweet corn has been expanded for the 2020 crop year to include Cecil, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Growers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2020 crop year. Additional crops may

be eligible for coverage under a written agreement. Crop insurance coverage decisions must be made on or before the sales closing date.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can use the RMA Cost Estimator to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online.

For more information about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net, visit www.rma.usda.gov

Forestry Board Scholarship

The Garrett County Forestry Board has started a college scholarship program! We will award one scholarship of \$250 to a local student beginning in 2020!

Students may be attending any college, university, or technical school, as long as they are a resident of Garrett County and pursuing a degree in a natural resources field.

Applications are due by March 1, 2020 and selection will be made by mid-April.

For more information or an application packet, contact the Garrett County Office of the MD Forest Service at 301-334-3296 or melissa.nash@maryland.gov

Appalachian Beekeepers Association: Helping Bee Owners Learn About Care & Keeping of Bees *Join Today!*

The Appalachian Beekeepers Association works with all beekeepers and potential beekeepers with any number of hives.

With regular meetings with experienced beekeepers to discuss issues, the association is the best way to learn and connect with other beekeepers.

Membership fees are just \$10 per year, due in January. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Garrett County University of Maryland Extension office at 1916 Maryland Hwy, Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550.

To be added to the mailing list, call 301-334-6960.

Checks Preferred for Payments for Nutrient Management Testing

The University of Maryland Extension Office asks farmers to pay with checks for testing of soil samples and manure samples. Please remember to bring a check with you (Payable to University of Maryland.)

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Economic
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The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression. If you have a financial/disability need that requires special assistance for participation in any of the programs, please contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Selling Farm Products to the Public? Get a free listing on Local Food & Farms Website!!

If you are selling farm products or services to the public, or have an Agritourism enterprise, or just want to get the word out about your agribusiness, you need to get listed or update your listing on www.GarrettFarms.org

Just go to the website and check the "Farms A-Z" page to see if you're already listed. If not, or if you are listed and the info needs updated, send the information to Cheryl DeBerry at: 301-334-6968, or cdeberry@garrettcountry.org

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