UPCOMING AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCE EVENTS

Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo—February 2, 2013

The University of Maryland Extension will host the Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo on Saturday, February 2, 2013 (Snow Date: February 16, 2013) from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the University of Maryland Extension-Carroll County Office & Carroll County Agriculture Center in Westminster, Maryland.

The expo will feature educational seminars on poultry nutrition, disease prevention and control, chicken breeds, egg and meat production basics, housing, pasturing, feeding and watering systems, regulations on selling meat and eggs, breeding and egg incubation, turkey production, poultry in diversified livestock operations, exotics, egg grading and handling, marketing and economics, urban poultry production, predator control, showing poultry, coop construction, and injured bird first aid. Vendors will be available with live poultry and poultry related items. A poultry processing equipment demonstration will be conducted. Producers and Extension specialists will be available for technical questions about production practices. 4-H will conduct activities and competitions. Door prizes will be awarded. Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase.

Registration:
- Adults: $10 pre-registration fee, $20 at the door
- Youth 10-18: $5 pre-registration, $10 at the door
- Children under 10: Free

Free Registration for 4-H Members and Volunteers with Membership Card (must pre-register, show card at door)
For additional information about the Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo, visit the web site at http://carroll.umd.edu/ag/poultry.cfm or call (410) 386-2760.

Economic Diversification for Large Acreage Farms--February 11, 2013

This is a full-day workshop on why, how, when and what alternatives are available to large-acreage farmers, with minimal equipment investment, and how these affect profitability. Presented by Future Harvest—Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, Maryland Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), University of Maryland Extension, and Washington College Center for Environment and Society

Location: Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland
Date: February 11, 2013 8:30 am–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $15 Future Harvest or Farm Bureau members; $25 Non-members. Lunch is provided by Washington College which includes chili with beef donated by St. Brigid’s farm and local vegetables.

For more information and to register online, visit: www.futureharvestcasa.org/events or call 410-549-7878.
Small Ruminant Webinars

The University of Maryland Small ruminant extension program will hold a winter webinar series on consecutive Tuesday evenings in January and February 2013. The title of this year’s winter webinar series is “Breeding Better Sheep & Goats.” The series will focus on how to make genetic improvement in sheep flocks and goat herds regardless of production emphasis.

January 22 – Genetics 101
January 29 – Breeding Systems
February 5 – Selection
February 12 – Performance Evaluation
February 19 – Advance Genetic Improvement

All webinars will start at 7 p.m. EST and last for approximately 1 hour. Pre-registration is not necessary. Webinars are open to the first 100 people who enter (as a guest) at https://connect.moo.umd.edu/sschoen. After providing a log on name please indicate where you are from, e.g. John Doe (Harford County). Anyone with a connection to the internet can participate in one or more of the webinars. High speed access internet is recommended. Interaction is via a chat box. All of the webinars will be recorded and available for future viewing. The PowerPoint presentations that accompany each webinar may also be downloaded.

For more information, contact Susan Schoenian at 301-432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu

USDA’s 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum—February 21-22, 2013

USDA’s 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum, “Managing Risk in the 21st Century,” will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, on Feb. 21-23. Speakers will include USDA policymakers and 85 distinguished experts in the fields of inter-national trade, insurance, forestry, conservation, risk management, transportation, energy, nutrition, local foods, and food safety. The Forum continues to feature the traditional USDA commodity supply and demand and food price outlooks.

USDA has hosted the Outlook Forum since 1923 to provide farmers and ranchers, government, and agribusinesses with sound information for decision-making. Attendees are expected to include members of farm organizations, food and fiber firms, academia, foreign governments, and the news media.

For a program preview and to register ($375), please go to www.usda.gov/oce/forum, or contact Brenda Chapin at 202-720-5447 or bchapin@oce.usda.gov.


2013 will mark the 12th annual Women in Ag Conference. The conference goals are to offer women who are involved with agriculture an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and family lives. Sessions will cover topics in risk management including marketing, financial, legal, human resource and production.

Location: Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center – Dover, DE
Cost: $45

For more information, visit the Women in Agriculture website at http://extension.umd.edu/womeninag for conference information, workshop topics and to register. For questions contact Shannon Dill at 410-822-1244, sdill@umd.edu or Victoria Corcoran vgc@umd.edu. Please register by February 11, space is limited. If you require special assistance to attend the conference please contact Shannon Dill or Victoria Corcoran at least two
NEW DISTRICT MANAGER: Allegany Soil Conservation District is proud to announce and welcome Adam Heavner as its new District Manager, according to Tom Butler, chairman of the ASCD Board of Supervisors. Mr. Heavner replaces retired District Manager, Craig Hartsock.

Mr. Heavner brings with him several years of experience working with agricultural programs and a strong background with the farming community. He has worked with local, state and federal authorities as well as the private sector to address soil and water conservation needs.

Mr. Heavner’s role as District Manager will be to serve as the chief administrative officer of the Conservation District in implementing the policies and procedures of the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Heavner holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Frostburg State University, M.D. He possesses a unique skill set with strong working knowledge of computer science and engineering. Mr. Heavner has acquired his Nutrient Management Consultant Certificate and stays current with new Nutrient Management Regulations. We are pleased to have Mr. Heavner on board, and look forward to a prosperous future with him, said Butler.
Manure Sampling for Nutrient Management

If you are planning to spread manure this year, now is the time to collect a representative manure sample and bring it to the Extension Office. Taking a manure sample annual is necessary because the manure analyses varies from year to year. However, if three samples can be collected (over three to five year time period) which have no statistical difference between them, those numbers can be used as a baseline. This means you will not have to take anymore manure samples. This will save time and money! In addition, a representative sample is important because it represents the nutrients actually being applied to your field(s). If you are going to pay about $50.00 to get the sample analyzed, why not get your money’s worth and find out what you are actually applying to your fields.

How to collect a representative/composite sample:
1. Collect 10 to 15 individual samples (avoid outer crust).
2. Place into a clean plastic container and mix thoroughly.
3. Include any bedding in the same concentration as characterized by the total amount of manure.
4. Remove a sample from the plastic bucket (enough to fit into a zip-lock lunch bag) and double bag into quart or gallon size plastic bag.

Taken from University of Maryland’s Nutrient Management Publication NM-6; 3rd Printing September 2010.

If you need additional information, contact Helena D. Lewis, Nutrient Management Advisor, UME Allegany County at 301-724-3320.

Continuing Education Certified Nutrient Management Consultants 2013 Winter Webinar Series

These online training sessions will be held via Adobe Connect. You will need access to a computer with speakers and a high-speed internet connection to participate. If you do not have access to high speed internet, the webinars will be offered by University of Maryland Extension at the USDA–FSA office building. If you will be attending the live webinar please call the Extension Office at 301-724-3320 at least three days before the webinar. Two continuing education credits will be awarded for each webinar. Space is limited and applications are accepted on a first-come basis so register early. You will receive instructions and a link to the webinar site the day before the training.

February 13, 2 to 4 p.m. —Non-Nutritive Aspects of Manure Utilization—Register by February 20 at: http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Seminars/Description.cfm?ID=201
March 13, 2 to 4:00 p.m. —Update on the New Phosphorus Management Tool & Nitrogen Management of Small Grains. Register by March 10 at: http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Seminars/Description.cfm?ID=202

Important Notes:
In order to receive continuing education credits for attending the webinar you must:
1. Type your name, as it appears on your nutrient management certification card, when you enter the meeting. This information must be accurate in order for you to receive credit for attending the webinar.
2. Be prepared to provide your Nutrient Management Certification number, or Nutrient Applicator Voucher Number when asked.

Nutrient Management Annual Implementation Reports are due March 1, 2013. Forms available online at www.mda.state.md.us
University of Maryland Extension is presenting a three session workshop for farms who are looking to transfer the business to the next generation. The workshop will be held via webinar on Tuesdays, February 26th, March 5th, and March 12th from 9:30am-12:00pm. Participants (parents and children) will be given weekly activities to complete in conjunction with the course. Webinar will be hosted at the USDA-FSA Building.

Two topics will be presented each week. Topics include:
- Preparing to Transfer the Farm Business
- Major Tax Considerations when Transferring the Assets
- Overview of Farm Transfer Strategies
- Financial Considerations in Transferring the Farm
- Treatment of Heirs and Available Financial Assistance
- Estate Planning and the Transfer Process

There will be a $25 fee for the program per farm. Interested parties are asked to register with the UME Office by February 21, 2013.

**MASTER GARDENERS UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS**

- **February 7– to May 2, 2013**– Master Gardener Basic Training Course
- **March 14**– Master Gardener class with University guest speakers. State Entomologist and State Plant Pathologist. 1-3pm Constitution Park, Cumberland MD
- **March 14**– Master Gardener Meeting following the completion of Entomology and Plant Pathology Class. Constitution Park 3:30-5:30pm
- **April 15, 2013**– Quarterly reports are due to the extension office. This should be the volunteer and educational hours logged for the months of January, February, and March of 2013.
- **May 4**– Educational Open house and Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Demonstration Garden
- **May 11, 2013** Production Tours
- **May 22, 2013**– Master Gardener Annual Training Day, College Park, MD

**Bulletin Board** — For continued updates on Agriculture and Natural Resources events be sure to stop by the office and check out the new bulletin board.

**Facebook Page** — The Master Gardeners are pleased to announce that as a result of our last meeting we now have a facebook page! Search for Allegany County Master Gardeners and like our page! Or type the link into your toolbar [http://www.facebook.com/AlleganyCountyMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/AlleganyCountyMasterGardeners) Also feel free to share and invite your friends! My hopes are that this page will not only be a way that we can communicate with each other, but a way to share information about upcoming events, activities and education with the public!
Current Resident or

IN THIS ISSUE:

⇒ Upcoming Agriculture and Animal Science Events
⇒ Soil Conservation News
⇒ Farm Transition Workshop
⇒ Nutrient Management news
⇒ Master Gardener News and Events

Save Paper!

To receive this newsletter by email, send a note to: jparrish@umd.edu.