UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference, Garrett College
Thursday January 16, 2014—8:30 am to 3:30 pm
This winter’s series of Hay and Pasture Conferences across Maryland and Delaware will emphasize efficient pasture systems design that accommodates natural features and management challenges. One of the featured speakers will be Don Wild, retired Conservation Agronomist and Grazing Specialist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in New York. Over his 39-year career, Don has assisted hundreds of livestock and dairy producers implement grazing systems to better manage their forage resources. John Comerford, Penn State University Extension Beef Specialist, will address animal genetics as it relates to beef and small ruminant pasture-based production systems.

Certified Crop Advisor and nutrient management certification credits will be offered.
Registration fee (includes lunch) for the Tri-State conference is $15 per person by January 8 and $20 at the door. Checks should be made payable to Garrett EAC and sent to Hay & Pasture Conference, University of Maryland Extension, 1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A, Mtn. Lake Park, MD 21550. Call 301-334-6960 for more information.

Tentative Schedule

8:30 to 9:00 am  Registration
9:00 to 10:15 am  Efficient Pasture Systems Design on Irregular Topography
                  Presenter: Mr. Don Wild, Wild Acres Family Farm, Great Valley, NY
                  and retired NRCS Grazing Specialist for Western New York
10:15 to 10:30 am  Coffee Break/Discussion
10:30 to 11:00 am  Effects of Late Summer Seeding Date on Stand Establishment and
                   Performance
                   Presenter: Dr. Les Vough, Forage Agronomist, Southern Maryland RC & D
                   & University of Maryland Forage Crops Extension Specialist Emeritus
11:00 to 12:00 pm  Landscape, Animal, Plant, and Operational Challenges in Grazing Systems
                   Presenter: Mr. Don Wild
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  Lunch
1:00 to 1:15 pm   Update on NRCS Programs
                  Presenter: Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist, Garrett & Allegany Soil
                  Conservation Districts
1:15 to 2:15 pm   Influence of Animal Genetics on Beef and Small Ruminant Pasture-Based Production Systems
                  Presenter: Dr. John Comerford, Extension Beef Specialist Emeritus, Penn State
                  University
2:15 to 3:30 pm   Panel Nutrient Management Regulatory Update for Hay and Pasture Producers
                  MDA and NRCS Personnel
3:30 pm            Adjournment
**UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS**

**2014 Maryland Agricultural Pesticide Conference**

The 2014 Maryland Agricultural Pesticide Conference is an educational program conducted by the University of Maryland Extension for custom pesticide applicators, dealers, distributors, sales representatives, growers, agency representatives and extension workers. The 2014 conference will be presented on **Tuesday, February 4** at the Legends Restaurant in the Frederick Hampton Inn. The Maryland Department of Agriculture will accept attendance at the full-day session for recertification in the following categories:

- 1A Agricultural, Plant
- 1B Agricultural, Animal
- 4 Seed Treatment
- 9 Regulatory
- 10 Demonstration and Research

A pre-registration fee of **$35** is required and includes lunch, handouts, registration materials and conference costs and must be received by **Friday, January 17**. Please mail the form with your check or money order to the correct address listed on the form. **We are accepting credit card payments again this year!** Please visit the following website, Eventbrite, and follow the instructions to make your credit card payment: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-maryland-agricultural-pesticide-conference-tickets-9358943853](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-maryland-agricultural-pesticide-conference-tickets-9358943853)

However, you must be sure to complete the registration form and mail it to us to reserve your spot. Registrations received after January 17 will be **$50.00, no exceptions**.

Confirmation of registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. If you have questions about the Frederick Conference, call Dave Martin, Baltimore County Extension Agent at (410) 771-1761.

**Western MD Agronomy Meeting**  
**February 21, 2014 -9am–4pm**

The Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting will be held at Garrett College on Friday, February 21. The meeting will feature Dr. Greg Roth from Penn State as the keynote speaker. Dr. Roth will be joined by other extension and private industry speakers. Vendors will be on hand to answer questions about new products ranging from fertilizers to seed. **Participants will be able to earn Maryland and West Virginia credits for Nutrient Management Certification.** Early registration fee $15.00 per person by February 19 or pay $20.00 at door. Lunch is included.

For additional information or to register for the meeting contact the Garrett County Extension office at 301-334-6960.

**Annual Fruit Meeting at the Wye Research and Education Center**  
**February 26, 2014, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Topics included but not limited to:
- Managing bacterial diseases on tree fruit
- Updates on invasive insect pests
- Research report on size controlling apple rootstocks
- Hop yard
- Meadow orchards
- Frost protection options

Pesticide and CCA credits will be offered. For program questions, please contact Mike Newell, mnewell@umd.edu 410-827-7388.

**Mt. Top Fruit and Vegetable Conference at Garrett College**  
**Saturday, February 22 - 8:15 am—4:15 pm.**

The meeting will feature university extension personnel, private industry and producers covering a variety of fruit and vegetable topics. Early registration fee $15.00 per person by February 20, or pay $20.00 at door. Lunch is included. For additional information or to register for the meeting contact the Garrett County Extension office at 301-334-6960.
UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

Annie’s Project

The University of Maryland Extension and Delaware Cooperative Extension will conduct Annie’s Project during the winter of 2014 at six sites in Maryland. 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 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, Human Resources. This course is open to anyone interested in farm management practices.

The course will be 8 sessions held at Washington County Extension Office Boonsboro MD, The cost of the course including meals and materials is $75. For more information or to register visit the website www.extension.umd.edu/annies-project or call 410-758-0166. Please register by January 10 as space is limited. 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.

13th Annual Mid-Atlantic Women In Agriculture Regional Conference

The University of Maryland Extension, Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State Extension and Rutgers Cooperative Extension will partner to offer the 13th Annual Mid-Atlantic Women In Agriculture Regional Conference. The conference will be held on February 20, 2014 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino in Dover, Delaware. The conference goals are to offer women who are involved with agriculture the 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 marketing, food preservation, business planning and much more.

New for 2014, a preconference will also be offered. The preconference will take place on February 19, 2014 from 1-5pm. Participants can choose between two track offerings: Agritourism or Health Insurance Literacy.

The cost of the conference is $45. The cost for the preconference is $30. For more information or to register visit the website www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag or call 410-822-1244. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior.

Nutrient Management Webinars

Once again University of Maryland Extension (UME) will host a series of nutrient management webinars for continuing education purposes. Webinars will be held January 9, February 13, and March 13 from 2:00–4:00pm. If you are an applicator or certified plan writer, you can access these webinars from your home computer, however you will need high speed internet connection. Each webinar will grant 2 hours of continuing education credit. Upon completion of the webinar, you will be asked to enter your name and voucher/certification number so make sure you have it ready. To participate in the January webinar from your home, you will need to register for the event at http://www.eventbrite.com/event/8977661427. Once you complete the registration, you will receive an email with the log in information for the webinar. Further information about the February and March webinars will be sent to those needing continuing education at a later date.

If you do not have high speed internet access, you can watch the webinars live at the UME office. If you choose to attend the sessions at the office, please call 301-724-3320 to register in advance. If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in this program, please let us know when you register.
A new program to help beginning farmers in Maryland, the *Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success*, builds on existing Extension resources and partnerships with Future Harvest-CASA and Southern MD Agriculture Development Commission, regional nonprofits, agricultural organizations, and experienced farmers to provide beginning farmers with easily accessible tools and practical experience-based training on farm production, marketing, land management, business planning, and financial resources. The Collaborative features four major components for various levels of background knowledge a beginning farmer may already possess.

Beginning farmers may choose to enter into the Collaborative at any of the four levels.

1. **Explore** farming options, understand the components of a successful farm operation, and make decisions about what enterprises best fit their interests.

2. **Refine** participants farm interests, understand the requirements and strategies of different farm enterprises and begin developing plans for assessing resources needed to implement a farm plan.

3. **Develop** specific farm production and business plans and obtain needed resources to begin a farm enterprise.

4. **Implement** farm plans, start agricultural enterprises and continue as successful beginning farmers.

Visit the website at [www.extension.umd.edu/newfarmer](http://www.extension.umd.edu/newfarmer)

**Making Your Farm More Productive Using New Technologies**

University of Maryland Extension (UME) of Allegany County will be hosting a two-session course this spring on how to use new technologies on your farm operation to make your life easier, and more productive. Topics that will be covered include basic marketing strategies, branding your products, using your cell phones to your advantage and social media just to name a few.

The course will be held at the Frostburg Library in the computer lab on Thursdays: February 6 and 13, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This course is open to all levels of tech savvy people and is free of charge. To register call the UME Office at 301-724-3320 by **February 4, 2014**. If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in this program, please let us know when you register.
**MASTER GARDENER BASIC TRAINING ANNOUNCED**

Are you interested in learning more about gardening and sharing your gardening knowledge? The Maryland Master Gardener Program is an outreach of the University of Maryland Extension (UME) which can help you do just that. We study gardening from soil, nutrients, and water to beneficial insects. The next basic training will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7pm beginning March 4, 2014 and ending April 17, 2014. These classes will be held at City Parks and Recreation Building at Constitution Park. Following the completion of the course there will be a group field trip to local farms. The cost for the course will be $110 per person. This covers the cost of the Master Gardener manual, class workbook, and teaching supplies. If you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please contact the UME office at 301-724-3320.

**MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

Allegany County Master Gardeners recently held their annual awards banquet and holiday dinner at the Eastern Garrett Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. In 2013, nine volunteers became certified Master Gardeners. To become a certified Master Gardener, an individual must enroll in the Master Gardener Basic training course and provide a minimum of 40 volunteer hours to the community. As a whole, Allegany County Master Gardeners have donated a total of 425 volunteer hours to Allegany County communities in 2013.

Pictured from left to right are the Master Gardeners who became certified this year. Front row: Becky Yost, UME AGNR Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator, Jeff McEntyre, Elissa Parish, Edith Elvee, Dawn Custer, Jeanne Starkey. Back Row: George Forlifer, Ray Shipley, Rob Custer. Also recognized was an outstanding Master Gardener, Donna Gates, who volunteered a total of 65.75 volunteer hours in 2013. Pictured with Gates is Master Gardener Coordinator Becky Yost.

Following the awards and dinner Master Gardeners learned how to make Christmas swags for their homes. Below are some of the master gardeners with their swags. Left to right, Master Gardeners Jerry and Joyce Noel, Master Gardener Virgil Twigg and his wife Ruth, and Master Gardener Mary Jo Price.
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