Federal Rules Regulating Interstate Movement of Livestock Take Effect Feb. 26

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Feb. 13, 2013) – All livestock moving in or out of Maryland will be subject to the USDA’s newly adopted Animal Disease Traceability regulations that take effect on February 26. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the lead agency responsible for implementing the rule in the state, is currently contacting producers, veterinarians and other concerned parties who are involved with the interstate movement of cattle to make sure they are aware of the upcoming changes and to help them comply.

The new regulations which primarily affect cattle operators, require most livestock moving interstate to be identified with official ear tags. Maryland does not accept brands or tattoos as official identification for livestock entering or leaving the state.

Beef cattle under 18 months of age are exempt from the identification requirement for interstate movement unless they are moved for shows, exhibitions, rodeos, or recreational events. Livestock moving interstate directly to slaughter are also exempt. MDA will allow livestock without official identification to enter the state for delivery to an auction market or other approved tagging facility as long as those animals have an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI).

Generally, all livestock entering Maryland from another state must be accompanied by an ICVI even if they are tagged with an official identification device. Exceptions are:

- Livestock entering Maryland for delivery to an auction market or other official tagging station provided the livestock are tagged with official identification and are accompanied by an owner-shipper statement specifying the address where the shipment originated and the official identification number of each animal in the shipment
- Livestock entering the state and moving directly to slaughter.

Livestock moving out of Maryland that are not exempt from the federal rule must be tagged with official identification and be accompanied by an ICVI unless the receiving state accepts alternative movement documents and/or will accept the shipment without official identification tags applied. Maryland producers moving livestock to another state should contact the receiving state about its requirements.

To facilitate the process MDA will provide livestock producers with 100 free metal ear tags to promote producer tagging and establish state location numbers necessary for the tags. After a producer uses the 100 tags, s/he will need to order official Maryland tags from authorized manufacturers.

The new federal regulations also affect the interstate movement of horses and poultry; however, no change to current movement requirements is anticipated for either group. Generally, horses moving interstate to and from Maryland are now required – and will continue to be required – to carry an ICVI. Horses entering Maryland from Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or Virginia to attend an event for less than 72 hours, or to a Maryland exhibition, are exempt from the ICVI requirement and may enter with a current Equine Infectious Anemia Test Report. Maryland horses entering another state must meet the requirements of that state.

For more information about the new regulations, see: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/.

Producers or veterinarians who have questions about the rule should contact MDA Animal Health Inspectors Dave Shinham or Melissa Foster at 410-841-5810 or send email to animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov.
2014 MARYLAND-DELAWARE SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL
April 18 and 19, 2014
Ridgely Thompson Farm, Westminster, MD

This beginning shearers school is for anyone age 16 or older in Maryland, Delaware, and surrounding states who want to learn to shear sheep.

You will learn:
- The New Zealand method of shearing sheep
- How to adjust and care for hand-held shearing machines
- How to set and adjust blades on these shearing machines
- How to properly handle wool after shearing

Note: We do not teach blade shearing.

Instructors are:
- David L. Greene, Principal Agent Emeritus, University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County
- Richard A. Barczewski, Animal Science Professor, Delaware State University
- Aaron Geiman, Agriculture Teacher at North Carroll High School

Registration fee is $80.00 per person which includes an ASI Shearing Notebook and instructional DVD. You will need to bring your own lunch, comfortable clothes and shoes, and gloves. Shearing machines will be provided. For more information and to register contact David L. Green at greelamb@gmail.com. Registration is limited to 25 participants. Deadline to register is April 14. Sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, University of Delaware Extension, the Maryland Sheep Breeders’ Association, Inc. and the Delaware Sheep and Wool Producers Association.

BACKYARD BUFFERS—FREE TREE SEEDLINGS
Constitution Park—April 12, 2014

Backyard buffers can make a difference by:
- Helping stabilize stream banks, regulate water temperatures, and provide fish and wildlife habitat
- Helping recharge local water tables for clean drinking water.
- Assisting in protection of water quality by filtering out sediment, fertilizer, and toxic materials before they enter our waterways.

The Department of Natural Resources is offering free Backyard Buffer packets to Allegany County residents. The packets will include:
- 25 native tree and shrub bare root seedlings that are suited to streamside conditions.
- Fact sheets on tree planting techniques, recommended planting arrangement, proper tree maintenance, water quality protection, and a list of additional streamside species.
- Free, reusable tree shelters will be available at seedling pick up on a first-come, first serve basis.

For more information, call the Maryland DNR-Forest Service at 301-777-5590.

UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

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Nutrient Management Webinars

Once again University of Maryland Extension (UME) will host a nutrient management webinar for continuing education purposes. The webinar will be held March 13 from 2:00–4:00pm. If you are an applicator or certified plan writer, you can access this webinar from your home computer, however you will need high speed internet connection. The 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. For directions on how to access these webinars please contact the Extension Office.

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.

Maryland FarmLINK Adds Mentor Match Program

Maryland FarmLINK was created by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission in 2010 to fill a void. At the time, there was no website to link up land owners wishing to sell or lease their land in Maryland with farmers seeking land to farm. During website development, other farmer resources were added, including a “person-to-person” section to ask for advice, a “farm forum” for discussions or alerts, and a resources page. The resources page (“Everything Ag”) has been expanded to include workshops and events, farm equipment for rent, a soils tutorial, a zoning tutorial, a land preservation guide, and a realtors’ guide for selling or leasing farmland.

In mid-2013, Maryland FarmLINK announced the new Mentor Match Program, available at www.marylandfarmlink.com, which pairs experienced farmers (mentors) with new or transitioning farm owners/operators (mentees) for one-on-one training, advice and interaction. The year-long mentoring experience is enhanced with support from the Maryland FarmLINK Mentor Team, which provides technical assistance in farm production, business management, regulations, marketing and funding resources. Applications to be a mentor or a mentee are accepted throughout the year. However, to ensure your application is considered for the 2014 growing season, we suggest that you apply online as soon as possible. This program is the product of a collaborative grant project headed up by University of Maryland Extension and funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

Link to the Maryland FarmLINK website: www.marylandfarmlink.com

Introduction to Farriery Seminar

The University of Maryland will be holding an Introduction to Farriery Seminar on March 22, 2014. Lectures meet at the University of Maryland, Animal Science Center, Bldg. 142, room 0408. Demonstrations will take place at the Animal Sciences Campus Farm. Both sites are located off of Regents Drive on the College Park Campus. Course fee is $50 per person which includes course materials and lunch.

For a registration form visit: http://www.ansc.umd.edu/equinestudies/ or to register online, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-farriery-seminar-tickets-10192579279
This course fills up fast! Reserve your spot today by registering online! Credit card payment accepted, additional processing fees apply. For more information, contact Jennifer Reynolds at jenreyn@umd.edu or 301-405-1547.
The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced today that
the Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Grant
(Mathias Ag) Program is now open for applications. The Mathias Ag
Program will provide grants to farms and businesses in the
agriculture sector to cover 50% of the cost of energy efficiency
upgrades at sites that can achieve at least 20% savings in the building or areas improved.
Named after the late Kathy Mathias, one of the Eastern Shore’s leading advocates and the wife
of Maryland State Senator James N. Mathias, the program is now in its second year.

Through the Mathias Ag Program, MEA will distribute grants ranging from $25,000 to
$200,000 to ease the costs of installing eligible energy efficiency technologies. Examples of
eligible farms and businesses in the agriculture sector include dairy, orchard, poultry/egg,
greenhouse, vegetable, animal, vineyard, grain dryer, processor, sawmill, and aquaculture. The
measures must enable a minimum 20% energy savings in the buildings or areas where they are
installed. Awards will cover 50% of the project cost after any other incentives have been
applied. Applications must be received by March 15, 2014.

Further program details are available on the program website:
http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/MathiasAg14.htm

Information on the results of the 2012-2013 program are available at:
http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/mathiasag/index.html

Questions about this program may be directed to MEA Program Managers Dean Fisher at
Dean.Fisher@maryland.gov and Alec Fields at Alec.Fields@maryland.gov.
UPCOMING MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

- **Basic training**—Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-7pm at Constitution Park. March 4 to April 17, 2014
- **Master Gardener Meeting**—March 20, 2014 from 3-5pm at Constitution Park
- **Lowes Plant Clinic**—April 12, 2014 from 9am-12noon at the Lowes Garden Center
- **Plant Sale and Open House**—May 3, 2014 from 9am-12 noon at the University of Maryland Extension Office and Demonstration Garden
- **Field Trip**—Master Gardener farm tours May 10, 2014, 8am-4:30pm
- **Lowes Plant Clinic**—May 17, 2014 from 9am-12noon at the Lowes Garden Center
- **Annual Training Day**—May 29, 2014 Held in College Park. The bus leaves at 5am.
- **Class at the Demonstration Garden**—June 7, 2014, 10 am
- **Plant Clinic at the Downtown Farmers Market**—June 12, 2014, 9:30-12 noon
- **Lowes Plant Clinic**—June 14, 2014 from 9am-12noon at the Lowes Garden Center
- **Plant Clinic at the Downtown Farmers Market**—July 10, 2014 9:30-12 noon
- **Allegany County Fair Booth**—July 14-19, 2014
- **Plant Clinic at the Downtown Farmers Market**—August 14, 2014, 9:30-12 noon
- **Plant Clinic at the Downtown Farmers Market**—September 11, 2014, 9:30-12 noon
- **Allegany/Garrett MG Training Day**—4-H Camp, Bittinger, MD September 13, 2014
- **MG Quarterly Reports are due:** April 15 (for January, February, March); July 15 (for April, May June); October 15 (for July, August, September); and January 15 (for October, November, December)

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2nd Annual Open House & Plant Sale
Sponsored by Allegany County Master Gardeners

**When:** Saturday, May 3, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** University of Maryland Extension
One Commerce Drive, Cumberland

Numerous species and varieties of plants will be available for sale. In addition to the plant sale the Master Gardeners and University of Maryland Extension professionals will be providing information the entire family can use!

- Demonstrations/Workshops
- Youth Scavenger hunt in the garden
- And nutrition information with recipes

Come out and enjoy the fun!
Don’t forget to “like” the Allegany County Master Gardeners Program on facebook.

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