Pasture Site Tour and Hay Evaluation Workshop

If you have livestock, you are most likely feeding hay at least part of the year. Do you know how to tell whether your hay is high quality? If you buy hay, are you sure you’re paying a fair price for the quality of product? If you’ve got questions about hay, we’ve got answers! Dr. Les Vough, University of Maryland retired forage specialist, will present a program on hay quality evaluation to help you learn the skills you need when it comes to hay. The program will also include a tour of the newly established rotational grazing demonstration site at the Baltimore County Ag Center. Dave Martin, ag educator for Baltimore County Extension, will conduct a tour and lead discussion on cool season grasses commonly used in hay production. Registration is $10 per person. A limited number of spots are available, so registration is requested by September 11. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information or to register, contact Sara BhaduriHauck at the Harford County Extension Office at 410-638-3255 or sbh@umd.edu.

This program is a joint effort between the Harford and Baltimore County Extension offices.

Toxic Plant Seminar

Do you know what plants in your pasture pose a threat to your livestock? What steps are you taking to reduce your animals’ risk of eating something toxic? Veterinarian Dr. Anna Snarski and Extension Educator Sara BhaduriHauck will discuss the principles of plant toxicity, identification of toxic plants, and tips for keeping livestock safe from plant poisonings. This workshop will be geared toward adults, but older youth may also participate. Information will be relevant to producers of all livestock species, including cattle, small ruminants, horses, and other pastured species. Light refreshments and printed resources will be provided. Registration is $5 per person; please register by October 12. For more information or to register, contact Sara BhaduriHauck at the Harford County Extension Office at 410-638-3255 or sbh@umd.edu.
**MD Agricultural Resource Council’s Family Farm Day**

Join the Maryland Agricultural Resource Council for their 6th annual Family Farm Day! Highlights of the day will include farm tours, live bluegrass music, an alpaca agility contest, bee keeping demonstrations, pony rides, a hay maze, sheep shearing demonstrations, horse barrel racing, and an artisan/merchant avenue. Food trucks will be on the premise, and local beer and wine will be for sale. Tickets are $10 per car load and $10 per kidzone armband. For more information or for questions, visit www.marylandagriculture.org or call 410-887-8973.

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**Private Applicator Pesticide Training**

Those seeking to purchase and/or apply restricted use pesticides are required to obtain certification from Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Training for private applicators is offered at the Baltimore County Extension Office each year in March and October.

For current applicators, the recertification session will be held from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. New applicators may attend the optional training session from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and will sit for the MDA certification exam on November 3 at 9:00 a.m. Both sessions are free to attend, but advanced registration is requested. To register, please call the Baltimore County Extension Office at 410-887-8090.

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**Cover Crop Reminder**

Maryland offers incentives for establishing cover crops on harvested cropland. This is just a brief reminder that the planting periods for barley are August 15 to October 15 and for rye it is August 15 to November 5. For complete program details and payment rates contact Jared Wagner at the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District... 410-527-5920.

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**Signup Still Going On for Crop Insurance Workshop on September 10 in Annapolis**

Signup is still on going for the crop insurance workshop on Sept. 10 at the DoubleTree in Annapolis. Speaking that day will be:

- Gene Gantz from USDA-RMA,
- Mike Alston from USDA-RMA to discuss recent changes to the Whole Farm Revenue crop insurance program,
- Stephen Frerichs, lobbyist for Rain and Hail to give a policy update,
- Dale Hawks of USDA-NASS to give a crop outlook,
- Bob Wevodau of USDA-FSA to give a farm bill implementation update, and
- Shannon Dill of UME to discuss their recently completed needs assessment on the Eastern Shore.

Signup is available at https://2015mdcropinsworkshop.eventbrite.com and the event is free to attend.

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**State Soil Conservation Committee**

**Baltimore**

**SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR TO BE APPOINTED**

Nominations for an appointment to the Baltimore Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors are being accepted by the Maryland State Soil Conservation Committee. The appointment will be for a five year term to expire October 17, 2015 and will fill the expired term of Vernon Foster.

A supervisor must be a resident in the district, District boundaries are the same as county boundaries. Anyone recommended should be able to attend monthly meetings of the Board of Supervisors, and have knowledge of and a sincere interest in proper land use and the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Any interested individual or organization may submit a recommendation. Nomination forms available on the MDA website www.mda.maryland.gov (click on Conservation, then committees) or forms may also be picked up at the Baltimore Soil Conservation District Office, 1114 Shavian Road, Ste. 4, Cockeysville, MD 21030. (410) 527-5920 Ext 3. All nominations should be received by September 30, 2015 and should be sent to: State Soil Conservation Committee Department of Agriculture 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Attn: Louise Lawrence Room 306 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Maryland Tree Farm/Maryland Forest Association Regional Meeting

Join us for an evening of fellowship and information. Presentation topics include management of Emerald Ash Borer and Northern Long-Ear Bat. Around 7:30 pm, two concurrent presentations will discuss the new Tree Farm inspection and certification program and MFA-related topics, such as changes to the Sediment and Erosion Control standards.

Additional meetings will be held October 14th at the American Legion in Salisbury, MD and October 27th at the Baltimore County Agricultural Center. More information at a later date.


Join University of Maryland Extension Forest Stewardship Educator Lyle Almond for a presentation about a forestry movement that is sweeping across Europe. The Pro Silva movement promotes continuous cover forestry, which mimics natural forest stand development for optimizing social, ecological, and economic benefits. The webinar will include Almond’s first-hand experience through his work in the nation of Slovenia.

The webinar will be conducted through Adobe Connect and will be free of charge. For more information and to register, go to http://woodlandwebinars-prosilvamovement.eventbrite.com.

Beginner Farmer Training Program: Accepting 2016 Applications!

Future Harvest CASA’s Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP) provides a comprehensive, year-long training program for beginning farmers ready to start their own operations. The program combines classroom learning with in-the-field training, under the guidance of an experienced farmer trainer.

The BFTP is now accepting applications for the 2016 season. Our goal is to equip the brightest new farmers in the Chesapeake region with the knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to start a successful farm.

The application deadline for 2016 season is October 9, 2015. The program accepts applications from new farmers located throughout the Chesapeake region, including MD, DC, VA, WV, DE, and PA. To learn more about the program, eligibility, and to complete an online application, please visit: www.futureharvestcasa.org/field-school/beginner-farmer-training-program. For questions, please contact Sarah Sohn, Communications and Program Manager: sarah@futureharvestcasa.org.

Maryland Tree Farm Committee Informational Event

The next in this series of Informational Events will be held September 15 at the University of Maryland’s Western Maryland Research and Education Center. It is open to all current Tree Farmers and any Maryland woodland owners who have an interest in joining the Maryland Tree Farm community. The event will help Tree Farmers learn more about the Tree Farm program in Maryland, help Tree Farmers understand the benefits of being in the Tree Farm program, and will include a “question and answer” opportunity for Tree Farmers to ask questions and get more information from local DNR foresters and staff. This event is free, but an RSVP is requested. Please contact Barbara Stevens at 301-777-5818 or Barbara.Stevens@maryland.gov for more information and to register.