Commercial Vegetable Growers are invited to the 2015 Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting on Friday, January 30, 2015.

Just a few of the topics offered:

The program has 10 to 12 current topics that are critical to commercial produce growers. This meeting will serve as recertification for Maryland Private Pesticide Applicators, as well as, selected Pennsylvania applicator credits. In addition, growers who attend specified presentation sessions can renew or receive the required MDA Nutrient Applicators Voucher.

**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2015  
**Time:** 8:15 am — 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Friendly Farm Restaurant on Foreston Road in Upperco, Maryland  
**Directions:** From I-83 take Mt. Carmel Rd. west about 5 miles and turn right onto Foreston Rd.  
**Cost:** $15.00 per person (includes lunch) when you reserve your tickets by Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Any tickets purchased after that date or at the door will cost $25.00.  
**RSVP:** UM Extension Baltimore County Office at 410-887-8090 or register online at Event Brite at [http://ter.ps/vgm](http://ter.ps/vgm).

Or mail the form below to University of Maryland Extension at 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

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Educating People to Help Themselves

Local Governments • U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.
Farm Management Classes for Women

Annie’s Project courses have been announced for 2015! The project will be held in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. 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 held at a variety of sites near you! The cost of the course including meals and materials is $75. For more information, class sites or to register visit the webpage at www.extension.umd.edu/annies-project or call 410-758-0166. Please register by January 1st, space is limited. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior. The program is sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension, Delaware Cooperative Extension, and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Annie’s Project has been approved for FSA Borrower Training. For more information, please contact your FSA loan officer.

Goal Setting to Retirement, Steps to a Successful Agricultural Business

Baltimore County Ag Center
1114 Shawan Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-887-8090

Agenda
January 13, 2015
- Introductions
- Mission and Goals- Bring your Best Business Idea
- Business Planning

January 20, 2015
- Finding a Niche
- Value Added Products- Success and Failure
- Business Planning

January 27, 2015
- Business Structures, Leasing and Renting
- Business Planning

February 3, 2015
- Marketing
- Business Planning

February 10, 2015
- FSA, NRCS Opportunities
- Loan Preparation
- Human Resources and Labor
- Business Planning

February 17, 2015
- Navigating Healthcare
- Identity Theft
- Financial Planning
- Business Planning

Graduation

Webinar Short Course: Pasture Management for Small Ruminant Producers

The University of Maryland Small Ruminant Extension Program will host a winter webinar series on consecutive Wednesday evenings in February and March 2015. The focus of the webinar series is Pasture Management for Small Ruminant Producers. Sub-topics include: planning a pasture system (Feb. 4); pasture plants, including alternative forages (Feb 11); pasture and grazing management (Feb 18); pasture nutrition (Feb 25); and pasture health problems (Mar 4).

The instructors for the webinars will be Jeff Semler and Susan Schoenian. Jeff is the county extension agent in Washington County, Maryland. Susan is the University of Maryland Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist. Jeff and Susan conduct the Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test.

Each webinar will begin at 7 p.m. EST and last for approximately 60 minutes. It will be followed by a 30 minute question and answer period. Interaction will be via a chat box. Anyone with an internet connection may participate in the webinars. High speed access is recommended.

Pre-registration is not necessary for any of the webinars. Instead, interested persons are asked to subscribe to the University of Maryland’s webinar listserv. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.umd.edu. In the body of the message, type subscribe sheepgoatwebinars. The webinar listserv is used to communicate with webinar participants and notify subscribers of upcoming webinars. All webinars are recorded. The recordings will be converted to YouTube videos.

For additional information, contact Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu or go to www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/2015webinars.html.
In this workshop series, we’ll explore what it takes to be successful on a small-scale farm. Each session covers topics that are applicable to a variety of agricultural operations, including fruit and vegetable production. The program series including a session with a look at how livestock can enhance a small farming operation.

The topics featured in this workshop series have proven to be key components for ensuring farm profitability. This program is a collaborative effort between University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County and Future Harvest CASA’s new Chesapeake Foodshed Field School and Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP). Additional partners include The Farm Alliance of Baltimore City and Civic Work’s Real Food Farm, and several agricultural professionals and successful farmers in the region, including graduates of the BFTP.

Registration is required and the cost for the first 9 Wednesday evenings at the Ag Center on 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030 is $50 per person. We will also be hosting 3 sessions focused on urban farming, for $30 (or $70 for both series). Click on the following link http://ter.ps/ssicflm15 for registration or contact University of Maryland Extension at 410-887-8090.

### 2015

#### Introduction to Bee-Keeping Short Course

Saturday, January 31 & Sunday, February 1 Plus a follow-up hands-on in the hive day in spring @ The Baltimore County Ag Center 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030 $60 with course book $50 without book REGISTER ONLINE @ http://beekeepingmarc.eventbrite.com Or download Form and Send Check Made Out to MARC to the Ag Center: www.marylandagriculture.org
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td><strong>Farm Management Classes for Women</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Annie’s Project” at the Baltimore County Ag Center from 6 – 9 pm. The cost is $75.</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td><strong>Starting a Small, Intensive Commercial Farm for Local Markets</strong>&lt;br&gt;Classes will begin on Jan. 28th and run through Mar. 25th every week from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm at the BC Ag Center, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD.</td>
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<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td><strong>Central MD Vegetable Growers Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;at Friendly Farms Restaurant in Upperco, MD. 8:15 am – 3:15 pm cost is $15 ahead of time and $25 at the door.</td>
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<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Bee-Keeping Short Course</strong>&lt;br&gt;And Sunday, February 1 Plus a follow-up hands-on in the hive day in spring @ The Baltimore County Ag Center</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td><strong>Webinar Short Course:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pasture Management for Small Ruminant&lt;br&gt;Through March 4th</td>
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<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td><strong>Private Pesticide NEW Applicator Certification</strong>&lt;br&gt;at the Baltimore County Ag Center from 9–11:30 am.</td>
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<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td><strong>Exam for Private Pesticide NEW Applicator Certification</strong>&lt;br&gt;at the Baltimore County Ag Center from 9–11 am.</td>
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<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td><strong>Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification</strong>&lt;br&gt;at the Baltimore County Ag Center from 1–3:30 pm.</td>
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“Drones in Agriculture – A Tool for IPM”

This handout is a follow-up from the Northern Maryland Field Crops Day on December 11, 2014.

Fundamental Rule – Use The KISS Principal!

Photo imaging from a REMOTELY or AUTONOMOUSLY controlled flying device can be straight forward and can be very easy to perform as long as you follow some basic guidelines:

1. **Don’t over think the complexities!** Today’s inexpensive drones are packed with a lot of capability yet are simple to fly. You DON’T need to be a GEEK to fly some of these.
2. **Don’t spend any more than you have to.** Autonomous-capable Quadcopters (four motors) can be very good to excellent and will meet your needs for photo purposes. Prices typically run from $1200 to $2000 depending on how many accessories (blade guards, extra batteries, carrying case, etc.) you add to the purchase. Models that have 6 or more motors may have the advantage of completing the flight should one motor become disabled.
3. Purchase a model that has a floating or free-hanging camera gimbal, especially if you get motion sickness and can’t watch videos that sway.
4. **Purchase from a reputable and authorized dealer,** especially one that provides sources for parts, technical support, and a service center to make repairs.
5. **Follow the manufacturer’s operation instructions.** A good company will provide valuable training tools either included in the package or on-line. Take advantage of them.
6. There are a lot of “YouTube” videos on this subject but they can be overwhelming and too often more of a distraction than a confidence-builder. Avoid watching those from amateur “pilots” who want to show off their new “toy.” Focus on professionally produced videos.
7. Use a model that has an **enclosed shell** to protect the guts.
8. Use a model that will allow you to manage the programming from an **iPAD/Laptop or Android tablet** so you are comfortable is setting up your flight plan.
9. Protect your model. Include carrying case and at least two spare batteries. Consider purchasing blade protectors.
10. Treat your model’s **batteries** as you would your favorite pet. They are not cheap and not to be abused. They can also be dangerous, depending on the battery chemistry.
11. **Don’t fly near structures you do NOT own!** Drones are getting a bad rap from careless “pilots” who do damage to other people’s property.
12. Avoid flying higher than **500 feet Above Ground Level** (AGL). Should you do so you are flying in CONTROLLED AIRSPACE and subject to FAA regulations.
13. Don’t let the “noise” about **FAA rules** be a distraction as long as you follow these guidelines. The FAA is in the process of developing rules and guidelines for flying drones in controlled airspace. This is an ongoing process and may take several years to resolve.
14. Membership at a local model flying club can be an inexpensive asset, as many members are professional engineers or technicians as well as “pilots” who can provide free assistance to help with your flying skills or drone maintenance.
Charles W. Riley, retired
White Hall, Md.
- 5 years NASA Test Contractor
- 22 years Department of Defense Design Engineer/Manager
- 8 years Office Automation Consultant
- Board member/instructor Radio Control Modelers of Baltimore, Inc (RCMB)
- 410-357-0894 (Please limit to RCMB assistance questions)

Future assistance may be provided through:
The Radio Control Modelers of Baltimore, Inc.
900 Stablers Church Rd.
PO Box 322
Parkton, Md.
www.rcmb.org

Membership - $50/year plus one-time $50 initiation fee.
Membership POC – Gene Krosnowski, Treasurer, 410-256-4897, brewski2@comcast.net

RCMB membership can provide significant discounts on purchases from:
Hobbytown USA
8868 Waltham Woods Rd, Parkville, MD 21234
410-384-8872

Sources for more Phantom Vision 2+ Information*:
Hobbytown USA, Parkville
www.youtube.com (keywords – Phantom Vision)
www.DJI.com
www.rotodronemag.com (video search keyword – Phantom)
www.skyop.com (Training Services)
www.stcnyc.com (Authorized DJI Products Service Center)

*Note that there is also a Phantom Vision 2 that does not include camera, gimbal, ground station, or communications attachments. You provide the camera (GO-PRO) and purchased accessories to meet your needs.