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Farm Bill News
The Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs. Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

USDA is working with several universities and cooperative state extension services to develop online decision tools and other materials to educate producers about several key farm bill programs including choosing between the new Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Once a producer enrolls in the ARC or PLC program, he or she must remain in the program through the 2018 crop year.

Producers now have access to a preliminary website that gives them a chance to begin familiarizing themselves with the new programs. This information can be previewed on the FSA website. Workshops are scheduled around Maryland to help producers work through these Farm Bill decisions... see Northern Maryland Farm Bill Workshop topic for more information.

Northern Maryland Farm Bill Workshop
August 18, 2014
10 am – 3 pm at the Baltimore County Ag Center
U of Maryland’s Department of Agricultural Resource Economics (AREC), Maryland Dept. of Agriculture (MDA), USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) and U of Maryland Extension will sponsor a Farm Bill Workshop to aid farmers in understanding the new 2014 Farm Bill programs.

Focus will be on the two new commodity programs that impact wheat, corn, barley, oats, soybeans, and changes to the dairy program. The new farm bill presents new decisions that agricultural producers must make. Many of these decisions will be onetime decisions and producers will need to understand how the decision will impact their operation. Producers will have the option to reallocate base acreage, update payment yield, and make the one time decision between the two new Farm bill programs... Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Extension educators will walk producers through the new programs and the tools that exist to aid in these one-time program decisions, and other changes that could impact their eligibility.

Registration and Cost: to ensure adequate materials are available Registration is required ... the cost is $10 per person for materials and lunch.

Participants are encouraged to register online at: http://ter.ps/farmbill

Or contact the UM Extension office at 410-771-1761 for information, special needs or other registration options. Please register by August 13.
**Reminder about … Fall Soil Nitrate Test (FSNT)**

Regulations effective October 2012 require that farmers who plant wheat and barley for grain production must test for soil nitrate concentration before they may apply nitrogen in fall. Soils can be tested for nitrate concentration by most soil testing laboratories for a nominal fee. Also, many private-sector nutrient management consultants and nutrient management and UM Extension advisors are equipped to analyze soil samples for nitrate.

Contact your Nutrient Management advisor for more information about collecting samples and interpreting nitrate analysis results.

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**USDA Market Pricing Reports**

For market price information on the following ... broilers, grain and livestock, dairy, regional feeders, fruit and vegetables... check out this link: [http://marylandsbest.net/maryland-market-news](http://marylandsbest.net/maryland-market-news)

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**Organic Vegetable Twilight Tour**

**What:** Tours of University of Maryland organic research plots
- The effect of cover crops, plastic and other parameters on soil CO₂ emissions
- Weed control in organic systems
- How climate change can effect vegetable production practices
- Cover crop effects on pests and natural enemies
- Speakers include organic growers and University of Maryland researchers

**Where:** Upper Marlboro Research and Education Center 2005 Largo Rd Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

**When:** August 14, 2014. Dinner served from 5-6 pm
Wagon tours start at 6 pm

**Who:** All organic vegetable growers or those interested in organic vegetable production

There is no charge for the meeting, but registration is requested to help with meal planning. To register, send an email to Jerry Brust jbrust@umd.edu

**Accommodations:** If you require special accommodations to attend this program, contact Jerry Brust at 301.627.8440 or jbrust@umd.edu

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**Have you reported your acres yet? The deadline is approaching!**

Acreage reports are a requirement for most FSA programs. Be sure you have reported all your planted acres to our office by the deadline of July 15. If it is in the ground on or before July 15, it must be reported by close-of-business on July 15. Anything planted July 16 or after must be reported within 15 days of planting.

(Except - Processing Beans - that reporting deadline is August 15.)

Please remember that the office is closed for the Federal holiday of Independence Day on Friday, July 4.

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**FSA Staff—Position Available**

Baltimore County FSA office has an opening for a fulltime, temporary Program Technician. Responsibilities include assisting staff to process requests for USDA programs. Computer skills are required. Contact our office at 410-527-5920 Extension 2 with any questions and to request an application.

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**Biological Control in Commercial Greenhouses**

August 6, 2014 7:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum, Maryland
To encourage the adoption and expansion of biological control in commercial greenhouse operations for more information:
[www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/ipmnet/14Aug06C.pdf](http://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/ipmnet/14Aug06C.pdf)

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**Turn Regulation Into ‘Green Gold’ …**

Stormwater Management Options for the Nursery and Landscape Industry
Two Day Conference ... Day 1 Location - August 20, 2014: Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD ... Day 2 Location - August 21, 2014; Robinson Nature Center; Columbia, MD
For more information and registration:

For more information on the program: call 301-596-9413 or sklick@umd.edu
**Maryland Woodland Stewards 2014**

Do you own woodland property?
Do you share our enthusiasm for Maryland’s natural lands?
Do you want to learn about the most up-to-date practices for wildlife habitat and woodland health?
Do you have the enthusiasm and drive to share what you know with your fellow woodland property owners?

Then consider applying for the Maryland Woodland Stewards program! This program, now in its 24th year, helps committed individuals to become effective stewards of their property and advocates for forest and habitat health through the principle of “Neighbor helping neighbor.”

Through the generous support of the Maryland Tree Farm Committee, the University of Maryland Extension is able to offer this three-day, hands-on training for the low cost of $95.00 per person.

This year’s training takes place October 2-5; nominations and applications are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is August 4, but space is limited to 25 participants, so apply now. For more information and application forms, visit the Maryland Woodland Stewards website at [www.extension.umd.edu/woodland/maryland-woodland-stewards](http://www.extension.umd.edu/woodland/maryland-woodland-stewards)

**Poultry Farm Management for New & Existing Growers**

**July 25th, 2014**

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Caroline Dorchester
County Fairground 4-H Park - Williams Building
8230 Detour Road,
Denton, MD 21629

The University of Maryland Extension has created a one-day workshop for new poultry farmers on Delmarva focusing on poultry farm management. With today’s environment, it is important to learn about the many aspects of poultry farm management.

The topics that will be addressed are farm management, site management and maintenance, best management practices, mortality, manure handling, litter management, windbreaks/vegetative environmental buffers, financial/record-keeper, concentrated animal feeding operation regulations, nutrient management, comprehensive nutrient management plans, inspections and emergency preparedness. We will also share all the information to take back to the farm for future reference.

Certificate of completion will be awarded to each participant.

Registration cost of $30 includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and materials.

Please register by July 18, 2014, at:
[https://poultryfarmmanagement2.eventbrite.com](https://poultryfarmmanagement2.eventbrite.com)

Or, to register by phone, contact: Sheila Oscar at 410-742-1178 soscar@umd.edu or Shelia Shorter at 410-758-0166 sshorter@umd.edu

**Save the Date**

**MARC’s Family Farm Day**

September 21, 2014, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
at The AG Center
1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

Bluegrass Honky-Tonk Corn Husking Contest
Alpaca Agility Bee Keeping Local Wine and Beer
Farm Tours Live Animals Cow Pie Bingo
Fresh Produce Food Truck Artisans/Merchants
Pony Rides Hay Maze Farm-themed Kids Activities

**100th Anniversary Open House for University of Maryland Extension**

October 17, 2014, 4:30 – 8:00 pm
at The AG Center
1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

**50th Baltimore County 4-H Fair**

July 10-11, 2014, 4:30 – 8:00 pm
at The Maryland State Fairgrounds
York Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Cake Auction 7 pm
Livestock reception 6:00-6:45 pm
Livestock Auction 6:45 pm

**16th Annual Maryland Community Classic**

Thursday, July 24, 2014 at Queen Anne’s 4-H Park on Route 18 between Centreville and Queenstown. Tours at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown will demonstration checkoff funded research with hay wagons departures at 9:00 and 9:45 am.

Tickets can be purchased at the gate for $10 for entry prior to 2:30 pm, $20 after 2:30. If you have any questions, please call Lynne Hoot (410-956-5771).

**69th Annual Hereford Junior Farm Fair**

August 9, 2014
9 am – 3 pm
[www.herefordjrfarmfair.com](http://www.herefordjrfarmfair.com)
Facebook - Hereford Jr Farm Fair
Twitter - HerefordFair
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 8</td>
<td><strong>2014 Aronia Twilight Tour at the Wye Research &amp; Education Center</strong></td>
<td>5:00 pm to 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Wye Research and Education Center Queenstown MD</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/aroniatwil">http://ter.ps/aroniatwil</a></td>
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<td>Jul 10</td>
<td><strong>3rd Annual Eastern Shore Potato Field Workshop</strong></td>
<td>4:00 pm to 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Near North Dorchester High School</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/spotatofield">http://ter.ps/spotatofield</a></td>
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<td>Jul 14</td>
<td><strong>Save Your Soil Farming, Cover Crops and No-till</strong></td>
<td>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Larriland</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/saveusoil">http://ter.ps/saveusoil</a></td>
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<td>Jul 31</td>
<td><strong>Goat Twilight Tour &amp; Tasting</strong></td>
<td>5:30 pm to 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Western Maryland Research &amp; Education Center</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/goattwil">http://ter.ps/goattwil</a></td>
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<td>Aug 6</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Atlantic Precision Ag Equipment Day</strong></td>
<td>8:30 am to 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Wye Research &amp; Education Center</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/midatagequip">http://ter.ps/midatagequip</a></td>
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<td>Aug 11</td>
<td><strong>Baltimore County Farm Camp</strong></td>
<td>8:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Baltimore County Ag Center</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/farmcamp">http://ter.ps/farmcamp</a></td>
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<td>Aug 12</td>
<td><strong>Lower Shore Farm Bill Workshop</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am to 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Queen Anne’s County Fairgrounds</td>
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<td>Aug 13</td>
<td><strong>Upper Shore Farm Bill Workshop</strong></td>
<td>10 am to 3 pm</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Agricultural Service Center</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/southfarmb">http://ter.ps/southfarmb</a></td>
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<td>Aug 15</td>
<td><strong>Southern Maryland Farm Bill Workshop</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am to 3:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Agricultural Service Center</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/southfarmb">http://ter.ps/southfarmb</a></td>
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<td>Aug 18</td>
<td><strong>Northern Maryland Farm Bill Workshop</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am to 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Baltimore County Ag Center</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/farmbill">http://ter.ps/farmbill</a></td>
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<td>Aug 19</td>
<td><strong>Western and Central Maryland Farm Bill Workshop</strong></td>
<td>10 to 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Dutch’s Daughter</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/westcenfarmb">http://ter.ps/westcenfarmb</a></td>
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<td>Sept 1</td>
<td><strong>University of Maryland’s General Forestry</strong></td>
<td>On-Line Course</td>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td><a href="http://ter.ps/umforrestry">http://ter.ps/umforrestry</a></td>
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<td>Dec 15</td>
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<td>More Information</td>
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