News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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It is hard to believe it is 2013 already. While many have made New Year’s resolutions and others have been wringing their hands about our current economic situation, take heart, this too shall pass whether it is your failed resolution or our economic woes. I did a little research and this contraction in our economy is nothing new. In my lifetime (since 1959) we have had no less than six of these recessions and since our country was founded there have been a total of eighteen. With three exceptions these downturns lasted 1-3 years.

Many say we are looking more like 1929, when we experienced what was known as the Great Depression. Remember gold is refined by fire and the tough times of the Great Depression molded what has been called “the greatest generation”, the one that brought us through World War II. I have no idea what we are being prepared to take on.

Victory Gardens were grown during World War II. Prior to that they were called kitchen gardens or for many folks where my next meal is coming from. In recent years
we have seen a back to the land movement and maybe that was to help us ready ourselves for these lean times.

At any rate the winter season is the time when University of Maryland Extension offers classes for those looking to enter into the world of Agriculture. While the target is beginners to the moderately experienced, all are welcome to attend these sessions. Our first session scheduled for Thursday, January 31 is Poultry 101 back again this year by popular demand with the part two on February 14. Last year this class filled up and we had a waiting list.

The next session is Dairy Breeding and Genetics and will be a discussion forum centered on cross breeding and pure breeding. Which is right for my situation and why.

The final series will be Soil Fertility and Soil Health on March 19 & 26. This series will explore more than just fertilizer and lime but will look at the soil as the complex medium it is.

All of the sessions will be held at the Extension office and will run from 7 – 9:30 p.m. There is a nominal cost of five dollars per class that can be paid at the door.

If you are interested in Sheep and Goats, University of Maryland Extension is offering a webinar series on Breeding and Genetics starting on Tuesday, January 22 and running consecutive Tuesdays through February 19th. This is the ultimate in convenience as you can sign in from home and there is no charge and no dress code. Pre-registration is no longer required for University of Maryland Small Ruminant Extension webinars. Participation is open to the first 100 people who log onto the Adobe Connect web site at https://connect.moo.umd.edu/sschoen/.
Then on March 7th this year’s Agronomy Day will be held from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center. Crop updates, disease and weed concerns, cover crops, current Nutrient Management concerns and other related topics will be discussed. Private pesticide applicator recertification and nutrient applicator voucher continuing education credits are available. Lunch will be served at no charge; however you **MUST** pre-register by March 1st.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about these trainings. The sessions are interactive and all questions are welcome.

Registration for all sessions is now open and is recommended because we need a head count to insure adequate numbers of handouts and seating. We do cap registration at thirty and do compile a waiting list in the event of cancellations. So please register either by e-mailing me at jsemler@umd.edu or calling 301-791-1304. I hope to see you at one or more of these sessions.

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