The Good Ole Summertime!

Look inside this issue for:
* Upcoming Events
* Pasture Walk Information for Horse Owners
* Sustainable Farming Twilight Tour
* Delmarva Poultry Conference Information

We’ll see you at the MD state fair August 26—September 5, 2011.

Included in this newsletter is information about upcoming programs, trainings and workshops, press releases and other useful information. I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. Please contact us at anytime that we may be of service. Our websites have been updated for Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties! Check out www.http://extension.umd.edu/local/index.cfm for current agriculture information and factsheets.

Best Regards,
Richard Nottingham & Jessica Renshaw

Bee Class is returning! Please join us on Saturday, August 13th from 9:00am until noon. Prepare your bees for winter and how to prepare for next spring. Contact Mike Embrey at 410-827-8056 for additional information.

Worcester County Fair
August 12-14
Bryd Park, Snow Hill

Come enjoy entertainment, food, fun, livestock exhibits, classic and truck show. Pre-registration for exhibitors due by Friday, July 22, 2011. Enjoy carriage rides through the park. Watch the talent show for an up and coming star! Free admission for all.

Sustainable Farming Twilight Tour
Eden, MD

The Twilight Tour is being held at the Cumaptico Farm on Cooper Rd. in Eden, Maryland. Discussion will include combining cover crops and poultry litter to supply corn nutrients, reduced tillage, farmer and direct markets, CSA’s, and NRCS EQIP funds for transitioning to organic. Bring a lawn chair for seating during a catered chicken dinner with local ice cream. Wear comfortable shoes for touring plots. Register by Thursday July 28, 2011 by contacting the Wicomico Extension Office at 410-749-6141. A fee of $10.00 per participant may be paid at the Extension Office or at the Twilight Tour.

“University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.”
Applications are now being accepted for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program through USDA - Rural Development. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage. Approximately $37 million is available. Awards may be made for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. There is no minimum grant amount. The maximum amounts for a planning grant is $100,000 and for a working capital grant $300,000.

The application deadline is August 29, 2011. Visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov for additional information about the agency’s programs or to locate the USDA Rural Development office nearest you.

Contact your local Extension office for an Value Added Producer Grant application.

**Pasture Walk & Caring for the Senior Horse**

How has your pasture held up over the summer? If you are like most, dry weather has put a strain on pastures and hay fields. Discover various management techniques that will help promote optimal pasture productivity. Learn when the best time to reseed and fertilize your pasture is. Identify weed species and which may be toxic to horses. In addition to the pasture walk, there will be a demonstration and talk of caring for the senior horse. As a horse ages, its body is not as efficient at absorbing nutrients. Learn how adjustments in diet and care can make a big difference for older members of your herd. Being held September 8, 2011 at Holly Ridge Farm in Willards from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. This is a free program for all owners. Contact Jessie Renshaw at 410-632-1172 for additional information and driving directions.

**2011 Delmarva Poultry Conference**

**September 28, 2011**

The University of Delaware and the University of Maryland in cooperation with the Delmarva Poultry Industry will hold their annual poultry conference September 28, 2011 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, MD. For like more information, please contact Jennifer Timmons at 410-742-8788 or mdcchick@umd.edu

Amanda Chesser is the new 4-H Faculty Extension Assistant. She received her bachelor’s degree in wilderness leadership and experiential education from Brevard College in North Carolina in 2005. In 2007, Amanda moved to the Eastern Shore of VA to begin working at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility, managing the Educator Resource Center. Her experience gave her the opportunity to reach out to teachers, educators, and students along the East Coast. She will be responsible for promoting and developing 4-H programs for the Lower Shore Community. Amanda can be reached at the UME Somerset County Office at 410-651-1350.

Jessica Renshaw has grown up on the Eastern Shore. She received her bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 2008. Before joining UME, she worked for Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife technician in addition to working as a wildlife educator for the Salisbury Zoo. Her responsibilities include "developing programs and events to meet the needs of the local agriculture community." She has an open door policy and is always open to program suggestions. Jessie can be reached at the UME Worcester County Office at 410-632-1972. Stop in and say hello.

**The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug** is an invasive species from Asia that can result in significant vegetable or crop loss. Be on the lookout! Unlike our native brown and green stinkbugs, the marmorated stinkbug has no natural predators. Eggs can be found on the underside of plant leaves. It goes through 5 instar (immature) stages before becoming an adult. Adults measure about 1 inch long and have a marbling pattern to them.

**Stop in and say hello.**
Natural Resources
DELMARVA FOX SQUIRREL

The Eastern Shore of Maryland is home to many endangered species but none more famous than the Delmarva Fox Squirrel (Sciurus niger cinereus). Much larger than its gray squirrel counterpart, the Delmarva Fox Squirrel is much larger, weighing in at 1 1/2 lbs to 3 lbs! Light gray in color, they have large fluffy tails that can reach lengths of 15 inches. Unlike gray squirrels, Delmarva Fox Squirrels can be found scavenging on the ground up to 100 feet away from the nearest wooded area. Their attitude is different as well. They tend to be slower, less agile than a gray squirrel and will escape danger by running on the ground instead of scampering up a tree. Their diet consists of nuts, seeds, acorns, mature green pinecones, and fruit. Habitat for Delmarva Fox Squirrels includes mature hardwood forest and mixed pine forests along streams and bays. They will take up home in small wood lots with neighboring agriculture fields. Historically, “Delmarvá’s” ranged throughout the entire Delmarva Peninsula into southeastern Pennsylvannia. Today they exist in small pockets throughout Delmarva and are extremely vulnerable to local environmental disturbances. Two good locations that Delmarva Fox Squirrels can be located are Black Water Refuge and at the E.A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area located outside the town of Stockton. For more information on the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, visit www.dnr.state.md.us.

Help for Busy Farmers

Farm operators come from all kinds of backgrounds and are continually in need of fundamental information on farming and technical assistance on everything from production and pests to farm financial analyses to help get and keep the farm business operation going in the right direction. Joining an agricultural association or organization is a good way to meet other producers and share knowledge and experience. Many associations actually include educational programs as part of their association meetings. Your local and regional extension offices are great places to connect and learn in person, but when you find not enough hours in the day to personally visit and you need objective, research-based and credible information, you can surf the web to www.extension.org. eXtension is unlike any other search engine or information-based website. It’s a space where land grant university folks from near and far produce new educational resources on wide-ranging topics. And it’s available to the general public 24/7/365 from any Internet connection. eXtension.org

Nutrient Management Notes

Now is the time to develop your nutrient management recommendations for fall planted crops. Soil analyses need to be less than 3 years old; manure should be sampled at a time that is close as possible to time of application and crop nutrient uptake. These analyses along with information about field and crop histories as well as what crops are planned for the fall will be needed to complete your nutrient management plan.

For those who are not planting fall crops, it would be a good idea to contact your nutrient management advisor to schedule a time to meet to develop the 2012 nutrient management plans for your farms.

After the fall harvest, “crunch” time begins for nutrient management advisors to write those plans. Our goal is to complete as many plans as possible and not have anyone without the required nutrient management plan for their farming operation.

Service to Agriculture Award

On June 22, 2011 Mr. Blan Harcum Sr. of Mardela Springs was awarded the Service to Agriculture Award from the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents. To make the day more special—it was his 88th birthday. Mr. Harcum and his family have hosted the Children’s Farm Tour every spring for more than 20 years, opening up their farm and dairy operation to school children who travel from all over Delmarva. Children are able to experience agriculture on the farm in a hands-on setting and enjoy many activities throughout the day. Thank you Mr. Harcum for educating our youth year after year and supporting agriculture for future generations to come.
IMPORTANT DATES

8/12 - 8/14  Worcester County Fair - Snow Hill
8/18 - 8/20  Wicomico County Fair - Salisbury
8/26 - 9/5  MD State Fair - Timonium
9/8  Pasture Walk - Willards
9/10  Bee Class—Wye Research Facility
9/28  Delmarva Poultry Conference - Ocean City