Production Pointers

Winter 2002

Calendar of Events

Mark Your Calendars --- Plan To Participate

January 14th  - Pesticide Cert. Exam - DFRC
January 16th - Pesticide Cert. Class - Clinton Office
January 16th - Risk Management Wkshp. - Waldorf
January 17-20th - Horse World Expo - Timonium
January 18th - Farm Estate Planning - Annapolis
January 18-19th - CASA Conference - Hagerstown
January 23rd - Pesticide Cert. Exam - Clinton Office
January 25th - Central MD Veg Mtg. - Upperco
January 29-31st - Mid-Atlantic Veg Mtg. - Hershey
February 1st  - Nutrient Mgmt. Exam - Annapolis
February 6th  - So. MD Veg & Fruit Mtg. - Ruritan
February 7th  - Greenhouse Growers Assoc. Mtg
February 12th - Tobacco Update, Charlotte Hall
February 18th - Pest Recert. & Voucher - DFRC
February 20-23rd - MADMC - York
Feb 26th-Mar1st - Introductory Cut Flower Course
February 28th - Peach School - WYE REC
March 2nd  - Md Grape Growers Mtg. - Howard Co.
March 11th, 18th, & 25th - Intro to Farming - DFRC
March 21st - Farmer Nut. Mgmt. Plan - Clinton

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- Maryland Vegetable Growers Report
- MD Small Farm Institute Update
- Exposing A Successful CSA
- Sheep & Goat Web Page
- USDA Scrapie Eradication Program
- Nutrient Management Update & NuManMD
- Summary of Worker Protection Standards
- MD Bio-Ethanol Project
Winter Meetings Slated

Private Pesticide Applicator & Nutrient Management Voucher Trainings

A Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher Training will be held at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC) from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on February 18, 2002. The Pesticide Applicator Recertification portion of the program will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the Nutrient Management Voucher Training will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. -- See the enclosed flier.

Also a Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification will be offered as part of the Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting on February 6, 2002 -- See the enclosed flier.

If you have allowed your pesticide certification to expire or are a new applicant, then you may wish to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training and Examination. A Private Applicator Certification Training will be conducted at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 7, 2002, and at the Clinton Extension Office from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 16, 2002. A Private Pesticide Applicator Exam will be given at the Davidsonville family and Recreation Center (DFRC) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 14, 2002, and at the Clinton Extension Office from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 23, 2002.

“A Turning Over the Land”
A Retirement and Estate Planning Seminar for Farmers

January 18, 2002
Maryland Department of Agriculture wishes to invite you to attend, “A Turning Over the Land,” A Retirement and Estate Planning Seminar for Farmers on January 18, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Speakers include:

Ms. Joanne Hamilton, Extension Educator for Anne Arundel County. Ms. Hamilton is an accredited Financial Counselor and she conducts programs for the University of Maryland in the area of Family Financial Management.

Mr. Marvin Anderson a practicing attorney who specializes in real estate, estate planning, and probate.

For registration and meeting details contact Ms. Joan Schulz, MDA Agribusiness Development Department at 410 841-5770.

Third Annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference

January 18-19, 2002
The Future Harvest - CASA wants you to attend the Third Annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference being held at the Clarion Hotel in Hagerstown, Maryland on January 18-19, 2002. For full meeting details and registration contact Ruth Sullivan, Future Harvest-CASA, at 410 604-2681.

Planning for Risks in 2002 Workshop

A workshop, entitled Planning for Risk in 2002, will be offered at several locations on different dates. The workshop will include an overview presented by a USDA representative about the various crop insurance products that are currently available in Maryland. Dr. Michael Haig, University of Maryland Agriculture Marketing Extension Specialist, will discuss how farmers can use crop insurance in combination with forward contracting to minimize production and market risks. Dr. Wesley Musser, UMD Extension Economist, will describe the new Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) crop insurance product that covers all the commodities produced on the farm under one policy. AGR should be of particular interest to farmers who grow a number of products that cannot be covered by conventional crop insurance policies.

The workshop is free, and farmers are encouraged to attend who want to learn more about using insurance products to manage risk, or who want to re-evaluate their insurance needs. Farmers can register by contacting their county Extension office and letting them know which workshop listed below they want to attend.

All of the workshops listed below run from 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided following the workshop presentations. Registration is important to provide an accurate lunch count. For more information call Wes Musser at 301 405-0017. The dates and locations of the workshops are:

January 15th Upperc - Friendly Farm Restaurant
January 16th Waldorf - Holiday Inn
January 17th Mt. Airy - Carnival Grounds
January 22nd Princess Anne - Princess Anne Diner
January 23rd Millington - Howard Johnson's
January 24th Easton - Tidewater Inn

Horse World Expo

January 17-20, 2002
The Horse World Expo at the Timonium Fair Grounds is scheduled for January 17-20, 2002. If you have never attended this event, I guarantee that you will be amazed at the crowd and excitement generated. Join the fun, and see why the 1.7 billion dollar a year Maryland horse industry is a shining star agricultural industry for the state.

You are also invited to visit with Extension faculty at the MCE Horse Expo Exhibit Booth, and plan to attend one or more of the University of Maryland Seminars. Please note that a Nutrient Management Voucher will be awarded for participants attending both the Nutrient Management Seminar and the Voucher Training Seminar. The combined seminar series offers the 2-hour MDA certification requirement. The Extension Seminars will be presented as follows:

Thursday, January 17, 2002
1:00 p.m. Nutrient Management -- Bryan Butler
2:00 p.m. Voucher Training (Nut. Mgmt.) -- Dave Martin
Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting
February 6, 2002

Don’t miss the 2002 Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting on February 6, 2002, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Davidsonville Ruritan Club, Davidsonville, Maryland. Speakers will present a broad range of topics including: “Vegetable Pest Control Updates;” “Southern Maryland Wine Grape Variety Trials;” “Producing Top Notch Vegetable Transplants;” “New Opportunities in Crop insurance;” “New Cover Crop options;” “High Tunnel and High Density Production Systems;” “Rain Tunnels;” “Food safety and Risk Management;” and “The Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Update.” Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification credit is awarded for attending the meeting. Also meeting sponsors will showcase their products and services, and state vegetable organization leaders will be present to recruit and answer your questions. Please attend and make this meeting the best ever! For information and registration, contact your local Extension office or call me at 410 222-6759. There is a $15.00 registration fee. Please register no later than February 1, 2002. For full details and registration information -- See the enclosed flier.

Greenhouse Growers Association Meeting
February 7, 2002

An intensive MD Greenhouse Growers Association Meeting will be conducted on February 7, 2002 in Timonium, Maryland. For full program details, and registration contact Bob Stewart. Extension Educator, Commercial Horticulture for Anne Arundel and Prince George’s Counties at 301 868-8780, or call Hank Doong at 310 937-4166.

Tobacco Production Update
February 12, 2002

Tobacco farmers are encouraged to attend the Tobacco Production Update on February 12, 2002, at the Charlotte Hall Library form 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Dave Conrad, Maryland Tobacco specialist will present the latest information concerning tobacco production and marketing. Please call 301 934-5403 to register.

Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show
February 20-23, 2002

If you are currently direct marketing your produce or plan to, then don’t miss the opportunity to attend the Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, from February 20-23, 2002 at the Holidome and Conference Center in York, Pennsylvania. The conference will focus on direct marketing management topics sure to improve your skills including: risk management, merchandising, and business planning. More information may be found on the web at: www.madmc.com or by calling 610 391-9840.
Introductory Cut Flower Short Course  
February 26- March 1, 2002
An intensive Introductory Cut Flower Short Course will be conducted on February 26 - March 1, 2002. For full program details, and registration contact Bob Stewart, Extension Educator, Commercial Horticulture for Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties at 301 868-8780, or Suzane Klick at 301 596-9413.

WYE Peach School  
February 28, 2002
If you are a peach grower be sure to attend the WYE Peach School, on February 28, 2002, at the WYE Research and Education Center in Queenstown, Maryland. This meeting will provide Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credit, and update the new nutrient management regulations pertaining to tree fruit production. For full meeting details call 410 222-6759.

Maryland Grape Growers Association  
2002 Annual Meeting  
March 2, 2002
The Howard County Fairgrounds in Clarksville, Maryland will host the Maryland Grape Growers Association 2002 Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2002. For full registration information and program details contact Mr. Ron Price at 410 643-2617.

Introduction to Farming Short-Course  
March 11, 18 & 25, 2002
Whether you grew up on a farm or not, you may need to sign up for this Introduction to Farming Course. This three-day course will open your eyes to the world of farming. A course designed for the young and old alike. It just may make a farmer out of a “city kid” or a hayseed.” Money Back Guarantee! The spring classes will be conducted at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC). For full details and registration information -- See the enclosed flier.

Producer-Assisted Nutrient Management Plan Workshop  
March 21, 2002
I would like to invite you to take part in a Producer-Assisted Nutrient Management Plan Workshop on March 21, 2002. This program will provide you with an opportunity to write your own Nutrient Management Plan. The workshop will be conducted at the Prince George’s County Extension office in Clinton, Maryland from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Due to the need for a computer terminal for each participating farmer, the workshop will be limited to the first twelve individuals. Producers will work with several University Specialists to assist you in writing your own plan.

The Food Trust’s Farmers Markets Seeks Growers  
By Mathew Wright
The Food Trust operates open air, seasonal markets in the cities of Philadelphia, Camden, NJ and Chester. This year the Trust plans to add markets in Philadelphia as well as Norristown, Telford, and Phoenixville. From June through November, local farmers pile tables high with an amazing variety of beautiful, locally grown fruits and vegetables. Honey, cut flowers, milk, eggs, cheeses, meats, dried herbs, and baked goods are sold along with abundant offerings of fresh produce.

Farmers' markets provide an important opportunity for farmers to sell directly to customers. A mixed vegetable grower can make as much as $1000 during a four hour market during the height of the season. The Food Trust will also work with farmers to identify direct wholesale customers such as local restaurants and retailers that could make the trip even more worthwhile. The Trust will host 11 markets a week this year, and work closely with each farmer to place them at a market that is a good match based upon schedule, variety, volume, price, as well as growing methods such as organic or IPM.
There are openings for at least ten farmers this coming year, mostly at new markets but also to meet the needs of growing established markets. If you are interested in learning more about the Trust's markets, or if you know other farmers looking for these opportunities, you can contact Matthew Wright, Director of Farmers' Markets, at HYPERLINK "mailto:mwright@thefoodtrust.org" mwright@thefoodtrust.org or by calling 215-568-0830 ext 18. See you at market!

Southern Maryland Regional Farmers Market Needs Your Support!

The Southern Maryland Regional Farmers Market Board Members, and ex-officio Board Members from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Tri-County Council, and Maryland Cooperative Extension would like to encourage a renewed market interest among growers and buyers alike. SMRFM Board Member Russ Shlagel states, "It's up to the farmers to make this market a success. The Cheltenham market needs growers support now more than ever!"

All of the Board members wish to expand the role of the Cheltenham market facility for Southern Maryland, and the board members have been meeting regularly to develop a comprehensive market strategic plan for 2002. Now more than ever farmers are encouraged to actively support, and use the market facility.

The Board wishes to share the following opportunities for growers and buyers to have an active role in the revitalization of the Southern Maryland Regional Farmers Market:

1. The SMRFM Hay and Straw auctions conducted on the first and third Saturday from October to April currently need committed sellers and buyers. This market will succeed with your help! If you would like to take part in this marketing opportunity call Dave Rada, Market Manager at 301 372-1066.

2. The SMRFM Board is committed to better advertising, including signage at the market entrance to enhance market awareness. There is ongoing discussion concerning the reopening of the tailgate retail market in the outside pavilion area. Grower commitment is required to make this successful. If you are interested call Dave Rada, Market Manager at 301 372-1066.

3. The SMRFM Board is currently planning two horticultural plant wholesale auctions set to occur on May 1st and May 8th. Growers are encouraged to make early commitment to the sale now by planning to produce bedding plants, potted flowers, flower and vegetable transplants, and nursery stock. Sellers and buyers should express their intentions or needs directly to Dave Rada, Market Manager at 301 372-1066.

4. The SMRFM Board would like for market sellers and buyers to commit once again to the success of this market with whole-hearted optimism. SMRFM Board Members requests that growers to talk positively about the future of this market. They encourage growers to share ideas with the Board, and contact elected officials to develop support for this renewed Southern Maryland Regional Farmers Market. Plan now to plant for the market in 2002! Please call today, and share your ideas, and suggestions with Dave Rada, Market Manager at 301 372-1066, or any of the following Board Member:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMRFM Board Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles Dunn, President</td>
<td>Dave Myers, Secretary/MCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Chase, Vice President</td>
<td>Stephan Tubene, MCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russel Burch, Treasurer</td>
<td>James Duffy, MDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russel Shlagel, Member</td>
<td>Robert Halman, MDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Austin, Member</td>
<td>Christine Bergmark, TCC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tobacco Seed Distribution Program

It is time to make your tobacco seed requests. The varieties available this year will be MD 609, MD 201, MD 341, MD 40, MD 402, and MD 602 - same as last year. These varieties will be packaged in 1-ounce packets, and made available at seed distribution sites and county Extension offices. All varieties will be available in the pelletized form by request. The form for pelletized seed request will be available at the county Extension offices and the Upper Marlboro Research and Education Center. If you need pelletized seed fill out and fax the form to Alfred Hawkins at 301 627-3273. Any questions or requests regarding this program should be addressed to Alfred Hawkins, Tobacco Seed Production Administrator, call Alfred at 301 627-8440.

Ethnic Vegetable Production Trials on a Plasticulture System for the Development of Ethnic Food Markets in Southern Maryland

R. David Myers, Stephan Tubene, Mark Spicknall, and Alfred Hawkins

Introduction

In 2000 a preliminary ethnic vegetable study was conducted at the University of Maryland Research and Education Center (UMREC) in Upper Marlboro, Maryland to examine the five West African vegetables: hibiscus (leaves), sweetpotato (leaves), edible amaranth, African eggplant, and an African pepper variety. This preliminary study was also featured as part of the Upper Marlboro UMREC Farm Field Day on July 26, 2000, which stimulated interest among the farm community, and resulted in a grant awarded to a three-member investigative team. The grant entitled “Developing an Ethnic Food Market in Southern Maryland” included the following three major areas of concentration: 1) The evaluation of ethnic vegetable markets and their economic development, led by researcher Stephan Tubene, Coordinator, University of Maryland Small Farm Institute; 2) The development of community awareness of ethnic vegetable produce through dietetic workshops and cooking demonstrations, led by researcher Constance Pergerson, Extension Educator, University of Maryland; and 3) The examination of commercial ethnic vegetable production techniques, led by researcher R. David Myers, Extension Educator, University of Maryland.
The ethnic vegetable study planted in 2001 continued focus on the five African vegetables stated and expanded to include Caribbean, Oriental, India, and South American vegetables and herbs for comparison. An examination of yields and the development of production practices was the focus of the study on a plasticulture intensive management system. However, the dietetic, marketing, and economic assessment of the vegetables will ultimately serve as the springboard for developing a regional alternative enterprise for Southern Maryland farmers. The Maryland ethnic vegetable team plans to develop a series of extension fact sheets for the purpose of educating growers for the successful transition into production and marketing of these new cropping opportunities.

Of mentionable note, a similar ethnic vegetable study was conducted in 2000 by researcher William Sciarappa, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers University, and reported in the 2000 Mid-Atlantic Vegetable Workers Conference Proceedings. The previously reported results were very collaborative with this trials finding.

Materials and Methods

The project was designed as a randomized complete block, with four replications for each of the ethnic vegetables or herbs grown. The plot dimension were 15 ft wide by 20 ft long with three 6' high by 30' wide raised plasticulture beds on 5' centers. The transplants or directly seeded crop was spaced either 36" or 12" by 12" in the row as indicated in Table 1, with either 2,904 ppa or 17,424 ppa, respectively. The transplants were contract grown with seeds from Johnny's Selected Seeds, or from sources within the local ethnic communities.

The research trial was conducted in 2000 and 2001 at the University of Maryland Research and Education Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on a Monmouth fine sandy loam soil. Soil tests revealed optimum levels of phosphorus and potassium for both of the sites. A complete starter fertilizer was applied during bed making, and additional nitrogen was supplemented through the trickle irrigation system as required. Insecticide and fungicide treatments were made as required if labels existed for the individual crops.

The trials were planted on May 12, 2000 and May 9, 2001 with the following exceptions: The African eggplant, African/Jamaican hot pepper var. Scotch Bonnet, and Solanum gilo “Jamaican Bitter Balls” were planted on May 24, 2001, and the sweet potato var. Red Hayman was planted on May 24, 2001. The tomatillo plots required staking and twine weaving for standability. All other crop species were free standing.

Results

The plots were harvested, utilizing random destructive plant sampling, or whole plot for yield determinations. Some crops were harvested multiple times whereas others were harvested once over. Mean weights of the marketable plant portion were determined for each crop species and/or variety, and reported in Table 1. The project experienced cooler and wetter than normal summers for both years delaying the fruit harvest, whereas the vegetative growth and quality were enhanced. On August 4, 2000 the following ethnic vegetables were harvested: Solanum gilo, “Jamaican Bitter Balls”; green amaranth; edible hibiscus, sweet potato var. Red Hayman; and Pepper var. Scotch Bonnet, and Numex. The smooth leaf spinach var. Denali was harvested June 6, 2001. On July 3, 2001 the following vegetables and herbs were harvested: Oriental cucumber var. Suyo Long; sweet basil var. Genoves; cilantro var. Jantor; and chervil var. Brussels. On July 6, 2001 the following vegetables and herbs were harvested: red amaranth; Solanum gilo; holy basil, Kaprao, and Osmin Purple. On July 20, 2001 the following vegetables were harvested: Oriental cucumber var. Suyo Long; Solanum gilo, “Jamaican Bitter Balls”; tomatillo vars. Toma Verde, and Purple; Leeks var. Upton; pepper var. Pimento Elite; and eggplant vars. Nadia, and Zebra. On July 31, 2001 the following vegetables were harvested: eggplant var. Kermit; red amaranth; edible hibiscus, leaves; sweet potato var. Red Hayman; and Pepper var. Scotch Bonnet. On August 24, 2001 the following vegetables were harvested: Pepper var. Numex, “green habanera”, “red habanera”, and “orange habanera”.

Conclusions

The ethnic vegetables in this two-year study yielded consistently with sufficient quality and quantity to convince growers of their production potential in a plasticulture system. There are potentially hundreds of specialty vegetable and herb species and/or varieties that have market development potential in our ethnically diverse population centers, which require further research and educational programs. Promotion of specialty vegetables and herbs will help to mainstream them into our marketplace, thereby, enriching our diets and lives.

Table 1. Ethnic Vegetable Yields 2000 & 2001 Harvested Fruit or Leaf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable Crop Species/Variety</th>
<th>Population (Plants/acre ppa)</th>
<th>Average Yield Harvested Portion (Estimated Pounds/acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hibiscus, Edible, African</td>
<td>2,904 ppa 5' X 36&quot;</td>
<td>Leaves 26,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaranth, Edible Green</td>
<td>2,904 ppa 5' X 36&quot;</td>
<td>Leaves 22,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Jamaican Calaloo”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaranth, Edible Red</td>
<td>2,904 ppa 5' X 36&quot;</td>
<td>Leaves 16,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Jamaican Calaloo”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Pepper, Green/Red Bell</td>
<td>2,904 ppa 5' X 36&quot;</td>
<td>Fruit 19,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“King Arthur”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Pepper, Red Pimento</td>
<td>2,904 ppa 5' X 36&quot;</td>
<td>Fruit 5,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Pimento Elite”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Pepper, Cayenne</td>
<td>2,904 ppa 5' X 36&quot;</td>
<td>Fruit 15,246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agronomy Mimeos & Fact Sheets

I would also like to share in the release of a revised Fact Sheet #470 entitled Forage Production. The fact sheet is authored by R. David Myers, Extension educator, Agriculture for Anne Arundel and Prince George’s Counties. This fact sheet examines forage production from site and forage variety selection through all maintenance and production practices. Also available is the new Fact Sheet #786 entitled Grazing Management. The fact sheet is authored by Terry Poole, Extension Educator, Agricultural Sciences, for Frederick County. This fact sheet focuses on common causes of pasture failure due to improper grazing management strategies. If you would like a copy of these fact sheets give me a call at 410 222-6759.

Pasture Livestock Stocking Rates

In order to maintain a productive and weed free pasture the correct livestock stocking rate must be utilized. Pasture stocking rates are dependent upon the sites inherent soil fertility and moisture holding capacity. Total annual rainfall and the distribution of that rainfall affect pasture quality and quantity more than any other management factors combined. In our area well-managed pastures will typically support one animal unit (1000 lbs.) per acre. Adjustment of the stocking rate needs to be based upon the relative pasture productivity and management intensity. The table below lists the average animal unit values for various livestock:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Of Animal</th>
<th>Livestock Class</th>
<th>Units/Acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cow (1000lbs)</td>
<td>Cow/Calf Pair</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow/Calf Pair</td>
<td>2-Year-Old Steer</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Year-Old Steer</td>
<td>Yearling Cattle</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearling Cattle</td>
<td>Calves (Under12 Mos.)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves (Under12 Mos.)</td>
<td>Mature Bulls</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature Bulls</td>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>Sheep/Goats</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maryland Vegetable Growers Report

On behalf of the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association, I wish to announce that the Board will hold its annual board meeting in conjunction with the Central Maryland Vegetable Meeting. The Central Maryland Vegetable Meeting will be held on Friday, January 25, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Friendly Farm Inn, in Upperco, Maryland.

For more information concerning MVGA organizational matters, or to make comment, please contact Guy Moore, MVGA President at 410 442-1427, or Dave Myers, MVGA Secretary/Treasurer at 410 222-6759.

The Small Farm Institute Corner

By Stephan Tubene

2001 Programs

The Small Farm Institute is a program of Maryland Cooperative Extension, designed to meet the needs of small farm operators including limited resource, minority, life style, and retirement farmers.

Started in August 2000, the Small Farm Institute has provided training in production, pest management, horticulture, marketing, and farm management to several Southern Maryland small farm operators as well as the international communities. Over 450 field visits were made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agronomy Mimeos &amp; Fact Sheets</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hot Pepper, Ornamental “Numex”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Pepper, African/Jamaican “Dutch Bonnet”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Pepper, Green Habanera</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Pepper, Red Habanera</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Pepper, Orange Habanera</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solanum Gilo “Jamaican Bitter Balls”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Potato “Red Hayman”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber, Asian “Suyo Long”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatillo, Green “Toma Verde”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatillo, Purple “Purple”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant, Black Oblong “Nadia”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant, Purple Striped Oblong “Zebra”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant, Green Striped Round “Kermit”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leek “Upton”</td>
<td>17,424 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 12” X 12”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach, Smooth Leaf “Denali”</td>
<td>17,424 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 12” X 12”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cilantro “Jantor”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chervil “Brussels”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Basil “Genovese”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Basil, Green “Kaprao” Thailand</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basil, Purple “Osmin Purple”</td>
<td>2,904 ppa</td>
<td>5’ X 36”</td>
</tr>
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Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE). TSE’s are the subject of increased attention because of the discovery that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease") in cattle is linked to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) in people.

Enclosed is basic information outlining which animals must be identified, how to obtain ear tags, and how to keep identification records. If you move sheep or goats across state lines, such as to show, or sell your animals through a livestock auction, please call our office (410-349-9708) to obtain a premise identification number and additional information about official identification. We will assign a premise number to your farm and order ear tags for you which will be sent to you FREE of charge. If you would like more detailed information on the identification rule, or are not sure your animals would be covered, please feel free to call our office at (410) 349-9708.

We look forward to assisting the industry in eradicating Scrapie from the United States.

Sincerely,

David F. Vogt, DVM
Area Veterinarian in Charge

I have copies of the above mentioned items and forms available for compliance with the Maryland Scrapie Program, so please call. More information about Scrapie in sheep and goats is also available through Susan Schoenian’s web page at: www.sheepandgoat.com

USDA Scrapie Eradication Program

The Following is a copy of the letter mailed on Dec 4, 2001 to Maryland and Delaware Sheep and Goat producers by Dr. David F. Vogt, DVM, Area Veterinarian in Charge:

Dear Maryland or Delaware Sheep and Goat Producer:

On August 21, 2001, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced details of a plan to eradicate Scrapie from the United States. As part of this eradication effort, starting on November 19, 2001, most sheep and goats moving interstate must be officially identified. While Scrapie is a relatively rare disease, it is estimated to cost the U.S. sheep industry close to $20 million annually. The goal of the eradication program is to eliminate Scrapie from U.S. sheep and goats by the year 2010.

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Nutrient Management for Maryland (NuManMD) Software

The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is pleased to make the Nutrient Management for Maryland software program available to you. The program is loaded from the CD ROM drive and will work on computers supporting Windows 95 (OSR2 or better), Windows 98, Windows NT4, Windows ME, and Windows 2000 operating systems. Printing is handled through the Windows print manager portion of the operating system.

NuManMD represents the most advanced software available to complete Maryland nutrient management plans presented in a user-friendly Windows environment. A partial list of the nutrient management program features includes fertilizer recommendations for over 200 cropping management scenarios for forage, vegetable, and row crops; mineralization coefficients for 28 types of organic materials; multiple measurement units for fertilizers and organic materials; ability to handle split applications of the same or different organic materials; electronic uploading and conversion of soil and organic materials analyses files; calculation of crop P removal; support for P removal and manure transport plans; calculation of manure and sewage sludge N credits; extensive user help files; over 300 cropping notes; and extraction capabilities for using information previously stored in Fertrec Plus 3.0 databases.

Nutrient Management for Maryland (NuManMD) will be available in two formatted options as a certified farmer copy ($25 per copy) and as a licensed consultant copy ($125 per copy). Certified farmer copies are to be used for the submission of the user’s own plan while licensed copies may submit an unlimited number of plans. The NuManMD software is copyrighted and a separate copy should be purchased for each computer on which the program will be used. To obtain a copy of the NuManMD software program call 301 403-2711.

Nutrient Management Update

By Krista Wilson

Some changes have occurred in the Anne Arundel County Extension Office’s Nutrient Management Program. The Agricultural Nutrient Management Advisor who writes the Nutrient Management Plans is now working part-time in Anne Arundel and part-time in Howard County. At this time the farmer who needs a Nutrient Management Plan must help the Advisor out a little bit more by providing their own farm maps (aerial or hand-sketched), property or tax I.D. number (found in farmers’ tax records), and by taking their own soil samples. Soil probes for borrowing, and instructions on proper soil sampling are available from your county Extension office!

Those who need a Nutrient Management Plan should contact Krista Wilson by phone 410 222-6759, or by email at kw144@umail.umd.edu to obtain a “Justification for Plan Submission Delay” Form. Prince George’s County farmers should contact Dianna Dobson at 301 868-8780, or by email at dd163@umail.umd.edu. The Extension advisors now have long waiting lists, and the MDA delay form gives the farm operator one more year to develop a Plan with a Certified Consultant. Maryland Cooperative Extension offers a free service for Nutrient Management Plans. The only cost is the soil samples, which are $6 per sample. However, remember that Private Nutrient Management Consultants are also available to work with you. Cost share programs through MDA and the Soil Conservation Districts may make their services affordable to your operation. For a list of consultant names available to provide this service in your area contact MDA’s Nutrient Management Department at 410 841-5959.

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Summary of WPS Requirements

The 1992 Worker Protection Standard protects over three and a half million people who work with pesticides at over 560,000 workplaces. The Worker Protection Standard represents a major strengthening of national efforts to safeguard the health of agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. Effective implementation of the WPS will substantially lower the risk of pesticide poisonings among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. More information and full compliance regulations may be obtained by accessing the EPA Worker Protection Website at www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/principl.htm

Protection during applications

Applicators are prohibited from applying a pesticide in a way that will expose workers or other persons. Workers are excluded from areas while pesticides are being applied.

Restricted-entry intervals

Restricted-entry intervals must be specified on all agricultural plant pesticide product labels. Workers are excluded from entering a pesticide treated area during the restricted entry interval, with only narrow exceptions.

Personal protective equipment

Personal protective equipment must be provided and maintained for handlers and early-entry workers.

Notification of workers

Workers must be notified about treated areas so they may avoid inadvertent exposures.

Decontamination supplies

**Handlers and workers must have an ample supply of water, soap, and towels for routine washing and emergency decontamination.**

Emergency assistance

Transportation must be made available to a medical care facility if a worker or handler may have been poisoned or injured. Information must be provided about the pesticide to which the person may have been exposed.

Pesticide safety training and safety posters

Training is required for all workers and handlers, and a pesticide safety poster must be displayed.

Access to labeling and site specific information

Handlers and workers must be informed of pesticide label requirements. Central posting of recent pesticide applications is required.

Vineyard Lease Available

A manager/operator is being sought for a productive 1-acre vineyard in Pasadena, Maryland. The vineyard currently has 430 fully established and trellised vines, and is composed of 7 hybrid and vinifera varieties. The current manager has purchased a farm in Baltimore County to develop a full-time commercial vineyard operation. For details about the vineyard contact Bob White at 410 439-4305.

Maryland’s Bio-Ethanol Project

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUD) commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of a barley based ethanol plant for Maryland. The study demonstrated that given certain quantifiable and justifiable circumstances, a barley based ethanol plant could be a profitable business entity for our region. The MGPUD has agreed to fund the next phase, which is the preparation of the business plan as long as there is sufficient support from farmers to move forward. Therefore, MGPUD has initiated the Ethanol Plant Interest Survey in order to develop a quantifiable farmer interest in this project. If you would like a copy of this farmer survey or of the full Maryland Bio-Ethanol Project Report, then give my office a call or contact Ms. Lynne Hoot, MGPUD at 410 956-5771.

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“We remark with special satisfaction those favorable circumstances which, under the smiles of Providence, result from skill, industry and order of our citizens managing their own affairs in their own way and for their own use, unembarrassed by too much regulations, unoppressed by fiscal exactions.” – Thomas Jefferson: 2nd Annual Message, 1802. ME3:340

Thanks for Partnering

Thanks for partnering with the Maryland Cooperative Extension, and supporting our programs. I also hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please call or write the office for the removal of your name from the mailer.

Enjoy the Winter!

R. David Myers

Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Anne Arundel & Prince George’s Counties
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