

Farm Notes

March 2013

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**MARYLAND FARMERS REMINDED MARCH 15 IS
 DEADLINE TO ACT ON CROP INSURANCE**

The sales closing date to purchase crop insurance for spring seeded crops and to make changes to policies is March 15. Spring seeded crops include corn, soybeans, oats and grain sorghum.

A new option available for Maryland producers in 2013 is the Trend Adjusted Yield Option (TA) that adjusts historical Actual Production History (APH) Yields in the crop insurance data base(s) to reflect improvements in crop genetics and production technology. This option may give you the opportunity to increase your crop insurance protection at a much lower cost than increasing the level of coverage.

In 2012, farmers invested more than \$12 million in premiums for more than 6,600 crop insurance policies covering \$359 million in liabilities. Close to 80 percent of corn acres, 70 percent of soybean acres and 50 percent of wheat acres are protected by crop insurance.

Producers insuring multiple or large farms may also be able to insure using “enterprise units” to receive up to a 50 percent premium discount. Enterprise unit participation in 2012 increased to 270,000 acres or 30 percent of net acres in Maryland.

Producers’ 2013 spring planted crops must be signed up for federally insured crop insurance, or make any changes to existing policies by March 15. A list of agents can be found at: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/>

Source: MDA



WORKSHOPS FOR SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AND/OR ASPIRING FARMERS

Beginning in mid-March through April, UMES will be sponsoring a series of Saturday 'short-course' workshops for small-scale producers and/or aspiring farmers. This spring, we will be offering a diverse line-up of workshops covering the following topics:

[*] March 16th - The Basic Building Blocks for Using Social Media to Grow Your Business [*] March 23rd - Growing and Marketing Blackberries, Raspberries and Blueberries on Less Than 1-Acre [*] April 6th - Free Range Poultry and Egg Production [*] April 20th - Small Ruminant Integrated Parasite Management

For more detailed information about each program event call (410) 651-6070/6693 or email blrogers@umes.edu.

Please assist us in spreading the word to farmers and/or anyone you think might be interested. Thanks for your time and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Source: Berran L. Rogers, Jr., Small Farm Program Coordinator, University of Maryland Extension, Room 2141, Richard A. Henson Center, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Maryland, 21853, (410) 651-6070/6693, blrogers@umes.edu

SOME USEFUL WEB SITES

<http://nebeginningfarmers.org/>

<http://agmarketing.umd.edu/pages/valueaddedproducts/valueaddedproducts.html>

http://www.agmrc.org/business_development/getting_prepared/valueadded_agriculture/articles/index.cfm

<http://www.marylandagriculture.org/>

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/CSES/CSES-22/CSES-22-PDF.pdf>

(Manure Injection in No-Till and Pasture Systems)

MARYLAND WOODLAND STEWARD



Maryland woodland owners and others who want to learn more about forests and wildlife are invited to apply for training as a Maryland Woodland Steward. University of Maryland Extension is offering this comprehensive three and a half day workshop May 2-5 at Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center in Sharpsburg, MD.

The workshop will feature both indoor and outdoor training with a variety of experts, as well as instruction in the development of a forest stewardship plan. There is a nominal fee of \$95, which covers instructional materials, lodging, and food, a value of \$400. In exchange for this subsidized training, participants commit to sharing their new knowledge with others in their community during the following year through at least 40 hours of service activities.

Applications will be accepted until March 17 at <http://bit.ly/MWS2013>. For information, contact Nevin Dawson at 410-827-8056 or ndawson@umd.edu. Information and application forms are also available at www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalMWS.html.

Source: UME

USDA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR PRODUCERS TO COMPLETE AGRICULTURE CENSUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS HAVE UNTIL MARCH 15 TO RESPOND

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service has announced that it has extended the deadline for farmers to complete the Census of Agriculture until March 15. MDA strongly urges producers to complete the Census if they haven't already.

USDA will send another report form this month to those who did not return the Census by the February 4 deadline. If you did not have any agricultural activity in 2012, please state so on the front of the form and mail it back.

Conducted every five years, the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture, including land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures and other factors that affect the way farmers and ranchers do business. Farmers and ranchers can complete their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Any questions regarding the Census can be answered by calling the NASS Maryland office at 410-84-5740 or 800-675-0295 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Source: MDA

NEW APP HELPS FARMERS BUDGET FOR FUEL

Farmers can use a new Farm Fuel Budget cell phone app to plan their farm fuel budgets and use. A North Dakota State University Extension Service specialist developed the Android app for crop producers to compare projected fuel costs and use for their farming operations based on alternate crop acreages, tillage systems, and crop rotations. The app can be downloaded at <http://farmfutures.com/story-new-app-helps-farmers-develop-fuel-budgets-0-94249>

Source: NDS University Extension Service

NEW HANDBOOK HELPS LIVESTOCK FARMERS BE GOOD MENTORS

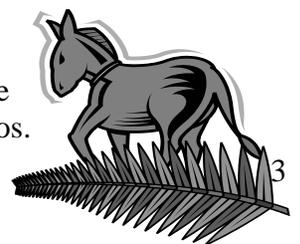
The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has released *Passing Along Farm Knowledge: A Mentor-Intern Handbook for Dairy and Livestock Farmers*. This handbook will help mentors develop their teaching skills as they progress through an internship. The 36-page publication is available free at www.cias.wisc.edu/wp-content/.../Mentor-Manualborm-Jan12.pdf

Source: UW-Madison

USDA-DEVELOPED VACCINE FOR WILD HORSES AND BURROS GAINS EPA REGISTRATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services' (WS) National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) recently announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted regulatory approval for the use of GonaCon™ - Equine immunocontraceptive vaccine (GonaCon) in adult female wild or feral horses and burros. GonaCon was developed by NWRC scientists and is the first single-shot, multiyear wildlife contraceptive for use in mammals.

Since 2009, GonaCon has been available for use in female white-tailed deer. We are pleased to be able to expand the vaccine's application to include wild horses and burros.



This nonlethal tool will provide another option to wildlife managers working to reduce overabundant wild horse and burro populations in the United States.

Overpopulation of wild horses and burros is a significant concern in the United States, as these animals can overgraze native plant species and compete with livestock and local wildlife for food and habitat. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) estimates that approximately 37,300 wild horses and burros (about 31,500 horses and 5,800 burros) are roaming on BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states. The estimated current free-roaming population exceeds by nearly 11,000 the number that the BLM has determined can exist in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses. Current management options are limited with the majority of actions involving the removal of horses and burros from the range and either offering them for adoption or holding them indefinitely in captivity. The BLM estimates there are more than 49,000 wild horses and burros off of BLM-managed lands that are fed and cared for at short-term corrals and long-term pastures.

The GonaCon-Equine vaccine stimulates the production of antibodies that bind to the gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) in an animal's body. GnRH signals the production of sex hormones (e.g., estrogen, progesterone and testosterone). By binding to GnRH, the antibodies reduce GnRH's ability to stimulate the release of these sex hormones. All sexual activity is decreased, and animals remain in a nonreproductive state as long as a sufficient level of antibody activity is present. The product can be delivered by hand injection, jab stick, or darting.

GonaCon-Equine is registered as a restricted-use pesticide, and all users must be certified pesticide applicators or persons under their direct supervision. Only USDA-WS and Veterinary Services, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Department of Defense, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, State agencies responsible for wild or feral horse and burro management, public and private wild horse sanctuaries, or persons working under their authority can use it. In order for GonaCon to be used in any given State, it must also be registered with the State's pesticide registration authority. Additionally, users are encouraged to contact their State fish and game/natural resource agency to determine specific State requirements. The vaccine is currently manufactured by NWRC; however, the WS program is interested in licensing the vaccine to a private manufacturer.

Future NWRC research with GonaCon will likely involve studies to support expanded registration to other species (e.g., prairie dogs and feral dogs) and aid in preventing the transmission of wildlife diseases.

WS-NWRC is the Federal institution devoted to resolving problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and society. The center applies scientific expertise to the development of practical methods to resolve these problems and to maintain the quality of the environments shared with wildlife. To learn more about NWRC, visit its Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/.

Source: USDA

2013 CUSTOM RATE SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE

Financial and economic considerations such as limited capital, untimely cash flow, insufficient labor, small acreage or other reasons require farmers to hire custom service for field operations. Custom work charges are determined by demand and supply and are negotiated between farmers and custom operators. The purpose of Fact Sheet 683 is to provide information on custom work charges in Maryland and to provide data to assist in decision making regarding purchasing equipment. Custom rates in this publication may not suit all custom operators and those hiring custom work. It is important that operators



calculate their own custom costs. It is also important that farmers create their own budgets which include their variable costs and fixed costs and do not rely only on custom rates to determine their cost of production. FS 683 can be accessed online at: <http://mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu/Custom%20Rates/index.cfm>

Field crop budgets have also been posted to the site as well.

Source: UME

WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH RECOMMENDS UNITED STATES' BSE RISK STATUS BE UPGRADED

Last year, the United States submitted an application and supporting information to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Scientific Commission to upgrade the United States' risk classification from controlled to negligible. The Commission, in turn, conducted a thorough review before recommending that the risk classification for the United States be upgraded to negligible. Before the OIE's annual General Assembly meeting in Paris, France, in May 2013, delegate countries will have the opportunity to review the Commission's recommendation. The United States expects that formal adoption of negligible risk status for the United States will occur at the General Assembly meeting in May, when it is considered.

The OIE determines a country's risk status based on actions the country has taken to manage the risk of the disease. These actions include instituting a strong ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban, strictly controlling imports of animals and animal products from countries at risk for the disease, and conducting appropriate surveillance.

The OIE Code, which is based on the latest science and current knowledge concerning BSE, provides guidelines for the safe trade of animals and products based on the country's risk status and the risk presented by the specific item being traded. Negligible risk is the lowest risk level under the OIE Code. Countries defined as negligible risk have conducted extensive surveillance and testing in domestic cattle to demonstrate a minimal risk for BSE.

Source: USDA

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY REGULATIONS

The new Animal disease traceability regulations went into effect Tuesday, February 26, 2013. The U.S. Department of Agriculture finalized the regulations in December. As the lead agency responsible for implementing these new regulations, the Maryland Department of Agriculture sent letters to producers recently to tell them about the new regulations.

Although the new federal regulations affect the interstate (state-to-state) movement of horses and other livestock, Maryland regulations already in effect include the federal requirements, so there is no change in current practice for species other than cattle.

MDA will provide registered livestock producers with 100 free metal ear tags to promote producer tagging and establish state location numbers necessary for the tags. After a producer uses up these 100 tags, they will need to order Maryland specific official identification tags directly from authorized manufacturers. A list of manufacturers is available from MDA. Auction markets do not want to become the enforcers of interstate movement and have expressed their desire to have cattle tagged before entering the markets. This will also speed up animal movement through the markets. Animals leaving the market must be tagged, and if producers must have market staff tag their animals, they can expect to pay for the cost of labor to do so.

To request your 100 free tags or for questions regarding these requirements, contact MDA at 410-841-5810, fax 410-841-5999 or email animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov. For details you can go to <http://aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>.

Under the final rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate must meet the following requirements:

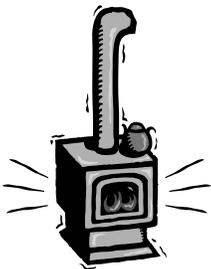
- Livestock must be "officially identified" with an official USDA tag. Maryland does not accept brands or tattoos as official ID for livestock entering the state. This includes all sexually intact cattle over 18 months of age, all female dairy breed cattle of any age and all dairy males born after March 11, 2013. The exception is livestock can move interstate to an approved livestock facility without official identification but must be tagged at the facility prior to commingling.
- Livestock with official Identification and with an owner-shipper statement moving directly to an approved livestock facility such as a market or tagging facility may enter without an ICVI. Livestock without official Identification entering Maryland from another state must be accompanied by an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Producers moving livestock from Maryland to another state should contact the receiving state to determine what documents that state requires.
- All livestock leaving an approved market must be tagged.

Exemptions

- Beef cattle under 18 months of age -- unless they are moved interstate for shows, exhibitions, rodeos or recreational events -- are exempt from the official identification requirement at this time. Requirements for this group will be addressed in a separate rulemaking.
- Livestock moving interstate directly to slaughter at an approved livestock slaughter facility are exempt. This includes livestock moving to custom slaughter facilities or to an approved livestock facility (such as an auction market, tagging site or buying station) and then to slaughter. NOTE: Cattle and bison moving directly to slaughter must have a USDA approved backtag and a way bill or bill of sale.
- Maryland is currently working with our neighboring states to allow movement of nonslaughter cattle leaving markets to neighboring states with alternative documents such as way bills in lieu of an ICVI as currently required.

Source: MDA

CLEAN BURNING WOOD STOVE GRANT



The University of Maryland Extension has been actively involved bringing together agencies and organizations to accelerate clean burning wood energy development in Maryland through the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition. One component of Coalition activities has been working with the Maryland Energy Administration to pilot a Clean Burning Wood Stove Grant program that pays part of the cost of a wood or pellet stove for residential uses (\$400 for a wood stove & \$600 for a pellet stove).

The Alliance for Green Heat is a reputable partner and the main promoter of the program and they just completed an analysis of the first five months of the \$50K pilot program. The program will continue and it can help rural (and urban) citizens reduce their energy bills.

<http://forgreenheat.blogspot.com/2013/02/maryland-rebates-for-wood-pellet-stoves.html>

A series of 6 fact sheets on residential wood heat have recently been published and are available at: www.naturalresources.umd.edu.

Source: UME

ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES SYMPOSIUM

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) is sponsoring a one day symposium to promote the concept of ecosystem services provided by Maryland's terrestrial and aquatic resources. The symposium is being organized by the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), Department of Environmental Science and Technology (ENST) and the Wye Research and Education Center (Wye REC).

Event Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013

Time: 9 am. – 3 p.m. – lunch provided

Where: Wye Research and Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, Maryland

Register: Jean Hopkins - (410) 827-8056 (no registration fee), limited seating

See the attached flyer for more information.

Source: MAES

KNOW YOUR HORSE'S VITAL SIGNS

What is normal for your horse? Closely observe your horse's eating habits, gaits, activities and attitude to determine what is normal. Changes in these habits indicate a problem. Measure temperature, pulse and respiration rate if you notice changes and think your horse is ill.

Temperature

Take the horse's temperature with a rectal thermometer. The thermometer should be lubricated. Digital or glass thermometers can be used. If using a glass thermometer, make sure it is shaken to read below 95 degrees Fahrenheit before inserting it into the rectum.

- The normal temperature of a horse can range from 99.5 degrees to 101.5 degrees, with an average of 100 degrees. A fever is classified as mild at 102 degrees and excessive at 106 degrees. Exercise, excitement and hot weather raise normal body temperature.



Respiratory rate

To measure the breathing or respiratory rate, watch the flank and rib movements with each breath. Count the number of these in-out movements in a minute or for 15 seconds and multiply by four.

- An adult horse at rest should have a breathing rate ranging from 8 to 16 breaths per minute. The rate increases with exercise. Younger and smaller horses have a more rapid respiratory rate.

Pulse

A horse's normal pulse rate averages 35 beats per minute. Lower rates are normal for larger, older horses at rest. Younger, smaller horses have a higher pulse rate. A yearling has a normal rate of 40 to 58 beats per minute.

- A horse's pulse can be felt in several places: the inner surface of the lower jaw, the back edge of the jaw or cheek, under the tail, or inside the left elbow. Usually the pulse is taken from the artery on the inside lower jaw. It is in front of the large, round jaw muscles and found by moving your fingers up and down on the inside and underside of the jaw bone. The artery feels like a flat, soft cord. By pressing the artery

against the jaw bone, you can feel the pulse. As blood flows through the artery, it pulses against your finger. If you have trouble finding the artery, ask your veterinarian to help.

Capillary Refill Time

Capillary Refill Time (CRT) measures the time it takes for capillaries to refill with blood. It is an easy test to perform. Press the mucous membrane inside the nostril or the gums to measure CRT. As you press on the membrane, you press blood out of the capillaries. When you remove your finger the membrane appears pale. You can see the blood return as the membrane regains its pink color. It should take 1 to 2 seconds for the membrane to return to the color of the surrounding area. If it takes longer than 1 to 2 seconds, your horse's circulation is poor, or it may be in shock.

- Use yourself as a comparison. Squeeze your thumb. Watch the color under your thumb nail. It will be pale pink when you release it, but the color will return rapidly.

Knowing how to take each of these vital signs listed above is important to evaluate a horse that does not seem to feel good. Before calling your vet, take and record each of these to be able to give the information to the vet, as it tells the vet how sick the horse might be.

Source: Ann Swinker, Extension Horse Specialist-Associate Professor of Equine Science, PNST

LEASE REQUIREMENTS

Validity. To be valid, a lease must meet 4 requirements. It must:

- Be a valid contract (basically meaning that both parties agree to the terms).
- Describe the extent of the property to be leased.
- Include the lease term, or the length of time the lease is for.
- Define the rental rate.

Note that a lease does *not* need to be in writing to be valid. There are pros and cons to having a lease in writing, but a written lease will be useful in the case that disagreements between the landlord and the renter arise later.

A lease that is for a period of longer than one year is the exception; in this case, law requires the lease be in writing.

Amendments. A lease can be amended during the term of the lease as long as both parties agree to the amendment(s). It is not required that you have amendments in writing, but its good business practice to do so.

Right of reentry. When a landlord leases out a property, the landlord has no right to enter the property for any reason during the term of the lease. If the landlord wishes to retain the right to reentry, this must be specified in the lease. If the property has value for recreational uses such as hunting or hiking, and the landlord retains right to reentry, the tenant and the landlord should discuss how recreational use by third parties will be handled.

Sublease and assignments. Assignment is when the tenant signs the lease over to a third party, and the third party takes over the lease. Sublease is when the tenant signs over the lease rights to a third party only for a portion of the duration of the lease. By default, the tenant has the right to assignment and/or sublease without consent of the landlord. If the landlord wishes to prevent assignment or sublease, this must be specified in the lease.

Noxious weeds. By law, duty to control noxious weeds falls on both the landlord and the tenant. It may be a good idea to specify in the lease what actions will be taken and who will be responsible for performing them if/when noxious weeds become a problem.

Termination. Termination procedures will vary depending on how the lease is written. A lease may terminate on a specific date. Alternatively, a lease may be ongoing (such as automatically renewing month to month). This type of lease should outline the actions required to terminate the lease, such as giving written notice 30 days prior to termination. If specific termination procedures are not included in the lease, Maryland law must be followed, requiring six months' notice to terminate the lease.

University of Maryland Extension is fortunate to have an attorney, Paul Goeringer, on our staff. Your attorney is the best person to contact for legal advice, but Paul may be able to help with some of your questions. You can contact him at 301-405-3541 or pgoeringer@arec.umd.edu.

Source: UME

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| March 12 | Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Exam -10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Call to register: 410-386-2760 |
| March 12, 26 | Farm Transition & Estate Planning Workshop -9:30 to 12:30 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Call to register: 410-386-2760 |
| April 19 | Live On-Line Session Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification -4 to 6 pm , Call the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-6759 to register |
| April 28 | Ecosystems Services Symposium -9 to 3 pm, Wye Research and Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD, Call Jean Hopkins - (410) 827-8056 to register |

Visit our web site at <http://carroll.umd.edu> For more event listings visit <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/AGNRCalendar/>

Yours for better farming from your
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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call: 410-386-2760 or 1-888-326-9645.

If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in a program please contact the Carroll County Extension Office at 410-386-2760, Fax: 410-876-0132, two weeks prior to the program.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by University of Maryland Extension is implied.



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES SYMPOSIUM

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Event Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013
Time: 9 am. – 3 p.m. – lunch provided
Where: Wye Research and Education Center
124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, Maryland
Register: Email – [Jean Hopkins](mailto:Jean.Hopkins@um.edu) or phone - (410) 827-8056
(no registration fee), limited seating

Goal: To promote the concept of ecosystem services and discuss ongoing research and education activities being conducted by University faculty to support this concept.

We will have 2 invited speakers discussing each of 5 ecosystems.

Agro-ecosystem: Beside the production of food and fiber what ecosystem services do our working farms provide society and what we are doing to preserve these functions and services in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner? (Ken Staver and Bob Tjaden)

Forest ecosystem: What social value does our working forest (urban and rural) provide beyond the production of fiber? Ecosystem services like carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge and wildlife habitat will be considered. (Dave Tilley and Marla McIntosh)

Urban Ecosystem: The urban environment provides places for people to live and work. However, without proper management these systems can damage our environment (air and water) and cause human health issues. How can we modify these urban systems to increase ecosystem functions to minimize these stresses? (Dennis Burton and Vikki Chanse)

Aquatic Ecosystem: Maryland has many water bodies in the form of rivers, streams, and lakes. It also is within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which is one of the world's most productive estuarine systems. These aquatic systems provide many services including recreation, fishing, boating, etc. However, improper management of our inputs from terrestrial ecosystem can damage these systems and jeopardize these services. (Don Boesch and Lisa Wainger)

Wetland Ecosystem: Wetlands are considered the kidneys in our ecosystem, thus their proper management is vital. They provide services such as filtering impurities in water, and service as a trap for nutrients and sediment. Protecting and enhancing these systems is vital to restoring the Chesapeake Bay. (Bill Lamp and Andy Baldwin)

Poster Session: To highlight the variety of work being done by faculty, staff, and students, we will have a poster-discussion session during the lunch hour. Please email [Barbara South](mailto:Barbara.South@um.edu) after February 25, 2013 for poster guidelines and to submit an abstract.

Organizing Committee:

[Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi](mailto:Adel.Shirmohammadi@um.edu), MAES

[Dr. William Bowerman](mailto:William.Bowerman@um.edu), ENST

[Dr. Russell Brinsfield](mailto:Russell.Brinsfield@um.edu), Wye REC