

Farm Notes

February 2014

In This Issue

Ag Entrepreneurial Business Plan Course	1
Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Mini Expo	2
2014 MD Dairy Convention	2
Annual Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference	3
2014 Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon	3
2014 Annual Fruit Meeting.....	4
Beginning A Successful Small Farm	4
Winter 2014 Issue Of Wild & Woolly	4
MD Welcomes New Associate Director Of Extension	5
Ag Annual Conference & What Works Conference	5
Women In Agriculture Regional Conference.....	5
2013 MD Soybean Variety Tests	6
2014 MD Gap Food Safety Trainings.....	6
Ag Lease 101	7
Consulting Foresters	7
Crop Management Webinar Series	7
MD Farmlink Adds Mentor Match Program	8
Farriery Seminar	8
Palmer Amaranth Alert.....	8
Planter Maintenance	9
Free Legal Aid Services for Seniors	11
Dates To Remember	11
Brochures	



**AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURIAL
 BUSINESS PLAN COURSE**

What is this course?

This 3-evening course taught by University of Maryland Extension Faculty is for the agricultural entrepreneur who is thinking about starting an agricultural based venture, needing to expand a current business, or considering an opportunity to diversify. The course is designed to enhance entrepreneurial skills and assist in the development of a business plan. It will help those individuals who are searching for innovative ideas and enhanced marketing opportunities in the area of agriculture. Attendees will have networking opportunities and one-on-one consultation time with instructors. A business planning book will step you through the process of developing the business plan.

When is this course?

6:30 to 9:00 pm on February 25, March 4 and 11, 2014.

Where is the course?

Carroll County Office, University of Maryland Extension
 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157

What is the cost?

\$25 for up to two people from the same family/business. Business partners or couples are encouraged to attend together.

How do I register?

Registration deadline is **February 18, 2014**. Make checks payable to Carroll County EAC. Mail payment with your name, address, and phone number to:

Carroll County Office, University of Maryland Extension
 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157

For inquiries or more information call 410-386-2760.

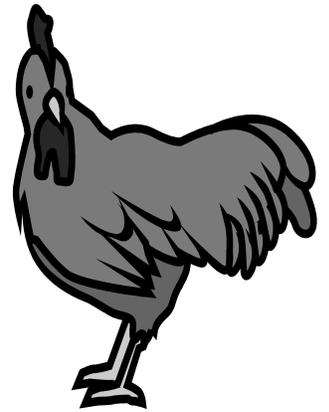
Source: UME

MID-ATLANTIC SMALL FLOCK POULTRY MINI EXPO

The University of Maryland Extension will host a Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Mini Expo at 2 different locations from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the following dates:

March 8, 2014 - North Harford High School
211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, MD 21132

The mini expos will feature at least 10 educational seminars on urban poultry keeping, feeds & feeding, breed characteristics, rules and regulations, disease prevention and control, production basics, predator control, poultry first aid, poultry production for profit, breeding & incubation, egg grading and handling.



- Door prizes will be awarded!
- Extension Specialists and Educators will be available to answer technical questions about production practices.
- Vendors will be available with poultry equipment and supplies.

Registration is required: Adults: \$35 and Children under 18 years: \$15. Registration fees include lunch. **To register online go to: smallflockpoultryexpo.eventbrite.com NO on-site registration is offered!**

For additional information about the Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Mini Expo please e-mail Susan Barnes at sbarnes6@umd.edu or visit the web site at <http://extension.umd.edu/poultry/small-flock-production/mid-atlantic-small-flock-poultry-expo>

Source: UME

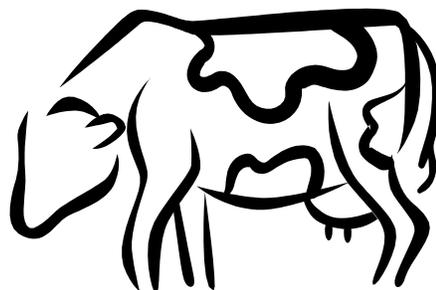
2014 MARYLAND DAIRY CONVENTION

When: February 22, 2014, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Holiday Inn and Conference Center, FSK Mall, 5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick, MD

For more information and to register please see the attached Convention flyer.

Source: MDIA



12TH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC NUTRITION CONFERENCE

Professional nutritionists, consultants, government officials, university scientists, students, farmers, ranchers and allied industry personnel should not miss this opportunity to learn about new discoveries within the animal nutrition industry. It is a pleasure to invite you to the upcoming 12th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference. This year's meeting will be held on March 26-27, 2014 at the North Baltimore Plaza Hotel, in Timonium, MD.

The primary focus of this conference is the nutrition of the poultry, dairy, and equine species. This conference represents the formal collaboration between institutions and industries in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey. Our commitment is to provide up-to-date application science for the animal feeding industry.

Registration includes admission to all of the sessions, conference reception, the social hour on March 26th, a group luncheon on March 27th, and a paper and CD copy of the proceedings. A one day registration option is available for March 27th. Accommodation arrangements need to be made before February 28, 2014 to ensure the lowest rates. The hotel has provided a block of rooms at an attractive price (\$107.00/night, single or double occupancy, excluding tax). Contact the hotel at 410-252-7373 and ask for Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference reservations. New this year, online registration with credit card payment is available at the MANC website!

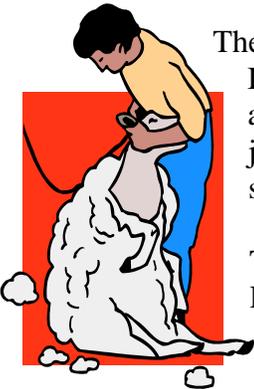
Registration materials, venue information, the updated program, past proceedings, and the 2014 abstracts will be available on our website at www.manc.umd.edu. Please return your registration form and make your room reservations promptly.

Source: Jennifer Reynolds, Coordinator-Equine and Poultry Extension Activities, Dept. of Animal and Avian Sciences, UMD

2014 JUNIOR SHEEP & WOOL SKILLATHON

The Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon, held annually in conjunction with the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, has been changed to the Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon. All skillathon stations will pertain to both sheep and goats, including meat, fiber, and dairy production.

Youth should begin making plans to participate in this year's skillathon. The skillathon will be held Sunday, May 4, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland



The Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon is open to any youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Individuals and teams (of 3 or 4) from any county, or state may compete. Youth compete according to their age as of January 1st of the current year. Youth ages 8 to 10 compete as juniors; youth ages 11 to 13 compete as intermediates; and youth ages 14 to 18 compete as seniors.

The preregistration deadline for individuals (requested) and teams (required) is April 28. Preregister by sending names, ages, and team affiliations via e-mail to Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu (or via fax at (301) 432-4089).

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/skillathon/skillathon.html>

Source: Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, sschoen@umd.edu

2014 UME ANNUAL FRUIT MEETING - FEBRUARY 26, 2014

Mark your calendars for the Annual Fruit meeting at the Wye Research and Education Center on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 from 9:00am - 3:30pm. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- Managing Bacterial Diseases on Tree Fruit
- Updates on Invasive Insect Pests
- Research Report on Size Controlling Apple Rootstocks
- Beach Plum Production
- Hop Yard
- Meadow Orchards
- Frost Protection Options



Pesticide and CCA credits will be offered. For program questions and to register, please contact Mike Newell at mnewell@umd.edu or 410-827-7388.

Source: Mike Newell, UME

BEGINNING A SUCCESSFUL SMALL FARM

You are invited to participate in this upcoming short course series, “Beginning a Successful Small Farm,” to be held on Wednesdays from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, April 3 to May 15. This course is specifically designed for beginner farmers. All classes will be held at the University of Maryland Extension office located at 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD.

Studies show that most new small farm owners are new to farming, or have little agricultural experience, and that the new farming venture is a family project. For this reason, this 7-week, 14-hour course is designed to provide some basic training in critical farming subject matter for those new and inexperienced in agricultural production in this region.

To register for this course, please call me at 301-600-3577, or email me at tepoole@umd.edu.

Registration is \$15 for this entire course and checks should be made payable to Frederick County EAC. Space is limited, so register as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you in this short course series. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Source: Terry E. Poole, Principal Agent, Emeritus, University of Maryland Extension

WINTER 2014 ISSUE OF WILD & WOOLLY

The Winter 2014 issue of Wild & Woolly has been published to the web at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/Winter2014.html>. The newsletter may also be downloaded as a printer-friendly PDF file from <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/PDF/Winter2014.pdf>.

Wild & Woolly is a quarterly newsletter for sheep and goat producers and anyone else interested in small ruminants. It is published by the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center.

Source: Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, sschoen@umd.edu

MD WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION



Effective January 30, 2014, Dr. Stephen Wright has been appointed as Associate Director of University of Maryland Extension. Dr. Wright replaces Dr. Nick Place who transferred out of the position in August 2012; the Associate Director of Extension position was temporarily filled by Dr. Dan Kugler in the interim. Dr. Wright comes to us from the Ohio State University Extension where he previously held the position of Regional Director and Associate Department Chair of Extension. As Regional Director, he has had oversight of 29 counties and has worked collaboratively with the OSU Extension administrative team and Extension employees, numerous advisory committee members, volunteer stakeholders, public officials, and other community leaders and volunteers. Dr. Wright is truly coming back home. He not only is a “pure” UMD alum – completing his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at the University – but he also grew up in Baltimore, giving him familiarity with both UMD and the state. We welcome Dr. Wright to University of Maryland Extension!

Source: UME

NATIONAL VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AND WHAT WORKS CONFERENCE SERIES

Registration is now open for the joint 16th Annual National Value Added Agricultural Conference and the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development's What Works Conference Series at the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland May 13-15, 2014

This conference is open to researchers, extension educators, teachers, students, Small Business Development and Farm Bureau service providers, producers, producer/consumer associations, non-profit organizations, local, state and federal policy makers, food industry professionals; individuals from universities, tribal and community colleges and K-12 schools.

Here is your [invitation](#) complete with registration and lodging information, program details and the current agenda with speakers and their topics.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

<http://aese.psu.edu/nercrd/news/2013/registration-now-open>

Source: Shannon Dill, Extension Educator – AGNR, University of Maryland Extension - Talbot County, 28577 Mary's Court Suite 1, Easton MD 21601, 410-822-1244, 410-822-5627 (fax), www.extension.umd.edu/talbot-county

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE REGIONAL CONFERENCE - ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of Maryland Extension and University, Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State Extension, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension will partner to offer the 13th annual **MidAtlantic Women In Ag Conference on Feb. 20**, at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino.

The conference seeks to offer women who are involved with agriculture the opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and

family lives. Session topics will include marketing, food preservation, business planning and other key areas of management.

New for 2014, a preconference will also be offered. It will be held Feb. 19; from 1 to 5pm. Participants can choose two track offerings: Agrotourism or Health Insurance Literacy. The cost of the conference is \$45. The cost for the pre-conference is \$30. For more information or to register visit www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag, or call 410-822-1244.

Source: UME

2013 MARYLAND SOYBEAN VARIETY TESTS

Maryland soybean variety tests are conducted each year by the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, to provide soybean growers with the latest information on agronomic performance of soybean varieties. Agronomy Facts No. 32 can be downloaded by selecting 'Soybeans' on the Department's cropping system webpage and choosing the appropriate publication: <http://www.mdcrops.umd.edu/>.

Source: Bill Kenworthy, Emeritus Professor, PSLA, University of Maryland

2014 MARYLAND GAP FOOD SAFETY TRAININGS

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and University of Maryland Extension (UME) will be conducting a series of regional food safety training workshops for fruit and vegetable producers.



These one-day workshops, offered across Maryland, are important for small- and large- scale producers who want to understand how to meet current and proposed U.S. Food and Drug Administration food safety requirements or are considering Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification. The training will provide assistance in writing and implementing a GAP program for both wholesale growers and direct marketers.

Topics to be covered include: highlights of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act; Good Agricultural Practices such as addressing pre-harvest and post-harvest water quality issues; an update on current food safety research; writing a food safety plan; and MDA/University of Maryland programs to assist producers in implementing GAP. A large portion of the training will be spent helping producers write their own food safety plans. Producers are encouraged to bring their own personal laptops. Laptops will also be provided to those who cannot bring them.

The workshop schedule for 2014 is as follows. Each workshop will take place from 8:30am to 4pm. The fee for the program will be \$25, and will cover lunch costs and materials provided to each participant, and attendees will receive a certificate of participation following the program.

Participants are encouraged to register online at: <http://ter.ps/MDgaps>. If you have questions or encounter difficulties registering online, please contact the organizer for the specific location. Registration is required to ensure adequate materials are available.

February 12, 2014. Western Maryland GAP training.

Western Maryland Research and Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Rd. Keedysville, MD 21756.
Please contact Bryan Butler, bbutlers@umd.edu, 410-386-2760.

March 18, 2014. Central Maryland GAP training.

Baltimore County Extension office, 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030.
Please contact David Martin, dmarti@umd.edu, 410-771-1761.

MDA offers two GAP certification programs for fruit and vegetable producers. Nationally recognized USDA GAP/GHP and USDA Harmonized GAP pre-harvest and post-harvest certification is provided through a cooperative agreement with USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service and meets the requirements of many wholesale buyers. USDA specialty crop grant funding is available for cost share of the USDA audit fees. MDA GAP certification is geared toward direct marketers or others that want to start with a basic food safety program, and is available to Maryland fruit and vegetable producers at no cost. For more information on these programs, contact Deanna Baldwin with the Maryland Department of Agriculture at Deanna.baldwin@maryland.gov or 410-841-5769 or Donna Pahl with University of Maryland at dpahl@umd.edu or 301-405-4372.

Source: David Martin, dmarti@umd.edu, 410-771-1761, UME

AG LEASE 101

Ag Lease 101 helps both land owners and land operators learn about alternative lease arrangements and includes sample written lease agreements for several alternatives. Ag Lease 101 was created by and is maintained by the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee.

<http://aglease101.org/>

Source: North Central Extension Risk Management Center (RME-RBZ04862)

CONSULTING FORESTERS



I have heard from a few consulting foresters recently that timber sales are up as the economy has improved a bit. This means landowners (farmers and non-farmers) may be contacted directly by timber buyers. In general, my recommendation to most landowners is to not deal with timber buyers directly but hire a consulting forester to handle the sale of timber from a property. A list of consulting foresters is available at: <http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/your-woodland/find-forester>. The research is clear that landowners who use a consulting forester get more money and fewer trees are cut, leaving something for the next harvest. Some landowners don't like the idea of paying 10-15% to a consulting forester but landowners come out best in most cases financially and environmentally. There is a bulletin on Marketing Forest Products: Understanding the Sales Process (EB 367) that details how to market timber and it provide sample contracts, etc. <http://extension.umd.edu/learn/marketing-forest-products-understanding-sale-process>. All this info and much more is on our website at www.extension.umd.edu/woodland.

Source: Jonathan S. Kays, Extension Specialist Natural Resources, UME, phone: 301-432-2767 x323 Fax: 301-432-4089, Email: jkays@umd.edu
New Website: www.extension.umd.edu/woodland

CROP MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES OFFERS TIMELY INFORMATION

These noon-time, on-line seminars take place weekly beginning on January 20.

The Penn State Extension Crop Management Team hosts a webinar series each winter focusing on timely topics of interest to crop producers and agronomists.

A \$20 registration fee for these noon-time seminars gives you access to each live presentation. Recorded version of each webinar will be available after the webinar has concluded and is included in the registration fee.

For more information go to <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/courses/crop-management-webinar-series>

Source: Charlie White, Extension Associate, Sustainable Agriculture, PNST Extension

MARYLAND FARMLINK ADDS MENTOR MATCH PROGRAM

Maryland FarmLINK was created by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission in 2010 to fill a void. At the time, there was no website to link up land owners wishing to sell or lease their land in Maryland with farmers seeking land to farm. During website development, other farmer resources were added, including a “person-to-person” section to ask for advice, a “farm forum” for discussions or alerts, and a resources page. The resources page (“Everything Ag”) has been expanded to include workshops and events, farm equipment for rent, a soils tutorial, a zoning tutorial, a land preservation guide, and a realtors’ guide for selling or leasing farmland.



In mid-2013, Maryland FarmLINK announced the new [Mentor Match Program](#), available at www.marylandfarmlink.com, which pairs experienced farmers (mentors) with new or transitioning farm owners/operators (mentees) for one-on-one training, advice and interaction. The year-long mentoring experience is enhanced with support from the Maryland FarmLINK Mentor Team, which provides technical assistance in farm production, business management, regulations, marketing and funding resources. Applications to be a mentor or a mentee are accepted throughout the year. However, to ensure your application is considered for the 2014 growing season, we suggest that you apply online as soon as possible. This program is the product of a collaborative grant project headed up by [University of Maryland Extension](#) and funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

Link to the Maryland FarmLINK website: www.marylandfarmlink.com

Source: Greg Bowen, Maryland FarmLINK Director, SMADC, 301-274-1922 ext. 1, www.marylandfarmlink.com, www.smadc.com/blog

FARRIERY SEMINAR

The University of Maryland is pleased to announce that we will be holding another long awaited Farriery Seminar on March 22, 2014 at the Animal Sciences Building on our College Park Campus. We will be receiving registrations vial mail and online this year (accepting credit card payments).

Only 40 seats are available so please get those registrations in quickly to assure yourself a space!! They will try to maintain a waiting list of folks who will be first to hear of any other upcoming farriery seminars as dates and locations are confirmed.

For more information and to register go to: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/events/sat-2014-03-22-0845-ume-intro-farriery-seminar>

Source: Jennifer Reynolds, Coordinator-Equine and Poultry Extension Activities, Dept. of Animal and Avian Sciences, UMD

PALMER AMARANTH ALERT

Palmer amaranth is a species of pigweed that has been recently introduced into Pennsylvania. It was identified on at least 7 farms in 2013 and poses unique management challenges. Containing new infestations and preventing its spread is a critical first step to managing this new threat. The risk from this new weed comes

from its competitive growth habit, prolific seed production (greater than 100,000 per plant) along with its potential resistance to glyphosate (Roundup) and the Group 2 herbicides (ALS-inhibitors). Resistance to other herbicide classes has also been documented in this species (Groups 3 and 5).

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is a summer annual broadleaf weed that is native to the southwestern US and Mexico. It is also known as Palmer pigweed. Palmer amaranth is related to other pigweeds in our region including redroot, smooth, Powell, and spiny, but unlike these other pigweeds, Palmer amaranth grows faster and is dioecious, meaning that plants are either male or female. Pollen from male plants can travel with the wind to susceptible female plants and if the male is herbicide resistant, a portion of the offspring will also be resistant. Waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*), another dioecious herbicide resistant pigweed species common in the Midwest is also getting a foothold in Pennsylvania. Although not as great a competitive threat as Palmer amaranth, it too should be aggressively managed to prevent its spread.

Proper identification is the first line of defense and plants that survive glyphosate application are the first clue. Here are some key characteristics:

1. Palmer amaranth plants look similar to other pigweeds and especially as seedlings.
2. Palmer leaves, stems, and petioles are hairless and petioles are usually longer than the leaf blade.
3. Sometimes, Palmer amaranth leaves will also have a “V” mark or dark red/purple patch (watermark) on the leaf blade (*spiny as well as the other pigweeds can also sometimes have this mark*).
4. Palmer amaranth seed heads are 6 to 24 inches in length, the female flower bracts are sharp and can be painful to handle (the males are not), and only the females produce seed.

If Palmer amaranth is identified on your farm, aggressively manage the weed to prevent seed production and its spread. Here are some suggested management tactics.

1. Use an integrated management approach that includes soil residual herbicides and effective postemergence control. Small plants that are less than 4 inches tall are easier to manage.
2. With smaller infestations, physically remove plants from the field *prior* to flowering.
3. For flowering plants, determine if the plants have set viable seed. This will be important for determining the future of the problem. If no viable seed is yet present (darkened seeds that shatter), hand rogue smaller infestations and remove plants from within field. Bury or burn removed plants along field edge. Manage the field with no-till if possible leaving any potential seeds near the soil surface. This should enhance seed predation and mortality.

For more information: <http://extension.psu.edu/pests/weeds/herbicide-resistant-weed-information>

Source: William S. Curran, Professor of Weed Science wcurran@psu.edu College of Agricultural Sciences Department of Plant Science, Penn State University Dwight D. Lingenfelter, Extension Associate Dwight@psu.edu

THE TIME FOR PLANTER MAINTENANCE IS HERE

Issues with yield reductions in no-tillage can often be traced back to failure to guarantee accurate seed placement. It is all too common to see irregular seed depth, seeds at the soil surface, open seed slots, compacted

soil on top of the seeds, hair-pinning, sidewall compaction, doubles and triples, and so forth. So planter performance becomes key. It is especially critical in no-till because of high penetration resistance, and cover crops or crop residue at the soil surface. Here are some tips to prepare your planter for the new season.

1. Meters. Metering units have to work well or you'll get frequent skips, doubles and triples. To guarantee optimal performance, take metering units apart every winter. Remove dirt and clean the hood with soapy water (no kerosene, diesel or oil should ever be used in metering units!). Replace cracked plastic covers. Replace broken fingers in a finger-pickup meter. Seed brushes need to be replaced when worn. If a groove has formed in the chromium house of the metering unit it is time to replace it. The belt (in finger pick-up meters) should be flexible, not have cracks in it, and should be clean. Clean with soapy water and let it dry before putting it back in. Put the metering unit back together. The rubber belt should be placed back in the right direction, or your meter will malfunction. You can lubricate with graphite (NO OIL or WD-40). It is recommended to take your finger pick-up metering unit to a dealer to have it calibrated every year or every 300-400 acres. Take a bag of your own seed with you, and give him the correct speed at which you'll be driving. If you have a vacuum or air meter, check for leaks and appropriate vacuum or air pressure.
2. Planter unit. Accurate depth placement can be compromised if planter units are loose or wobbly. You should not be able to easily lift up your unit or move it sideways. Look across your planter units from the side. Are they all at the same height? If one unit is either up or down compared to the others, it needs work. A common problem is that some bolts are loose or additional bushings are needed. You also need to replace cracked or broken seed hoppers.
3. Seed opener disks. Seed opener disks need to have a minimum diameter (check operator manual) or they will not place the seed at the appropriate depth. Seed opener disks also need to come together in the front (they should usually touch for 3", but this may vary depending on planter). Stick two business cards between the openers and move them as close together as possible. If opener disks are worn too much you will get a "W" shaped seed slot instead of the desired "V" slot.
4. Seed tubes. The end of seed tubes may wear to the extent that they curl inwards, catching seeds. There is often a hook halfway up that can easily break off. Seed tube guards need to have their minimum width and be fastened correctly or damage to the seed tube is likely.
5. Seed firmers. These help to press the seed down in the furrow, guaranteeing more accurate depth placement of the seeds. The tension can be adjusted with a bolt. If the seed firmers are worn too much they need to be replaced.
6. Depth wheels. Depth wheels should run tight against disks. Change washers from in-side to outside (or vice versa) of depth wheel if necessary. If this doesn't resolve the problem, the depth wheel arm needs to be replaced.
7. Coulters. Check the diameter of the coulters, and replace them if needed. You should adjust the depth of worn coulters that are still usable.
8. Row cleaners. Check for wear. Adjust to compensate for wear or replace if worn too much.
9. Closing wheels. Closing wheels need to have an intact spring, and need to be checked for damage or wear. Bearings cannot be wobbly or too tight. The bottoms of rubber or cast iron closing wheels need to be 1.5"-2" apart. The closing wheel arm cannot have too much play or bushings or the entire arm may need replaced.

10. Alignment of coulters, opener disks, and closing wheels. Take a rope and pull it straight from the front coulters to the closing wheels. The firming wheels, seed openers, and coulters should all be in line. Closing wheels should not run on top of the seed furrow.
11. Insecticide boxes. The insecticide boxes should have no holes or cracks. Tubes should be blown out with air as well as the slot on bottom of meter.
12. Fertilizer unit. Fertilizer opener disks should have a minimum diameter (check manual). The bearings should not be wobbly or too tight. Hang a bucket below the tube of the unit, and do a test run of 175 feet in the field. Weigh the fertilizer in the bucket, multiply by 100, and you have the fertilizer you'll put on in pounds per acre (at 30" row spacing). Adjust as needed.
13. Chains and sprockets. Check all chains and their sprockets. If they are worn too much they need to be replaced. They need to have the appropriate tension and should be greased regularly.

By maintaining your planter now you will be set to have a successful growing season in 2014. So don't postpone it any longer.

Source: Sjoerd Duiker, Associate Professor of Soil Management and Applied Soil Physics, PNST Extension

FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SENIORS

Carroll County residents who are 60 years or older can get free legal assistance, courtesy of the Bureau of Aging and Disabilities. Services are provided through the Mid-Western Maryland Office of the Legal Aid Bureau. Call the Legal Aid Bureau at 1-800-679-8813 between 9:00 am and noon on Tuesday – Friday with questions or attend walk-in clinics that will be held between 1-4 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, South Carroll Senior & Community Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd., Eldersburg, MD 21784

Tuesday, March 4, 2014, Westminster Senior & Community Center, 125 Stoner Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Mount Airy Senior & Community Center, 703 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy, MD 21771

Source: Carroll County Government

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 12 | Private Applicator Certification Exam -10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386-2760 to register. |
| February 12 | Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification -10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386 2760 to register. |
| February 22 | MD Dairy Conference -8:30 to 7 pm, FSK Holiday Inn, FSK Mall, 5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick, MD, Contact: 301-349-0740 or secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org |
| Feb 25, March 4, 11 | Agricultural Entrepreneurial Business Course -6:30 to 9 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact 410-386-2760 to register |
| February 26 | Annual Fruit Meeting -9 to 3:30 pm, Wye Research & Education Center, PO Box 169, Queenstown, MD, Contact: mnewell@umd.edu or 410-827-7388 |

- March 6 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Transition To the County Law Enforcement Agency and Agriculture by Col. Phil Kasten, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- March 8 **Mid Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Mini Expo**-9 to 3 pm, North Harford High School, 211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, MD Contact: sbarnes6@umd.edu
- April 3 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-A New Look For 4-H In Carroll County by Kim Dixon, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- April 18 & 19 **2014 Maryland-Delaware Sheep Shearing School For Beginning Shearers**-9:30 to 3:30 pm, Ridgely Thompson Farm, 1942 Uniontown Road, Westminster, MD 21158, Contact: David Greene at grelamb@gmail.com for more information
- May 1 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Growing Hops and Brewing Beer In Carroll County by Henry Ruhlman, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- June 5 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Celebrate Dairy Month by Diane Flickinger, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.

Visit our web site at <http://extension.umd.edu/carroll-county>

For more event listings visit

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/AGNRCalendar/>

Yours for better farming from your
Carroll County Agriculture Extension Educators,

Michael R. Bell
Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
mbell@umd.edu

Bryan R. Butler, Sr.
Extension Agent
Commercial Horticulture/
Mid-MD Tree Fruit
bbutlers@umd.edu

Steve Allgeier
Extension Educator
Home Horticulture/
Master Gardener Coordinator
horman@umd.edu

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.



2014 MARYLAND-DELAWARE SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL
For Beginning Shearers

- Date: **April 18 and 19, 2014** (Friday and Saturday)
- Place: **Ridgely Thompson Farm**, 1942 Uniontown Road, Westminster, MD 21157. Directions: From Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take 795 North to Rt. 140 to Westminster. Follow 140 around Westminster until the dual lane highway turns into single lane at blinker light at Rt. 31; turn left on Rt. 31, go to second light and turn right on to Uniontown Road, go about 3 miles and farm is on right side.
- Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Sponsor: University of Maryland Extension and University of Delaware Extension, the Maryland Sheep Breeders' Association, Inc. and the Delaware Sheep and Wool Producers Association
- Registration: All registrations must be in advance accompanied by an \$80.00 per person fee. Checks should be made payable to: Carroll County Extension Advisory Council (**CCEAC**).
- Deadline: **April 14, 2014**
(Mail registration to: David L. Greene, 2014 White Hall Road, White Hall, MD 21161-9712)
Note! There will be no registration later than April 14th. Participation is limited to the first 25 people who register. (This is done so the class can be kept to a size that will afford the best learning opportunities.)
- Minimum Age: 16 years
- What You Need To Bring:
- * Lunch including drinks (no facilities for lunch are close by)
 - * Comfortable clothes and shoes
 - * Gloves
 - * A body with the strength and willingness to learn to shear sheep
- Note! Shearing machines will be provided.**
- You Will Learn:
- * The New Zealand method of shearing sheep
 - * How to adjust and care for hand-held shearing machines
 - * How to set and adjust blades on these shearing machines
 - * How to properly handle wool after shearing
- (NOTE: We **do not** teach blade shearing)
- The school is open to anyone in Maryland, Delaware and surrounding states who want to learn to shear sheep. Each registrant will receive an ASI Shearing Notebook and instructional DVD.
- Instructors: David L. Greene, Principal Agent Emeritus, University of Maryland Extension-Carroll County (grelamb@gmail.com)
Richard A. Barczewski, Animal Science Professor, Delaware State University, Dover, DE
Aaron Geiman, Agriculture Teacher at North Carroll High School

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

2014 Maryland - Delaware Sheep Shearing School
Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ Zip Code _____

e-mail: _____ Number of persons attending: ___ x **\$80.00** each \$ _____

Check One: _____ Right Handed _____ Left Handed

Make check payable to: **Carroll County Extension Advisory Council (CCEAC)**

Mail to: **David L. Greene, 2014 White Hall Road, White Hall, MD 21161-9712**