

Farm Notes

March 2014

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2014 CENTRAL MARYLAND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE FORUM

The 2014 Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forum will be held 8:30am to 3 p.m., Thursday March 20 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

There are a lot of great sessions planned including “Working Through the Farm Transition,” “Diversifying Your Farm Operation,” “Estate Planning” and a panel discussion “The Next Generation: Returning to the Farm & Incorporating Their Ideas.”

Registration is due by **March 15**. The \$35 cost includes materials and lunch.

This is a great way to connect with other farm women about issues that many families face – namely, keeping the farm going for the next generation and finding a way for all the generations to work together and generate enough income to support everyone.

For more information and to register, call Kathy Zimmerman at the Howard County Economic Development Authority at 410-313-6500. Or call Joanne Morvay Weant, Ag Development Specialist for Carroll County, at 410-386-2070 and they will mail you a brochure. To register by credit card, go to: www.wia14.eventbrite.com.

Source: Joanne Morvay Weant, Agriculture Development Specialist, 410-386-2070 / fax: 410-876-8471, jweant@carrollbiz.org, www.carrollbiz.org

“TERP FARM” BREAKS GROUND THIS SPRING

University’s new sustainable farming operation enters its first season

Thanks to a cross-campus partnership of University of Maryland students, faculty and staff, an exciting project is launching this spring that will result in fresh, local produce for Terps in College Park and the surrounding community this fall. UMD’s [Department of Dining Services](#), [College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) (AGNR) and [Office of Sustainability](#) announce the creation of “Terp Farm” – a sustainable farming operation to be located just 15 miles from the College Park campus.



Photo by Anna Wallis



Photos by Edwin Remsberg



Dining Services secured a \$124,400 grant from the university’s [Sustainability Fund](#) for a three-year pilot program, and is now hiring a Lead Agricultural Technician to help support the project. Terp Farm will offer four-season vegetable production to be used in selected dining halls and on the Green Tidings mobile dining food truck, as well as provide produce to food-insecure members of the campus and College Park communities. “The Terp Farm project grew out of Dining Services’ [Sustainable Food Commitment](#), signed in 2012. A major component of the commitment is annual, incremental increases in sourcing from local growers – well, it doesn’t get closer to home than produce grown on a campus farm by an involved campus community! Our Chefs are excited about incorporating these campus-grown vegetables into our menus and I can’t wait to taste the meals they create!” says Colleen Wright Riva, director Dining Services.

The College of AGNR has committed two acres at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center’s Upper Marlboro facility for Terp Farm. Meanwhile, AGNR students are already incorporating the farm into some of their coursework this semester. “Terp Farm is a natural fit for the College of AGNR,” says Cheng-i Wei, dean of the College. “It is an extension of our dedication to providing students with hands-on educational experiences while also demonstrating the important role agriculture plays in any community.”

Capstone students from the Department of [Plant Science and Landscape Architecture](#) will be working together to propose overall designs for the farm, crop selections, planting schedules, as well as post-harvest handling and sanitary measures to meet food safety goals. Students enrolled in a course called Analyzing Alternative Enterprises offered by the [Institute of Applied Agriculture](#) will be developing enterprise budgets to determine which crops will be most profitable to grow on the farm. Additionally, a team of students from the [Department of Communication](#) Event Planning Seminar will be organizing kick-off events to celebrate the opening of Terp Farm this semester. Allison Lilly, sustainability and wellness coordinator for Dining Services, who is managing the Terp Farm project, says “We are excited about the collaborations that have resulted from Terp Farm and are actively seeking other ways to engage the entire UMD community in this project.”

For more information on Terp Farm and to follow the project's progress, please check back here for updates. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Allison Lilly alilly@umd.edu.

Source: University of Maryland, Dining Services

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE SUMMARY

On February 20, 2014, the Preliminary Report of the 2012 Census of Agriculture was released. The Census of Agriculture accounts for all of the United States farms and ranches and the people who operate them. There are some statistically significant changes from 2007, both positive and negative. Overall the number of farms declined, acreage in farms declined, but the average farm size increased.

In 2012, the U.S. number of farms dropped 4.3% from the last Census, which continues a long-term trend of fewer farms. From 2007 to 2012, the amount of land in farms declined 0.8%, which was the third smallest decline between Censuses since 1950. In 2012, the average farm size rose from 418 acres to 434 acres, which is an increase of 3.4% increase over 2007.

In 2012, the market value of crops, livestock, and total agricultural products were each record highs. In 2012, U.S. farms sold nearly \$395 billion in agricultural products, which was 33% more than in 2007. Crop sales were \$68.7 billion more in 2012 than 2007, a 48% increase. Livestock sales were up \$28.6 billion which is a 19% increase.

The full report of the 2012 Census of Agriculture is to be released in May 2014 and will provide data at national, state and county levels. Access to the Preliminary Report can be found at www.agcensus.usda.gov. Preliminary data for the state of Maryland can be found at www.mda.maryland.gov.

Source: Emily M. Joyce, UME Kent, AG/FEA

AG MARKETING NEWSLETTER

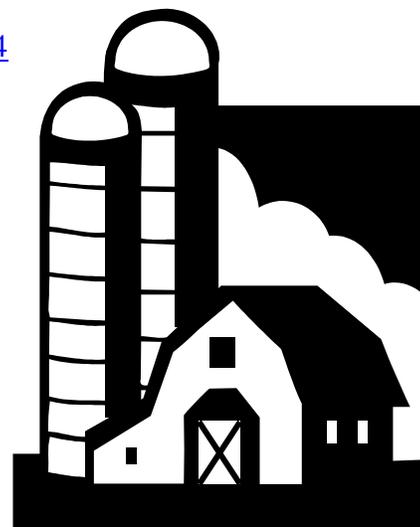
The winter 2014 issue of the “**Ag Marketing Newsletter**” has been posted to the web at:

<http://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/ag-marketing-newsletter-winter-2014>

Topics in this issue include:

- Have you Visited Us Lately?
- Posting Your Prices Online
- Energy Efficiency Grant Available to Maryland Agricultural Producers!
- Diluting the Term—Are You Producing an Artisanal Food?
- Online Business Plan Resources
- 2014 Maryland FMNP/FVC Training Dates

If you have questions or comments about this publication or have clients or colleagues that would value receiving it as well, please contact Ginger Myers at gsmyers@umd.edu.



Source: Ginger Myers at gsmyers@umd.edu

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



The weather closing policy for Carroll County Extension programs is: If county schools are closed, Extension programs are not conducted. If County government is closed the Extension Offices will be closed as well.

Source: CC UME

MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THE 2014 KATHLEEN A.P. MATHIAS AGRICULTURE ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM

Mathias Ag Program provides financial assistance to minimize costs associated with energy efficiency upgrades to farms and businesses in the agriculture sector.

<http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/MathiasAg14.htm>

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) has announced that the Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Grant (Mathias Ag) Program is open for applications. The Mathias Ag Program will provide grants to farms and businesses in the agriculture sector to cover 50% of the cost of energy efficiency upgrades at sites that can achieve at least 20% savings in the building or areas improved. Named after the late Kathy Mathias, one of the Eastern Shore's leading advocates and the wife of Maryland State Senator James N. Mathias, the program is now in its second year.

"Last year's program demonstrated that an investment in Maryland's agriculture sector helps our farms and farm businesses save money and energy," said Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "This not only helps the State reach its goals of reducing overall energy consumption 15% by 2015, and increasing our renewable energy generation to 20% by 2022, but also helps our agriculture sector stay competitive and innovative."

Through the Mathias Ag Program, MEA will distribute grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000 to ease the costs of installing eligible energy efficiency technologies. Examples of eligible farms and businesses in the agriculture sector include dairy, orchard, poultry/egg, greenhouse, vegetable, animal, vineyard, grain dryer, processor, sawmill, and aquaculture. The measures must enable a minimum 20% energy savings in the buildings or areas where they are installed. Awards will cover 50% of the project cost after any other incentives have been applied. Applications must be received by March 15, 2014.

"My children, Lauren and Trevor, and I are both humbled and honored that Kathy's life continues to be memorialized through this program," said Maryland State Senator James N. Mathias, Jr. (D - Lower Eastern Shore) and Kathy's husband. "Kathy was fully dedicated to the people and lifestyle of the Eastern Shore and very fond of our rural and farming communities. Even through her most difficult challenges, Kathy continued to renew her boundless energy and positive attitude which exemplifies this program. The MEA has continued to help farmers use best practices to promote energy efficiency while saving money."

Energy efficiency measures must be installed before October 31, 2014. Technical assistance is available to help applicants estimate their project's energy savings, and to answer general application questions. Further program details are available on the program website. Information on the results of the 2012-2013 program are available here. Questions about this program may be directed to MEA Program Managers Dean Fisher (Dean.Fisher@maryland.gov) and Alec Fields (Alec.Fields@maryland.gov).

Source: Don Webster, Regional Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

MARYLAND FARM AND HARVEST

Maryland Farm and Harvest is online! Watch all of the episodes over the internet:

<http://video.mpt.tv/program/maryland-farm-harvest/>



Shows will be rebroadcast through August and new episodes will premiere in late October.

Tuesdays—7pm

Thursdays 11:30pm

Sundays—6am



Source: Maryland Public Television (MPT)

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU ANNOUNCES FARM TIRE RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Farmers in 14 counties will have the opportunity to drop off used tires of all sizes thanks to a service-to-member program Maryland Farm Bureau has coordinated with state officials.

Maryland Farm Bureau has been working with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Environmental Services to secure funding and arrange hauling services for farm tires in counties where previous events have not adequately served the farm community's needs.

“In the past, county-wide citizen drop-off events have limited the number of tires a farmer could recycle,” said Chuck Fry, Maryland Farm Bureau President. “We think it is important to find a way for farmers to recycle all of the old tires on their farms – big tractor tires as well as passenger or truck tires that have accumulated over the years.”

The collection activities are intended to be “farmer-friendly” in that tires will not have to be cut or cleaned before delivery. And there will be no limit on the number or types of tires a farmer may bring. Some county Farm Bureaus’ are looking to help dairy farmers who have thousands of tires left over from trench silos.

The tire drop off events will take place either at county government locations or on local farms. Ten of the county locations have been set up with help from local government officials. Four are being set up by County Farm Bureau volunteers. All regular/voting members of Farm Bureau in the designated counties will receive a flyer in the next 2 weeks inviting them to participate in the program. Farm Bureau members should bring the flyer with them to the event to demonstrate eligibility to participate.

The following locations are being coordinated by county Farm Bureau's:

Baltimore County – State Fairgrounds – Date and Time to be announced soon.
Harford County – Jay Rickey’s farm in Whiteford – Date and Time to be announced soon.
Montgomery County - Lonnie Luther’s farm in Damascus – Date and Time to be announced soon.
Frederick County –James Ramsburg & Susie Knapp’s farm – 9310 Stauffer Road, Walkersville – Saturday, March 22nd from 9:00am – 3:00pm

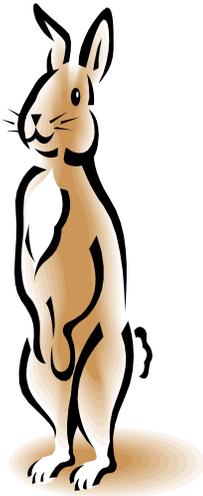
The locations below will take tires from farmers between now and March 31st on any day and time that the county location is open:

Calvert County – Appeal Landfill, 401 Sweetwater Lane, Lusby – M-F 8am - 3pm
Caroline County – Holly Road Drop Off Center, Ridgely – M,Th,Sat 7am-4pm, T,W&Fri 10am-6pm
Carroll County – Northern Landfill, 1400 Balto Blvd, Westminster – M-F 7-4:30, Sat 7-3pm.
Dorchester County – Beulah Landfill, Rt. 16 in Hurlock – M-F 7am-3:30pm, Sat 7am-3pm.
Garrett County – 3 sites to be announced soon – contact Kim Madigan at 301-387-0322
Kent County – Nicholson Drop Off Site – contact Marty Holden at 410-778-7448 for times
Prince George’s County – Brown’s Station Landfill, 4920 Ritchie Marlboro Rd. – M-Sat 8am-3:30pm
St. Mary’s County – St. Andrew’s Landfill, on MD Rt. 4 south of Rt. 235, M-Sat 8am-4:30pm
Washington County – Forty West Landfill, 12630 Earth Care Rd – Mon-Sat 7am-3:30pm
Wicomico County – Newland Park Landfill, 6969 Brick Kiln Rd. – 6am-8pm everyday

For more information contact Val Connelly or Matt Tefteau at (410) 922-3426 or (410) 269-0656.

Source: MFB

SOUTHERN MD REGION POULTRY AND RABBIT SLAUGHTER/PROCESSING TRAINING WORKSHOP – April 11, 2014



The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) in partnership with University of Maryland (UMD) and Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission will conduct a training workshop for poultry and rabbit slaughter and processing on Friday, April 11 at the Calvert County Economic Development building meeting room at 205 Main Street Prince Frederick. This full-day workshop is a voluntary certification program. It is designed to assist small poultry and rabbit operations to meet the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s ‘approved source’ requirements for producers who want to become certified to sell their poultry and/or rabbits (off the farm) at farmers’ markets or to restaurants and retailers in Maryland. The MDA training and certification program is a great opportunity for small agricultural businesses to expand into new markets and meet the increasing consumer demand for farm fresh, local products. If interested call or email SMADC Southern Maryland Meats assistant Jeanne Herbert at 301-274-1922 ext. 1 or jherbert@smadc.com.

Source: MDA and UMD

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
- March 20 **2014 Central Maryland Women in Agriculture Forum**-8:30 to 3 pm, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, Contact: 410-313-6500 or www.wia14.eventbrite.com
- 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 greelamb@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
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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.

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