A Message from Shannon Dill & Jenny Rhodes

Happy spring! What a great start to 2013 with the many Women in Ag programs held this winter. Our traditional Annie’s Project was delivered across the state as well as the new Annie’s Project II, Managing for Today and Tomorrow, which was taught in both Maryland and Delaware. The 12th Annual Women In Ag Regional Conference, Recognizing Women for Their Role In Agriculture, was another grand success. I heard so many wonderful comments from the ladies attending all the programs. I look forward to all of these programs each year. We have applied for granting funding for next year so stay tuned…

We would like to put together a Women In Ag Farm Tour sometime this fall. If you would like to host your farm business or if you have any ideas, please let us know. Thank you so much for your continued friendship and support of our Women In Ag programs. Shannon & Jenny

A Big Thank you!

To everyone who attended, volunteered, spoke at and sponsored the 12th Annual Women In Agriculture Conference, the Entire Planning Committee would like to say “Thank you.” This year was a wonderful success with 158 people in attendance! It was so wonderful to catch up with old friends, and meet so many new faces. For 2014 we are challenging everyone to bring a friend to WIA. So, start thinking now who you will bring along to the meeting. Tentative Dates will be announced soon.
2013 marked our 6th year of Annie’s Project classes in Maryland and Delaware. 39 farmwomen participated in Annie’s Project classes across Maryland. New for 2013 there was a new Annie’s Class offered. Annie’s Project II held a class in Maryland and one in Delaware. 17 women graduated from the inaugural classes. Since 2008, 413 farmwomen have graduated from Annie’s Project across Maryland and Delaware! Congratulations to ALL of our Annie’s Project Graduates, both current and past!
Choosing a Respirator for Farm Work

How often do you think of masks and respirators? In farming, there are many situations when using a mask or respirator is essential to protect your lungs and your overall health. Respiratory hazards might involve:

- Duffs (which can cause or irritate Organic Dust Toxicity Syndrome, Farmer’s Lung Disease, Bronchitis, Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD))
- Gases
  - Silo gas (NO₂, Silo Filler’s lung)
  - Manure (H₂S, methane, CO, CO₂)
- Welding fumes (NO₂, Ozone, metal fumes)
- Pesticides
- Livestock & Poultry confinements
- Grain handling
- Using gas or diesel engine indoors (which you should never do unless you’re in an open or well-ventilated area)
- Paints and solvents
- Woodworking

Particulates (small particles of a harmful dust, gas, or pesticide) do not need to be seen to enter your respiratory system (from your nose and mouth to your lungs). In fact, particulates are incredibly small and can do significant damage. In some cases, particulates are so small your lungs cannot cough them out.

Before using any kind of respiratory protection, you should have a medical exam to make sure you are healthy enough to use one. Respirators, even a simple dust mask, can restrict regular breathing. If you have asthma, heart disease, claustrophobia, high blood pressure, lung disease, or are extremely sensitive to heat, you may not be okayed for respirator use.

- Make sure you have the right mask for the right job – each job may require a different mask.
- Make sure you have the right fit for the mask; the mask should create a seal on your face.
- Learn how to do a proper fit test.
- Make sure you have a variety of mask types available, and know how and when to use each type for the appropriate situations.
- Consider purchasing a protective equipment storage box (such as an airtight plastic container) – your respiratory protection equipment won’t help if it’s covered in dust it has collected form sitting in the barn.

A simple, one strap dust mask is NOT enough for most farm work – especially if you keep it hanging in your barn and re-use it! Different hazards require different types of respirators. Some respirators purify the air you breathe while others, that require power, supply clean air from a tank strapped to you. You should always use NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) certified respirators. Find out more at this website http://www2a.cdc.gov/drds/cel/cel_form_code.asp.

Once you’ve been approved for respirator use by your doctor, and after you’ve purchased the proper respirator, it’s important to thoroughly clean and maintain your purchase (or throw it away if it’s a one-time use, disposable two-strap mask) so it will be just as effective the next time you use it. Many pesticide labels require the handler or applicator to wear specific respiratory protection. Always match your respirator with the pesticide label requirements.

Simple dust mask style two-strap respirators run from $5-$10 (or $20 for a bulk pack) at your local hardware stores. Face masks that need a filter cartridge run from $30 and up, and you need to replace the cartridges, which run around $10-$20. More advanced filters, such as full-face respirators start around $120. Respirators that provide air, such as a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), will cost you over $1,000.

Try to limit your time spent around dust and noxious fumes or chemicals for the best protection. If you detect odors or find that your mask is not working properly, exit the area immediately. Your health is too important!

http://umaine.edu/agrability/2012/04/19/choosing-a-respirator-for-farm-work/
Annie’s Project Celebrates 10 years of Empowering Farm Women across the Nation

As Annie’s celebrates its 10th year Nationwide, we thought we would round up a few facts you may, or may not, know about Annie’s Project.

- Annie’s Project was founded in 2000 by Ruth Hambleton, an Extension educator at the University of Illinois, based on the experiences of her mother, Annie, who worked with her father on the family’s farm.

- Annie’s Project focuses on 5 areas of risk management, Marketing, Financial, Legal, Production, and Human Resources.

- The first group of Annie’s Project participants graduated in February 2003 with ten women attending classes at Kaskaskia Community College, Centralia, IL with Ruth Hambleton. Ruth will be holding a class with these same ten women this year.

- 2006, as Annie’s Project began to spread across the country

- 2008 Annie’s Project is brought to Maryland and Delaware

- 2011 New Jersey holds its first Annie’s Project Class

- 2012 Annie’s Project is brought to West Virginia

- 2013 Annie’s Project Maryland and Delaware launched a second course, “Managing for Today and Tomorrow” which focuses on transiting the legacy of your farm

- Annie’s Project is now in 30 states nationwide

- There are more than 4,800 farm women nationwide who are Annie’s Project Graduates!
Computer Corner– Eyes are all around on this farm

Alex Shaw’s always been kind of a computer technology junkie. Now, what started out as a hobby – and later a 4-H project – has turned into a way for his Oneida, Illinois farm. Computers monitor and control just about everything that’s happening on his family's farm around the clock.

"Originally, it started out for fun. I have a big interest in technology," says Shaw, who's also a student of Management Information Systems at Iowa State University. He started with a web camera on the family's grain dryer to make sure it's operating when it's supposed to be and it's taken off since then.

"The first two cameras were the dryer camera, and the pit camera. The dryer camera was there so we could check in the middle of the night to make sure are dryer was still running by the lights on the display. The pit camera allowed us to see how full our overhead is and also see semi-trucks loading or our tractors unloading into the pit," he says. "From there we added the cow camera to check on our cows to see if they have enough food and water."

But, these cameras are just the start. Since "wiring up" his family's farm, Shaw's now adding both webcams and wireless internet antennas to all tractors and combines. He's already added a bigger wifi antenna atop the farm's grain leg. The connection spans 2 miles, reaching all of the family's 1,000 acres.

"What's this all mean? We have wifi anywhere in the field," Shaw says. "And, you can see the tractors working in the field from my website."

Down the road, Shaw hopes to upgrade some of the cameras in the next year and hopefully expand upon the family's current capabilities with using mobile devices to both monitor and control cameras around his farm.

"We have also wired up the farm so that we can turn on all of our grain system from a mobile phone anywhere in the world," he says. "When my father is at work, he can turn on the leg and a bin and fill up the overhead for semi drivers, all from his phone."

http://www.agriculture.com/farm-management/technology/eyes-are-all-around-on-this-farm_322-ar30814

Alex’s Farm is Online: http://www.albinobrowncow.com/

Annie’s Project and Women In Agriculture Update their websites!

As of April 2nd Annie’s Project and Women in Ag have a new look. The new website allows us to better organize photos and newsletters, making archived items easier to find. Go Check out our new and improved site!

Annie’s Project:
www.extension.umd.edu/anniesproject

Women In Agriculture:
www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag

Bookmark our new addresses so that you can check back often
Summary of Fall and Winter Nutrient Application Requirements Now in Effect

- Chemical fertilizer may be applied from September 1-November 15 for a growing crop, as long as University of Maryland recommendations are followed.
  Organic nutrients (except poultry litter) may be applied from September 1-November 15 for an existing crop, a fall planted crop, or a crop that is planted the following spring if University of Maryland recommendations are followed.
- Poultry litter may be applied in fall for an existing crop or a crop planted for the fall if it is applied following University of Maryland recommendations.
- Winter application (November 16-March 1) of chemical fertilizer is prohibited. Exceptions exist for green up of perennial forage crops and small grains as well as greenhouse, cool season grass sod production, vegetable and fruit production. Applications must be made following University of Maryland recommendations.
- Use of potash and liming materials is not restricted in winter.
- Manure deposited directly by livestock is not restricted at any time of year.
- Winter application of organic nutrient sources is permitted on cropland until the 2016 deadline if:
  - an operation has inadequate manure storage through March 1
  - the manure/waste is non-stackable
  - there is no other reasonable option to manage the manure
  - certain restrictions apply
- Exceptions to the winter ban on organic nutrient sources also apply to green up of perennial forage crops and small grains as well as greenhouse, cool season grass sod production, and vegetable and fruit production if applications are performed following University of Maryland recommendations.

Sensitive Crop Locator

The Sensitive Crop Locator Mapping System is up and running for Maryland! When starting at the Department’s homepage for Pesticide Regulations, the Sensitive Crop Locator will be on the lower right-hand side. (shown by pink arrow in picture)

http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/pesticide_regulation.aspx
Upcoming Events

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival
May 4 & 5, 2013
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD
See www.sheepandwool.org

Cooperative Extension Small Farms Program
High Tunnel Mixed Vegetable Production Workshop

The workshop will cover topics such as:
- Starting sweet potato slips in a tunnel to transplant outside
- Demonstration of grafting tomatoes for better yields and disease resistance
- Comparison of five different high tunnels now at the Smyrna Outreach and Research Center, including three that were recently constructed
- Other options for crops in high tunnels
  How to improve results of vegetable production
Season Extension Strategies

Date: May, 21st 2013
Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Location: Smyrna Outreach and Research Center
(884 Smyrna Leipsic Road Smyrna, DE 19702)

MDA Announces New Specialty Crop Grant Program; Application
Deadline is May 20
MDA will administer grant funds of about $390,000. Of this amount, food safety, marketing with Maryland’s Best, and efficiency of distribution systems will be awarded grants for projects with a minimum level of $15,000. MDA intends to fund projects that can produce the highest degree of measurable benefits to Maryland specialty crop producers in relation to each dollar spent. Projects need to have support from specialty crop producers. New this year, grants will be reimbursement grants.
Download grant guidelines here:
Download the application here: www.mda.maryland.gov/documents/2013_SCBGP_Application.pdf

Delmarva Chicken Festival

64th Delmarva Chicken Festival
June 21 & 22, 2013
Byrd Park
Snow Hill, Maryland
Sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI)
http://www.dpichicken.org/festival

Poultry Processing Training
May 7th, Cambridge MD
Sponsored by Maryland MDA
Contact: Deanna Baldwin
Program Manager, Food Quality Assurance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5769

Make sure to “Like” us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/AnniesProjectMarylandAndDelaware

For more information on this newsletter or to submit articles contact:
Shannon Dill 410-822-1244 sdill@umd.edu
Jenny Rhodes 410-758-0166 jrhodes@umd.edu
Victoria Corcoran vgc@umd.edu

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status,