"Farming is a profession of hope."  
- Brian Brett

December 2015

Holiday Farmers Markets

Cheverly Community Market
Cheverly Community Market will host its Holiday Market on December 12, 8am to noon. The market is located at the Cheverly Community Center, 6401 Forest Road. Stock up on local, fall and winter goodies! Visit their [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Greenbelt Farmers Market
Greenbelt Farmers Market will have its special Holiday Market on December 6, 10am-2pm, in the parking lot behind the Greenbelt municipal building, 25 Crescent Road in Greenbelt. Participating vendors are listed on their [website](#).

The Holiday Market will be held in conjunction with Greenbelt's Festival of Lights Juried Crafts Fair in the Greenbelt Community Center.

Riverdale Park Festival of Lights & Holiday Market
Join the Riverdale Park Farmers Market for all day live local music, kids activities, great farmers market vendors and other artisans, indoor and outdoor vendor venues, santa visits, neighborhood trolleys with caroling, and much much more. The market is located at 4650 Queensbury Rd, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737. For more information, visit their [Facebook event page](#).

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FRESH.

Cabin Creek Heritage Farm Store
Cabin Creek is a local, pasture-based, sustainable family farm. They offer woodland-raised Berkshire pork, pulled Berkshire pork BBQ, pastured rabbit, Coturnix quail and quail eggs.

While shopping for your Holiday meal, plan to check out their pastured chicken and eggs (pastured, com/soy-free).

Location: 18235 Clagett Landing Road, Upper Marlboro
Local Farms Offers Holiday Baked Goods

Tripple Springs Farm, LLC is excited for this Holiday Season and is taking special orders for holiday baked goods! This year, they are happy to make select baked goods for your Holiday parties, dinners, or brunches.

The specialties of this year include: Holiday Cookie Platters, Eggnog Pound Cake (with or without rum topping), Sugar Crumb Crust Apple Pie (made with local MD apples), Sweet Potato Pie, Pumpkin Pie and Breakfast Biscuits.

Tripple Springs uses organic ingredients whenever possible and all of their baked goods are made with eggs from their farm. Their chickens and ducks are free-range and supplemented with non-GMO feed. They also have eggs and some fall produce available for sale.

Place your special order by calling or sending a text message to 240-4783-3312, or emailing tripplesprings@gmail.com.

Find the full list of county markets for the 2015 season here. You are also welcome to print out our downloadable directory! Note that the most updated version is on the website.

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Cut-Your-Own Christmas Trees & Live Holiday Decor

Looking for a Christmas tree, wreath and other decor for the Holidays? Check out one of our Prince George’s County farms and nurseries!

**C & E Farms**

Holiday decorating classes: Saturdays, November - December
Topics include wreath decorating, easy bow-making, sewing, quilting and canning classes. For class dates and additional information visit their Facebook page.

Location: 11415 Old Pond Drive, Glenn Dale

**Ecoasis Garden Center**

Providing pre-cut locally grown trees including Fraser fir, White Pine and Blue Spruce. Wreaths, roping and table arrangements also available. Visit their website for details.

Hours: Mon - Fri, 7am - 5pm; Sat, 9am - 5pm & Sun, 10am - 4pm
Location: 18301 Central Ave, Bowie

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**Visit their website for Open House hours and details.**

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**Important Considerations for Breweries, Wineries & Distilleries**

Grow & Fortify
December 3, 6-9pm

Are you starting a brewery, winery or distillery in Maryland? Or, perhaps another value-added agricultural production operation? If so, there are many important legal, financial and insurance considerations to address before you launch.

Join three professionals for their take on three major considerations when opening a winery, brewery or distillery: accounting, business formation and legal concerns and insurance.

**Location:** Baltimore County Center for MD Agriculture
**Cost:** $40pp

For more information, click here.

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**Farms for the Holidays**

Winter’s Eve with Accokeek Foundation
December 5, 4-7pm

Experience the holidays 18th-century style at the National Colonial Farm. Handcraft your own earth-friendly gift for someone special, hear the sounds of the season sung by fireside carolers, decorate your own wreath made from gathered fresh greenery, enjoy hot cocoa, cider and popcorn as you browse the farm’s gift shop!

This FREE event is hosted by the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek.

Visit their website or call 301-283-2113 for more information.
Linden Hill Tree Farm
Pre-cut and CYO tree farm providing Concolor, Canaan, Douglas and Fraser Firs and Norway Spruce. For more information, visit their website.
Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun, 8:30am - 4:30pm
Location: 4102 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro

Melwood Horticulture Training Center
Providing poinsettias and wreaths. For more information visit their website.
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8am - 4pm
Location: 5606 Dower House Rd, Upper Marlboro

Miller Farms
Providing poinsettias and pre-cut trees. For more information, visit their website.
Hours: Mon - Sat, 8am - 4pm; Sun, 9am - 5pm
Location: 10140 Piscataway Rd, Clinton

The Pines Farm
Providing CYO and pre-cut trees including White Pine, Norway Spruce and Fraser Fir. Enjoy cider, hot chocolate and cookies. Special gifts for adults and children!
Hours: Daily, 8am - 5pm
Location: 16900 Magruder's Ferry Rd, Brandywine

For more locally produced and/or sourced farm products for the Holidays, check out the Southern MD Ag Development Commission's "Farms for the Holidays" Guide. Click here for the full press release.

Celebrate the Holidays with Romano Vineyard & Winery
Here's what the Romanos are pouring this month:

Open House at the Vineyard
Every Saturday, 12 - 5pm
Be sure to check out their mulled wine - will warm you and your guests right up this Holiday Season!

Riverdale Park Festival of Lights & Holiday Market:
Dec 12, noon-7pm
Facebook event page
Romano Vineyard & Winery would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season filled with good company and great memories!

For more information, visit their website and Facebook page.

Alpaca Gifts for the Holidays!
If you haven't had the opportunity to visit one of Prince George's County's alpaca farms yet, you'll want to stop by Alpaca Creations, The Alpaca Yarn & Fiber Shop at Pax River Alpacas and Villa de Alpacas this month.

Crop Planning Workshop
ECO City Farms
December 12, 10am - 2pm
Learn how to maximize the most out of your land for the growing season next year! A crop plan is like an extensive instruction manual that guides you through the growing season.

We'll show you the methods and software to create this plan that keeps you on track of when and how much to plant so you're able to harvest a steady supply of veggies for a CSA or from a backyard vegetable garden.
Limited space available! Please email Kayla, kayla@ecocityfarms.org, to register.

Location: ECO City Farms Office
3010 Taylor Rd, Riverdale
Cost: There is a suggested donation of $20 to join the workshop.
Visit their website for more information.

Holiday Teas
Montpelier Mansion
December 13, 19, 20, 1:30pm
Catered by the Tea Trolley, teas include cakes and pastries, tea sandwiches, and scones with jam and clotted cream. For tea, you get your choice of 2 quality loose leaf teas. Also, the house will be all decked out in traditional holiday decorations.
Teas are $29/person, $25/Members of Friends of Montpelier.
We'll also have our Ornament Emporium, where you can shop for original, handmade ornaments made by local artists.
Location: 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel
For more information, visit the website.
The Alpaca Yarn & Fiber Shop at Pax River Alpacas welcomes knitters, crocheters, fiber enthusiasts and holiday shoppers! In addition to their hand-dyed and hand-painted alpaca yarns and blends, they carry a variety of unique gift items. Their holiday schedule is as follows:

At the Cheverly Community Market: November 12, 8am - 12pm
Farm Open House: November 12, 2-6pm
Farm Open House: November 13, 1-5pm
Farm Open House: December 19, 10am - 4pm

Their farm open houses are at the fiber shop located at 15775 Mt. Calvert Road, Upper Marlboro. For more information, visit their website.

Villa de Alpacas Farm at historic Villa de Sales is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 3pm, through Christmas. They'll have a variety of alpaca and llama gifts for sale including their farm signature products such as alpaca scarves, shawls, blankets, capes and sweaters blended with silk, bamboo and other natural fibers. Many of these are made on their commercial looms! Be sure to check out the amazing historic house while shopping for gifts. For more information, check out their website.

Alpaca Creations' shop is open every Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 5pm. Their alpaca products include clothing, hats, scarves, socks, sweaters, alpaca toys, alpaca children's books, yarn, roving and many more items. They accept cash and credit cards. Check out their website for a sample of their alpaca products for sale.

Visit the calendar on the Prince George's County 'Fresh. Local. Fun.' website for information about more local farm and food events!

FUN.

Prince George's County Farms Featured on MD Farm & Harvest

John Isabelle Acres Farm
"Although John Isabelle Acres Farm in Prince George's County has over one-hundred years of history, it's a current resident that's getting the most buzz. The farm's red angus bull may produce the same meat as its black angus brethren, but its unique color makes it stand out from the crowd."

Here's a preview of the episode:

SAVE THE DATE: Future Harvest CASA
Cultivate the Chesapeake Foodshed
January 14 - 16, 2016

One of the Region's Largest Farm and Food Gatherings!

Interact during pre-conference, skill-building workshops for farmers and food lovers alike

Experience SEVEN conference tracks - something for everyone!

Enjoy Interest Gatherings, Local Fare Fair, Chesapeake Farm Dinner and a Photo Contest!

THREE Keynote Speakers
Ricardo Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists
Chef Cathal Armstrong, Restaurant Eve
Natasha Bowens, The Color of Food

Visit their website for more information.

Chesapeake Herb Gathering
Call for Proposals
Due December 15

Save the Date - September 24-25, 2016
Chesapeake Herb Gathering

Centro Ashé is grateful to our new hosts for this year's CHG:

Piscataway Indian Cultural Center
16816 Country Lane Waldorf, Maryland 20601

OPEN CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS,
EVENT FLYER DESIGN CONTEST & SPONSORSHIPS are due December 15.

Click here for more information and to submit a workshop proposal, event flyer artwork contest or sponsor!
For the full episode, [click here](#). Their segment starts around 14:50.

**Miller Farms**

“It’s a sad truth that produce won’t sell at the grocery store if it isn’t the ideal size or shape. But this “imperfect” produce doesn’t always go to waste; some farms, like Miller Farms in Prince George’s County, have partnered up with Hungry Harvest to get this healthy-if odd-looking-produce to those that need it.”

Here’s a preview of the episode:

For the full episode, [click here](#). The Miller’s segment starts around 2:40.
ECO City Farms Offers Community Herbalism Wellness Series

The science and art of using plants and foods for building and maintaining good health and for healing reaches back to the very beginning of recorded history. The practice of growing, harvesting, and making of herbal products to achieve wellness connects us to Traditional Chinese, Ayurveda, Native American and Western medicinal practices. ECO has recently significantly increased the variety and amounts of herbs and spices grown at our farms to better serve the needs and palates of our community.

Beginning in January, we invite you to join one of our classes to learn more about the ancient and contemporary art and science of herbalism.

Pre-registration is required. Please contact lindo@ecocityfarms.org or 443-447-0313 to register or with any questions.

Cost: $50 each class, materials fee included. ($130 for the 3 classes series prepaid). Registration is non-refundable but is transferable. Please note: No one will be turned away for lack of funds. We offer a sliding fee scale discount, if needed.

Date & Time: All classes are on a Tuesday from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**Part 1: Gastrointestinal System Support** (Tuesday, January 5), How to Use Herbs to Support Healthy Weight Management (Tuesday, January 19), Discussion About Diabetes and Latest Research on Herbs (Tuesday, February 2).

**Part 2: The Spices of Life** (Tuesday, January 23), Your Kitchen Apothecary (Tuesday, March 8), Healthy Flavors and Seasonings (Tuesday, March 22).

**Part 3: Herbs for the Seasons: Spring and Summer** (Tuesday, April 5), Planning your Herb Garden at Home (Tuesday, April 19), Growing, Harvesting & Preserving Herbs for Home Use (Tuesday, May 3).

For more information, refer to the flyer or visit the website.

65 Year Old Aldephi Farmer Grows Food for Her Community

Watch how Prince George's County farmer, Rosa Linares (originally from El Salvador), has been able to connect herself and her community to their shared homeland through the food she grows. (Must select Ctrl Click to view.)