Women in Farming

Annie's Project is a special program that empowers women in agriculture. Annie’s project classes aim to provide women with the tools and skills needed to operate a farm business. Classes cover topics like farm insurance, estate planning, farm diversification, marketing, and farm service programs.

Courses are being offered throughout Maryland in six different locations. The classes meet several times over the course of a few months.

Annie’s Project is not a new concept for Maryland. Since 2008 the program has graduated over 357 women. The Beginning Farmer Success Program’s own Shannon Dill is a co-coordinator for Annie’s Project and conducts classes on the Eastern Shore.

For more information visit http://extension.umd.edu/annies-project

December—January Events—click events for more information

12/19 - Crop Sustainability and IPM Workshop
1/9 - Food For Profit Class
1/13 - Farmer Training and Certification course - Small scale food production
1/14 - Private Pesticide Applicator Certification training and Exam
1/16 - Annie’s Project Course
1/17–18 - Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference
1/18 - Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Mini Expo
1/20 - Annie’s Project Classes

More events can be found on our site under “events”

Extension.umd.edu/newfarmer
Part of being new to farming is seeking out help. The Beginning Farmer Success Project developed a special resource to point farmers in the direction of a local expert. The Community Contacts portion of the Beginning Farmer Success website can be used to find an expert in Maryland through a variety of ways.

Upon landing on the page, the visitor sees an interactive map of Maryland. Click on a county and a new page will appear with the names of the University of Maryland Extension educators who work within that county. Additional lists are on the page that allow the user to view experts alphabetically and by area of expertise.

Additional contacts in other county offices as well as state wide contacts and resources can be found under “more contacts in your community”.

Users can also connect with fellow farmers through Maryland FarmLINK, Future Harvest CASA and the Maryland Grazer’s Network.

Farming Community Contacts

In the November newsletter we reported on the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Small Farms Conference. There were a total of 163 conference participants, over 50 of which attended the Beginning Farmer Success educational tract.

Future Harvest CASA is a partnering organization for the Beginning Farmer Success Project and will be hosting their Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference on January 5th and 18th at the University of Maryland University College Marriott Inn & Conference Center - College Park, Maryland.

The conference will offer several tracks and provide education regarding fruit and vegetable production, scaling up your farm, animal nutrition, business planning and more.

Visit the Future Harvest website to view the program, speaker biographies and to register for the conference.
Farmer Spotlight

Jennifer Layton is the general manager at Layton’s Chance Vineyard and Winery. The vineyard is family owned and located in Vienna, Maryland. The farm started out as a grain operation and then diversified into growing grapes for wine. They offer an array of whites, reds, and fruit wines and host tours and tastings. Their website allows users to search for retailers. View Jennifer’s testimonial by clicking here.

http://www.laytonschance.com/

Click here to receive this newsletter every month

To submit information for the monthly newsletter please contact the Beginning Farmer Success Project Coordinator, Andrea Rice at amrice@umd.edu

Please submit information and photos by the first of the month.

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