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PGC Farms & Food

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Dear Kim,

It is hard to believe that spring is less than 3 months away and we still haven't seen a real snow. Maybe we will be lucky and escape without any real accumulation-- and my apologies to the snow lovers out there!

For our faculty and staff, this is a time for writing year end reports, updating their annual plans and working with stakeholders and community groups to assess changing needs and community priorities.

Our Extension Advisory Council will be changing its leadership and we welcome new participants to this group. If you are interested in participating or even in just learning more about the group, please send me an email at kdyson1@umd.edu

Winter is a great time to retool and rethink your warm weather activities, too. For farmers, there are winter meetings, nutrient management updates and planning for agriculture activities. For gardeners, it's a time to dream of bounteous crops and locally grown food. 4-H members are selecting their new projects for the year and making commitments for leadership and community service projects.

If we can provide advice or expertise for your winter time planning or events, please let us know.

Stay dry!



Karol Dyson
Capital Area Extension Director
University of MD Extension

Upcoming Events



10th Annual Rooting DC Forum

Rooting DC is a **FREE**, all-day gardening forum that aims to provide education about urban food production and consumption, to cultivate health and preserve the environment. The program includes dozens of interactive workshops, cooking and food preservation demonstrations, and panel discussions focusing on youth gardening, nutrition, sustainable growing techniques, and healthy food access. The event also hosts 60+ green businesses and nonprofits from throughout the region at an information fair.

When: Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Woodrow Wilson High School (3950 Chesapeake St NW, Washington, DC 20016)

Cost of Attendance: Attendance is **FREE!** A donation of \$10 is suggested.

For more information please visit: rootingdc.org/

Southern Maryland Meats Junior Membership Program



Junior

Membership Program

As a member of 4-H or FFA livestock projects you are invited to participate in the Southern Maryland Meats Junior Membership Program.

Criteria

- Open to youth ages 8 to 21 years
- Must be resident and raising your animals in one of the 5 Southern Maryland counties (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Eligible livestock projects are for meat animals (beef, lamb, pork, poultry, rabbit, goat/chevron)

Requirements

- Sign up for the Southern Maryland Meats Program by February 1, 2017 for beef, or May 1, 2017 for other livestock
- Raise your animals in accordance with the Southern Maryland Meats Quality Standards: See *SMM Quality Standards for all species on pages 3 – 5 of this flyer*
See definitions of raising practices at: <http://southernmarylandmeats.com/terms.html>
- Write a 1 page essay about raising your livestock project using the Southern Maryland Meats Standards
- Provide a photo of yourself
- Provide a photo of your animal at the beginning and at the end of the project

Benefits

- No participation fees
- Free promotional materials, such as stall cards and banners will be given to you
- Free Southern Maryland Meats T-shirt
- Special recognition at the 2017 Southern Maryland Invitational Livestock Expo (SMILE) Show
- Program Completion Certificate when your animals have been sold and your essay has been reviewed by the SMM Steering Committee
- \$100 'completer' reward per applicant, per year

Link to Application Form Here: <https://form.jotform.com/63404061948153>

For more information about Southern Maryland Meats visit:
www.southernmarylandmeats.com

For more information please visit southernmarylandmeats.com and [SMM Youth Flyer.](#)



Farmer Training For Intensive Small-Scale Food Production Operations 2017

February 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 23 (exam), March 6 (plan development)

Class Times: 10 AM - 1 PM

Investment: \$20.00

Location: University of Maryland Prince George Extension Office
Center for Educational Partnership, 6200 Sheridan St.,
Riverdale, MD 20737

This Farmer Training and Certification (FTC) module provides an opportunity for urban and peri-urban farmers to learn how to write nutrient management plans for their own operations.

For more information contact: Dr. Patricia Steinhilber, Coordinator, Ag Nutrient Management Program at psteinhi@umd.edu or 301-405-1319

Here is the link to the "[Ag Newsletter](#)" for Anne Arundel and Prince George's County. It includes helpful tips and important events for the farm community.

Women in Agriculture



16th Annual Regional Conference

February 9, 2017

(pre-conference February 8, 2017)

Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, Dover DE

www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag

For more information and conference details please visit: [Mid Atlantic Women in AG Annual Conference](#)

Wheatley Garden

Wheatley Garden is a privately owned, organically sustained garden located in Beltsville, MD. The purpose is to provide a peaceful atmosphere to friends who love to garden, where they can spend time in nature, plant, tend and harvest food which will further the healing process of the mind, body and spirit.



For more information, contact: wheatleygarden2016@gmail.com

Wheatley Garden features: 9 plots approx. 10'x18', 3 plots 9'x18'. Open March-November, locked 7 ft deer fence, water, compost bins, grass and leaves, tools.

Cost per season: \$50.00 (10x18) \$45.00 (9x18)

WANT TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD? GARDENERS WELCOME! January-February registration and payment; March cool weather crops in.



Prince George's County 4-H Produces State Teen Leaders

In 2017, the number of Prince George's County teens on the Maryland 4-H State Council has risen from 1 to 6 members! The 2017 members are: Jovan Brooks, Daniel Burch, Isaac & Shaine Craft, Trevor Ross, and Casey Wehrman. Congratulations to all 6 members. Each year, teens from around the state of Maryland are selected to be a part of the Maryland 4-H State Council. Youth must be motivated to be statewide leaders in the areas of outreach, event planning, and community service. Some larger scale events that State Council participates in are Maryland Day, Maryland 4-H Congress, and National 4-H Week. The council is advised by a group of educators and state specialists from the University of Maryland Extension team. This year, Dr. Alex Chan, the Prince George's County 4-H educator, is happy to serve with 3 of our Prince George's County youth as the adviser to the Public Relations committee.



Did You Know...

Did you know...children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day? Active children have a better focus and attention span. Physical activity can take place anywhere. During cold winter months, encourage children to bundle up and go outside for a walk in the park, or plan an indoor dance party. Even trips up and down the steps count. For more ideas go to www.letsmove.gov or www.presidentschallenge.org



Did you know...that if houseplants have dry or brown edges on the leaf tips, the humidity is low. Three ways to cure this are : (1) Spritz plants with water twice a week, (2) Place potted plants on a tray of pebbles to allow water to evaporate around them, or (3) Place plants closer together.



Did you know...that twenty-four dozen of freshly baked rolls will be offered at the [Taste of Maryland Agriculture](#) on February 2, thanks to the generosity of [Miller Farms of Clinton](#)? The Miller family has grown fruits and vegetables in Prince George's County since 1840 -- and their bakery, nursery and farmers' market are a popular stop for thousands of visitors each year. Taste of MD Ag tickets are still available -- mdagcouncil.com or email gyeiser@umd.edu.

Did you know...that 4-H offers a global citizenship curriculum that your educator has been trained in? The curriculum helps prepare youth for lifelong learning in culture, which may have a direct impact on communities and workforce preparation. Contact Alex Chan (alexchan@umd.edu) if you would like information on the fun and meaningful WeConnect curriculum.

Did you know...where does your money go? If you take action and track your money for a few weeks, you will have some answers. Knowing what you spend is the first step in creating a budget. A budget is simply a plan on how to spend your money! It will also help you predict and CONTROL your expenses. So how do you create a budget? You will need to know how much you spend each month (or pay period) and compare that number to your take home pay. This information will help you figure out how wisely (or maybe not so wisely?) you manage your money. Click [here](#) to read more.





Visit the [PGC Farms & Food: Fresh. Local. Fun.](#) for more information about farms, food events, and farmers markets in gorgeous Prince George's! Minutes from the Nation's Capitol, Prince George's County offers a variety of [food and farming events](#) every month!

UNIVERSITY OF
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EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

This newsletter is brought to you by University of Maryland Extension, [Prince George's County](#). University of Maryland Extension (UME) is a statewide non-formal education system funded by federal, state, and local governments within the University of Maryland - College Park and the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support Maryland's agricultural industry; protect its valuable natural resources; enhance the well-being of families and individuals, both young and old; and foster the development of strong, stable communities.

The Prince George's County office, partially supported by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, serves the community from two locations including the main Extension office in Clinton and the Center for Educational Partnership in Riverdale.

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.