Meet a Partner—Future Harvest-CASA

A valuable partner in the Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Project is Future Harvest - A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. This organization is a network of farmers, agricultural professionals, landowners and consumers living and working in the Chesapeake region. Future Harvest—CASA members and stakeholders promote profitable, environmentally sound and socially acceptable food and farming systems that work to sustain communities.

The organization holds an annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference for members and non members which occurred on January 17-18 this year. Future Harvest - CASA also promotes a beginning farmer training program which is described on page 2.

Along with the conference and training program Future Harvest—CASA provides information for sustainable farmers on their website, facebook page, and twitter feed.

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January/February
Events—click events for more information

1/16—Annie’s Project—Harford County
1/17-18—Farming for profit & stewardship conference
1/20—Annie’s Project—Baltimore County
1/21—Seed starting & saving seeds lecture
1/22—Annie’s Project—Multiple Counties
1/23—Annie’s Project—Lower Eastern Shore
1/24—Central MD Vegetable Growers Meeting
1/29—Lower Shore Agronomy Day
1/29—Marketing Essentials Class

More events can be found on our site under “events”
Training is commonly a required procedure in every job. Even after operating a farm for several years, additional training can offer a farmer new insight into production methods, marketing techniques, and enterprise development. The Beginning Farmer Success website presents three beginning farmer training program entities and explains what can be gained from each training experience.

The Beginning Farmer Training Program from Future Harvest CASA screens applicants and accepts about 14 trainees annually. The trainees attend classes and field days during the winter and spring. Throughout the growing season the trainees work on a training farm, gaining hands on experience from an established farmer.

Maryland FarmLINK constructed their Mentor Match program to model the Maryland Grazing Network’s mentorship program. Fill out the online form to be matched with a mentor who works one on one with beginning farmers on their own property. Work at your own pace throughout the year and gain valuable advice from a veteran farmer in your area.

On-Farm Training Programs

University of Maryland Extension and University of Maryland Eastern Shore offer an array of training opportunities. Programs like Annie’s Project, local county small farm short courses, and the UMES small farm institute can meet the more specific needs of a beginning farmer through classroom and hands on experiences.

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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