The cold winter, followed by the wet and cooler spring of 2014 presented a challenge to many beginning farmers across Maryland. Dealing with weather is just one of the many risks farmers confront every day. Vegetable production is a popular enterprise for many beginning farmers due to the wide range of cultivated vegetable crops, market availability for unique produce and growing local foods movement.

Beginning vegetable farmers are finding success by participating in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), farm stands, farmers markets, wholesale to brokers and auction markets and selling directly to restaurants aiming to feature locally sourced foods.

There are many questions to consider when beginning to shape the idea of starting a vegetable production farm business. It takes more than land and a market to get started and to be successful.

The Maryland Beginning Farmer Success website outlines common questions to consider when starting a vegetable production business. The questions are complemented by a list of Keys to Success, developed by Maryland Extension Educators. Questions and Keys to Success can be found under First Steps to Farming.

General information on vegetable production such as needed equipment, irrigation, and integrated pest management can be found under the crops section on the Start Here page.

Extension.umd.edu/newfarmer
Maryland Farmers Markets

Farmers markets are a popular vending option for local area producers. The Maryland Department of Agriculture has compiled a list of farmers markets by county which can be directly downloaded from our site or the link to the right. The University of Maryland also hosts a market, called the Farmers Market at Maryland, on the College Park campus in front of Cole Fieldhouse, every Wednesday from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Farmers Market at Maryland is currently accepting vendor applications for the 2014 market year.

I Have . . .

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Mentor Match Program

Featured Video

Introduction to Plasticulture and Drip Irrigation with Ben Beale, St. Mary’s County Agriculture Extension Educator

Click below to view the video.

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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“This project was supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2012-49400-19552. To find more resources and programs for beginning farmers and ranchers please visit www.Start2Farm.gov, a component of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.”

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