During the past 2-3 years, the University of Maryland Extension has undergone a restructuring in their Extension program outreach efforts. Due to limited financial resources, many counties have seen a shift in the staffing of their County Extension office, particularly in the number of agriculture agents located in each office. This is a significant change from the traditional one agriculture agent per county office.

Programming efforts have been adjusted from a county approach to a “county cluster” or “regional” approach. The Lower Eastern Shore programming cluster includes Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester counties. The Lower Eastern Shore counties are fortunate as there are several agriculture personnel available to serve throughout the area.

In addition to our educators, there are several specialists in our area available to assist, including specialists for vegetable/plant pathology and commercial poultry, that our educators can help put you in touch with.

Although each educator has a main office from which they are based, all educators work across county lines to problem solve in a timely manner. If you have any questions regarding the production sector you are involved in, please contact one of your educators listed. UME strives to maintain a working relationship and assist the farming community. Remember Extension is here for you!

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### Commodity Classic Grain & Soybean Producers Invited

The Commodity Classic is hosted by Maryland’s Grain Producers Association, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, and the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association. Held on July 26, 2012, tours at the Wye Research and Education Center will run from 9:00-11:00am with the Maryland’s Commodity Classic following at Queen Anne’s 4-H Park. Lunch and informational displays will be set up at 11:00am. The business meeting begins at 1:00pm, followed by speakers and concluding with the famed Crab Feast, Pork and Chicken Barbeque. Entry prior to 2:30pm is $10, and after 2:30 is $20, there is no entry after 3:30pm. For tickets, contact Lynn Hoot (MGPA) at 410-957-5771.

### Food Preservation Class - July 20, 2012

Learn how to preserve them and enjoy the process of making homemade canned products. The University of Maryland Extension Office in Wicomico County is offering hands-on food preservation class to teach basic USDA approved canning techniques to adults over 18 years. Cost is $35 and includes a copy of So Easy to Preserve (150 tested recipes with chapters on preserving foods, canning, drying, pickled and jellied foods etc.), handouts and materials for a hands-on canning activity. Learn how to do water bath canning of high acid foods such as Jellied products, salsa and pickles etc. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Last registration date is July 15th. Checks can be made out to Wicomico EAC and mailed to P.O. Box 1836, Salisbury, MD 21802. For more information contact Dhruti Patel at dhrutip@umd.edu or phone: 410 749 6141 ext.104.

**Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm  
**Location:** 28647, Old Quantico Rd., Salisbury, MD 21801
Cucumber downy mildew was confirmed in Dorchester and Caroline counties in Maryland on June 12. Symptoms first appeared on June 8. This downy mildew occurrence is one month earlier than any occurrence in recent years. Growers should scout aggressively for this disease on cucumber and other cucurbits. This disease is favored by cool, humid weather including cool dewy nights. Weather during June 12-14 is forecast to be conducive to further spread. Tank-mix Ranman or Previcur Flex with a protectant fungicide and alternate sprays with a material with a different mode of action. Be careful not to rely on one fungicide class. Use excellent resistance management practices to avoid allowing the pathogen to develop resistance and to improve the efficacy of your fungicide management program. Presidio, which was commonly used in previous years, was not as effective as expected in 2011 University trials.

Consult the Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations for further information on resistance management and available fungicides (in Maryland, Extension Bulletin 236 and in Delaware, Extension Bulletin 137). Because downy mildew has only been found on cucumber, targeted sprays on other cucurbits crops such as pumpkin, squash, watermelon, etc. are not necessary, at this time. Instead scout these crops aggressively and continue to apply a broad-spectrum spray program.

Maryland Recycles Pesticide Containers for 20th Year

Maryland’s pesticide container recycling program, offered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), helps prevent pesticide residues from entering the soil and local waterways and has saved valuable landfill space by recycling 655,000 empty, plastic pesticide containers. The program, which is in its 20th year of operation, recycles properly rinsed, empty pesticide containers. All agricultural producers and pesticide applicators can participate in 24 collection days from June through September at six locations throughout the state. Participation is free.

**LOCATION** (for Lower Shore): Newland Landfill on Brick Kiln Road  
**DATES:** June 29, July 27, August 24, September 28  
**TIME:** 9:00am - 3:00pm (for all dates)

*Note - Because of legal restraints, only residents from Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot counties are able to use the collection site in Easton. Lower Shore residents must use the collection site in Salisbury.

A full schedule of collection dates and sites is available on the MDA website at www.mda.maryland.gov/pdf/recycle.pdf. For additional information, or to schedule a chipping date at your site, contact Rob Hofstetter, special programs coordinator, Pesticide Regulation Section, MDA, Annapolis, at 410-841-5710.

Accepting Applications for LEAD Fellowships

The LEAD Maryland Foundation is seeking applications for its next class of LEAD Fellows. Application forms are due October 1, 2012. Program information and the application are available on the organization’s web site www.leadmaryland.org.

The LEAD Maryland Foundation is a partnership 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying and developing leadership for Maryland’s agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities. There are many benefits to participation, as the fellowship provides public issues education; personal growth and leadership development opportunities; communications and problem-solving skills training; and general support and connections to resources to help emerging leaders succeed.

This new class will be “Class VIII (2013-2014)” and will join 157 others who have completed the LEAD program training, first offered in 1999. The new class will be selected in late 2012 and will begin meeting in February 2013. During 2013 and 2014, Fellows will complete a series of nine multi-day seminars held at various locations throughout Maryland and Washington DC. Additionally, Fellows will complete a travel study tour. For more information, please contact Susan R. Harrison at 410-827-8056 or leadmd@umd.edu.
Proposed changes to Maryland’s Nutrient Management Regulations were submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) for review on May 22, 2012. Following months of negotiations with stakeholder groups, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has finalized its new rules for the use of manure, biosolids and other organic nutrient sources on crop fields. The goal of the process is to achieve consistency in the way all sources of nutrients are managed. Once the proposed changes are published in the Maryland Register, MDA will provide public notice and offer a 45-day public comment period. In crafting the nutrient management regulations, Maryland has considered recommendations of Governor Martin O’Malley’s BayStat Science Panel as well as concerns raised by environmental, agricultural and municipal stakeholders. “The revised regulations strike a balance between maximizing water quality benefits, addressing the practical needs of implementing requirements in the field, and assuring economic impacts are manageable,” said Secretary Hance. “When taken as a whole, the revised regulations will advance agricultural water quality management far beyond any efforts existing in other jurisdictions.”

“The implementation schedule addresses a major stakeholder concern and should provide farmers and local governments with adequate time to comply with the new regulations and to apply for cost-share funding to install additional best management practices,” said Secretary Hance. “The O’Malley Administration is committed to providing farmers with the critical financial resources necessary to meet our shared environmental goals.” The Nutrient Management Advisory Committee has been working on the revised regulations for more than a year. The new rules were originally introduced last fall; however, due to overwhelming feedback Governor O’Malley asked for more than a year.

Proposed Changes to Nutrient Management Regulations

- Beginning July 1, 2016, nutrient applications will be prohibited between November 1 and March 1 for Eastern Shore farmers and between November 15 and March 1 for Western Shore farmers.
- Organic nutrients will need to be incorporated into the soil within 48 hours of application.
- Farmers will be required to plant cover crops when they use organic nutrient sources in the fall.
- Beginning 2014, farmers will be required to establish a 10 to 35 foot “no fertilizer application zone” adjacent to surface water and streams.
- Beginning 2014, farmers will be required to protect streams from livestock traffic by providing fencing or approved alternative best management practices.
- Fall fertilizer applications for small grains will be limited.
- Guidance and clarification is provided on the use of soil amendments and soil conditioners.

Public Meetings Planned on MD’s Proposed Changes to Nutrient Management Regulations

MDA will hold public meetings in four locations around the state in the month of July. All meetings will be held from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, contact the nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959.

Comments may be sent to Joe Mercer, Ed.D., Program Manager, MDA’s Nutrient Management Program, Maryland department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, or email jo.mercer@maryland.gov or fax to 410-841-5950. Comments will be accepted through August 13, 2012.

NORTH CENTRAL
Tuesday, July 10, 2012
Harford Community College
Amoss Center
401 Thomas Run Road
Bel Air, MD 21015

WESTERN MD
Wednesday July 18, 2012
Washington Co. Ag. Center
7313 Sharpsburg Place
Boonsboro, MD 21733

EASTERN SHORE
Monday July 23, 2012
Talbot Community Center
10028 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

SOUTHERN MD
Wednesday, July 25, 2012
Calvert County Fairgrounds
140 Calvert Fair Drive
Prince Frederick, MD
IMPORTANT DATES

7/20  Food Preservation Class - Wicomico Ext. Office
7/26  Commodity Classic - Queen Anne’s 4-H park
7/27-29 Somerset County Fair - Princess Anne
8/4  Blessing of the Combines - Snow Hill
8/4  The Great Pocomoke Fair - Pocomoke
8/8  Ag Precision Day - Queen Anne’s 4-H Park
8/10-12 Worcester County Fair - Bryd Park, Snow Hill
8/15 Ag Progress Days - Penn State University, PA
8/16-18 Wicomico Farm and Home Show - Salisbury

Want to receive this newsletter electronically? E-mail jrenshaw@umd.edu and type LES AG Newsletter into the subject line.
Ag Progress Days
Bus Trip
at Penn State University

Come Join Us
Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Breakfast: Snacks on bus
Lunch: On your own at Ag Progress
Dinner: On return trip
Cost: $20 per person (includes bus, morning snacks and dinner)

Seating is Limited!

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379 Deep Shore Road
Denton, MD 21629
888.339.9334

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Register online at mafc.com/agprogressrsvp.asp or complete the form and return by August 10, 2011 along with your $20 per person registration fee made payable to MidAtlantic Farm Credit. Mail to:

Bus pick-up location (Check One):

☐ 1775 Monocacy Blvd. Park & Ride, Frederick, MD at 6 a.m.
☐ Carroll Ag Center, Westminster, MD at 6 a.m.
☐ Centre at Salisbury, Salisbury, MD at 5 a.m.
☐ Hereford Park & Ride, Parkton, MD at 6 a.m.
☐ MidAtlantic Farm Credit Office, Winchester, VA at 6 a.m.
☐ Mill of Whiteford, Whiteford, MD at 6 a.m.
☐ Rt. 50 & 404 Park & Ride, Wye Mills, MD at 6:15 a.m.

Name: _______________________
Address: _______________________

____________________________________
Phone: _______________________
Email: _______________________

Number Attending: _________________
Name of Guest(s): _______________________

*Payment must be received prior to trip.