Have a question about IRP’s, permits, tags, and weight limits? Hear firsthand how the latest trucking rules and regulations can affect your business while discussing the issues facing farmers on rural roads and state highways. For more information, contact Matt Teffeau at Matt.mdfb@verizon.net or 410-924-4525.

January 6th: Salisbury, MD (Wor-Wic Community College) 9am-11am
January 20th: Easton, MD (Talbot County Ag Center) 9am-11am

UME AGRICULTURE CONTACTS
Sudeep Mathew, Agriculture Educator Vegetables, Grain Crops Dorchester Office, 410-228-8800
Jon Moyle, Regional Poultry Specialist Poultry LESREC Office, 410-742-1178
Ginny Rosenkranz, Horticulture FEA Commercial Horticulture Wicomico Office, 410-749-6141

Lower Shore Agronomy Day
January 29, 2014 in Salisbury

UME, along with the support of local sponsors, will be hosting the 2014 Lower Shore Agronomy Day at Christ United Methodist Church in Salisbury, Maryland from 9:00am - 3:30pm. Topics for this years meeting will include the latest on-farm research, PMT update, insect pest management, farm liability issues and other related information. Private pesticide applicator recertification and nutrient management voucher training will be available along with CCA continuing education credits. Program is open to all and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Please call 410-651-1350 or email cbevan@umd.edu by January 24, 2014.

*University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all people and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.*
Thanks to the involvement of hundreds of chicken growers and crop farmers, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) in late November withdrew its proposed Phosphorus Management Tool regulation but indicated that it would develop another version for release some time in 2014. When and in what form? It is not known, but DPI will continue to be engaged to protect their members’ interests. Had it not been for the 800 people who attended the public meetings at Salisbury and Easton and the hundreds of antiregulation comments that were submitted to the MDA during the 30-day public comment period, it is highly unlikely that the withdrawal would have occurred. It was DPI members’ voices that helped make the difference and they are proud of all who became involved. Speaking up does count! Just prior to the proposal’s withdrawal, DPI, in conjunction with the Maryland Grain Producers Association, several state legislators, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, and representatives of several county governments, submitted a detailed plan to MDA that the agriculture community knows is a better approach than what the department was preparing to implement.

There was a timetable to conduct an economic impact study, to study the environmental benefits of using the Phosphorus Management Tool, allowing nutrient management plan writers time to understand how the new tool will work, providing additional assistance to chicken growers to cope with the proposed rule, allowing time for alternative uses of chicken manure to be researched, developed, and put into operation, and time to allow the Chesapeake Bay Model (EPA’s tool to assign pollution responsibility among different segments) to be corrected and made more complete. (To read the complete 11 page document, contact the DPI office or visit www.dpichicken.org)

In late November, DPI President Jenny Rhodes and Executive Director Bill Satterfield, along with Kevin Anderson, president of the Maryland Grain Producers Association, met with MDA Secretary Buddy Hance and his aides along with several members of the Maryland General Assembly, to explain the 11-page proposal and answer questions.

So, what happens next? It is not sure what will happen on the state side, but from a DPI perspective they will move forward to have an economic impact study conducted and will intensify their work to identify a technology or system that can convert manure into something else so growers have options on how to handle their manure/litter. In mid-December, DPI met with officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service to suggest additional cost-share practices that will help chicken growers cope with the new regulation.

Additionally, DPI members met with Maryland U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and shared their concerns about the Chesapeake Bay Model and U.S. EPA programs. DPI provided her with research from the University of Delaware and Virginia Tech that shows that EPA’s formula for calculating chicken manure production plus the nutrient content of the manure is way off base and needs to be corrected. The model, which is used to show how the Chesapeake Bay Watershed states and the various sectors in the states are thought to contribute to Chesapeake Bay pollution, is the basis for the Maryland phosphorus regulation. If the model is wrong, and DPI is convinced that it is, then it needs to be corrected sooner rather than later and DPI is hoping Senator Mikulski can urge EPA to move forward quickly to correct the errors. Because she is the chair of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, she has a lot of clout in convincing EPA to get moving. So, DPI will continue to keep an eye on the next version of the regulation while working to further reduce our members’ impact on the Chesapeake Bay.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Fruit meeting at the Wye Research and Education Center on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 from 9:00am - 3:30pm. Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- Managing Bacterial Diseases on Tree Fruit
- Updates on Invasive Insect Pests
- Research Report on Size Controlling Apple Rootstocks
- Beach Plum Production
- Hop Yard
- Meadow Orchards
- Frost Protection Options

Pesticide and CCA credits will be offered. For program questions and to register, please contact Mike Newell at mnewell@umd.edu or 410-827-7388.
Delaware Agriculture Week will be held in Harrington at the Delaware State Fairgrounds from January 13-17, 2014. Delaware “Ag Week” is in its 9th year and is an ongoing collaboration between University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State University Cooperative Extension and the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Delaware Ag Week provides useful and timely information to the agricultural community and industry through educational meetings and events. In addition, it is a great time for networking and fellowship with old and new acquaintances.

The following agenda outlines the various meetings and events that are planned. The associated trade show will take place in the Dover Building from Monday, January 13 to Thursday, January 16. The First State Antique Tractor Club Exhibit and a Flowing Grain Demonstration will be set up January 14-16 in the Exhibit Hall.

Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania Pesticide recertification credits, Nutrient Management credits and CCA credits will be offered. For more information, detailed session agendas, exhibitors, sponsors, and directions visit the DE Ag Week website at: http://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/.

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<tr>
<th>AG WEEK AGENDA</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 13</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Poultry Production and Nutrient Management Session</strong></td>
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<td>State Fairgrounds – 2 PM to 8:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware Annual Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fairgrounds</td>
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<td>Fruit Session – 6 PM to 9 PM</td>
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**Tuesday, January 14**

**Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware Annual Meeting**

State Fairgrounds

- General Session – 8:50 AM to 11:50 AM
- Fresh Market/Vine Crops – 1:00 PM to 4:50 PM
- FVGAD Annual Awards Banquet – 6 PM at Harrington Fire Hall

**Hay and Pasture Session**

State Fairgrounds – 9 AM to 3:15 PM

**Irrigation Session**

State Fairgrounds – 6 PM to 8:30 PM

**Equine Pasture Session**

State Fairgrounds – 6 PM to 8:45 PM

**Small Ruminant Session**

State Fairgrounds – 6 PM to 8:45 PM

**Wednesday, January 15**

**Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware**

**Annual Meeting**

State Fairgrounds

- Processing Crops Session – 8:50 AM to Noon
- Technology Innovation & Adoption for Vegetable Crops – 1:15 PM to 4:30 PM

**Direct Marketing Session**

State Fairgrounds – 9 AM to Noon

**Affordable Care Act Information Session**

State Fairgrounds – 1:15 PM to 5:00 PM

**High Tunnel Workshop**

State Fairgrounds – 1:15 PM to 4:30 PM

**Corn Production Session**

State Fairgrounds – 6 PM to 9 PM

**Small Flock Poultry**

State Fairgrounds – 6 PM to 9 PM

**Beef Cattle Producers Session**

State Fairgrounds – 6 PM to 8:50 PM

**Thursday, January 16**

**Agronomy/Soybean Session**

State Fairgrounds – 9 AM to 3:30 PM

**Friday, January 17**

**Friends of Agriculture Breakfast**

Harrington Fire Hall – 7:15 AM

**Forestry Session**

State Fairgrounds – 10 AM to 4:00 PM
The Fertilizer Use Act of 2011 requires individuals who, as part of their job, apply fertilizer to turf on non-agricultural land, be certified or work under the direct supervision of someone who is certified. The requirements for certification and program criteria are explained in detail at mda.maryland.gov/Documents/15.20.06_10.pdf

To apply for the certification exam, an applicant shall file the following with the Department of Agriculture before any announced exam:

1. A completely filled out application accompanied with the certification fee (in form of check or money order) payable to Maryland Department of Agriculture. Incomplete applications will be put on hold. Until February 28, 2014 only, the fee will be pro-rated to $75; afterwards, the full fee of $100 will be charged. Certification expires June 30 of each year.
2. Mail complete application to:
   MDA, Nutrient Management Program, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

TESTING INFORMATION:

- This is not an open-book exam. Study the Maryland Professional Lawn Care Manual available for viewing or download from the link on mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx. Contact your local extension office if you need assistance.
- The test consists of 50 multiple choice questions.
- No cell phones are allowed in the testing room. Calculators are allowed.
- A score of 70% is required to pass.
- Pass/Fail announcements are made within 2 weeks by mail or email only. This information will not be shared by phone.

It is encouraged that you sign up for a review session. There is no charge for the review session. Review sessions are offered before the exam. You may attend a review session and take the exam on the same day. Please check the MDA website frequently as additional test dates and locations will be announced. If you have any questions, please call the Maryland Nutrient Management program at 410-841-5959.

UPCOMING TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

**Dorchester Agronomy Day**
January 23, 2014 8:00-3:30pm
Being held at English Hall - Eastern Shore Hospital Center in Cambridge, MD. For more information and to register, contact 410-228-8800.

**Eastern Shore Pest Management Conference (Commercial Applicators Recertification)**
February 5, 2014 8:00am-4:00pm
Being held at The Fountains in Salisbury, MD. For more information contact 410-749-6141.
Register online at http://pesticiderecert.eventbrite.com

**Eastern Shore Vegetable Meeting**
February 18, 2014 8:00am-3:30pm
Being held at English Hall - Eastern Shore Hospital Center in Cambridge, MD. For more information and to register, contact 410-228-8800.
The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the University of Maryland Extension are pleased to announce that they have combined their technical expertise to offer "Farming – Pencil to Plow", an eight (8) week entrepreneurial training course designed for aspiring small farmers and those producers interested in diversifying their operation.

The course will be offered starting on February 24, 2014 and ending on April 7, 2014. Class will meet each Monday of the week from 6:00pm to 9pm with graduation will be held April 7th. Cost of the program is $30 which includes dinner (provided each night of class) and all course materials. Course material will include:

- Learning components of a business plan
- Learning why, how, and where to do agricultural market research
- Becoming aware of government regulations facing small farmers and identifying compliance resources.
- Understanding the importance of budgeting
- Discussing cash flow projections
- Reviewing content and purpose of Income Statements and Balance Sheets

Course curriculum will be supplemented by presentations given by experts in the agriculture field, representatives of the University of Maryland Extension Offices and other local agencies on specific agriculture components that are key to enhancing successful farming. Participants who complete this training course will have a prepared business plan to present to potential lending sources and a certificate of completion issued by NxLevel a nationally recognized entrepreneurship training provider.

For additional information on the course contact Jessie Renshaw at 410-632-1972 or jrenshaw@umd.edu. This program is being sponsored by The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, Beginning Farmer Success, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, and The Farmers Bank of Willards.

Have you been watching Farm & Harvest in Maryland on MPT?

Tuesday Nights, 7:00 p.m. on MPT

Maryland Public Television and the Maryland Department of Agriculture is hosting a series of programs about agriculture in Maryland that premier on Maryland Public Television (HD) on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you miss viewing the series on Tuesday evenings, it will be repeated on Thursdays, 11:30 p.m. Sundays, 6:00 a.m. and Fridays, 6:00 p.m. The program will run for thirteen weeks, rest for thirteen weeks, then repeat for thirteen weeks. You can also watch online by visiting http://www.mpt.org/programs/farm/ Learn about about all the farming going on across the state. You might even see your neighbor!

Women In Agriculture Regional Conference

Entrepreneurship Training Program

The University of Maryland Extension and University, Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State Extension, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension will partner to offer the 13th annual MidAtlantic Women In Ag Conference on Feb. 20, at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino. The conference seeks to offer women who are involved with agriculture the opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and family lives. Session topics will include marketing, food preservation, business planning and other key areas of management.

New for 2014, a preconference will also be offered. It will be held Feb. 19, from 1 to 5pm. Participants can choose two track offerings: Agrotourism or Health Insurance Literacy. The cost of the conference is $45. The cost for the pre-conference is $30. For more information or to register visit www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag, or call 410-822-1244.
Want to receive this newsletter electronically? E-mail jrenshaw@umd.edu and type LES AG Newsletter into the subject line.