Jonathan (Jon) Moyle recently joined UME as the Poultry Extension Specialist. Jon comes to UME by way of USDA-Agricultural Research Service’s (ARS) Poultry and Product Safety Research Unit. Jon’s work with ARS focused on the use of natural compounds to control pathogenic bacteria in poultry. Prior to working as a Research Associate with ARS, Jon completed his Ph. D. from the University of Arkansas where his dissertation research involved the physiological development and reproductive behavior of broiler breeders on shortened growth cycles. During his graduate studies, Jon served as an instructor for several poultry science classes, as well as being extensively involved in 4-H poultry and other Extension programming. His academic and research work has provided Jon with numerous opportunities for presenting at leading poultry meetings, and his work is extensively published in major poultry journals. In addition to his research and teaching experience, Jon gained a wealth of practical poultry production understanding through 14 years of being involved in the commercial industry. Jon managed a turkey farm and a custom freezer facility, and has also owned and operated a broiler breeder farm. Jon’s love of teaching and passion for helping others also extends beyond youth, students and working with industry, having been involved with several international farmer training programs including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Kenya. We are excited to have Jon as part of the UME team. Please take time to get in touch and welcome Jon at: jmoyle@umd.edu or 410-742-1178.

Inside this issue:

UME Welcomes New Poultry Specialist Dr. Jon Moyle

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2013 Mid-Atlantic Precision AG Day
Caroline County 4-H Park

Join the University of Maryland and learn how to make precision agriculture pay in your operation. Practical and informative advice will be given on sprayer and planter section control, variable rate seeding, economics and practical implementation of RTK and GPS, soil mapping, using technology for on-farm research and developing variable rate prescriptions, and much more. This event will be held on August 7, 2013 at the Caroline County 4-H Park, 8230 Detour Rd, Denton, MD 21629 from 9:00am to 3:15pm. Lunch will be available for purchase. For more information, please contact Joshua M. McGrath at mcgrathj@umd.edu.

Small Flock Poultry Testing Available

All fair goers that are planning on showing poultry during the 2013 fair season (including geese, chickens, doves, ducks, etc.) are required by Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to have their small flock tested for Avian Influenza (AI) and Pullorum-Typhoid prior to showing or taking your birds to exhibitions. UME provides small flock testing. For flock owners located in the Lower Eastern Shore Counties, contact Jessie Renshaw at 410-632-1972 or jrenshaw@umd.edu to set up a farm visit so she can come out to test your birds. Birds must have been tested no later than 10 days prior to the fair or show you wish to participate. Cost is $20 to test a flock, regardless of flock size or species of bird(s).

UME AGRICULTURE CONTACTS
Sudeep Mathew, Ag Educator Vegetables, Grain Crops Dorchester Office, 410-228-8800
Jon Moyle, Regional Poultry Specialist Poultry LESREC Office, 410-742-1178
Jessica Renshaw, Ag FEA Livestock, Forage, Equine & Poultry Worcester Office, 410-632-1972
Ginny Rosenkranz, Horticulture FEA Commercial Horticulture Wicomico Office, 410-749-6141

“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.”
To help make the connection between family farms and consumers, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), the 2,000-member trade association for the Delmarva Peninsula’s meat chicken industry, has introduced a new bumper sticker with the theme Our Farms, Your Food. A secondary message is Support Delmarva’s Family Farmers. This farm promotional project is made possible with the financial support from America’s soybean farmers through the United Soybean Board, the Delaware Soybean Board, and the Maryland Soybean Board.

Over the course of the next few months, DPI will be distributing the 10,000 attractive, multi-color bumper stickers to DPI members and the general public at a variety of places, including the June 21 & 22 Delmarva Chicken Festival in Snow Hill, Maryland; the July Delaware State Fair; and at other meetings and functions. The first one was affixed to the vehicle of DPI President Jenny Rhodes, a chicken grower in Queen Anne’s County, Maryland. “We hope these new promotional stickers will help consumers better understand that food comes from farms and not just from grocery stores. Unfortunately, too many people really do not understand the role that family farmers, such as our chicken growers, play in getting food to consumers,” President Rhodes noted.

The new bumper stickers continue a DPI program of promoting the chicken industry and agriculture in general. Previous efforts have included pro-agriculture banners visible to bicyclists on Delmarva, other bumper stickers, tee shirts, billboards, airplane banners over the beaches, and the very popular EAT CHICKEN TONIGHT signs from 2006.

Maryland Wineries Now Able to Sell at Farmers Markets

Maryland wineries are now able to sell wine and offer samples at farmers’ markets. A new Off-Site Permit (which replaces the current Winery Special Event Permit) removes previous county-by-county restrictions and limits on the number of markets (or market days) a winery may attend. Importantly, the new process shifts the permitting burden off of the markets and on to the wineries. Market managers and property owners are no longer required to sign the paperwork for wineries to attend.

“Wine is a growing segment of our already diverse agriculture industry,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “This new permitting process is another way we are working to connect consumers with all Maryland producers.” While the new permit makes it much easier for wineries to sell their products at farmers’ markets, it does not give them open access. Markets must invite a winery to participate in a market, and wineries may not sell wine by the glass. In addition, local regulations regarding the sale and sampling of wine prevails, even if they are more restrictive than what the new permit allows.

Farmers’ markets have become increasingly popular as interest in purchasing fresh, local food and connecting directly with farmers who grow the food has risen. In 2008, there were only 88 markets in Maryland. This year, there will be 131. For information about the permits or other wine-related regulations, contact Kevin Atticks, executive director, Maryland Wineries Association, 410-252-9463 or kevin@marylandwine.com. For information about farmers markets, contact: Amy Crone, MDA agricultural marketing specialist, 410-841-5776 or amy.crone@maryland.gov.

Wineries selling at farmers’ markets listed in the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) Farmers Market Directory, which is available online at www.marylandsbest.net.
The University of Maryland Extension (UME) Agricultural Nutrient Management Program will offer a workshop on fall soil nitrate testing (FSNT) on Friday, July 26, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Maryland.

New regulations allow fall nitrogen application on wheat and barley intended for grain harvest only when nitrogen insufficiency is indicated by the FSNT. A new Extension publication is available that explains the details of the test. At http://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_images/programs/anmp/EBR-15%20Fall%20Soil%20Nitrate%20Test.pdf.

The FSNT can be done by a soil testing laboratory or with a field instrument like the Nitrachek meter. At this workshop participants will 1) learn the proper soil sampling and processing procedures for the FSNT, 2) receive hands-on experience in using the Nitrachek meter, 3) learn to interpret the results of the test, and 4) make accurate nitrogen recommendations based on the test.

Certified Nutrient Management Consultants or Certified Farm Operators will receive 2 hours of continuing education credits towards their nutrient management certification.

Pre-registration for the fall soil nitrate testing workshop is required to ensure there is enough equipment available for all participants. Contact Paul Shipley to register (prs@umd.edu or 301-405-2563).
Federal environmental programs have drastically overestimated the poultry industry’s contributions to water pollution, according to a University of Delaware-led study that could trigger changes to river and bay cleanup plans around the country. James L. Glancey, a professor in the university’s Bioresources Engineering and Mechanical Engineering departments, said that a multistate study, based on thousands of manure tests, found that actual nitrogen levels in poultry house manure are 55 percent lower than the Environmental Protection Agency’s decades-old, lab-based standards. The results could lead to a formal proposal as early as next month for changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program’s six-state pollution forecasting model, used to guide a federally backed attempt to restore the bay’s health and ecosystems and assign cleanup goals.

"I think this is a precedent-setting kind of thing, but we’re not quite sure how it’s going to propagate through the United States," Glancey said after giving a briefing on the findings at the state Department of Agriculture on Tuesday. "Everyone’s watching it, there’s no doubt about it.

The comments came during a wider session on recent research findings suggesting progress in efforts to to improve groundwater quality and reduce the number of Delaware waterways designated as “impaired” by runoff containing high levels of fertilizer-like nitrogen and phosphorus. In a statement released late Tuesday, the EPA said that the agency has been aware of the studies for more than a year, and that a committee with "diverse participation" had been formed to settle the issue in a timely way. "While we await submittal of additional data needed, we are hopeful the collective data will show that industry efforts to reduce nutrients in poultry litter is having a positive result," the statement said. "Any decision regarding the use of this information would be made by the Chesapeake Bay Partnership."

Federal and state environmental agencies have focused heavily on pollution from animal manure and "factory farms" across the country as a big part of efforts to eliminate bay and river dead zones and harmful algal blooms in recent decades. The Delmarva Peninsula’s poultry industry became an early, major battleground for the issue during the late 1990s. Sewage treatment plants, septic systems and suburban runoff also are significant pollution sources, but researchers argued that overuse of poultry manure on farm fields sent huge amounts of nutrients into groundwater and surface streams. That contributed to conditions that can deplete oxygen levels in water bodies like Delaware’s Inland Bays and the Chesapeake.

Individual farms, major producers and state and federal taxpayers have spent tens of millions on agricultural control programs, studies and monitoring. Delaware eventually formed a separate Nutrient Management Commission to oversee certification of manure and fertilizer producers and users and to subsidize shipment of manure out of stressed areas. "Are the EPA’s goals really valid and realistic?" Delaware Agriculture Secretary Ed Kee asked Tuesday. "In the little bit of expertise and experience that we had, we knew something wasn’t right with poultry manure" assumptions.

"I think farmers will welcome this," Kee added. "We’re not as big a problem as the world thought we were." Glancey said that research in Sussex County concluded that poultry houses there generated 261,723 tons of manure for one year studied, far lower than the nearly 1.5 million tons assumed using EPA models. Genetic improvements in birds, improved growing environments and other moves to limit waste and pollutants have all had an effect on the industry’s environmental footprint.

Bill Satterfield, who directs the Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. trade group, said that members of his organization have been aware of Glancey’s work for about a year. "The assumptions being used today are based on conditions not relevant to how chickens are being raised today," Satterfield said. "The amount of pollution attributed to chicken manure, if the Delaware numbers are correct, are way off base." Chris Bason, director of the Center for the Inland Bays, said that he had not seen the UD figures but supports research aimed at verifying the assumptions of scientific models used to guide regulations.

"It is clear that poultry science has significantly reduced the amount of nutrients in manure over the last decade and a half or so," Bason said in an email. "If the EPA was using old data then this would not have been reflected." The Inland Bays, like the Chesapeake, have nutrient levels that exceed federal standards and have been blamed for losses of habitat and changes in aquatic life. Regulations approved in 1998 set limits on nitrogen and phosphorus flows into the bays, with those limits in turn used to support reforms ranging from septic system elimination and upgrade programs to "best management practices" for farms.
University of Maryland Extension will conduct a Potato Field Day Twilight Meeting on Wednesday, July 10th from 4 - 7 pm. The event will take place at the field between the intersections of Porter Mill Rd and Memory Gardens Lane near Hebron, Maryland and just off Route 50 as it approaches Salisbury. Signs will be posted on adjoining roads. Anyone who is growing potatoes or interested in growing potatoes should attend this meeting. Participants will get to see new varieties, agronomic practices for optimizing yield and quality, Colorado potato beetle and other potato insects, and disease management for potato production in Maryland and Delmarva Peninsula. Register by July 5th. Contact Rhonda Barnhart at 410-228-8800 or rbarnhar@umd.edu for registration, details and directions.

Maryland Commodity Classic, July 25, 2013 Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 14th annual Maryland Commodity Classic on July 25 at the Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park. This all day event is sponsored by the Maryland Grain Producers Association, the Maryland Soybean Board, and the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association. The program will begin at 10:00 am at the Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park with an educational program that will highlight some grant recipients who will speak on pest management issues. Attending this educational program will allow attendees to receive Private Pesticide Applicator’s recertification credit. Lunch and informational displays will be set up at 11 a.m. The business meeting begins at 1:00 p.m., followed by speakers highlighted by keynote speaker, Dr. Jay Lehr. The event concludes with the famed Crab Feast, Pork and Chicken Barbecue. Entry prior to 2:30 p.m. is $10, and after 2:30 p.m. the entry fee is $20, there is no entry after 3:30 p.m. For ticket information regarding the Commodity Classic, contact the MGPA office at 410-956-5771. Maryland Grain Producers Association members receive a free ticket; call for membership information.

University of Maryland Extension will be organizing a Cut Flower Farm Tour on Tuesday August 6th from 8.00am to 4.00 pm. The event will begin at the Long Season Statice Farm at Salisbury and will end at Seaberry Farm, near Federalsburg, MD. During the tour, University of Maryland Extension Specialists will cover major disease, insect and weed identification and control of some of the major cut flower crops seen on the tour. For more information on the program 301-596-9413.

University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, Southern Maryland Research Facility in Upper Marlboro has an opening for Farm Manager (Position #:103040). The incumbent will coordinate and plan daily activities of research farm personnel so that all research and education requests and assignments are completed in an organized and timely manner. This individual will work directly with scientists and/or their staffs to implement projects using appropriate crop management and experimental design skills. A minimum of a B.S. degree from an accredited institution is required to be considered. Interested persons should submit their application via the University of Maryland website https://ejobs.umd.edu/. Submission deadline is no later than July 10, 2013.
## IMPORTANT DATES

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