Nutrient Management Consultant Exam and Training

Do you want to become certified in Maryland Nutrient Management? Plan to attend the 2 day training course to prepare yourself for this years exam. This training course provides participants with a basic overview of knowledge areas covered by the Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Examination. Topics include state nutrient management regulations, nutrient management principles, basic soil science, and soil fertility recommendations. Instructors are university and government experts.

When: Monday June 15th and Tuesday June 16th (9 am to 4 pm)

Where: Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Cost: $125

Exam Date: August 7, 2015

Poultry Growers Field Day

~Hot Weather Broiler Management~
Woodpecker Farm
Seaford, DE

Demonstrations Include:
- Maximizing Effective House Temperature
- Summertime Brood Chamber Cooling
- Utility Considerations for Tunnel Ventilation Cooling
- Perdue Agricycle Plant Tours

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2015
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-poultry-growers-field-day-tickets-15897956215

Or you may RSVP to any of the following:
- Lisa Collins: lcollins@udel.edu, (302)-856-2585 x 702
- Sheila Oscar: 410-742-1178

Parking is at the United Methodist Church (2701 Woodland Ferry Rd, Seaford, DE)

UME Agriculture Contacts

Jarrod Miller, Agriculture Educator
Soils, Grain Crops, Forage
Somerset Office, 410-651-1350

Jon Moyle, Poultry Specialist,
Lower Eastern Shore Research Center
Wicomico County, 410-742-1178

Jessica Flores, Agriculture FEA
Livestock, Forage, Equine & Poultry
Worcester Office, 410-632-1972

Ginny Rosenkrantz, Horticulture FEA
Commercial Horticulture
Wicomico Office, 410-749-6141
The spring 2015 Ag Commissioner Tour was held in Somerset and Worcester Counties on April 8th. Secretary of Ag Joe Bartenfelder along with other MDA representatives and the commissioners toured the region to observe local agriculture production. All of the tour stops, which display how the Lower Shore utilizes its natural resources, can be seen in the photos below.

**Stop 1:** The Mountaire Chicken Hatchery near Princess Anne. These eggs are incubating at some warm temperatures!

**Stop 2:** The University of Maryland UAS (drone) test site. Future UAS research will involve ag production.

**Stop 6:** Anaerobic digesters on a poultry operation outside of Pocomoke may provide energy from manure.

**Stop 3:** Handy seafood in Crisfield boxed up oysters on the half shell and fresh made shrimp cakes.

**Stop 4:** Logs await their fate at Eastern Shore Forest Products, becoming bedding for local poultry production.

**Stop 5:** Locally made ice cream is served up at Chesapeake Bay Dairy in Pocomoke.
Backyard Buffers Program

University of Maryland Extension is partnering with Maryland DNR Forest Service and the Wicomico and Dorchester County Forestry Boards to offer free trees in celebration of Earth Day and National Arbor Day. Free trees will be given to all in attendance, but special tree packets will be given to landowners wishing to plant trees near water. The Backyard Buffers Program is designed to assist homeowners (with less than 5 acres of land) who have a stream or other waterway on or adjacent to their property in order to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs.

The Backyard Buffers Program provides a free “buffer in a bag” to help get homeowners started in buffering their streamside. The buffer in a bag includes 25 native tree and shrub bare-root seedlings, approximately 1 to 2 feet in height, of various species that are well suited to streamside conditions.

Pick up Location For Dorchester County Residents:
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015
Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm
Location: Spocott Wind Mill, Route 343, Approx. 6 Miles West of Cambridge

Pick up Location For Wicomico County Residents:
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015
Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm
Location: University of Maryland Extension Office, 28647 Old Quantico Road, Salisbury, MD

The Forestry Boards will be giving away trees to any resident who comes to the pickup sites, but Backyard Buffer trees will be reserved and distributed on a first come, first serve basis. The first 100 homeowners to register for each county will receive trees. Registration begins now! Contact 410-228-1861 (Dorchester County) or 410-543-1950 (Wicomico County) to sign up.

Maryland Tree Farm Events
May 4, 2015—Lower Eastern Shore
Wicomico Demonstration Forest
6095 Sixty Foot Road
Parsonsburg, MD 21849

May 7, 2015—Mid Eastern Shore
Cambridge Library
303 Gay Street
Cambridge, MD 21613
To RSVP, Call Cindy at 410-713-3861 or Cynthia.Boczon@maryland.gov

Precision Ag Equipment Day
SAVE THE DATE!

Precision Ag Equipment Day is coming to the Lower Eastern Shore on August 5th, 2015.
Come out to the Somerset County Civic Center to learn about current issues in data management, UAV’s, and equipment demonstrations.
Look for more information and registration to come soon!
Agricultural Research Updates

New Vaccine to Fight Poultry Diseases
The USDA has developed a vaccine to protect poultry from infectious laryngotracheitis and Newcastle disease. The new vaccines showed no decrease in body weight gains, protected against both diseases, and can be given at a low cost.
Source: Agricultural Research Service.

Corn Yield Improves in Wet Conditions with Polymer Coated Urea
The presence of free or managed drainage increased corn yields in non-coated corn, but in wet soils where no drainage was present, polymer-coated urea increased corn yields by 20%.

Bioenergy Crops and Plant Accumulation of Phosphorus on the Delmarva
Sorghum, switchgrass, and miscanthus are all potential biofuels for pyrolysis. When tested on soils with and without poultry litter application, sorghum accumulated more phosphorus and potassium than the other two. Sorghum may therefore provide both a bioenergy source and mine phosphorus from saturated soils.

Soil Water and Humidity Effects on Ammonia Loss from Broiler Litter
At a high relative humidity (92%), greater ammonia loss occurred on wet (21% NH₃) than dry soils (11% NH₃). At a lower humidity (32%) there was relatively little difference in NH₃ loss between wet and dry soils.

Long Term Manure Application Benefits Aggregate Stability and Soil Carbon Stocks
Continuous manure application increased soil organic carbon 1.7 times more that soils only receiving commercial fertilizer applications. Manure amendments also increased macroaggregate amounts and overall aggregate stability.

Phosphorus Leaching from Agricultural Soils of the Delmarva Peninsula
Fine textured soils had greater P concentrations in their leachate from Delmarva soils, most likely associated with better structure (macropores). This type of transport will occur under saturated conditions and high rainfall.
Source: Journal of Environmental Quality, Vol 44 (2), 524-534.

USDA helps formulate fungal pesticides
Scientists at the ARS have produced stable forms of fungal pesticides which can target aphids, thrips, and plant diseases. Using a method called liquid culture fermentation, scientists have found a cost effective way to produce spores. They demonstrated that a seed coating or soil incorporated granules were possible for this biopresticide.
Source: Agricultural Research Service.
**Pencil to Plow Class of 2015**

--Jessie Flores--

On March 30, 2015, the University of Maryland Extension held a graduation ceremony for 14 aspiring farmers who completed the 8 week nationally recognized agricultural entrepreneurship training Farming: Pencil to Plow.

Each graduate of this beginning farmer program completed farm business training are now prepared to take the next step in their dream to own and operate a small farm business. New farm operation ideas from the class included grain farming, organic, community supported agriculture (CSA), roadside vegetable stand, home grown meats, pick your own blueberries, and more. The course is designed for aspiring small farmers and those producers interested in diversifying their operation. Topics covered during the course include discussions on Agricultural Market Research, the 4 P’s (Product, Price, Placement, and Promotion); Bookkeeping and Record Keeping; Government Regulations, Contracts, and Leases; Income Statements, Balance Sheets, and Cash Flow Cycle; and Developing Customer Profiles. Each session was supplemented by presentations from agriculture experts such as a CPA, business bankers, insurance agents, marketing experts, and University of Maryland Extension.

Upon graduating, each graduate gave a summary of their business plan along with being awarded a certificate of completion from NxLevel, a nationally recognized entrepreneurship training provider.

This program would not be possible without the support of our donors and we would like to thank the following organizations and business that provided financial support the program: MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Farmers Bank of Willards, and Beginning Farmer Success.

Congratulations and good luck to all our graduates!
EXTENSION EVENTS

4/28 - 5/7  Introduction to Soils—Wor Wic Community College
05/20     Poultry Growers Field Day, Seaford, DE
05/12-14   4-H Children’s Farm Tour, Mardela Springs
06/15-16   Nutrient Management Training, Annapolis
08/05      Precision Ag Equipment Day, Princess Anne
08/07      Nutrient Management Exam, Annapolis

Other events

05/04     Maryland Tree Farm Event, Parsonsburg
05/07     Maryland Tree Farm Event, Cambridge
06/07     Worcester County Farm Bureau Picnic

Dorchester Ext. Office ~ 501 Court Lane, Room 208 ~ Cambridge, MD 21613 ~ 410-228-8800 ~ Fax 410-228-3868
Somerset Ext. Office ~ 30730 Park Drive ~ Princess Anne, MD 21853 ~ 410-651-1350 ~ Fax 410-651-0806
Wicomico Ext. Office ~ P.O. Box 1836 ~ Salisbury, MD 21802 ~ 410-749-6141 ~ Fax 410-548-5126
Worcester Ext. Office ~ P.O.Box 219 ~ Snow Hill, MD 21863 ~ 410-632-1972 ~ Fax 410-632-3023

Want to receive this newsletter electronically? E-mail jarrod@umd.edu and type LES AG Newsletter into the subject line.