UMES Small Farms Conference

University of Maryland, Eastern Shore will be holding a small farms conference on November 7 and 8. The campus, in Princess Anne, MD, will provide a venue for farmers, landowners, and supporters of agriculture to learn about new opportunities that promote farm profitability and sustainability.

Friday’s talks will include a soil health course, farm bill updates, and a beginning farmer program. On Saturday, under the alternative agriculture track, you can participate in aquaculture, growing potatoes, or poultry other than chicken. The farm business track includes the 43,560 project, webpage development, and a direct marketing panel. The final track is for beginning farmers and includes accessing land, marketing strategies, and a financial seminar. The cost is $30/individual or $50/couple. Youth registration is free with a parent. You can register online at:
http://smallfarmconference.eventbrite.com
or visit your local extension office for a brochure to mail in. The registration deadline is November 3, 2014.

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

November 18-20, 2014

Princess Royale Hotel and Conference Center, Ocean City, MD

The school offers a 2 1/2 day format with a variety of breakout sessions. Individuals needing training in soil and water, nutrient management, crop management and pest management can create their own schedules choosing from five program options offered each hour. The school will offer continuing education credits as well as pesticide recertification credits for DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV, and VA. Nutrient management consultants can receive credits from DE, MD, VA, and WV.

To register please visit http://psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops.

Early bird registration is by October 31, the final cutoff is November 10. Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. All registrations must be completed online and be paid by credit card at the time of registration.

UME Agriculture Contacts

Sudeep Mathew, Agriculture Educator
Vegetables, Grain Crops
Dorchester Office, 410-228-8800

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

Jon Moyle, Poultry Specialist,
LesRec, Wicomico County

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

Ginny Rosenkranz, Horticulture FEA
Commercial Horticulture
Wicomico Office, 410-749-6141
Farm Service Agency Announces Key Dates for New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs

USDA announced key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015**: Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015**: Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015**: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- **October 2015**: Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arcplc. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Lower Shore Agronomy Day

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Lower Shore Agronomy Day will be held on Wednesday, **January 28th, 2015** at the Pocomoke Elks Lodge. Please bookmark this date to join us for updates on agriculture and research for Maryland farmers. Talks are expected to include information on palmer amaranth, soybean maturity, nitrogen and pest management. Contact 410-651-1350 for more information.

38th Wicomico Thanksgiving Breakfast

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2014**

7:00 A.M.

Glen T. Robinson Community Center
28055 Rockawalkin Ridge Rd
Salisbury, MD 21801

Tickets can be purchased from Farmers and Planters or the Wicomico Extension Office (410-749-6141).

MARYLAND FARM & HARVEST

Maryland Farm and Harvest is online! Watch all of the episodes over the internet:

http://video.mpt.tv/program/maryland-farm-harvest/

SECOND SEASON PERMIER!

Tuesday, November 11th at 7 p.m.

Episodes repeat:

Thursdays at 11 p.m.

Fridays at 6 p.m.

Sundays 6 p.m.
Stay Safe During the Harvest Season

-Jessie Flores-

Long days bringing in the season’s harvest often leads to tired farmers. Taking a few extra moments before and during harvest to make some simple adjustments to your machinery can both keep you safe and increase farm profits. Proper maintenance of machinery will keep down time during harvest to a minimum. Be sure you have properly calibrated any electronics on the combine, such as yield and moisture sensors, etc. During harvest, get out of the combine periodically to check for crop loss. If the crop is standing well, the combine related loss should be 1 bushel/acre or less. 2 kernels found in 1 square foot represents 1 bushel/acre yield loss. Always practice farm safety when working around equipment.

For additional more information on Combine Harvest Check Points, check out Extension Brief EBR-4 2011.

Getting Started in Farming Course

Getting Started in Farming is a short course series on being successful in agriculture. It is being offered through a partnership between UME and Wor-Wic community College.

Ever wanted to be involved in producing food or raising animals? Thinking about turning your hobby into a small business? Farming is not as simple as it once was. Learn how to be a successful agriculture producer by understanding the different types and areas of farming you can be involved with. This 4 part series will be taught by local agriculture educators from University of Maryland Extension.

Dates for the course are:

January 6, 8, 13, & 15th from 9-11:30am. All classes will be held at Wor-Wic Community College.

Maryland Department of Environment—General Discharge Permit

Maryland Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) Must Take Action to Continue Their General Discharge Permit Registration

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is in the process of renewing the General Discharge (GD) Permit for AFOs. The current GD Permit expires on November 30, 2014. The renewed GD Permit will be effective on December 1, 2014, once it undergoes a public participation process that will occur this fall. MDE mailed notification letters to all registrants on August 26, 2014 with information about permit renewal procedures and a new Notice of Intent (NOI) for the new GD Permit. If you operate or own an AFO that is registered under MDE’s GD Permit, this letter will inform you of the deadlines you need to meet to apply for the new GD Permit.

Deadlines:

- September 30, 2014- The letter or full NOI form should have been returned to MDE to make them aware you continue to operate
- November 30, 2014- Your current GD permit expires
- January 30, 2015 - Final date for the full NOI form to be returned to MDE

Please call Gary Kelman at 410-537-4423 or gary.kelman@maryland.gov with any questions.

University of Maryland NOI Workshops

Need some help filling out the form? Contact the numbers below to register for these workshops:

December 2—Somerset County Extension Office, 11 a.m.—2p.m., call 410-651-1350 to register
December 4—Tilghman Terrace, Centreville, MD, 11 a.m.—2p.m., call 410-758-0166 to register
Agricultural Research Updates

**Solar Corridor Crop System (SCCS)**

Sunlight is an important component of crop production, so efficient use of light can improve crop yields. The solar corridor crop system cultivates two crops simultaneously for more efficient use of solar radiation, water, and nutrients. Specific corn hybrids will be needed to thrive in these multi-crop systems, but have shown increased grain yields. One example would be to space corn further apart, while placing another (shorter) crop between rows.


**Long Term Carbon Accumulation Under No-Till**

Surface carbon storage can be improved by using crop diversity in no-till systems. Under No-till, there can be an initial loss in carbon, followed by large increases over an 8 year period. Continuous corn resulted in the least improvement, while continuous cotton had greater surface carbon gains. The addition of soybeans to the crop rotation resulted in the greatest rebound in soil carbon. As an organic matter addition, poultry litter outperformed wheat and vetch cover crops.


**Ammonia Loss from Pastures Fertilized with Broiler Litter**

Predicting plant available Nitrogen from manure applications is difficult since some Nitrogen is lost through volatilization. A study of southeastern pastures fertilized with broiler litter observed that small rain events and elevated soil water content decreased overall ammonia losses. Elevated concentrations of uric acid, ammonium, and elevated vapor pressure increased ammonia losses from poultry litter when applied to pastures.


**Waiting Three Years for Cleanout Won’t Decrease Poultry House Air Quality**

Research in Mississippi observed that re-using litter in poultry houses for three years didn’t increase emissions of N₂O or NH₃. This was compared to houses where litter had only been used for a single year. The authors suggest this may benefit farmers who can’t change out litter every year.

*Source: Agricultural Research Service*

**Doppler Radar Tracks Migrating Insects**

ARS scientists in Texas have shown that the National Weather Service Doppler radar can be used as an early warning system for corn earworm. Using Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), they were able to track insect migration patterns up to 3,900 feet. They also believe they will be able to track beet armyworms, grasshoppers and other large-bodied insects. NEXRAD data is publicly available.

*Source: Agricultural Research Service*

**Poultry Litter and Sweet Sorghum Biofuels**

A recent study out of Oklahoma State observed the use of poultry litter to fertilize sweet sorghum. Poultry litter was a better option on degraded soils, improving soil quality, as well being a cheaper fertilizer alternative. The authors suggest that using poultry litter to produce biofuel feedstocks may increase breakeven litter transport distances, allowing shipment out of nutrient dense watersheds.

**100 Years of Extension**

Wicomico and Worcester counties received county council proclamations for Extension’s 100 Year Anniversary. Thanks for keeping us around for 100 years!

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**Annie’s Project**

Annie’s Project will be offered in Accomack County, VA this year. Seven sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings (6:00-9:00pm) beginning January 6, 2015 thru February 24, 2015.

The cost of the course including meals and materials is $75. For more information or to register visit the website [www.extension.umd.edu/annies-project](http://www.extension.umd.edu/annies-project) or call 410-758-0166. If you require special assistance to attend the classes please contact the site at least two weeks prior. Annie’s Project has been approved for FSA Borrower Training. For more information, please contact your FSA loan officer.

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**Maryland Niche Meats and Poultry**

Looking for locally raised meats and poultry? The Maryland Niche Meats & Poultry Producers Directory is designed to help you find locally produced, high quality meats and poultry at a farm conveniently located near you. No matter your buying preference, the directory aims to connect you with local farmers.

To access the directory you can go to: [http://extension.umd.edu/agmarketing/](http://extension.umd.edu/agmarketing/)

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**Nutrient Management Updates**

We would like to welcome Amber North to our Wicomico Office! If you are a Wicomico County farmer call Amber to get your 2015 plan updated.

Commercial fertilizer users can call your county office now to get started, but all manure based plans should wait until after Thanksgiving to have manure samples analyzed for 2015.

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### Private Pesticide Application — Recertification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 20, 2014 (Passed)</td>
<td>Somerset County Extension</td>
<td>6-8pm, Pesticide Recertification followed by Nutrient Voucher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(410)-651-1350</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17, 2014</td>
<td>Wicomico Extension Office</td>
<td>6-8pm, Pesticide Recertification followed by Nutrient Voucher</td>
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<td>(410)-749-6141</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15, 2014</td>
<td>Snow Hill Lions Club</td>
<td>6-8pm, Pesticide Recertification followed by Nutrient Voucher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(410)-632-1972</td>
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### New Private Pesticide Applicator Certification

Starting 2015, the cost for the **new** private pesticide applicator training class is $10.00. Pre-registration is required and no payment will be accepted the day of the training. Visit [http://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-private-pesticide-applicator-certification-training-exam-tickets-12463293045?aff=eorg](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-private-pesticide-applicator-certification-training-exam-tickets-12463293045?aff=eorg) to register or contact Jessie at 410-632-1972.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 2015</td>
<td>Wicomico Extension Office</td>
<td>1-3pm, Training</td>
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<td>(410)-749-6141</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11, 2015</td>
<td>Wicomico Extension Office</td>
<td>1-3 pm, Test</td>
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<td>(410)-749-6141</td>
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EXTENSION EVENTS

11/11  Fencing Do’s and Don’ts—Berlin, MD, 6-8 p.m.
11/17  Pesticide Recertification + Nutrient Voucher - Extension Office, Salisbury
11/18  Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School- Princess Royale, Ocean City
12/02  CAFO NOI Workshop -Extension Office, Princess Anne, MD, 11am
12/04  CAFO NOI Workshop - Tilghman Terrace, Centreville, MD, 11 am
12/15  Pesticide Recertification + Nutrient Voucher - Lions Club, Snow Hill
1/28   Lower Shore Agronomy Day—Pocomoke Elks Lodge

OTHER EVENTS

11/22  Wicomico Thanksgiving Breakfast - Glen T Robinson Community Center

Somerset Ext. Office ~ 30730 Park Drive ~ Princess Anne, MD 21853 ~ 410-651-1350 ~ Fax 410651-0806
Wicomico Ext. Office ~ P.O.Box 1836 ~ Salisbury, MD 21802 ~ 410-749-6141 ~ Fax 410548-5126
Worcester Ext. Office ~ P.O.Box 219~ Snow Hill, MD 21863 ~ 410-632-1972 ~ Fax 410632-3023

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