As meteorologists predict a long, cold, and harsh winter, farmers and beginning farmers are faced with long cold months indoors. While this might not be an attractive situation to those who like to get their hands dirty, this is a great opportunity to catch up on all those less desired activities: financial documents, business plans, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plans, and more.

There are excellent resources on our website for those that are in the early stages of planning. The Business Planning Workbook is a great resource and good reading for those cold winter nights.

Many producers ignore the financial documents as they do not have the same allure as working with the land or animals, but it is arguably the most important aspect of profitable farming. Again, the extension website is a great resource for researching and receiving guidance on financial documents.

But if you are just itching to get out of the house, the good news is winter months are when the Extension service really gears up to offer farmers classes and workshops. Be sure to look at the extension website for events in your area!

Some larger events to look forward to are the Appalachia Grows: Beginning and Small Farm Conference on January 23 & 24 and the Maryland Small Ruminant Expo on February 28!

More events can be found on our website under “events”
UMES Small Farms Conference was a hit!

The Beginning Farmer Success Team, in partnership with the UMES, provided a Beginning Farmer Track at the UMES Small Farms Conference on November 7 & 8. The track offered classes covering land acquisition and leasing, marketing, and financial and business planning. The UMES conference had over 100 attendees that enjoyed a variety of topics including aquaculture, poultry other than chicken, home preservation, appropriately scaled farm equipment, and more. Be sure to look out for next year’s UMES Small Farm Conference.

Click here to receive this newsletter every month

To submit information for the monthly newsletter, please contact the Beginning Farmer Success Project Coordinator, Hannah Shear at hshear@umd.edu.

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