This year the National Cooperative Extension network celebrates 100 years of service. While these past 100 years have seen a dramatic change in agricultural production and food consumption, as well as continued technological development, the overall mission of Extension has not changed: to support Maryland’s agricultural industry; protect its valuable natural resources; enhance the well-being of families and individuals, both young and old; and foster the development of strong, stable communities.

Summer and Fall are some of the busiest times for farmers and even those not involved with agriculture directly are busying themselves with the start of school. With Fall approaching, so are the many programs that the University of Maryland Extension offers. We hope you take the time to browse our newsletter and website to see all the programs we will be offering in the coming months. We have showcased only a few of these upcoming programs in the newsletter and we encourage you to check with your county extension office for additional programs.

So as we look back to our many years of service and look forward to the many years to come, we plan to continue to offer programs that can help you to develop your own agricultural enterprise.

Past, Present, and Future of UME
11th Annual Small Farms Conference on November 7th & 8th: University of Maryland Eastern Shore is excited for their upcoming annual conference. This year’s conference is introducing many new features including a Beginning Farmer Track as well as an Alternative Agriculture and Business & Marketing Tracks. Other sessions will include Soil Health, Appropriately Scaled Farm Equipment, and Home Food Preservation. To read more about this event and to register visit the following link:
http://www.umes.edu/sans/extension.html

Hops Production, Distribution, and Marketing Field Day: Tuesday, September 30, 6:00-9:00 pm. Future Harvest is hosting a Field Day on September 30. Come out to Corcoran Brewing Company to learn the basics of hops production as well as distribution and marketing techniques to sell hops locally and regionally. Future Harvest also wants you to mark your calendars for their Annual Conference - January 15-17. You should check their website for further details and registration.

Link: http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/

Now Accepting Mentor Match Applications: Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission is still connecting people through their Maryland FarmLINK. FarmLINK helps Maryland farmers sell or buy farmland, mentor novice farmers and locate important farming news and information. Now is a great time to apply for a mentorship! Check out their website to get involved: www.futureharvestcasa.org/

Introducing: Hannah Shear

Hannah Shear has joined the Beginning Farmer Program as a Faculty Extension Assistant. Hannah hails from Kentucky and was raised on a small family farm of cattle, sheep, and burley tobacco. Hannah received her B.S. in Animal Sciences and Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky and will be graduating from the University of Arkansas with a M.S. in Agricultural Economics in December. Hannah is excited to get involved with the Beginning Farmer Program and looks forward to working with everyone across the state of Maryland.

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.

“This project was supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2012-49400-19552. To find more resources and programs for beginning farmers and ranchers please visit www.Start2Farm.gov, a component of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.”

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.