

Speakers 2013 Maryland Crop Insurance Workshop

The Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency are co-sponsoring a Crop Insurance Industry Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis.

A featured speaker will be **Brandon Willis (Invited but not confirmed)**, USDA-RMA Administrator, *Where Crop Insurance is Headed in New Farm Bill*. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides economic protection and risk management tools to America's farmers and ranchers primarily through federally sponsored crop insurance delivered and serviced by private insurance companies. In this capacity, he is also Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), and a non-voting member of the FCIC Board of Directors. Willis most recently served as Senior Advisor to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Title I commodity programs, farm legislation matters and disaster assistance. In August 2009, Willis was appointed to serve as Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). In that position, he oversaw all FSA programs under the Production Emergencies and Compliance Division (PECD), Conservation and Environmental Programs Division (CEPD), and Price Support Division (PSD).

Willis earned his bachelor's degree in crop and soil science from Utah State University in Logan, Utah, and his law degree from the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyo. In 2009, he completed his master's degree in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas. He grew up on a third generation sheep ranch in northern Utah and managed his family's raspberry farm, Bursting Berries. He now resides in Washington, D.C.

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Another featured speaker will be **Dr. Art Barnaby**, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics – Kansas State University, *Crop Insurance as a Farm Management/Marketing Tool*. Dr. Art Barnaby was raised on a diversified farm, located in Elk County, Kansas. Art received his B.S. degree from Fort Hays State University, M.S. from New Mexico State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University. Art joined the Agricultural Economics faculty in 1979. He currently holds the rank of Professor. Art conducts national extension education programs on market risk, government commodity programs, crop insurance and public policy. He has authored several research projects on crop insurance issues and their impacts on farmers. His research work with the private sector was the basis for the first revenue insurance contract. Art is an author on the KSU WEB page located at: <http://www.agmanager.info> Art is a frequent speaker at professional, farmer-producer, ag lender, and insurance industry meetings.

Gene Gantz, USDA-RMA, *Crop Insurance Update for 2014*. Gene owns and operates a small farm in his native Dauphin County PA. He has been associated with the crop insurance business for 47 years at the national and local levels with USDA and the private industry. He is currently employed by the Risk Management Agency of USDA working as an educator in 8 north-eastern states, and is housed in Harrisburg, PA. His passion is to help Northeastern U.S. producers to better utilize crop insurance-based risk management strategies and commodity marketing tools to better manage their risk exposures and as a foundation to increase profitability.

Stephen Frerichs, *Farm Bill from Crop Insurance Perspective*. **Stephen** owns and operates his own consulting and lobbying firm, AgVantage LLC in Alexandria, Virginia. He has recent insights into the shifts in funding and new programs that may be appearing in the next year or two. Stephen specializes in budget, agricultural and crop insurance issues. Previously he was the manager of the American Association of Crop Insurers and has held various positions within the U.S. Government at the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Pat McMillian, Assistant Secretary Maryland Department of Agriculture will provide an overview of the current crop conditions and the outlook for quantity and prices in the near future. This talk will highlight current and potential risks that might affect producers demand for certain insurance products.

Steve Connelly, *Update on Maryland Crop Insurance Education Program*. Connelly is working under contract with MDA to promote Crop Insurance and manage the targeted states grant program from the Risk management Agency. He is currently the Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association. Connelly is a partner in the Capstone Group-NCH, a firm providing association management and government relation services. He earned a degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland and his career includes service with the USDA Farm Service Agency, Maryland Ag Education Foundation, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and Maryland Farm Bureau. Connelly resides in Rising Sun, MD with his wife Valerie.

Fall Soil Nitrate Testing Workshop

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. (<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).

Additional workshops are being scheduled in other locations during the month of August.

Jay Lehr Featured as Keynote Speaker at Commodity Classic

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA), Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, and Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association are pleased to announce economist Dr. Jay Lehr as the keynote speaker for the 14th Annual Maryland Commodity Classic on Thursday, July 25, 2013, in Queen Anne's County.

Dr. Jay Lehr combines a deep understanding of both science and economics in describing the impact of advancing technologies on the local, regional, national, and global economy. He combines five decades of experience in Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, Environmental Science and Business Administration with the most contagious enthusiasm for the future of the American Farm and Ranch. His precise knowledge of U.S. Farm, energy and environmental legislation as well as every international farm support program and the direction they are moving allows him to confidently predict a bright future for American Farm Exports, sustainable energy and for the environment. His experience and support for the successful, economically beneficial use of corn in many products including ethanol; and use of soy in many products including bio-fuels and long term safety of advances in biotechnology serve to answer many of the questions on the minds of the average grain farmer and energy consumer. Lehr works to spread true science, educate on today's hot topics and to dispel the unfair and inaccurate claims made by environmental advocacy groups.

Dr. Lehr is also well known for his athletic accomplishments. In his early seventies, Dr. Lehr still plays Ice Hockey in an under 40 league and will soon compete in his 10th Ironman Triathlon which consists of a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112 mile bike ride and finished up with a 26.2 mile run. Dr. Lehr also holds a world skydiving record for having parachuted from an airplane every month since August 1978.

Dr. Lehr is the proud husband to Janet and together they have a large family of children and grand children. He and his wife live in Ostrander, Ohio on several acres with many "somewhat domesticated" animals.

The Commodity Classic is hosted by the Maryland Grain Producers Association, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board and the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association at the Queen Anne's 4-H Park. Lunch and informational displays will be set up at 11 a.m. The business meeting begins at 1:00 p.m., followed by speakers and concluding 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.



This Just In:
Educational Programs will be offered in the morning prior to the Commodity Classic. More information will be released shortly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2013

July 9, 2013

Grain Marketing Meeting, 6:30 a.m.,
Sudlersville United Methodist Church Sudlersville, MD

July 10, 2013

Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau Picnic
7:00 p.m. Queen Anne's 4H Park– Centreville, MD

July 11, 2013

Private Pesticide Applicator Training
8:30 a.m., Queen Annes County Extension office
Call 410-758-0166 to register

July 11, 2013

IPM Pest Walk-Landscape and Nursery

Cost: \$25.00

Location: Fratelli's Restaurant and Salisbury University
Sign up by July 8, 2013. Call Ginny Rosenkranz at 410-749-6141
or email her at rosnkrnz@umd.edu

July 15, 2013

MDA Cover Crop Program Sign-up ends
Contact your County's Soil Conservation office for more information

July 15, 2013

USDA/FSA—Spring Seeded Crop Reporting Deadline
Contact your County's FSA office for more information

July 18-20, 2013

Kent County Fair—Tolchester Rd. Chestertown, MD
Visit www.kentcountyfair.org for more information

July 19-27, 2013

Cecil County Fair— Fair Hill, MD
Visit www.cecilcountyfair.org for more information

July 23, 2013

Grain Marketing Meeting, 6:30 a.m.,
Sudlersville United Methodist Church Sudlersville, MD

July 25, 2013

Private Pesticide Applicator's Exam
9:00 a.m., Queen Annes County Extension office
Call 410-758-0166 to register

July 25, 2013

14th Annual Maryland Commodity Classic
Queen Annes County 4H Park
Contact the MGPA office at 410-956-5771

July 26, 2013

Kent County Farm Bureau Picnic
6:00 p.m., Andelot Farm, Worton MD
Rain Date: August 2, 2013

August 2013

August 2, 2013

MDA Nutrient Management Certification Examination
Salisbury, Annapolis and Hagerstown
For More information, visit www.mda.maryland.gov

August 7, 2013

2013 Mid-Atlantic Precision Ag Equipment Day
9 a.m.—3:15 p.m.
Caroline County 4H Park– Denton, MD

August 12-17, 2013

Queen Anne's County Fair
Visit www.queenannescfair.com

August 13-15, 2013

Pennsylvania Ag Progress Days
State College, PA
For more information visit: <http://agsci.psu.edu/apd>
For information about bus trip, visit :
<http://www.maafc.com/ag-progress-days-bus-trip.php>

Twilight Goat Tour

There will be a Twilight Goat Tour on Thursday, August 1, 5:30 p.m. to dark, at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville. In addition to wagon tours of the facility and research program, there will be an opportunity to taste recipes prepared with goat meat. The recipes will be prepared by a local chef.

To make sure we have enough meat, pre-registration is required for the event. A small donation is requested to help cover the cost of the meat. You can pre-register by calling the Center (Pam Thomas) at 301-432-2767 x315. You may also pre-register by sending an e-mail to Pam at pthomas@umd.edu. The pre-registration deadline is July 26.

The Western Maryland Research & Education is the location of the Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test. This year, there are 81 bucks (mostly Kiko) on test. The tour will also showcase the Center's pen vs. pasture study, a three-year project in which the performance and carcass characteristics of pen-fed and pasture-raised goats are being compared.

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Contact your local UME Agriculture Educator:

Cecil County ~ Doris Behnke at 410.996.5280 or dbehnke@umd.edu

Queen Anne's County ~ Jennifer Rhodes at 410.758.0166 or jrhodes@umd.edu

University of Maryland Extension to hold Strategic Planning Sessions

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is developing a strategic plan that will lead the organization for the next five years and we need your assistance. As UME moves forward into the future it is necessary to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, create common goals, identify outcomes and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment.

Strategic planning is an effort that produces vital decisions and actions that will shape and guide UME. This includes answering questions about what an organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. UME is conducting many methods of collecting this data. One of the most important methods will be meeting with UME program participants, volunteers and others in the community that work directly with us.

Meetings have been planned for the state to gain important information regarding UME's strategic plan and we hope that you can attend.

The session will be held on Monday, July 29, 2013 at the Queen Anne's 4 H Park, 100 Dulin Clark Rd. Centreville. To register – please call 410.778.1661 or email vclkstn@umd.edu

In the interest of conserving our environmental resources, we would like to send our monthly newsletter via email. If you are able to receive our email electronically, please contact your county office and share your email address.