Your Guide to Farm Fresh Tours, Markets & More!

Greetings, Kim!

This is the time of year that we like to acknowledge YOU for your loyal readership. While it's been an amazing year brimming with fresh, locally produced food, it wouldn't happen without your participation in our Prince George's County food system. Thank you for all that you do to support our local agricultural economy and keep farmers on their land!

While many of our farms have put their fields and pastures to rest, they are offering a variety of opportunities for you to celebrate all things fresh, local and fun in our Prince George's County food system.

In particular, check out this inaugural event taking place in Prince George's County on December 16 - all four of our wineries invite you to their Sip N' Stuff wine trail event!

Think fresh. Eat local. Have fun!

Dreaming of a wine Christmas,

Visit Our Website

Fresh Farm & Local Food Events

Farm Open House: Villa de Alpacas (weekends thru Feb)
Mark your calendar and get a head start on fall/winter & Christmas shopping while enjoying our farm’s hospitality that has been well known for over 150 years! Fantastic hand-made alpaca products!

Weekend Wine Tastings!
Gemeny Winery & Vineyards (Sat & Sun, 10am - 6pm)
Janemark Winery & Vineyard (Sat, 10am - 5pm)
Robin Hill Farm & Vineyards (Sat, 11am - 5pm)
Romano Vineyards & Winery (Fri, 1-6pm & Sat, 12-6pm)

Romano's Music in the Winery (Dec)
Romano's Vineyard & Winery invites you to enjoy music and wine in their tasting room this month!

Gemeny Vineyard & Winery Happy Hour Fridays (Dec)
Starting on Black Friday join us for our Holiday Happy Hour Fridays. We will be open from 1-8 with a holiday happy hour from 3-8.

Linden Hill Christmas Tree Season (Dec)
Featuring field to cut - Douglas Fir, White Pine, Norway Spruce, Concolor Fir and Canaan Fir, as well as freshly pre-cut Fraser and Douglas Firs

Pines Farms Christmas Tree Season (Dec)
The Pines Farm invites you to "Choose & Cut" your tree this season. Open 7 days a week from 8am to 5pm, now thru Christmas Eve.

Holiday Hayrides through the Festival of Lights (Dec)
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation will host their 31st annual Festival of Lights at Watkins Regional Park from Friday, Nov. 24 to Monday, Jan. 1.

Accokeek Foundation’s Winter’s Eve (Dec 9)
Winter’s Eve is one of the most popular events held at the National Colonial Farm each year. Guests will enjoy a special evening as we deck the farm for the holidays - colonial style!

Holiday Teas at Montpelier Mansion (Dec 9 & 10)
See Montpelier all decked out for the holidays, then enjoy a fixed price menu of fine finger sandwiches, scrumptious cakes and pastries, buttery scones, and your choice of two quality loose leaf teas, all served on china and tiered-stands in Montpelier’s elegant and festively decorated East Wing.

Prince George’s County Wineries - Sip N’ Stuff Event (Dec 16)
Join us on December 16th from 12-5pm to sip your way around our local wine trail while stuffing a holiday stocking with festive goodies along the way. Start at one of the four wineries to pick up a stocking, get your first two stocking stuffers, and enjoy a wine tasting. Then continue along the trail to the remaining three wineries for tastings and stocking stuffers at each!

Soiree at the Snowdens (Dec 16)
The Snowdens were known far and wide for their hospitality. We toast them this holiday season with an evening of cheer and merriment, featuring the culinary diversity of our local communities and live music by GrooveSpan. Sponsored in part by the Friends of Montpelier.

Ugliest Sweater Contest at Calvert Brewing Company (Dec 16)
Come sporting your ugliest sweater! Live music from 4-8. Contest is at 7! We will also have a special cask and a senor besos preview! Lil Macks food truck will be on site 3-8! See you in the taproom!

Pax River Alpacas Annual Christmas Market (Dec 17)
Browse our homegrown selection of exquisite alpaca yarns, socks, and gifts, and even meet the alpaca where the your yarn came from!

Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Calvert Brewing Company (Dec 17)
Dreading taking your kids to the mall to see Santa and spending a fortune on pictures? Don’t! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in the taproom! There will not be a photographer on site so bring your camera to do your own free pictures! Please bring an unwrapped toy for our Toys for Tots Drive! No stress Santa visit with a cold beer? Yes please!
Future Harvest's Cultivate the Chesapeake Foodshed Conference (Jan 11-13)
Join us for three days of local farm and food workshops, farm fresh meals, inspiring speakers, and networking opportunities.

BUMBA-2018 Beginning Beekeeping Registration (Jan 11-13)
The Bowie Upper Marlboro Beekeeping Association is now accepting registration for their next "Short Course" for beginning beekeeping.

Support Your Local Farmers Markets
Although many of our farmers markets are closed for the winter, Riverdale Park Farmers Market offers a winter market and Greenbelt Farmers Market vendors coordinate efforts to provide a monthly drop-off in Greenbelt for their valued market customers. Click the links below for details.

Holiday Market at The Farmers Market at Maryland (Wed, Dec 6, 11am - 3pm)
Cheverly Community Holiday Market (Saturday, Dec 9, 8am - 12pm) - check out Janemark Winery & Vineyard!
Riverdale Park Festival of Lights & Holiday Market (Saturday, Dec 16, 12pm)
Riverdale Park Farmers Market (Thursdays, 3pm - 7pm)
Greenbelt Farmers Market Vendors' Winter Sales Drop-Off (3rd Sunday starting in January)

What's Fun on the Menu?
"Farms for the Holidays" Guide Available
A Southern Maryland seasonal guide to farm food, gifts and farm-hosted fun!

Are You Ready For Annie's Project 2018?
Annie's project is designed to empower women in agriculture, provide information in farm management and build local networks throughout the state. The target audience is women with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation. Classes start in January!

Owl’s Nest Farm Featured in The Washington Post - A growing number of young Americans are leaving desk jobs to farm
"Liz Whitehurst dabbled in several careers before she ended up here, crating fistfuls of fresh-cut arugula in the early-November chill. The hours were better at her nonprofit jobs. So were the benefits. But two years ago, the 32-year-old Whitehurst - who graduated from a liberal arts college and grew up in the Chicago suburbs - abandoned Washington for this three-acre farm in Upper Marlboro, Md.

A CANDIDate Conversation: Food, Farms, and the Future of Prince George’s
"If you missed, "A CANDIDate Conversation: Food, Farms, and the Future of Prince George's," don't fret! The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission recorded the forum with potential County Council Candidates"

Upper Marlboro Pastry Chef Wows on Food Network
"The holiday season brings images of savory collard greens gingered with smoked meats, the piquant smell of ham glazed with honey and decadent cobblers. For Upper Marlboro-based baker and pastry chef Ian Barthley, this year’s holiday festivities are particularly sweet because he is currently competing in a baking game show on the Food Network."

4-H Livestock Club Now Accepting Applications!
The Prince George's County 4-H Livestock Club will begin meeting twice monthly in January at the Accokeek Foundation. Youth will have the opportunity to directly interact with heritage breeds of livestock.

Food Equity Council Featured in the Healthy Food Policy Project
The University of Connecticut Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity recently launched the Healthy Food Policy Project featuring an in-depth case study on Prince George's County's own, Food Equity Council.

Prince George’s County Wins SMADC Grant to Spur Agricultural Development
In order to help educate the farming community on farming Best Management Practices (BMP) that improve soil health, the Prince George's Soil Conservation District proposes establishing a research and demonstration farm using a variety of BMPs. A historic tobacco barn will be used as an on-site laboratory for soils, plant and other related work.

It Ain't Easy Going Green! Tales from New Brooklyn Farms Part 2
Now you're a few days, weeks...maybe even a month or two removed from your urban farmer epiphany. Still blissfully strolling through a discovery mode pilgrimage...collecting positive & motivational coins of knowledge, leads, and advice that the universe seems to keep serving you on a silver platter. But surely, and most likely much more slowly than you should be, you start to come down from the high of the incubation phase and are forced to square up with some very real issues requiring immediate consideration & action in order for your urban farm business to begin materializing.

The Common Market: Delivering local food for the common good to Greenbelt
Attention Greenbelt Co-op Shoppers! We have a new arrival in the store. The Common Market, a nonprofit regional food distributor, has come to the Greenbelt Co-op, bringing locally grown produce from over 200 family farms in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Farmers Share Ideas on How to Sustain Businesses at UMD Extension Program in Upper Marlboro
"It's one thing to start a farm, but it's another to run a successful farm after three years. At a recent "Wheels Up" farm workshop, participants who have been farming for three or more years contemplated changes so their businesses can survive for the long haul."

Food Bank’s Free Farmer’s Market Puts Dinner On Many Tables This Thanksgiving
"Thanksgiving is a holiday about family - and food. And it's especially difficult for those who don't have enough to eat. According to the Capital Area Food Bank, one out of every six people in D.C. is hungry or unsure about getting adequate food. In Prince George's County, the rate is even higher."

Robin Hill Farm and Vineyard's Grand Opening - A Huge Success
The Grand Opening Day Celebration for Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards was held Saturday October 7th, 2017. The event commenced with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the porch of the historic tobacco barn's newly renovated tasting room, located at the farm at 15800 Croom Road, Brandywine, MD.

**Prince George's County Household Food Waste Survey**
As part of a research study on food waste reduction and recovery, M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department prepared a survey on household food waste.

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**About Us**

**University of Maryland Extension (UME)**
is a statewide non-formal education system funded by federal, state, and local governments within the University of Maryland - College Park and the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support Maryland’s agricultural industry; protect its valuable natural resources; enhance the well-being of families and all individuals, both young and old; and foster the development of strong, stable communities.

The **Prince George's County office**, partially supported by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, serves the community from the main office in Clinton and the Center for Educational Partnership in Riverdale. For more information about Extension programming in Prince George's County, see our website.

**Fresh, Local, Fun, PGC**, a program of the UMD Extension, Prince George's County, invites you to engage with our diverse farming and local food community. Our mission is to promote agricultural economic development and healthy food access in Prince George's County by connecting residents, agricultural producers, farmers markets, food retailers, restaurateurs, and county agencies.

The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Offers Equal Access Programs.

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