2013 Custom Rate Survey Results Available

Financial and economic considerations such as limited capital, untimely cash flow, insufficient labor, small acreage or other reasons require farmers to hire custom service for field operations. Custom work charges are determined by demand and supply and are negotiated between farmers and custom operators. The purpose of Fact Sheet 683 is to provide information on custom work charges in Maryland and to provide data to assist in decision making regarding purchasing equipment. Custom rates in this publication may not suit all custom operators and those hiring custom work. It is important that operators calculate their own custom costs. It is also important that farmers create their own budgets which include their variable costs and fixed costs and do not rely only on custom rates to determine their cost of production. FS 683 can be accessed online at: www.mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu. Paper copies can be picked up at any University of Maryland Extension office.

USDA Extends Deadline for Producers to Complete Agriculture Census

Agricultural producers have until March 15 to respond

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Feb. 11, 2013) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service has announced that it has extended the deadline for farmers to complete the Census of Agriculture until March 15. MDA strongly urges producers to complete the Census if they haven’t already.

“I want to thank everyone who completed the Census by the first deadline and stress how important it is for those who have not completed it to do so as soon as possible,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “It’s not only the law, it also gives us the information we need to develop good agriculture policy on the local, state and national level. The importance of valid information is nearly impossible to overstate.”

USDA will send another report form this month to those who did not return the Census by the February 4 deadline. If you did not have any agricultural activity in 2012, please state so on the front of the form and mail it back.

Conducted every five years, the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture, including land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures and other factors that affect the way farmers and ranchers do business. Farmers and ranchers can complete their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov. Any questions regarding the Census can be answered by calling the NASS Maryland office at 410-841-5740 or 800-675-0295 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
UPCOMING EVENTS
MARCH 2013

March 5, 2013
Irrigation Workshop
Time: 9:00 a.m– noon
Location: Sudlersville Methodist Church, 103 N. Church Street, Sudlersville, MD 21668

Irrigation Seminar To Be Held March 5th

The summers on the Delmarva Peninsula seem to be growing warmer and dryer. More and more farmers are installing new center pivot irrigation systems. Whether it is a completely new system or replacing an aging system, advances in technology have made management decisions even more important. While yields under irrigation are higher than dryland crops, input costs such as fuel also increase. Simply having and running the irrigation is not a guarantee of increased production or profitability. The University of Maryland Extension will be hosting an Irrigation Seminar on Tuesday March 5, 2013 starting at 9:00 am. The seminar will be held at the Sudlersville Methodist Church in Sudlersville, Maryland following our normal Grain Marketing Meeting.

Speaking at the seminar will be James Adkins, irrigation engineer from the University of Delaware. James will be speaking on some basics of irrigation management as well as touching on some of the newer technologies. Also speaking will be Dr. Josh McGrath, Associate Professor from the University of Maryland. Josh will address issues with nutrient management on irrigated crops. Following the speakers, there will be time for questions and discussion. Maryland nutrient applicator voucher credits and certified crop advisor credits have been applied for.

The workshop is free, but space is limited. Please register by contacting the Kent County Extension office at 410-778-1661 or jdouthit@umd.edu.

March 6, 2013
Marketing Farm Raised Meats in Maryland
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: UME–Baltimore County Office 1114 Shawan Rd (First Floor), Cockeysville, MD
Register online: http://marketingfarmraisedmeats.eventbrite.com/

March 6, 2013
Pesticide Private Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher Training
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Talbot County Agriculture Center, Easton, MD
Contact: Shannon Dill 410-822-1244
March 6, 2013

Pesticide Private Applicator Exam
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Dorchester County Extension Office
Contact: Sudeep Matthew 410-228-8800

March 8, 2013

Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference
Double Tree Hotel, Annapolis, MD

Experts to Discuss, Explain Tough Topics at Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference

Plans for the 2013 Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference, sponsored by the Center for Agricultural and Natural Re-source Policy at the University of Maryland, are being finalized, with expert speakers scheduled to share their thoughts about the current state of economic affairs and provide insights on where we may be going from here.

This highly anticipated event will take place March 8th at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD, from 9:00 to 3:00. Lunch will be served.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Lynch at 301-405-1264 or LLynch@arec.umd.edu, or Paul Goeringer at 301-405-1293 or pgoeringer@arec.umd.edu. If you know others to whom this conference might be of interest, please pass on the information, which can be found at http://agresearch.umd.edu/CANRP/.

Registration for the event is $30.00.
Registration forms are available at http://agresearch.umd.edu/CANRP/.

March 9, 2013

First Annual Maryland Hops Conference
Frederick, MD
For more information see www.frederick.umd.edu/

March 11, 2013

Poultry Manure Injector Field Day
Time: 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Rain Date: March 14, 2013

Have you considered injecting your poultry manure? Now is your chance to come and see the poultry injector in action. Josh McGrath, UMD, will be on hand to discuss the benefits of injecting poultry manure and will be available to answer questions and explain the demonstration.

Location: Turners Creek Conservation Park, Turners Creek Road, Kennedyville, Maryland
For More Information Call: Kent Soil and Water Conservation District: 410 778-5150, ext. 3
Sassafras River Association: 410 275-1400
Or University of Maryland Extension-Kent County 410-778-1661
March 12, 2013

8th Annual Organic Grain & Vegetable Production Training
Time: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Location: Chesapeake College, Todd Performing Arts Center, Wye Mills, MD
Keynote Speaker: Steve Groff, Cover Crops Solutions, No-Till Farmer and Pioneer of the “Permanent Cover Cropping System”

To Register call 410-758-0166 or online at www.queenannes.umd.edu

March 14, 2013

SARE Grant Writing Workshop
As part of its ongoing mission to strengthen, support, and innovate agriculture in Maryland, The Maryland Agricultural Resource Council (MARC) is pleased to host a free grant writing workshop presented by the Northeast SARE. The workshop is designed for farmers, ranchers, extension agents, researchers, students, and others with a vested interest in agriculture. Since 1988, SARE has funded more than 5,000 research and education projects exploring:

- On-farm renewable energy
- Pest and weed management
- Pastured livestock & rotational grazing
- No-till and conservation tillage
- Nutrient management
- Agroforestry
- Marketing
- Sustainable communities

NOTE: This is the only workshop of its kind planned in Maryland for 2013

DATE: March 14, 2013  TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm
LOCATION:
Baltimore County Center for
Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park 1114 Shawan Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

TO REGISTER:
http://saregrantworkshop.eventbrite.com
For more information about SARE, visit: http://www.sare.org/

March 15, 2013

Crop Insurance Deadline

Maryland Farmers: March 15 is Deadline to Act on Crop Insurance

MDA Secretary Buddy Hance reminds farmers that the sales closing date to purchase crop insurance for spring seeded crops and to make changes to policies is March 15. Spring seeded crops include corn, soybeans, oats and grain sorghum.

A new option available for Maryland producers in 2013 is the Trend Adjusted Yield Option (TA) that adjusts historical Actual Production History (APH) Yields in our crop insurance data-base(s)
to reflect improvements in crop genetics and production technology. This option may give you the opportunity to increase your crop insurance protection at a much lower cost than increasing the level of coverage.

“I encourage farmers to be on top of their risk management decisions going into this season,” said Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance. “A little time with your crop insurance agent now, will pay off later.”

In 2012, farmers invested more than $12 million in premiums for more than 6,600 crop insurance policies covering $359 million in liabilities. Close to 80 percent of corn acres, 70 percent of soybean acres and 50 percent of wheat acres are protected by crop insurance. Producers insuring multiple or large farms may also be able to insure using “enterprise units” to receive up to a 50 percent premium discount. Enterprise unit participation in 2012 increased to 270,000 acres or 30 percent of net acres in Maryland.

Producers 2013 spring planted crops must sign up for federally insured crop insurance, or make any changes to existing polices by March 15.

A list of agents can be found at: http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/

**March 15-17, 2013**  
**Tractor Safety Training**

The University of Maryland Extension 4-H Staff is planning a weekend training, Friday-Sunday, March 15-17, 2013, to provide certification for youth wanting to work on a farm. Youth must be between the ages of 14 to 16 to take this training. Participants will stay at the Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park in Centreville, Maryland and will have off site visits to local Tractor Dealers.

Federal law states that all 14-15 year old youth, who are seeking employment in the agriculture industry must receive the training as required by the U.S. Department of Labor. Youth working on their own parent’s farm do not need to become certified unless they will be driving on the road with machinery. Agricultural producers are liable if they employ youth that do not have this certification. When youth become 16 years of age, this law no longer applies to their employment. Go to http://www.nstmop.psu.edu/info.htm for details.

This class provides 24 hours of intensive training. A driving and written exam is included. A requirement of the class is to become familiar with the lessons covering various agricultural related safety needs before the training. Resources will be made available prior to the training. The weekend training will cost $30.00.

Contact Christine Johnston cjohnstn@umd.edu or 410-758-0166 for a registration form or download from http://queenannes.umd.edu. Return completed registration forms to Queen Anne’s County Extension Office, 505 Railroad Ave. Suite 4, Centreville, MD 21617.

**March 22-23, 2013**  
**Maryland-Delaware Shearing School**

Ridgely Thompson Farm, 1942 Uniontown Road, Westminster, MD

For more information see http://www.sheepandgoat.com
March 26, 2013

**Food for Profit**

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Location: Chesapeake College, Economic Development Center  
Registration: Penn State, [http://extension.psu.edu/food-for-profit](http://extension.psu.edu/food-for-profit), or call 717-270-4391

Penn State Extension’s *Food for Profit* is a one-day workshop designed to help you work through the maze of local and state regulations, food safety issues, and business management concepts that all must be considered in setting up a commercial food business. *Food for Profit* will take you step-by-step through the entrepreneurial process. It will provide you with the information and skills to assess if your idea will be something that will sell at a profit. Conducting a feasibility study (to see if yours is a good business idea), performing marketing research, and beginning to draft a business plan are a few of the concrete tools taught by certified instructors and business experts. By attending this class, you can learn how to evaluate the opportunities on paper before you look for funding or take action (saving money and time).

March 27-28, 2013

**11th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference**

Poultry, Dairy and Equine Programs  
Time: Wed. 8am - Thur. 4 pm  
Location: Crown Plaza North Baltimore, Timonium, MD  
Contact: kieraf@umd.edu 301-405-1392

APRIL 2013

April 6, 2013

**Wye Angus Sale**  
12:00 noon, Queenstown, MD  
See: [www.wyeangus.umd.edu](http://www.wyeangus.umd.edu)

April 12, 2013

**Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification (Live On-line Session)**

This session will focus on fertility and production related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This Adobe Connect recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. Adobe Connect is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a live Adobe Connect session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.  

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation. Registration by April 10th is required in order to receive Adobe Connect login instructions. To register for this on-line event, contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-6759.
April 19, 2013

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification (Live On-line Session)

This session will focus on pesticide use and related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This Adobe Connect recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. Adobe Connect is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a life Adobe Connect session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation. Registration by April 17th is required in order to receive Adobe Connect login instructions. To register for this on-line event, contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-6759.

Small Farm Workshop Series

Contact 410-651-6070 or kjparmar@umes.edu to register for the workshops listed below.

Solving the Social Media Puzzle
  Saturday March 16, 2013, 10:00am - 3:00pm Cost: $20.00
  Kiah Hall, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Growing & Marketing Blackberries, Raspberries, & Blueberries on Less Than an Acre
  Saturday, March 23, 2013, 10:00am - 1:00pm Cost: $15.00
  Fred “Butch” Wells, 8948 Athol Rd. Mardela Springs, MD 21837

Free Range Poultry and Egg Production
  Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00am - 12:00pm Cost $15.00
  Food Science and Technology Building, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Small Ruminant Integrated Parasite Management
  Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9:00am - 4:00pm Cost $20.00
  Food Science and Technology Building, University of Maryland Eastern

Maryland Wood Grant Program

The University of Maryland Extension has been actively involved bringing together agencies and organizations to accelerate clean burning wood energy development in Maryland through the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition. On component of Coalition activities has been working with the Maryland Energy Administration to pilot a Clean Burning Wood Stove Grant program that pays part of the cost of a wood or pellet stove for residential uses ($400 for a wood stove & $600 for a pellet stove).

The Alliance for Green Heat is a reputable partner and the main promoter of the program and they just completed an analysis of the first five months of the $50K pilot program. The program will continue and it can help rural (and urban) citizens reduce their energy bills.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Kays, jkays@umd.edu. A series of factsheets on residential wood heat are available at: www.naturalresources.umd.edu/