

# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION Garrett County

## August 2023 Newsletter

### Impressive Garrett County Livestock Sale



The 4-H Livestock Sale managed by the Garrett County Livestock Association was held Saturday, August 5th, at the Garrett County Fairgrounds. Young people from across the county presented their market beef, hogs, lambs, goats, rabbits and poultry.

"A total of 365 animals were sold with a total of over \$646,477 generated at the sale" stated Lacie Ashby, 4-H Educator. Lacie continued to add, "Our 4-H members and families are so grateful for the support of area businesses and individuals who come to bid or purchase at the annual livestock sale and the other countless ways people support our youth behind the scenes. Many buyers continue the charitable contributions by donating purchased animals to other non-profit organizations in the area. The livestock sale is the culminating event after of months of hard work with their project animals. Through these projects, members learn valuable life skills like record keeping, goal setting, and responsibility."

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### Garrett County Fair Engineering Events



During the 4-H Engineering Events, members participate in up to five contests that focus on mechanical engineering skills. During the contest, members test their skills on knowledge of content area, identification of parts and participate in a skill related event. During the hands-on portion, members ride bikes, drive lawn mowers, drive tractors, work on small engines and solder electronics. The five contests are Bicycle, Small Engines,

Electricity, Lawn and Garden Tractor and Tractor. This years overall winner was Preston Miller, who will represent FFA in the State 4-H Tractor Event.



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## Summer School Hands on Learning

Master Gardeners and UME Home Horticulture Agent, Ashley Bodkins, have been busy at summer school sessions at Grantsville Elementary, Southern Middle, and Route 40 Elementary. Hands-on learning activities have included building raised beds, planting seeds for fall, pollinator education, and an ecosystem study with an emphasis on birds and toads.





### **Buckwheat: Pollinator Friend and More**

Buckwheat flowers. Where I grew up, we did not have a county fair, but instead a "Buckwheat Festival" which celebrated buckwheat pancakes. I've often heard stories about "old timers" planting buckwheat because it could thrive in poor soils. Buckwheat is not as well known or common as it was several years ago; however, it does have the...

📄 [marylandgrows.umd.edu](http://marylandgrows.umd.edu)

## **Make Your Fresh Finds Last**

Fresh fruits and vegetables grown in and around Maryland are available from Spring through Fall at your community farmers' market, farm stand, and grocery store. Not sure what's available and when? Check out the chart from the [Fat Smart Blog](#)



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## MDA Reverses Decision on Nutrient Management Planning



After an announcement on June 1st to discontinue funding University of Maryland to write nutrient management plans, MDA reversed that decision and has agreed to fund University of Maryland Extension to continue writing plans for farmers. Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary, Kevin Atticks, made the announcement at the Nutrient Management Plan Writing Summit held on July 17th in Annapolis.

While many details have to be worked out, University of Maryland Extension will take over the Nutrient Management program from the Department of Environmental Science and Technology at University of Maryland on September 1st. Previous employees are awaiting details but it is anticipated most will be rehired. The Secretary is planning to evolve the nutrient management plan model through industry input to adapt to modern farming practices and operations. The Secretary also announced the formation of a new 30-member Farmer Taskforce, convening in August to provide guidance to MDA and UMD regarding ways to improve the nutrient management plan to be more practical for farmers to implement.

If University of Maryland has written your plan in the past, contact our UME-Garrett County office after September 1st to get on the schedule to have a plan written for 2024.

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## FREE Tech Support Available



Marylanders Online Call Center provides **FREE one-on-one tech support** to any Maryland resident who needs help. This Call Center operates in conjunction with the University of Maryland Extension (UME)'s projects that bolster digital literacy and digital inclusion in Maryland.

Call **866-206-8467** for the following FREE services:

- Digital device support for any hardware and/or software-related issues.
- Assistance in getting connected with the internet.
- Support on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) application and enrollment.
- Tech support in English, Spanish, and other languages upon request.

### Operating Hours

- Monday -Friday- 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
- Saturday- 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

In addition to these online services, we also provide extra in-person support that includes but not limited to connecting clients with local organizations for digital literacy skills classes, digital device programs, and much more. Contact Shelita Jackson at [sjack111@umd.edu](mailto:sjack111@umd.edu) for more information.

<https://marylandersonline.umd.edu/get-help/guided-learning/contact-navigator>

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## Home Energy Workshop

The University of Maryland Extension is hosting FREE Home Energy Workshops across the state! Register for a workshop near you to discover practical, cost-effective, and innovative strategies to improve your home energy performance or design a solar power system that will meet your needs. Extension Specialists and industry representatives will provide valuable information to help you improve your home's energy-efficiency and determine if solar will work for you.

Are you thinking about a home improvement project to reduce your energy bills? Have you thought about going solar, but don't know if it will pay off? Have you heard about heat pumps, EVs, electrification and battery storage, but want to know more? Register and attend a workshop near you to get answers to all these questions and more!

With electricity prices rising 2 percent annually, and 18 percent of Maryland households facing a high energy burden, many residents are choosing to reduce or offset their home energy use. If you're wondering how much energy your home uses, or if you're dreading your next utility bill, then now is the time to explore energy saving opportunities for your home. Explore various financial resources, including up-and-coming incentives through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Each workshop will provide practical tips, steps, and tools to improve your energy efficiency, reduce your carbon footprint, and save money on your next utility bill. Workshops are appropriate for current and prospective homeowners, as well as renters. Participants will receive copies of Extension fact sheets and other informational resources. Locally, the in-person workshops will be offered at the Ruth Enlow Library (Oakland Branch on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.



# Home Energy Workshop

## Slash Your Energy Bills

Join a **FREE** workshop to learn how to save money on home energy

### Are you curious about...?

- Heating & Cooling**  
Should I switch to a heat pump?
- Sustainable Design**  
Are new windows worth the cost?
- Lighting & Electronics**  
Do I need a new appliance?
- Incentives & Financing**  
When are IRA incentives available?
- Solar, Batteries & EVs**  
Will solar work at my house?

### JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS

<b>Easton, MD</b> Talbot Co. Community Center	MON, AUG 7 5:30–7:30 pm
<b>Frederick, MD</b> C. Burr Artz Public Library	THU, SEP 7 5:30–7:30 pm
<b>Oakland, MD</b> Ruth Enlow Library (Oakland)	WED, OCT 4 5:30–7:30 pm
<b>Hagerstown, MD</b> Main Hagerstown Library	WED, NOV 8 5:30–7:30 pm
<b>Allegany, MD</b> LaVale Library	TUE, DEC 5 5:30–7:30 pm

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION MARYLAND ENERGY INSTITUTE

Register at:  
**[go.umd.edu/HomeEnergy](https://go.umd.edu/HomeEnergy)**

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## Be Heard



This survey tool is open to collect the unique experiences of those living, visiting, working, and/or raising a family in Garrett County: <https://tripetto.app/run/F02RWK509Z>

## Keeping Connected

We are here to serve you in person, by phone, email, or by video conferencing. If you have questions, contact one of our experts to provide solutions.

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**Roberta Cvetnick**

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters