



Frederick County Office

Dairy News

January 2008

The Maryland Dairy Convention

The Maryland Dairy Convention is just around the corner and promises something for everyone from dairy farmers and industry supporters to youth. Themed "Managing Today's Risks and Planning for the Future," the meeting is set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Lynfield Event Complex near Frederick. The meeting is the tenth event hosted by the Maryland Dairy Industry Association and the second in which MDIA has joined forces with the Maryland Dairy Shrine for a combined day and evening program.

Agriculture economist David Kohl headlines the event, just as he did at the first meeting a decade ago. Dr. Kohl will discuss risk management for more profitable dairying in the morning and positioning the business for the future in the afternoon. Also during the daytime meeting, attendees will be updated on how milk checkoff dollars are working for them, hear about an innovative insurance program for dairy farmers and learn about the latest in the area of workman's compensation and electric deregulation and buying pools.

For youth, the convention promises a day of fun and education. Juniors can test their knowledge during a junior dairyman contest in the morning followed by an afternoon extemporaneous speaking workshop and contest as well as a dairy relations workshop. Cash prizes will be awarded for the junior dairyman and speaking contests.

The afternoon tour will be to Mike and Heather Iager's Bulldog Holsteins, and the evening dinner and program will highlight Maryland Dairy Shrine industry honorees. Live and silent auctions will benefit industry and youth efforts. For more information or to sponsor the event, call Laurie Savage at 301-349-0750 or e-mail secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org.

Mid-Maryland Dairy Veterinarians 12th Annual Client Appreciation Day and Management Symposium

Mid-Maryland Dairy Veterinarians will hold their 12th Annual Client Appreciation Day and Management Symposium on Thursday, January 31st at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center on

Sharpsburg Pike (Route 65), 5 miles south of Interstate 70. The trade show and exhibits open at 9:00 a.m. and the speaker begins at 10:00 a.m. Dan McFarland, nationally recognized agriculture engineer with Penn State Cooperative Extension will discuss facilities, design, cow comfort, and ventilation, as they relate to preventative herd health. The lunch will be served by Martin's Catering with door prizes to follow. For more information and to register, call the Mid-Maryland Dairy Veterinarians' office at 1-800-834-2671. **Please RSVP by January 17.** Mid-Maryland Dairy Veterinarians is a seven member team specializing in bovine herd health and embryo transfer, practicing in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Maryland Organic Grain & Forage Workshop

will be held February 25th at the Libertytown Volunteer Fire Company from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Frederick County has several organic dairy farms and many other organic operations and organic grain and forages are needed in the area. The goal of these workshops is to increase management expertise among organic farmers, maximize the conservation benefits of organic farming, and explore marketing and infrastructure development opportunities for Maryland organic grain and forage farmers. The day will consist of several speakers who will talk about sustainable agriculture, transitioning to organic practices, marketing, and other issues, lunch, and a discussion panel in the afternoon with farmers who have successfully made the transition to organic. For more information contact: Jenny Rhodes, Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources, 410-758-0166, or jrhodes@umd.edu.

Central Maryland Forage Conference

The Central Maryland Forage Conference will be held on February 28, 2008 at the Ag Center in Westminster. Martin Hall, Penn State Forage Agronomist will be the keynote speaker. Call the Carroll County Extension office at 410-386-2760 or 888-326-9645 to register or for more information.

National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations Certification Program Training

A tractor and machinery safety training program for youth 14-15 years of age will be held again this winter. This program is a joint effort of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick County Farm Bureau, and the local tractor dealers. The program will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on eight consecutive Monday evenings January 28 to March 17. March 24 is reserved as a snow day or will be used for the written exam date. There is a \$25 dollar registration fee and the registration deadline is January 14th.

This training program will enable young workers to obtain Hazardous Occupation Order in Agriculture (HOOA) certification, which is required for youth 14 and 15 years of age who wish to work as a hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian, and operate a farm tractor that is 20 hp or greater. It is highly recommended that ALL farm and equipment operating youth attend this program even if they will only be working for a parent.

To register, and for additional information, contact the Frederick County Office of Maryland Cooperative Extension at 301-600-3576. A parent/guardian consent form will need to be completed with registration. This program is open to any youth interested in becoming certified for production agriculture employment, and participants need not be residents of Frederick County.

Carcass and Cattle Evaluation Contest

The Mid-Atlantic Carcass Contest and Live Market Cattle Evaluation Contest have been announced. The Carcass contest will include Junior, Adult and Grass Fed divisions. These contests were created to help educate producers and youth about beef quality.

The committee's goal for the Carcass Contest is to provide an opportunity of producers and youth to receive comprehensive carcass data about their cattle. From this information, producers and youth can determine how effective their management practices, from genetic selection to nutrition, have been in improving beef quality.

The committee's goal of the Evaluation Contest is to provide an opportunity for producers and youth to learn about live cattle appearance and subsequent carcass quality. This contest will also provide good experience for people who want to judge steer shows in the future. This is a rare opportunity for producers and youth to evaluate live finished cattle and then subsequently receive the actual carcass data.

Complete rules, entry forms and information for both contests can be found online at www.beef.umd.edu.

Frederick County Winter Wednesday Lecture Series

You are invited to participate in any or all of the upcoming lectures to be held on three Wednesday mornings in February. The lectures will be held on February 13, 20, & 27 from 10 am to 12 pm in our large conference room at the Frederick County Cooperative Extension office located at 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick.

Participation in any or all of the lectures is free, but we do ask that you let us know that you are coming by calling us at 301-600-3576, or by emailing Wilma Holdway at wholdway@umd.edu.

Lecture 1: February 13

“Update on Weed Control in Field and Forage Crops”

Dr. Ron Ritter, Weed Control Specialist
Maryland Cooperative Extension

Discussion will focus on the control and management of problem weeds and a review of new herbicides and label changes to existing herbicides. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions. **Note: This lecture will count as 2-hours credit towards Private Applicator (Pesticide) recertification.**

Lecture 2: February 20

“Update on Diseases in Field Crops”

Dr. Arv Grybauskas, Field Crop Diseases Specialist,
Maryland Cooperative Extension

Discussion will focus on the control and management of diseases of concern in field crops produced in the region; this will include the most current information available on the status of soybean rust in the country. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions.

Lecture 3: Feb. 27 - “Update of Field Crop Production”

Dr. Bob Kratochvil,
Agronomic Crop Production Specialist

Discussion will include high population corn, nitrogen applications on wheat and corn, silage vs. grain corn, varietal differences in field corn digestibility, and more. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions. **Note: This lecture will count as 2-hours credit towards both Nutrient Applicator Voucher and Certified Consultant/Farmer Permits.**

New I-9 Form Required

As of Dec. 26, 2007 employers needed to start using a new Employment Eligibility and Verification (I-9) form for new hires. The new form could actually benefit employers because it has an updated and presumably more reliable list of documents for verifying the identification of workers and their authorization to work in the United States. Go to www.uscis.gov and click on the “immigration forms” button.

Source: Dairy Alert 12/18/07

Maryland's Nutrient Management Law

There are certain steps that farmers must take in order to comply with Maryland's Nutrient Management law:

- Step 1 – Get a Nutrient Management Plan
- Step 2 – Keep plan current
- Step 3 – Maintain accurate records
- Step 4 – Implement the plan
- Step 5 – Keep applicator vouchers up-to-date
- Step 6 – File an Annual Implementation Report

Frederick County advisors are available to write or update plans for all Frederick County farmers except

those who are farmer certified. There is NO charge for this service. The following information is needed to complete a plan: current crop rotation, current soil test results (collected since Fall 2005), inventory of animals, manure analyses, and field histories.

For any questions regarding your nutrient management plan contact Patty Burdette at 301-600-3571 or Denny Remsburg at 301-600-3584.

Upcoming Programs

National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations Certification Program Training

Mondays - January 28 - March 24 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mid-MD Dairy Veterinarians 12th Annual Client Appreciation Day & Management Symposium

January 31 – 9:00 a.m.

Frederick County Winter Wednesday Lecture Series

February 13, 20, and 27 – 10:00 a.m. - Noon

The Maryland Dairy Convention

February 16 – 8:30 a.m.

The Central Maryland Forage Conference

February 28

Private Pesticide Applicator Training & Recertification

March 5, 2008 - 10:00 a.m. – Noon – Training

1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Recertification

March 12th 10:00 a.m. - Exam

Nutrient Management Certified Consultants/Farmers Recertification

March 26 - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training & Recertification

April 2 – 10:00 a.m. - Noon or 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Basics of Farming, Part II Short Course

(6 classes)

April 2 – May 7 - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Beginning a Successful Small Farm Course

Sept. 4 – Oct. 9 - (6 classes) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Carcass Contest

Farmers Livestock Exchange (FLE), Winchester, VA
October 11

Nutrient Management Farmer Training Certification

Oct. 21 – Nov. 12 - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (7 classes)

Private Pesticide Applicator Training & Recertification

November 5 -10 a.m. – Noon – Training

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. – Recertification -Exam Nov. 12th , 10 a.m.

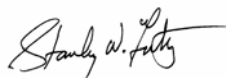
MD Small Farm Cooperative's Farmer Education Day

November 8 - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Central Maryland Forage Conference

February 28 – 8:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

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