

Newsletter

Winter 2012

We are MOVING . . . AGAIN!

We are scheduled to move back to our 330 Montevue Lane building on March 1 and 2. As of the writing of this article, the basement, second and third floors are practically finished and work is well underway on the first floor. We are especially pleased that the poles have been removed from BOTH of the first floor conference rooms during this renovation project that had the main objective of replacing the HVAC system. Other improvements to the building during the project included the installation of on-demand hot water at all faucets, new paint, new floor coverings, and new ceilings throughout. They also removed and built a few walls to make the use of the building more practical. Nearly all the work was done by the county's maintenance department employees instead of private contractors, thus saving significant county funds and getting the task completed ahead of schedule. We look forward to serving the Frederick County community from these improved facilities for many years to come.

Future Harvest's 13th Annual Conference is scheduled for January 13-14. The theme this year is "Farm to Institution: Making Local Food Economics a Reality." Many of our Frederick County farms, including dairy farms, have side enterprises that would benefit from attending this conference. The conference will be held just to our south at the National Conference Center near Leesburg, VA. The two days are packed with over 35 seminars, panel discussions, and workshops ranging from "Accounting and Tax Planning" to "Weed and Forbs". For complete conference details including registration information, go to www.futureharvestcasa.org or call 410-549-7878.

National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations Certification Program Training

A tractor and machinery safety training program for youth 14-15 years of age has been planned for Frederick County. The program is a joint effort of the Frederick County Office of University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County Farm Bureau, and the local tractor dealers. The program will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on nine consecutive Monday evenings January 23rd to March 19th. The skills test will be administered March 24th. There is a \$25 dollar registration fee and the registration deadline is January 9th.

This training program will enable young workers to obtain Hazardous Occupation Order in Agriculture 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.

The program will provide attendees with the necessary 24 hours of instruction, including group discussion, demonstrations, field trips, hands-on activities, independent study, and field assignments. Although the target audience is 14 and 15-year-olds, it is available to anyone over the age of 12. However, only individuals 14 and older will be able to operate the equipment and become certified. Individuals over 15 are also encouraged to attend, as are adults who are new tractor operators. Preference, however, will be given to the target age range.

To register or to obtain additional information, contact the Frederick County Office of University of Maryland Extension at 301-600-3576. A parent/guardian consent form will need to be completed with registration.

USDA Disaster Designation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved 2011 disaster designations in Maryland for the counties of Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester.

Benefits are also available for the contiguous counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Harford and Prince George's.

Benefits are also available for designated contiguous counties in the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Producers in both primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans (EM) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE was approved as part of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 and was implemented beginning on January 4, 2010.

Regarding EM loans, FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability. Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with additional information:
<http://fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=md&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

USDA \$1.25 billion settlement

A \$1.25 billion settlement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was recently approved by the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. The settlement will pay cash and provide USDA loan forgiveness to those who qualify. It applies to African Americans who farmed or attempted to farm and who experienced farm loan discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 1996. Those included

must also have filed a request to participate in the original *Pigford* case, also known as the Black Farmer case, but not have had their claims heard because they were filed after the original claim deadline in that case. Heirs or kin of people who fit this description, but have since passed away, may also be included.

The deadline for filing claims under this settlement is May 11, 2012. Lawyers appointed by the court will be holding meetings around the country to provide information and claims-filing assistance for free. For more information about the meetings, the lawsuit, the settlement, what benefits are available, who is eligible, and how to file a claim, call 1-877-810-8110 or visit www.BlackFarmerCase.com.

Central Maryland Agronomy Day

Details were still being finalized at print time, but make plans to join us at the Urbana Fire hall on February 29th for updates on weeds, insects, diseases, nutrient management and other agronomy-related topics. Nutrient management and pesticide applicator credits should be available. A nominal fee may be charged to help offset the lunch cost. Call 301-600-3576 before February 19th to register.

Maryland Hay and Pasture Conference

Presentations at a series of three Hay and Pastures Conferences in Maryland and Delaware will challenge you to think about your farming operation and how forages can be part of your future.

These conferences will be held at three locations in Delaware and Maryland:

- **Delmarva Hay & Pasture Mini-Conference**, January 16, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE
- **Delmarva Hay & Pasture Conference**, January 17, Delaware State Fairgrounds
- **Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference**, January 18, Izaak Walton League Outdoor Education Center, Waldorf, MD

- **Tri-State (Md., Pa., and W. Va.) Hay & Pasture Conference**, January 19, Garrett College, McHenry, MD

A variety of topics and speakers will round out the programs at each location. Certified crop advisor and pesticide and nutrient management certification credits will be offered.

There is no registration fee for the Delmarva conference and lunch will be available on site for purchase.

Registration fee for the Southern Maryland conference will be \$15 per person by January 13 and \$20 after the 13th. Checks should be made payable to University of Maryland and sent to Hay & Pasture Conference, University of Maryland Extension, PO Box 663, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (phone: 301-475-4484).

Registration for the Tri-State conference will also be \$15 per person by January 13 and \$20 after the 13th. Checks should be made payable to Garrett EAC and sent to Hay & Pasture Conference, University of Maryland Extension, 1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A, Mtn. Lake Park, MD 21550 (phone: 301-334-6960).

For more information or to obtain the complete program agenda and registration materials, contact your office or go to www.mdforages.umd.edu/UpcomingEvents.htm

Maryland Dairy Convention

The 2012 Maryland Dairy Convention will be held on Saturday February 25 at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Registration and exhibits open at 8:30 with the program kicking off at 9:30. Paul Rapnicki, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, will be our keynote speaker addressing the topic of Managing Animal Patterns for Improved Cow Comfort and Profitability. Other topics include OSHA inspection of dairy farms, farm vehicle tags and licensing, dairy policy and pricing, the expanded FDA milk testing for antibiotic residues, animal traceability, euthanasia for dairy animals and improving meat quality. A separate youth program is scheduled for the day so plan to

come as a family. The Maryland Dairy Industry Association will hold a very brief annual meeting which will include the awarding of the Dairy of Distinction Awards and the presentations of the youth scholarships.

The evening banquet will once again feature the announcement and recognition of the new Maryland Dairy Shrine inductees and a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the scholarship programs of the various breed organizations, Dairy Shrine and MDIA.

For registration, exhibitor information, or other questions, contact Laurie Savage at secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org or call 301-349-0750.

Milkers' Schools

Use of consistent milking practices that emphasize teat cleanliness, udder massage and rapid milking is one of the most important jobs on your dairy farm. Consistency of milking affects cow well-being, mastitis risk and milking speed. It is often hard to keep milkers engaged in the milking process and usually requires refresher training of why each step is important. Consistent use of standardized milking practices such as predipping, forestripping, drying teats with a single-use towel, unit alignment, and rapid unit attaching and detaching at the right time are essential to quality milk production. This workshop will reinforce best milking practices.

Dates are January 31 and February 16. Although this program is targeted to the folks that are milking the cows, herdsmen and herd owners are encouraged to attend with the milkers to allow cooperative learning. Workshops will be held at the Public Safety Training Facility. Workshops are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Choose one of the two dates to attend as the material will be the same at each session.

The cost is \$15.00 per person. Registration fee will include lunch and reference materials. The registration deadline is one week prior to the school. Call 301-600-3576 with questions or to receive the registration form.

What is DAIReXNET?

DAIReXNET is a national, extension-driven web resource designed to meet the educational and decision-making needs of dairy producers, allied industry partners, extension educators and consumers. It is just one of the ever expanding resource areas of eXtension. You can find us on the web at www.extension.org and click on Farm then click on Dairy

Dairy Webinars

DAIReXNET and The National Association of County Agricultural Agents will be hosting a series of dairy-related webinars throughout 2012. If you have high speed internet service at home, you can participate directly. For those without high speed service, we will have live links at the Extension Office. Each webinar is scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm and will last about one hour. Call 301-600-3576 to reserve a seat. There will be no charges for the webinars, but we will need a head count so we have the appropriate room reserved for each session.

Participants are welcome to stay after the webinar to participate in an open discussion of the day's topic. January and February sessions will be held at the Public Safety Training Facility. The remaining will be held at the 330 Montevue Lane building.

Lameness, Hoof, and Leg Issues in Dairy Cattle
Dr. Ernest Hovingh
January 12, 2012

Animal Welfare Certification Options
Dr. Jim Reynolds
February 8, 2012

Strategies to Improve Reproduction During
Summer Heat Stress
Dr. Todd Bilby
March 5, 2012

Nutrition Programs for the Heat Stressed Herd
Dr. Jose Santos
March 19, 2012

Economics of Heat Stress: Implications for
Management
Dr. Albert DeVries

April 9, 2012

Cooling Strategies During Heat Stress
Dr. Pete Hansen
April 23, 2012

Dairy Science News

Regrouping During Dry Period Can Affect Behavior

A recent study determined the effect of regrouping during the dry period on feeding, social, rumination, and lying behavior for cows that were moved to a new pen and cows that remained in their home pen but had new cows introduced. Cows that were moved to a new pen after regrouping decreased dry matter intake by approximately 9% on the day of regrouping, but cows that remained in their home pen showed no significant decrease in intake after regrouping. Feeding rate decreased in both treatments by 10% after regrouping. Rumination times also decreased by approximately 9% in both treatments, reaching the lowest values on the day of regrouping for cows that stayed in the home pen and on the day after regrouping for the moved cows. Cows that were moved to a new pen displaced other cows at the feeder twice as frequently after regrouping, but no such effect of regrouping on cows that stayed in the home pen was observed. These results indicated that regrouping can affect behavior of prepartum dairy cows, especially those cows that are moved to a new pen.

Source: J. of Dairy Science, Vol 94, Issue 5, pages 2312-2319, May 2011

2012 Sheep and Goat Webinar Series

A series of webinars will be held on consecutive Thursday nights in January and February 2012. The webinars will focus on the feeding and nutrition of sheep and goats.

January 12 - Digestive physiology
January 19 - Nutrients
January 26 - Feedstuffs
February 2 - Nutritional management
February 9 - Rational balancing
February 16 - Nutritional disorders

Each webinar will begin at 7:30 p.m. EST and last for approximately one hour. An hour of questions and answers will follow. Topics may overlap more than one webinar. University of Maryland Extension Specialists and Educators will be the instructors for the webinars.

Anyone with an internet connection may participate in the webinars. High speed access is recommended. The first 100 people who log onto <https://connect.moo.umd.edu/sschoen/> will be able to participate. All webinars will be recorded and available for later viewing at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/recordings.html>.

Even though pre-registration is not required, those who plan to participate should contact Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu, so that they can be added to the webinar e-mail reflector list. People who registered for last year's webinars should already be on the list and receive e-mail notification of the 2012 webinar series. A flyer for the webinars can be downloaded from <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/2012webinars.pdf>.

Annie's Project

This program is designed to empower farm women to manage information systems used in critical decision-making processes and to build local networks throughout the state. The target audience is farm women with a passion for business and involvement in the farm operation.

Project Topics cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Market, Financial, Legal Risk, Human Resources.

Weekly classes will be held from 1/25/12 – 3/28/12 at both Queen Anne's County and Washington County Extension Offices.

Cost of Annie's Project is \$75.00.

There is an additional \$100.00 fee for FSA Borrower Training attendees. This includes evening meals and all class materials. For registration information contact Jenny Rhodes jrhodes@umd.edu 410-758-0166 or visit the website at www.anniesproject.umd.edu.

FCC to Host AG Conference

Frederick Community College, in cooperation with University of Maryland Extension and the other organizations serving the agricultural community of Frederick County, will be hosting Growing Frederick County Agriculture, Strategies for Economic Viability Conference on Saturday, March 10th. The conference will be held in the FCC Classroom/Student Center. A complete description of the program and registration materials are enclosed for your convenience.

Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:30 – 3:30

(Snow date: February 18, 2012)

University of Maryland Extension—Carroll Co. & Carroll County Agriculture Center
700 Agriculture Center Dr., Westminster, MD
The expo will feature educational seminars on poultry nutrition, disease prevention and control, chicken breeds, egg and meat production basics, housing, pasturing, feeding and watering systems, regulations and ordinances, organic production, litter and mortality composting, breeding and egg incubation, turkey production, brooding chicks, poultry in diversified livestock operations, exotics, egg grading and handling, marketing and economics, urban poultry, and protecting your flock. Vendors will be available with live poultry and poultry related items.

Adults: \$10 pre-registration fee, \$20 at the door
Youth 10-18: \$5 pre-registration, \$10 at the door
Children under 10: Free 4-H Members or Volunteers admitted free (must pre-register and show 4-H membership card at the door). For additional information, call (410) 386-2760 or visit the web site at <http://carroll.umd.edu/ag/poultry.cfm>

2012 Dates to Remember

Future Harvest's Annual Conference

January 13 – 14

National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations Certification Program

January 23 – March 12 (Monday evenings)

Central Maryland Agronomy Day

February 29

Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Poultry Expo

February 4

Maryland Dairy Convention

February 25

Milkers' School

Jan 31 and Feb 16, 10 am to 2 pm

Dairy Webinars

January 12, February 8, March 5 and 19, April 9 and 23 at 1 pm

Sheep and Goat Webinars

January 12, 19, and 26, February 2, 9, and 16 at 7:30 pm

Annie's Project

January 25 – March 28 (weekly classes)

FCC Agriculture Conference

March 10, 8 am to 3 pm

Private Applicator Training

March 7, 10 am to 12 noon

Exam March 14 (10 am)

Private Applicator Recertification

March 7, 1 pm to 3 pm

Certified NM Consultants/Farmers Recertification Meeting

March 21, 9 am to 1 pm

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Applicator Training/Recertification

March 27, 10 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 3 pm

Beginning a Successful Small Farm Short Course, Part I

April 4 – May 9, 11 am to 1 pm (6 classes)

Beginning a Successful Small Farm Short Course, Part II

September 5 – October 10, 6 pm to 9 pm (6 classes)

Farmer Nutrient Management Training

October 16 – November 5 (7 classes)

Nutrient Voucher Training and Recertification

November 14, 10 am – 12 noon, and 1 pm to 4 pm

Updating Mailing List

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We currently have over 700 people on our general ag mailing list. This is the same list that we have used over the past eight months to distribute the *Agronomy News*. We were very fortunate to receive funding from the Maryland Grain Producers' Utilization Board and the Maryland Soybean Board to help defray the cost of production and distribution of *Agronomy News*.

All other mailings throughout the year come out of our county postage budget. We need your help. We will continue to distribute a hard copy newsletter as long as we have sufficient funds to do so, but if you would rather receive an electronic copy only or if you no longer are engaged in agriculture and really have no interest in receiving this material, we'd love to know so we can make the necessary changes.

We'd also like to know if you have a relative, friend, neighbor or even an enemy who could benefit from receiving our materials. Below is a form to make any necessary changes. It can be mailed, faxed or emailed to us. Thanks for your continued interest in the University of Maryland Extension programs and services.

If you are happy with receipt of the newsletter as it is, you do not need to do anything. Your name and address will remain on the list, and we will continue to respect your privacy by NOT sharing that information with anyone.

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
Phone _____ Cell phone* _____

____ I am no longer involved in agriculture and have no interest in continuing to receive agriculture-related material from your office. Please drop me from your mailing list.

____ Please change the name on our address to _____.

____ I'd like to receive only the electronic copy of the newsletters.

____ *I'd like for you to send me AG ALERTS by way of text messages to my cell phone for issues such as insect or disease outbreaks. Provide cell number above.

____ I would like for you to send me AG EMAIL ALERTS to inform me of time-sensitive issues and/or programs facing the agriculture community. Provide email address above.

____ Please add the following new people to your mailing list. Feel free to add pages if needed.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____

Return completed form to:

University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County Office, Ag Dept.

5370 Public Safety Place, Frederick, MD 21704.

FAX: 301-600-1588

Email: smarouli@umd.edu

University of Maryland Extension
330 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

For more information, contact Terry Poole at tepoole@umd.edu or call 301-600-3577.

Family & Consumer Science

For more information, contact Linda Smith at lsmith@umd.edu or call 301-600-1599.

4-H Youth Development

For more information, contact Jennie Schiazzi at schiazzi@umd.edu or call 301-600-1589.

Master Gardener Program

For more information, contact Susan Trice at strice@umd.edu or call 301-600-1596.

Nutrient Management

For more information, contact Patty Burdette at burdette@umd.edu or call 301-600-3571.

As always, I can be reached via email at sfultz@umd.edu or by phone at 301-600-3578.

Stanley W Fultz
Extension Agent, Dairy Science

