

Mountain Top Ag News

Tri State Hay & Pasture Conference Jan. 11

The Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at the Garrett College CTTC building at 116 Industrial Drive in Accident, Maryland.

The Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference brings regional experts in grassland management to Garrett County, Maryland and the surrounding counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

This year's Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference will feature Doug Peterson, Missouri Rancher and Iowa & Missouri Regional Soil Health Specialist with the Soil Health Division of USDA-NRCS out of Des Moines, IA. Doug will present two topics: "Cattle's Impact on Soil Health -- Degrading or Beneficial?" and "Healing the Land with High Density Grazing".

Ed Rayburn, WVU Forage Specialist will also present two topics: "Timing and Intensity of Harvest Relative to Plant Health" and "Measuring and Managing Pasture Yield and Nutritional Quality".

Matt Morris with University of Maryland Extension in Frederick County will cover "Weed Control in Forages".

Bruce Loyd with WVU Extension in Lewis County will discuss "Invasive Annual Grasses".

Participants will receive nutrient management credits in WV and MD, plus Private Applicator Pesticide Credits in WV, MD and PA.

Conference Agenda:

8:30 Registration

8:50 Welcome

9:00 **Cattle's Impact on Soil Health -- Degrading or Beneficial?**

Presenter: Doug Peterson, Missouri Rancher and Iowa & Missouri Regional Soil Health Specialist, Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS, Des Moines, IA

10:00 **Timing and Intensity of Harvest Relative to Plant Health**

Presenter: Ed Rayburn, WVU Forage Specialist

10:45 Break

11:00 **Healing the Land with High Density Grazing**

Presenter: Doug Peterson, USDA-NRCS

12:00 Lunch

12:45 **Greetings from the American Forage and Grassland Council**

Presenter: Les Vough, President of MDFC and Forage Crops Extension Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland

1:00 **Measuring and Managing Pasture Yield and Nutritional Quality**

Presenter: Ed Rayburn, WVU Forage Specialist

2:00 **Weed Control In Forages**

Presenter: Matthew Morris, University of Maryland, Frederick County

2:45 **Invasive Annual Grasses**

Presenter: Bruce Loyd, WVU-Lewis County Extension Agent

3:30 **Pesticide Safety Update**

Presenter: Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension, Garrett County

4:00 Adjourn

To Register:

Call the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960 or you can register and pay online at <https://tinyurl.com/2018Hay> If pre-registered by Monday, Jan 8th, the cost is \$15 which includes lunch and can be paid at the door. Walk in and registrations after Jan 8th will be \$20.



Farm Transition and Estate Planning Workshop 1/23

Winter is a great time to think about starting to develop a plan for transitioning your farm to the next generation.

University of Maryland Extension along with the University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative will be offering a one-day workshop on estate planning and business transition for farm and forest owners.

The workshop will be held January 23 at Garrett College in McHenry in Room 111 of the GIEC, Continuing Education and Workforce Development building, from 9:00am to 2:30pm.

Pesticide Private Applicator Test

A review session will be held on Monday, Jan 15th from 6pm - 9pm for the Maryland Private Applicator Pesticide License exam at the Extension office in Oakland. The Private Applicator license is required by farmers who apply restricted use pesticides. The review session will cover all aspects of pesticide use and safety to help participants prepare for the required exam. The Extension office also has Pesticide Applicator Manuals available for \$7. An exam will be scheduled in Garrett County later this winter. Questions or to register please call 301-334-6960.

Topics will include: "Developing a Successful Succession Plan" by Dave Ivey of Nationwide Insurance, "Business Planning in Farm Succession Planning" by Dale Johnson with University of Maryland Extension, "Estate Planning for Forested Landowners" by Craig Highfield with the Alliance for the Bay, and "Estate Planning and Tax Basics" by Paul Goeringer with the University of Maryland, Law Education Initiative.

The program is free of charge and lunch will be provided. To register call the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Maryland Dairy Convention February 9

"Staying Viable in the 21st Century" is the theme of the Maryland Dairy Convention set for Friday, Feb. 9, at the Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center (former FSK Holiday Inn) in Frederick, Md. All dairy farmers, supporters and industry people from all over are invited to attend an exciting day program hosted by the Maryland Dairy Industry Association and evening event hosted by the Maryland Dairy Shrine.

The event begins with registration and trade show at 8:30 a.m. and program at 9:20 a.m. The meeting features John Newton of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who will give a dairy market outlook and policy update during the morning. In the afternoon, Cindy Weimer of the American Dairy Association Northeast will address preparing the farm for animal activism. Two breakout sessions take an in-depth look at topics of concern to today's dairy producers, including farm finances, controlling feed costs and mitigating negative effects of heat stress.

During the day program, MDIA will recognize Dairies of Distinction. An on-farm processor panel discussion will highlight the afternoon. The Maryland Dairy Shrine will host the evening banquet, starting at 6:30 p.m. with social time and silent auction. Shining stars of the industry will be inducted into the shrine, while outstanding students will be awarded scholarships.

For more information on the convention, call 301-349-0750, e-mail secretary@marylanddairyindustry.org or visit www.marylanddairyindustry.org. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maryland-dairy-convention-tickets-39298724543> or search Maryland Dairy Convention on Eventbrite to purchase tickets online with credit card.

Attendees requesting vegetarian meals should call ahead. Exhibit space and sponsorships are available.

AGENDA:

8:30-9:20 a.m.

Registration/Trade Show/Silent Auction/Dairy Treats

9:20-9:30 a.m. Welcome and Overview of the Day, Jeff Semler, University of Maryland Extension, Washington County

9:30-10:15 a.m. Dairy Market Outlook and Policy Update, John Newton, American Farm Bureau, Washington, D.C.

10:20-11 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Session A: Your Farm Finances: Analyzing Your Past-Projecting Your Future, Dale Johnson, Western MD Research and Education Center, Keedysville

Session B: How to Control Feed Costs on Your Dairy Farm, Normand St. Pierre, Perdue AgriBusiness Animal Nutrition, Salisbury

Session C: Nutritional Strategies to Mitigate Negative Effects of Heat Stress, Robert Rhoads, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

11-11:35 a.m. Break/Visit Trade Show/Silent Auction Bidding

11:35 -11:50 a.m. Dairy of Distinction Awards and Scholarship Presentations

11:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m. MDIA Business Meeting, Election of Directors, President, Diane Flickinger, Flickstead Farm, Union Bridge, MD

12:15-1:15 p.m. Lunch/Visit Trade Show/Silent Auction Bidding

1:15-1:55 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Repeat Morning Sessions A, B, & C)

2-2:15 p.m. American Dairy Association Northeast Update, Cindy Weimer,

American Dairy Association Northeast

2:15-2:45 p.m. Preparing Your Farm for Animal Activism, Cindy Weimer, American Dairy Association Northeast

2:45 p.m. Adjourn

3-4:30 p.m. Panel: Considerations in Value-Added Opportunities

Moderators: Dale Johnson and Jeff Semler, UMD Extension

Panel Members: Chuck Fry, Rocky Point Creamery, Tuscarora; Mark Seibert, Clear Spring Creamery, Clear Spring; Bobby Prigel, Prigel Family Creamery, Glen Arm; Danny/Laura Holland, Chesapeake Bay Farms, Pocomoke; Kyle Shannon, Center for Milk and Dairy Product Safety, Baltimore

6:30 p.m. Reception

7-9:30 p.m. Maryland Dairy Shrine Dinner, Annual Meeting and Awards Program, Milk toast, awards, scholarships, fun auction

North Garrett FFA

Strawberries will be sold the month of February. See a member or Mrs. Yost to place an order.

Spring Plant sale will be Sat May 5 from 8am to 1pm. Ornamentals and vegetable transplants will be available.

May 19 North Garrett FFA will be hosting their first annual toy and antique tractor show at Northern High School. Admission is \$3 for anyone 13 years or older. If anyone has an antique tractor that they would like to enter in the show please contact Becky Yost. Any and all antique farm equipment is welcome. If you consign a tractor you get free admission to the toy show. Anyone interested in being a vendor at the toy show can also contact Becky Yost for details.

Contact Info for the above:

Becky.yost@garrettcountyschools.org or a member to purchase.

Maryland's Best Expo Jan 24

Buyer-Grower event connects farmers to potential customers

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's annual Maryland's Best Expo will be held on January 24, 2018 from 10am – 2pm at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in the Banquet Room in Annapolis, MD.

The meeting is designed for Maryland growers, producers, and processors interested in selling their products to buyers from grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools and other venues.

You should attend this event:

- A Maryland farmer, seafood producer, or processor interested in finding new

markets for your products (Depending on the product, it must either be grown or produced in Maryland)

- A buyer from a grocery store, restaurant, hospital, school, or other venue looking to purchase Maryland grown or produced products
- A service provider in agriculture and local food such as a county extension agent, food writer, etc.

For more information, visit MarylandsBest.net or contact Stone Slade at Maryland Department of Agriculture at stone.slade@maryland.gov or 410-841-5779.

WV Small Farms Conference

For over a decade, the WVU Extension Service Small Farm Conference has offered an authentic and inclusive view of agricultural opportunities for small farm families in the region.

Annually, the conference boasts a variety of useful topics, unique events and informative speakers across more than 140 sessions.

Save the Date:

14th Annual West Virginia Small Farm Conference

February 21–24, 2018, Morgantown Event Center and Waterfront Place Hotel. Morgantown, West Virginia

Goals for Conference:

- Unlock the potential of small farms to produce food profitably.
- Help small farms transition from commodity production to food production for community and local consumption.
- Support West Virginia's 22,000 small farm families by:
 - ◊ Providing reliable, tested knowledge about current trends, needed skills, and latest production and operation information
 - ◊ Building an understanding of how to develop a successful small farming enterprise.
- Support and further develop West Virginia's food system and local communities by encouraging local production, processing, wholesale and retail marketing, and consumption.

For information contact: Tom McConnell, Program Leader, at 304-293-2642 or Lisa Jones, Program Coordinator at 304-293-2715 or email LLagana@mail.wvu.edu

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Youth Tractor Training June 4-8

A National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation program will be held at Northern High School from June 4-8th. The training will include classroom, demonstrations and hands on operation. The training will certify 14 & 15 years old youth to operate tractors greater than 25 horsepower

PASA Annual Conference Feb 7-10

The Farming for the Future Conference is PASA's featured event, held annually in February in State College, PA. We seek to gather a diverse audience from the sustainable food system including farmers, educators, processors, advocates, and eaters – please join us! Each year we feature:

Over 100 speakers representing the best from the sustainable agriculture field and our membership.

Mid Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention has become the premier grower meeting in the Northeast combining three days of six or more concurrent educational sessions with a large industry trade show and numerous networking opportunities - all designed to enable fruit, vegetable and berry growers as well as direct marketers to stay on the cutting edge of their industries. About 2,200 persons from throughout the mid-Atlantic region and beyond will gather this year at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA on January 30th through February 1st. Registration is open to all interested commercial fruit, vegetable and berry growers, direct marketers and allied

industry personnel. For more information on the daily schedule, special events and registration, visit www.mafvc.org, email pvga@pvga.org or call 717-694-3596.

Local Ag Marketing Grants

Garrett County Economic Development offers Agriculture Marketing Grants to ag-based businesses in Garrett County.

Up to four grants of up to \$250 each may be awarded annually to fund up to 90% of the costs of each project. Grant funds can be used to aid in the promotion of agriculture-based businesses in Garrett County. Examples include signage, brochures, logo development, business cards, displays, etc.

Applications are simple and taken anytime. Funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified projects as funding allows. Once approved, the grant funds will be reimbursed to awardees with valid receipt(s) dated after grant approval.

Visit www.gcedonline.com (under agribusiness) or call 301-334-6968.

on farms other than their legal guardians according to the Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture. More details on the times of the program will be available later in the spring. If interested give the extension office a call to reserve a spot and receive additional information.

An ag-themed Future Farmers program for kids (K to Grade 8).

Special events like music, movie, yoga, knitting, and more!

Join us for an event that will send you home energized for another year of building the sustainable food system!

Visit www.PASAFarming.org for more information or to register.

A variety of sustainable farming and food system programming including full-day tracks, half-day sessions, and 80-minute workshops across the four days of the event.

Over 90 Trade Show vendors representing the broad diversity and deep expertise of our community.

Opportunities to network and socialize over receptions and meals that feature regionally-sourced ingredients.

Got Club Animals for Sale?

It's almost the time of year for 4-H and FFA members to choose their animals for exhibiting at the fair. If you have or will have animals available, please contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960 or rcvetnic@umd.edu to get on the list.

Fair Animal ID Requirements

Important!! All 4-H and FFA market animals are now required to have USDA disease traceability tags.

It will be the responsibility of the breeder/producer and the member/family to assure they have their USDA tags. This is the same requirement as has been in place for sheep and goats for many years (Scrapie tags).

Breeders may request free USDA tags by going to the MDA website: <http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/disease-traceability.aspx>

For more information, visit the website or call 410-841-5810.

Selling Farm Products to the Public?

Get a free listing on Local Food & Farms Website!!

If you are selling farm products or services to the public, you need to get listed or update your listing on www.GarrettFarms.org

Just go to the website and check the "Farms A-Z" page to see if you're already listed. If not, or if you are listed and the info needs updated, send the information to Cheryl DeBerry at: 301-334-6968, or cdeberry@garrettcounty.org

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**Economic
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Get registered
for the
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