

# Mountain Top Ag News

## Appalachia Grows: Small Farms Conference April 9

This premier small farms conference has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Garrett College in McHenry. Join us! Visit [www.AppGrows.com](http://www.AppGrows.com) or check pages 3-4 for info.

## North Garrett FFA Plant Sale Date Set

The Northern Garrett High School FFA Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You'll find a mix of annual bedding plants, baskets and vegetable transplants, including Tomatoes, Peppers, Cabbage, Marigolds, Petunias, Asters, Dwarf Sunflowers, Black-Eyed Susans, Impatiens, Snapdragons, Pansies, and lots more.

## Scholarships to be Available

Scholarship applications will be available this spring! Forms & info will be at: [extension.umd.edu/garrett-county](http://extension.umd.edu/garrett-county) Once at the site, click on "4-H/Youth" link at top, then on the left choose "4-H Clubs" then "Forms", then scroll down to the "Scholarship" section.

## Growing for a Wholesale Fresh Produce Cooperative Workshop Series Set

Garrett College, along with University of Maryland Extension and Garrett County Economic Development, will offer a workshop series to teach farmers and potential farmers best practices in growing fresh produce for sale through a wholesale produce cooperative.

The series will start with spring workshops covering production techniques. In summer, the participants will visit area farms. In the fall, the series will cover farm business planning and management.

The initial meeting for

interested participants will be held Monday, April 11 at 7:00 pm at the Garrett County Extension Office conference room.

If you are interested in participating in the workshop series, contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## Private Applicator Pesticide Training and Test

Maryland Department of Agriculture will give the Private Applicator Pesticide Licenses Exam on Tuesday, April 5th starting at 1:00 pm at the Grantsville Library.

The private applicator license allows farmers to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides to ground they own or lease.

The University of Maryland Extension Garrett County

office will offer a review session for the test on Monday, March 28th at the Grantsville Library from 6-8pm. Study materials are also available at the Garrett County UMD Extension office in Oakland.

If you would like to attend the review session or the test please register by calling the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## Mountain Fresh Farmers Market Applications Available

### ***New Application Deadline is May 1***

Anyone interested in applying to be a vendor for the Mountain Fresh Farmers Markets in Oakland will have to do so by Friday, May 1. This deadline is earlier than in previous years.

Applications are available at the Mt. Fresh website [www.MountainFresh.org](http://www.MountainFresh.org) or at the University of Maryland Extension Office at 1916

Maryland Highway in Mt. Lake Park.

If you need an application mailed to you, contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

The 2016 membership meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office.

[www.MountainFresh.org](http://www.MountainFresh.org)

## On-Farm Rabbit & Poultry Processing Certification Training April 29

Maryland Department of Agriculture will conduct a training workshop for on-farm poultry and rabbit slaughter and processing Friday, April 29, from 9 am to 4 pm at Md. Dept. of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis. The fee is \$20 and includes lunch and materials. Pre registration is required. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

To become certified for off-farm sales, producers must:

Complete the training; Pass a brief test at the training; Submit an application for certification along with a \$75 annual fee; Be inspected by Md. Dept. of Agriculture inspectors, who will conduct an inspection at least once per year to verify that producers are following food safety requirements.

To register: contact Carol Reynolds (410) 841-5769 or [carol.reynolds@maryland.gov](mailto:carol.reynolds@maryland.gov)

## Matt Lohr to Speak at Farm Bureau June 9 Picnic Meeting

Garrett County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that Matt Lohr from Farm Credit of the Virginias will be the keynote speaker at a picnic meeting on Thursday, June 9 at the Western Maryland 4-H Center (4-H Camp) near Bittering.

Fun family activities are planned, such as canoeing, ball sports, archery and shooting clays. Following the picnic, the Garrett County Miss Maryland Agriculture contest will be held.

Everyone is invited. Look for more details to come!

### More about Matt Lohr:

Matt Lohr loves living life to the fullest. Some of his many adventures include personally visiting with three U.S. Presidents, riding a bull, hiking the Grand Canyon, flying a plane, winning a new Dodge truck, teaching middle school, climbing Mt. Fuji, witnessing the amazing births of his two children Caroline and Carson, and entertaining audiences in all 50 states and eight countries around the world.

Matt developed a passion for speaking as a young FFA member and went on to serve as both state FFA president and national FFA vice president before graduating from Virginia Tech in 1995.

A fifth generation farmer, he continues to own a 250 acre beef, poultry, crop and sweet corn operation today in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

Matt has been deeply engaged in serving his community, having chaired both the Rockingham County

Planning Commission and School Board. From 2005 to 2010 he served in the Virginia State Legislature and from 2010 until 2013 he served as Virginia's 14th Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Matt currently serves as director of the Knowledge Center for Farm Credit of the Virginias where he helps connect all types of farmers with the tools and resources necessary for success. Matt's greatest joy in life is seeing his two young children develop their own passion for agriculture and watching them live with a servant's heart.



[garrett.mdfarmbureau.com/](http://garrett.mdfarmbureau.com/)

## 'Tune Up Your Corn Planter' with Farm Bureau

Garrett County Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Committee is hosting a hands on workshop, "Tune Up Your Corn Planter" at 6:00 pm on Friday, April 15th at the farm of Gary and Kate Fratz in Accident.

Chris Creek, Northeast Region Manager for Precision Planting, Inc will be on hand to provide expert advise on planter set up and modifications. Chris has been working for Precision Planting for almost two years

## Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest to be held June 9

### Farm Bureau Seeks Applicants

The Miss Maryland Agriculture Program has been a part of the Maryland State Fair since the 1930's and the contest's mission has remained the same:

"Surfacing young women with an agricultural background to serve as leaders to promote our industry and the Farm Bureau organization throughout the year and in the future."

Eligible participants include ladies between the ages of 16 and 19 who are either Garrett County Farm Bureau members or their parents are members in good standing.

The Miss selected by our local Garrett County Farm Bureau contest will participate in the three-day Miss Maryland Agriculture Orientation in order to gain knowledge and expertise to assist in competition for the title of Miss Maryland Agriculture.

During the State Fair, contestants participate in a two-day contest consisting of professional interviews, round table discussions and an on-stage contest. They are judged by out-of-state judges on their agricultural and Farm Bureau knowledge, personal presentation and speaking ability. Contestants are provided with a variety of opportunities in agriculture education, career preparation and public relations to enhance their agricultural, professional and personal lives.

The ladies are also given scholarships from the Miss Maryland Agriculture Contest to assist them as they continue to develop into leaders of our industry. Contestants give back to our community by visiting the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore, working with the Maryland Food Bank and other organizations in the state throughout the year.

The local Garrett County Farm Bureau Contest will be held at the Western Maryland 4-H Center on Thursday, June 9th.

More details and the Miss Maryland Agriculture 2016 Application is online at <http://mdfarmbureau.com/about/miss-maryland-agriculture/>

Please email any questions or the completed application to [alantz.4h@gmail.com](mailto:alantz.4h@gmail.com) or mail to Arlene Lantz, 4771 Gorman Road, Oakland, MD 21550 by May 23, 2016.

To register for the event contact the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

# Appalachia Grows Small Farms Conference Rescheduled for April 9 at Garrett College

Join us for the premier Small Farms Conference in the tri-state area! The conference features a wide variety of topics for any farmer or potential farmer. Register online: [www.AppGrows.com](http://www.AppGrows.com) or send in the registration below. Call 301-334-6960 for information.

**Agenda:**

- 8:00 - 9:15 am Registration
- 9:15 - 9:30 am Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Vendor Area Open
- 9:40 - 10:30 Session 1
- A. Hop Growth in Western Maryland; Solomon Rose, Owner, Organarchy Hops & Farm Supplies
- B. Rags to Reality: Starting a Sustainable Farm Operation and Redefining Wealth; Jeremy Swartzfager, FootPrints Farm
- C. Using High Tunnels to Increase Farm Profitability; Bryan Butler, Principal Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension

- Extension
- 10:30-10:50 am Morning Break and Refreshments
- 11:00 - 11:50 am Session 2
- A. Bramble Production as a Small Farm Enterprise; Bryan Butler, Principal Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension
- B. Designing and Constructing an Easy to Use and Inexpensive Livestock Handling Facility; Walt Bumgarner, Extension Educator, Livestock Team, Penn State Extension
- C. GAP/Food Safety Update; Justine R. Beaulieu, GAP's Educator, University of Maryland
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:10 - 2:00 pm Session 3
- A. Introduction to Vegetable Plasticulture; Dr. Bill Lamont, Vegetable Specialist, Penn State University
- B. Facts vs Fiction: Niche Marketing of Value-Added Beef in a Profitable and Sustainable Way. Is it

- possible?; Scott Barao, Executive Director, Jorgensen Family Foundation & Hedgeapple Farm
- C. Implementing a Biocontrol Program in Greenhouses and High Tunnels; Tom Ford, Commercial Horticulture Educator, Penn State Extension
- 2:10 - 3:00 pm Session 4
- A. Strawberry Production as a Small Farm Enterprise; Tom Ford, Commercial Horticulture Educator, Penn State Extension
- B. Building Soil Health: Why Does it Matter?; Nevin Dawson, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- C. Growing Grafted Tomatoes

- in High Tunnels; Willie Lantz, Extension Educator, University of Maryland Extension - Garrett County
- 3:10 - 4:00 pm Session 5
- A. Growing Leafy Greens in the Field and High Tunnels; Dr. Bill Lamont, Vegetable Specialist, Penn State University
- B. Composting and Environmental Sustainability; Dan Fiscus, Assistant Professor, Frostburg State University & Project Advisory Board Member, Frostburg Grows
- C. Fertigation Basics and the Impact of Water Quality on Greenhouse and High Tunnel Crops; Tom Ford, Commercial Horticulture Educator, Penn State Extension
- 4:00 pm - Safe Travels Home!



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm/Business Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

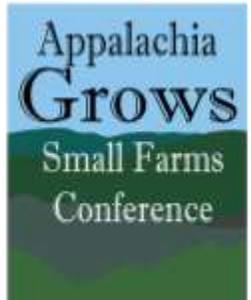
<u>First Adult</u>	<u>Additional Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ x \$20	_____ x \$15	_____ x \$10	= _____
<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>			_____

**Names of additional people attending from your Farm/Business: (list additional on back)**

Name _____	___ Adult	___ Child (age 3-10)
Name _____	___ Adult	___ Child (age 3-10)
Name _____	___ Adult	___ Child (age 3-10)
Name _____	___ Adult	___ Child (age 3-10)

Dietary Restrictions? Please List: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to: **Garrett EAC** and mail to: 1916 MD Hwy, Ste A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550 by **March 31, 2016**



## NRCS Principles of Soil Health Workshop Offered for Maryland Farmers & Conservation Partnership Staff

The Washington County Soil Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invite farmers, agricultural land managers, and Conservation Partnership Staff to a Soil Health Field Day. The workshop will focus on the Principles of Soil Health, and how soil health practices can enhance productivity, profitability, and environmental conservation of agricultural operations.

Ray 'The Soils Guy' Archuleta, NRCS' Southeast Regional Soil Health Specialist, will provide experiential learning through hands-on demonstrations and field exercises. NRCS District Conservationist Adam Daugherty will discuss how improving soil

health changed Coffee County, TN. Paul Salon, the NRCS Northeast Regional Soil Health Specialist, will provide insight on designing design effective cover crop mixes.

Registration is free and lunch will be provided. Space is limited. If you plan on attending, please RSVP by Monday, April 4. Please let us know if you require special accommodation to participate when you register.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. University of Maryland - Western Maryland Research & Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Rd, Keedysville  
 RSVP to Allison Moore at (301) 799-6821 ext. 3.

## Your Woodlot & Your Wallet Workshop Scheduled

The Your Woodlot & Your Wallet workshop will be held 7 – 9 pm on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at Garrett College Continuing Education Building room 205.

Owning woodland does cost money and finding ways to generate a sustainable income to pay the taxes and support management and recreational activities is always welcome. Knowing how to use the services of foresters and loggers for the sale of forest products is one option but there are other income opportunities. Small enterprise opportunities such as hunting leases, firewood, vacation cabins, mushrooms, ginseng are but a few of the natural resource income enterprises that exist. In the case of hunting and other recreational activities liability is an issue and this workshop will address that question. This evening workshop will feature professional foresters who will provide information on a number of income generating activities as well as programs that reduce property taxes, and other

programs that pay for implementing woodland improvement practices.

Agenda:

- Benefits of Managing Your Woodland Resource?
- How Can I Get a Forest Stewardship Plan to Guide My Action?
- Marketing Forest Products to Assure Sustainability and Profitability.
- Fee or Free Hunting Leases and Questions of Liability with Fee or Free
- Other Natural Resource Income Opportunities.

More information and resources on the above topics are available at: [www.extension.umd.edu/woodland](http://www.extension.umd.edu/woodland). Program questions can be directed to Jonathan Kays, Natural Resource Extension Specialist, [jkays@umd.edu](mailto:jkays@umd.edu)

**Registration is required by April 28.** The workshop cost is \$10, payable at the door or online at <http://bit.ly/1Rxon5J>  
 Register online or call 301-334-6960 by April 28.

## Appalachia Grows Small Farms Conference April 9, 2016 Garrett College

### Organizing Sponsors:



### Sponsors:





**WHO:** Maryland and Mid-Atlantic high school students interested in pursuing studies or a career in forestry and natural resources

**WHAT:** A hands-on, week-long camp, with lodging and meals included

**WHEN:** Sunday, July 24 through Saturday, July 30, 2016

**WHERE:** Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County, MD

**WHY:** To have fun while learning about working in the field of natural resources, educational requirements, employment and career opportunities in forestry, water resources, and other related disciplines from teams of natural resource professionals

Submit your application online at [www.marylandforestryboards.org](http://www.marylandforestryboards.org)

Don't wait until college. Explore natural resources careers this summer with NRCCI



**FIRE SUPPRESSION**



**WORKING MILL TOUR**



**TREE IDENTIFICATION**

Presented by:

**The Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards**

*In partnership with*



High schools students, apply today for camp from July 24 through July 30, 2016  
College credit and scholarships available

**NATURAL RESOURCES CAREERS CAMP**



Explore outdoor careers this summer at Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County, Maryland



[WWW.MARYLANDFORESTRYBOARDS.ORG](http://WWW.MARYLANDFORESTRYBOARDS.ORG)

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## Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC) Curriculum

Join field professionals from across the state for seven days of intense instruction and fun at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County, Maryland. You'll learn about:

- Forestry
- Wildlife ecology
- Fisheries
- Arboriculture
- Watershed management
- Natural resources management
- GIS and GPS technology



Learn about hydrology and fish surveys at the Casselman River

All classes are taught through hands-on field experience along with classroom instruction.

## Here's what NRCC students are saying...

*"Learning about careers in forestry helped me to decide my future plans. Working the business side of forestry is something I could do"*

*"Shocking fish was my favorite"*



*"The fire suppression was a fun and educational learning experience"*

*"The GPS boundary data collection was my favorite. I like nature, but I also like technology; this could definitely be a career for me!"*

*"It was interesting to see all the ways wood is used in a sawmill. It was also good to know that all parts of the tree will get used"*

*"I was delighted to have the opportunity to talk to the college representatives. I hope I can go to WVU when I graduate from Allegany!"*

*"Tree climbing was awesome! I never climbed a tree with a harness before. It was a great experience and probably one of my top events of the week"*

## College Credit Available

Students may choose to earn two college credits (fee required) from Allegany College of Maryland.

To be eligible, students must be at least 16 years old by the end of NRCC week, attend the entire week of the camp, complete a short exam, and present a forest management plan as part of a team.

The credits will transfer to most Maryland community colleges and several four year colleges and universities.



Students safely climb trees using arborist equipment

The NRCC tuition is \$450.00 plus a \$125.00 activity fee. **Many forestry boards offer scholarships.**

Contact your local board or visit [www.marylandforestryboards.org](http://www.marylandforestryboards.org) to apply.

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## Managing Your Dairy through Financial Fluctuations

University of Maryland Extension along with Casselman Veterinarian Services are sponsoring this timely workshop on profitability in the dairy business on Tuesday, March 29 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Garrett College Career Technology Training Center in the Accident Industrial Park. In today's dairy market, producers must be continuously improving in order to stay in the front of the pack and remain profitable. Understanding and managing financials become a key part of achieving success

in a dairy business. Dale Johnson, Farm Management Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, will conduct the workshop which will assist producers in improving management through analysis of their past finances and using that information to plan for their future.

This workshop will show how to easily use financial records and tax statements to analyze a farm's income and expenses in order to identify strengths and bottlenecks in the dairy business. Using simple worksheets, farms will learn

how to calculate individual expenses on a hundred-weight and per cow basis, compare these figures to industry averages and, in turn, identify critical areas of management.

Additionally, planning for the future of a dairy business requires understanding the financial implications of options that may be under consideration. By learning how to assess financial projections in this seminar, farms will learn to determine the potential changes in profitability and overall cash flow that will occur by transforming the operation for

the future.

Wendy Guingrich, owner of Casselman Veterinary Service will also review "The Vital 90 Days," a program from Elanco which assesses the cow's nutrition, environment and management from the dry period through calving. Casselman Veterinary Services will also be providing lunch for the participants. Reservations are requested; to register for the meeting contact Casselman Veterinary Services at 301-895-3109 or the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## National Firewood Workshop April 21 in Keedysville

The National Firewood Workshop will be held April 21, 2016 at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD (near Hagerstown) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The workshop is a one day educational and networking event to provide the firewood processing industry the latest knowledge on processing, kiln drying and marketing of firewood. The intent is to help firewood producers, firewood buyers, firewood equipment makers, foresters and arborists, landowners, loggers, extension educators, and woodstove manufacturers, learn how to make money in the firewood business. The program is sponsored by the Wood Education and Resource Center, University of Maryland Extension, Sawmill & Woodlot Management magazine, and North Carolina State University.

The program will include outdoor demonstration of firewood processing equipment as well as

classroom discussions by leading firewood industry professionals. The range of classroom topics will include: selling and marketing; finding buyers; purchasing requirements by wholesale brokers and chain store buyers; managing a firewood processing business; sourcing affordable logs; equipment for sawing and splitting; heating options for kilns; firewood quarantines; dry kiln equipment and methods; and firewood associations.

Information and registration for the program can be done online with a credit card by going to:

<http://firewoodworkshop.eventbrite.com/>

A brochure, agenda, and directions to the facility are available at <http://bit.ly/1UCi9BY>

The registration can be mailed in with a check by completing the registration form on the program brochure. The registration fee is \$30 before April 11, 2016 and \$40 afterwards. The registration deadline is April

17, 2016. Continuing education credits have been approved by the Society of American Foresters, MD Master Logger program, and the Mid-Atlantic International Society of Arboriculture.

For information about registration, please contact: Pam Thomas, University of Maryland Extension. ([pthomas@umd.edu](mailto:pthomas@umd.edu)) 301-432-2767 x315.

## "Branching Out" Newsletter Free to Woodland Owners

For more than twenty years, the University of Maryland Extension Woodland Stewardship Education program's quarterly newsletter "Branching Out" has helped Maryland's woodland owners, whether large or small, to stay informed about ways to manage their land responsibly.

The newsletter brings together the latest news about a wide variety of stewardship topics. Recent issues have included tips for identifying and controlling invasive species, how to select a consulting forester, how to thin your woodland, managing woodland wildlife, and advances in woodstove

and wood energy technology. Each newsletter includes information about tours and conferences and educational workshops offered through the University Extension program and its partners.

The newsletter is available online, free of charge. Visit the Woodland Stewardship Education's website at [extension.umd.edu/woodland](http://extension.umd.edu/woodland) and click the "Branching Out" link for the most recent issue or for selected back issues, or sign up for e-mail notifications about new issues by clicking the "Subscribe here" link. For more info or to subscribe, contact Andrew Kling at [akling1@umd.edu](mailto:akling1@umd.edu) or by phone at 301-432-2767, ext. 307.

## Got Club Animals for Sale?

It's 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 [wguard@umd.edu](mailto:wguard@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.

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Economic  
Development

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301-334-6960  
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Garrett Co. Economic Development  
Natural Resources Businesses  
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[www.gcedonline.com](http://www.gcedonline.com)  
301-334-6960  
[www.GarrettFarms.org](http://www.GarrettFarms.org)

*This Newsletter is published by University of Maryland Extension - Garrett County Office and Garrett County Economic Development Natural Resources Business Services, with occasional contributions from the following entities:*

Garrett County Farm Bureau  
240-321-2919

Garrett-Preston Rural Development Coalition  
301-334-6960

Garrett County Agricultural Fair, Inc.  
301-387-5408

Farm Service Agency  
301-334-6954

MPWV Meat Goat Producers Assn.  
301-334-4121

Garrett County Soil Conservation District  
301-334-6951

Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
301-334-6957

MD Department of Agriculture  
Animal Health  
301-600-1548

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or call 301-334-6960