

Mountain Top Ag News

Come to the *Appalachia Grows: Beginning & Small Farms Conference* January 23-24 in Frostburg

Current, beginning and potential farmers in the region are encouraged to learn, network and be inspired at the first ever Appalachia Grows: Beginning & Small Farms Conference **January 23-24** at Frostburg State University.

Friday's program is geared toward *potential and beginning farmers*, with a wide variety of session topics.

Friday's keynote address will be presented by Mike Tumbarello, Director of the Garrett College Center for

Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Saturday's schedule is packed with sessions for *any small farm entrepreneur*. Saturday's lunchtime Keynote topic is "The Strongest Link" by Matt Lohr, Director of the Knowledge Center, Farm Credit of the Virginias. Mr. Lohr will share an entertaining and inspiring message on the importance of small farms and how they can be most successful and productive in today's changing environment.

The conference is being coordinated by University of

Maryland Extension, West Virginia University Extension Service, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Garrett County Office of Economic Development.

Over 20 Vendors are scheduled to display Saturday. (See website for full list: AppGrows.com).

Conference fees vary based on the number per family and include meals. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available. For conference information or to register, visit www.AppGrows.com or call 301-334-6960.

See brochure, enclosed.

The annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference, normally held at Garrett College, is being replaced with the Appalachia Grows conference.

Also, the West Virginia Small Farms Conference, which has been held in Morgantown in the past, has been moved to Charleston, WV this spring. (See more information, page 2)

Don't miss out!

Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference January 15 at Garrett College

Join us at the Tri State Hay and Pasture Conference, Thursday, January 15, 2015 at Garrett College, McHenry, MD Continuing Education Building.

Program Agenda

8:30 Registration, refreshments, visit exhibits

8:50 Welcome

Moderator: Willie Lantz, Agriculture & Natural Resource Extension Educator, Garrett County

9:00 Summary of Cool Season Grass Variety Trials

Jeff Semler, Sr. Agent, University of Maryland

Extension Washington Co.

9:30 Some Little Known Forage Facts That Can Make a Difference in Your Bottom Line

Dr. James Green, Professor & Extension Forage Specialist Emeritus, Dept. of Crop Science, NC State University

10:15 Break

10:30 Nutrient Needs and Common Deficiencies of Forage Crops

Dr. Richard W. Taylor, Extension Agronomist, University of Delaware

11:15 When and How to Fertilize Your Hay and

Pasture to Maintain Stands and Increase Productivity

Dr. Lester Vough, Forage Agronomist, Southern Maryland RC & D

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Greetings from the Maryland - Delaware Forage Council

Les Vough, President - MDFC

1:00 Q & A: Answers to Topics of Interest from the audience . . . A Time to Ask Your Hay/Pasture Question

Dr. James Green

2:00 Making Fence and

Fencing Equipment Work

3:00 Improving Hay and Pasture Quality Through New Developments in Alfalfa

Dick Kauffman, Regional Manager; W-L Research

4:00 Adjourn

To register, call the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960 by January 14.

If pre-registered, the cost is \$15 which includes lunch and can be paid at the door. Walk in registrations will be \$20.

Maryland Phosphorus Symposium January 30

The State of the Science of Phosphorus Symposium will be held on January 30, 2015, Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, Maryland.

Plan to attend to better understand the current state of science surrounding phosphorus transport, soil dynamics, legacies, modeling, and its impact on water quality. Experts on the science of phosphorus from across the country are featured on the program.

Registration opens at 8:00 am. The Symposium opens at 8:40 am and will close at 5:00 pm. Participants will hear presentations from each scientist throughout the day and have the opportunity to

ask questions. The Program: The Role of Phosphorus Management in the Green Pastures and Blue Waters Paradox - Dr. Andrew Sharpley;

Impact of Phosphorus on Water Quality - Dr. Walter Boynton;

Soil and Source Dynamics - Dr. Peter Kleinman;

The Role of Hydrology in Connecting Agricultural Phosphorus Sources to Surface Water - Dr. Anthony Buda;

The Use of Models and Indexes for Agricultural Phosphorus Management - Dr. Peter Vadas

Balance and Legacy Phosphorus - Dr. Douglas Smith

Agricultural BMP to Address Phosphorus - Dr. Josh McGrath

Synopsis, History of Implementation and Policy in Maryland - Dr. Frank Coale

Early registration fee is \$20 and includes lunch. After January 20 the registration fee is \$30.

To register and for information, contact host@phosphorussymposium.com or call 410-956-5771 or visit

PhosphorusSymposium.com

Garrett County Ag Marketing Grants Available

The Garrett County Department of Economic Development recently announced a new grant program to aid in the promotion of agriculture-based businesses in Garrett County.

Any farm, farm business, farm-related business, or farm related organization or association based in Garrett County is eligible to apply.

A maximum of 10 grants of up to \$100 each may be awarded this year to fund up to 90% of the costs of each project. The applicant must contribute at least 10% of the total project costs. For example, if you are purchasing a banner that costs \$80.00 (total project cost), you must contribute 10%, or \$8.00. In this case, you could apply for up to \$72.00 in grant funds. You can, of course, contribute more than 10% of the total project costs.

Applications are available at www.GCEDOnline.com on the Agribusiness page, at the Economic Development Office, and extension office and are accepted any time. Call Cheryl DeBerry for info 301-334-6968.

USDA REAP Grant Program helps Farms Pay for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects

Loan and grant applications are being accepted to support rural small business, farmers and ranchers for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through the USDA Rural Development "Rural Energy for America Program" (REAP). **The first application deadline is April 30, 2015.** The energy grant covers up to 25% of energy improvements.

If you can answer YES to these three questions, your project may be eligible for USDA Rural Development REAP Assistance.

Do you:

- Earn at least 51 percent of your income from farming or ranching? OR
- Operate a privately owned, for-profit small business located in a rural area or town of 50,000 people or less?*
- Are you looking for

financial assistance to install one of the following at your business, farm, or ranch:

- A system that will generate renewable energy? OR
- Eligible energy efficiency measures that will reduce energy costs*?
- Is the project's technology readily available for purchase?

* For more information about eligible areas for rural small businesses, visit the USDA

Income and Property Eligibility Website <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

If you would like more information on the program, please contact Bruce Weaver, DE/MD Energy Coordinator at bruce.weaver@de.usda.gov or (302) 857-3629.

The MD/DE Energy Coordinator is planning to host REAP application workshops in February. Stay tuned!



West Virginia University
EXTENSION SERVICE
SMALL FARM CENTER

SAVE THE DATE

February 26-28, 2015
Charleston Civic Center
Charleston, W. Va.

It's all about THE FOOD and Community



Vegetable Production Workshop Series

Have you considered taking your backyard vegetable garden to the next level of marketing fresh vegetables?

Have you ever considered adding vegetable production to your current farm operation?

If you would be interested in exploring vegetable production, a four-session vegetable production course will help you get started. The first session is Monday, February 2nd from 6:30pm to 9pm. Remaining sessions

will continue on the next three Monday evenings: February 9, 16, and 23.

The sessions will cover soils, fertility, production practices, season extension, insect and disease management and marketing.

The courses will be held at the Garrett County Extension office in Oakland.

For more information contact Willie at the extension office at 301-334-6960. There will be no fee charged for the course.

Private Applicator Pesticide License Training

Landowners that wish to apply restricted use pesticides on their own farm or land they manage must have a private applicator license issued by Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

To become a Private Applicator, individuals must take a fifty questions test on pesticide use and safety. University of Maryland Extension will offer a two hour training on safe pesticide use and safety that

will help prepare individuals for taking the Private Applicator Test on January 20th from 7-9 pm at the Garrett County Extension Office. Study materials are available at the extension office and cost \$7.00.

MDA will give the test in Garrett County approximately two weeks after the training.

If you would like to sign up for the training call the extension office at 301-334-6960.

Maryland Nutrient Management News & Updates

Nutrient Management Plans & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Trainings Available

Now is a great time to get your Maryland Nutrient Management Plan updated for 2015. Plans are required to be updated on a yearly basis. Give Jill Hauser a call at the extension office (301-334-6960) to update your plan. She will need your cropping and livestock information. Check your soil sample results as they are good for three seasons. We are continuing to send in soil samples from the extension office. Basic samples are \$8.00 + shipping for small numbers of samples.

To comply with the Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Program requirements, agriculture producers who apply manure or commercial fertilizer to 10 or more acres must complete a two hour training every three years to obtain a Nutrient Applicator Voucher. If your voucher has expired or will expire in 2015, following are several opportunities for you to

renew your voucher. Please call the Extension office if you have questions at 301-334-6960.

Available Trainings for Certified Nutrient Management Consultants

1. Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference (2 credits in WV and MD)

- January 15, 2015
- Garrett College, McHenry, MD
- Room 205, Continuing Education Building
- See page 1 for agenda – Contact the extension office to register

2. Yoder Farm Supply – Crop Meeting (2 credits)

- February 11, 2015
- Springs Community Building, Springs, PA
- Contact David N. Yoder at 301-895-4056 to register for the meeting

3. Sam's Agway Crop Meeting (2 credits)

- February 16, 2015
- Pleasant Valley Community Building
- Contact Sam Dick at 301-334-3444 to register for the meeting

4. Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting (pending)

- Date – To Be Announced – likely mid to late Feb. or first of March
- Garrett College
- Sponsored by University of Maryland Extension and Oakland Southern States
- Contact Oakland Southern States at 301-334-3121 or the extension office to register

Winter Nutrient Management Webinars (2 credits each)

Participants may join these from their home computer or view at the extension office.

1. Cover Crops and Soil Tillage

Feb 12, 2-4pm

<https://webmeeting.umd.edu/february12/>

2. Nitrogen Cycle and Denitrification

March 12, 2-4pm

<https://webmeeting.umd.edu/march12/>

If you have any questions regarding nutrient management or these programs contact the extension office at 301-334-6960.

Maryland Nutrient Management Program 2014 Annual Implementation Reporting (AIR) Forms are due to MDA March 1, 2015.

PASA Farming for the Future Conference: “Nature as Mentor”

February 3-7 State College, PA

The regional farming community will convene to celebrate and learn about “Nature as Mentor” during the 24th Annual Farming for the Future Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) in State College, PA, February 3-7, 2015. More than 2,000 participants, comprised of agriculture industry workers as well as students and community and business leaders, will participate in workshops, trainings, exhibits, receptions showcasing regionally sourced foods, an educational program and unique special events. Highlighting the conference are two main addresses, well-known author/activist Frances Moore Lappé and conservation agronomist Ray “The Soils Guy” Archuleta.

“It’s exciting to see the ever-growing public desire for knowledge about healthy agricultural practices, farm-to-table eating, sustainability and, most importantly, how to get involved,” said Brian Snyder, PASA’s Executive Director. “We have a responsibility to our community and to our families to learn about nature and to follow its lead in how we treat our environment. This event is just one example of how sustainability is not a fad topic, but rather a change in the way we live.”

During Friday’s opening keynote address, sponsored by Lady Moon Farms, Frances Moore Lappé will give attendees a look into the research for her book *World Hunger: 10 Myths*, a topic

that resonates throughout the agriculture community. Moore Lappé delivers her message of the importance of embracing agroecology, ending global poverty and meeting the climate challenge as pieces that come together to develop one “ecomind,” an ideology she delivered through her book *EcoMind*. Through studying groups’ struggles and successes throughout the globe, Moore Lappé addresses aligning with nature for effective practices to empower world citizens to end world poverty.

Saturday’s keynote, sponsored by PASA Abilities Sponsor Kimberton Whole Foods, Ray Archuleta is a Certified Professional Soil Scientist whose passion for soil health has earned him the nickname “The Soils Guy.” Archuleta is known for his infectious excitement while sharing his vast knowledge of soil health and agroecology principles, amassed over a more than 25 year career. His expertise extends to water health, quality and irrigation and, as a conservationist, addresses our responsibilities to protecting and nurturing these essential resources.

In addition to these two phenomenal keynote addresses, the conference will also present six in-depth pre-conference tracks and over 100 main conference workshops. Kids have the opportunity to attend and learn as well with an ag-focused Future Farmers program just for them. A bustling TradeShow will connect attendees with over 80 agricultural businesses

and organizations. Throughout the four-day event, conference goers will be entertained while they learn, with activities such as live music, movies, yoga, knitting circles, a seed swap and much more. Sponsorship

Mid Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

The 2015 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention will be held January 27 to 29 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

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 gather each year at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center for the Convention. Registration is open to all interested commercial fruit, vegetable and berry growers, direct marketers and allied industry personnel.

Session topics cover a wide variety of topics such as fruits, vegetables, direct marketing, soil health, equipment, and more.

For more information, registration, and the full schedule of sessions, visit www.mafvc.org

opportunities are available for those who wish to join in this widely attended event.

To learn more about the Farming for the Future Conference, visit pasafarming.org/conference

Maryland On-Farm Rabbit & Poultry Processing Training to be held January 20

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will conduct a training workshop for on-farm poultry and rabbit slaughter and processing Jan. 20 from 9-4:00 p.m. at MDA, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis. The fee is \$25 and includes lunch and materials. Pre Registration is required.

Participants will learn to recognize diseases, take basic biosecurity measures, write and implement basic Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures, develop Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans, and properly dispose of offal and waste water.

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; and Be inspected by MDA inspectors at least once per year.

For questions, call Sherry Weygant at 410-841-5769 or email: sherry.weygant@maryland.gov Space is limited.



Master Gardener News



Gardening Courses Offered through Garrett College

Do you have a passion for home gardening and home horticulture? Ever wanted to know more about the science behind gardening? If so, consider taking some gardening courses! Garrett College in cooperation with the University of Maryland Extension Garrett County will be offering a variety of gardening classes having a "pick and choose" approach. Complete any five to earn a certificate of completion. All classes include an introduction to the topic itself, so no prior knowledge is required. Take just one course or enjoy them all. Classes will be taught by Extension Faculty and Master Gardeners.

- 1. February 18, 1-3:00 PM, **Introduction to Home Horticulture:** Learn about the horticulture industry
- 2. February 27, 1-3:00 PM,

Starting Your Own Seedlings at Home: Tips and tricks for starting your own seedlings.

- 3. March 5, 1-3:00 PM, **Soil Science:** Learn all about the soil and how to manage the soil in your vegetable and flower gardens. Learn the proper way to soil sample.
- 4. March 12, 1-3:00 PM, **Plant Science/Plant Nutrition:** Learn about how plants grow and what makes plants "happy". Learn about plant nutrients and fertilizers.
- 5. March 26, 6-8:00 PM, **Raised Bed Gardening:** Discuss the benefits of using raised beds in your garden
- 6. April 16, 6-8:00 PM, **Vegetable Gardening for the Beginner:** Planting Guides and Charts. Tips and tricks. Advice on planning your Garden

- 7. April 21, 6-8:00 PM, **Landscaping with Native Plants:** Explore the benefits of using native plants in your landscape.
- 8. June 25, 1-3:00 PM, **Entomology- Garden Bugs:** Learn all about bugs and see specimens of some of the common bugs we see in Garrett County
- 9. July 9, 6-8:00 PM, **Plant Diseases and Management:** Learn about the plant disease triangle and some common plant diseases in Garrett County
- 10. August 11, 1-3:00 PM, **Weed Identification in the Home Garden:** Hands on class offers the participants a chance to see and identify some of the common weeds in our home garden. Tips for how to control these weeds as well

11. September 2, 1-3:00 PM, **Saving Seeds for the Next Season:** Learn what seeds you can save and which seeds are not appropriate for seed saving

Costs for the classes vary. For information, contact Terry Beachy 301-895-4700. To register, call 301-387-3069.

Floral Design Course

March 3 & 10, 6-8:30 pm, Northern Outreach Center for Garrett College

Basic Greenhouse Management Course

February 10, 17, 24, 6-8:00 pm, Northern Outreach Ctr. Check the website for details. Extension.umd.edu/garrett-county Costs for the classes vary. For information, contact Terry Beachy 301-895-4700.

Upcoming Master Gardener Certification Classes

Do you have a passion for home horticulture? Do you enjoy gardening? Do you enjoy sharing knowledge with family and friends? If so, the Maryland Master Gardener program is the perfect fit for you. The Maryland Master Gardener vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship. The mission is to support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

The first step in becoming a Master Gardener is to take the Basic Training Class, which consists of 40 hours of education. The classes are offered through the University of Maryland Extension. Once you take the course, you will be asked to volunteer 40 hours of community service at approved Master Gardener events in the County. Classes are scheduled for every Monday afternoon, 1-4pm from March 2 through June 1st at Garrett College Northern Outreach Center in Grantsville. Please call 301-334-6960 to request more

information or email abachtel@umd.edu to sign up! The cost to participate is \$110 and includes the purchase of the Maryland Master Gardener handbook (\$69 value) and class instruction on topics including Native Plants, Soil Science, Ecology, Plant Science, Plant Pathology, Insects, Small Fruit, Composting, Weed Science and ID, Integrated Pest Management, Plant Propagation, Integrating

Poultry in your Garden, and much more! For a complete class syllabus contact the University of Maryland Extension office in Garrett County.

Visit extension.umd.edu/garrett-county for information about these and other classes.



Maryland Small Ruminant Expo Feb. 28 in Frederick

The first-ever Maryland Small Ruminant Expo will be held Saturday, February 28, 2015, at the Frederick County 4-H Camp & Activities Center in Frederick, Maryland.

The all-day event will feature separate educational programs for adults and youth. The adult program will be divided into four educational tracks: 1) Forage/pasture; 2) marketing; 3) production and health, and 4) alternative enterprises. Two tracks will be held concurrently.

The youth program will include sessions related to fiber, dairy, meat, and science (wet lab). Activities will be mostly hands-on. Lunch will be a taco bar, with a choice of lamb and/or goat meat and sheep and/or goat milk cheese. Meats and cheeses will be sourced locally.

Speakers will include extension experts, as well as producers. One of the featured speakers will be Dr. Lindsay Lane. Before attending veterinary school in the Cayman Islands and Minnesota, Dr. Lane was the farm manager for the University of Maryland College Park. She managed the campus farm, which includes a flock of mostly Katahdin sheep.

Pre-registration is required by February 14. The registration fee is \$35 per adult and \$25 per youth (ages 8-18). You can register online via EventBrite at <http://2015mdexpo.eventbrite.com>. You can pay by credit card, but there is a small fee to do so. Alternatively, you can mail your registration information and payment to

the Maryland Small Ruminant Expo, Western Maryland Research & Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, Maryland 21756. Checks should be made payable the University of Maryland. For more info:

Maryland Cattlemen's Association's Cattle Industry Convention March 6-7

This year's Maryland Cattlemen's Association Cattle Industry Convention and the Hay, Pasture, and Grazing Conference will be held on March 6 & 7th in Hagerstown.

Trent Loos will headline the 2015 program, speaking both on Friday evening following dinner and again on Saturday during the luncheon. Trent is a sixth generation farmer, who established a strong rural foundation in farming side by side with his father and grandfather. When anti-agricultural activists threatened the way of life he cherished, somebody needed to speak on behalf of the hard-working farmers and ranchers of America. Trent accepted that challenge.

In Spearfish, South Dakota, Trent told radio personality Jim Thompson that he wanted to have his own radio show. Being a little more than determined, or perhaps a bit bull-headed, "Loos Tales" launched in January of 2001.

Today, the show airs on over 100 stations nationwide and boasts 3 million listeners on-air and online. Sharing the message about the people and places in rural America is a step toward re-connecting consumers to the land and their food. Trent has been doing this since long before it was the "cool, foodie" thing to do.

In 2008, Trent was recognized as the "Voice of

Rural America" by the West Quest Organization, for his ground-breaking work in advocating for agriculture and for speaking on behalf of rural people (folks who would rather stay home and tend to their crops and livestock than take on those attacking their life-sustaining industry).

Trent and his wife Kelli enjoy life in central Nebraska with their three daughters. Cattle, hogs, horses and meat goats keep them plenty busy on the farm. The family is constantly on the go, sharing adventures in training and riding horses, youth sports, 4-H, archery and road trips.

For more info on Trent and "Loos Tales" visit <http://www.loostales.com>



The Cattle Industry Convention will feature other speakers including Dr. John Andrae, Clemson University, Dr. Marvin Hall and Dr. Dave Wolfgang, Penn State University and Dr. Gene Felton, West Virginia University.

The Maryland Cattlemen's Association will also host the 2015 Maryland State 4-H Skillathon. 4-H members from across the state will compete in the Skillathon. Senior winners will represent Maryland at the National 4-H

Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343,

sschoen@umd.edu or go to

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/2015Expo.html>

Livestock Skillathon at Louisville, KY. Levi Lantz, from Garrett County, participated in the 2014 National Contest. The extension office offers training for anyone interested in participating in the Livestock Skillathon.

At the Annual Maryland Cattlemen Association meeting on Saturday, the board of directors will report on 2014 activities and lead a discussion on the future plans of the organization.

There will also be a report on the FY 2014 Maryland Beef Checkoff program (National Beef Promotion Act and Order: by law, all producers selling cattle or calves, for any reason and regardless of age or sex, must pay \$1-per-head to support beef/veal promotion, research and information). Maryland's share of the Checkoff in 2014 was \$43,500. A recent return-on-investment study done by Cornell University determined that each dollar spent on checkoff programs returns \$11.20 to the industry.

For more information on the Maryland Cattlemen's Association, the Beef Checkoff Program, or the convention visit the Maryland Cattlemen's Association website at www.marylandcattle.org or call Scott Barao at 410-795-5309.

Buyer Grower Expo January 22 in Annapolis

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will host a wholesale local food trade show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium "N" Room in Annapolis. The show connects Maryland growers, producers, and processors with buyers from grocery retailers, restaurants, schools, institutions, and other venues.

In 2014, more than 400 registrants attended. They included produce farmers, artisan cheese and ice cream producers, beef and bison farmers, grocery store representatives, chefs, school nutrition directors, distributors, economic development officials, University of Maryland Extension and regional agricultural marketing officials.

Rising consumer demand for locally grown and produced fruits, vegetables, meats, and specialty items is sparking more interest in Maryland products from commercial purchasing agents.

The event is designed for:

Maryland growers, producers, or processors interested in finding new markets for your products;

Buyers from grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools, or other venues looking to purchase Maryland grown or produced products;

Service providers in agriculture or local foods, such as county extension agents, food writers, etc.

The types of local products

that buyers will typically find at this meeting include:

Fruits and vegetables;

Meats, including beef, turkey, and bison;

Cheeses (both cow's and goat's milk);

Seafood, such as crabmeat and oysters; and

Specialty products, including locally made ice cream, soups, flour, wine, and more.

To register, or for more information, visit www.marylandsbest.net. The exhibit fee for Maryland growers, producers, and processors is \$20 if received before December 23 and \$40 thereafter. There is no fee for buyers to attend. Those registered by Jan. 7 will be included in the directory. For questions or help registering, contact Stone Slade at MDA at (410) 841-5779 or stone.slade@maryland.gov

Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Grants Available

The Kathleen A.P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program through the Maryland Energy Administration offers grants for up to 50% of costs for energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy projects for farms and businesses within the agricultural sector. Visit the program's website for more information.

<http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/MathiasAg15.htm>

Cow-Side Forum for Dairy Housing March 8 in Accident

A Cow-side Forum for Dairy Housing will be held on March 8th from 10:00 to 3:00. The morning classroom session will be held at Garrett College's Career Technology and Training Center (CTTC) building in the Central Garrett Industrial Park in Accident.

Registration begins at 9:30. The program begins at 10:00. Immediately after lunch, participants will travel to the Robert Bender farm on Griffith Road for the on-farm portion of the program. This program is being sponsored by the University of Maryland's Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland Extension, and other partners.

John Tyson and Dan McFarland, Extension Agricultural Engineers with

Penn State Extension will partner with the University of Maryland to jointly offer this program.

The classroom discussion will focus on the fundamentals of animal housing for calves, heifers, dry cows, special needs cows and milk cows. Following lunch, forum participants will participate in breakout sessions including barn tours to evaluate housing, environment and facilities' impacts on animal comfort, performance, and health. Also discussed will be the human comfort and health aspects related to different cattle housing choices.

There is no fee for this program but pre-registration is required for lunch and other preparations. To register, call 301-334-6960 on or before March 1st.

Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting Feb. 19 in Pleasant Valley

The annual Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting will be held on February 19th at Pleasant Valley Community Building starting at 9:00 am.

This year's meeting will be sponsored by University of Maryland Extension and Oakland Southern States Cooperative. The meeting will feature university extension specialists and industry representative on a variety of crop related topics.

Participants will receive two nutrient management credits for consults or applicator vouchers. Private applicator recertification credits will also be provided.

More information will be available soon, including the agenda for the day. The cost for the meeting will be \$15.

To register or for more information, contact the extension office at 301-334-6960.

Spicy Apple-Filled Squash

Makes: 4 servings

Serving size: 1/4 squash

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 acorn squash, washed | 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon |
| 1 apple, washed, cut in half, cored, and chopped | Dash of nutmeg, optional |
| 2 teaspoons margarine, melted | Dash of ground cloves, optional |
| 2 teaspoons brown sugar | Cooking oil spray |

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Spray a 1-quart baking dish with cooking oil spray.
3. Cut squash in half. Remove squash seeds from each half with a spoon.
4. Place squash (skin side up) in baking dish, cover with foil and put baking dish in oven for 30 minutes.
5. In a medium bowl, add apple, margarine, brown sugar, and spices.
6. Remove squash from oven. Flip squash over, and fill with apple mixture.
7. Re-cover squash with foil, and bake 30 minutes more.

Try serving this recipe with whole grains like brown rice or barley.



MARKET TO MEALTIME!



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Solutions in your community

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GARRETT COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Reinventing Rural

Garrett Co. Economic Development
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301-334-6960
www.GarrettFarms.org

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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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