

# Mountain Top Ag News

## Farm Transition and Estate Planning Workshop Feb 27

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 February 27 at Garrett College in McHenry in Room 111 of the GIEC, Continuing Education and Workforce Development

building, from 9:00am to 2:30pm.

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.

## Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting March 7

Southern States Oakland Cooperative and University of Maryland Extension are sponsoring the Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting on **Wednesday, March 7th at the Pleasant Valley Community Building at 9:00 am.**

Featured speakers for the meeting include Matt Morris from Frederick County Extension, who will be discussing herbicide resistance and the use of Dicamba as it relates to Extend Soybeans.

Ken Sechler, agronomist with Southern States will be addressing plant nutrition.

In the afternoon, Gurpal Toor, University of Maryland Nutrient Management and Water Quality Specialist will cover **“Soil Testing and Interpretation for Achieving Optimum Yield Goals.”**

Daniel Norris with Spickler Insurance, Inc. will review crop insurance options.

A representative from Monty Plant and Soil Products and Land O’ Lakes will be on hand to discuss new products.

### Agenda:

8:30- 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:30 **Pesticide Storage and Record Keeping** by Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension

9:30 – 10:10 **Knowing What is in Your Fertilizer** by Paul Miles, Monty Plant and Soil Products

10:10 – 10:50 **Soil and Plant Nutrients** by Ken Sechler, Senior Agronomist, Southern States

10:50 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 11:50 **Overview of Herbicide Resistance and Dicamba Use** by Matt Morris, University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County

11:50 – 12:05 **Nutrient Management Update** by Jill Hauser, University of Maryland, Nutrient Management Advisor

12:05 – 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 1:30 **Land O Lakes – Croplan Seed Info** by Jessica Lietzke, District Sales Manager

1:30 – 2:15 **Crop**

**Insurance** by Daniel Norris, Owner Donald Spickler Insurance, LLC

2:15 – 3:15 **Soil**

**Testing and Interpretation for Achieving Optimum Yield Goals** by Gurpal S. Toor, University of Maryland, Nutrient Management and Water Quality

- Participants will receive **Private Applicator Pesticide (MD and WV) and Nutrient Applicator Voucher (MD) and Consultant recertification credits (MD and WV)**

- Lunch will be provided by Southern States Oakland Cooperative

- There is no charge for the meeting

### To register:

Call either Southern States Oakland Cooperative at 301-334-3121 or the Garrett County Office of University of Maryland Extension at 301-334-6960.

## Maryland Beef Industry Producer Online Survey

### Please complete if you raise beef!

In order to properly develop Extension programming that will meet current and future needs of beef producers in Maryland, a survey has been developed that will collect data from beef producers.

The survey will run through March 2018. Completing the survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes.

If you need to use a computer and internet connection, you may come to the Garrett Co. Extension Office. Or you can request a paper version by calling 301-405-1392.

Please visit:

<https://>

[tinyurl.com/MD-beefsurvey](https://tinyurl.com/MD-beefsurvey)

to complete the survey.

**FFA Notes:**



**Southern**

Oakland Greenhouse will be opening on May 7 during school hours.

They will have a large selection of flower and vegetable plants as well as hanging baskets to choose from for homes and gardens.

They will announce evening and weekend greenhouse hours at a later date.

Follow them on the Oakland FFA Facebook for updates of greenhouse hours.

Upcoming: Oakland FFA will be having a Hoagie Fundraiser soon. Watch the Oakland FFA Facebook for updates.

**Contact Info for the above:**

Terry.Hauser@garrettcounty schools.org

**Northern**

Spring Plant Sale will be Sat May 5 from 8am to 1pm. Ornamentals & 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 contact Becky Yost for details.

**Contact Info for the above:**

Becky.Yost@garrettcounty schools.org



**Crop Insurance Deadline for Select Crops is March 15**

Crop insurance represents a key element in a farmer's risk management plan. Crop insurance provides financial protection to farmers in case of a natural disaster or crop failure.

To provide financial protections, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) approves, subsidizes, and regulates policies that protect against risks associated with yield and risks associated with revenue. These policies are sold by private insurance agents.

To find an agent, visit <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>

Federal crop insurance is currently available for over 100 different crops. For crops not eligible for coverage under a crop insurance policy,

USDA's Farm Service Agency offers the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for those crops not currently eligible for crop insurance coverage. Both crop insurance and NAP provide producers with protections against natural disasters or crop failures and help to ensure that farms will survive beyond the disasters.

**The deadline for signing up for most crops in Garrett County is March 15th.**

*Dan Norris with Spickler Insurance Agency will be discussing Crop Insurance options for Farmers at the Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting being held on March 7th at Pleasant Valley Community Building (see article on page 1 for more details).*

**Gardening Courses Scheduled**

University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners and the Garrett College Continuing Education & Workforce Development are sponsoring Gardening Courses at their Northern and Southern Outreach Centers. Ashley Bodkins, Master Gardener, is the Instructor.

To register, contact Garrett College Continuing Education and Workforce Development at 301-387-3069. You can also register online by visiting:

<https://cewd.garrettcollege.edu/cewd>

Fees will apply to these courses.

February 22, **Tools for Extending the Growing Season**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Southern Outreach Center

March 1, **Small Fruit for the Home Garden**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Northern Outreach Center

March 22, **Victory Gardens – History & Planting One of Your Own**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Southern Outreach Center

April 10, **It's No Bull – All About the Fertilizer**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Southern Outreach Center

April 19, **Edible Landscaping**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Northern Outreach Center

May 1, **Oh Deer, What Can the Matter Be?**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Northern Outreach Center

May 17, **Garden Talk**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Southern Outreach Center

June 14, **Bugs – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**, 1 pm – 3 pm, Southern Outreach Center

**Master Gardener Basic Training Scheduled for June - August**

University of Maryland Extension is happy to announce Master Gardener Basic Training.

The training is set to begin on June 5 at 1:00 pm and continue every Tuesday afternoon until August 28th at the University of Maryland Extension office in Mt. Lake Park.

Master Gardeners continue to work in our community and provide volunteer services and answer questions related to home horticulture. The cost of the course is \$110 and includes the purchase of the Maryland Master Gardener handbook, a \$70 value and 13 weeks of classroom instruction and handouts.

If you are interested in learning more about the Maryland Master Gardener Program and what requirements it takes to become a certified Master Gardener, please call 301-334-6960 or visit the Garrett County Master Gardener Facebook page.



## WV Small Farms Conference

For over a decade, the WVU Extension Service Small Farm Conference has offered an authentic and inclusive view of ag opportunities for small farm families in the region. The conference boasts a variety of useful topics, unique events and informative speakers across more than 140 sessions.

### 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:
  - ◊ 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, & 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](mailto:LLagana@mail.wvu.edu)

## 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](http://www.gcedonline.com) (under agribusiness) or call 301-334-6968.

## 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 class work, demonstrations and hands on operation. The training will certify 14 & 15 years old youth to operate tractors greater than 25 horsepower

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.

## District Show Info

The Western Maryland District Livestock Show for 4-H and FFA members will be held at the Garrett County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 5. Members from Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties are eligible to participate. Shows will be held for beef, swine, sheep, goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, and rabbits. A concession stand will be open for those who want to enjoy the day at the fairgrounds.

## Garrett Soil Conservation District Scholarships Available

Pursuing a degree in agriculture or resource management? Check out the Garrett Soil Conservation District \$1,000 Scholarship!

Completed applications are due into the Conservation District office May 1. Selection will be made by June 30. Award will be available after August 1 to the recipient. Proof of enrollment required.

#### Eligibility:

1. Must be a resident of Garrett County, Maryland and graduating or was a resident of Garrett County, Maryland at the time of graduation from one of the following high schools:
  - a. Mountain Ridge High School
  - b. Northern Garrett High School
  - c. Southern Garrett High School

2. Must major in an agricultural or natural resource related field subject to the discretion of the Garrett Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors. For example:

- Agriculture Economics
- Agriculture Education
- Agronomy (Plants or Soils)
- Animal Science
- Engineering (Agricultural)
- Environmental Protection
- Forest Resource Management
- Wildlife Management

3. Must have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or better if entering freshman year of college or have a college GPA of 3.0 or better if already attending college.
4. Previous winners are eligible but preference will be given to first time applicants. One scholarship per year is to be awarded based on funding availability.

You can find the application at this link:

<http://www.garrettscd.org/>

Or pick up a copy at the Garrett Soil Conservation District office, 1916 Maryland Hwy, Suite C, Mt. Lake Park.

For more information, call 301-334-6951 (or 301-501-5860 after February 21)

## FSA/NRCS Phones

On or about February 21, the USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil Conservation District will have new phone numbers.

**USDA Service Center**  
**Main Line:**

301-501-5856

**Farm Service Agency:**

301-501-5857

**NRCS/ SCD:**

301-501-5860



## 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](mailto:rcvetnic@umd.edu) to get on the list.

**New This Year:** A commercial class has been added for meat goats. Youth may now show breeding meat goats that are not registered with a breed association.

## 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](http://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](mailto:cdeberry@garrettcounty.org)

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Economic  
Development



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

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**Farm Transition  
& Estate  
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