

Mountain Top Ag News

Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference January 12

**** NEW LOCATION!!!!****

The Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference brings regional experts in grassland management to Garrett County. The conference will be held on January 12th at the **Garrett College Career Technology Training Center at 116 Industrial Drive in Accident**, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, registration is at 8:30.

This year's conference features Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist from University of Kentucky. Dr. Smith's will discuss "The Effects of Plant Structure and Type of Growth on Hay and Pasture Management".

Other speakers for the day will include David Wert who serves as the Eastern US representative for Dinamica Generale which manufactures the AgriNIR portable forage analyzer. David will be speaking about "Hay testing: How to Sample and What Numbers to Expect for Various Types of Hay".

If you would like to have a bale of hay tested the day of the conference, send an e-mail to Willie at wlantz@umd.edu and bring a small square bale to the meeting.

Les Vough, retired University of Maryland Forage Specialist, will present "Making Sense of Forage Analysis Reports".

Jeff Semler and Paul Goeringer with University of Maryland Extension will each

talk on fencing. An update on Nutrient Management Regulations will be provided by Keith Potter and Bryan Harris from MDA.

Participants will receive nutrient management voucher credits for attending. The cost of the conference is \$20 if pre-registered by January 9th, \$25 after.

To register, call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960 or you can see the agenda, register and pay online at <http://ter.ps/TriStHay>

Free Training and Technical Assistance Available!

Complete the Needs Survey by 1/31

Can we help your food/farm business? Natural Capital Investment Fund & Tri-County Council of Western Maryland have funding from the U.S. HUD Appalachian Economic Development Initiative to provide technical assistance free of charge as well as financing for small businesses and farms in western Maryland. *Please complete the survey by 1/31 (link below).* To learn more or share additional feedback, please contact NCIF Project Manager Hannah Vargason at hvargason@conservationfund.org or 304-870-2238.

Please visit
GarrettFarms.org/news
to find the link to the survey.
Please complete it by 1/31 to help us plan what trainings/programs/workshops will help the most.



Sessions on a Wide Variety of Small Farm Marketing & Production Topics, such as:

- Vegetables & Fruits
- Livestock
- Natural Resources
- Value Added
- Alternative Ag
- Greenhouses & High Tunnels
- And more!

Plus we'll have Vendors & Local Foods!

Appalachia GROWS

Small Farms Conference

Friday & Saturday
March 17-18, 2017
Allegany College of Maryland
Cumberland, MD
www.AppGrows.com

Oakland FFA Notes:



The Oakland FFA will be selling flats and 1/2 flats of **strawberries** in February. Delivery of strawberries will be the week of March 3rd.

Please contact Rebecca Frantz at 301-334-1580 for more information or look for updates and prices on our Facebook page, *Oakland FFA Chapter*.

Northern FFA Notes:

The *Spring Plant Sale* is set for Saturday, May 13, 2017 at the Northern Garrett High School greenhouse.

As usual, ornamentals, hanging baskets and vegetable transplants will be offered. All plants are grown and cared for by the plant science class and FFA members.

Course Set for Annie's Project - Empowering Women in Agriculture

Annie's Project - Empowering Women in Agriculture, is a nonprofit dedicated to providing educational programs (Annie's Projects) designed to strengthen women's roles in the modern farm enterprise. Currently, classes are being taught in 33 states. Annie's Projects foster problem solving, record keeping, and decision-making skills in farm women.

Annie's Project is designed to empower farm women to manage information systems used in critical decision making processes and to build supportive networks throughout the region. The target audience is farm women with a passion for business and involvement, though anyone (male or female) is welcome to participate.

Annie was a woman who grew up in a small town in Northern Illinois. Her goal was to marry a farmer and she did. Annie spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her farm husband. Together they did great things, but it wasn't easy.

This is Annie's Project – to take her experiences and share it with farm women living and working in a complex business.

The eight week course will cover the five areas of risk

management: production risk, market risk, financial risk, legal risk, and human risk.

Annie's Project has been approved as an official training program for Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers. Any person (male or female) is welcome to participate in Annie's Project. The fee for the course is \$75 and will include dinner at each of the meetings. *FSA borrowers will be charged an additional \$100 fee and will have additional requirements.*

Annie's project is being offered by University of Maryland Extension in Garrett and Allegany counties. The course will be held on **Tuesday evenings (5:30-9:00pm) from Feb 21st to April 11th at the Garrett College Northern Outreach Center** (located at 12601 National Pike, Grantsville). Dinner will be provided each evening.

Registration is required by February 13. You can register and pay online (including the FSA additional fee, if required) at: <http://bit.ly/2j4UycZ>

For more information and to register, contact Cheryl DeBerry or Willie Lantz in Garrett County at 301-334-6960 or Sherry Frick or Jesse Ketterman in Allegany at 301-724-3320.

Master Gardener News

Master Gardener Basic Training Course Set

Are you interested in serving your community and learning more about home gardening? A Master Gardener is someone who is eager to learn and ready to better the community through volunteering. The Master Gardener program began in 1978 as a way of extending horticulture and pest management services to the general public. Today, the Master Gardener mission of educating Maryland residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities is more important than ever.

The Master Gardener Basic Training course will be every Tuesday evening, March 7th – May 23rd, at the University of Maryland Extension office in Mt. Lake Park from 5:30-8:30pm. The cost is \$110 and includes the class material and the Master

Gardener Handbook.

In order to become a certified Maryland Master Gardener, participants will be asked to donate 40 hours of community service through educational outreach activities.

Sign up today to learn more about soils, botany, fertilizers, plant propagation, plant diseases, insects, ecology, herbs, and much more. Please call the University of Maryland Extension Office in Garrett County at 301-334-6960 or email abachtel@umd.edu for a course syllabus.

Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/garrettcounymastergardeners



SAVE THE DATE
February 12-14, 2017
Charleston Civic Center
Charleston, West Virginia

It's all about **THE FOOD** and Community

West Virginia **Small Farm Conference**

Precision Dairy Technology Workshop March 3 in Accident

University of Maryland Extension will be hosting a Precision Dairy Technology Workshop on March 3rd at the Garrett College CTTC (Accident Industrial Park) from 9:30 am to 2:15 pm.

The focus of this program will be Precision Technology use in the Dairy Industry. Mathew Hann, Penn State Extension, Leesport, PA, will be making two presentations. "Precision Feeding" will provide an overview of precision dairy feeding technologies including examples of how the technologies are being used on the farms. Benefits and challenges of using the technologies will also be discussed. "Guiding Producers through the Decision Making Process for Technology Investments" will discuss how producers can evaluate a potential technology being considered for their farm. A case study example of a farm considering the adoption of an activity monitoring system will be used.

David Swain, Southern States Coop, Inc., Richmond, VA, will be presenting "Precision Technology for Forages" and will focus on the idea that Agronomy Technology is not just for row crops, but can be used in multiple cropping systems and for different value propositions. Technology tools can help a dairy to better manage their crop production and those tools can be integrated into their operations.

Dr. Burkhard Schulz, University of Maryland College Park, will be presenting "Weed Control in Forages". Dr. Schulz's research looks at weed resistance to herbicide use and the mechanisms within

the weed that cause it to develop resistance.

Dr. Bob Peters, University of Maryland College Park, will be presenting "Experience with Activity and Ruminant Monitoring". He will describe the components of a ruminant and activity monitoring system and provide a brief overview of the applied research that has been conducted to verify the usefulness of the technology in managing health and reproduction. A system that has been installed at the University of Maryland dairy herd. Examples of individual cow monitoring from that herd will be shared.

There will be no fee for registration and lunch will be provided. **Registration is required by February 27.** To register or more info contact the Garrett County Extension office at 301-334-6960.

For more information, please check out the Precision Dairy Technology Program website by clicking on the "Precision Dairy Technology Program" link on the left side of the page at this website: ansc.umd.edu/extension

Agenda:

- 9:30 am Registration
- 10:00 am Precision Feeding
- 10:40 am Precision Technology for Forages
- 11:20 am Weed Control in Forages
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Guiding Producers through the Decision Making Process for Technology Investments
- 1:45 pm Experience with Activity and Ruminant Monitoring
- 2:15 pm Adjourn

Garrett College Continuing Education Announces:

New Agricultural Offerings Coming Soon!

If you would be interested in either of these topics, please contact Sarah below.

Growers Workshop Series: Grow and sell your own produce! Whether it's to start your own operation, increase skills and knowledge or to grow food for our local co-op, this series of courses is designed to assist ag-ripreneurs in getting started and being successful.

Farm Estate Planning: Whether you already have a will or estate plan in place, or never had the time to plan that far ahead, this potential series of courses is designed to give farmers a thorough knowledge and understanding of the aspects and terminology related to farm transitioning and planning. More details to follow!

Call or email Sarah Friend for class information or to be added to the information list for upcoming topics and sessions.

301-387-3064 | sarah.friend@garrettcollege.edu



Suggest a Topic! Don't see something that interests you? Email us your class idea!

Private Applicator Pesticide Licenses

In order for farmers to apply restrictive use pesticides they must hold a private applicator pesticide license issued by Maryland Department of Agriculture. To become licensed, farmers must pass the private applicator exam.

University of Maryland Extension is offering a Private Applicator exam training on **Monday, January 16th from 6:00 pm**

to 9:00 pm at the Extension Office in Oakland.

Training manuals are available at the Extension Office for a cost of \$10.

A test will be scheduled in February.

There is no cost for the training, just call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960 to register.

NEW! Bus Driver Training Starting in the Spring!



**Learn to drive a
School Bus, Tour
Bus, or Transit Bus!**

Contact Terry Beachy at 301-895-4700 for more details.

**UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION**

Solutions in your community

**Economic
Development**



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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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Get this newsletter by email
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Contact Susanp@umd.edu
or call 301-334-6960

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