

Mountain Top Ag News

'Future of Hemp in Garrett County' Workshop Dec. 5, Garrett College

Learn about some of the Garrett County hemp pilot research projects conducted in 2019. Growers will share their experiences and knowledge gained during their first year of production.

The workshop will be held Thursday, December 5, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at Garrett College GEIC Building Room 111.

Agenda:

6:45 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration

(Refreshments provided)

7:00 p.m. **Welcome and Introduction of Speakers**, Kurt Lear, Director of Workforce and Adult Education Garrett College

7:10 p.m. **Growing Hemp in Garrett County**, Willie Lantz, Senior Agriculture

Education Extension Agent, University of Maryland Extension

7:40 p.m. **Hemp Testing and Sales**, Jennifer and Bryan Bernard, 9Gen Farms

8:10 p.m. **CBD 101: Basics**, Katharine Dubansky, Backbone Farm

8:40 p.m. **Hemp Farming in Garrett County Soils**, Darryl Glotfelty, Glotfelty Farm

9:10 p.m. **Open Q and A Discussion - Networking**

The cost is \$15 per person (includes refreshments). RSVP by November 28 by calling 301-387-3136 or email

donna.bittinger@garrettcollege.edu or go online at <https://tinyurl.com/yvt2b2v9>

Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference

The Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference will be held on January 16, 2020 at the Garrett College CTTC in Accident.

Dr. Matt Poore, Extension Livestock Commodity Coordinator and Ruminant Nutrition Specialist with North Carolina State University will be the featured speaker for the day. Dr. Poore's Extension interests include forage use in animal production systems and nutrition of beef, sheep and goats. Dr. Poore has a number of useful extension publications that can be found online at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/catalog/author/6985/matt-poore>

Dr. Poore's topics for the Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference include:

"Making the most of adaptive grazing in building a productive pasture-based livestock system," which will cover some of his philosophies on grassland agriculture and the principles of adaptive grazing.

The second presentation will be, "Building a balanced and resilient forage system using perennials and annuals," which will focus on building forage systems, first by building a perennial base and then using complimentary annual and perennial species.

The remainder of the day will be focused on local hay and pasture topics. A full agenda and registration information will be available by mid-December. If you have any questions, contact the extension office at 301-334-6960.

Cattle Health Management: Calving Workshop Dec. 5

University of Maryland Extension and the University of Maryland Department of Animal & Avian Sciences will conduct a Cattle Health Management—Calving workshop on December 5, 2019, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Garrett College Outreach Center at 12601 National Pike in Grantsville.

Topics to be covered include:

- Tips for Getting Your Farm Ready for Calving
- Common Management

Techniques for a Successful Calving Season

- Strategies for When Things Go Wrong
- Hands-on Practice with Calving Aids

Cost for the workshop is \$20 per farm (includes all educational materials and a free gift).

To register online, visit: umd-calving.eventbrite.com or call Racheal Slattery at rslatt@umd.edu or 301-405-1392.

Dairy One Milk Tester Opening

Dairy One Cooperative, Inc. is a regional cooperative that provides DHIA membership throughout the northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Dairy One has an opening for a milk tester in the Garrett County, Maryland, Somerset County, PA and in nearby West Virginia.

If you are interested in the position or learning more about the position contact Chuck Yeager at 410-259-1274. Resumes can be emailed to Chuck.Yeager@Dairyone.Com

Maryland Dairy Producer Survey

In the coming weeks, Maryland dairy producers will receive a survey in the mail that will help UMD Extension understand issues related to dairy production and help ID the educational needs of our dairy community. Those who complete the anonymous and voluntary survey will be eligible to enter a drawing to win one of three \$75 gift cards. Please contact Sarah Potts, Dairy and Beef Extension Specialist, at sbpotts@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 with questions.

Western Maryland Food Council

The Western Maryland Food Council (WMFC) was formed in 2017 to assist with improving the local food system in Western Maryland. The WMFC includes Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties. While the WMFC is organized as a three-county organization, most of the work of the organization is done in local workgroups in each of the counties. The workgroups defined by the WMFC are Food Education, Food Access and Security, Food Economy, and Environmental Impacts.

Garrett County has had an active Food Education/Food

Access and Security group. Over the past couple of years the group has worked with the "It's in the Bag" program, the Judy Center summer bus local foods program, and provided funding for the double SNAP and FMNP benefits at the farmers markets. The group has also published the Guide to Free Food Resources in Garrett County which can be found on the website at wmdfoodcouncil.com.

The WMFC is providing \$1,500 for each county to assist with food related projects. The funding can assist with current projects or be used for start up of new

projects.

Garrett workgroup meetings are held monthly. If you would be interested in being involved with these workgroups please contact

Willie Lantz at 301-334-6960 or wlantz@umd.edu.

You can learn more about the WMFC at www.wmdfoodcouncil.com or find us on Facebook.

Blackout Dates for Lawn Fertilizer Applications Take Effect 11/16

The Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds citizens that fertilizer blackout dates authorized by Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law will begin on Nov. 16, 2019 and run through Feb. 29, 2020.

Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law prohibits residents and lawn-care professionals from fertilizing lawns with products containing phosphorus and nitrogen between the specified blackout dates. An exception exists for lawn-care professionals, who may apply up to 0.5 pound of soluble or insoluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to lawns they manage until December 1.

Potassium and lime may still be applied during the blackout dates, since they are not considered a threat to water quality. Citizens and lawn-care professionals may resume lawn-fertilizer applications containing nitrogen and phosphorus on March 1, 2020, as long as the ground is not frozen or heavy rain is not predicted. A soil test is required before phosphorus may be applied to established lawns.

The department reminds citizens that the law prohibits anyone from using fertilizer products to melt ice and snow on steps, sidewalks, or driveways. Applying fertilizer to hard or frozen ground provides a direct pathway for nutrient runoff into storm drains that feed into the Chesapeake Bay.

Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law requires homeowners and lawn-care professionals to follow University of Maryland fertilizer recommendations and use best management practices when fertilizing lawns. In addition, the law requires lawn-care professionals to be licensed and certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture to apply fertilizer to the properties they manage.

The department maintains a list of certified lawn-care professionals, along with additional information on Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law, at mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer.

Upcoming Events

December 5: Future of Hemp in Garrett County. See page 1.

December 5: Cattle Health Management - Calving Workshop. See page 1.

December 9: Private Pesticide Applicator Training. See below.

December 16: Private Pesticide Applicator Training. See below.

January 8: Keystone Farm Show. keystonefarmshow.com

January 4-11: Pennsylvania Farm Show. farmshow.pa.gov

January 16: Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference. See page 1

January 28-30: Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention. mafvc.org

February 5-8: PASA Sustainable Agriculture Conference. pasafarming.org

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification and Training

If your private applicator pesticide license expires in December of 2019, you will need to renew the license online. You should receive a postcard in the mail from Maryland Department of Agriculture in November. That postcard will have the web address and the codes necessary for you to renew your license online. *If you are not comfortable with renewing online*, you can call the Department of Ag or the Extension Office and request a paper renewal, which will require you to send a check through the mail for the renewal. If you do not have the required continuing education credits to renew your license you will receive a letter from MDA explaining that you need to get credits. University of Maryland Extension will be offering two opportunities (you only need to attend one) to get the required continuing

education in December. The first will be **Monday, December 9th** from 6-8pm at the Grantsville Library and the second will be on **Monday, December 16th** from 6-8pm at the Extension Office in Mt. Lake Park. Both sessions are free of charge, however we ask you to call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960 to RSVP.

We will also be offering a **pesticide test review** for anyone interested in getting a private applicator license. The session will be held on Monday, January 20th from 6-9pm at the Garrett County Extension Office. The office also has study materials for the test that can be picked up at any time. The Extension Office will arrange with MDA to give the test in Garrett County sometime in late winter. If you have any questions or would like to register call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program

Signup is open for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops: MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer's total

payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. View payment rates by county.

Dairy and Hogs: Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Specialty Crops: MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Info: Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming

and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

Got Hay or Straw for Sale?

The Extension Office often fields questions about hay and straw for sale. www.GarrettFarms.org is where the office finds that info and/or refers people to. Please contact the office and let us know what you have for sale:

- Type of Hay or Straw
- Type/Size of Bales
- Amount Available
- How it is Stored
- Pricing
- Contact Info

We'll be happy to put a listing on the website for free. Please let us know if you sell out: 301-334-6960.

Student Opportunities from the Garrett County Forestry Board

Applications are now open for the 2020 Natural Resource Careers Camp. High school students who have an interest in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, soil science and other natural resource related careers are encouraged to apply. The camp will be held at the Hickory Environmental Education Center July 19-25, 2020. The Garrett County Forestry Board offers scholarships to cover the cost of camp tuition/fees. Find more information or apply online at <http://www.marylandforestryboards.org/nrcc.cfm>

Appalachian Beekeepers Association: Helping Bee Owners Learn About Care & Keeping of Bees Join Today!

The Appalachian Beekeepers Association works with all beekeepers and potential beekeepers with any number of hives.

With regular meetings with experienced beekeepers to discuss issues, the association is the best way to learn and connect with other beekeepers.

Membership fees are just \$10 per year, due in January. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Garrett County University of Maryland Extension office at 1916 Maryland Hwy, Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550.

To be added to the mailing list, call 301-334-6960.



Local Agriculture 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 Cheryl DeBerry at 301-334-6968 for more information.

No More Cash Payments for Nutrient Management Testing

The University of Maryland Extension Office is no longer able to accept cash payments for testing of soil samples and manure samples. Please remember to bring a check with you (Payable to University of Maryland.)

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Economic
Development



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The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression. If you have a financial/disability need that requires special assistance for participation in any of the programs, please contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

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, or have an Agritourism enterprise, or just want to get the word out about your agribusiness, 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@garrettcountry.org

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