

# Mountain Top Ag News

## Dairy Livestock Gross Margin Program

On September 22nd at 7:00 pm, Tom McConnell will present a risk management program on Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) Insurance for dairy cattle at the Preston County Extension Office, 115 West Court Street, Kingwood, WV.

LGM Dairy provides protection to dairy producers when feed costs rise or milk prices drop. Gross margin is the market value of milk minus feed costs. LGM Dairy uses futures prices for corn, soybean

meal, and milk to determine the expected gross margin and the actual gross margin. It is available to any producer who owns dairy cattle in numerous states including WV, MD, PA, and VA. Only milk sold for commercial or private sale and primarily intended for final human consumption is eligible for coverage. There is no minimum number of hundredweights a producer can insure. The maximum amount of milk that can be insured is 24 million pounds per crop year.

## Wanted: Local Foods Vendors

In celebration of World Food Day October 24, a viewing of the film, *Food, Inc.* will be held at Allegany College in Cumberland at 6:30 pm. Farmers and other local

foods vendors are invited to set up a farmers market display from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the lobby outside the auditorium, to sell local foods and to be available to the public for questions about local foods and farming. Farmers are welcome to also view the film.

On December 2nd from 4-9 PM and December 3rd from 9AM - 3PM Life Fitness Management in LaVale will hold its annual Holiday "Friday After Black Friday" market. As part of their commitment to supporting local farmers and healthy living, LFM invites local farmers to sell local foods during the event.

For more information about these events, contact Kathy Kinsman, 301-724-3320.

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### Ag Ed Foundation Fundraiser Dinner to Benefit Western MD

See color newsletter insert. We're still looking for auction donations, sponsors, & people to attend! This will be a great evening of food, fun and farming!

For info, call Cheryl DeBerry at 301-334-6968.

## Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Expanded to Garrett & Allegany

Due to the confirmed detection of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Allegany and Anne Arundel counties, the Maryland Department of Agriculture placed all Maryland counties west of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay under a quarantine on July 11.

This order prohibits the movement of ash trees and wood out of the quarantined area, as well as movement of all hardwood

firewood.

The move is intended to contain the spread of the EAB and secure the Eastern Shore, where it has not been found. The EAB is an invasive pest from Asia that feeds on and kills ash trees within three years after infestation.

For more information, visit <http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/>

## Putting Agricultural Spending into Perspective

Adapted from [farmdocdaily.illinois.edu](http://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu), by Nick Paulson and Gary Schnitkey, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois

Policy debates are currently dominated by the budget. While this is true regardless of whether or not the topic is agriculture related spending, the heat has been put on ag spending - specifically farm programs - in many recent popular press articles. It is not difficult to find criticisms of farm programs and claims of their partisan motivations, and attacks against proposals which seem light on farm program spending cuts. The relatively healthy ag economy and significant increase in farm income levels over the past few years are the most often argued points against the current design of farm programs, and have made it increasingly difficult to continue to justify the need to support and smooth farm incomes.

### Program Spending as a Percentage of Total Federal Outlays, 2009

Social Security	19.3%
Defense	18.6%
Medicare	14.2%
Medicaid	7.1%
Net Interest	5.3%
USDA Commodity & Crop Insurance Programs	0.5%

Source: Congressional Budget Office and USDA

While total spending on USDA programs represents a larger percentage of total federal outlays, it has declined from approximately 6 percent of total federal spending from the late 70s through the mid 80s to between 3 and 4 percent of total spending over the past 15 years. Commodity programs and crop insurance represent a relatively small portion of this total USDA spending. A much greater portion of the USDA's budget is devoted to food, nutrition, and consumer services. [http://www.nfu.org/images/stories/May2011\\_Farmers\\_Share.pdf](http://www.nfu.org/images/stories/May2011_Farmers_Share.pdf)

### Spending on Select USDA Programs, Millions Dollars per Fiscal Year

	2008	2009	2010 Estimate	2011 Projected
Direct payments	4,832	5,222	5,144	4,963
Counter-cyclical	359	731	1,079	749
ACRE	0	0	0	734
LDP/loan programs	6	145	183	24
Total Commodity Programs*	6,713	8,936	9,378	8,990
Crop Insurance	4,428	7,899	6,982	7,698
Standing Disaster Programs	0	3	1,745	1,421
Food, nutrition, & consumer science	60,097	82,249	93,854	107,617

\*Commodity programs include more than direct and CC payments, ACRE, and LDP/loan programs. Source: USDA

# Large Animal Veterinarian Options Expanding

A new veterinarian office has opened in Moorefield, WV, which plans to be available to serve large animal care needs in Garrett and Preston Counties.

South Branch Animal Hospital, Dr. Tom Parisi and Dr. Lesley Kessel Parisi, will offer "State of the Art Compassionate Veterinary Care for all Animals".

Services available include: wellness and sick exams, vaccinations, in hospital laboratory, ultrasound and x-ray, fully stocked pet pharmacy, prescription foods, farm calls, as well as emergency availability.

Appointments are preferred; office hours are 8 am to 7 pm weekdays M-F and 9 am to noon on Saturdays, call for Saturday appointment.

Call 304-530-7224, located at 5201 US Rt 220 S., Moorefield, WV; visit them on Facebook at South Branch Animal Hospital.

Pineview Veterinary Hospital at 85 Pineview Drive, Oakland, is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 6:30 pm, Saturday 8:00 am to 12 noon, Doctor's hours by appointment. Pet boarding is available. Call 301-334-8393 for more information.

Casselman Veterinary Services has provided quality medical and surgical care as well as wellness services to farm and companion animals in rural Garrett and contiguous counties for 29 years. The veterinarians, Dr. Wendy Guingrich, Dr. David Rawe and Dr. Rachel Wiley and their knowledgeable staff compassionately prevent and treat disease, facilitate production of wholesome livestock products and protect the human-animal bond working with all types of farm and companion animals. The veterinarians of Casselman Veterinary Services become trusted advisors to their farm clients through regular farm visits. Our clients with pets and small farm animals enjoy the advantages of modern veterinary medicine for their pets in the comfort of a rural practice at our office in Grantsville.

Emergency services are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week for regular clients. Please call our office at 301-895-3109 for an appointment or with any questions you may have.

## Goat Field Day

The 4th Annual Western Maryland Goat Field Day and Sale will be held Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center near Boonsboro, Maryland.

Activities will include: silent auction of bucks, does via private treaty, Junior Goat Skillathon, and invited speaker, Dr. Ken Turner. Dr. Turner's USDA ARS research emphasis is in low-input, forage-based livestock production. For info, call Susan 301-432-2767 x 343.

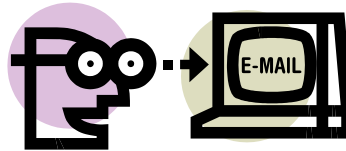
## Private Applicator Certification Classes Set

The private applicator pesticide recertification classes will be held Monday, December 5th at the Grantsville Library and Monday, December 12th at the Garrett County UME Office, both will run from 6-8pm.

## Custom Work Charges

Custom work charges for Maryland are surveyed every other year in fall. The most recent mail survey was conducted in the fall of 2010 to determine custom work charges in Maryland for 2011.

Data was collected from 69 custom operators and farmers and summarized for the state. Participants indicated the rates they charge for various field operations. The charges reported in this publication may serve as a guide in determining an acceptable rate for a particular job where little other information is available. The charges can also be compared with costs and returns and may be used as a basis for working out more equitable charges for both the custom operator and customer. Reports are available online at [www.mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu](http://www.mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu) or at the Extension Office.



### Get your Mt. Top Ag Newsletter by Email!

Just Send Susan Coddington an email at: [susanp@umd.edu](mailto:susanp@umd.edu) to be added to the email list. Previous issues are available at [www.garrett.umd.edu](http://www.garrett.umd.edu) on the Agriculture page.



# Master Gardener News



## Permaculture Design Course

Join the Green Building Institute and instructor Wayne Weiseman for a permaculture certification course this September! Permaculture seeks to combine architecture & agriculture, incorporating natural processes into buildings, energy systems, food systems, and resource use. The Intro to Permaculture class will be held September 16, 5:30-7:30PM, and the certification program is a week-long class running September 17-24, 9:00AM-5:00PM each day (breakfast and lunch included). Visit [greenbuildinginstitute.org/pages/courses/permacultureproject.html](http://greenbuildinginstitute.org/pages/courses/permacultureproject.html) for more information and to register!

The Green Building Institute is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on education, outreach, and networking relating to sustainable building practices, and is located at The Enviro Center, 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup, MD 20794.

## Gazpacho Recipe

*A cold soup is a great way to use up garden goodies!*

- 2 cucumbers, peeled & diced
  - 2 lbs tomatoes, chopped (6 large)
  - 1/2 medium red bell pepper, chopped
  - 1 clove garlic, chopped
  - 3 carrots, coarsely chopped
  - 1/4 cup red onion, thinly sliced
  - 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
  - 1 tablespoon olive oil
  - Salt & pepper
  - celery salt or garlic salt
  - red pepper flakes
  - 1/2 cup water
- Puree the tomatoes, red pepper, garlic, carrots, lemon juice, spices, olive oil, 1/2 of the cucumber chunks and a 1/2 cup of water. Pour into a large bowl, stir in the remainder of the diced cucumber. Cover and chill overnight or for at least three hours. To serve, garnish cold soup with onion, avocado, radishes, cilantro, etc.

## Garrett/Allegany Master Gardener Coordinator Hired

Ashley Bodkins has been hired as a part time Faculty Extension Assistant for Agriculture & Natural Resources. One of her duties will be to coordinate Master Gardener activities and certification in Garrett and Allegany Counties.

Ashley has a wealth of experience in horticulture as well as program coordination and will certainly be a valuable asset for the Master Gardener program.

Good luck to Ashley in her new endeavor!



## Food For Profit Entrepreneurship Training

- Make a specialty food item that other folks often request?
- Have additional produce from your farm or garden that could be made into a value-added food product?
- Envision marketing your family recipes?
- Desire to generate more household income?
- Dream of owning a food business?

Penn State & University of Maryland Extension present Food for Profit, a state-wide Entrepreneurship Training Program customized to meet the needs of local food entrepreneurs.

The Food for Profit workshop is a 6 1/2 hour overview of how to start and successfully operate a small food product business. Conducting a feasibility study to see if yours is a good business idea, performing marketing research, and drafting a business plan are a few of the concrete tools offered in this class. In addition, a DHMH sanitarian will explain in detail what is needed to comply with the regulations to create safe, legal food products in Maryland. By attending this class, you can learn how to evaluate the opportunities on paper before you look for funding or take action, saving money and time.

The workshop will be held October 19, 2011 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Maryland Agriculture Research Center, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD. The cost is \$40 per person (incl. materials & lunch).

Although appropriate for any food business owners who want to develop their venture proactively, the workshop is especially directed to individuals who will be making and packing their products for resale (through grocery stores, open-air markets, or restaurants).

Food for Profit is a very practical session, providing information that you will be able to use immediately to ensure that your business starts out and grows in a way that matches your vision and goals.

Guiding food entrepreneurs through the initial steps to start a business, this class combines educational presentations, guest speakers and a highly interactive learning environment to address:

**Getting Started** The challenges and advantages of owning a food related business.

**Legally Speaking** Learn the role that DHMH will have in your venture—a chance to talk about licensure and the inspection process.

**Developing a Game Plan** A business idea must be do-able, marketable, and profitable. Your business plan will provide a forecast about the feasibility of your venture.

**Niche Marketing** Learn to accurately target your first and best **customer, using the four P's** of price, product, placement, and promotion.

**Safe Food Handling** How extra attention paid at a few specific points in your operation will save time for you, and improve the quality of your product.

**Packaging your Product** How to package, selecting functional containers that are pleasing to the consumer eye. Food labeling requirements are also covered.

**Pricing your Product** A discussion of good pricing formulas and strategies—and a chance to practice using the tools that ensure the price that you arrive at is right!

This workshop is a collaboration of Penn State Extension, University of Maryland Extension and the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center. Questions? Contact Ginger S. Myers, University of Maryland Extension Marketing Specialist at 301-432-2767 x338 (gsmyers@umd.edu)

Pre-payment and registration are required. Register at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/mcq73k> or call 877-489-1398.

Material included in this course is based upon work supported by USDA/ NIFA under Award Number 2010- 49200-06201.

## What's Happening?

September 16  
Permaculture Design Course  
Introduction

5:30-7:30 pm, Jessup, MD  
See article.

September 22  
FSA Dairy Livestock Gross  
Margin Program  
7:00 pm, Preston Co. Extension  
Office. See article.

October 19  
Food For Profit  
9am—4 pm, Cockeysville, MD  
See article.

October 24  
World Food Day viewing of  
Food, Inc.

5:30 pm farm market, 6:30 film at  
Allegany College, Cumberland.  
See article.

December 2-3  
Life Fitness Management  
Holiday Extravaganza  
Farmers Market  
See article.

December 5  
Private Applicator Pesticide  
Recertification  
6-8:00 pm, Grantsville Library

December 12  
Private Applicator Pesticide  
Recertification  
6-8:00 pm, Garrett Co. UMD  
Extension Office

## Nat'l Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Program To Be Held

The US Department of Labor Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 identified several hazardous occupations where individuals employed in these occupations had to be 18 years of old or older. In 1968, the act was amended to include the hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture. This order established the age for employment in agriculture as 16 years of age or 14 years of age with special training. The order also identified hazardous operations and farm tasks, such as operating a tractor over 20 horsepower and operating most farm machinery. Exempt from the this law are minors who are employed on a farm owned and operated by their parents or guardians and minors ages 14 and 15 who have received training and certification form an approved tractor and farm machinery safety certification program. Youth working for grandparents or aunts and uncles are not exempt from this

law. Any farmer employing or who have youth 14 to 15 helping out on the farm, operating tractors and machinery, need to ensure that the youth have had the proper training and certification.

The Garrett County Office of the University of Maryland Extension is planning to conduct a training program for youth ages 14 and 15 to meet the certification requirements for the law. The certification requires 24 hours of training and participants to pass a tractor/machinery operators driving and written test. The program will use a national curriculum developed by Penn State University, Ohio State University, and the national Safety Council. The program will include classroom and hands on training with operating tractors and farm machinery. The training is planned for Fall of 2011 or the Spring of 2012. Anyone interested, please contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## Barn Quilt Association Expands Tour

With 14 colorful quilt squares hung on barns across Garrett County, the Barn Quilt Association has been busy!

The Barn Quilt Festival held in August at Ridgeview Valley hosted over 300 people despite rain showers. At the festival, the newest barn quilt was unveiled: a crazy quilt design based on a real quilt.

Now you can learn about the barn quilt tour through your phone! Call 301-501-5063 to get started.

Interested in a quilt square on your barn? Want to volunteer with the organization? Have a historical **quilt you'd like us to document?**

Visit [www.GarrettBarnQuilts.org](http://www.GarrettBarnQuilts.org) or call 877-577-2276.

# Agriculture Promotion Grant Opportunity

Each year the Maryland Agriculture Council, Inc. offers an opportunity to various agencies and organizations to submit grant applications for the purpose of promoting Maryland agriculture.

Typical grant amounts awarded are for \$300 - \$800, not to exceed \$1,000. The deadline for applications is October 28, 2011.

The total amount of money available will depend on the amount of profit realized from the annual dinner. The amount awarded per grant will depend on the quality of the proposals submitted.

Grants will be awarded based on an applications submitted.

A maximum of \$1,000.00 (or other amount to be determined by the Grants Committee) could be awarded for any single grant.

Grants will be awarded for the promotion of agriculture and

education of the general public on the importance of agriculture in their lives.

Grants may be awarded to either individuals or organizations.

Emphasis will be placed on smaller, quality type of promotional/ educational projects.

The Maryland Agriculture Council, Inc. is a business league comprised of persons, firms, or corporations engaged in the business of buying, selling, using, storing, producing and processing agricultural products or by-products.

If you have ideas for using these grants in Garrett County, please contact Cheryl DeBerry. In years past, we have gotten money to do outreach to the public (signage, activities, etc.) at the county fair and farmers markets. Call 301-334-6968 or email [cdeberry@garrettcounty.org](mailto:cdeberry@garrettcounty.org)



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Garrett County Farm Bureau 301-746-8616	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	USDA Rural Development 301-334-6972
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce 301-387-4386	Garrett County Soil Conservation District 301-334-6958
Natural Resources Conservation Service 301-334-6957	MD Department of Agriculture Animal Health 301-600-1548

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