

Mountain Top Ag News

Make Your Voice Heard! Marcellus Shale Feedback to Governor's Group

On June 6, 2011, Governor Martin O'Malley signed an Executive Order establishing the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative. This initiative will assist State policymakers and regulators in determining whether and how gas production from the Marcellus shale in Maryland can be accomplished without unacceptable risks of adverse impacts to public health, safety, the environment and natural resources. The Order created an advisory commission made up of a broad array of stakeholders, to undertake a study of drilling for natural gas from the

Marcellus Shale in Western Maryland. This commission is making some pretty important decisions regarding Garrett County's future. If you would like to comment on this process as a landowner, mineral rights owner, business owner or as a concerned citizen, you may email your comments to: msac@mde.state.md.us

Additional information is at www.mde.state.md.us under the "Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative" link in the center of the page.

Garrett County High Speed Internet Survey Coming!

Farmers and farm businesses are using the internet for more than email: remote monitoring of milking or security systems, researching diseases and pests, purchasing equipment, and more!

Garrett County Government is conducting a survey in the next few weeks on the high speed internet use and needs of the business and residential communities. In its most recent strategic plan, the Garrett County Office of Economic Development identified a goal of 90% availability of high speed internet in Garrett County by 2014.

High speed internet, or broadband, includes DSL, wireless, cable, and fiber optic and does not include dial-up or satellite connections.

The survey will be mailed to Garrett County farmers. Please complete this survey as soon as possible. This is your chance to help get high speed internet into the more rural areas of the county, and to get higher speeds in areas with broadband already.

If you have questions, call Cheryl DeBerry at 301-334-6960.



Cover Crop Twilight Meeting

While most farmers may select a traditional cover crop such as rye, other options such as tillage radishes, crimson clover, and phacelia are available for cover crop plantings.

These cover crops provide benefits in addition to soil erosion control. For instance, tillage radishes penetrate deep into the soil, creating cavities for water filtration, improving soil drainage. Legumes such as clovers, vetch and phacelia provide nitrogen for next year's crops.

If you are interested in viewing demonstration plots with various cover crops, a twilight meeting will be held at the farm of Evan Schrock on Thursday, October 27 from 6-8:00 pm. A representative of Homestead Nutrition from New Holland, PA will be on hand to answer questions about various cover crop mixes available.

The Schrock farm is located at 90 Lynndale Road, Oakland, Maryland.

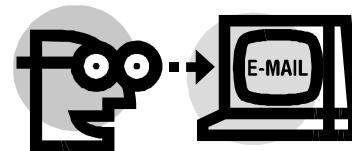
If you have any questions or need directions please contact the University of Maryland Extension Office in Garrett County at 301-334-6960.

Nutrient Management News

The Garrett County office of University of Maryland Extension will be welcoming back Jill Hauser as the Nutrient Management Advisor starting the first of November. Jill was the Nutrient Management Advisor from 2000 to 2002, when she left to devote time to her dairy farm and family.

Farmers needing to update their plan for 2012 are encouraged to contact the Extension Office this fall.

Call 301-334-6960 for more information.



Get your Mt. Top Ag Newsletter by Email!

Just Send Susan Coddington an email at: susanp@umd.edu to be added to the email list. Previous issues are available at www.garrett.umd.edu on the Agriculture page.

Wanted: Local Foods Vendors-Change

In celebration of World Food Day, a viewing of the film, *Food, Inc.* will be held at Allegany College in Cumberland **at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 25.** 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.

Taking Orders for Freezer Beef, Lamb, Pork, or Chicken? Have Hay, Straw or Grains for Sale? **Get Listed: www.GarrettFarms.org**

www.GarrettFarms.org has been developed to provide a place for customers to find your farm products! Listings are free to Garrett and surrounding County farmers and farm businesses.

Give us information about any meat you have for sale for the holidays or anytime! (Include the type of animal, approx. weight, pricing, etc. plus your contact information).

For Hay, let us know the type (alfalfa, timothy, mixed, etc.), which cutting, how it has been stored, wrapped or not, size and type of bales (small square, large square, 4x5 round, etc.), your location, and contact information (phone and/or email address).

Send to Cheryl DeBerry cdeberry@garrettcountry.org or call 301-334-6960.

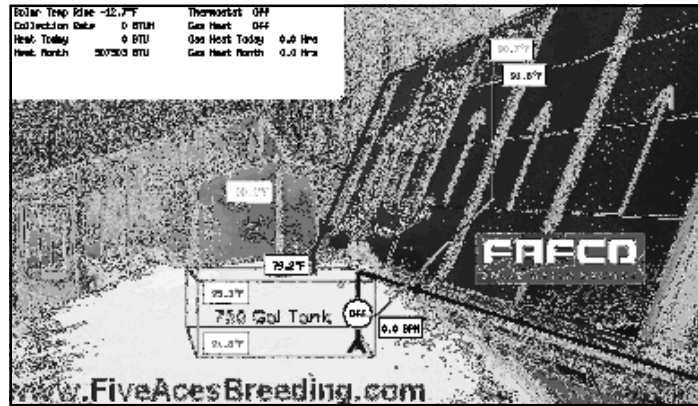
Extreme Season Extension with Greenhouses and High Tunnels Farm Workshop Set

High in the mountains of Western Maryland, local fresh fruits are typically available for around six weeks during the summer. Unheated high tunnels have extended the growing season for some farmers. To take advantage of an even longer growing period, adding heat to the high tunnel can make it more productive and further extend the fresh fruit season. Adding heat typically requires the burning of fossil fuels, which is costly and adds carbon dioxide to the environment.

Join us on Saturday, November 5th to see how two innovative farmers are using "extreme season extension" with little to no use of fossil fuels.

Systems". The project combines the use of wind power, high tunnels and vertical growing systems to produce strawberries from May through November.

Lunch will be provided at noon.



connected to the internet and records information live on the web. View a layout of the system and current conditions and charts at /www.welserver.com/WEL0004/

including lunch but please register so that we can get a count for lunch. If you have any questions or need additional information or directions, please call.



10:00 am

Ryan's Glade Farm and Garden
Allen and Kathy Lilly
2207 King Wildesen Road
Oakland, Maryland 21550

The Lillys have been producing fruit and vegetables for the Mt. Fresh Farmers Market in Oakland for over 10 years. They built their first high tunnel in 2006. After participating in a couple of Northeast SARE projects with the University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County, they decided to apply for a Northeast SARE Farmer Grant. They were successful with their 2009 proposal receiving funding for their project, entitled: "Economical Climate

Controls for Maximum Production in High Tunnel Vertical Growing



1:00 pm
Five Aces Breeding LLC
Dr. Harry Swartz
4965 Gorman Road
Oakland, MD 21550

Dr. Swartz retired from the University of Maryland after many years as a successful strawberry and raspberry plant breeder. He is continuing his life's work on a small farm in Garrett County. One of Harry's goals with his new farm is to use as little fossil fuels as possible. His breeding operation, however, requires plants to be productively growing throughout the winter months. In 2009, Harry partnered with UMD Extension on a Northeast SARE Partnership Grant to construct a greenhouse that would use as little fossil fuels as possible. The greenhouse was constructed with energy efficient materials such as insulated concrete forms, twin poly carbonate, and an insulated north wall.

To heat the greenhouse, solar water heating panels, typically used to heat swimming pools, were installed to heat water in a 1,000 gallon water tank attached to the greenhouse. The hot water is then circulated throughout the greenhouse using radiators as heat exchangers. The entire system is controlled with a computer monitoring system which is

To register for the event:
Call the Garrett County Office of the University of Maryland Extension at 301-334-6960. The event is free

Private Applicator Certification

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.

For new certification, a private applicator test review will be held January 9, 7-9:00 pm at the Extension Office. The test will be held at 3:00 pm on January 23 at the Extension Office. Call 301-334-6960 to register and for more information.



Master Gardener News



Winter Squash, Apple, Walnut Soup Recipe

Easy & Delicious!

- 3 cups cooked winter squash, pureed
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 cup light or heavy cream
- 1/4 cup ground toasted walnuts
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- salt
- white pepper
- 1/2 cup toasted walnut pieces (for garnish)

Combine all the ingredients except the walnut pieces in a large saucepan and stir to blend well. Cook the soup over medium heat until warmed through, about 6 to 8 minutes.

Ladle the soup into bowls and add a few chopped walnut pieces in the center for garnish.

Spring Master Gardener Planning Underway

The spring of 2012 will bring many Master Gardener activities. Master Gardener volunteers are preparing to teach multiple learning sessions for the public and are planning for many volunteer opportunities.

In addition, a new class for Master Gardener certification will be held in the spring. If you are interested in being a Master Gardener, contact Ashley Bodkins, 301-334-6960.



Mt. Top Fruit and Vegetable Conference - *Date Change in 2012*

The Mt. Top Fruit and Vegetable Conference is being moved to January this winter. The conference will be held on Saturday, January 21st at Garrett College.

The conference will feature speakers including innovative farmers, extension, and industry. A trade show will also be held

featuring businesses offering supplies and products for raising fruits and vegetables.

A complete schedule and registration will be available around the first of December. If you have any questions please contact the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference

Mark your calendars for next year's Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference to be held on January 19th at Garrett College.

The featured speaker will be Bob Hendershot. Bob is a renowned speaker on forage and grassland management and profitability. He is a long time employee of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is a member of the Ohio Forage and Grasslands Council (OFGC). Bob is located in Lancaster, Ohio, but has statewide responsibilities as Grasslands Management Systems Specialist. He is also immediate past president of the American Forage & Grassland Council.

He has worked extensively on his own farm and with colleges and

universities to research and promote sound grazing practices in Ohio. His areas of expertise include soils, fencing & water systems, cool/warm season grasses, annual forages, legumes, sheep/cattle grazing systems, and soil and pasture fertility. He is a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker who can assist any interested operator in improving their forage management. Bob will cover a variety of hay and pasture management topics including species selection, soil, and plant growth.

A complete schedule and registration will be ready around the first of December. If you have any questions please contact the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Corn Calculations

As farmers gear up to harvest corn, many questions arise about pricing of various forms of corn, most often involving the value of ear corn vs. shelled corn.

A bushel of shelled corn weighs 56 pounds at 15.5% moisture. It takes 70 pounds of ear corn on average to make a bushel of shelled corn. It basically takes about two (2) bushels of ear corn to make a bushel of shelled corn, remembering that a bushel is 1.25 cubic feet. The two bushels of ear corn weigh approx. 70 lbs and will yield 56 lbs of shelled corn and 14 lbs of cobs. So, by weight, 80% of ear corn is shelled corn. By multiplying the current on farm corn price by .80, you will have the approximate value of ear corn on the farm.

The on farm value of corn will depend on local supply and

demand for corn. Currently more corn is being harvested in Garrett County than can be stored or sold in the fall of the year, therefore the local on farm price for corn typically reflects the national market minus the cost to transport corn to grain dealers. Transportation costs will likely run around 50¢ per bushel to grain dealers in Hagerstown, MD.

Corn with a moisture higher than 15.5% will also be discounted. The moisture discount depends on the moisture level, the cost of drying (fuel cost) and grain prices. For example, 20% moisture shelled corn will currently be docked 10% for moisture, basically reducing the per bushel price by 10%. Producers need to contact a grain dealer for current moisture discounts.

With the current corn market at around \$6.70 a bushel for shelled

What's Happening?

October 25
World Food Day viewing of Food, Inc.
5:30 pm farm market, 6:30 film at Allegany College, Cumberland. See article.

October 27
Cover Crop Twilight Meeting
6-8:00 pm, Evan Schrock Farm. See article.

November 1
Medicinal Roots of Appalachia and Forest Management
7-9:00 pm
Garrett College. See article.

November 5
Extreme Season Extension Workshop
10:00 am Ryan's Glade Farm, 1:00 pm Five Aces Breeding. 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

January 9
Private Pesticide Applicator Test Review

7-9:00 pm, Extension Office. See article.

January 13-14, 2012
Future Harvest - Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture: Farm to Institution: Making Local Food Economies a Reality
Landsdown, VA
www.futureharvestcasa.org

January 19
Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference
Garrett College

January 21
Mt. Top Fruit & Vegetable Conference
Garrett College

January 23
Private Pesticide Applicator Test
3:00 pm Extension Office. See Article

January 31-February 2
MidAtlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention
Hershey, PA
www.mafvc.org

February 1-4, 2012
PASA, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture Conference
State College, PA
www.pasafarming.org

March 1-3, 2012
West Virginia Small Farms Conference
Waterfront Conference Center, Morgantown, WV
smallfarmcenter.ext.wvu.edu

corn, if a farmer has 20% moisture and calculates a transportation cost of 50¢ per bushel, the on farm price for shelled corn would be around \$5.53 per bushel. To convert shelled corn to ear corn, first divide the \$5.53 per bushel by 56 pounds in a bushel then multiply by .80, and then multiply by 2,000 pounds to convert to the price per ton. In this case the ear corn would be worth \$158.00 per ton at the farm.

Current corn prices for Western Maryland are published in the Republican Newspaper each week.

A moisture tester is available at the Extension Office. Just bring in about one quart of shelled corn to be tested. We can also work with you on doing yield tests, which are important for nutrient management planning. If you have questions about converting the prices of other forms of corn call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Medicinal Roots of Appalachia and Forest Management *(rescheduled)*

A Maryland Forest Association Educational Workshop: Medicinal Roots of Appalachia and Forest Management will be held November 1, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Garrett College, Continuing Education Building, Room 205, 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD 21541.

The Maryland Forests Association, in cooperation with University of Maryland Extension and Forestry for the Bay is conducting a Medicinal Roots of Appalachia and Forest Management workshop for family forest landowners, MFA members, tree farmers, and forest conservationists.

Discover the lore, tradition, and science behind Appalachia's most popular and native medicinal roots, from the economically exalted roots of the culture like Ginseng and Black Cohosh to the local secret favorites like Solomon's Seal and Stoneroot and many more! Come away with tidbits of Appalachian culture past, present, and future

and its contribution to our herbal materia medica. Learn how management of your forest can help.

Registration forms and additional information are available at www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Events.html#20111004

To register, contact the University of Maryland Extension Garrett County office at (301) 334-6960 or email Susan Coddington at susanp@umd.edu.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$10.00. Send a check payable to **Garrett County EAC** to 1916 MD Hwy, Suite A, Oakland, MD 21550. Sorry we are unable to accept credit cards. Registration Deadline is Friday, October 28, 2011.

Contact Jonathan Kays, jkays@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 x323 for information about the program agenda.

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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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