Farm Transition Workshop to Take Place

A 1-day workshop will take place on December 10, 2015 at Chesapeake College-Wye Mills for those agricultural producers interested in learning the components that go into a successful farm transition.

Keeping the Farm in the Family: Tips on Farm Transition Planning will involve a single day workshop from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The workshop will focus on business & personal goal setting, financial analysis, human resources, family communications, and estate planning. The workshop will feature Dale Johnson, Farm Management Specialist, and Henry Leonard, III, C.P.A., CBIZ MHM, LLC and C. Lee Gordon, Esq., Parker, Counts, Melton & Goodman, P.C.

The workshop is hosted by the Agriculture Law Education Initiative, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland Extension, and with funding from USDA-Risk Management Agency. The workshop costs $10/person and includes a lunch and refreshments.

To register online visit: http://keepingthefarminthefamily.eventbrite.com for more information contact Shannon Dill at sdill@umd.edu or 410-822-1244.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR and NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECERTIFICATION
December 1, 2015, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
UME Kent County Extension Office
709 Morgnec Road, Chestertown, MD
Must pre-register: Call 410-778-1661.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING and EXAM
December 4, 2015 (Training for new applicators);
Dec. 18, 2015 (Exam)
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
UME Queen Anne’s County Extension Office
505 Railroad Avenue, Centreville, MD
Must pre-register: Call 410-758-0166.

FARM DIVERSIFICATION: Profitability with Specialty Fruits and Vegetables
Wye Research & Education Center
Queenstown, Maryland
December 8, 2015
Please join us at the Wye Research and Education Center on December 8, 2015 for a "Farm Diversification: Profitability with Specialty Fruits and Vegetables" program from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We have an agenda full of excellent speakers and topics for those who want to find out more about the profitability of Specialty Crops.

Register by December 1 at 410-827-8056 X115 or ddant@umd.edu. $20 fee includes coffee, donuts and lunch. In case of inclement weather please call 410-827-8056 after 6:30 a.m. for an announcement of any weather-related closings.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU CONVENTION/CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
DECEMBER 6-8, 2015
Clarion Resort Hotel, 101st Street, Ocean City, MD
The 2015 Annual Convention will be Maryland Farm Bureau's 100th annual meeting! Join us in Ocean City from December 6-8 for policy voting, leadership training and agriculture education, along with statewide networking and celebration! Please call 410-922-3426 if you have any questions. If you are not a Maryland Farm Bureau member but would still like to attend the convention, register here: http://mdfarmbureau.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/15-Guest-Registration-Form-1.pdf
DECEMBER 2015:

01 - Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification and Nutrient Management Voucher Training, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Kent County Extension Office, Chestertown. Must pre-register by calling 410-778-1661.

01 - Timely Ag Issues, 7:30 a.m., Tilghman Terrace, Centreville, MD. $2/person: coffee, donuts, etc.

01 - Lawn Fertilizer Blackout Date begins for Lawn Care Pros. Visit: http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx

03 - Estate Planning, Chesapeake College, Wye Mills.

04 - Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Queen Anne’s County Extension Office, Centreville, MD. Pre-register by calling 410-758-0166.

6-8 - Maryland Farm Bureau Convention/Centennial Celebration, Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD.

08 - New Poultry Grower Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton. Call 410-479-4030 for more information.

08 - Profitability With Specialty Fruits and Vegetables, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Wye Res. & Ed Center, Queenstown, MD. Call by Nov. 24 to register: 410-827-8056 x115.

10 - Farm Transition Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD. To register: http://keepingthefarminthefamily.eventbrite.com For more information contact Shannon Dill sdill@umd.edu or 410-822-1244.

15 - Timely Ag Issues, 7:30 a.m., Tilghman Terrace, Centreville, MD. $2/person: coffee, donuts, etc.

16 - Ag Outlooks and Policy Conference, 8:30 a.m., Double Tree Hotel, Annapolis, MD.

18 - Private Pesticide Applicator Exam, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Queen Anne’s County Extension Office, Centreville, MD. Pre-register by calling 410-758-0166.

24 & 25...UME Kent Office Closed.

JANUARY 2016: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

05 - Timely Ag Issues, 7:30 a.m., Tilghman Terrace, Centreville, MD. $2/person: coffee, donuts, etc.

13 - Wheat Quality and Marketing Opportunities: Maximizing Profits, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Harrington, DE, DE State Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall. Credits: DE & MD Pesticide and CCA..

19 - Timely Ag Issues, 7:30 a.m., Tilghman Terrace, Centreville, MD. $2/person: coffee, donuts, etc.

23 - Bee Keeping 101, Talbot Extension Office, Easton, MD, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Registration fee is $125 which includes “The Beekeepers Handbook - Fourth Edition”. Register with Pam Chollet, 410-822-1244 or pchollet@umd.edu. More info contact Mike Embrey, 410-924-0028.

27 - UME Cecil County Winter Agronomy Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Calvert Grange, 2357 Telegraph Rd., Rising Sun, MD. PRE-REGISTER BY JANUARY 20 at 410-996-5280. Lunch provided. Cost of materials and lunch is $5.00.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
LOOKING FOR QUEEN ANNE’S CO. SOIL PROBES!
If you have one, please return it. Thank you.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY
The weather closing policy for Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne’s Extension programs is: “If county schools are closed, Extension programs will not be conducted. If our respective County Governments are closed the Extension offices will be closed as well and all UME programs will be cancelled.

CECEL COUNTY
Winter Agronomy Meeting
January 27, 2016
at the Calvert Grange.
Pre-registration is required: call the UME Cecil County Office at 410-996-5280. Recertification for Private Pesticide license, Nutrient Applicator first time Certification/Recertification and Nutrient Management credits.

QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY
Agronomy Day
February 26, 2016
PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECERTIFICATION
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park
101 Dulin Clark Road, Centreville, MD 21617

DELMARVA DAIRY DAY IS COMING...MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FEBRUARY 18, 2016
Hartly, Delaware

Become a Master Gardener
2016 Basic Training:
Evening and Weekend Classes
February 11th - April 9th 2016
Thursday evenings 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Saturday mornings 9:00am to 12:00pm
Location: Eastern Shore Higher Education Center, Wye Mills
For more information contact:
Mike Bailey mbailey@umd.edu
Mike Chollet pchollet@umd.edu
(410) 758-0166
(410) 822-1244 ext 12

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all persons and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religious belief, physical or mental disability, handicap, ancestry, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.
DIAGNOSIS FROM THE AIR COULD HELP FARMS ON THE GROUND

You’re standing in the middle of a 50-acre field. It’s so big that it stretches to the horizon in every direction. Overhead, a Cessna 172 - the ubiquitous workhorse of four-seat private planes - is flying. A Terrahawk camera mounted in its belly takes a picture. The same day, a technician hands you a GPS unit so you can walk to a precise point in the farm field and troubleshoot a potential problem spot. “Precision Agriculture.” The expression brings to mind growers using machinery to deploy fertilizers or pest management materials in tiny, exacting amounts. But machinery can also be used to survey large expanses of farmland or environmentally sensitive areas.

The airplane could be measuring normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), an indicator of the nitrogen needs of the plant. The data could be fed instantly to a robot control system on the ground that applies the appropriate amount of nitrogen to a plant at an exact point in a 50-acre field. This technology raises interesting possibilities for the problem of excessive nitrogen inputs in a watershed.

See more at http://neipm.cce.cornell.edu/about-us/publications/ipm-insights/

University of Maryland Extension – Cecil County
Winter Agronomy Meeting
January 27, 2016
Calvert Grange
2357 Telegraph Road, Rising Sun, MD 21911

Pre-registration is required and the cost for materials and lunch is $5 per person. RSVP by January 20, 410-996-5280. Online registration is available on the Cecil County page: extension.umd.edu/cecil-county under the Agronomy link on the Agriculture tab.

8:30 a.m. Registration Begins/Exhibit Time
9:00 a.m. Current Farm Bill Updates
   Dottie Price, Farm Service Agency
9:15 a.m. NRCS Updates
   Rachel Yeatman, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
9:30 a.m. Agronomic Crop Disease Updates
   Nathan Kleczewski, University of Delaware
10:00 a.m. Weed Herbicide Resistance (Palmer amaranth & others)
   Burkhard Schulz, University of Maryland Extension
10:30 a.m. Commonly Asked Agriculture Law Questions and Answers
   Sarah Everhart, University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative
11:15 a.m. Rainy Harvest Weather and Wheat Quality
   Robert Kratochvil, University of Maryland Extension
11:45 a.m. Pesticide Updates
   Ashley Jones, Maryland Department of Agriculture
12:00 LUNCH AND EXHIBIT TIME
12:45 p.m. Hiring Migrant, Seasonal and H2-A Visa Workers
   Sarah Everhart, University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative
1:30 p.m. Update on Whole Farm Coverage
   Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland Extension
2:00 p.m. Nutrient Deficiencies-Macro & Micro Nutrients
   Nicole Fiorellino, University of Maryland
2:30 p.m. Nutrient Management Updates/Nutrient Voucher Card Recertification
   Darren Alles, Maryland Department of Agriculture
3:00 p.m. First Time Nutrient Voucher Card Training
   Darren Alles, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Maryland Farm Bureau 2016 Scholarship Application
Deadline February 1, 2016

The Maryland Farm Bureau will offer five $2,000.00 scholarships. Applicants must be high school seniors starting college in the fall of 2016 or full time college students at any community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians MUST be members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Three of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and two scholarships will be offered to non-agricultural or agricultural curriculum majors.

Selection will be made by a committee designated by Maryland Farm Bureau. To apply, students must return the attached application form with a current photo (which will be used in a recognition program and a press release recipient announcement as well as on the Farm Bureau Webpage).

2015 Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference
December 16, 2015
8:30 a.m. Registration
Double Tree Hotel, Annapolis

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Dean Craig Beyrouty, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
9:15 a.m. Commodity Price Prospects for 2016
Kevin McNew, President, GeoGrain and Adjunct Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland
10:00 a.m. Dairy Outlook: Industry-Wide and Farm Level
Howard Leathers and Dale Johnson, AREC
10:30 a.m. Coffee
11:00 a.m. 2016 Outlook on Farm Incomes in Maryland and Nationally
Jeff Hopkins, Chief, Farm Economy Branch, USDA-ERS
11:45 a.m. 2015 Developments at Maryland Department of Agriculture
Secretary Joe Bartenfelder, MDA
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. 2015–16 Maryland Legislative Update
Colby Ferguson, Maryland Farm Bureau
1:30 p.m. - Riparian Programs and Water Quality in Maryland
- Riparian Forest Buffers and other BMP's Revisited, Lori Lynch, AREC
- Fisheries and the Health of the Chesapeake Bay, Jorge Holzer, AREC
2:30 p.m. Trends in Non-GMO Food Labeling and Implications for Field Crop Production
Aaron Adalja, AREC
3:00 p.m. Drones and Your Rights as a Landowner
Paul Goeringer, AREC
3:30 p.m. Concluding Thoughts

Event registration can be found here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-2015-agriculturaloutlook-and-policy-conference-tickets-18977517265

SAYING FAREWELL…

“Can you believe 40 years has gone by!? They say that time passes quickly when you’re having fun. I must say, it has been one of the greatest pleasures of my career, working with Kent County’s Ag community. The opportunity to do so has been a wonderful experience. Learning new things and new ways of doing things is challenging and exciting to me. You have been a huge part of that. Now, as I move on to my next project, retirement, I am excited and enthusiastic about the opportunities and challenges that await me. The friendships and bonds that have been created between myself, Extension’s faculty and staff, and you, will never be forgotten; we will simply enjoy them from the other side of my desk. So, as I “hang up my typewriter” on December 31, 2015, I thank you for the opportunity to be of service and wish each of you good health and profitable harvests!”

~ Verna Clarkston

An Invitation from Aly Valentine and the UME Kent Faculty and Staff…

We invite all community members to join us in wishing Verna well in her future and thank her for 40 years of service. We will host a drop-in Open House on the afternoon of Friday December 18th from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Extension Office. Please stop by and visit with Verna. She doesn’t want any fuss but would love to visit with all the many farmers, clients, families, community members and friends she has made over the years.

Thank You Verna!

Questions About Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases such as PEDv? Here is some information.

Animal Health Program Fact Sheet: Protect Your Pigs from Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv)

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) has been confirmed in Maryland, and swine producers across the state should take proper precautions to protect their herds. PED only infects pigs, poses no known public health threat and is not a food safety concern. Mortality rate, however, can be as high as 100 percent in suckling and early weaned pigs.

Please visit this website for the complete fact sheet. http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/swine.aspx
Wheat Quality and Marketing Opportunities: Maximizing Profits
Sponsored by: University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and the Maryland Crop Improvement Association

The quality of winter wheat has been threatened by diseases such as Fusarium head blight, glume blotch, and environmental issues that result in low falling numbers. This meeting will focus on wheat quality from several different perspectives in order to deliver a safe, high quality product to the buyers and end users and improve grower profitability. Local grain buyers will discuss the importance of high quality grain and opportunities for marketing wheat in our area. All wheat growers in our region should plan to attend and learn about management options for quality reducing diseases of wheat and the future outlook of the local wheat market. Light refreshments will be served courtesy of Murray Brothers Seed, Eddie Mercer Agri-Services, and Syngenta AgriPro seeds.

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Time: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Harrington, DE; Delaware State Fairgrounds; Exhibit Hall
Continuing Education Credits: DE Pesticide; MD Pesticide; CCA

6:00-6:30 p.m.  The Agronomics Behind Wheat Quality
Jennifer Vonderwell, Cereal Grains Breeder, Syngenta

6:30-7:00 p.m.  Fusarium head blight and glume blotch Overview
Dr. Nathan Kleczewski, Extension Plant Pathologist, UD

7:00-7:30 p.m.  Sampling techniques and grain storage for minimizing grain quality issues
Dr. Carlos Campabadal, IGP Outreach Specialist, Kansas State University

7:30-7:50 p.m.  Buying Local Wheat—What Delaware and Maryland Growers Need to Know
John Ade, Sr. Vice President of North American Grain, Perdue Agribusiness

7:50-8:10 p.m.  Prospective from the Milling Industry. Justeen Koehler, Commercial Manager, ADM, Camp Hill, PA

8:10-8:30 p.m.  Wheat Marketing—What’s in Store for the Future
Lee Sproull, Director of Grain Marketing, Mountaire Farms

8:30-9:00 p.m.  Roundtable Discussion: Q & A Session
Bill Hostetter, Grain Merchandiser, Hostetter Grain, Inc. Mark Sultenfuss, Nagel Farm Service, Inc.
John Ade, Sr. Vice President of North American Grain, Perdue Agribusiness
Lee Sproull, Director of Grain Marketing, Mountaire Farms
Justeen Koehler, Commercial Manager, ADM

BEEKEEPING 101
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.
University of Maryland Extension, Talbot County
28577 Mary’s Court, Suite 1, Easton, MD 21601
Presenter: Mike Embrey

Mike Embrey, will be offering a beginning beekeeping class at the Talbot County Extension Office in Easton, Maryland. The opening session will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Registration fee is $125.00. The recommended textbook, “The Beekeeper’s Handbook, Fourth Edition” by Diana Sammataro is used in conjunction with the class and can be bought on Amazon.

You will learn…..
> About bees, in general
> About beekeeping equipment
> How and where to set up and establish a hive (i.e. location, wind, etc.)
> How to use a smoker
> How to hive a package of bees
> About “b” pests and diseases
> About winterizing your bees
> How to manage your colonies
> Honey Bee Union Rules

There will be a total of seven (7) classes, the first five of will be held on every other Saturday until April. The two final sessions will be held approximately on the second weekend of August and the second weekend of September. These sessions will teach how to winterize your hives and how to protect your bees from diseases and pests. For registration, please contact: Pam Chollet, Talbot County Extension Office, 28577 Mary’s Court, Suite #1, Easton, MD 21601, 410-822-1244; Fax: 410-822-5627, pchollet@umd.edu

For program information, contact Mike Embrey, 410-924-0028, mecharjew@yahoo.com.
Cost: $125.00.
How to Care for Your Farm-Grown Christmas Tree

When a Christmas tree is cut, more than half its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your tree. Below are a number of tips on caring for your tree:

1. Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.
2. To display the trees indoors, use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for the tree. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. Devices are available that help maintain a constant water level in the stand.
3. Use a stand that fits your tree. Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed.
4. Make a fresh cut to remove about a 1/2-inch thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. Don’t cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.
5. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does NOT improve water uptake.
6. Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Most species can go 6 to 8 hours after cutting the trunk and still take up water. Don’t bruise the cut surface or get it dirty. If needed, trees can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool location. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.
7. The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.
8. Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.
9. Keep trees away from major sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.
10. Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature lights, will reduce drying of the tree.
11. Always inspect light sets prior to placing them on the tree. If worn, replace with a new set.
12. Do not overload electrical circuits.
13. Always turn off the tree lights when leaving the house or when going to bed.
14. Monitor the tree for freshness. After Christmas or if the tree is very dry, remove it from the house.
15. Try to find a tree recycling program near you.
16. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.

~ Prepared by Dr. Gary Chastagner and Dr. Eric Hinesley; edited by the National Christmas Tree Association

For a tree with roots attached, either in a pot or burlap, please see tips @ http://www.realchristmastrees.org/dnn/AllAboutTrees/CareTips/TreeCare2.aspx