



AGsploration! (UME)

The University of Maryland Extension AGsploration action team is excited to announce that they will be offering six “Adventures in AGsploration” programs this summer throughout Maryland. Each will be a one-day educational program for youth who have completed 5th through 8th grade by the end of the school year. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about agriculture by engaging in fun, hands-on science-related activities, network with people involved in the Agricultural Industry, tour and visit local agriculture operations, and learn about potential education and career opportunities based in agro-science and science, technology, engineering and mathematic skills (STEM) fields, all while having fun and making new friends!

2012 Dates and Locations include:

- Tuesday, June 19th- Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville, MD
- Thursday, June 21st- Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park, Centreville, MD
- Tuesday, June 26th- Washington County Extension Office, Boonsboro, MD
- Tuesday, July 24th- Thendara 4-H Camp Center, Hurlock, MD (Dorchester County)
- Thursday, July 26th- Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD
- Thursday, August 2nd- Maryland 4-H Center, College Park, MD (Prince George’s County)

The focus of the program is to enhance youth’s STEM abilities through interactive lessons that focus on one of Maryland’s top industries, Agriculture. Registration cost is only \$15 for each participant and is limited to the first 50 youth at each site. The deadline for registration is June 1, 2012. The AGsploration program includes lunch, snacks, transportation to field trips, t-shirt and educational programming. Registration materials are available online at: www.maryland4h.org For additional information, please contact April Hall Barczewski by phone at 410-996-5280 or 410-996-8134 or adhall@umd.edu

Beginning Farmer Training for Baltimore! (*Future Harvest*)

Beginner Farmer Training, Part III of the Future Harvest Urban Workshop Series is being presented in partnership with Civic Works' Real Food Farm and the Farm Alliance of Baltimore City. The workshop "Urban Soils/Starting a New Farm in a Baltimore Neighborhood" will be held Wednesday, May 9, 6 pm - 9 pm at the Clifton Mansion - 2701 St. Lo Drive, Baltimore, MD. To register, send your name/phone/email/address to realfoodfarm@civicworks.com or call 410-366-8533 x 203. Experts from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future will teach about Urban Soils and potential contaminants relevant to urban farmers. Understand what you need to know about your soils, what tests to do, and what resources are out there. In addition, Starting a New Farm in a Baltimore Neighborhood will provide a listening session for farmers and community leaders to describe some of the joys and challenges of building a new urban farm. Also learn more about the city's food deserts and what that means for urban farms. Learn about how to get your neighbors excited and involved while addressing concerns that may arise!

http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=189:bftp-overview&catid=84:beginner-farmer-training-program&Itemid=185

Ag Teachers Wanted!

Charter Schools USA is excited to announce the formation of The Agricultural Science Academy serving Emmerich Manual High School, Thomas Carr Howe High School, and Emma Donnan Middle School learners as an institution whose mission is to educate through research, hands-on applied activities and supervised internship experiences that through rigor and relevance will empower students to be successful as lifelong learners in secondary, postsecondary, entrepreneurship, industry, and leadership settings. To that end we are actively searching for three teachers who want to be on the front end of developing a cutting edge urban Agricultural Science Academy. Send resume and letter to: Byron L. Ernest, Agricultural Science Academy Lead Consultant, Charter Schools USA, 4535 West State Road 38, Sheridan, IN 46069.

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

A valuable resource for high school, undergrad and graduate students studying global issues of climate change and food security. This research institute is nested in the Department of Agriculture and Ecology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen. The website and linked resources provide accessible tools, media and reports that blend policy, economics and environment that are perfect for teachers and students of issues-based scientific inquiry. "CCAFS brings together the world's best researchers in agricultural science, climate science, environmental and social sciences to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and trade-offs between climate change and agriculture. CCAFS will thus define and implement a uniquely innovative and transformative research program that addresses agriculture in the context of climate variability, climate change and uncertainty about future climate conditions." <http://ccafs.cgiar.org>

Green School Fellows (*NAEE*)

The Green Schools Alliance (GSA) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is currently accepting applications and nominations for the 2012 Student Climate & Conservation Congress (Sc3) U.S. Green School Fellows Leadership Program. All rising 9-12th grade students, or school faculty or staff, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their schools or communities are invited to apply to become a U.S. Green School Fellow and attend the extraordinary week-long 2012 Student Climate & Conservation Congress (Sc3) at the FWS' National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, June 24 - 29, 2012. Please visit:

<http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/students/student-climate-conservation-congress-sc3>

Accokeek Foundation Heritage Livestock Program Internships for Summer 2012

The internship program is designed for beginning farmers who have at least one season's worth of experience and want to round out their training. Our goal is to expose interns to many experiences, techniques, and approaches to sustainable livestock management and heritage breeding while accomplishing the Foundation's work. Interns can expect to work 40-55 hours a week in all weather conditions. Specific on-farm training includes: all aspects of livestock management (feeding, breeding, healthcare, animal training, working with oxen team, etc), tool and machinery operation and maintenance, record keeping, and more. In addition to the daily work, apprentices will have the benefit of formal training, including field trips to other farms in the area, participation in the Foundation's workshops, and the ability to receive agricultural instruction from other institutions and individuals in the Chesapeake region. This position is designed for those with a serious desire to pursue farming as a way of life, and every effort will be made to provide professional support after the season is over. It should be noted that the work involved is challenging in many ways, and a strong emphasis is placed on safety and personal accountability. The Internship Application must be completed and submitted for consideration. Resumes submitted without applications will not be considered. Please ask for and/or send application to: The Accokeek Foundation, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607 or to caes@accokeek.org

Maryland Harvest on MPT! (*MDA*)

The Maryland Harvest, a documentary about Maryland farms and farmers and the chefs who love them, premieres Tuesday, April 17 at 9 pm on Maryland Public Television. Hosted by Al Spoler and produced by Houpla, Inc., The Maryland Harvest follows top chefs including Cindy Wolf of Charleston, Woodberry Kitchen's Spike Gjerde, David McCallum of the Tilghman Island Inn and Rob Plant of Blue Wind Gourmet through the growing season as they work with local farmers to bring the very best food to the table. MPT is available on Channels 22 and 67.

Catching up on all things Leopold:

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture – Energy Systems Videos

If you've participated in MAEF's "Four Elephants Farm" workshop, you are already familiar with this big elephant: preparing for post-oil energy systems. The Leopold Center (one of my favorite places to be on the web and in Iowa!) has a great selection of videos perfect for the classroom at 3 to 5 minutes in length for alternative on-farm energy systems. Check out the competitive grants as well!

<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/other-videos#horticulture>

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture – Rainwater Catchment for High Tunnels

If you have a school greenhouse, a high tunnel on your farm or property, consider adding rainwater catchment to your multi-functional operation plan! This pdf provides instructions for installation and systems management for a standard high tunnel – but the plans can be modified for a variety of outdoor structures, even homes!

<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/pubs-and-papers/2012-01-rainwater-catchment-high-tunnel-irrigation-use.pdf>

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture – Spring Newsletter

MAEF provides the Leopold Education Project workshop to teachers K-12 and undergrad, so these folks know who Leopold was and how his legacy has been carried forward to today. After you've watched the videos and built your rainwater catchment system, download and read the spring newsletter from the LCSA and be amazed at the scope and range of stewardship projects and sustainable systems thinking (and doing!) happening at Iowa State. Bravo!

<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/11/LeopoldLetter20121.pdf>

Leopold Education Project Workshops are available year-round! Email me with your request!
peppig@maefonline.com

CRAFT Launches This Week!

The Chesapeake Regional Alliance for Farmer Training announces their farmer training series on their blog at <http://chesapeakecraft.wordpress.com> “Founded in 2010 by a few local farmers, Chesapeake CRAFT brings together the community of new and aspiring farmers in Northern Virginia and Maryland for farm tours and potlucks throughout the growing season. These simple gatherings are fun, informative, and build networking amongst the farming community.” Join!

Tree

All day I waited to be blown;
then someone cut me down.

I have, instead of thoughts,
uses; uses instead of feelings.

One day I'll feel the wind again.
A moment later I'll be gone.

- Dan Chiasson