



Win \$5,000 For Your Local FFA Chapter!

Ethanol is a renewable fuel that lessens our nation's dependency on foreign oil. It also helps America's corn growers and brings a variety of jobs and career opportunities to the local economy. Here's what to do: Tell the story of why ethanol is important to our country, your community, and food and fuel programs by making a short YouTube video. Do a little research, get those creative juices flowing, and make a 60-second to 90-second video that tells the ethanol story. The prize: The winning individual's or group's local FFA Chapter will receive \$5,000! The winning video will be used to promote ethanol as a renewable fuel. Details available at www.EthanolVideoContest.com Deadline for submittal is midnight on December 16, 2012!

Help Farms Recover – Sandy Relief (Northeastern Farming Magazine)

Farm Credit East is encouraging farm families impacted by Hurricane Sandy to apply for financial assistance through their Farm Credit East Cares program. The program will be providing grants of up to \$500 to aid farm families that suffered damage or loss as a result of this natural disaster. Farm families within the states of New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are eligible to apply. It is not limited to Farm Credit East customers. To be eligible, you must be a member of the agricultural community that was directly impacted by this natural disaster and have experienced damage and/or losses in excess of \$10,000 as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

Farm families that are interested in receiving support from Farm Credit East Cares can submit an application online at FarmCreditEast.com or visit a local Farm Credit East office. All applications need to be received by Friday, December 7, 2012. The actual amount of the grants provided to the farm families will depend on the number of applications and the amount of total funds raised, with the cap being \$500 per farm family.

Individuals and organizations interested in contributing to Farm Credit East Cares can do so by sending a check to Central New York Community Foundation, 431 East Fayette Street, Suite 100, Syracuse, NY 13202, or visit <https://mygiving.cnycf.org/farmcrediteast> to make a contribution by credit card. Initial financial support for this effort is provided by Farm Credit East and CoBank.

<http://www.farmingmagazine.com>

Project Seasons Training at Shelburne Farms, Vermont

March 8, 2013 to March 10, 2013 at Shelburne Farms, VT discover exciting, hands-on ways to develop agricultural education programs for school groups with kid-tested, easy-to-use activities from PROJECT SEASONS. This is a collection of teaching ideas developed by teachers and agriculture educators over the past 20 years. If you are just starting to explore the possibilities of opening your farm for education, or looking for new ideas for your program, this is the workshop for you. Shelburne Farms' farmyard, dairy, gardens, and forest will be our campus with the Education Center as our hub. Topics include marketing your farm program to schools and the community, creating a safe farm environment for the public, and meeting teachers' needs. FEE: \$200 (includes all materials & meals). Scholarships available. Limited accommodations for additional fee. Contact Susie Marchand at 802-985-0326

University of Maryland Master Naturalist Program in Northern Harford County

Eden Mill Nature Center is hosting a Master Naturalist training program for ages 18 and over. This program will be offered March 12th – April 11th 2013 every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am – 3:30pm. By completing the Program, you will be certified as a Master Naturalist, with a more in-depth understanding of Maryland's natural resources and ecosystems, through the study of natural history, flora and fauna, ecology, science, interpretation, and humans' impact on the landscape. Fee: \$250 for both Member/Non-Member. Pre-registration IS required by calling 410-836-3050 or e-mailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com and completing an application found at http://masternaturalist.umd.edu/Files/Volunteer_ApplicationREVISED.pdf Registration will open November 12th, 2012 and close January 12th, 2013. Visit www.edenmill.org

Environmental Concern Up-Coming Programs

POW! The Planning of Wetlands- December 12, 10am-4pm

Participants will learn the step-by-step process for creating or enhancing wetlands on school grounds or within the community. POW! guides participants through wetland design and construction with the goal of utilizing the habitat as an outdoor classroom. Leave with cross curricular activities that allow students to participate in the design, installation and monitoring of a schoolyard wetland habitat. Cost: \$40 includes POW! curriculum.

Rain Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms- December 13, 10am-4pm This one-day course introduces educators to the concept of rain gardens and their value as schoolyard habitats. Participants will understand how rain gardens benefit the environment by improving the watershed and how they can be used as an extension of the classroom. Participants will leave with the basic knowledge of how to plan, design and implement a rain garden from start to finish. Cost: \$35 includes Rain Garden curriculum

WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands- December 14, 10am-4pm WOW! introduces participants to wetland ecology through a study of the three parameters of wetlands: vegetation, soils and hydrology. Participants will also learn about wetland functions and values by utilizing K-12 cross curricular, inquiry based activities. Leave with a wetland resource guide with over 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities in lesson plan format, and ideas for student action projects. Cost: \$35 includes WOW! curriculum

Workshops are held at Environmental Concern's Wetland Learning Center, 201 Boundary Ln, St. Michaels, MD. Space is limited. Please register by November 28, 2012. To register please call Environmental Concern at 410-745-9620 or visit http://www.wetland.org/education_schedule.htm.

Job Opportunity at Colchester Farm

Colchester Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CFCSA) is a nonprofit, small-scale farm that grows fresh local produce for shareholders and community members, and offers apprenticeships and education programs. The CSA leases 10 acres of land from Colchester Farm, a 350-acre farm located on the Sassafras River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, on Maryland's eastern shore. The operations are carried out by one full-time manager, an assistant manager, three full-season apprentices, one short-season apprentice, and volunteers who participate in the CSA work-share program. The CSA is in its eleventh season of operation in 2013. Colchester Farm CSA seeks to hire an **Assistant Farm Manager/Education Coordinator** for a full-time, year-round position beginning in January 2013. The Assistant Farm Manager will be involved with the general administrative duties and operation of the farm but will have the additional responsibility of coordinating education programs and assisting with the farm's marketing and outreach efforts. Please visit our website <http://www.colchesterfarm.org/apprenticeship.html>

For the 2013 season, we are looking for a team of **3 full season apprentices** (April through the end of November) and one summer apprentice (3 months: late May-late Aug). We welcome applications for the apprenticeship from hard-working individuals from diverse backgrounds; the apprenticeship is designed for individuals with a serious interest in gaining the skills necessary to farm, though prior farming experience is not necessarily required. Anyone with a serious interest in agriculture and the physical ability to work the long hours of a farming schedule will be considered. For more information, please visit our website <http://www.colchesterfarm.org/apprenticeship.html>

Farm-Based Educators Gathering – Producer's Version

This is the Producers Version of the First Annual Maryland Network FBEA! Geared for commercial farms with slightly different needs and goals than organizational farms, the Dec. 10th meeting will feature an educational overview of standards-based teaching, working with school districts, E-Lit Update and product-specific resources available through Ag In The Classroom. This meeting will be held at the MD Dept of Agriculture on Monday Dec. 10th. Please register by emailing Peggy Eppig, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, peppig@maefonline.com or Karen Fedor, Department of Agriculture karen.fedor@maryland.gov. The meeting is free, lunch included! 9am - 2pm

Arcadia Farm Field Trips!

Arcadia Farm hosts field trips for DC and VA schools, which are designed to connect second, third and fourth grade students (and other interested groups) with where food comes from while meeting age-appropriate curriculum standards. For more information, please contact Liz Whitehurst at liz@arcadiafood.org. After you fill out the online registration form, we will contact you to confirm the date and logistics of your field trip, discuss specific curriculum connections, and tailor the trip to your specific needs. Space is limited. Reserve your trip today! Visit the website <http://arcadiafood.org/arcadia-farm-field-trips>

2013 Revolving Funds for Historic Preservation: 1772 Foundation

Many of our non-profit educational farms manage, in addition to production and educational programs, but historic properties as well. 1772 Foundation has awarded support to many historic farms and agricultural history sites with several well-designed grant programs. The 1772 Foundation has announced that grant funding will be made available for *Historic Preservation* revolving funds throughout the United States. Applications are due to maryanthony@1772foundation.org by December 14, 2012 at 5 P.M. EST. Applicants will be notified no later than February 8, 2013. To be eligible to apply, organizations must have a 501c3 IRS designation.

The Foundation will consider requests for the following:

- Feasibility studies for established preservation organizations who are considering starting a revolving fund
- Grants to increase the capacity of existing revolving funds
- Production of educational materials/toolkits for expanding knowledge of real estate based resources and legal tools for historic preservation

2013 Farmland Preservation Grants will be announced Nov. 30!

Website <http://www.1772foundation.org>

Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Annual Conference 2013!

This is the Grand-Dame of all environmental and outdoor (*that means you farm-based folks!*) education conferences in the Mid-Atlantic Region! February 7-10, 2013 is right around the corner so register now! Online registration and session information is now available on the MAEOE website www.maeoe.org

The Fox

It was an ordinary morning: November, thin light,
and we paused over our pancakes to watch
something red move outside. Our house is on
an untamed patch of land and, across the lagoon,
another house surrounded by trees. On the banks
of their shore, facing us: a fox. We thought
he might be a dog at first for he trotted and sniffed
like a dog but when he turned to us
we knew he was nobody's pet. His face was arranged
like a child's face — playful, dainty — and his eyes
were liquid and wild. He stood for awhile, looking out,
as if he could see us in our pajamas, then found
a patch of sand beneath a tree and turned himself
into a circle of fur: his head tucked into his tail.
It was awful to watch him sleep: exposed,
tiny, his eyes closed. How can any animal
be safe enough to rest? But while I washed
our dishes he woke again, yawned, and ran
away to the places only foxes know. My God
I was tired of being a person. Even now his tail
gestures to me across the disapproving lagoon.

- Faith Shearin