



Farm Scoop

January 2012

by Richard Brzozowski, Extension Educator, Cumberland County
and Tori Jackson, Extension Educator, Androscoggin & Sagadahoc Counties

New Farmer Workshop Series Being Offered

Are you considering starting your own farm, or have you been farming fewer than 10 years? In response to the educational needs of new farmers, a group of agencies have joined forces to develop a comprehensive seven-week workshop series. Details include:

When: Tuesdays, from January 31 through March 13, 2012
Three all-day sessions (Jan 31, Feb 21, Mar 13)
9:00am-3:00pm
Three evening sessions (Feb 7, 14, 28 and Mar 6)
6:00-9:00pm

Where: All-day sessions – Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston
Evening sessions – USDA Service Center, 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston

Cost: \$50 for the entire series (includes materials) – two per farm for one fee, or \$15 per all-day session, or \$10 per evening session. To Register and for workshop details call Jane Heikkinen 207.753.9400 x 400 or online <http://www.androscogginswcd.net/workshop.htm>

Deadline to register is January 10, 2012. Pre-registration is required.

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation is partnering with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Department of Agriculture and Maine Department of Conservation. All partners are equal opportunity employers and program providers. In addition to resource specialists from government agencies, local farmers, organizations and business representatives will participate in the workshops. Workshop attendees will receive CEU's or a certification exam where possible, refreshments at all sessions, lunch at two of the all-day workshops, a resource notebook for those who register for the series, Q&A sessions and opportunities to network.

Save Energy and Money

Coming to the Agricultural Trades Show? If you are a dairy producer or greenhouse operator, stop at the Maine Rural Partners booth and get a FREE ENERGY ASSESSMENT. Maine Rural Partners will help you decide if you would benefit from an on-farm energy assessment. Thanks to a grant from USDA Rural Development, Farm Energy Partners can also offer you a 75% cost-share on a detailed energy audit, which will provide sufficient analysis to apply for federal grants and loans. We'll also provide follow-up assistance to help you get smart energy investments – whether efficiency or renewable – installed and SAVING YOU MONEY. For information on unique energy and money saving opportunities, contact Claudia, Maine Rural Partners Energy Innovation Coordinator by e-mail at claudia@mainerural.org or by phone at 581-4523.

Attend the **Renewable Energy Options for your Greenhouse** session from 1:00-2:30 pm on Wednesday, January 11th at the Ag Trades Show. This session is sponsored by Maine Rural Partners and the Maine State Florists' and Growers' Association. Come and hear from growers who have installed geothermal, wood and solar thermal heating systems.

Beekeeping Courses

- Beginner level – 5-sessions starts Wednesday, January 18 in Portland
- Intermediate level – 6-session, starts Monday, February 6 in Falmouth

For more information, contact Colleen Hoyt at 1-800-287-1471 or colleen.hoyt@mane.edu.

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Farm Scoop!*

Grow Your Season - And Your Bottom Line

Are you interested in growing food year-round? Want to sell more of what you grow? Here's your chance! Maine Rural Partners, with funding from USDA Risk Management Agency, will provide technical assistance as well as marketing and business planning support to a lucky group of ten (10) farmers interested in extend their growing season and their bottom line. It could be you! Take a quick on-line survey at <http://svy.mk/winterfarming> to help us determine whether winter production and sales are right for you. For more information, contact Claudia Lowd, Maine Rural Partners Energy Innovation Coordinator by e-mail at claudia@mainerural.org or by phone at 581-4523, attend the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association presentation at 1 PM on Jan 11, or stop by Maine Rural Partners booth at the Ag Trades Show.

Thinking of a Poultry Enterprise – Eggs or Meat?

You might be interested in a Poultry Troubleshooting Webinar planned for the evening of February 9. Extension Poultry Specialist, Jacquie Jacob of Kentucky will be the lead instructor. There is no fee to participate. In order to be informed of this and other future poultry-related educational offerings go to <http://umaine.edu/poultry/> see message to farmers. Click on "sign up to receive notices".

Thinking of raising swine in 2012?

For information on . . .

- Informational resources
- Measures of reproductive efficiency
- Housing Specifications for swine production

please contact Richard Brzozowski at 1-800-287-1471 or richard.brzozowski@maine.edu

Revised Land Leasing Forms

Ag Lease 101 helps both land owners and land operators learn about alternative lease arrangements and includes sample written lease agreements for several alternatives. Ag Lease 101 was created by and is maintained by the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee. See their web site for more information and sample lease forms. <http://aglease101.org/>

New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference Proceedings

If you missed attending the conference last month, you can download the proceedings from the web site link <http://www.newenglandvfc.org/>

Farm Safety & Winter Work

Request a free fact sheet on winter farm work and protecting yourself. [http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AHS-207-353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458 \(in Maine\).](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AHS-207-353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458 (in Maine).)

You can save money and the environment by receiving this newsletter my email! To switch from paper to email, please contact Dana Rickman at dana.rickman@maine.edu or by calling 207-353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458 (in Maine).