



Farm Scoop

August 2010

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Maine Agricultural Fair Season - Consider promoting your farm and /or products at your local agricultural fair. You could sell locally produced food, display your products in an exhibition hall, or even sign up winter shareholders for your CSA. Maine has 26 licensed agricultural fairs, beginning in July and ending in early October. For a complete listing of the fairs in Maine, visit the Department of Agriculture's [Special Events](#) page at or call UMaine Extension.

Late Blight Hotline

Late Blight has been found in a few isolated areas in Maine. For an up-to-date list of where it has been positively identified, you can call the Late Blight Hotline at 1-207-760-91PM, and select option 9. This hotline is updated twice weekly and more often if needed.

Plant A Row – Gleaning Teams

Don't let food go to waste in the field. If you are unable to harvest it please let us know! Extension Volunteers are available at many county Extension offices to glean farm fields for donation to local food pantries. Any participating farm will receive a letter with the amount of the donation. You may keep part of the gleaning if needed. Call your local Extension office if you are interested in arranging for a gleaning team to help clean up your fields and feed hungry neighbors at the end of the season.

Listening Session for Slaughter House

On Wednesday, July 14th, stakeholders including producers, retailers, and others gathered at the Extension office in Lisbon Falls to talk about a proposed multi-species USDA-inspected slaughter facility and kitchen in Auburn. The need for a facility was stressed by all, in order to increase the availability of high-quality, locally produced meats to Maine consumers. Representatives from the beef, lamb, and pork industries all indicated that if more processing capacity was available, production by farmers could increase. If you have questions about the proposed facility, you may contact Extension Educator Tori Jackson at 207-353-5550 or 1-800-287-1458 (in Maine) or tori.jackson@maine.edu.

Maine Farm Days

The [Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District](#) will again host Maine Farm Days on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 20 and 21, at the Barker Farm, 9 Barker Road on Route 106 in Leeds. A variety of workshops, including those offering pesticide credits will be offered each day. There will be wagon tours of the farm operation, the Maine Dairy Princess Scholarship Pageant and a learning center for children. Vendors will sell agricultural equipment, products, crafts and prepared food items. There will, also, be a farmers market with locally grown produce. For more information or vendor contract applications, visit [Maine Farm Days](#) on the District's Web site or call 207-753-9400 ext. 400.

Farms For The Future (Phase 1) Applications Due Thursday, September 9, 2010

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources [Ag Resource Development Division](#), is requesting farmer's applications to the Maine Farms for the Future Program (FFF) – Phase 1 - Business Plan Development Program. To be eligible an applicant must own and operate a Farm Business that has been producing agricultural products commercially in the State of Maine for at least two (2) years at the time of application. The applicant must own their farmland. If having recently purchased the farmland, the applicant must have at least two years experience operating a Farm Business elsewhere in Maine. As defined in Title 7, Chapter 36, Rules Governing the Maine Farms for the Future Program, a Farm Business means that the agricultural products grown or produced on the farm are being sold commercially and the farm has documentation of gross and net farm income, expenses, net worth and farm debt. Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and Program Application are available from Kimbalie Lawrence, DAFRR-ARD, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0041. (207) 287-3491 or kimbalie.lawrence@maine.gov.

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USDA Announces Deadline to Apply for Payments Under the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program - USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Administrator Jonathan Coppess announced that producers have until Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, to submit an application for payment under the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. SURE provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster.

“We want producers to be aware of this deadline so they are certain to visit their FSA county office to file a 2008 SURE program payment application no later than September, 30, 2010,” said Coppess. “It is important to finish the current 2008 SURE program sign-up because the authority for the Recovery Act supplement for payment benefits expires at the end of the current fiscal year and the Department of Agriculture will then start the 2009 SURE sign-up application process.”

Producers are encouraged to file an application for 2008 SURE payments regardless of whether they think they may or may not qualify. An electronic SURE program payment calculator and additional information regarding the SURE program is located on the [FSA Web site](#) or producers can contact their local county FSA office.

Farm Health & Safety survey results – Contact Colleen Hoyt at 1-800-287-1471 or colleen.hoyt@maine.edu for a copy of the final report for the health and safety survey of Maine farmers.

Would you like more information about what is going on in Extension statewide? **Become a fan of University of Maine Cooperative Extension on Facebook** and receive regular updates about insects and diseases, educational opportunities, crop production tips, and much more!

Cover crops and your fields – August and September are the months for planting cover crops in tilled fields. For information about forage choices and rates, contact Extension Educator Rick Kersbergen at 1-800-287-1426 or Richard.kersbergen@maine.edu

The 10 Commandments of Tractor Safety *

1. Use seat belt with ROPS (Roll Over Protective Structure).
2. Know your tractor and its implements.
3. Know the terrain where you will operate the tractor.
4. Keep hitches low and on the draw bar.
5. Keep PTO (Power Take Off) shielded.
6. Keep children away. No extra riders!
7. Never jump off a moving tractor.
8. Never operate a tractor in an enclosed structure.
9. Never refuel a hot engine.
10. Never be in a hurry.

* condensed from Kubota Tractor Corporation

AgrAbility Maine – Maine has a brand new outreach program to assist disabled farmers and farm workers. To learn more about this educational program, contact Corie Washow at 1-800-287-1458 or visit the [AgrAbilityWeb site](#).

Arthritis? The Maine AgrAbility program has a DVD titled “Working in Agriculture with Arthritis”. If you would like a free copy of this DVD for yourself or someone else, contact Corie Washow at 1-800-287-1458.

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).