



**MARYLAND
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

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JANUARY EXTENSION HAPPENINGS
CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER

**Horse World Expo Seminar Series:
January 20–23rd, 2005.**

Check <http://www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/hwe2005.html>
for topics, speaker names and bios.

Ag Tourism Conference and workshop. January 27th in Easton. Call 410-822-1244 for more information, register by Jan. 23rd

Private Applicator Certification Training
January 3, 7-9 pm, Anne Arundel County (410-222-6759)
January 12, 7-9pm, Talbot County (410-822-1244)

Private Applicator Certification Test
January 10, 7-9 pm, Anne Arundel County
January 21, 7-9pm, Talbot County

Private Applicator Re-Certification
January 13, 7-9 pm, Montgomery County (301-590-2809)
January 26, 7-9pm, Talbot County

Central Maryland Pasture and Hay Conference—Carroll County Ag. Center,
January 25 (register through your local county office)

Delmarva Pasture and Hay Conference—Delaware State Fairgrounds, Har-
rington, DE; Jan. 26-27 (Les Vough - 301-405-1322)

Other Upcoming Extension/4-H Events—Register early!

Equine Farm Financial Management Using QuickBooks Training Workshops
Frederick County February 3 & 10 (Wilma Holdway 301-631-3576)
Baltimore County.....February 16 & 23 (Ann Brady 410-666-1022)
Carroll County February 16 & 23 (Bonnie Graham 410-386-2760)
Harford CountyFebruary 22 & March 1 (410-638-3255)
Washington County February 24 & March 3 (Cindy Mason 301-432-2767 x301)
Montgomery County..... March 9 & 16 (Doug Tregoning 301-590-2809)

The 19th Annual Maryland Horsemen's Party
Sunday, March 6, 2005 at Wilhelm Ltd., Westminster, MD from 2-6pm.
This year's Bull and Oyster Roast will feature live entertainment, children's activities and a silent auction. Recipients of the Maryland 4-H Foundation's Youth Development Award and the Maryland 4-H Horse Program Volunteer of the Year Award will also be recognized. All proceeds benefit the Sallie Robertson Memorial 4-H Endowment Fund dedicated to funding educational events and activities in the Maryland 4-H Horse Program. Tickets are available for \$25/person. For more information or to order tickets, call Rebekah Cosden at 301-314-9070 or email rcosden@umd.edu

PASTURE SEMINARS COMING TO A COUNTY NEAR YOU!
Management tips and financial assistance for pastures

The USDA NRCS, Extension and your local Soil Conservation District will be presenting an evening talk on "Pasture Management and Establishment." Les Vough, Extension Forage Specialist, will discuss the best grasses for your land based on soils, livestock, and management preferences. Ron Ritter, Extension Weed Control Specialist, will cover weed control before, during and after establishment along with long term control of brushy and invasive weeds in mature pastures.

Elmer Dengler, USDA NRCS grazing specialist, will discuss designing and managing the watering and fencing systems to maximize production and efficiently utilize and recycle nutrients to keep pasture grasses green and vigorous.

The sign-up period for the 2005 EQIP cost share program will be underway in January and February. Operations that qualify as a farm, subject to the Maryland nutrient management law, as well as meeting other guidelines of the program are eligible for competing for these USDA assistance monies. Cost share assistance is available for practices such as amendments, seeding, fencing, watering systems, trails, brush management (including invasive species). A special incentive payment just for developing a grazing plan and a waste management plan will also be discussed.

This program will be presented from 6:30–9:00 PM (except for the Carroll County one which is 9:30 am–9:00 pm) at the following locations:

Western Maryland..... Jan. 6, Garrett Co. Eastern Fire Hall, Finzel (301-334-6950)
Northeastern Maryland.....Jan. 11, Harford Co. Extension Office (410-838-6181)
Central Maryland.....Jan. 24, Carroll Co. Extension Office (410-848-6696)
Southern Maryland Jan. 18, Leonardtown Charlotte Hall Library (301-475-8402)
North-Central Maryland Jan. 20 Washington Co. Extension (301-797-0500)
Eastern ShoreJan. 31, Caroline Co. 4-H Park (410-479-1202)

Q. I have heard that hay in round bales are only fed to cows. Is it safe to feed round hay bales to horses during the winter?

A. Good quality hay fed to horses is the same regardless of the size of the bale; it really depends on how the hay is stored and fed as to whether it's good for horses or not. Here are some tips to consider when feeding large round hay bales to horses:

Number of horses. Make sure you have 4 or more horses in a winter pasture with hearty appetites before you try feeding large round hay bales. If there are fewer horses, the hay is exposed to rain and snow for longer periods of time increasing the risk of spoilage. Also, if you're feeding more than 6 horses at a time, you should place more than one large round bale in the field at a time.

Purchasing. Large round hay bales can be purchased through local hay producers and distributors and are generally cheaper to purchase on a pound per pound basis compared to small square bales. Make sure to request good quality grass hay when you're ordering. You won't need prime alfalfa if you're feeding mature horses, but you also don't want poor quality mature hay with a high risk of weeds, mold, and dust—often called "cow hay." Musty and moldy hay increase the risk of colic and other digestive upset. While horses will eat around moldy spots in hay, they will be tempted to eat those spots if all of the other hay is eaten.

Storage. You should have access to a large shed or barn or if you want to store large round bales indoors. You can also stack on wood pallets outside in a well drained area covered by a well-secured tarp.

Equipment. You will need a truck if you're picking up the large round bales, and a truck or a tractor (preferably with 4-wheel drive) to transport the hay into the field.

Placement. Feed large round bales inside a round bale feeder designed for horses in a well drained area. The cost of the feeder will be worth it in the end compared to losses you will have when horses soil and waste hay not contained in a feeder. You will likely decrease the chance of spoilage if the round bale is placed on its side rather than having the flat side with the rolled layers visible. The latter allows water from precipitation to penetrate through more of the bale than if water fell on the side of the bale.

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