

Watershed Tour July 23

WALKERSVILLE, Md. — If you are interested in the Chesapeake Bay and want to understand what you can do to better protect your water supply, then come to the "We're All In The Watershed" Tour on Saturday, July 23.

The tour will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will depart from The Frederic USDA office complex at 92 Thomas Johnson Drive in Frederick, Md.

The USDA field offices are located in the North Amber (GTE) office complex. The building is a large red brick office building with black letters on the side that says "92 USDA." The buses will leave from the parking lot at 9 a.m.

The tour will give urban and suburban residents an opportunity to see what other landowners are doing to protect water resources. Participants will also learn what they can do as homeowners to protect local water sheds, which in turn support the vitality of the Chesapeake Bay.

It is the theme of this public tour that recognizes how little things we do can make a difference regardless of whether we are farmers or suburban homeowners. We also will recognize the positive actions many farmers, home-

owners, and developers are already doing in the watershed.

Collective impacts of individuals can be very great. In Maryland, there are more acres in lawns than in corn. Management on lawn acres can have just as big an impact as what happens in corn fields. Since it is estimated that many homeowners over-supply fertilizers and pesticides, these effects can be significant.

Soil erosion is another issue that knows no problem-free interest group. Developments without erosion control practices on average can have soil erosion rates 16 times the rates on agricultural land in row crops with best management practices.

Individual responsibility is the key to managing environmental conditions. Each landmanager needs to become aware of how their day-to-day actions combined with similar actions by others can have big impacts on water quality.

An example of this was the use of fertilizer to melt ice during last winter. Many experts believe that most of the fertilizer used in this way very quickly found its way directly into streams by going down storm drains. It was quite normal for people at the time when this fertilizer was used not to

think about the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Greater individual awareness of our effects on water quality will decrease the occurrence of similar actions in the future.

The tour includes a visit to a farm to see best management practices dairy farmers use to protect water quality. Practices such as nutrient management, conservation tillage, cover crops and integrated pest management will be discussed. We also will visit a de-

velopment to observe how developers, county governments, and conservation districts protect water quality when a housing or industrial development comes into a community.

A talk will also be given on the importance of lawn management and home environmental stewardship.

The final part of the tour will be a program on home well and septic system management for the

protection of groundwater resources. Each participant will be given an informational packet of ideas they can use on their own property and in their own homes.

All are welcome on this tour, including families, scout, or other youth groups, and children accompanied by an adult. If you are interested in attending this tour, contact the Monocacy Project office at (301) 898-0133 by July 15. The tour is free and lunch is on your own after the tour.

Garrity Joins Northeast

ITHACA, N.Y. — The Northeast Dairy Herd Improvement Association recently hired Jim Garrity as the new director of Finance and Personnel for the 4,800-member DHIA cooperative.

Garrity has 6 1/2 years of experience serving in a similar position for Pennsylvania DHIA, as well as 20 years of experience within the manufacturing and business industries.

Garrity's experience includes cost accounting and containment, financial controls, systems and personnel administration, and

communication of business finances.

While with Pennsylvania DHIA, he shared responsibility for the state-wide re-organization plan, and temporarily served as interim general manager.

"We are very pleased to have Jim as part of our Northeast team, and look forward to drawing on his experience as we move toward meeting our future goals," said General Manager Nelvin Empet.

Garrity and his wife are to be relocating to the Ithaca, New York

area. They have two grown daughters.

Northeast DHIA currently provides services to members and Agriservice clients in the nine-state area of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. Among those services are traditional DHIA records, forage analysis, milk testing, Dairy Comp 305 herd management software, and Afikim electronic meter and cow management systems.

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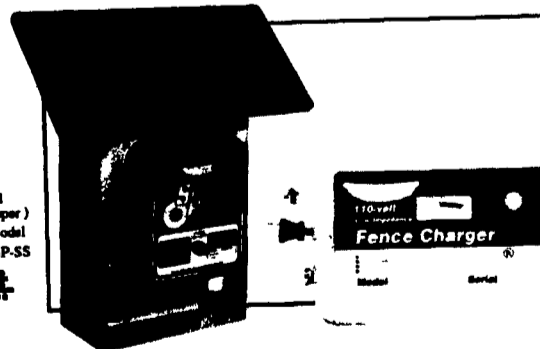
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