

Dairy Cattle Field Day, Public Open House Set

CLARKSVILLE, Md. — The University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources invites dairy producers and dairy farm youth throughout the state to a morning field day Saturday, June 10 at the Clarksville facility of its Central Maryland Research and Education Center from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Central Maryland families are invited to an environment-centered afternoon open house at the same location from noon-3 p.m. The theme will be "A Healthy Environment, a Healthy Me."

Two morning walking tours in the dairy barns area will provide insights into how research and extension educational programs are benefiting Maryland's dairy farmers. Dairy cattle-oriented youth may hone their observational skills in a morning judging practice session.

Lunch will be available during the noon hour from local vendors at nominal cost. Area youth groups will sell refreshments throughout the day.

The afternoon open house will

feature hay-wagon tours of the dairy barns, a manure-composting site and a nearby wetlands area. There will be numerous hands-on educational exhibits concerning human nutrition, clean water, the Chesapeake Bay, growing seeds and viewing farm animals. Equine 4-H demonstrations will include information on feeding, safety and care of horses.

Master Gardeners and representatives of the Maryland Home and Garden Information Center will be on hand to answer plant questions. Homeowners are invited to bring sick plants to the Plant Clinic for problem identification.

The UM Clarksville facility is located about eight miles south of Rt. 70 and a few miles northwest of Columbia's Village of Harper's Choice.

To find the facility from Rt. 29, go west Rt. 108 toward Clarksville/River Hill. Turn right on Homewood Road at the stoplight for Harper's Farm Road. Watch for the dairy barns on your left, about a third of a mile beyond the intersection.

UMES Goat Field Day Set

WESTMINISTER, Md. — The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) in Princess Anne will host a Goat Field Day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 3.

A youth program will be from 9 a.m.-noon.

Jason Keplinger, a dairy goat producer and former 4-H'er from Mt. Airy, Md., will conduct a dairy and meat goat showmanship clinic.

Youth should bring their own goats to work with. UMES will have extra goats to use. Youth with lamb projects may also bring a lamb to work with, as meat goat and sheep showmanship are virtually the same.

A production program will be in the afternoon from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Learning stations will include basic health care and management; internal parasites by Susan Schoenian, Wicomico ag agent; UMES/Research

Update by Dr. Niki Whitley, UMES livestock specialist; animal identification and record keeping by Joe Hartman, UMES livestock technician; and marketing discussion led by Rick Blevens, meat goat producer and president of the Lower Shore Goat Producers Association.

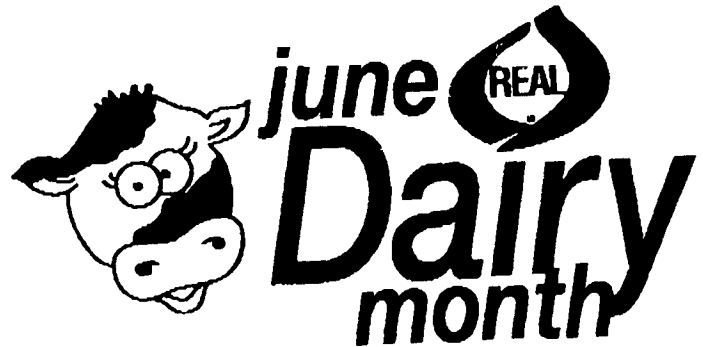
It was several years ago that UMES established small teaching herds of meat goats, sheep, and Wye Angus cattle, in addition to its swine and poultry units. The latest addition to UMES's animal science program is Katahdin hair sheep.

Hair sheep do not require shearing or docking and are more tolerant of internal para-

sites. They are similar to meat goats, and make a suitable small farm enterprise for the Delmarva Peninsula.

There will be an educational display on hair sheep at the Goat Field Day. The field day will also feature a judging contest for youth and adults.

Advanced registration is not required for the field day. It is free to attend. Lunch is on your own. Refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Susan Schoenian at (410) 749-6141 or ss80@umail.umd.edu; Niki Whitley at (410) 651-6194, or nwhitley@mail.umes.edu; or Rick Blevens at (410) 632-3188 or blev0022@aol.com.



For more information on the morning dairy cattle program, call (301) 596-9330; for other details, call (800) 342-2507.

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