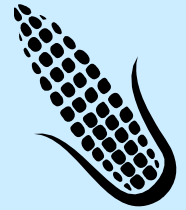
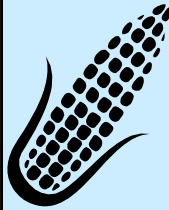


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Piscataquis Farming Newsletter



University of Maine Cooperative Extension is the major educational outreach program of the University of Maine, with offices statewide. UMaine Extension provides Maine people with research-based educational programs to help them live fuller, more productive lives.

Goal:

The goal of the Piscataquis Farming Newsletter is to provide timely information on the production and marketing of crops and livestock grown in Piscataquis County. Upcoming events and programs of interest will also be included.

You can receive this newsletter electronically. To sign up for the electronic version go to www.umext.maine.edu/piscataquis/farming/newsletter/htm.

If you have a question, feel free to contact me and I can include it in our farming question section.

Sincerely,

Donna R. Coffin

dcoffin@umext.maine.edu

Piscataquis County

Extension Educator

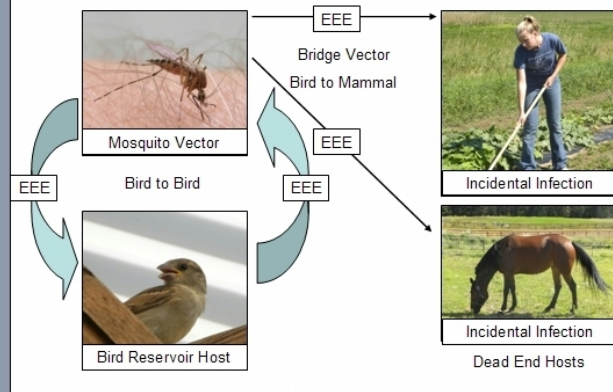
165 East Main Street

Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

207-564-3301

In Maine 1-800-287-1491

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Transmission Cycle



Source: JF Dill, Pest Management Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension

Cautions with EEE

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, called EEE for short, is a serious disease of horses and humans and, on occasion, llamas. Through mid-September 2009, there have been 14 horses, 2 pheasant flocks and a couple of llamas that have died due to EEE.

The virus that causes the disease is transmitted by mosquitoes. In Maine, we

have a couple species of mosquitoes that are almost exclusively bird feeders. These mosquitoes feed on the blood of several different birds and in this process they ingest virus-infected blood from one bird (especially songbirds) and bite another bird transferring the virus to it. This keeps the virus in the bird population and this population now becomes the reservoir host for the disease. Another group of mosquitoes, collectively called bridge vectors, are a group of 4-6 species that feed on both birds and mammals. These mosquitoes bite an infected bird and pick up the virus. Later they bite a horse or human and the virus is transmitted to the new host. Unfortunately, in these hosts it can kill almost 100% of horses and about 30% of humans. About 50% of the humans that recover have some type of neurological problem that may remain with them for the rest of their lives. Horses and humans are both considered dead end hosts, which means they don't carry enough virus in their blood to infect a mosquito that may feed on them, therefore, breaking the cycle.

At this time of year (Sept-Oct), the best way to protect your from mosquitoes is personal protection. Try to limit outside activity between 1-hour before sunset until 1-hour after sunrise (the time when most species of mosquitoes are active, especially if the temperature is

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Cautions with EEE
- Marketing Food Specialty Products
- Maine Ag in the Classroom Web Site
- Maine Farms for the Future
- Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications
- Extension Publications
- Calendar

above 50 degrees. When outside, cover up-- wear long sleeve shirts and pants and use a CDC approved and recommended repellent, such as DEET (Chemical Name: N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,N-diethyl-3-methyl-benzamide); Picaridin (KBR 3023, Chemical Name: 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1-methylpropyl ester); Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus* or PMD (Chemical Name: para-Menthane-3,8-diol)the synthesized version of oil of lemon eucalyptus IR3535 (Chemical Name: 3-[N-Butyl-N-acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester).

While there is no vaccination for humans there is one for horses and other equines and so this disease is preventable by routine vaccination. Many are available, and often can be purchased at feed or pet stores for owner administration to their own horses. Often EEE vaccination can be given in combination with Tetanus, another important equine vaccination. This makes it a very available, affordable option. Generally, vaccination for EEE is carried out annually but horse owners should consult with their practicing veterinarian to decide whether a booster is needed now, due to the current increased risk.

Source: September 23, 2009 email from Jim Dill, Pest Management Specialist and Lichtenwalner, A. & D. Hoenig, Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus in Maine 2009: Frequently Asked Questions, 2009 <http://www.umext.maine.edu/maineequine/EEFAQ09.htm> , accessed Sept. 2009.

Marketing Food Specialty Products Online

The purpose of this learning module is to assist food retailers in making decisions on the use of online technologies in their marketing and management planning strategies. To do this the module covers a general businesses assessment, an overview of how food retailing is already benefiting from the use of technology and a glimpse at what strategies could be possible within the context of a cost benefit analysis. The information provided was adapted to the online environment by the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative team with the support of the Southern Rural Development Center. Check it out at http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/curricula/rural_retailing/.

Maine Ag in the Classroom Web Site

It's true! The Maine Agriculture in the Classroom program has a brand new website <http://www.agclassroom.org/me/> that just launched yesterday. At the new site you can find out about

the successful grant projects that were funded this year as a direct result of the Ag license plate (totaling \$30,000 in all) for Maine Ag education projects, as well as other programs.

And this year, our very own Gleason Gray and Jim Dill conducted some insect pest and gardening workshops at Roger's Farm and elsewhere for the Maine Ag in the Classroom's annual Summer Teacher's Training Institute which was 'based' at UMO the week of July 27th. Some of the teachers that attended had little to no knowledge of agriculture, and were eager to find ways of integrating agricultural education curricula into their classrooms. The "official" report is that the written feedback & vocalized comments received from the teachers after the week-long event were "glowing!" *So thank you, Jim and Gleason!*

The Ag-Plate continues to do well, and Charlie Armstrong is *so appreciative* of the support from so many folks who now have the Ag-Plate. Next time you register your car or truck consider opting for the Ag-Plate.

Source: September 23, 2009 email from Charles Armstrong - Cranberry Professional

Maine Farms for the Future

Farms for the Future Business Planning Grants October Application Period information from Gray Harris: The RFP application period for Farms for the Future Phase 1—Business Planning will be in early October, 2009. I will send out the Legal Notice describing application procedures when it is published—on or around 10/1/09. Until then, please encourage farmers who are interested in the program to contact me for more information: Gray Harris, 882-7552 ext 135 or ghs@ceimaine.org. Farmers can find sample applications, scoring criteria, and other program information on the FFF website: www.maine farmsforthe future.com.

Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control proposes to make the following changes to Chapter 28— This proposal will amend the current rule to implement the requirements of LD 1293, An Act to Require Citizen Notification of Pesticide Applications Using Aerial Spray or Air-carrier Application Equipment. Specifically, the proposed rule will:

--clarify that mandatory disclosure must be provided to occupants of buildings that are both

on abutting properties and within 1,320 feet of the application site;
--provide an alternate notification system for applications that cannot reasonably be foreseen 90 days in advance;
--exempt from mandatory notification aerial applications that are subject to Chapter 51 of the Board's rules;
--allow land managers to propose an alternative notification plan to the Board; and
--establish deadlines and information requirements for the registry of individuals wishing to be notified.

The proposed regulations may be viewed at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/laws/rulemaking.htm, or printed copies may be obtained from the Board of Pesticides Control office, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0028 Telephone: 207-287-2731.

Source: Sept. 9, 2009 email from Gary Fish, Maine Board of Pesticide Control.

Extension Publications:

The following Agricultural Extension Publications are available or can be ordered at the Extension office nearest you. You will notice some publications are free and some have a cost recovery charge. Many publications are available for free online at <http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/>.

- **Recipe to Market: How to Start a Specialty Food Business in Maine** Item #3101 Publisher: UMaine Extension. Do you have a recipe or food product that you'd like to produce for the retail market? Specialty food producers are on the increase in Maine, despite challenges that include licensing, food safety, and business skill-building. In this bulletin, UMaine food scientists who help entrepreneurs with testing and development answer the most commonly asked questions about starting a small food business in Maine. 5 pages, 2009. [Download it for free](#), or buy a color copy. \$0.75
- **Storey's Barn Guide to Sheep** Item #1111. Publisher: Storey Publishing. Designed to accompany the farmer into the barn, this guide provides oversized, full-color, step-by-step visuals that guide farmers through catching and throwing a sheep, trimming hooves, giving injections, lambing, bottle feeding, milking, shearing, and much more. Features full-color

anatomical illustrations, a lambing calendar, a feeding chart, and a record-keeping section. 96 pages, 2006. \$29.95

Calendar

October 3rd, 2009 **Maine Solar Tours on at the Weston Farm** a solar thermal installation at 419 Stevenstown Rd. in Litchfield, ME sponsors Farm Energy Partners and Maine Solar Association. For more information 207-622-7847 ext.3, john@kcswwd.org or www.mainesolar.com

October 6TH **Maine's First Statewide Comprehensive Wind Energy Conference** from 7:30 a.m. - 6:15 pm at the Augusta Civic Center "*From Grassroots to Blade Tips: Growing Wind Energy in Maine*" Five Afternoon Tracks on Topics Relating to Municipal Wind, Business Basics, Community Wind, Transmission, and Economic Development, Innovation and Green Jobs. Sponsored by the Wind Powering America Program, Maine Public Utilities Commission, USDA Rural Development, and others. For more information about the conference, including on-line registration, speakers, exhibiting, and sponsoring can be found on the conference website at www.mainewindenergyconference.com or contact Judi Jones at info@mainewindenergyconference.com.

October 8, 2009 **BIOFUELS FOR MAINE: Economic and Environmental Implications for Biomass Feedstock Production from Maine Fields and Forests** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Wells Conference Center, Room 3, University of Maine, Orono. Sponsored by the University of Maine Sustainable Agriculture Program, in collaboration with Penn State, Cornell and Michigan State Universities present a conference on the potential for biofuels in Maine and the Northeast. This event is free and open to the public but we ask that you pre-register by October 5, as space may be limited. Lunch will be provided for those who have pre-registered. To register, please contact Marianne Sarrantonio at mariann2@maine.edu or at (207)581-2913 with your name, contact information, and whether you need directions and/or a parking permit.

October 10 - 11, 2009 **Fiber-Maine-ia Festival & Conference and Make It With Wool Contest** at University of Maine at Orono. Funding for the Fiber Maine-ia conference is provided in part by the [Maine Humanities Council](#) and [USDA Farm Service Agency](#) and others. Workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and presentations on production and processing of animal and plant fibers, Maine's textile history, and traditional and contemporary fiber arts. There will also be a Saturday night reception and local foods buffet dinner; indoor and outdoor space for vendor displays; and a contradance and ceilidh featuring fiber-themed music!

Piscataquis County Office
165 East Main Street
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
564-3301 or 1-800-287-1491 (In Maine)

Piscataquis Farming September 2009



In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status or gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University System. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

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For more information <http://www.umext.maine.edu/fibermaine-ia/conference.htm> or contact Mary Bird, Chair of the Friends of Dr. Edith Marion Patch, at mary.bird@umit.maine.edu.

October 12 & 13, 2009 **Food for the Future: Investing in Maine's Best Kept Secret** at the University of Maine Farmington. Sponsored by Greater Franklin Development Corporation, Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society, Maine Department of Agriculture, Maine Community Foundation Western Mountains Fund, Sandy River Charitable Foundation, Slow Money Alliance. The aim of the conference is to bring together philanthropic and business investors, farmers, food entrepreneurs and economic developers for a conversation on how creative capital can further galvanize efforts to rebuild a local food system in Maine. For conference details, including registration form go to <http://www.westernmountainsalliance.org/>. To inquire about participating as a sponsor, or for more information, contact Eileen Liddy at eliddy@fchn.org or call 207-779-2923.

October 24, 2009 **Sheep & Goat Nutrition Seminar** 9 am to 4 pm at Auditorium of Carter Hall, Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield. Sponsored by UMaine Extension, CC, HMDGA, SMDGA, BGBM, and MSBA. Cost \$25 for first person from farm, \$15 for each additional persons. Active members of sponsoring sheep and goat associations get \$5 discount per farm. For more information or to register contact Cumberland County UMaine Extension, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300 or call 780-4205 or in Maine 1-800-287-1471.

October 29-31, 2009 **New England RC&D Fall Conference: "New England: Feeding Ourselves"** Eastland Park Hotel, Portland, Maine For more information go to <http://www.thresholdtomaine.org/regional%20announcements.htm> please contact Mark Hews, RC&D Coordinator at threshold@gwi.net or by phone at (207) 657-3131.

November 6 - 8, 2009 **Farmer to Farmer Conference**, Point Lookout Resort, Northport, ME. Sponsored by MOFGA and UMaine Extension. For more information contact MOFGA at P.O. Box 170, Unity, ME 04988 or call 568-4142 www.mofga.org.