

Local Events

March 25 Meat Animal Quality Assurance

The MAQA process is designed for youth, and is mandatory for any youth that is planning on participating in the performance contests at the Marinette County Fair or the Sale of Champions at the Oconto County fair. The curriculum rotates through a series of topics, making each annual program a new offering. This year's sessions are being held on Tuesday, March 25 at the Peshtigo Town Hall from 7:30- 9:00 pm; on Saturday, April 26 at the Washington Middle School in Oconto Falls from 2-3:30 pm; on Tuesday, May 6 in the Oconto Courthouse from 7:30-9:00 pm; and on Saturday, June 14 in the Gillett Public Library from 1:00- 2:30 pm.

In addition, The Pulaski FFA Chapter is hosting two MAQA trainings:
Monday, May 12- Pulaski High School Ag Room 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Monday, June 23- Pulaski High School Ag Room 9:00 am to 11:00 pm

To get more information about the sessions, contact Sarah in Oconto at 920-834-6845.

Spring Garden Conferences

The annual Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers' Spring Garden Conference will be held on Saturday, March 22 at UW-Marinette. The brochure is available at <http://marinette.uwex.edu> or at many local libraries and both UWEX offices.

The annual North Stars Garden Conference will be held in Florence on Saturday, April 26. Contact Kathy in the Florence County UWEX office, 715-528-4480 to get a copy of the brochure.

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops

Armstrong Creek - Sat., March 29

Aurora - Sat., April 5

UW-Extension of Marinette & Florence Counties are sponsoring a pair of Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops. These hands-on workshops allow you to learn about and practice proper pruning and training techniques on your fruit trees.

Pruning of fruit trees is necessary if growers want their trees to have optimal health and high production capacity and now is the ideal time to be doing these yearly pruning activities. Proper pruning also helps increase fruit size and quality by assisting with your insect and disease management

and by regulating fruit set. Optimal timing of pruning activities in a normal year is late February through early April, but can be earlier or later due to late winter temperature patterns.

The Armstrong Creek workshop is being hosted by Armstrong Creek Bison Ranch, north of U.S. Hwy 8 about 1 mile on County Line Road, likely starting at 10:30 am (but contact Scott to double-check final timing).

The Aurora workshop is being hosted by Larry & Sharon Chick, on East Fischer Lake Parkway - south of Cty. Hwy. N about two miles (watch for signs), starting at 10 a.m.

Participants will have the chance to learn the how and why of proper pruning and then apply those new skills with hands-on practice. The majority of the program will be conducted outside, so dress appropriately. Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Crops/Horticulture Agent, will be leading participants through the day's activities and will be demonstrating young tree training techniques, as well as how to 'fix' older trees that may need more assistance.

There is a \$5 registration fee for this workshop to cover the cost of the publications which will be distributed as part of the opportunity, and refreshments. Pre-registration is requested, but not mandatory, by contacting the Marinette County UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510 or by e-mailing to sreuss@marinettecounty.com. If you are unable to attend this workshop, but want to learn more about fruit tree care and management, call Reuss at the office, or visit the UWEX web site at <http://marinette.uwex.edu> for more information.

Poultry Management Seminars

A pair of poultry management seminars are being offered at the Florence Natural Resources Center on Wednesday evenings April 2 and April 16, starting at 6:30 pm. The focus on April 2 will be egg production and on April 16 will switch to meat bird production.

We will be joined live by Ron Kean - UW-Extension Poultry Specialist each evening regarding best management practices. We'll also discuss legalities of selling poultry and/or eggs, and have an in-depth Q & A session with a local producer panel. Contact Scott at 715-732-7510 or Kathy at 715-528-4480 for more information.