

2009 Annual Report Summary for University of Maryland Eastern Shore

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore State professional development program made significant progress towards achieving outcomes in the following initiatives: 1) Sustainable livestock production, 2) Woodland Management and Farmland Conservation, 3) Alternative Agriculture Production, and 4) SARE outreach.

Accomplishments in the area of **sustainable small ruminant production** included two hands-on training workshops covering the following topics: pasture establishment, rotational grazing, fencing and shelter, pastured-raised poultry, sheep & goat herd management, shelter, integrated parasite control and prevention. 51 participants attended these events, 10 of whom were classified as Agriculture Professionals (Extension Educators, USDA, etc...) and 41 were classified as farmers and/or interested landowners. Five of the Agriculture Professionals who attended shared this information with their respective farmer clientele reaching at least 25 farmers. Of the farmers who attended: 1) 75% increased their knowledge of pasture establishment and maintenance, rotational grazing, fencing and shelter; and 2) approx. 65% plan to reduce the amount of unnecessary de-worming medication used by implementing current strategies and tools for recognizing parasite loads, including use of the FAMACHA chart system. This in turn could help producers save hundreds of dollars in unnecessary de-worming medication and animal veterinarian costs. In the area of **Woodland Management and Farmland Conservation**, a Small Landowner Forestry and Conservation Field Tour was held in which 6 Agriculture Service Providers learned about various conservation strategies and cost-share programs offered by the state/government that protect wildlife/natural resources, as well as improve the value of land. Through fact sheets, articles, informal presentations, and exhibits conducted by Ag. Professionals, over 50 farmers and farm landowners have received information on conservation programs and practices here on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

SARE Outreach educational programs and activities conducted during the reporting period included: hosting (2) small farmer update meetings in which a 5-10 minute presentation was given providing an overview of SARE's farmer grant program; setting-up and informational booth/exhibit at a local Ag. Field Day reaching over 150 participants; meeting with several local extension educators to discuss, share and plan future SARE outreach programs; providing follow-up assistance to (2) farm families who plan to submit a farmer mini-grant proposal; providing SARE outreach information to over 125 participants during the MD Small Farms Conference.