

**Agriculture Science Continuing Adult Education**  
**Winter 2012 Class Offerings at the Middletown Regional Agriculture Science and Technology Center**

Once again, continuing education classes are being offered to provide continuing education for interested people involved with the fields of agriculture. Review the following schedules. To register, call (860) 704-4594 & leave message, or e-mail Megan Nesci at [nescim@mpsct.org](mailto:nescim@mpsct.org).

Directions to the Ag Center at Middletown High School, 200 LaRosa Lane, Middletown:  
From Rt. 9 North and South: Take Exit 15 (Washington St) off of Rt.9. Follow Washington St. 1 mile. Take right at traffic light onto Rt. 3 (Newfield St.). Continue 1.5 miles and take a left onto LaRosa Lane to Middletown High School. Proceed around left side of high school; Ag center main entrance is next to the four greenhouses.

**Please Note: If Middletown schools are closed for the day or evening activities are cancelled due to inclement weather, the class for that evening will be cancelled.**

**Animal Science Courses coordinated by: Amanda Thomson**

Classes will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There are no fees for any of the classes.

Please register early so that we may plan for seating and materials. A minimum of 10 pre-registrants may be required in order to hold most classes. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested, including employees, friends, and boarders.

- January 9**                    **Hooks and Cups and Stars – Oh My!** – Amanda Thomson, Middletown Ag Program Animal Science Instructor, will present a hands-on workshop using play-doh to demonstrate major dental milestones in determining the age of horses.
- January 17**                    **Equine Assisted Psychotherapy** - Learn about this innovative way in which horses are used in the treatment of mental health. Equine Specialist Jimmy Downes of “Relatively Stable” and LCSW Marilyn McCarthy, Mental Health professional, will lead a hands-on demonstration and discussion of the EAGALA method, a collaborative effort between a licensed therapist and a horse professional working with clients and horses to address treatment goals.
- January 26\***                    **Hoof Care & Trimming** – E. Jennifer Hall, D.V.M. of Coastal Valley Veterinary Services, will lead a discussion and demonstration of proper hoof care for goats, sheep and horses. Learn about dangers, treatment and prevention of diseases such as hoof rot and laminitis, and how to properly trim goat and sheep hooves.
- January 31**                    **Basic Dog Obedience** – Nichole Gretta, Assistant Manager of PetSense in Westbrook, will present a workshop on improving your dog’s manners. Participants are encouraged to bring their well-socialized dogs to the class, although enrollment will be limited. Dogs must provide proof of current vaccinations, including Rabies and Bordatella, to attend. Contact Amanda Thomson at [thomsona@mpsct.org](mailto:thomsona@mpsct.org) if you’d like to bring your dog.
- February 7**                    **Durham Animal Response Team (D.A.R.T.)** – A group of concerned citizens formed the D.A.R.T. group following the devastation and heartache of Hurricane Katrina, which has collaborated with animal care professionals and emergency management personnel to care for hundreds of pets, horses and livestock (and their owners) in the wake of evacuations and natural disasters. Learn how you can be prepared to provide for your pets and/or livestock animals in the event of an emergency, and provide support to others within your own community.

## Environmental Science (Sustainable Living) Courses coordinated by: Courtney Johnson

These classes are intended for area residents interested in learning more about living a sustainable lifestyle. The National Network for Sustainable Living Education defines a sustainable lifestyle as one that is satisfying, fulfilling and rewarding because it is environmentally, socially and economically responsible. This lecture series is intended to promote environmental awareness and sustainable living in modern society.

Most classes are Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

- January 17**                    **Composting and Vermi-Composting** – Charles Tefft, Master Composter and Advanced Master Gardener, will present on the basics of recycling organic household wastes into a rich soil improvement. He will also introduce the basics of composting with worms (vermi-composting). As an added bonus Mr. Tefft will be bringing some of the little wrigglers for us to meet.
- January 24**                    **Homeowner Tree Care** – Dr. Jeffrey Ward from the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station and specialist in Native Trees and Shrubs will discuss the basics of planting, maintaining and pruning trees and shrub in your home landscape.
- January 31**                    **Creating Your Own Herbal Body Care Products** – Anne Buchanan owner of Anne’s Good Stuff a local producer of all natural body products will teach participants how to use the herbs in your garden to create herbal infusions. We’ll then take those infusions one step further and learn to make your own salves, lotions and lip balms. Each participant will leave with recipes and samples in addition to the products created in class.
- February 7**                    **Soil and Earthworms** – Dr. Wade Elmer from the Connecticut Ag Experiment Station will discuss the role of earthworms in Connecticut soils. He will discuss their importance in processing organism matter, increasing soil health and suppressing soil borne diseases in vegetable gardens.
- February 16  
(Thursday)**                    **Invasive Insects that Threaten Connecticut** - Dr. Kirby Stafford an Entomologist at the Connecticut Experiment Station will discuss the insects that threaten Connecticut landscapes, how to identify them and what we can do to prevent them.

There is no charge, please call (860)704-4599 or email Courtney Johnson johnsonc@mps1.org to reserve your place in the class.

**Agricultural Mechanics, Principles of Welding Courses coordinated by: Joab Owen**

Each session will generally begin with a 30 minute presentation followed by hands-on laboratory sessions. You will need to wear work clothes with long sleeve shirt (no nylon shoes).

Enrollment limited to 15

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| <b>Monday, Jan. 9</b> | Understanding and appreciation of safety<br>Selecting welding equipment<br>How to cut with the oxyacetylene torch and plasma torch<br>How to adjust the torch and cut steel<br>Hands-on activity-cut straight, bevels and holes    |
| <b>Monday, Jan.23</b> | Principles of operation plasma torch<br>How to set up and use the plasma torch<br>Proper techniques of cutting<br>Hands-on activity-practice cutting with oxyacetylene and plasma torch  |
| <b>Monday, Jan.30</b> | Principles of arc welding (Shielded Metal Arc Welding)<br>Factors that influence a good weld<br>Hands-on activity striking an arc and running a bead<br>Hands-on activity practice welding   |
| <b>Monday, Feb. 6</b> | Principles of the GMAW (gas metal arc welding) process<br>How to use the MIG (metal inert gas) welder<br>Factors that influence MIG welding<br>Hands-on activity-MIG welder  |
| <b>Monday, Feb.13</b> | Principles of the TIG (tungsten inert gas) welding process<br>How to use the TIG welder<br>Hands-on activity using the TIG welding process<br>Hands-on activity-practice time to develop skills using any of the welding processes |