

MIDDLETOWN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Rebecca Ratte Isaacson
Michael Kingsbury
Stephanie Russell
Amanda Thomson

MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
200 LAROSA LANE
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone (860) 704-4599 Fax (860) 704-4588

Once again, continuing education classes are being offered to provide continuing education for interested people involved with the fields of agriculture, mechanics and renewable resources. Classes will be held on Monday and Tuesday nights (Check times for each class). 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. Share this information with anyone who may be interested (employees, friends, and family). Open to all Connecticut residents.

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. Please consult your local listings.

Winter 2014 Offerings:

- January 14** **Chainsaw Safety and Sharpening-** A presentation by UMAINE graduate and Asplundh employee Hank Kay. Hank, a member of the UMAINE Woodsman team and current Asplundh "Vendor Utility Forester" will provide a presentation on chainsaw safety, equipment, upkeep, and operation. If you would like hands-on sharpening practice, contact Mike Kingsbury at kingsburym@mpsct.org to coordinate bringing a personal chain to work with. 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- January 21** **An Informational Program on Public Act 490: Connecticut's Land Use Value Assessment Law for Farm Land, Forest Land, Open Space and Maritime Heritage Land -** Joan Nichols, current Director of Member Relations and Community outreach of the CT Farm Bureau will provide a presentation on Public Act 490, an often 'land-saving' state act for CT landowners. This presentation will cover what PA 490 is, who it affects, how to apply and will field the various questions dealing with this opportunity. 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- January 21** **Recreational Therapy for Veterans** – Presented by Brad Bertele, Executive Director and Founder, Blackhorse 4 Heroes. Come and witness a unique and powerful method of recreational therapy for veterans using carriage driving. US Army veteran Brad Bertele tells the story of how he developed this program, and how it has molded him along the way. The Blackhorse method is a unique way of teaching veterans who they are, and where they are going. Whether physically impaired or able-bodied, once a veteran has reins in hand, he or she becomes equal partners with the horse. Visit www.blackhorse4heroes.org for more info. 7-9 PM
- January 28** **Natural Horsemanship with Geoff Goodson** – Back by popular demand, Geoff will demonstrate the essentials of groundwork for his Harmony for Horse and Handler program. This evening's class will include a hands-on, interactive demonstration of Geoff's Harmony for Horses and Handlers program. Please visit www.geoffgoodsonhorsemanship.com for more information. 7-9 PM
- January 28** **Arc Welding 101**– A demonstration and hands-on practice by Middletown Ag-Ed instructor Mike Kingsbury. This class will be based on the basic principles and application of arc welding. Come to learn the basics about arc welding and equipment and then get some hands-on practice using our shop equipment. If you plan on welding, please wear appropriate clothing, i.e. jeans and other cotton/wool clothing, no synthetic or fleece material. 6:30 to 8:30 PM

- February 3** **Vicious Horse Update** – Fred Masterle, Connecticut Horse Council Acting President, will present a current update on Connecticut’s infamous and pending “Vicious Horse Case.” Please come to learn the most current important information regarding the case, how it may potentially impact CT’s horse industry, and what steps you can take as a responsible horse owner and/or equine professional. 7-9 PM
- February 3** **Composting basics** – Presented by Kim O’Rourke, Recycling Coordinator of Middletown, CT. Kim O’Rourke is very passionate about recycling and improving our environment. During this presentation, Kim will be teaching you the importance and benefits of composting. In addition, you will learn how to start a compost of your own. Come join us Monday February 3, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- February 4** **Orienteering 101** – Presented by Jim Henderson, Treasurer of the Western CT Orienteering Club, with 23 years of orienteering experience. Orienteering, though started as a Swedish Military tactic, has turned into a competitive sport or leisurely activity. Come learn about all the fun things you can do with orienteering, ways you can get started orienteering, and what Orienteering is all about. Enjoy exploring nature? Want to learn how to use a compass or navigate a map? Come join us Tuesday February 4, 2014 6:00 -7:30 PM
- February 4** **Bringing Homemade Birdhouses Back in Style**– Todd Kennedy of Kennedy Construction, based out of Coventry, CT, will lead a bird house building class. Learn how to design and construct a beautiful three storied birdhouse that you can bring home for the birds. 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- February 10** **Transportation Opportunities with Biofuels**– UCONN Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Richard Parnas is graciously presenting his work on ‘The New Agri-Business: Agri-Waste to Bio-chemicals’, an in-depth look at one of the newest sustainable cash crops; agri-waste. Come to learn about this unique activity with one of the leading professionals in the industry. (Note: This presentation will be on a Monday night). 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- February 10** To Be Announced (TBA), we anticipate a natural resource topic.
- February 11** T.B.A. we anticipate a natural resource topic.
- February 11** **Equine Lyme Disease** – Sandy Bushmich, MS, DVM, Professor of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science University of Connecticut and Section Head, Diagnostic Testing Services Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, will discuss the most current information regarding symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease in horses. 7-9 PM
- February 24** **Backyard Poultry Management** - Dr. Michael Darre, UConn Professor and Extension Poultry Specialist, will present the basic information about how to start a small poultry flock including breed selection, housing, and feeding, with a special emphasis on poultry health. 7-9 PM

Registration & Questions: Please complete and submit the attached form, call (860) 704-4599 X 4594 & leave message, or e-mail Megan Nesci at 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.

MIDDLETOWN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Registration Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please describe your involvement with agriculture (employment, hobby, experiences):

Please indicate all classes you plan to attend:

- January 14 Chainsaw Safety and Sharpening
- January 21 An Informational Program on Public Act 490
- January 21 Recreational Therapy for Veterans
- January 28 Natural Horsemanship with Geoff Goodson
- January 28 "Arc Welding 101
- February 3 Vicious Horse Update
- February 3 Composting basics
- February 4 Orienteering 101
- February 4 Bringing Homemade Birdhouses Back in Style
- February 10 Transportation Opportunities with Biofuels
- February 10 To Be Announced (TBA)
- February 11 TBA
- February 11 Equine Lyme Disease
- February 24 Backyard Poultry Management

Please return forms to:

Attention: Megan Nesci
Middletown Agriculture Center
Middletown High School
200 LaRosa Lane
Middletown, CT 06457

Fax: (860) 704-4588

Phone: (860) 704-4599 X 4594

E-mail: nescim@mpsct.org