

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

October 2020



The Extension office is open to the public on an appointment-only basis. Call the office if you need to visit!

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center

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Street, MD 21154

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county

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Ag Extension Educator

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Hello, Harford County!

October is here, and COVID still is as well. As in previous newsletters, I would like to take this space to provide some updates from our office and from Extension as a whole.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and the ever-evolving guidelines we must follow from Maryland and UMD Campus, scheduling winter programming has been a challenge. Regardless, we have been working hard to bring programs and several options to you, including pesticide and nutrient management certification training, which many still need in order to maintain your certifications. Inside this issue are additional details regarding our winter programs and more information will be provided in future updates.

Regarding office re-opening; we are still operating on an appointment-only basis, as are the other ag service agencies in the Harford County Agricultural Center. Extension faculty and staff have the option of working from home; however, almost all in our office have chosen to return to the office in some capacity.

For those who have nutrient management needs, or may be looking ahead to planning for 2021, Tricia Hoopes is happy to assist you. Call the office or email phoopes@umd.edu.

As always, if you need to reach any of us, please use email or our office line and we will assist you.

For those of you that recycle agricultural plastic at the Scarboro Landfill, please note that collection will be suspended from **October 1 through March 1, 2021**. Contact Wendy Doring, Program Leader, at [wdorning@menv.com](mailto:wdoria@menv.com) or (410) 638-3417 if you have questions.

Finally, I would like to announce an office change and someone hopefully many of you will get to meet sometime soon; Bryan Butler will be our acting Area Extension Director



(AED) for Harford and Carroll County. Bryan may be familiar to many of you in Harford County, as he has been with the University of Maryland for almost 30 years and has been the Carroll County ag agent for 19 years. Bryan is heavily involved in our regional agriculture programming efforts in northern Maryland. We are thrilled to have Bryan as our new Area Director! Bryan will split his time as an ag agent and an AED.

Until next time,
-Andy



Winter Programming Update

Andrew Kness, Erika Crowl, Bryan Butler, & Peter Coffey
University of Maryland Extension, Northern Cluster Agriculture Agents

As you know, COVID-19 has changed the way we all function, and Extension is no exception. We realize that winter meetings are important to your operation, specifically recertification opportunities to maintain your pesticide license and nutrient management vouchers. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will not be extending certifications, so if your certification expires in December and you have not attended a meeting in the past three years, you will need to make sure to attend a recertification meeting in order to acquire the necessary credits. We have worked on several ways for you to acquire credits this winter, which are explained below. Each meeting will offer complete recertification credits for Maryland private applicator, nutrient management, and select credits for Maryland commercial applicator and Pennsylvania private applicator.

Northern Maryland Field Crops Day will be held on its traditional day, December 3, 2020 from 8-12:15 pm. The program will be offered **virtually via a Zoom webinar**. If you have a computer and a good internet connection, you may choose to attend this meeting live via Zoom on the date and time of the program. Alternatively, the program will be recorded and re-broadcasted at the two alternative dates listed below, which you may attend. If you cannot attend a live webinar, you can request the recording, which we will send to you on a USB drive. You can then watch the material without an internet connection and at your own pace. And finally, if you do not have internet access or a computer, a small group of individuals will be allowed to view the presentation live on December 3 at the Baltimore County Ag Center in Cockeysville, MD. Seating is limited to the first 30 that sign up and

all CDC guidelines must be followed. Meeting registration details will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

Carroll County Winter Farm Meeting will be held on its traditional date, January 14, 2021 from 8:00-12:15 pm at the Carroll County Ag Center in Westminster, MD. This will be an **in-person viewing session** of the recorded Northern Maryland Field Crops Day program for those who cannot attend the live webinar or view the recordings on a USB. Seating is limited to the first 30 participants as explained above.

The Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting will be held on its traditional date, February 16, 2021 from 8:00-12:15 pm at Deer Creek Overlook in Street, MD. This will be an **in-person viewing session** of the recorded Northern Maryland Field Crops Day program for those who cannot attend the live webinar or view the recordings on a USB. Seating is limited to the first 30 participants as explained above.

For those interested in fruit and vegetable programming, **Central Maryland Fruit and Vegetable Grower's Day** will be held on January 28, 2021 from 8:00-12:15 pm. Like Field Crops Day, this program will be online via Zoom. You can choose to attend the live webinar, receive a recording on a USB drive, or view the program in-person to a small audience. **In-person viewing sessions** of the webinar will take place simultaneously on January 28 from three locations: the Baltimore County Extension Office in Cockeysville, MD; Carroll County Ag Center in Westminster, MD; and the Harford County Ag Center in Street, MD.

Registration details for each meeting will be included in upcoming newsletters.



Private Pesticide Applicator Exam Dates

University of Maryland Extension and Maryland Department of Agriculture will offer the Pesticide Private Applicator Exam on **November 4, 10, & 12, 2020** at the Harford County Extension Office, Baltimore County Agriculture Center, and the Carroll County Extension Office, respectively, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can arrive at any point during that block of time; however, only 10 people will be allowed in the testing area at one time. Others will need to wait in their vehicle until a space opens. You are asked to bring your own pencil and calculator, you CANNOT use your cell phone as a calculator.

Registration is required! Please call the Extension office to register, or complete this online signup form: <https://go.umd.edu/pestexam>.

All visitors who attend the **Baltimore County** exam must use the BACO Safe App when entering the building. Visit <https://bacosafe.org>.

Study materials: If you need the study materials you can contact your local Extension office <https://extension.umd.edu/locations>. You may attend an **online pre-recorded training** prior to the exam at <https://go.umd.edu/applicatortraining> to help you prepare for the exam.

Safety measures: The event will be either indoor or under an outside pavilion with a maximum of 10 people in the testing area (depending on University protocols at the time). Each individual will sign in and be directed to their own table in order to complete the exam. **Masks and social distancing will be required.** The table and any supplies will be wiped down before the next individual sits down.

COVID-19 policies are in effect. If you sign up for this

Private Pesticide Applicator Exam Opportunities

November 4, 2020 | Harford County Extension Office

November 10, 2020 | Baltimore County Ag Center

November 12, 2020 | Carroll County Extension Office

Time: 9am - 12pm

1pm - 3pm

Registration is Required!

<https://go.umd.edu/pestexam>

Training manuals are available at \$20 a piece.

Contact your local Extension office.

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations>

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"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

program, you are agreeing to maintain social distance of at least 6 feet apart from others, not gather in groups greater than 10 people, and bring and properly wear a mask (covering mouth and nose) at all times. There will be a form for contact tracing purposes for you to fill out and sign when you arrive. Please do not attend the event if you are sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms (CDC symptoms list: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea). You will be required to leave if you do not follow these procedures.

2020 Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

Registration is now available for the Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School. This year's school will be presented **virtually online November 16-20, 2020**. Talks will be given from 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day that week and CCA credits will be available in nutrient, crop, and pest management, as well as soil and water. There will also be nutrient and pest management credits available for several Mid-Atlantic States.

To see the schedule, registration, and this year's school design, please visit: <https://go.umd.edu/crop20registration>.

Please contact Nicole Fiorilleno (nfiorell@umd.edu) with any questions about options and credits.

Maintain Pumpkin Foliage For Better Quality

*Jerry Brust, Vegetable IPM Specialist
University of Maryland Extension*

One of the main things a grower can do to ensure a good quality pumpkin is to be sure they maintain their fungicide applications for as long as they continue to harvest fruit. Maintaining good foliage cover for your pumpkins results in pumpkin handles that are dark green stout and firm (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Harvested pumpkins with good handles.

If fungicides are cut too soon, foliage can be lost to powdery or downy mildews or other foliar diseases and this defoliation can result in handles that are brown, withered and decayed (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Harvested pumpkins with poor handles.

Another reason to keep your foliage in good shape is that pumpkins that are maturing and turning color need to be protected from the sun. With our hotter and usually sunnier Septembers, pumpkin fruit can easily become sunburned or sunscalded. A spot on orange (or at times green) pumpkins that is facing the sun can result in reddish or white-bleached areas (Figure 3).

These sunburn/sunscald areas on the fruit often become soft with rot setting in a few weeks later. Clear sunny days with highs in the mid to upper 80s °F are perfect settings for sunburn/sunscald fruit, especially if the fruit has been clipped and left in the field. I have seen several pumpkin fields (especially U-Pick ones) over the last 3-4 years that suffer significant losses to sunburn because of reduced leaf cover due to unchecked foliage diseases.

For spray program recommendations, contact the Extension office or refer to our Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Guide: <https://extension.umd.edu/mdvegetables/mid-atlantic-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations>.



Figure 3. Sunburn (left) and sunscald (right).

Need GAP Certification?

University of Maryland Extension is offering online GAP training on an as-needed basis. If you are interested, contact Angela Ferelli, Food Safety Agent, angfer@umd.edu or (302) 353-7159.

Expanded CFAP Program Closes Dec. 11

USDA press release, abridged

USDA announces an additional \$14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin **September 21 and run through December 11, 2020.**

Background: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers. Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

Price Trigger Commodities: Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5% price decline over a specified period of time. Eligible price trigger crops include barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton, and all classes of wheat. Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop, excluding prevented planting and experimental acres. Payments for price trigger crops will be the greater of: 1) the eligible acres multiplied by a payment rate of \$15 per acre; or 2) the eligible acres multiplied by a nationwide crop marketing percentage, multiplied by a crop-specific payment rate, and then by the producer's weighted 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. If the APH is not available, 85 percent of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield for that crop will be used.

For broilers and eggs, payments will be based on 75 percent of the producers' 2019 production.

Dairy (cow's milk) payments will be based on actual milk production from April 1 to Aug. 31, 2020. The milk production for Sept. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020, will be estimated by FSA.

Eligible beef cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020.

Flat-rate Crops: Crops that either do not meet the 5% price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre. These crops include alfalfa, extra long staple (ELS) cotton, oats, peanuts, rice, hemp, millet, mustard, safflower, sesame, triticale, rapeseed, and several others.

Sales Commodities: Sales commodities include specialty crops; aquaculture; nursery crops and floriculture; other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories, including tobacco; goat milk; mink (including pelts); mohair; wool; and other livestock (excluding breeding stock) not included under the price trigger category that were grown for food, fiber, fur, or feathers. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP 2 that weren't eligible in the first iteration of the program. If your agricultural operation has been impacted by the pandemic since April 2020, we encourage you to apply. A complete list of eligible commodities and payment rates can be found on farmers.gov/cfap.

Applying for Assistance: Applications will be accepted through Dec. 11, 2020.

Additional information and application forms can be found at farmers.gov/cfap. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap/apply. For existing FSA customers, including those who participated in CFAP 1, many documents are likely already on file. Producers should check with FSA county office to see if any of the forms need to be updated.

Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call (877) 508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office.

More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Cull Cow Webinar

University of Maryland Extension and The University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences are hosting a ***Culling for the Future of Your Herd Webinar*** for beef producers Thursday, **October 8, 2020** at 12:00 p.m. The focus of the webinar will be the “When,” “Why,” and “What to Look For” when making culling decisions for the future of your cattle operation. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the University of Maryland Beef Producer Resources Page following the event: <https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/resources>, along with a *Culling for the Future of your Herd Strategy Guide*.

To register for this free webinar, please visit our website: <https://go.umd.edu/culling-your-herd>

October 8, 2020

12:00 noon

Online via Zoom

Please contact Racheal Slattery, Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, at rslatt@umd.edu or (301) 405-1392 with any questions or concerns.

Soil Health Grant Available to Farmers

**Farming
for
HEALTHY SOIL**



The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is accepting applications for the Farming for Healthy Soil Program. This three-year program begins this fall and provides financial assistance to farmers for implementing soil health practices on their farm. All livestock and crop (including grain, forage, fruit, and vegetables) farms are eligible for this program. Approved soil health practices include conservation tillage/residue management, multi-species cover crop mixtures, extended season cover crops, prescribed grazing, and precision nutrient management. Practices must be new to the farm; for example, adopting a practice never used on site before or changing from a one species cover crop to a two species cover crop.

Rates range from \$10 to \$55 per acre. Fields eligible for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share (MACS) Cover Crop Program can receive financial assistance from this grant in addition to the MACS funding; however, MACS enrolled fields must be extended season (planted before October 1 and terminated after May 1) or multi-species cover crops.

The maximum funding per participating producer is \$5,000 annually. Farmers must be in compliance with MDA programs (i.e. nutrient management) in order to participate.

Farmers are expected to commit up to three years of practice implementation on the same field(s). Soil samples will be taken this fall and again in the fall of 2022 to compare before and after practice implementation. Soil samples will also be taken in adjacent or nearby fields which have not had soil health practices to serve as control fields. University of Maryland Extension Agriculture Agents will be collecting the soil samples for farms in Western and Central Maryland.

The [application form](#) should be submitted to Kevin Antoszewski, MDA Healthy Soils Program Coordinator, at kevin.antoszewski@maryland.gov. For questions, contact Kevin (email is preferred, but a voicemail can be left at 410-841-5866) or Kelly Nichols, University of Maryland Extension Ag Agent, at 301-600-3577 or kellyn@umd.edu.



Land Preservation & Food Access Fundraiser

Harford Harvest

LOCAL FARMLAND
FOR LOCAL FOOD
FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

This October through their Harford Harvest campaign, [Harford Land Trust](#) (HLT) is raising funds for land preservation and to feed neighbors in need. HLT is a local land preservation nonprofit working to

permanently preserve Harford County's natural resources, including our productive farmland, priority forests, and waterways.

The need for preserved land is greater than ever. Be it a field ready for harvest or a verdant pasture - 2020 reminds us of all the ways the land nourishes us.

HLT recognizes that the protection of local farmland is also the protection of essential local food networks. Through Harford Harvest, HLT hopes to address increasing food needs in the community while advancing their mission of preserving farmland as an essential part of a sustainable local food network. For this reason, half (50%) of all Harford Harvest proceeds will be distributed to over 100 Harford County food

pantries through our partnership with the Harford Community Action Agency (HCAA) and Mason-Dixon Community Services (MDCS) to meet the immediate and increased emergency food needs of families throughout Harford County.

HLT is also committed to facilitating connections between local food producers and agencies providing emergency food services to those in need.

From challenges in keeping shelves stocked to increased financial hardship, COVID-19 has shown us the vulnerabilities of our food supply chain. But together we can create a more accessible, available, and resilient food system right here in Harford County starting from the ground up by preserving agricultural land.

Community members interested in supporting Harford Harvest are invited to visit the website at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/harfordharvest2020/> to make a donation or register to create an individual or team fundraiser page. Farmers and food producers interested in selling or donating to HCAA or MDCS are encouraged to reach out to Sara Hummer at shummer@harfordlandtrust.org.

Poultry & Rabbit Processing Class

The Poultry and Rabbit Processing Class, which is required prior to becoming certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to slaughter and process poultry and rabbits on the farm and sell them anywhere in Maryland, is now offered on a **continuous basis online**. The registration form for the class can be download the [online here](#) or call the Extension office for a hard copy. Once you submit the registration form you will be sent the links to the presentations and other materials and the required open-book exam. Once you return the exam to MDA via email, fax (410) 841-2750 or USPS at Maryland Department of Agriculture, Food Quality Assurance, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401 and receive a passing grade, you will be eligible to apply for certification by sending MDA the application, \$75 fee, and sample labels for approval. If you have previously taken this class, you are not required to take the class again.

If you have any questions contact Deanna Baldwin, Program Manager, Food Quality Assurance, Maryland Department of Agriculture at (410) 841-5769 or by email deanna.baldwin@maryland.gov.

Edwin Remsberg

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Natural Resources



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Back-issues of this publication can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/657>

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Dates to remember

- 05-09 Oct.** [Webinar Series: How to Write a Nutrient Management Plan](#). Daily, 1-3pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 08 Oct.** Cull Cow Webinar. 12pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 28 Oct.** [Women in Ag Webinar: How to build a professional landlord-tenant relationship](#). 12pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 04 Nov.** Harford County private pesticide applicator exam. 9-12pm & 1-3pm. Register [online](#) or call (410) 638-3255.
- 10 Nov.** Baltimore County private pesticide applicator exam. 9-12pm & 1-3pm. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090.
- 12 Nov.** Carroll County private pesticide applicator exam. 9-12pm & 1-3pm. Register [online](#) or call (410) 386-2760.

Check out these additional online resources from

 Maryland Grain	 Ag Law Initiative
 Agronomy News Blog	 Women in Ag
 Nutrient Management	 Plant Diagnostic Lab
 Extension Website	

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