Ag Notes
Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

July 2021

The Extension office will be closed on July 5 for Independence Day

University of Maryland Extension

Harford County Agricultural Center
Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154
(410) 638-3255
M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county
facebook.com/HarfordAg

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Ag Extension Educator
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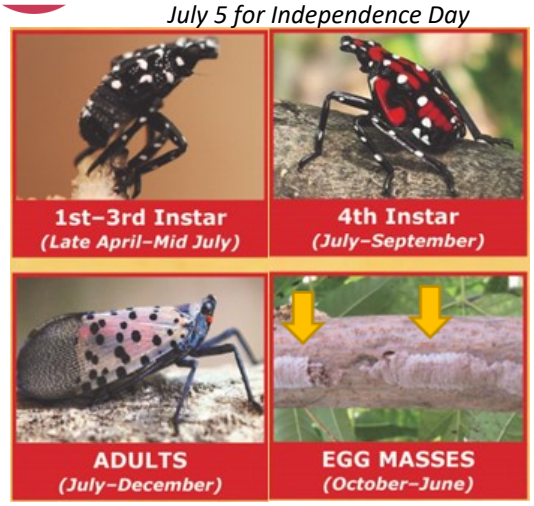
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hello, Harford County!

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) adults will be becoming more prevalent as we get into July and through the summer. As a reminder, all of Harford and Cecil County, as well as neighboring counties in Pennsylvania, fall within the spotted lanternfly quarantine zone. The quarantine zone is in place to help minimize human transport of spotted lanternfly. Spotted lanternfly adults, nymphs (immatures), and eggs can be easily transported on vehicles, landscape materials, hardscape materials, or any plant material. For this reason, any business, municipality, or government agency operating within or from the SLF quarantine zone must obtain a permit.



To obtain a permit, you must receive training and pass an online test. Presently, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) utilizes the online SLF training offered through Penn State found at: http://extension.psu.edu/slf-permit-training-md. After watching the training video, you can take the test. Once you pass the test, Maryland Department of Agriculture will issue your permit, which is valid for **one year**.

Once you pass the test and if you are a manager, or supervisor of a business, you may then train the other employees in your business to identify SLF and how to take steps to prevent spreading the pest on vehicles, products, and other materials. Recordkeeping of training, inspections of vehicles, incoming and outgoing shipments of regulated articles, and control measures taken (such as vehicle washes, destruction of living life stages of spotted lanternfly, etc.) must be maintained for a minimum of two years and may be requested from the MDA. If you are subcontracting any work for your business, the subcontractor is responsible for obtaining their own SLF permits.

If you do not own or operate a business within the quarantine zone, you should still be aware of SLF and take actions to prevent its spread! As a member of the general public, you can very easily transport SLF on your car, camper, garden materials, firewood, etc. Familiarize yourself with SLF, what to look for, and what to do if you find SLF. A checklist is available online: https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx. For more information on SFL and what to look for, refer to this University of Maryland Fact Sheet: https://extension.umd.edu/resource/spotted-lanternfly.

Additional permitting information is available at https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/SLF-Quarantine-Fact-Sheet.pdf or call (410) 841-5920.

Have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day!

Until next time,

-Andy

Watch For Squash Vine Borer

Jerry Brust, IPM Vegetable Specialist
University of Maryland, College Park

I have gotten several emails and calls from growers in different areas of the state reporting they are seeing the beginnings of squash vine borer problems in their pumpkins or squash crops. If you rotated at least ¼ mile from your squash/pumpkin fields of last year you should be OK, however I know some growers either could not rotate or they could not rotate very far from last year's crop.

Figure 1. *Adult squash vine borer at rest.*

Squash vine borer adults, *Melittia cucurbitae*, are moths that look like wasps. They are about ½ inch long with an orange abdomen and black dots (Fig. 1). These moths are day flyers and can easily be spotted flitting about a squash or pumpkin field. The adults emerge in mid or late June in our area. Adults lay most of their eggs in the first 12-15 inches of the stem. Pumpkins, zucchini and summer and winter squash are preferred plants, rarely have I seen them in watermelon, cucumber or cantaloupe. The eggs hatch in about one week at which time larvae bore directly into stems and feed. The large cream-colored larvae are 1-1.5 inches long (Fig. 2). Their feeding blocks the flow of water to the rest of the plant. Larvae feed for 4-6 weeks, then exit the stems and burrow into the soil to pupate, where they overwinter.

The first symptom of a borer attack is the wilting of plants, which usually occurs in July. The wilting may occur at first only when in direct sun, but the plants will eventually die. At the base of the plant you can find greenish-yellow sawdust like material (frass) and a scarred swollen stem (Fig. 3).

Figure 2. *Squash vine borer larvae (4) in stem.*

Squash vine borers can be difficult to manage once larvae are in the stem, as it is too late to do much. When squash vines begin to run or you see adults you can treat the base of the stem (the first 15-18 inches of stem) with a pyrethroid insecticide (or any other recommended pesticide in the Mid-Atlantic Vegetable recommendation guide) every 7-10 days, over the next 21-30 days. You could also use Bt insecticide (it is OK but not great) or Entrust which is better and both are OMRI approved.

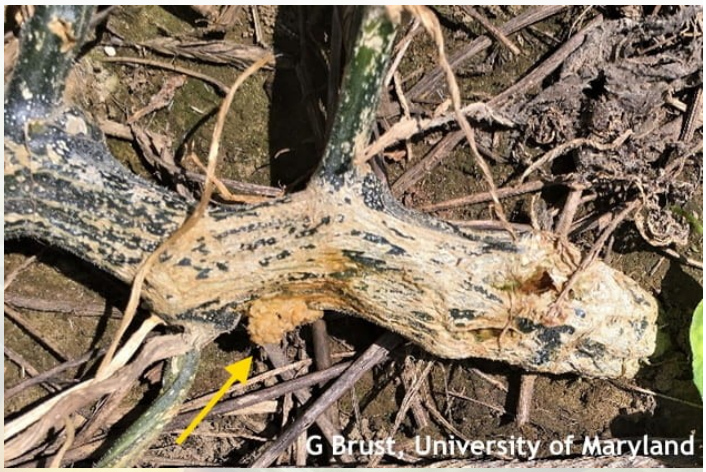


Figure 3. *Frass (arrow) and pumpkin stem damaged by borers.*

Dairy Field Day

July 13
10:30—1:00 p.m.
Central MD Research & Education Center

This event will showcase some of the ongoing dairy-related programs and research at the University of Maryland Dairy Facility and throughout the state. Timely, dairy-related topics will also be presented.

2021 Dairy Field Day

Tue, July 13, 2021
10:30 AM – 1:00 PM EDT

Central Maryland Research and Education Center - Clarksville Facility
4240 Folly Quarter Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042

AGENDA:
10:30 am – Welcome and Introductions
10:40 am – Dairy Economics, Dale Johnson, UME Farm Management Specialist
11:00 am – Effect of Soil Fertility on Triticale Quality and Yield: Preliminary Findings, Dr. Amanda Grev, UME Forage and Pasture Specialist, and Jeff Semler, Washington County Extension Educator
11:20 am – What, When, and How of Colostrum Management, Dr. Sarah Potts, UME Dairy & Beef Specialist
11:40 am – Beef on Dairy Project and Insights, Racheal Slattery, Dairy & Beef Extension, Dept. of Animal and Avian Sciences
12:00 pm – Lunch and Networking
12:30 pm – Impact of Improved Pasture Management on Pregnant Holstein Heifers: Updates and Pasture Walk, Dr. Sarah Potts, UME Dairy & Beef Specialist, and Dr. Amanda Grev, UME Forage and Pasture Specialist
1:45 pm – Overview of Research with Cannulated Cows, Jarvis Scott, Graduate Student, and Dr. Rick Kohn, Professor, UMD Department of Animal and Avian Sciences
2:00 pm - Adjourn

COST: The program is FREE, but we ask that you please RSVP for planning purposes. Lunch is included.

REGISTRATION:
ONLINE: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-dairy-field-day-registration-155816299747
BY PHONE OR EMAIL: Contact Sarah Potts at (301) 432-2767 ext. 324 or sbpotts@umd.edu

Beef Webinar Series

Corn Disease Update

Alyssa Koehler, Field Crops Pathologist
University of Delaware

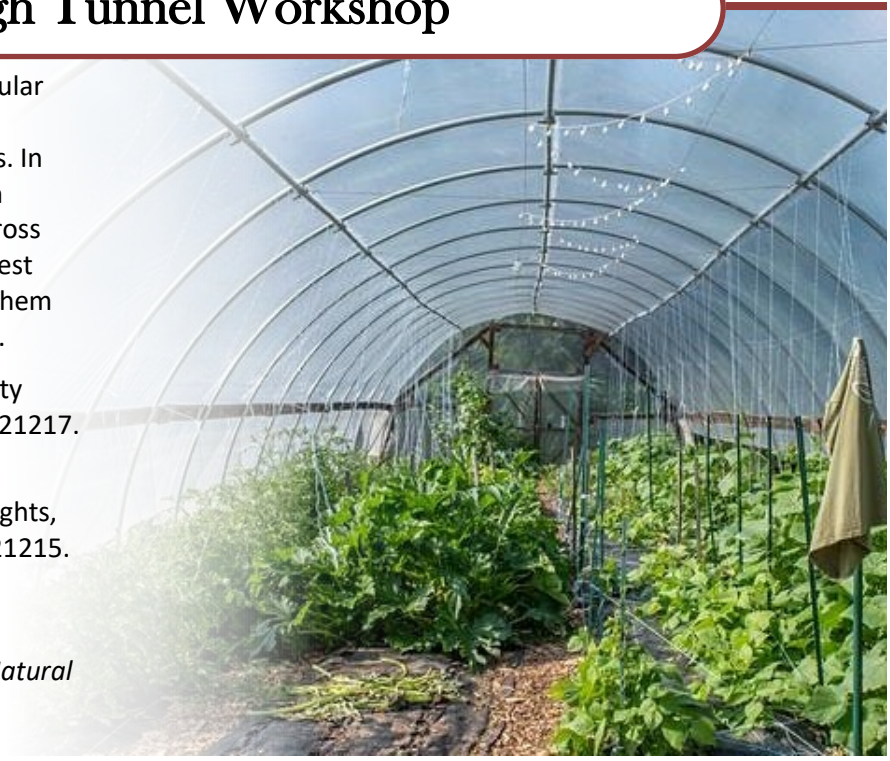
As tasseling in corn approaches, it is a good time to scout fields to decide if a fungicide will be applied. When considering the economics of a fungicide application, it is important to know your potential for disease based on field history, environmental conditions, and hybrid selection. Many of the foliar pathogens of corn can survive in residue, so corn-on-corn fields carry a higher potential for disease, especially if disease has been observed in previous years. Hybrids with higher resistance ratings may not need a fungicide. Resistant hybrids typically have smaller lesions and reduced spread of spores. In dryland fields, hot, dry weather will keep disease pressure low.

Figure 1. *Rectangular lesions of Grey Leaf Spot on corn.*

Reports of foliar diseases have been minimal so far this season. Grey Leaf Spot (GLS) is one of our most common diseases of corn and usually begins on lower leaves as small, tan, rectangular lesions with a yellow halo. When lesions are young, they can be difficult to distinguish from other common corn foliar diseases. As lesions mature, they become more diagnostic. At maturity, lesions are grey to tan in color, with a long rectangular shape (Figure 1); partially resistant hybrids can have more jagged margins than lesions on susceptible cultivars. Lesions often join to form large necrotic areas under favorable environmental conditions. Yield reductions are typically observed when lesions are present on the two leaves below the ear leaf or higher, so these are the leaves to pay close attention to when scouting. If over 50% of plants have lesions on 5% or more of this leaf surface, you may want to consider a fungicide application. If applying a fungicide, VT/R1 timing has shown the greatest chance of economic return. For fungicide applications, refer to the 2021 Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Diseases provides ratings of product performance across multiple diseases based on trials conducted by Extension specialists across the country. If you'd like a paper copy of the Fungicide Recommendations, contact Andy at (410) 638-3255.

High Tunnel Workshop

High tunnels (or hoop houses) are a popular tool used on urban farms to extend the growing season and grow specialty crops. In 2021, UMD Extension will hold hands-on Urban Farmer Field Schools on farms across Baltimore to help urban growers learn best management practices that will enable them to get the most out of their high tunnels.



July 13, 9:00 a.m.—Whitelock Community Farm, 930 Whitelock St., Baltimore, MD 21217. Register at https://go.umd.edu/uffs2.

July 24, 10:00 a.m.—Plantation Park Heights, 3811 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215. Register at https://go.umd.edu/uffs3.

This workshop series is funded by a cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Grants to Increase Meat Inspection Operations

USDA press release, abridged

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced $55.2 million in competitive grant funding available through the new Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program. The new program is funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

"We are building capacity and increasing economic opportunity for small and midsized meat and poultry processors and producers across the country." Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "Through MPIRG, meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities can cover the costs for necessary improvements to achieve a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Poultry Products Inspection Act, or to operate under a state's Cooperative Interstate Shipment program."

USDA encourages grant applications that focus on improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency; developing new and expanding existing markets; increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand; maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards; obtaining a larger commercial presence; and increasing access to slaughter or processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, and veteran producers. Eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities include commercial businesses, cooperatives, and tribal enterprises.

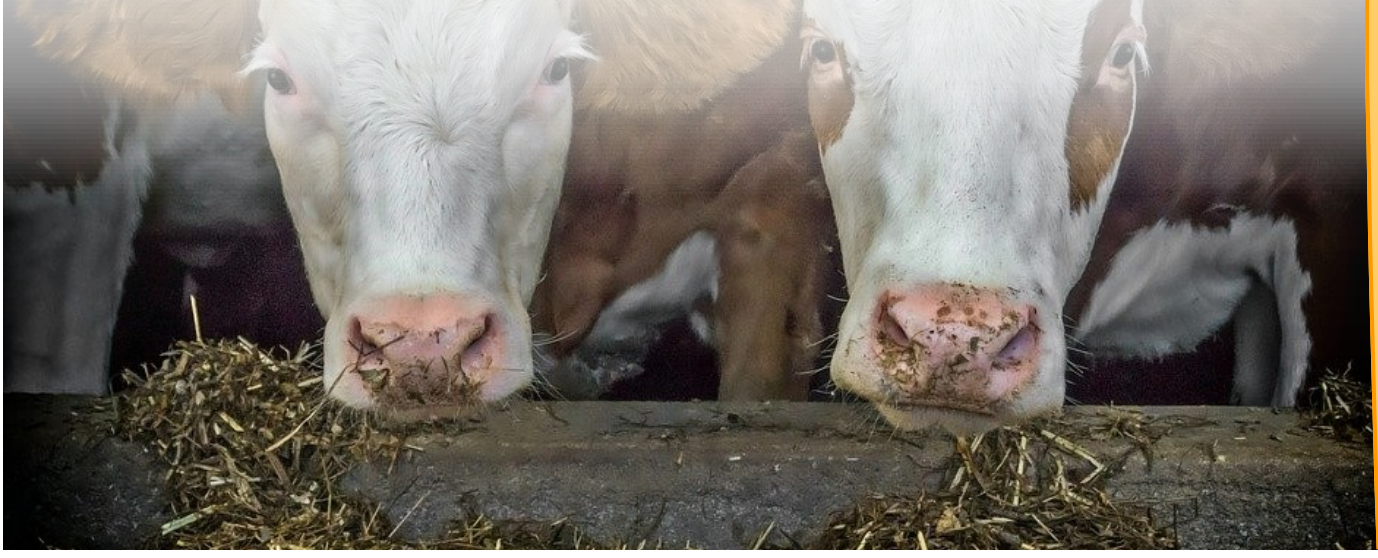
MPIRG's Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection (PFGI) project is for processing facilities currently in operation and are working toward Federal inspection. Applicants can be located anywhere in the states and territories. Whereas, MPIRG's Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Compliance project is only for processing facilities located in states with a Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) CIS program. These states currently include Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin. Applicants must be working toward CIS program compliance requirements to operate a state-inspected facility or make a good faith effort toward doing so.

Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 2, 2021. Any grant application submitted after the due date will not be considered unless the applicant provides documentation of an extenuating circumstance that prevented their timely submission of the grant application. Read more in AMS Late and Non-Responsive Application Policy.

AMS offers webinars for applicants to help walk them through the Request for Application. Additionally, grants management specialists are standing by to answer any incoming questions and emails during regular business hours. For more information about grant eligibility and program requirements, visit the MPIRG webpage, or contact us at mpirg@usda.gov.

This announcement is part of the Build Back Better initiative, a commitment to invest more than $4 billion to strengthen the food system, support food production, improved processing, investments in distribution and aggregation, and market opportunities. Through the Build Back Better initiative, USDA will help to ensure the food system of the future is fair, competitive, distributed, and resilient; supports health with access to healthy, affordable food; ensures growers and workers receive a greater share of the food dollar; and advances equity as well as climate resilience and mitigation.

To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



Cover Crop Deadline July 16

Maryland Department of Agriculture press release

Grants To Plant Cover Crops

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to apply for grants to help offset seed, labor, and equipment costs to plant cover crops in your fields this fall to protect water quality and build your soil's health. Our grants can make planting cover crops very affordable!

Why Cover Crops

It's easy to understand why cover crops are so popular. Cover crops recycle nitrogen, reduce erosion, add valuable organic matter to the soil, and can help protect fields from too much and too little rain. Isn't it time you put cover crops to work in your fields?

New This Year…

- The base rate to plant cover crops is $45/acre.
- The base rate to aerial seed cover crops is $50/acre.
- A $10/acre incentive is available to farmers who plant either rye or a multi-species cover crop.

Mail-in Enrollment

- Enrollment will be conducted entirely by mail.
- Applications will be mailed to farmers who participated in last year's cover crop program and can be downloaded here from July 1 through July 16, 2021.
- Completed applications must be mailed to the local soil conservation district and postmarked between July 1, 2021 and July 16, 2021.

2021-2022 Overview and Incentive Options

- The base payment for incorporated seed is $45/acre. The base rate for aerial/aerial ground seeding is $50/acre.
- Incorporated seed qualifies for a $10/acre early planting incentive.
- Farmers who aerial seed or aerial ground seed cover crops into standing corn on or before September 10, 2021 qualify for a $10/acre incentive payment.
- Farmers who terminate cover crops after May 1, 2022 may be eligible for an Extended Season incentive payment of up to $10/acre.
- Incentives are available to plant rye and multi-species cover crops.
- Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum tobacco, vegetables, hemp and millet.
- There is a five acre minimum. Total enrolled acres may not exceed acreage managed under the farm's current Nutrient Management Plan.
- Direct deposit of cost-share grants is available.

Seed Requirements

- Purchased seed must be free of prohibited noxious weed seeds, have a minimum germination rate of 80%, and have no more than 16 restricted noxious weeds per pound. (continue to next page)

2021-2022 COVER CROP PLANTING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

TRADITIONAL COVER CROP PAYMENT OPTIONS	NO-TILL	CONVENTIONAL	BROADCAST WITH LIGHT, MINIMUM OR VERTICAL TILLAGE	AERIAL/ AERIAL GROUND SEEDING	BROADCAST STALK CHOP AND BROADCAST CULTIPACKER
Base Payment	$45/acre	$45/acre	$45/acre	$50/acre	$45/acre
Plant by October 10, ***add:***	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre	$0	$0
Aerial seed into standing corn on or before September 10, ***add:***	$0	$0	$0	$10/acre	$0
Plant rye ***or*** a multi-species cover crop, ***add:***	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre
Terminate cover crop after May 1, ***add:***	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre	$10/acre
MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT:	**$75/acre**	**$75/acre**	**$75/acre**	**$80/acre**	**$65/acre**

LEAD Maryland Accepting Applications

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply for participation in LEAD Maryland Class XII (2022-23). The application will remain open until **October 1**. All application materials can be found on the homepage of the LEAD Maryland website.

For those interested in applying to the Program, we recommend following the steps below:

- Explore LEAD's website to better understand the mission of the LEAD Maryland Foundation and the purpose of the Fellowship Program.
- Please review the LEAD Maryland Class XII Program Information and Calendar to learn more about the many benefits of participation in the Program, to explore the curriculum, and to ensure availability for Program dates.
- Review the Statement of Understanding and Code of Ethics to ensure that you fully understand the Program requirements, and can fully commit to participating in Class XII.
- Complete the LEAD Maryland Class XII online application! Create an account with a username and password, which will allow you to save and return to the form at any time. This form will be submitted online.
- Contact 3 references. Each reference must complete and return the Reference Form directly to the LEAD Maryland office. Forms may be submitted electronically via email to: **leadmd@umd.edu**, or by mail to: **LEAD Maryland Foundation, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658.**

  Reference Form--pdf version (to print and share)

  Reference Form --WORD doc

Ag Plastic Recycling

Ag plastic recycling is back at the Scarboro Landfill in Street. See the flyer to the right for details. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Wendy Doring at (410) 638-3417 or wdoring@menv.com.

All plastics should be as clean as possible and stored under cover to minimize moisture. Farms should separate plastics by type. All types of Ag Plastics are received in Super sacs that are provided by Office of Recycling.

Acceptable:

**Polypropylene Baler Twine-Please keep colors separated.*
**White Super sacs **No #5 polypropylene*
**Colored or Dirty Super Sacs*
**Feed Bags 100% LD #4 **Woven bags not acceptable*
**Clear Stretch Wrap*
**Clear Greenhouse Covers*
**White Bale Wrap*
**Clean and Bundled Drip Tape– Must be separated from filed mulch.*
**Stacked, Polystyrene Greenhouse Trays-Separated and Stacked. Usually #5 or #6*

Not Acceptable:

**Woven Feed Bags*
**Sweet Corn Cover/Clear*
**Bale Netting Wrap*
**Black Field Mulch*
**Comingled Drip Tape-Please separate*
**Dairy Bio Gloves*
**Dairy Medical Supplies*
**Residential Trash*

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
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Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/HarfordAg

Back-issues can be found at: https://extension.umd.edu/locations/harford-county/agriculture-and-nutrient-management

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Dates to remember

01 Jul-02 Dec. Maryland Beef Webinar Series. First Thursday of each month. 7:30-8:30 PM. Free. Register online or call (301) 432 -2767.

13 Jul. Dairy Field Day. 10:30-1:00 PM. Central Maryland Research & Education Center, Ellicott City, MD. Free. Register online or call (301) 432-2767.

13 Jul. Poultry Mortality Composting Short Course. 8:30 AM—3 PM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register by calling (301) 405-1198.

14 Jul. Women in Ag Webinar: What You Need to Know to Grow Your Own Fruit. 12 noon. Free. Register online.

22 Jul. Maryland Commodity Classic. Queen Anne's 4-H Park. 9 AM. $10. Register online.

24 Jul. Urban Farmer Field Day. Plantation Park Heights, Baltimore. 10—12:30 PM. Free. Register online or call (410) 856-1850.

29 Jul. Hemp Twilight Field Tour. 6:30-8:30 PM. Wye Research & Education Center, Queenstown. Free. Register online.

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