

FARM NOTES

CARROLL COUNTY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MAY 2023

University of
Maryland Extension

700 Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD 21157
M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(410) 386-2760

[extension.umd.edu/locations/
carroll-county](https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county)

Facebook.com/umecarroll

Bryan Butler
Extension Agent,
Ag & Food Systems



SMALL ACREAGE COVER CROP PROGRAM

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture, [News Release, April 24, 2023](#)

Program is Open to Small Farms and Urban Growers Who Plant Less Than 10 Acres

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced that the sign-up period for its Small Acreage Cover Crop Program is open now through May 26. Now in its second year, the program provides grants to help small farms and urban growers plant cover crops on their production areas to build healthy soils, improve crop yields, protect local water quality, improve climate resilience, and provide other environmental benefits.

“Small-scale and urban farmers play a major role in growing fresh, healthy food for local communities,” said Maryland Department Agriculture Secretary Kevin A. Atticks. “The Department is excited to provide these essential growers with conservation grants that promote healthy farming practices that support local food production. I encourage all eligible growers to apply for our small farm cover crop grants during the open enrollment period.”

The Small Acreage Cover Crop Program is for urban and small-scale producers who do not qualify for traditional cover crop programs. New this year, operations that plant less than ten acres of qualifying cover crops—including cereal grains or cover crop seed mixes—may apply for grants. Financial assistance for this program is capped at \$1,500 per grower, per year.

Program highlights include:

- Maximum payment per grower is \$1,500 per year
- Growers will be reimbursed based on paid receipts
- Eligible species include single cereal grains or cover crop seed mixes
- Cover crops may be planted in open plots/fields, raised beds, or a high tunnel following the harvest of a production crop (vegetables, herbs, flowers, corn, sorghum, soybeans, hemp, millet, or tobacco)

Continued on pg. 2

Small Acreage Cover Crop Program	1-2
Tree Planting Incentive	2
Workshops and Meetings	3-5
MARBIDCO Livestock Processing Equipment Grant	5
Dates to Remember	6

SMALL ACREAGE COVER CROP PROGRAM CONTINUED

- Growers should follow cover crop planting recommendations made by the seed manufacturer or the University of Maryland Extension for eligible species.

Urban and small-scale producers may download grant applications on the Maryland Department of Agriculture's website. Applications must be postmarked by May 26, 2023 for consideration in this year's program. The Small Acreage Cover Crop Program is funded by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and managed by the department's Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program. Growers who want to apply for these small acreage cover crop grants should contact Bill Tharpe, Program Administrator for the Small Farm & Urban Agriculture Program at bill.tharpe@maryland.gov or 410-841-5869. For additional information, please visit the [website](#).

MDA OFFERS NEW TREE PLANTING INCENTIVE

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture, News Release, April 12, 2023

Program Supports Maryland's Plan to Plant 5 Million Trees for Climate Progress

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced that a new tree-planting bonus is now available to farmers and landowners who install qualifying conservation practices financed through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share program. The incentive aims to help Maryland achieve its ambitious tree-planting goal to capture greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

"I encourage farmers to take advantage of this attractive incentive program. In addition to storing atmospheric carbon, trees provide tremendous water quality benefits for local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. "They provide a win-win for both the air and water."

Under the new incentive program, eligible farmers will receive \$2 for each new tree planted as part of an approved conservation practice that began April 1. The bonus payment will be provided when the conservation practice is fully installed. This payment is in addition to the regular cost-share rate for the qualifying practice. It is available for the following conservation practices:

- Windbreak Establishment – \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share
- Silvopasture – \$2 per tree plus up to 87.5% cost-share
- Riparian Forest Buffer – \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share
- Hedgerow Planting – \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share
- Tree and Shrub Establishment – \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share

Maryland has pledged to plant 5 million trees in the state by 2031 to help reduce carbon in the atmosphere and combat climate change. The department's new tree planting bonus aims to increase farmer interest and commitment to planting trees and other forest conservation practices. You can read Maryland's plan to grow 5 million trees [online](#).

Interested farmers should contact their local [soil conservation district](#) to apply for cost-share funding and to receive free technical assistance to install new practices. Applicants must be in good standing with the program and in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management regulations to be eligible. Other restrictions may apply. For more information, please contact the Conservation Grants office at 410-841-5864 or visit the program [website](#).

STRAWBERRY TWILIGHT TOUR

SAVE THE DATE

STRAWBERRY TWILIGHT TOUR

MAY 16, 2023

6 to 8 pm

University of Maryland
Wye Research & Education Center



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Source: *University of Maryland Extension*

Come and listen to University specialists discuss current conditions and issues with Maryland strawberry production, including fungicide resistance and scheduling fungicide sprays. See and taste some of the varieties in the 2022/23 annual plasticulture variety trial, which includes a few standard varieties as well as a few newer selections. As always, a sweet treat will be served at the conclusion of the program.

The program is free, but we ask that you please RSVP for planning purposes at:

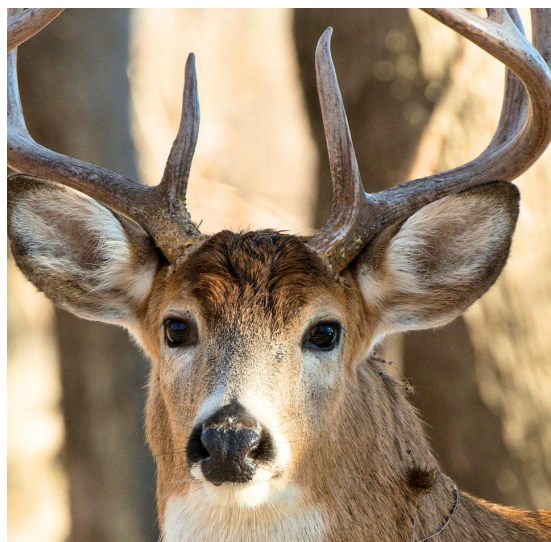
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZNL4Se6WSW9Gjk3mRddvjFmtKV78PykBSMD07ZqN-uE/viewform?edit_requested=true

Grower suggestions are welcome! For more program information, contact Chris Cochran at 443-446-4277 or Megan Stibbe at 410-827-8056 ext-114.

DEER SUMMIT

Source: *Maryland Department of Agriculture*

The Maryland Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will host a Deer Summit on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. The summit will run from 10 am to 2 pm, with a light lunch sponsored by Horizon Farm Credit. Presentations and panel discussions will be led by MDH, DNR, Maryland Farm Bureau, Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, the University of Maryland, among others. For more information and to register, visit mda.maryland.gov.



Join the Maryland Department of Agriculture and partner agencies for a

DEER SUMMIT

Thursday, May 11, 2023

10 am - 2 pm

MDA Headquarters

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, MD 21401

Light lunch provided by Horizon Farm Credit

Presentation & Panel Topics Include

Crop Damage • Hunting & Management

Deer Processing • Feeding the Hungry

Lyme & Other Diseases • Automobile Strikes



Horticultural Twilight

August 10, 2023, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Western Maryland Research & Education Center (WMREC)
18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756

Topics include:

- NC-140 Update
- Orchard Disease Management Update
- Small Fruit Disease Management Update
- BT Sweet Corn Update
- Drone Use in the Orchard
- Blackberry Variety Trial
- Preview New Maryland Hop

*This is a free event. Please register at <https://forms.gle/BFKiUHwBWd7yFcZZ9>
or call 410-386-2760*



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the UME-Carroll Extension Office at least 2 weeks prior to event at 410-386-2760.

2023 SMALL GRAINS FIELD DAY

5

Source: University of Maryland Extension

The 2023 Maryland Small Grains Field Day will showcase the research being conducted by the University of Maryland in Small Grain Production.

When: Tuesday May 23, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: University of Maryland WYE Research and Education Center
211 Farm Lane, Queenstown, Maryland 21658

Topics include: disease management, weed control, tractor and equipment operation, safety, and maintenance, tour commercial wheat variety strip trials and UMD small grains trials.

Dinner will be provided by the Maryland Crop Improvement Association, Inc. and other sponsors.

Please register at <http://bit.ly/smallgrain23> so that we may get a meal count. Questions can be directed to Dr. Nicole Fiorellino at 443-446-4275 or nfiorell@umd.edu.

MARBIDCO GRANT

Source: MARBIDCO

MARBIDCO Offers Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program to Assist with the Expansion of Livestock Processing Capacity in Maryland

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) has announced that it has established a *Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program* to help assist with the expansion of livestock processing capacity in Maryland. This program offers grants to eligible applicants to purchase livestock and meat processing equipment and/or upgrade facilities to help increase production in Maryland, with a particular focus on large-animal and blue catfish processing. (Smaller scale poultry processing projects may also be eligible.)

For the Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program, MARBIDCO will contribute up to 50% towards the eligible costs, with a maximum grant award amount of \$50,000 for USDA-inspected facility projects and maximum grant award amount of \$30,000 for custom-exempt processing or mobile processing projects.

Eligible applicants include individuals and businesses who currently operate livestock and meat processing enterprises in Maryland, as well as those that can start such operations by no later than June 30, 2023. These applicants can include sole proprietorships, partnerships, cooperatives, corporations, or LLCs.

Eligible expenses: Grant funds (and matching funds paid by the applicant) must be used to purchase livestock and meat processing equipment for USDA-inspected facilities, custom-exempt or mobile processing projects. Livestock processing equipment items purchased prior to April 1, 2023, are not eligible to be reimbursed using these grant funds.

The Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program application deadline is June 1, 2023.

For more information, contact Sierra Criste, MARBIDCO Financial Programs Associate, by email at scriste@marbidco.org or by telephone at (410) 267-6807.

GREAT RESOURCES ARE JUST A CLICK AWAY!



Bryan R. Butler, Sr.
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



[Facebook.com/umecarroll](https://www.facebook.com/umecarroll)



<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county>

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact your local University of Maryland Extension Office.

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
700 Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD 21157

FARM NOTES

CARROLL COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Dates to remember

May 11 Deer Summit @ MDA, Annapolis, MD

May 12 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner, 7:30 a.m.

May 16 Strawberry Twilight Tour @ Wye Research & Education Center, 6 p.m.

May 23 Small Grain Field Day @ Wye Research & Education Center, 3 p.m.

May 26 Small Acreage Cover Crop Application Due

May 26 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner
7:30 a.m.

May 29 Extension Office Closed for Memorial Day

June 1 MARBIDCO Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Due

June 5-10 Agricultural Scrap Tire Drop Off Program,
Northern Landfill, 1400 Baltimore Blvd.,
Westminster, MD 21157

June 9 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner, 7:30 a.m.

June 19 Extension Office Closed for Juneteenth

Aug. 10 Horticultural Twilight @ Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC), Keedysville, MD @ 5 p.m.

MAY 2023