

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Garrett County Ag Newsletter

**AgFS**

Agriculture & Food Systems

August 2023

MDA Reverses Decision on Nutrient Management Planning



After an announcement on June 1st to discontinue funding University of Maryland to write nutrient management plans, MDA reversed that decision and has agreed to fund University of Maryland Extension to continue writing plans for farmers. Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary, Kevin Atticks, made the announcement at the Nutrient Management Plan Writing Summit held on July 17th in Annapolis. While many details have to be worked out University of Maryland Extension will take over

Nutrient Management program from the Department of Environmental Science and Technology at University of Maryland on September 1st. Previous employees are awaiting details but it is anticipated most will be rehired. The Secretary is planning to evolve the nutrient management plan model through industry input to adapt to modern farming practices and operations. The Secretary also announced the formation of a new 30-member Farmer Taskforce, convening in August to provide guidance to MDA and UMD regarding ways to improve the nutrient management plan to be more practical for farmers to implement.

If University of Maryland has written your plan in the past, contact the Garrett County office after September 1st to get on the schedule to have a plan written for 2024.

Home Energy Workshop

The University of Maryland Extension is hosting FREE Home Energy Workshops across the state! Register for a workshop near you to discover practical, cost-effective, and innovative strategies to improve your home energy performance or design a solar power system that will meet your needs.

Extension Specialists and industry representatives will provide valuable information to help you improve your home's energy-efficiency and determine if solar will work for you.

Are you thinking about a home improvement project to reduce your energy bills? Have you thought about going solar, but don't know if it will pay off? Have you heard about heat pumps, EVs, electrification and battery storage, but want to know more? Register and attend a workshop near you to get answers to all these questions and more!

With electricity prices rising 2 percent annually, and 18 percent of Maryland households facing a high energy burden, many residents are choosing to reduce or offset their home energy use. If you're wondering how much energy your home uses, or if you're dreading your next utility bill, then now is the time to explore energy saving opportunities for your home. Explore various financial resources, including up-and-coming incentives through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Each workshop will provide practical tips, steps, and tools to improve your energy efficiency, reduce your carbon footprint, and save money on your next utility bill. Workshops are appropriate for current and prospective homeowners, as well as renters. Participants will receive copies of Extension fact sheets and other informational resources. Locally, the in-person workshops will be offered at the Ruth Enlow Library (Oakland Branch on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.



Home Energy Workshop

Slash Your Energy Bills

Join a **FREE** workshop to learn how to save money on home energy

Are you curious about...?

- **Heating & Cooling**
Should I switch to a heat pump?
- **Sustainable Design**
Are new windows worth the cost?
- **Lighting & Electronics**
Do I need a new appliance?
- **Incentives & Financing**
When are IRA incentives available?
- **Solar, Batteries & EVs**
Will solar work at my house?

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS

Easton, MD Talbot Co. Community Center	MON, AUG 7 5:30–7:30 pm
Frederick, MD C. Burr Artz Public Library	THU, SEP 7 5:30–7:30 pm
Oakland, MD Ruth Enlow Library (Oakland)	WED, OCT 4 5:30–7:30 pm
Hagerstown, MD Main Hagerstown Library	WED, NOV 8 5:30–7:30 pm
Allegany, MD LaVale Library	TUE, DEC 5 5:30–7:30 pm

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Register at:
go.umd.edu/HomeEnergy

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Agriculture Marketing Grant Money Available

Garrett County Business Development is providing aid in promoting agriculture-based businesses in Garrett County. Example: signs, banners, pamphlets, etc. 4 grants of up to \$500 each may be awarded each fiscal year to fund up to 90% of the project's costs. For more information and to request an application, contact Melissa Bolyard, Agriculture Business Specialist, Garrett County Business Development at mbolyard@garrettcountry.org or call 301-334-7285.



Statewide Agriculture Newsletters



Newsletters from UME offer informative, researched-based information that the reader can put into practice. Informative articles include crop production, disease information, animal science, and upcoming programs. Take a closer look at the newsletters listed below.

The **Agronomy News** is a statewide newsletter for farmers, consultants, researchers, and educators interested in grain and row crop forage production systems. This newsletter is published once a month during the growing season and will include topics pertinent to agronomic crop production. Subscribers will receive an email with the latest edition.

[Agronomy News](#)

The **Fruit & Vegetable News** is a timely publication for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry available electronically from April through October. Published by the University of Maryland Extension Agriculture and Food Systems team.

[Fruit & Vegetable News](#)

Update AG Client Contact Information

Please [click here](#) to update your contact information and to stay updated on everything agriculture-related in Garrett County and the tri-state area.

CONTACT US



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Office Hours: Monday-Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Except for Observed Holidays

[Faculty/Staff Directory](#)



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Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters