

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

February 2019

The Extension Office will be closed on
February 18 in honor of Presidents' Day

Hello, Harford County!



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
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Harford County MID-WINTER AGRONOMY MEETING

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 | 9 AM—3 PM

I hope you're managing to stay warm in the midst of this polar vortex! I wanted to take this introduction to draw your attention to upcoming programs and events to get you ready for the 2019 growing season.

First, don't forget to register for the **Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting on February 12** at Deer Creek Overlook. Check-in starts at 9 and the program begins at 9:30 AM. **Registration is \$12 before February 5**, and \$20 thereafter/at the door and includes a hot lunch. Topics will include: pasture and forage weed management, head scab management in small grains, a look at nitrogen management after the 2018 rains, using cover crops for nutrient recycling, investing in you and your farm's financial future, and regional ag agency updates. Please call the office at (410) 638-3255 to register. Checks can be made payable to "HC EAC" and mailed or delivered to the office. As usual, attendance in the full program will satisfy the requirements for private applicator

pesticide recertification and nutrient management voucher training.

Second, if you're unable to attend the Mid-Winter Meeting for training but still need pesticide credits or a nutrient management voucher, we will be offering standalone classes at the Extension office. See pages 4 and 6 for details.

Also, we would like to welcome Dr. Mandeep Virk-Baker as our new Area Extension Director for Harford, Baltimore, and Carroll Counties! She has a strong research and

Extension background and we are thrilled to have her join our team. Be on the lookout for her at local programs and a short bio in an upcoming issue of *Ag Notes*.

Stay warm, and I hope to see you at the meeting on February 12!

Until next time,
-Andy

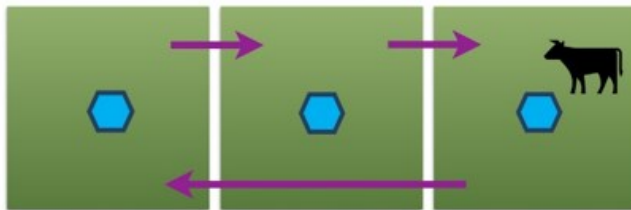


The What & Why of Rotational Grazing

Brian Campbell, NRCS Grazing Specialist

There are many variations, but rotational grazing is essentially a grazing system in which livestock are moved from one portion of the pasture to another as needed to avoid overgrazing and to allow forages a chance to recover. The alternative is continuous grazing, in which livestock are kept on one undivided pasture during the entire grazing season (usually April through November or year-round).

There is a spectrum of options for how intensely rotational grazing is implemented. On the low-intensity end of the spectrum, a farmer could have one undivided pasture and move their livestock into a barnyard whenever that pasture needs a rest. On the other end, a farmer could split their pastureland into hundreds of paddocks (i.e. pasture subdivisions) using permanent and/or temporary fence and move their animals from one paddock to the next every 30 minutes. As grazing gets intensified, you will have more paddocks of smaller size, grazing periods will get shorter (allowing rest periods to get longer), and stocking density (the number of livestock per acre on a single paddock at a specific point in time) will increase. Distribution of manure, urine, and grazing will also become more uniform across the pasture.



Less-intense rotational grazing

Is it worth your time to start grazing rotationally? While any move away from continuous grazing will increase the amount of forage available (because forages will have a chance to regrow), the most impressive benefits come from high-intensity rotational grazing. There is not a standard definition for this but the idea is to provide just enough forage in each paddock for a maximum of three days of grazing and then rotating animals out once the paddock has been grazed to the desired height.

Compared to a continuous grazing situation, high-intensity rotational grazing can increase the amount of forage consumed by up to 4,000 pounds of dry-matter

per acre every year (Undersander, Albert, Cosgrove, Johnson & Peterson, 2002).

A University of Georgia study (Hoveland, McCann & Hill, 1997) comparing rotational grazing to continuous grazing on a cow-calf operation found the following results:

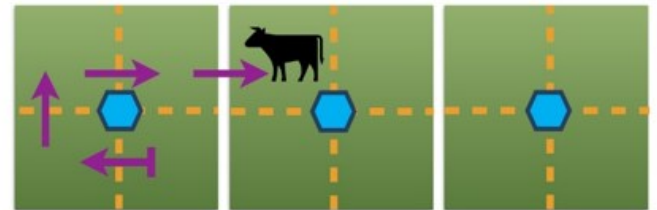
Rotational grazing resulted in increased forage persistence and productivity, more than doubling production during some periods when compared to continuous grazing.

Forage quality was similar for both continuous and rotational grazing.

Rotational grazing resulted in up to 39% less hay fed when compared to continuous grazing.

Rotational grazing increased calf weaning-weight per acre by 37% and allowed stocking rate to be increased by 38% when compared to continuous grazing. Cow weight-change, pregnancy rate, and individual calf weaning-weights were the same for both continuous and rotational grazing.

The results above illustrate the significant potential of intensive rotational grazing for increasing



More-intense rotational grazing

productivity, profitability, and sustainability. Likewise, a Pennsylvania State University study (Cunningham & Hanson, 1996) confirmed that intensively grazed pasture is the most economical use of dairy-farm acres. After accounting for production costs and storage losses, intensively grazed pasture was roughly twice as profitable per acre as corn-silage or continuously grazed pasture and it was more than six times more profitable than hay.

If you are considering rotational grazing for your operation or intensifying your current grazing practices, please contact your local NRCS Field Office.



Ten New Year's Resolutions For Cattlemen

New year, new herd.

Well, maybe not entirely. But here are 10 resolutions to help keep your cattle and your operation in top condition all through 2019.

1. Increase oversight of bulls.

Conduct breeding soundness exams (BSEs) regularly and make sure your bulls are out there doing their job.

2. Keep better records.

Preferably on each individual animal. Not just production and reproduction, but economics and finances, too.

3. Implement a body condition score (BCS) collection system.

Set a target to evaluate and collect scores two to four times per year.

4. Shoot for fewer days of

harvested-forage feeding.

Maximize your grazing days.

5. Troubleshoot handling facilities.

Headgate that hangs up? Fences that need mended? Identify your problem areas and get them fixed.

6. Give your facilities a walk through when you're not working cattle.

Less stress for everyone.

7. Investigate Cattle Disease Traceability.

Get involved. Be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

8. Have a plan for calving season.

Include dystocia troubleshooting and have your facilities ready for 2019 calves.

9. Implement strategies.

Think grazing management, herd health and calving management.

10. Increase your expert network.

Establish and maintain relationships with industry experts. These might include veterinarians, extension educators, bankers, geneticists and many others.

This post first appeared in BCI News post of January 4, 2019 and is used with permission. The Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) at Kansas State University provides innovative solutions for success in the beef industry. Whether you're a veterinarian or beef producer, they provide resources straight to you and your practice or operation from industry leaders.

MARYLAND BEEF

A UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION BLOG

Check out our new Maryland Beef Extension Blog!

The University of Maryland Extension Beef Team has a new blog and will be posting timely educational articles and important dates throughout the year. Visit the website and subscribe at www.blog.umd.edu/mdbeef/.

2019 Maryland Dairy Convention

February 22

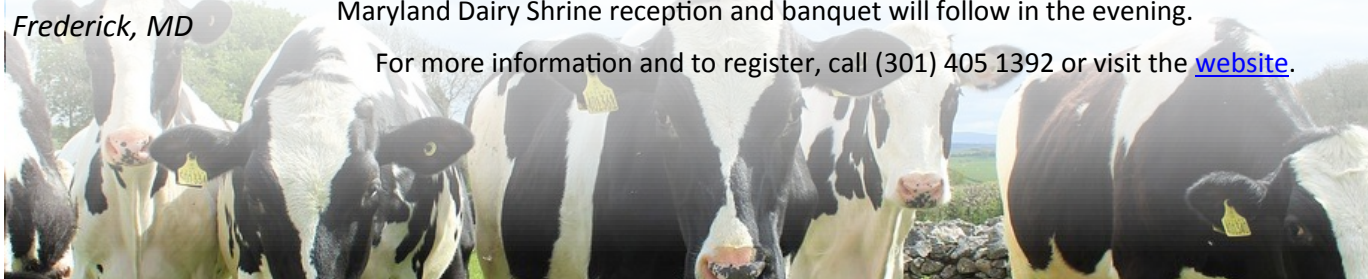
8:30 AM—10 PM

Clarion Inn Frederick
Event Center
Frederick, MD

The theme of the 2018 Maryland Dairy Convention will be: *Opportunities for Staying Viable in the 21st Century.*

Participants will also receive an update from the American Dairy Association on new promotion programs and Dairy of Distinction recipients will be recognized. The Maryland Dairy Shrine reception and banquet will follow in the evening.

For more information and to register, call (301) 405 1392 or visit the [website](#).



Beef

Dairy

Pesticide Applicator Training



Training for private pesticide applicators will be given through the Harford County Extension Office on **March 7 & 14th**. Optional training class for **new applicators** will be from 9-11AM on **March 7**, with exam on **March 14**, 9-11AM. Cost for the new certification class will be \$7, which includes your own copy of the *Maryland Pesticide Core Manual* to use as a study guide for the exam.

March 7 & 14

Harford County
Extension Office

Recertification training will be offered on **March 14** from 1-3PM. Credits will satisfy Maryland continuing education credits (CEUs) necessary to renew your private applicator license. There is no cost for this class, but please register ahead of time. Recertification credits are also available at the Mid-Winter Meeting on February 12.

Call the Extension Office (410-638-3255) or e-mail Andy to register (akness@umd.edu).

Instructional Videos For Pesticide License Renewal

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has recently moved to an online pesticide applicator license renewal system. After you've received credits for recertification you will get a postcard in the mail directing you to their new renewal website. Once you have renewed



your license on their website they will process your renewal and send you an email with instructions on printing your new license. They will no longer mail you a license. Because this is a new system, and may be confusing, we have partnered with MDA to put together instructional videos showing you how to use the website.

For instructions for renewing your license go to: go.umd.edu/renewinglicense

For instructions for printing your license go to: go.umd.edu/printinglicense

If you do not have internet access, you can request a paper renewal form from MDA at (410) 841-5710. If you don't have internet access but would still like to renew online, you may use one of our computers at the Extension Office, but please call ahead to schedule.

American Farmland Trust: Women For The Land

With funding from the USDA NRCS, the [American Farmland Trust](http://www.farmlandtrust.org) will offer the Women For The Land program to women landowners in Harford and Cecil Counties.

During this program, participants learn how to access financial and technical assistance offered by state and local agencies. Are you a woman landowner that is new to, or struggling with, decision-making on your farm or forest land in Harford & Cecil Counties? We are currently recruiting participants for our program. Join us for two sessions of the Conservation Learning Circle.

Feel free to share our information with anyone that you believe can spread the word about our well-received

program! We hope to see you at the Conservation Learning Circle. This is a great networking opportunity!

Cost for the entire program is \$10 or \$5 per session. Fee includes meals.

Questions: womenforthelandMD@farmland.org

Register: <http://bit.ly/2AHNxbaWomenForTheLandMD>

February 22 & March 1

8:45—4 PM

Harford County Ag Center
Street, MD

2019 Commercial Vegetable Recommendations

The 2019 *Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendation Guide* is now available from our [website](#). You can also purchase a hard copy through [Penn State](#) (\$25). If you do not have internet access and would like a particular section of the guide, call the Extension office and we can print it for you.

This vegetable production guide is intended for the commercial vegetable grower who has to make numerous managerial decisions. Although the proper choices of variety, pesticides, equipment, irrigation, fertilizer, and cultural practices are the individual vegetable grower's responsibility, it is intended that these recommendations will facilitate decision-making. Recommended planting dates will vary across the six-state region. Local weather conditions, grower experience, and variety may facilitate successful harvest on crops planted outside the planting dates listed in this guide. This can be evaluated in consultation with the local agents and state specialists.

Western Maryland Fruit Meeting

February 14

*Western MD Research
& Education Center
Keedysville, MD*

The 2019 Western Maryland Regional Fruit Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 14, 2019. The annual Fruit School provides information related to commercial tree and small fruit production. Information on pesticide updates and cultural practices are presented by university and industry experts. We will have Drs. Mengjun Hu and Kelly Hamby on the management of fruit diseases and insects among other valuable presentations.

The meeting will be held at the University of Maryland Western Maryland Research & Education Center (WMREC), 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, Maryland. The registration fee is \$30 and includes lunch, refreshments, access to vendors, and program materials. Pre-registering by February 7th ensures we have the proper number of lunches and handouts. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The actual program will be from 9:00 a.m. to around 4:00 p.m. Registration form is available [online](#). You can also pay online via EventBrite: 2019fruitmeeting.eventbrite.com or contact: Susan Barnes at 301-432-2767 x301 or sbarnes@umd.edu.

FSMA Produce Safety Training

February 11 & 20

Leonardtown & Frederick, MD | 8:00 AM

Who Should Attend?

Those growers who are interested in learning about produce safety, or who **need to comply** with the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (growers with over \$25,000 in sales would need to comply), who need to satisfy buyer requirements, and/or who need to maintain a food safety certification.

What Will You Get from Attending?

- A better understanding of produce food safety
- Insight into the Produce Safety Rule requirements and the Maryland Department of

Agriculture's role

- Training certificate required by FDA to comply with the Produce Safety Rule
- Resources to help comply with the Produce Safety Rule

How much does it cost?

\$25 covers Produce Safety Alliance training materials, food, and FSMA compliant training certificate

Where will it be held?

- **February 11.** St. Mary's County Extension
26737 Radio Station Way
Leonardtown, MD 20650

- **February 20.** Frederick County Extension
330 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

Register Online

- [February 11, Leonardtown](#)
- [February 20, Frederick](#)

Questions?

Deanna Baldwin
(410) 841-5769
deanna.baldwin@maryland.gov

Sarah Everhart
severhart@law.umaryland.edu

The next Produce Safety Training after this will not be until December.

The Harford County Extension Office will offer one final nutrient management voucher training before the start of the 2019 field season on **February 26** at the Extension Office located at 3525 Conowingo Rd., Street, MD 21154 from **9-11 AM**. This program will satisfy the requirements for renewing your nutrient management voucher. Individuals needing a new voucher may also attend. There is no cost associated with this class, but please call the Extension Office at (410) 638-3255 to register.

February 26

9-11 AM

Harford County
Extension Office



Public Input on White-tailed Deer Management

Maryland Department of Natural Resources [press release](#)

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) is seeking public comment on the state's management of white-tailed deer. The input will be used to help revise the state's [deer management plan](#) for the next 15 years, establishing long-term goals, and identifying specific objectives and strategies for achieving them.

Through Feb. 28, the public can provide comments [online](#). The department is also accepting feedback by phone at 410-260-8540; by fax at 410-260-8596; or in writing to: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-1, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401. "We look forward to hearing from all citizens interested in one of Maryland's most important wildlife species – the white-tailed deer," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "Public input is vital to crafting a well-rounded plan that includes all opinions about deer and how they should be managed."

A brief summary of the current status of white-tailed deer management will be presented at four public meetings:

Western Region

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

Mountain Ridge High School

100 Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick Lane
Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Southern Region

Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus
Room 113, Business and Industry Building
8730 Mitchell Road
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Eastern Region

Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

Chesapeake College
Room 127, Health Professions and Athletics Center
1000 College Drive
Wye Mills, Maryland 21679

Central Region

Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.

New Town High School
4931 New Town Boulevard
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Meetings are weather-dependent, and will be postponed if schools are closed on the scheduled day. Attendees should check the department website for closure and rescheduling information.



Agriculture Tire Recycling!

Location: Harford Waste Disposal Center, 3241 Scarboro Road, Street, MD 21154

Dates: Monday, January 28, 2019 thru Saturday, February 2, 2019 & Monday, February 4, 2019 thru Saturday, February 9, 2019

**Please note Saturdays are usually very congested at Harford Waste Disposal Center please plan accordingly.*

Acceptance Hours: 7:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Open to all farmers of Harford County at no cost (do not need to be member of Maryland Farm Bureau).

Proof of Harford County residency required. All size farm tires accepted, on or off the rim. Farmers will be allowed multiple visits to dispose of tires during event. For more information please call: Wendy Doring (410) 638-3417 or (301) 832-8884.



Census Bureau Seeks Temporary Employees

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of workers for temporary jobs available nationwide in advance of the [2020 Census](#).

The [2020 Census Jobs](#) website allows applicants to apply for a range of positions, including recruiting assistants, office operations supervisors, clerks, census field supervisors and census takers. The positions will be located across 248 Area Census Offices nationwide and offer flexible work hours, including daytime, evenings and weekends.

Available jobs:

- *Recruiting assistants* travel throughout geographic areas to visit with community-based organizations, attend promotional events and conduct other recruiting activities.
- *Office operations* supervisors assist in the management of office functions and day-to-day activities in one or more functional areas, including payroll, personnel, recruiting, field operations and support.
- *Clerks* perform various administrative and clerical tasks to support various functional areas, including payroll, personnel, recruiting, field operations and

support.

- *Census field supervisors* conduct fieldwork to support and conduct on-the-job training for census takers and/or to follow-up in situations where census takers have confronted issues, such as not gaining entry to restricted areas.
- *Census takers* work in the field. Some field positions require employees to work during the day to see addresses on buildings. Other field positions require interviewing the public, so employees must be available to work when people are usually at home, such as in the evening and on weekends.

Applicants will be placed in an applicant pool for 2020 Census field positions for positions they qualify for and will be contacted as work becomes available in their area. For more information, contact 1-855-JOB-2020. Applicants may also contact the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

For more information, please visit the [2020 Census Jobs](#) page or the [Census Bureau's Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Natural Resources



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[Extension.umd.edu/Harford-county](https://extension.umd.edu/Harford-county)



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

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Street, MD 21154

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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 5 Feb.** [Frederick County Commercial Pesticide Conference](#). Frederick County 4-H Camp, Frederick, MD. 8-3:30PM. \$60. Call (410) 479-4030.
- 6 Feb.** Women in Ag Webinar: Your Key to International Agriculture. 12PM. Register [online](#).
- 11 Feb.** [Produce Safety Training](#). Leonardtown, MD. \$25.
- 12 Feb.** [Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting](#). Deer Creek Overlook, Street, MD. 9-3PM. \$12 in advance, \$20 at door. Call (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.
- 12-13 Feb.** [Mid-Atlantic Women in Ag Conference](#). Dover Downs, Dover, DE. Register [online](#) or call Shannon Dill (410) 822-1244.
- 14 Feb.** Western MD Fruit Meeting. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville, MD. 9-4PM. \$30. Call 301-432-2767 x301 or register [online](#).
- 19 Feb.** [Update Your Nutrient Management Plan](#). Baltimore

- County Extension Office, Cocksessville, MD. 1-4PM. Free. Call (301) 405-2563.
- 20 Feb.** [Produce Safety Training](#). Frederick, MD. \$25.
- 26 Feb.** [Nutrient Management Voucher Training](#). Harford County Extension Office, Street, MD. 9-11AM. Free. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 27 Feb.** Women in Ag Webinar: Designing Cover Crops to Work On Your Farm. 12PM. Register [online](#).
- 7 Mar.** [New Private Applicator Pesticide Training](#). Harford County Extension Office, Street, MD. 9-11AM. \$7. **Exam on Mar 14, 9-11AM.** Call (410) 638-3255.
- 14 Mar.** [Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification Training](#). Harford County Extension Office, Street, MD. 1-3PM. Free. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 27 Mar.** Women in Ag Webinar: Soils & Salts—From Fertilizer to Tidewater. 12PM. Register [online](#).

February 2019