

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



July 2022

The Extension office will be closed
on July 4 for Independence Day

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county

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Andrew Kness

Ag Extension Educator

akness@umd.edu

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Hello, Harford County!

Happy Fourth of July! Hopefully you will get to spend some time with family and friends to celebrate our country's independence.

The month of July also kicks off the start of fair season for most of us. This year's fairs and shows should be exciting since this will be our first back to "normal" fair season since COVID-19.

New for this year the Harford County Farm Fair will run for 10 days, from July 20-30. Many great events and 4-H/FFA shows are scheduled, which you can see a list of events on www.farmfair.org.

Also taking place in July is the Mason-Dixon Fair, July 11-16. There will be a midway, games, rides, and attractions opening at 5 p.m., and of course, 4-H and FFA livestock shows. A complete schedule of events can be found on www.masondixonfair.org.

Last but not least, the Maryland State Fair will occur in September and will no longer be the 11 best days of summer, but will run for 13 days spread out over three weeks from August 25-28, September 1-5, and September 8-11. A complete list of events and shows can be found on www.marylandstatefair.com.

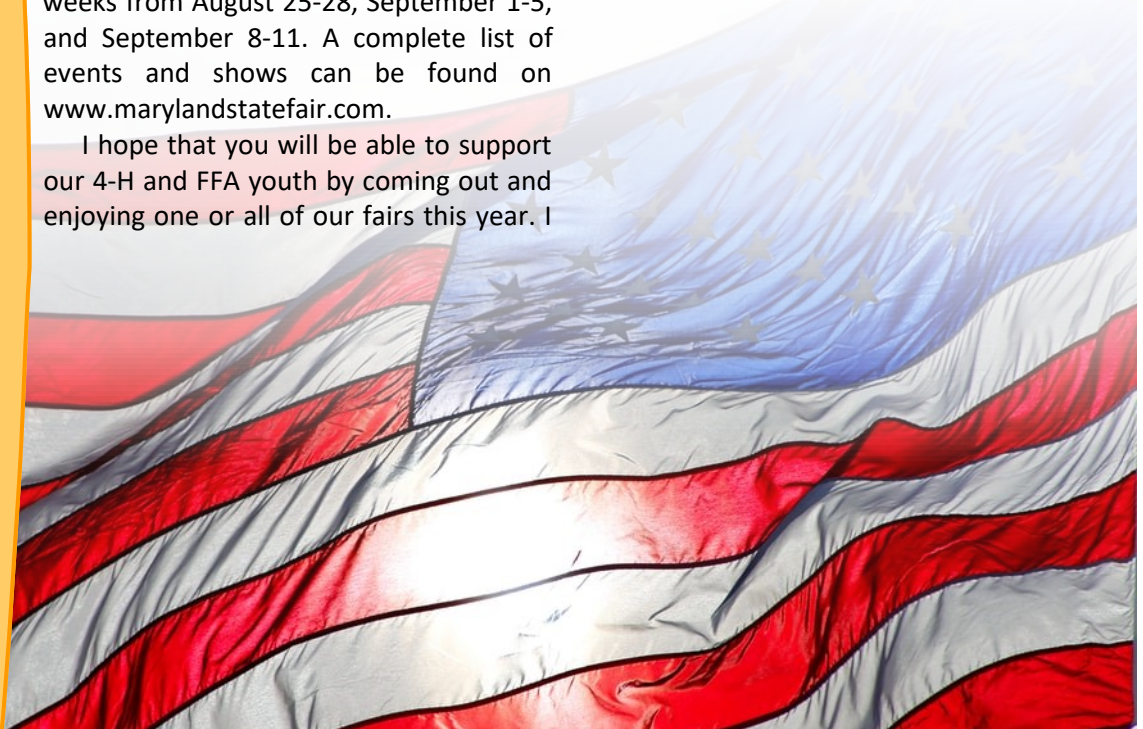
I hope that you will be able to support our 4-H and FFA youth by coming out and enjoying one or all of our fairs this year. I

know many of you will also be participating and volunteering in some capacity and I look forward to seeing you there!

I would also like to direct your attention to the job openings on page 6 of this newsletter. As many of you probably already know, our 4-H Educator, Dwayne Murphy, will be leaving at the end of September and we are looking to rehire that position. Also leaving at the end of September and returning to his normal duties as Carroll County's ag agent will be our interim director, Bryan Butler; we are also seeking to hire that position. If you are interested in either of these positions, or know of anyone that may be interested, please share and go to ejobs.umd.edu. All applications must be submitted through this website.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Until next time,
-Andy



Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

Includes Increased Payment Rates and New Cover Crop Plus+ Option

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced that mail-in enrollment for this year's Cover Crop Program runs from **July 1-18, 2022**. The popular conservation program provides farmers with cost-share grants to help pay for seed, labor, and equipment costs to plant cover crops in the fall to control erosion, recycle nutrients, build soil health, and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

"Several exciting changes have been made to our traditional Cover Crop Grant Program this year," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "We've also introduced a new Cover Crop Plus+ option for farmers willing to go the extra mile to build their soil's health."

Farmers who enroll in the department's Traditional Cover Crop Program receive an increased base payment of \$55/acre and up to \$35/acre in add-on incentives to incorporate cover crops into their fields this fall. The maximum payment (including incentives) to aerial seed cover crops has increased to \$95/acre. New this year, a late planting extension has been built into the program for farmers who cannot get their cover crops planted by the November 5 planting deadline.

Cover crops are essential to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the productivity of Maryland's farmland. In the fall, cold-hardy cereal grains are planted as cover crops in newly harvested fields. As they grow, cover crops provide a living, protective cover against erosion and nutrient runoff while building the soil's organic matter for next year's crop. They can even protect fields from too much or too little rain. Eligible small grains may be mixed with radishes and legumes using a variety of two and three-species mixes to help create diversity. Traditional cover crops may not be harvested; however, they may be grazed or chopped for livestock forage after becoming well established. Farmers who participated in last year's program will receive registration packets

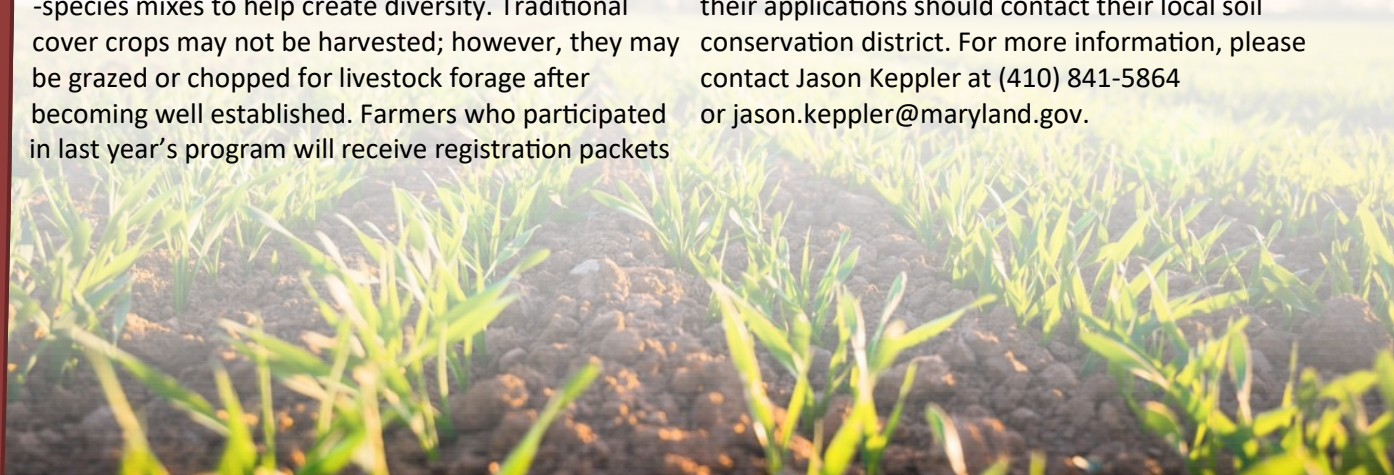
in the mail. Beginning July 1, interested farmers may download applications from the [Cover Crop website](#). To be considered for cost-share, applications should be mailed or dropped off at the local soil conservation district by **July 18, 2022**.

A new pilot program, **Cover Crop Plus+**, is being introduced this year. This program option offers higher incentive payments and more planting choices for farmers who sign a 3-year commitment to plant cover crop mixes and practice conservation tillage to improve soil health. Farmers agree to keep a living root system in enrolled fields for most of the year and manage the cover crop to achieve maximum soil health and water quality benefits. The base payment for this premium incentive program is **\$115/acre per year**. Optional add-on practices can increase the reimbursement rate to **\$160/acre**. To qualify for payment, optional add-ons must be **new practices** for an enrolled field.

Enrollment for the Cover Crop Plus+ program runs concurrently with the Traditional Cover Crop Program. Applications will be available on the [Cover Crop Plus+ website](#) beginning July 1. To be considered for cost-share, applications should be mailed or dropped off at the local soil conservation district by **July 18, 2022**. Farmers may participate in both the traditional and Cover Crop Plus+ programs. Certain restrictions apply.

Maryland's Cover Crop Program is administered by the department's Conservation Grants Program and the state's 24 soil conservation districts. Applicants must be in good standing with the program and in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. Other restrictions and conditions apply. Funding for the 2022-2023 Cover Crop Program is provided by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

Farmers who have questions or need assistance with their applications should contact their local soil conservation district. For more information, please contact Jason Keppler at (410) 841-5864 or jason.keppler@maryland.gov.



GAP Training

Carol Allen, Agriculture Agent Associate
University of Maryland Extension

An MDA Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Certificate can be a gateway to new markets. GAP certification is typically required when selling to schools, wholesale buyers, and some restaurants. The process starts when either the owner or a food safety officer of the farm attends a GAP training class. The classes teach not only safe produce growing, handling, and packing standards, but also help the student write their farm food safety plan while in class. Once the farm food safety plan is written and implemented, the operation invites an MDA auditor to visit their farm. The farm practices must align with the farm's food safety plan. When the audit is passed, the GAP certificate is awarded.

GAP training classes are offered via Zoom in the evenings, in two, four hour segments. Help with obtaining Harmonized GAP certification is also available.

Contact Carol Allen, callen12@umd.edu or (240) 994-5043 for more information.

FREE Produce Safety Rule Compliance Resources

The Maryland Food Safety Network wants to send you customized resources to help you implement the Produce Safety Rule on your farm. Please complete our Google Form and let us know what you need to stay in compliance.



Scan the QR Code with your camera or go to <https://go.umd.edu/ProduceRuleForm> to access the Sign Up Form

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SARAH EVERHART
SEVERHART@LAW.UMARYLAND.EDU
410-458-2475



Unusual Disease of Garlic in Maryland

Jerry Brust, Vegetable IPM Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

Over the last few years, a grower noticed lesions developing on their garlic scapes which then collapsed in the field. In previous years these collapsed scapes amounted to only a small number, but this year the losses are much greater, approaching 30%. Symptoms consist of sunken lesions about ¼ to ½ inch long, that cause twisting, girdling and collapse of the scape. Lesions initially are cream to tan-colored but under rainy or very humid conditions, spore production by the fungus causes lesions to turn orange (Fig. 1 & 2). This disease is anthracnose of garlic, a new disease to Maryland and is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum fioriniae*. The fungus may survive on crop residue in the soil from a previous garlic crop or the disease may be spread by infected bulbils used for propagation. Disease development is favored by rainy or very humid weather and warm temperatures (78-88°F). Anthracnose of garlic does not affect bulbs, but scape yield could be reduced as will bulbil production.

Reports from New England indicate that onion is most likely not affected by this fungus. *C. fioriniae* has also been reported as causing bitter rot on pear and anthracnose on celery and cherry tomato. Crop rotation away from any member of the onion family may help reduce disease incidence. Besides crops, weeds such as common lambsquarters, redroot pigweed, yellow nutsedge and common groundsel may also be infected with the pathogen but be symptomless. Because this is such a new disease of garlic, fungicide recommendations have yet to be determined. However, products that are labeled and effective against purple blight of onion may be useful against this disease.



Figure 1. Collapsed base of scape with white lesion and orange spores.



Figure 2. Twisted orange scape stem.

Hop Yard Field Day

4

Bryan Butler, Principal Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County

On August 4 from 10am-12pm, The University of Maryland and Brewers Association of Maryland (BAM) will host a field day to offer a hands-on look at the current University of Maryland hops trial. Come see *Monocacy*; a hop variety that is new to us, but not to Maryland. *Monocacy* has been genotyped by the USDA in Corvallis, Oregon and found to be a truly unique hop, unlike any other cultivated variety on the market.

Monocacy has been growing “wild” in Central Maryland for many years, but is now on display at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD where it is being propagated, grown, and will be harvested and processed this fall.

Come see it for yourself, hear about the story, and the plan to research and develop a real Maryland

hop. You will also be able to taste some beer samples from Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm, the brewery partner for this project.

Registration (includes tour and beer samples): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hop-yard-field-day-for-craft-breweries-tickets-46851397792>. Free for BAM members; \$10.00 for non-BAM members. *Pre-registration is required; no ticket sales will be offered at the event.*

Location: WMREC, 18330 Keedysville Rd., Keedysville, MD 21756. The event will be held rain or shine.

For more information, contact Janna Howley at janna@growandfortify.com.

August 4

10 AM—12 PM

Western MD Research
& Education Center
Keedysville, MD

Maryland Commodity Classic

Join us at the Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park in Centreville for the 2022 Maryland Commodity Classic!

This year’s event will consist of research presentations with continuing education credits followed by networking and our annual business meeting. Our 2022 Dr. Miller Awardee and Scholarship Recipients will be acknowledged. USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack has been invited to speak! Ending the day, enjoy a crab feast as well as a chicken and pork BBQ!

Members of the Maryland Grain Producers Association will receive a free ticket in the mail. Non-members are encouraged to attend for \$10 before 2:30pm or \$20 after 2:30pm. There is no entry after 3:30pm.

You may register [online here](#) or call (443) 262-8491.

July 28

9 AM—4 PM

Queen Anne County 4-H Park
Centreville, MD

Look Out For Tar Spot on Corn

Andrew Kness, Senior Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland, Harford County

Before anyone panics, this disease has not been confirmed in Maryland; however, it is close by and could potentially spread to our state. As you're scouting fields this summer, keep this one in the back of your mind.

Tar spot is a fungal disease of corn caused by *Phyllachora maydis*. It was first discovered in the United States in 2015. In Latin America where tar spot is more common, another fungal species, *Monographella maydis*, is known to occur in complex with *P. maydis*; however, only *P. maydis* has been found in the United States.

The initial occurrence of tar spot in 2015 was limited to a couple of counties in Indiana, but by 2018 it had spread across much of the US corn belt and caused serious economic damage. In 2020, tar spot was confirmed in corn fields in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, then York, Cumberland, Dauphin, and Lebanon county in 2021 (Fig 1). We believe this large geographic jump from the corn belt to PA was from variety trial seed that was inadvertently contaminated with infected corn residue.

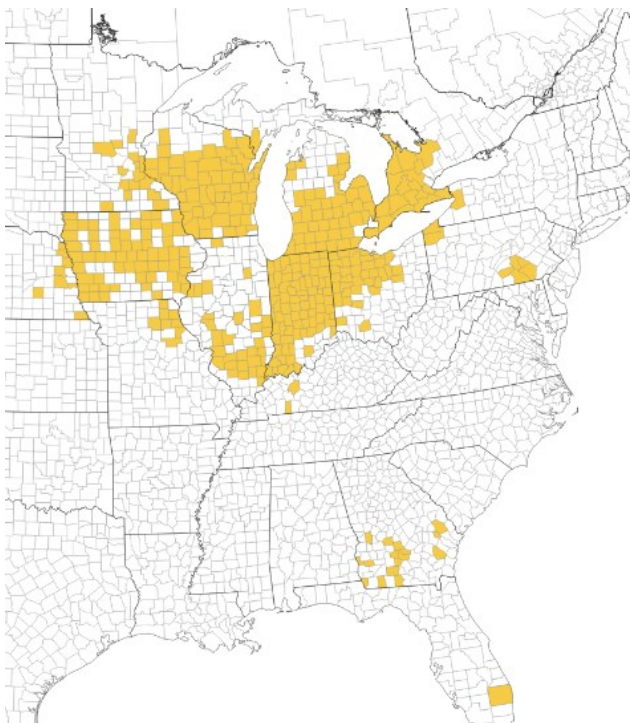


Figure 1. Map of tar spot in the United States after the 2021 growing season. Map generated from: <https://corn.ipmPIPE.org/tarspot/>.



A. Collins, Penn State

Figure 2. Tar spot symptoms on a corn leaf.

Symptoms of tar spot are the presence of glossy black, raised lesions on the leaves (Fig 2). These lesions look like someone splattered paint or tar on the leaves, hence the name. These symptoms have been observed to occur from VT to maturity. Lesions are also visible on dried plant parts.

The fungus that causes tar spot overwinters in infected corn residue; however, it is unknown how well, or if, this pathogen will overwinter here in Maryland or if this disease will be of any economic importance in this region.

Currently there are no management recommendations for this disease for our area, because as stated, it is yet to be confirmed in Maryland and unknown if it will be a problem. For the 2022 corn crop, be on the lookout for this disease in your corn fields, especially if you have any corn hybrid trials or demos planted in your field. If you suspect you found this disease, please contact me (410-638-3255, akness@umd.edu) and I will work with you to confirm identification.



Area Extension Director

We are hiring an area director for the Northern Cluster, which includes Harford, Baltimore, and Carroll Counties. The area director is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the county offices in the cluster and handling budgets. The individual chosen for the position will be able to choose which county office to call their "home" office, but will be expected to spend time in each of the three county offices on a weekly basis.

Interested candidates need to apply online at ejobs.umd.edu, position #103609.

This position is open until **July 15**.

4-H Agent Associate

A 4-H Educator position will be opening at the Harford County Extension office. This position will develop and oversee the 4-H youth program in Harford County. This position is not open yet, but should be open very soon; so please check ejobs.umd.edu if you are interested.

Interested candidates need to apply online at ejobs.umd.edu. There is not a job number for this position yet, but once open you can filter the search by positions open in Harford County.

If you have questions regarding this position, contact Andy Kness, chair of this search, at (410) 638-3255 or akness@umd.edu.

Ag Recycling: Super Sacs Needed

As many of you know, Harford County has a very active and successful ag plastic recycling program at the Scarboro Landfill. The contractor that processes the plastic has recently lost a contract to provide farmers with Super Sacs used to collect the plastic.

Wendy Doring, coordinator of the program, is asking for any farmers that may have any Super Sacs from seed purchases that could be used for the program. Please contact Wendy if you are able to help. Her contact information is (301) 832-8884, wdoring@menv.com.

Maryland Dairy Day

WHEN:
Tuesday, July 12th
10 am - 2:30 pm

WHERE:
Coldsprings Farm
New Windsor, MD

TOPICS:
Fertilizer Management
Calf Management
Compost Barn Management

REGISTRATION:
\$20 (includes lunch)
go.umd.edu/dairy-day-2022

QUESTIONS?
Contact Laurie Savage
(marylandholstein@gmail.com)
or Sarah Potts
(sbpotts@umd.edu)



Friends School of Harford at Falls Creek Farm

Beth Babikow, Chair
Friends School of Harford

Friends School of Harford at Falls Creek Farm is a 66-acre farm located at 2704 Conowingo Rd, Bel Air MD 2105. We intend to be a teaching farm demonstrating a variety of best farming and stewardship of the land practices. With that goal in mind, we recently signed a lease with Grandview Farm in Forest Hill to farm our cropland. Wil and Nick Bailey started preparing the Falls Creek soil for future cash crops by seeding cover crops last summer and fall.

With funding from Chesapeake Bay Trust, The Miles White Society, and Interfaith Partners, we were able to purchase and install a series of five large cisterns that capture rainwater off of the bank barn. This water source will be used to water demonstration garden beds. When constructed, they will be made available to North Harford NRAS and Science and Math Academy students for independent study projects.

Falls Creek Farm is part of the Deer Creek Watershed; there are several streams on the farm property. We are

focusing first on those located inside the edge of the south woods. These woods have not received attention for several decades. On June 1, 2022, Scott Smith, MD Wildlife Diversity Ecologist and his DNR team along with Scott McDaniel, Susquehannock Wildlife Center, evaluated the condition of the south woods. They supported our planned tree planting project with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on the edge of the woods. This strategy will reduce erosion due to rain water run off outside of and inside the woods. June 18, 2022 North Harford teacher Laura O'Leary and some of her students conducted an inventory of the trees and conditions there. Having students learn and practice new skills at Falls Creek is a milestone toward which we have been working for several years.

Friends School of Harford is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization.

We are seeking to create a new resource for Harford County to complement existing resources. FSH Board

Members include: Beth Babikow, Andrew Chabalowski, Jo Ann Chason, Bill Clark, Peggy Eppig, Bill Harlan, Deborah Kissinger, Nina Lamba, Greg Murrell, Aimee O'Neill, Ed Steere, and Rob Weaver. We continue to seek people interested in our mission and our potential. Assistance with grant writing, website content, and program development are especially useful as we work to build capacity. Our email address is friendsschoolofharford@gmail.com. You can join our email list and see photos of the farm at our website www.friendsschoolofharford.org.



Laura O'Leary and North Harford High School Natural Resources students set out to inventory the south woods at Falls Creek Farm.

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems

 Like us on
Facebook

facebook.com/HarfordAg

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

 akness@umd.edu



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

General Interest

Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

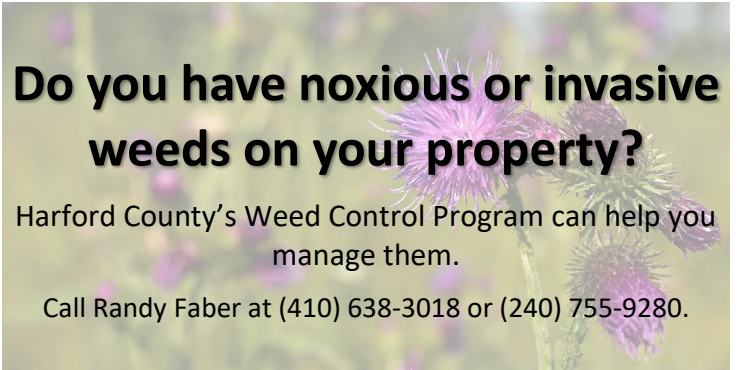
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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 01-18 Jul.** Cover crop sign-up period. Contact Harford Soil Conservation District, (410) 638-4828.
- 12 Jul.** Maryland Dairy Day. 10-2:30 PM. Coldsprings Farm, New Windsor. \$20. Register at go.umd.edu/dairy-day-2022.
- 28 Jul.** Maryland Commodity Classic. 9-4 PM. Queen Anne's 4-H Park, Centreville. Non-members \$10 before 2:30, \$20 after. No admission after 3:30. Register [online](#) or call (443) 262-8491.
- 11-16 Jul.** Mason-Dixon Fair. <https://masondixonfair.org>.
- 20-30 Jul.** Harford County Farm Fair. <https://farmfair.org>.
- 04 Aug.** Hop Yard Field Day. 10-12 PM. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. Free for BAM members, \$10 for non-members. Register [online](#) or call (410) 386-2760.



Do you have noxious or invasive weeds on your property?

Harford County's Weed Control Program can help you manage them.

Call Randy Faber at (410) 638-3018 or (240) 755-9280.

July 2022