

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Garrett County Ag Newsletter

**AgFS**

Agriculture & Food Systems

April 2024

Local AG Workshops Held

Recently, Maryland Department of Agriculture and Freedom AG and Energy recently partnered with University of Maryland Extension to deliver local farmers three comprehensive workshops which provided an overview regarding pesticide safety, crop protection, soil evaluation, no till vegetable crops, grazing economics, forage mixes to name just a few topics. Farmers were able to obtain Private Applicator Pesticide and Nutrient Applicator Vouchers and Consultant recertification credits for attending. One of the highlights from the Healthy Soil for Your Farm Workshop was a demonstration of how rainwater infiltrates soils with various amounts of organic matter and plant roots. Watch [VIDEO](#) here.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

HAY & PASTURE CONFERENCE
HEALTHY SOIL FOR YOUR FARM

WESTERN MD AGRONOMY
MEETING

Private Applicator Test Offered



Maryland Department of Agriculture will give the Private Applicator Pesticide License exam at the Garrett County Extension Office on Thursday, April 18th at noon. If anyone is interested in taking the exam please contact the Extension Office by calling 301-334-6960. The Extension office has study materials available for the exam.

High Tunnel Construction Workshop



University of Maryland Extension will offer a high tunnel construction workshop with three sessions. The three sessions will be held on Friday, April 19th at 5pm at the Garrett County Extension Office, Saturday, April 20th from 8am to 4pm and a third date to be determined. The workshop will introduce anyone interested in building a high tunnel to the materials and construction techniques used to build a high tunnel. A majority of the time will be spent working on the construction of a high tunnel so participants will get hands on experience. There is no cost for

the workshop. Contact the extension office to register by April 15th at 301-334-6960. Another workshop may be conducted in mid summer if you are interested but can not attend this workshop, call in and let us know if you would like to attend a workshop at a later date.

Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance Elects Board of Directors



The Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance (AFFA) met on Tuesday, March 26 th at the Garrett County Extension Office. The AFFA is a non-profit organization established to facilitate collaboration between agricultural and food system service providers to educate the public and provide solutions for food insecurity through the creation of a resilient, sustainable and equitable food and agriculture system across the region.

The main purpose of the meeting was to elect a board of directors for the newly formed organization. The board of directors currently consists of Chair - Willie Lantz, Vice Chair – Shelly Argabrite, Secretary – Cheryl DeBerry and Treasurer – Melissa Bolyard. The by-laws for the organization state that the board can have a total of 12 board of directors. Nominations were solicited and a total of 17 nominations were received. Shelly Argabrite resigned her position leaving a total of 9 positions available. The following individuals were elected to the Board of

Directors: Tabitha Barabarito, Amanda Klotz, Jen Thomas, Darryl Glotfelty, Amy Jones, Corey Edmonds, Katharine Dubansky, Brenda McDonald and Andrea Uphold. Board members will serve a one-year term as the initial board of directors. Jen Thomas was elected to serve as the vice chair. A committee was established to review the organizations by-laws and report back to the next meeting.

It was voted to hold meetings quarterly on the 2 nd Thursday of the month starting at 4:30pm. The meetings will be held at various locations throughout the area and a zoom option will be provided. The next meeting of the AFFA will be held on Thursday, June 13 th at 4:30pm at the Garrett County Extension Office. The meetings are open to the public. Anyone who would like to receive a notice of the meeting please contact Willie Lantz at 301-334-6960 or wlantz@umd.edu.

Western Maryland Food Council to Hold Workgroup Meetings



The Western Maryland Food Council (WMFC) is planning to hold a workgroup session on April 18 th at 4:30pm at the Garrett County Extension Office. The meeting will also be held via zoom. The WMFC has four workgroups: food economy, food access, food education and environmental impacts. The WMFC workgroups are a place for community members to discuss ways to improve the agriculture and food system through projects and policies. We encourage participation in the workgroups as a way to collaborate with others toward common goals. If you would be interested in

receiving a reminder notice or the zoom link for the meeting please call Willie Lantz at 301-334-6960 or wlantz@umd.edu.

No-Till Drill & Lime Spreader Rentals



The Garrett Soil Conservation District has begun rental of their No-Till Drill and their Lime Spreader for the 2024 season. The cost to rent the Drill is \$10 per acre. The Spreader is \$3 per ton. The No-Till Drill is a JD 1590, weighing approximately 7,500 lbs.

Movement of the drill requires a tractor or truck equipped with a hitch with adequate towing capacity. A minimum of a 85 PTO horsepower tractor is recommended. For more information about rentals, please go to <https://garrettscd.org/agriculture> or call 301-501-5886.

Manure Transport

The **Maryland Department of Agriculture** is reminding farmers they may apply for cost-share funding to help cover the cost of transporting all types of manure to crop fields with acceptable



soil phosphorus levels. Grants are also available to offset the cost of injecting liquid manure into soil to prevent nutrient runoff and reduce odors.

Program highlights include:

- Transporting poultry manure to qualifying fields with acceptable soil phosphorus levels or alternative use projects that can safely utilize the product; farmers may receive up to \$28/ton.
- Cost-share grants are available to transport dairy and livestock manure to qualifying fields, covering up to 87.5% of eligible costs.
- FastTrack and standard transport options are available for both poultry and dairy or livestock manure.
- Farmers may receive up to \$45/acre for costs associated with injecting liquid manure into the soil. Please note, poultry manure is not eligible for this option due to its low moisture content.

For more information go to <https://garrettscd.org/manuretransportgrants/>

Dairy Margin Coverage Program



Farm Service Agency is announcing the signup for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program which began February 28 and will run through April 29, 2024. DMC continues to offer protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar

amount selected by the producer.

If anyone has questions, Please call 301-501-5885 for more information.

Scholarship Opportunity



**GARRETT SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**2024
\$1000 SCHOLARSHIP**

Now Open- Deadline May 1, 2024

<https://garrettscd.org/scholarship>

Planning to attend college fall 2024 and major in Agriculture, Natural Resources, or related field. 3.0 or better gpa. Attended high school in Garrett County, MD - public; private; or homeschool. Currently in high school, graduated, or in college.

SPREAD THE NEWS

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



UME Garrett County Agriculture & Food System

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8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Except for Observed Holidays



[Faculty/Staff Directory](#)



Agriculture & Food Systems

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Phone: 301-334-6960

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm excluding holidays

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4HGarrettCoMD>

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Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters