

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

# Garrett County Ag Newsletter

AgFS

Agriculture & Food Systems

March 2025



**Coordinator, Nutrient Management  
Advisor in the following counties**

- **Allegany**
- **Washington**

**Best Consideration Date:  
February 28, 2025**

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

— JOIN OUR —  
**TEAM**

Come join our team as a Coordinator, Nutrient Management Advisor in Allegany or Washington Counties. Click the link below to apply.



### **Coordinator, Nutrient Management Advisor**

Job Description Summary & Additional Information Organization Summary: University of Maryland Extension (UME) Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) Program seeks candidates for a 12-month Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP) Nutrient Management Advisor.

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## Mt. Top Vegetable Meeting



University of Maryland Extension will be holding the Mountain Top Vegetable Meeting on Tuesday March 11th at Garrett College Career Technology Center located at 116 Industrial Park Drive, Accident, MD. The meeting will include a presentation by the new University of Maryland Extension Specialist, Veronica Yurchak.

Veronica will do a presentation on bio-controls in high tunnels. Carol Allen, UME will present on the new water quality regulations. Allison Luettel with MDA will cover producer requirements for the Food Safety and Modernization Act. We will also be taking time to discuss the future of vegetable production in Garrett County. The registration fee will be \$20.00. Please register through Garrett College using this link: <https://cewd.garrettcollege.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action=section&OfferingID=1953547> or call them at 301-387-3069.

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## Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting



University of Maryland will be partnering with Freedom Ag and Energy in Oakland to hold the Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting March 12th at the Pleasant Valley Community Building starting at 9 am. Dr. Gurpal Toor, Extension Specialist, Nutrient Management, and Water Quality, and Emileigh Lucas, PhD student will cover Soil Carbon in Maryland Soils and Nitrogen

Management in Cropping Systems. A full agenda can be found [HERE](#). If you have questions or want to register, contact Freedom Ag and Energy at 301-334-3121 or the Extension Office at 301-334-6960. Pesticide Recertification and Nutrient Management Credits will be offered for WV and MD.

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## Small Acreage Cover Crop Program Sign-Up



The Small Acreage Cover Crop Program sign up will be in March to April. Watch the Garrett Soil Conservation District website for an exact date once it is released. You can find their website at <https://garrettscd.org> A farm must generate a minimum of \$1,000 annually to qualify. Payment reimburses the cost of seeds to a maximum of \$1,500 annually.

For those producers planting 10 acres or more of cover crops, look for your sign up to be in late June to early July.

Sign up for either program at the **Garrett Soil Conservation District, 1916 Maryland Hwy, Mt Lake Park, Maryland**. The fields where you are planting cover crop must be located in Garrett County, Maryland.

For more information, email Miranda Rounds at [miranda.rounds2@maryland.gov](mailto:miranda.rounds2@maryland.gov).

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## Appalachia Farm and Food Alliance Annual Meeting



The Appalachia Farm and Food Alliance (AFFA) was established in 2023 as a non-profit organization that assists and promotes agriculture and the food system in western Maryland and the surrounding area. The mission is to facilitate collaboration between the agricultural and food system 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 organization is a federal 501c3 non profit and is registered in the state of Maryland as a charitable organization. This status allows the AFFA to apply for funding requiring non-profit status. In 2024, AFFA applied for funding from Rural Maryland Council and received a grant that will fund software development for Garrett Growers Cooperative, Inc. AFFA also provides financial business structure for the Western Maryland Food Council and the Mountain Maryland Hemp Alliance. The AFFA is governed by a 12 member board of directors. Twelve board members were elected in 2024 to serve one year to develop the bylaws of the organization.

On March 20th the AFFA will hold its annual meeting. At that meeting an official 12 member board of directors will be elected. The Board of Directors will serve staggered terms of one, two and three years. If anyone would like to be considered for a Board of Director position please email or call Willie Lantz at [wlanz@umd.edu](mailto:wlanz@umd.edu) or 301-334-6960. The Annual Meeting will be held at 4:30pm on March 20th at the Extension Office in Oakland and over zoom. For those that would like to attend via zoom the link to join the meeting is: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/5179298672?omn=91210725955>.

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## Deer Cooperator License Permit

Maryland farmers and landowners facing deer damage have several management strategies available. Common options include installing fencing to deter deer, using repellents (chemical or natural) to discourage feeding, and implementing controlled hunting to manage deer populations.

Obtaining a Deer Cooperator License is the last line of defense when fighting deer damage. For more information, visit [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](https://www.dnr.state.md.us/) website for details on how to





apply for a permit.

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## Wildlife Damage Management Series



The Extension Foundation is hosting weekly webinars from March 11th to April 1st, focusing on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. These sessions will cover effective techniques for managing pests like deer, voles, mice, and rats, featuring expert speakers who share innovative solutions and research findings. The webinars include:

- March 11th: Dealing with Deer in Suburban Landscapes
- March 18th: Management of Pocket Gophers
- March 25th: Vexation of (cycling) Vole Species
- April 1st: IPM for Rodent Control: A Framework for Improving Effectiveness Against Wascally Rodents

For detailed session descriptions and to register click [HERE](#).

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## Fundamentals of Sheep Production Workshop

A Fundamentals of Sheep Production Workshop will be held on March 29th at the Frederick County Fairgrounds. This free event is for all ages of sheep producers and has specific programming at the end of the day to target adult producers and 4-H exhibitors.

The workshop is sponsored by the Frederick County and Maryland Sheep Breeders Associations in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension. Attendees will spend the day learning the basics of raising sheep and networking with other producers. Lunch will be provided.

Registration for the event can be found at: <https://go.umd.edu/sheepbasics>.





## Fundamentals of Sheep Production






A free event for sheep producers of all ages and experience levels. Learn the basics of raising sheep, including health, nutrition, facilities, and fencing. Network with fellow producers and join breakout sessions for 4-Hers and adults after lunch.



Frederick County Sheep  
Breeders Association

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.

### Event Details:

-  March 29, 2025  
10:00 am - 3:15 pm
-  Check in : 9:45 am
-  Free to attend  
Lunch provided
-  Frederick Co. Fairgrounds  
797 E Patrick Street  
Building 7  
Frederick, MD 21701
-  Registration information:  
[go.umd.edu/sheepbasics](http://go.umd.edu/sheepbasics)

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity or have food allergies , please contact Dr. Brittany Fletcher, 2 weeks prior to event at (301) 226-7576.

## Spring Fencing Workshop

The Mountains to Bay Grazing Alliance and University of Maryland Extension invite grazers, livestock owners, and associated industry personnel to attend an upcoming fencing workshop this spring!

The fencing workshop will be held on March 11, 2025 at Plow and Stars Farm in Poolesville, MD from 9 AM to 12 PM. The workshop will cover the basics of fencing, including an overview of fencing types, perimeter vs. interior fencing options, energizer selection and grounding, insulator and post options, and fault finding.

This event will take place outdoors, please dress accordingly for the weather  
Register [HERE](#).



*University of Maryland is an equal opportunity provider*

# Fencing Workshop

March 11, 2025

9 AM - NOON

Plow and Stars Farm

Poolesville, MD

<https://go.umd.edu/fencing>

## Mid-Atlantic Spring Dairy Workshops

University of Maryland Extension, WVU Davis College, and WVU Extension will be presenting Spring Dairy Workshops being held across West Virginia on March 4th, 5th and 6th. Class details and registration link can be found [HERE](#). Registration is free but you must register to attend. Registration closes February 28, 2025.



**2025 MID-ATLANTIC SPRING DAIRY WORKSHOPS**  
 Presented by: WVU Davis College, WVU Extension, & University of Maryland Extension

**March 4, 2025 Reedsville, WV**  
 10:00 AM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Mid-Atlantic Millionaire Model Farms  
 11:00 AM: Jeff Semlar - Regional Economics of Dairy's in Western MD: What Works  
 12:00 PM: Lunch and Producer Panel Discussions  
 1:00 PM: Dr. Larry Tranel (Iowa State) - Cost-Effective Milking Systems  
 2:00 PM: Questions and Comments

**March 4, 2025 Jane Lew, WV**  
 6:00 PM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Farm Personalities when Married to the Farm  
*-balancing Life & Farm Experiences*  
 Bruce Loyd, WVU Extension DROUGHT: What We Learned in 2024

**March 5, 2025 Parkersburg, WV**  
 10:00 AM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Mid-Atlantic Millionaire Model Farms  
 11:00 AM: Jason Hartschuh & Kirby Krogstad - The Old School and New School of Nutrition  
 12:00 PM: Lunch - Producer Panel Discussions  
 1:00 PM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Cost-Effective Milking Systems  
 2:00 PM: Questions and Comments

**March 5, 2025 Lewisburg, WV**  
 6:00 PM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Farm Personalities when Married to the Farm  
*-balancing Life & Farm Experiences*  
 Brian Wickline, WVU Extension DROUGHT: What We Learned in 2024

**March 6, 2025 Union, WV**  
 10:00 AM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Mid-Atlantic Millionaire Model Farms  
 11:00 AM: Jeremy Daubert - Regional Economics of Dairy's in the Virginia's: What Works  
 12:00 PM: Lunch - Producer Panel Discussions  
 1:00 PM: Dr. Larry Tranel - Cost-Effective Milking Systems  
 2:00 PM: Questions and Comments

**Larry Tranel**  
 Extension Specialist with Iowa State University

CLASS DETAILS ON REGISTRATION LINK & Supplemental Sheet

REGISTRATION CLOSES FEBRUARY 28th

FREE ADMISSION SIGN-UP NOW

<https://bit.ly/3EtkvSt>

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**Jeff Semlar**  
 University of Maryland Extension

**Jason Hartschuh**  
 Ohio State Extension

**Kirby Krogstad**  
 Ohio State Extension

**Jeremy Daubert**  
 Virginia Cooperative Extension

**EXTENSION** IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach  
 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES Virginia Cooperative Extension

More information 304-772-3003 ext 1  
[brian.wickline@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:brian.wickline@mail.wvu.edu)

## 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.

### [Vegetable & Fruit News](#)

For more than 30 years, **Branching Out** has kept Maryland woodland owners and managers informed about ways to develop and enhance their natural areas, how to identify and control invasive plants and insects, and about news and regional online and in person events.

### [Branching Out](#)

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## Maryland Forage Focus



The University of Maryland Forage Extension Program offers a wealth of resources and educational opportunities designed to support those involved in forage production and management. By signing up for monthly updates, you can stay informed about upcoming programming, workshops, and events that can enhance your knowledge and skills in this field. Additionally, you'll gain access to a variety of useful resources, including research findings, best practices, and expert advice tailored to the needs of forage producers. To ensure you don't miss out on these valuable insights and opportunities, visit the provided link to subscribe and receive the latest information directly in your inbox. Sign up at this [link](#) to start receiving these resources.

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## 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

William Lantz, Principal Agent  
Agriculture & Food System  
[wlantz@umd.edu](mailto:wlantz@umd.edu)



**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Except for Observed Holidays

[Faculty/Staff Directory](#)

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Agriculture & Food Systems

**Email:** [rcvetnic@umd.edu](mailto:rcvetnic@umd.edu)

**Website:** <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county>

**Location:** 1916 Maryland Hwy., Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

**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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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 us at least two weeks prior to the event at 301-334-6960.

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**Roberta Cvetnick**

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters