

FARM NOTES

CARROLL COUNTY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MARCH 2023

University of
Maryland Extension

700 Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD 21157
M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(410) 386-2760

[extension.umd.edu/locations/
carroll-county](https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county)

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Bryan Butler
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ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS DUE MARCH 1

MDA Reminds Farmers Annual Implementation Reports Due March 1 *Electronic Reporting Available* Source: [Jan. 17, 2023 Press Release, MDA](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) reminds farmers that the **deadline** to submit Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) outlining nutrient applications made in calendar year 2022 is March 1, 2023. For those who want to save time and paper, an electronic reporting option is available through [Maryland OneStop](#).

Approximately 5,500 Maryland farmers are regulated by the department's Nutrient Management Program. Farmers are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure and submit annual reports summarizing nutrient applications for the previous year. Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment submit **one** combined Reporting Form and a manure analysis to Maryland's Nutrient Management Program.

Electronic filing of AIRs offers many advantages. Users report that it is faster, easier, and more accurate than paper reporting. Users will receive a delivery confirmation when the report is submitted and status updates as data is verified. To get started:

1. Go to onestop.md.gov and register for an account.
2. Browse through the state agencies for the Department of Agriculture.
3. Follow the instructions to complete your report.

For farmers who want to continue to submit paper reports, a mail-in option remains available this year. Paper forms were mailed to all regulated farmers in mid-January and are available for download on the department's [website](#). For more information, farmers should contact their [regional nutrient management office](#).

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MDA ANNOUNCES FARMERS MAY FERTILIZE SMALL GRAINS WITH COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER BEGINNING FEBRUARY 15

Source: Feb. 9, 2023 Press Release, MDA

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced today that farmers who planted small grains for harvest last fall may “top dress” these crops with commercial fertilizer in accordance with their nutrient management plans beginning **February 15** as long as ground conditions remain favorable. This determination follows Maryland’s nutrient management regulations and is based on research conducted by University of Maryland plant experts. As a reminder, manure may not be applied to fields until March 1.

Each year, researchers at the University of Maryland examine soil temperatures and crop growth over the winter to estimate when small grains will emerge from dormancy. According to data from University of Maryland researchers, commercial fertilizer may be safely applied to small grains in mid-February, at which time these plants will have absorbed all available nutrients in the soil and will require additional nutrients to keep growing. The University of Maryland cautions farmers to check individual field conditions and avoid running heavy equipment across saturated soils.

The University of Maryland also recommends split applications of spring nitrogen with the first application occurring on or soon after February 15 and the second application when the crops begin to joint.

For additional information on Maryland’s nutrient application requirements, please contact the MDA Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959. Farmers with fields that are not suitable for harvest should contact their crop insurance agent for guidance.



TOP DRESS SMALL GRAINS

SOIL AMENDMENTS WORKSHOP

University of Maryland Extension

Registration is open for an upcoming workshop on soil amendments and composting for Maryland produce growers. The workshop is part of ongoing collaborative work with the Maryland Food Safety Network, Future Harvest, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance to provide food safety education that helps growers understand and implement federal regulations under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

The single-day Soil Amendments Workshop will be hosted at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park to help growers understand best practices of using and making biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO), such as compost. Attendees will hear perspectives from industry, University of Maryland Extension, and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

- Date and time:** March 9, 2023, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM EDT
- Location:** Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Rd., Derwood, MD 20855
- Cost:** \$10 (covers expenses for the provided light breakfast and lunch)
- Register:** Online <https://soilamendmentworkshop.eventbrite.com> or
- Contact Megan Todd,** motodd@law.umaryland.edu, 316-993-5293

WESTERN MARYLAND REGIONAL FRUIT MEETING

University of Maryland Extension

The Western Maryland Regional Fruit Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m.

- Date and time:** March 2, 2023, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM EDT
- Location:** 18330 Keedysville Rd., Keedysville, MD 21756
- Cost:** \$35 per person, after Feb 23 the fee is \$45 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and handouts)
- Register:** Online <https://2023fruitmeeting.eventbrite.com> or (mail-in registration is available)
- Contact Joe Fiola,** jfiola@umd.edu, 301-432-2767

*Note: There is an additional processing fee from Eventbrite to pay by credit card.

TOWN HALL MEETING



Town Hall Meeting

MONDAY,
MARCH 20TH
at Burns Hall, Carroll
County Ag Center
7 pm

Topic of Discussion:
"Rural Mental Health Issues"

Guest Speaker:
JEFF WINTON

Sponsored by:
Medford Grange
&
Maryland State Grange

More information:
Allen Stiles
springvalleyjerz@hotmail.com

CONSERVATION BUFFER INITIATIVE

Source: *Office of Resource Conservation, MDA*

Now in its third year, Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative provides farmers with attractive incentive payments to plant streamside buffers on farmland to improve the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2023

Additional incentives for planting riparian forest buffers are available this year. These payments are on top of the \$4,000 or \$4,500 per acre offered for installation. To encourage more tree planting, the new incentives include:

- A one-time bonus payment of \$1,000 per acre to install forest buffers.
- Up to \$330/acre/year to help cover costs associated with maintaining forest buffer viability and health for the first 5 years of the contract.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Three types of buffers are eligible for funding and free technical assistance from local soil conservation districts under this program: **forest buffers** planted next to waterways, **grass buffers** planted next to waterways or field ditches, and **watercourse access control areas** adjacent to pastures. Here's how the program works:

- Payment rates range from \$500/acre for an existing grass buffer to a maximum of \$4,500/acre to install a riparian forest buffer with pasture fencing.
- Mowing and hay harvesting are allowed; nutrient applications are not.
- Farmers receive a one-time payment for enrolled land.
- An extra one-time bonus payment is offered for enrolled forest buffers.
- Annual maintenance payments are available for forest buffers during the first five years.
- Contracts are for 5 or 10 years.
- Soil conservation districts provide free technical assistance to get your buffer installed.
- All work must be completed by June 30, 2024

HOW TO APPLY

- Download the [application](#).
- Complete the application and submit with
 - A map that shows the location and acreage of the buffer
 - A signed [Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form](#)
- Email your application to: conservation.buffer@maryland.gov between January 30, 2023 and March 10, 2023 or mail to Maryland Department of Agriculture, c/o Conservation Buffer Initiative, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis MD 21401

USDA ANNOUNCES CRP SIGNUP FOR 2023

Source: *Feb. 16, 2023 Press Release, USDA*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting February 27 through April 7, 2023. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.

Continued on pg. 5

CRP SIGNUP, CONTINUED

How to Sign Up

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.


Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

2023-2024 AGRONOMY GUIDE

The 2023-2024 version of the Penn State Agronomy Guide is available at https://extension.psu.edu/agronomy-guide. This is available as a digital download for \$15, printed copy for \$35, or a print and digital bundle for \$45. They are offering a 25% discount through March 25. Enter the code CROPS-8GS in the "apply a discount code" section at checkout.

All of the current regional weed control recommendations for corn, soybeans, sorghum, small grains, and pastures are included. There will not be a separate weed control guide published this year.

New Edition Available




The Penn State Agronomy Guide


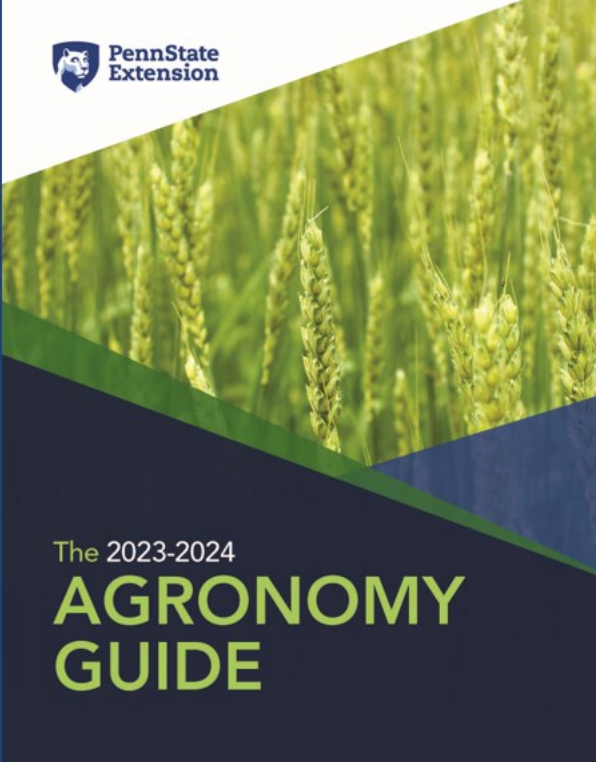
This guide provides comprehensive information on crop, soil, and pest management for farms of all sizes.

25% OFF
through
3/25/23

Use code: **CROPS-8GS**
at checkout.



extension.psu.edu/agronomy-guide

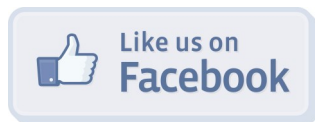



The 2023-2024
AGRONOMY GUIDE

GREAT RESOURCES ARE JUST A CLICK AWAY!



Bryan R. Butler, Sr.
Extension Agent,
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Food Systems



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Dates to remember

Feb. 27 CRP General Signup Begins

Mar. 1 Annual Implementation Reports Due to MDA

Mar. 1 Ban on Winter Spreading Ends

Mar. 2 Western Maryland Regional Fruit Meeting @
Keedysville, MD

Mar. 3 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner
7:30 a.m.

Mar. 9 Soil Amendments Workshop @ Montgomery
Co. Ag. History Farm Park, Derwood, MD

Mar. 10 Conservation Buffer Initiative Application
Due to MDA

Mar. 17 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy
Diner, 7:30 a.m.

Mar. 20 Town Hall Meeting @ Burns Hall, Carroll
County Ag. Center, 7 p.m.

Mar. 31 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy
Diner, 7:30 a.m.

MARCH 2023