

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

January 2024

Happy
New Year

The Extension office will be closed
on January 1 for the New Year and
January 15 for MLK, Jr. Day.

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

facebook.com/HarfordAg

Andrew Kness

Ag Extension Educator

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Hello, Harford County!

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you well and you have had an enjoyable holiday season with friends and family.

I know I have already seen many of you at our winter programs, but don't forget that we still have many more winter programs available, many of which also count towards pesticide and nutrient management CEUs. I try to put as many pertinent programs as I can in the newsletters, but more can be found on our Extension calendar at <https://agnr.umd.edu/news-events/events/>.

As a reminder, a few upcoming programs are listed below and can be found in more detail inside this newsletter.

January 16, Owning Farmland in Maryland, Baltimore County Extension office.

January 18, Central Maryland Forage Conference, New Midway Fire Company.

January 18, Winter Equine Seminar, Baltimore County Extension office.

January 25, Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day, Hereford Fire Hall.

January 30-February 1, Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey, PA.

February 20, Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting, Deer Creek Overlook.

February 22, Nutrient Management Voucher Training, Harford County Extension office.

March 26, Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Harford County Extension office.

We also have online pesticide and nutrient management recertification courses available at <https://umeagfs.teachable.com/>.

Also, please see page 7 of this newsletter for a message from Alyssa Jeffries, the Harford County Ag Economic Development Associate—if you are not already on her mailing list, contact Alyssa!

Finally, I will be out (again) for an extended period of time starting February 6 for my second hip replacement surgery. Many of you have sent me well wishes during my first replacement a few weeks ago, and I thank you for your kind words! I will likely be out longer for this surgery as it is more complicated and involved than the first.

In the meantime, my colleagues Erika Crowl (Baltimore County; 410-887-8090 | ecrowl@umd.edu) and Bryan Butler (Carroll County; 410-386-2760 | bbutlers@umd.edu) will cover for me and they are happy to assist you with any inquiries you may have. As for the Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting on February 20, it will still go off with or without me with help from my colleagues.

Happy New Year!

Until next time,
-Andy



2024 Fruit & Vegetable Growers Meeting



Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024
Time: 8:00 am– 1:30 pm
Location: Summit Manor Hall at Hereford Fire Company
 510 Monkton Rd., Monkton, MD 21111
Cost: \$20.00 if you pre-register, or \$25.00 at the door, includes lunch

Topics include:

- The Use of Drones in your Orchards
- AI and Marketing your Farm
- Blueberry and Bramble Research and Recommendations
- MDA pesticide & nutrient management updates
- Updates on Bt Sweet Corn
-and more!

This meeting serves as Recertification for Maryland private pesticide applicators, Maryland nutrient management voucher, and offers recertification credits for Pennsylvania pesticide applicators.

To register to attend or get more information, call the University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County Office at (410) 887-8090, sign up on Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/2024VGDFarmer>, or fill out the form below and mail to: 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030. **Make checks out to BCEAC.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ **x \$20.00** **Payment Enclosed:** _____

Urban Ag Winter Meeting

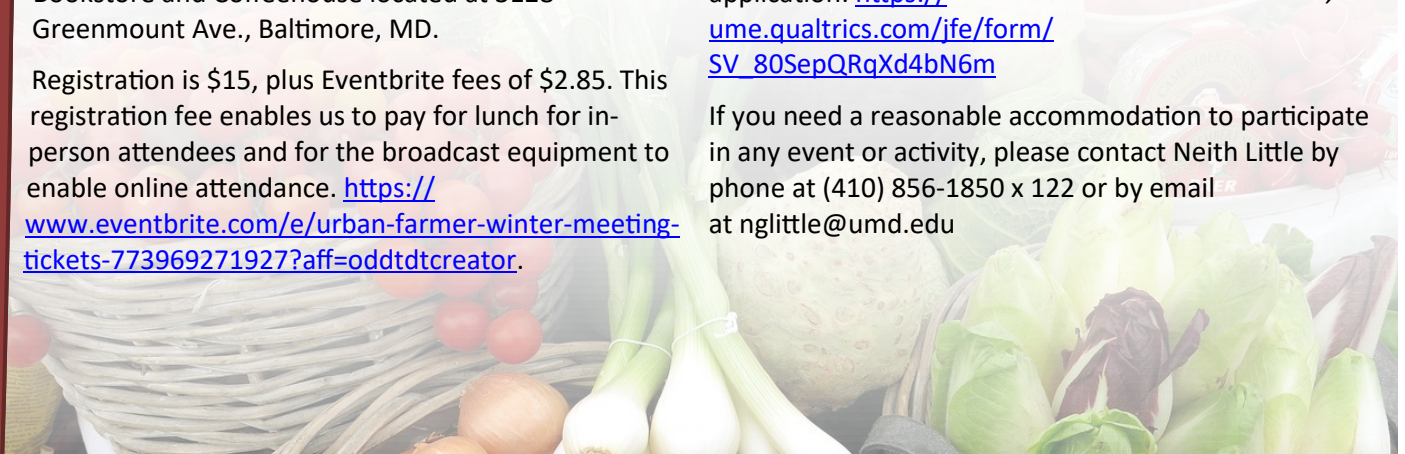
Attend this annual professional development event to be updated on the latest local issues and research results. This year, we will meet at Red Emma's Bookstore and Coffeehouse located at 3128 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, MD.

Registration is \$15, plus Eventbrite fees of \$2.85. This registration fee enables us to pay for lunch for in-person attendees and for the broadcast equipment to enable online attendance. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urban-farmer-winter-meeting-tickets-773969271927?aff=oddttdtcreator>.

If this cost is a financial barrier to your participation, please fill out this scholarship application: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_80SepQRqXd4bN6m

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Neith Little by phone at (410) 856-1850 x 122 or by email at nlgittle@umd.edu

January 27
 12:00—4:00 PM
 Baltimore, MD



Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention



2024
MID-ATLANTIC
fruit & vegetable convention

JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 1, 2024

HERSHEY LODGE
Hershey, Pennsylvania

www.mafvc.org

The 2024 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention will be held at the Hershey Lodge from January 30 to February 1. Multiple concurrent educational sessions will be featured all three days along with a large industry trade show. A farm market bus tour and several pre-convention workshops will be offered on January 29, 2024.

In addition, there is a full day of practical production programming presented in Spanish for farm and orchard workers. Expert speakers from Penn State, Rutgers, University of Maryland, and Virginia Tech, along with others from across the country, will present with selected growers from the Mid-Atlantic region. Click here for the [educational schedule](#).

The Great American Hall, the Aztec Room, and the Confection Level Lobby at the Hershey Lodge hosts the Trade Show with over 160 exhibitors filling 231 booths. Specialized horticultural equipment, farm market merchandise, and packaging, are all on display along with information on the latest seed varieties, fruit varieties, pesticides and other supplies and services for the commercial grower. The trade show exhibits are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the first two days, January 29 and January 30. On February 1, they open at 8:00 a.m. but close at 2:00 p.m. [Here's the list of 2023 Trade Show exhibitors](#).

Register for the 2024 Convention by visiting www.mafvc.org/registration.

2024 MANTS Convention



Widely known as the masterpiece of trade shows, the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) has almost 1,000 exhibiting companies in over 1,550 booths. MANTS is the green industry's private marketplace for finding plants and nursery stock, landscape and garden items, heavy and light duty equipment, tools, furniture and hundreds of other allied industry products. MANTS is sponsored by the three state nursery and landscape associations of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The MNLGA is proud to be a founding partner of MANTS and exhibits annually along with our peers from VA and WV.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.mants.com/>



Harford County **MID-WINTER AGRONOMY MEETING**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 9 AM—2:30 PM

Grain farmers and ag professionals are encouraged to join University of Maryland Extension for this educational program focusing on production agronomy. **Doors open at 9:00 a.m.** and the program starts at 9:30 a.m. Guest speakers include regional experts and University of Maryland faculty covering topics such as:

- Grain marketing update
- Ag law and regulatory update
- Agronomic updates
- Farm well-water testing and research
- Getting more from your coverer crops
- Regional ag agency and agribusiness updates
- MDA pesticide and nutrient management updates

Deer Creek Overlook
6 Cherry Hill Rd.
Street, MD 21154

\$12 registration includes morning refreshments and a hot lunch. Registration is \$20 after February 12.

RSVP by calling (410) 638-3255, e-mail akness@umd.edu, or complete and return the registration form below.

*Topics satisfy requirements for **Maryland pesticide and nutrient management renewal**. Pennsylvania pesticide credits also available.*

Return form with payment to: **3525 Conowingo Rd, Suite 600, Street, MD 21154**



Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____ × **\$12 each** = \$ _____ *Checks can be made payable to "HC EAC"*

Grain Market Update

Shannon Dill, Principal Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Talbot County

January 5

8:00—10:30 AM
Online via Zoom

The annual UME Grain Marketing Update will be held Friday, January 5, 2024, from 8:00 am-10:30 am. This virtual meeting will include speakers on various grain marketing activities. Topics include local and national grain outlook for 2024, tax considerations, crop insurance, and crop budgets. The event is open to all, if any accommodations are needed please contact sdill@umd.edu prior to the event.

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/2024UMEGrainMarketing>.

2023 Soybean Variety Trials

Nicole Fiorellino, Agronomy Extension Specialist
University of Maryland, College Park

The University of Maryland offers a fee-based, soybean variety performance testing program to local and national seed companies. The results from these replicated trials provide agronomic performance information about soybean varieties tested at four locations in Maryland considered representative of the state's geography and weather conditions.

Click [here](#) to download the full report or contact the Extension office for a hard copy.

Farmland Workshop

Paul Goeringer, Ag Law Legal Specialist
University of Maryland, Agriculture Law Education Initiative

January 16

9:30—3:30 PM
Baltimore County
Extension Office

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) will host the, "So You Want to Own Farmland in Maryland" workshop on January 16th in Cockeysville from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The program will be held at the Baltimore County Ag Center, 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

The free program will cover those legal issues that Maryland landowners may face. The funding for this program, including the complimentary lunch, is thanks to the Northeast Risk Management Education Center.

The speakers include Paul Goeringer, an Extension Specialist in agricultural law, and Elizabeth Thilmany, a Faculty Specialist in AREC. Goeringer will address leasing, landowner liability issues, right-to-farm law, and estate planning. Elizabeth will highlight research being done

related to large-scale solar development. Dr. Alex Chan, a Family and Consumer Sciences Specialist and Senior Agent with University of Maryland Extension, will discuss family communications strategies.

Lunch is provided with the workshop. Check-in will start at 9 am, and the workshops will run from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Participants will receive take-home copies of Extension fact sheets and other valuable documents as a part of the workshop series.

For more information or to register, go to <https://agrisk.umd.edu/events> - and do not hesitate to reach out Paul Goeringer at lgoering@umd.edu if you have any questions.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2021-70027-34693.



2024 Winter Equine Seminars

January 18 - Rehabilitation: Healing and Prevention
with Dr. Chris Smith at *Foxhall Equine Center*

February 22 - Optimizing Equine Fertility with Dr. Bill
Hess at the *Baltimore County Ag Center*

March 21 - Avoiding Lameness with Proper
Conditioning and Nutrition with Dr. Andrew McClain at
the *Baltimore County Ag Center*

All seminars will
be in-person from
6:00-8:00 pm.

Register Here:
[https://bit.ly/WinterEquine
Seminars](https://bit.ly/WinterEquineSeminars)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

UNIVERSITY OF
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Forage Conferences

*Amanda Grev, Pasture and Forage Specialist
University of Maryland Extension*

**January 16– Southern MD
Forage Conference**

*Calvert County Fairgrounds
Prince Frederick, MD*

**January 17– Western MD
Forage Conference**

*Garrett College
McHenry, MD*

**January 18– Central MD
Forage Conference**

*New Midway Fire Company
New Midway, MD*

Each year, the University of Maryland Extension and University of Delaware Extension organize educational sessions related to forage production for growers and other agriculture professionals to benefit the community. These sessions help our farmers and agriculture community keep current with up-to-date information about timely agriculture-related topics.

CEU credits for Pesticide and Nutrient Management recertification are offered at each conference. For more information and registration, please visit: <https://go.umd.edu/forageevents> or call Amanda Grev at (301) 432-2767.



Harford County Ag Economic Development

Alyssa Jeffries, Agriculture Economic Development Associate
Harford County Government

Hello Everyone! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. My name is Alyssa Jeffries and I am the Agricultural Economic Development Associate here with Harford County. I am working hard to meet each farming family in our County and learn more about their operation and how we can create the best environment possible for agricultural businesses to flourish. I do not have access to many farms' contact information and would love to hear from you. **I ask that you take some time this winter to please reach out to me either via email: arjeffries@harfordcountymd.gov or by phone: (410) 638-3511 to talk with me.**

Additionally, I would like for the survey linked below to reach every agricultural business in our County so please pass it on if you know of anyone that has not received it. Please see the explanation and link below. If you are interested in participating in this event please fill out the survey. If you have any feedback to offer please call or email me!

The Agritourism and Marketing subcommittee of the Economic Development Agricultural Advisory Board, in

partnership with the County, is interested in reaching out to all producers who would be interested in participating in a new event tentatively titled "Farm Week" here in Harford County. This event, similar to restaurant week, would highlight farms in the County and promote and encourage the general public to visit local farms to participate in on farm activities and experiences of all kinds. We hope to promote this event in order to get more members of our community interested in visiting local farms and purchasing their goods locally. This event would give agricultural businesses the opportunity to introduce members of the public to the products and services that their farms provide, encouraging them to become repeat customers throughout the year. Keeping in mind that not all farms are equipped to host the general public, we are exploring the possibility of holding a kick-off event to "farm week" to accommodate those with this limitation. More details to come.

The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M7H8SYH>.

Healthy Soils Competitive Fund

The Maryland Department of Agriculture will accept applications for its Healthy Soils Competitive Fund from **January 3-March 6, 2024**. If you have an innovative conservation idea for your farm, this program is for you! It provides financial assistance to qualifying farmers who want to adopt a range of soil health or agroforestry practices. It aims to support farmers and operators who are ineligible for other programs.

How much money is available?

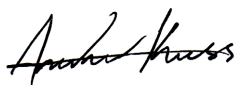
This competitive grant program awards selected applicants with up to \$50,000 to support 3 years of enhanced healthy soil practices. Individual producers and organizations that want to take the next step to improve soil health may apply.

What types of projects are funded? Cover crops, conservation tillage, pasture and hay planting, conservation cover, critical area planting, conservation crop rotation, nutrient management, IPM, prescribed grazing, soil carbon amendment

Who's eligible? Individual or groups of farmers operating in Maryland; individuals or organizations conducting research with farmers in Maryland.

For more information, please visit https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Soil-Health.aspx or contact Nick Miller at (410) 841-5866 or nicholas.miller2@maryland.gov

Great resources are just a click away!



Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



facebook.com/HarfordAg

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



akness@umd.edu



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 the University of Maryland Extension office at least two weeks prior to the event.

General Interest

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Street, MD 21154

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Dates to remember

- 05 Jan.** Grain Marketing Update. 8-10:30 AM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 822-1244.
- 18 Jan.** Equine Seminar Series. 6-8 PM. Baltimore County Extension office, Cockeysville. Free. Register online or call (410) 887-8090.
- 25 Jan.** Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day. 8-1:30 PM. Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton. \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090.
- 30 Jan-Feb 1.** Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention. Hershey, PA.
- 15 Feb.** Women in Ag Conference. 9-3 PM. Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Stevensville. \$50. Register [online](#) or call (410) 822-1244.
- 20 Feb.** Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting. 9-3 PM. Deer Creek Overlook. \$12 in advance (by 2/12). Call (410) 638-3255 to register.
- 22 Feb.** Equine Seminar Series. 6-8 PM. Baltimore County Extension office, Cockeysville. Free. Register online or call (410) 887-8090.
- 22 Feb.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.
- 26 Mar.** Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension office. \$10 study materials. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.
- 26 Mar.** Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.

January 2024