

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

December 2024

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
akness@umd.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Winter Crop Production Meetings	2
Beginning Farmer Training Series	2
Custom Farming Rate Survey	3
Corn & Soybean Variety Trial Results	3
Evaluation of Early Maturity Soybeans	4
New Ruminant Livestock Specialist	5
Scholarships	5
Women in Ag Conference	5
UME Strategic Plan	6
Mid-Atlantic Grazing Conference	6
Pesticide & Nutrient Management Trainings	7
Ag Plastic Recycling	7

Hello, Harford County!

I hope everyone is enjoying an early harvest and getting the opportunity to spend the Holiday season with family and friends.

It is the time of year when various winter Extension programs are rapidly approaching; you can find more information on these programs in this newsletter and I hope to see you at one or many this winter.

If you are a private pesticide applicator and your license expires this December, you should be receiving a renewal notice in the mail or in your email from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). You will have to log in to the MDA website to renew your private applicator license. If you still need credits to renew, be sure to sign up for one of our winter programs offering pesticide credits. If you have any questions about Extension programs contact me at akness@umd.edu or (410) 638-3255. If you have questions regarding your pesticide license, contact MDA at (410) 841-5710.

As we move into December, our Home Horticulture agent, Joyce Browning, will be retiring at the end of the year. Many of you know Joyce, as she has been with UMD Extension since 2007. Joyce built a



The Extension office will be closed on December 24 & 25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's Day

robust Home Horticulture and Master Gardener Program here in Harford County and if you ever visited our office, you were likely greeted with a huge smile and enthusiastic "Hello!" from Joyce. From gardening questions to insect identification to lawns and landscape, Joyce helped countless Harford County residents manage and improve their landscapes. We will all miss Joyce's energy and extensive plant knowledge. We wish her the very best in her retirement!

Stepping into Joyce's position is Isabel Mooney. Isabel has spent the past four years working in public horticulture at two public gardens and a native plant nursery and she is



currently pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Landscape Management. We welcome Isabel and are all very excited to see her lead the program!

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Until next time,
-Andy



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

2024-2025

Helping communities grow and thrive

CROP PRODUCTION MEETINGS

The University of Maryland Extension is excited to announce that we will be hosting informative workshops in person at different venues across the state. These workshops will offer valuable insights and support for commercial production throughout the 2024-2025 season!

AGRONOMY

12-04-24 Washington Co. Agronomy Day
 12-05-24 Northern MD Field Crops Day
 12-11-24 Kent Co. Agronomy Breakfast
 12-12-24 Southern MD Crops Dinner
 01-09-25 Carroll Co. Mid-Winter Mtg.
 01-10-25 Grain Marketing Virtual Mtg.
 01-22-25 Lower Shore Agronomy Day
 02-06-25 Cecil Co. Winter Agronomy Mtg.
 02-11-25 Harford Co. Mid-Winter Agronomy Mtg.
 02-19-25 Central MD Agronomy Mtg.
 02-20-25 Mid-Shore Agronomy Mtg.
 02-28-25 Queen Anne's Agronomy Day

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FORAGE

01-21-25 Southern MD Forage Conf.
 01-22-25 Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conf.
 01-23-25 Central MD Forage Conf.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

12-13-24 Loveville Produce Auction Annual Mtg.
 01-22-25 Central MD Vegetable Growers Mtg.
 02-13-25 Western MD Regional Fruit Mtg.
 02-18-25 Eastern Shore Vegetable Growers Mtg.
 02-19-25 Bay Area Fruit School
 Mar. 2025 Urban Farmer Winter Mtg.

Check out our website at
go.umd.edu/CPM
 for more information



Pesticide Certification, Nutrient Management Voucher, and Certified Crop Advisor credits will be available at these meetings.

Beginning Farmer Training Series

This course is designed for people in Maryland who are in the beginning stages of starting a farm as a business.

Topics covered will include: business planning, marketing, crop production, livestock husbandry, soil health, integrated pest management, food safety, regulations and certifications, acquiring land and zoning, specialty crops, organic production, and urban agriculture. More detail about what will be covered can be found in the course syllabus ([click to download](#)).

This 10-week course will be offered in an online format.

The class will meet on Thursday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., from February 13 through April 17, 2025 online.

Students will complete at-your-own pace homework on the course website on campus.extension.org and will meet online each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for a live class using the software Zoom.

This course does not provide college credit or an exam-based certification. Students who complete the course will receive a certificate stating that they completed the course requirements. To complete the course, students

will need to both attend the weekly class and complete weekly homework on the course website.

By actively engaging in this program, participants will:

- Understand each of the topics covered at a beginner's level, so they will be prepared to take more advanced trainings in future.
- Decide what they need to learn more about next to launch their farm business.

Course registration is \$60 plus Eventbrite fees of \$5.87. Two people from the same family/couple may attend the course under one registration. If the registration fee is a financial barrier, please fill out this scholarship application: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42OVet5uDKcJK5M.

Two course textbooks will be used, with supplementary readings and videos from additional sources. Both course textbooks are available for free digitally. Hardcopies can be ordered from the print-on-demand service Lulu.

- Maryland Beginning Farmer Guidebook: [free pdf](#) and [print-on-demand](#)
- Strategies for Urban Farm Success: [free pdf](#) and [print-on-demand](#)

Custom Farming Rate Survey

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

Extension services in Maryland and Delaware will be collecting custom survey rates this fall. We need your assistance securing up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery rental rates, and hired labor costs. Custom rates are used widely by farmers across the states, so we need the best information available.

Please respond even if you know only a few rates. We want information on actual rates, either what you **PAID TO HIRE** work or what you **CHARGED TO PERFORM** custom work. Custom Rates should include all ownership costs of implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel, and lube. Reported rates will be summarized in the Custom Rate Survey to show a range and averages for the states. No individual names or rates will be published in the Custom Rate Survey.

The results will be available at local Extension Offices and will be available online at <https://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing>. We hope this publication will benefit you as a custom farm operator. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

The survey can be completed online at: <https://go.umd.edu/customrate2025> or to get a blank survey call the Talbot County Extension office at (410) 822-1244. Please complete the survey by **December 31, 2024**.



2024 Corn and Soybean Variety Trials

*Nicole Fiorellino, Assistant Professor & Extension Agronomist
University of Maryland, College Park*

With the dry conditions this year, the Agronomy program has progressed through harvest rapidly and both the corn and soybean variety trials results are available for download online at <https://psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops/> or click the links below.

The fee-based performance trials are critical to provide Maryland farmers with unbiased yield performance data across the broad geographic diversity of Maryland. The relative yield tables in both of these reports are extremely valuable for farmers to select varieties that perform well across the state. The varieties with relative yield greater than 100, meaning above the average yield at that location, across all the test locations are highlighted in these tables and would be considered resilient varieties that are likely to yield well in different conditions. For more information on interpreting variety trials results, see the UMD Factsheet authored by Andy Kness and Nicole Fiorellino at this link <https://go.umd.edu/interpretingtrials>. We are grateful for the continued funding provided by Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board and Maryland Soybean Board for these variety trials.

[Corn Trials](#)

[Soybean Trials](#)



Evaluation of Early Maturity Group Soybeans

Andrew Kness, Senior Agriculture Agent and Nicole Fiorellino, Extension Agronomist
University of Maryland

In recent years, many growers have expressed interest in and experimented with early maturing soybean maturity groups. The concept is appealing to some growers because it allows for an early harvest and earlier establishment of cover crops and/or small grains. However, there are a lot of questions related to how these early maturity groups can perform in our climate at our latitude and little data exists from our region to reference. With funding from the Maryland Soybean Board, we evaluated the agronomic characteristics of early maturity soybeans grown in a Maryland climate for their potential integration into Maryland grain rotations.



Figure 1. Aerial photo of soybean maturity groups 1.5-3.0 showing different rates of senescence on September 4, 2024. Photo: A. Kness.

Soybean varieties ranging from maturity group (MG) 1.5-3.0 from two seed suppliers (Hubner and Pioneer) were planted on May 30, 2024 at the Wye Research and Education Center. All MG 1.5 and MG 2.0 Hubner brand plots were harvested on September 24 with remaining plots harvested on October 7th. Wheat was planted in the plots harvested at the first timing on October 10th and planted in the second harvest timing plots on October 23rd.

Mixed model analysis of variance was used to analyze the yield data, including brand (Hubner or Pioneer), maturity group, and interaction of the two. Significant effect of maturity group only ($P=0.0008$) with means separation by Tukey's HSD (Figure 2).

Yields for all MGs were very strong; ranging from 55 bu/ac to nearly 70 bu/ac. Maturity group 3.0 yielded significantly more than MG 2 and 1.5 and similar to MG 2.5. Maturity groups 1.5 and 2.0 yielded similarly to each other.

This is only the first year of this study and we will conduct this research again in 2025. These preliminary data shows encouraging results and potential for early MG soybeans, which could offer some added benefits to establishing an early cover crop or a timelier planting of a subsequent wheat crop. Earlier cover crop establishment would have an environmental benefit in that more nutrients could be captured and saved for the next crop. Earlier establishment of wheat or other small grains, would also allow for more fall tiller development, which have the potential to contribute to more yield in the spring. We will see how the planting dates affect wheat yield in these plots next summer.

We would like to thank the Maryland Soybean Board for sponsoring this research, Hubner Seed for donating seed, and the farm crew at Wye Research and Education Center for supporting this project.

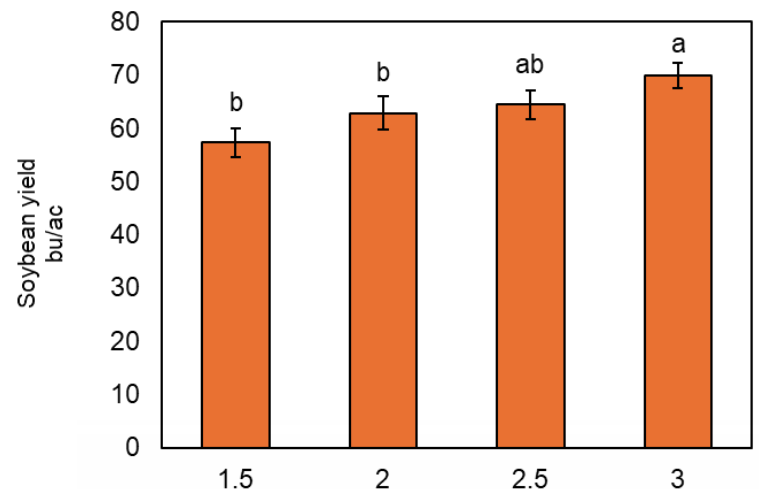


Figure 2. Average soybean yield by maturity group from 2024 trials. Maturity groups with the same letter are not significantly different from each other ($\alpha=0.05$).

New Extension Ruminant Livestock Specialist

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Brittany Fletcher to the University of Maryland Extension Team. Brittany is the new statewide Ruminant Livestock Specialist based at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center.

Brittany brings a rich background in livestock management, having grown up on a small farm in Lineboro, Maryland, where she and her family raised cattle, sheep, and hogs. Brittany earned her M.S. in feedlot cattle nutrition from Oklahoma State University in 2021, where her research focused on trace mineral supplementation strategies. In 2024, she completed her Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University, specializing in ruminant nutrition with a focus on managing woody plant encroachment in the Great Plains through mixed-species grazing of cattle and goats.

As part of her role, Brittany will develop Extension programming and conduct applied research for small ruminants, beef, and dairy cattle across the state. Brittany can be reached at bfletch1@umd.edu or (301) 226-7576.



Livestock

2025 MID-ATLANTIC CERTIFIED CROP ADVISERS SCHOLARSHIP

Key Details:

✓ Eligibility Criteria

High school seniors and undergraduate students interested in agriculture, with preference given to agronomy, plant science, or crop science are encouraged to apply.

✓ Application Process

To apply, email a completed application form by January 31st.

The Mid-Atlantic CCA Board voted to fund up to \$1,500 in college scholarships for 2025!

 **SELL YOURSELF HERE**

More Information 
www.MidAtlanticCCA.org



Women in Ag Regional Conference

You are cordially invited to join us to celebrate 24 years of the MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture Conference. The conference goals are to provide women involved in agriculture an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and family lives.

Location: Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Stevensville, MD

Registration: \$60 [online](#) or contact Shannon Dill (410) 822-1244



*Craig Beyrouthy, Dean of the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
University of Maryland*

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is embarking on a comprehensive process to develop its next roadmap for the future, aimed at guiding its work and impact over the coming years. Involving key external stakeholders, partners, and community members is a priority, as UME seeks to ensure that its programs and services reflect the needs of the communities it serves.

UME will host town hall meetings across the state to gather feedback and input from community residents and stakeholders. This is a unique opportunity for you to help shape UME’s strategic focus and influence future programming and outreach efforts.

These town hall meetings offer a forum for you to share insights on local needs, discuss pressing opportunities, ask questions, and provide valuable feedback on UME’s future direction. The perspectives and ideas shared during this event will be instrumental as UME develops a plan that responds to the challenges and priorities identified by Maryland communities.

“UME’s mission is to provide science-based non-formal education and expertise for the public to improve the lives and livelihoods of Maryland residents,” said Jinhee Kim, associate dean and director for UME. “To do our jobs well, it is critical that

we hear directly from them with their suggestions and strategies to achieve a brighter future. We very much look forward to the collaborative process ahead.”

Town Hall Locations:

- December 10, 2024 - Allegany County Fairgrounds, 11400 Moss Avenue, Cumberland, MD 21502, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- December 11, 2024 - Washington County Extension, 7303 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713, 12:30pm - 2:30pm
- January 15, 2025 - UMES Research, Extension & Teaching Farm, 10789 Stewart Neck Road, Princess Anne, MD 21853, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
- January 15, 2025 - Wicomico County Extension Office, 28647 Old Quantico Road, Salisbury, MD 21801, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- January 16, 2025 - Wye Research & Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658, 12:00pm – 2:00pm
- January 16, 2025 - Anne Arundel Extension Office, 97 Dairy Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- January 21, 2025 - Baltimore County Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Road, Baltimore, MD 21030, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

- January 21, 2025 - Baltimore City Extension Office, 6615 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21215, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- January 22, 2025 - Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd, West Friendship, MD 21794, 12:30pm – 2:30pm
- January 22, 2025 - St. Mary’s Agriculture Service Center, 26737 Radio Station Way, Leonardtown, MD 20650, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- January 23, 2025 - University of Maryland College Park Campus, Room TBA, College Park, Md. 20742, 9:00am – 11:00am

For more information and sign up please visit <https://go.umd.edu/strategicplan2025>.

Join us in helping shape a brighter future for Maryland through UME’s strategic initiatives. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas!

**MID-ATLANTIC
GRAZING CONFERENCE**

December 16–18 2024
Washington County Ag Center MD

Featuring keynote speaker Burke Teichert, farm tours, and more!

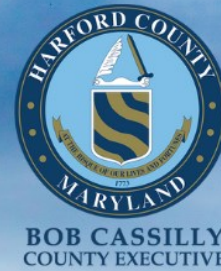
In-person and virtual options
<https://go.umd.edu/midatlanticgrazing>

Date & Time	Program	Location
December 5, 2024 8:00-12:00 pm	Northern Maryland Field Crops Day*	Hereford Fire Hall (NEW LOCATION)
January 22, 2025 8:00-12:00 pm	Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day*	Hereford Fire Hall
February 11, 2025 8:30-2:30 pm	Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting*	Deer Creek Overlook
February 25, 2025 10-12:00 pm	Nutrient Management Voucher Training	Harford County Extension Office
March 13, 2025 9:00-11:00 am	Private Applicator Exam (for new applicators)	Harford County Extension Office
March 13, 2025 1:00-3:00 pm	Private Applicator Recertification Training	Harford County Extension Office

*Satisfies credits for BOTH pesticide and nutrient management

AG PLASTIC RECYCLING @ HWDC

All plastics should be as clean as possible and stored under cover to minimize moisture. Farms should separate plastic by type. All types of Ag Plastics are received in Supersacks that are provided by Office of Recycling. Harford County farms only.



ACCEPTABLE ITEMS-FREE DROP OFF

Bale Wrap- Debris-Free

Black and White Silage Bags/Bunker Covers(without Plastic Baler Twine)

Woven Plastic Feed Bags & Supersacks #4

Softener Salt & Pellet Stove Bags #4

Animal Feed Bags #4

Plastic Baler Twine

Greenhouse Cover

Drip Tape

Flats, Trays, & Flower Pots

Clear Stretch Film

Plastic Pallets



TO SCHEDULE A DROP OFF PLEASE CALL

410-638-3417

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



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.

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

05 Dec. Northern Maryland Field Crops Day. 8-12 PM.

***NEW LOCATION*:** Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton. \$20.

Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or at bit.ly/2024FCD.

16-18 Dec. Mid-Atlantic Grazing Conference. Washington County Ag Center. Register [online](#).

10 Jan. Grain Marketing Update. 8:30-11 AM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 822-1244.

22 Jan. Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting. 8-12 PM. Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton. Details to come.

11 Feb. Save the date: Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting. 9:30-2:30 PM. Deer Creek Overlook. Details to come.

15 Feb. Women in Ag Conference. 9-3 PM. Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Stevensville. \$60. Register [online](#) or call (410) 822-1244

December 2024