

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



May 2018

The Extension Office will be closed on
May 28 in observance of Memorial 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

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Hello, Harford County!

I'll be keeping my fingers crossed as I write this, but I think spring has finally decided to stick around; good news for farmers who have been waiting for fit ground and weather for planting. Some more good news comes from a new study that reports that underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay are at record levels.

Submerged aquatic grasses are essential parts of the Bay's ecosystem, providing habitat for fish, crabs, and other aquatic wildlife, while also filtering water and providing dissolved oxygen for aquatic animals. As such, measuring the abundance of submerged aquatic grasses in the Chesapeake Bay is a key variable that is monitored on a yearly basis and is a good indicator of overall Bay health.

Data published from the most recent survey of Bay grasses estimates that the Chesapeake Bay has 104,843 acres of underwater grass; the first time this number has exceeded 100,000 acres and the highest level since the survey began in 1984. This amount represents 57% of the long-term goal that has been established by the Chesapeake Bay Program, exceeds the short-term goal by more than 14,000 acres, and represents approximately 50% of the total acreage that is believed the Bay once supported.

One of the contributing factors to an increase in underwater grasses is water clarity; the more sunlight that can reach the bottom, the more grass can grow. This increase in water clarity is due to a reduction in sediment loading into the Bay, as well as nutrients, particularly

nitrogen and phosphorus. Nitrogen loading into the Bay has dropped 23%, and phosphorus 8%. Reducing nitrogen and phosphorus in the Bay reduces algal blooms, which prevents the sunlight from reaching the bottom.

It is encouraging to see data like this and an improvement in water quality, and the majority of the thanks goes to our farmers. They have shouldered much of the burden, changing their operations, management practices, and technology, to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the Chesapeake Bay. The agriculture sector has made some of the greatest progress in reducing nutrient loading into the Bay compared to other sectors.

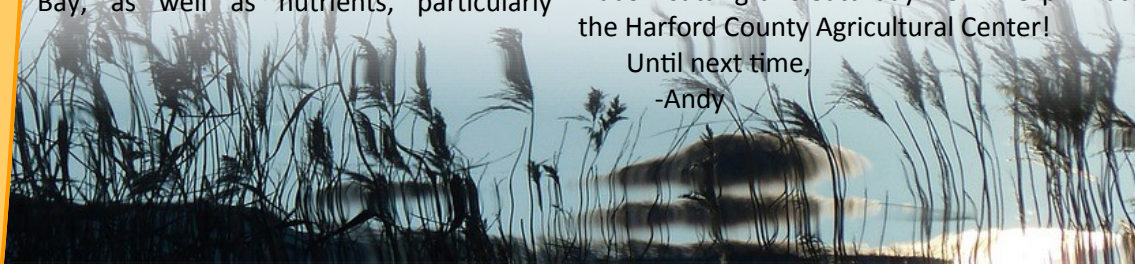
While the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay will be a slow process, we should take the time to acknowledge all of the contributions that our farmers have made to the improvement of the Chesapeake Bay; Maryland Farmers are truly World leaders in reduced-tillage, cover cropping, and nutrient management.

With that, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy planting season! As we move into the growing season, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any problems, questions, or concerns. Also, I am in search of some good samples of diseased field crops (corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, etc.) to use as samples for a future class, so if you have any diseased plants, please let me know and I'd be glad to collect them!

I hope to see you at our open house and ribbon cutting this Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at the Harford County Agricultural Center!

Until next time,

-Andy



Can The Government Take My Property?

Nicole Cook, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Posted to [Maryland Risk Management Education Blog](#)

Our increasing need for energy, transit, and other infrastructure has more and more farmers who own or lease land wondering about the power of the government, or of entities like natural gas companies granted authority by the government, to take private property for public use. The time for you to understand whether, when and why the government has a right to take your property, what rights you have, and what you can do in the event that the government decides that it is going to take your property, is before it happens.

What right does the government have to take your property?

The Takings Clause of the [Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution](#) grants the federal government limited authority to take private property for “public use” upon providing the property owner “just compensation.” The Due Process Clause of the [Fourteenth Amendment](#) grants the same limited authority to state and local governments. The power of the government to take private property rights for public use is called “eminent domain.” A variety of property rights are subject to eminent domain, including air, water and land rights.

Per [Article III, Section 40](#), of the Maryland Constitution, “[t]he General Assembly shall enact no law authorizing private property to be taken for public use, without just compensation, as agreed upon between the parties, or awarded by a Jury, being first paid or tendered to the party entitled to such compensation.”

What rights do you have?

The legal process established to allow the government to assume property rights is called “condemnation.” The condemnation process can only be stopped if the government’s proposed taking of the property fails to meet the requirement that the taking will be for a public purpose or a public necessity. Typical “uses” that satisfy the public

purpose include roads, parks, schools, other public buildings, or any other endeavor where the purpose of the project serves a public good or need.

Most cases meet this public use test, and the government can’t be stopped from taking your property. Federal and state laws make it clear, however, that if the government takes your property, you are entitled to a fair payment and the government may not possess the property unless “just compensation” is made.

What actions can you take?

The condemnation process starts with the government agency identifying a public need, deciding to acquire your property for that public purpose, and most often, holding public hearings on the project. You may or may not, however, be given notice of the hearings. You might only learn that the government wants to take your property for a public use when you receive an offer to purchase your property for a certain amount. That is the amount that the government has determined is “just compensation.”

When you receive the offer, you have the following options:

1. If you agree with the offer, which may include relocation costs in some cases, you can agree to deed the property to the agency and you will receive the amount that was offered.
2. While you generally won’t be able to successfully challenge the taking of the property, you can consult with an attorney who will evaluate the likelihood of a challenge to the public use. In Maryland, attorney’s fees may be recoverable if it’s determined that the state doesn’t have the right to condemn the property ([Md. Code Ann., Real Prop. § 12-106](#)).
3. Regardless of whether you object to the taking outright, you can object to the government’s valuation of the property and the amount offered.



3 Under [Maryland law](#), “[t]he fair market value of property in a condemnation proceeding is the price as of the valuation date for the highest and best use of the property.” The highest and best use of the property might not be what you are currently using the property for, and it may not be what the government used in its valuation. An attorney can help you determine the potential value for the highest and best use of your property, and can represent you in negotiating with the government. They can also advise you on the tax implications of any gains you may make on the sale of the property. See a [list of attorneys](#) licensed in Maryland along with their respective practice areas.

Maryland requires the condemner in most cases to engage in good faith attempts to acquire the property through negotiation. If you and the condemner can't agree on a fair price, however, the government will file an eminent domain lawsuit in the circuit court where

your property is located. You are entitled to a jury trial, which can last several days and usually involves expert witnesses on both sides testifying about the value of the property. If you ultimately have to go to court, you'll need to convince the jury that your number is the correct one.

Once the jury makes a decision, the government can either pay the amount of the award and take title to the property or, if it determines that the jury award is too high, it can drop the matter. If the government abandons its plans, it must pay your reasonable court costs and attorney's fees. ([Md. Code Ann., Real Prop. § 12-109\(e\)](#)).

If you farm on leased land and learn that the land is to be condemned, you may want to consult with an attorney to determine whether you're entitled to compensation for those property rights granted to you through the terms of the lease agreement.

Beef Producer's Short-Course

After a successful first workshop, we will be replicating our Maryland Beef Producer's Short-Course throughout the state beginning in Southern Maryland June 8th and 9th at the St. Mary's County Extension Office. This Extension program is designed to provide producers educational information and hands-on training in several areas of beef production. Whether you're just thinking of starting your own beef production operation or have been in the industry for years, this short-course will have something for all.

Topic areas that will be covered include: determining daily operating costs, understanding EPD's, Veterinary Feed Directive, body condition scoring, forage sampling and storage, nutrient management, pasture and paddock development as well as many others.

Educational resources will include: body condition score guides, determining your unit cost of production, budget workbooks (cowherd system and purchased cows), estrus sync planner, grazing and hay records spreadsheets.

To participate in the Southern Maryland Beef

Producer's Short-Course, please submit a completed application and registration fee of \$75 by June 1, 2018. All educational materials, meals (dinner and lunch), and breaks are included. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than June 4, 2018. Registration deadlines for the other training locations will be announced at a later date. More information can be found on our Extension website: <http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/maryland-beef-producers-short-course>.

Maryland Beef Producer's Short-Course Series I Dates:

- Southern Maryland - June 8-9, 2018
- Eastern Shore - September 14-15, 2018
- Western Maryland - November 2-3, 2018
- Northeast Maryland - January 2019

Please feel free to contact Matt Morris (mjmorris@umd.edu, 301-600-3578) with any questions.



Manure Injection & Soil Health

May 7

10-1:30 p.m.

Fair Hill Farm

10118 Augustine

Herman Highway

Chestertown, MD

Learn about innovative sub-surface manure injection technology and practices with equipment demonstrations and a panel of expert speakers. The program will include equipment and dealer representatives on site and a discussion on the benefits of incorporating manure injection into farm management with panelists Ed Fry, Fair Hill Farm; Dr. Rory Maguire, Professor of Crop and Soil Environmental Science at Virginia Tech; Tim McMichaels, McMichaels Custom Applicators, and others. Maryland Nutrient Management credits will be offered.

The event is free and lunch will be provided. For more information and to register, contact jrhodes@umd.edu, (410) 758-0166.

Sheep & Goat Twilight Tour & Tasting

The 4th Twilight Tour & Tasting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 4 to 8 p.m. at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center, with wagon tours to the Western Maryland Research & Education Center.

The event will showcase everything SHEEP AND GOATS. A local chef will prepare dishes made from lamb and chevon (goat meat). There will be cheese to sample from Maryland sheep and goat dairies. There will be a discussion on matching wines with meat and cheese. There will be a fiber demonstration and exhibit on using goats for vegetation control. Wagon tours to the Western Maryland Research & Education Center will give an overview of the sheep research being conducted at the facility.

Pre-registration is required by June 1. The registration fee is \$10 per person. Children under the age of 10 will be admitted for free. Attendance is capped at 100. To register, go to <https://2018twilighttourandtasting.eventbrite.com>.

June 13

4-8:00 p.m.

Washington County
Agricultural Center

2004 was the first year in which small ruminants (sheep and goats) were grazed at WMREC for 11 years (2006-2016). WMREC was the site of the Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test, which attracted participants from more than 20 states. A sheep research program is being initiated in 2018.

Small Ruminant Health Workshop

May 19

9-12:00 p.m.

Crooked Fence Farm

2050 Geist Road

Reisterstown, MD

Gain hands-on experience and knowledge about caring for small ruminants on your farm with experienced livestock farmers at Crooked Fence Farm in cooperation with Future Harvest CASA! Located in Reisterstown, MD., Crooked Fence Farm is a diversified farm operation growing "field-to-belly" food. Farmers Sarah and Billy McCarthy raise vegetables, flowers, pork, and sheep, and sell their products through a CSA and at farmers markets in the region. Join Crooked Fence Farm for an intensive introduction to small ruminant healthcare. Learn about basic ruminant biology, general flock upkeep, veterinary options, and get hands-on experience trimming the sheep flock's hooves. A potluck will follow presentations and activities. Visit the [website](http://www.futureharvestcasa.org) for more information or to register, or e-mail caroline@futureharvestcasa.org.



Top 6 Tips For Managing Soybean Diseases

Andrew Kness, Agriculture Extension Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

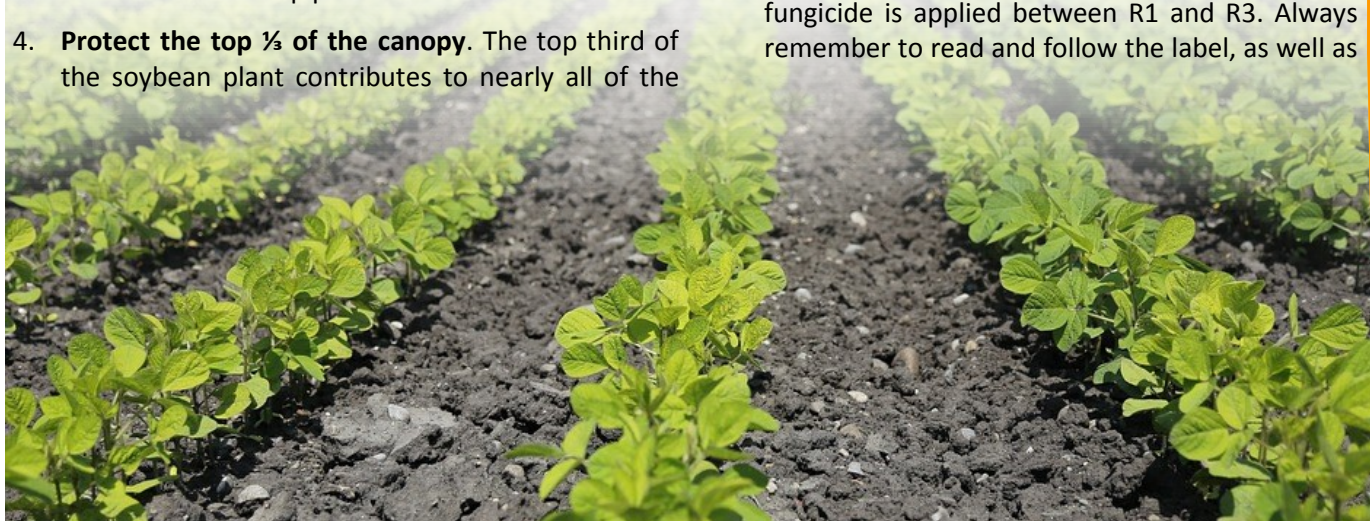
As we move into the 2018 growing season, here are some tips for managing soybean diseases. They are all important points to consider, and are in no particular order of importance.

1. **Know what you're up against.** Don't just guess at the cause of the problem; use the resources at your disposal to confirm the cause. The [University of Maryland Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab](#) is a great resource, as well as private labs. Your local extension agent can also help you diagnose a problem. Also, remember that other abiotic disorders such as drought, herbicide damage, nutrient deficiencies, etc., can sometimes resemble a biotic disease. Proper identification will help you implement the correct management tactics.
2. **Know your soybean variety.** Pay particular attention to the disease and resistance (if any) ratings. Selecting varieties that are more tolerant or resistant to a particular disease will be a key part of your management moving forward. In fields where a particular disease is a recurring problem, selecting varieties that have resistance or tolerance (if available) should be a priority. Use University [variety trial](#) information (when available), in conjunction with the seed company ratings, to select the best seed for each field.
3. **Plant at the proper population.** Pushing plant populations too high will result in a denser canopy, creating a much more humid and moist microclimate within the canopy, which is an ideal environment for most plant diseases to develop. Research in Maryland has shown that full-season soybean plant populations should be targeted at 140,000 plants per acre and 180,000 plants per acre for double-crop production.
4. **Protect the top ⅓ of the canopy.** The top third of the soybean plant contributes to nearly all of the



Figure 1. Classic symptoms of post-emergence damping off in soybeans caused by root-rotting pathogens during an extended period of saturated soil conditions. Image: Cary Hicks, Bugwood.org.

carbohydrates necessary for grain fill, which is what determines your yield. Foliar diseases that infect the top third of the plant, if severe enough, can significantly affect yield. If foliar fungal diseases begin spreading to the upper third of the plants that are approaching flowering and pod fill, a fungicide application may be necessary to protect yield; however, economics and return on investment should be considered. Fungicides are relatively cheap now but you should still consider the economics; so before spraying, figure out how many bushels you need in return to warrant that application. During average years in Maryland, diseases are typically not severe enough to warrant a fungicide application for most of our foliar diseases of soybean. If they are, we generally achieve the best control of most foliar diseases when an appropriate fungicide is applied between R1 and R3. Always remember to read and follow the label, as well as



rotate fungicide modes of action to curb disease resistance. The [Take Action Pesticide-Resistance Management](#) website has some great resources and tools to help make rotating modes of action quick and easy, including a searchable database and the [Take Action Soybean Fungicide Classification Chart](#).

5. **Plant in ideal field conditions.** Avoid having seed and seedling plants in soil that is cool and waterlogged. Waterlogged soils can lead to the development of stem and root diseases (Figure 1), which have no in-season cure once infection occurs. Also, if you're using fungicide seed treatments, realize that they are only effective for approximately 2-3 weeks after planting. Practices that help reduce compaction and increase water infiltration will prevent your seedling soybeans from having "wet feet", which is the driving cause of root and stem disease development. Planting into soils that are the proper moisture and temperature will go a long way in helping you manage many soybean diseases.
6. **Crop rotation and residue management.** Since many of the major soybean diseases in Maryland overwinter on old soybean residue, planting soybeans back-to-back is not recommended. Breaking up the rotation with a small grain, corn, or another crop before returning to soybeans will allow the old soybean residue more time to decompose and kill off the pathogens that are overwintering in and on them (Figure 2). Likewise,

a light tillage pass with a vertical till or turbo till ⁶ tool to size old soybean residue will increase residue decomposition, reducing inoculum load in your field for future soybean crops.

If you have any questions about soybean disease management or notice any odd symptoms this year, feel free to give me a call at (410) 638-3255.



Figure 2. Signs and symptoms of the charcoal rot pathogen, *Macrophomia phaseolina*. Notice the tiny black specs, which are microsclerotia, structures that allow the pathogen to overwinter in old soybean residue. Image: Martin Draper, USDA-NIFA, Bugwood.org.

Fundamentals of Nutrient Management Course

This training course provides participants with a basic overview of knowledge areas covered by the Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Examination. Topics include state nutrient management regulations, nutrient management principles, basic soil science, and soil fertility recommendations. Instructors are university and government experts. Anyone planning to take the Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Examination, consultants and farmers interested in refreshing their nutrient management knowledge, and natural resource personnel are welcome to attend. The Certification Examination will be held on Friday, August 3, 2018. Study materials for the exam will be distributed at the training session. The exam fee of \$50 will be payable at a later date.

Register by mail by Thursday May 17, 2018. Seating is limited and registrations will be accepted only on a pre-paid first come, first serve basis. No registrations will be accepted by phone or at the door. Complete and mail the registration form with payment of \$125.00 per person as soon as possible to best ensure a seat for the course. You will receive a confirmation by mail before the training session begins. The form can be printed from the [MDA website](#), or call the Extension Office.

May 29 & 30

9-4:00 p.m.

Maryland Department
of Agriculture
Annapolis, MD



Pesticide Container Recycling

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering the empty plastic pesticide container recycling program in 2018. Maryland's pesticide container recycling program is a combined effort of state, county, and federal agencies and private industry working together to protect the environment. Rinsing and recycling empty pesticide containers will help to reduce the potential for contamination of ground water and the Chesapeake Bay while saving valuable landfill space.

A schedule of collection sites and are listed below, or a full list of statewide locations is posted [online](#). Triple-rinsed (or equivalent), clean, plastic, pesticide containers will be collected on the scheduled days and times at these sites. Containers acceptable for recycling will be chipped and transported by the contractor, under contract with the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC), for processing at an approved recycling facility.

To ensure a successful program, each individual container will be inspected by MDA personnel and only triple-rinsed (or equivalent), clean, pesticide containers will be accepted. Any container that is not clean will be returned to the owner, who will be responsible for disposing of the container in a legal manner.

Harford County Locations and Dates:

1. **Scarboro Landfill**, 3241 Scarboro Rd., Street, MD. 9-3PM. June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7.
2. **The Mill of Black Horse**, 4551 Norrisville Rd., White Hall, MD. June 1 through September 30 during normal business hours. Call (410) 329-6010 or (410) 692-2200 for hours of operation and drop-off instructions.



Protecting Your Farm in the Age of Social Media

May 17

6:30 p.m.

Baltimore County
Extension Office
1114 Shawan Rd.
Cockeysville, MD

Join us for a jointly hosted seminar by the Farm Bureaus of Baltimore and Harford Counties! Have you considered everything before inviting a contractor or the public onto your farm? This seminar, Farming in the Age of Social Media—Legal Strategies to protect the Farm, will cover the strategies you should consider beforehand. Light refreshments will be provided. There is no cost to attend.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP online (<http://bit.ly/may17event>). If you have any questions or wish to register by phone, please call (410) 823-1789.

Pasture Walk

Join us for a hands-on walking educational program through University of Maryland's Rotational Grazing Site located on the Baltimore County Agricultural Center and Farm Park. Participants will get a chance to speak with and ask questions with University of Maryland Extension and Soil Conservation District experts in pasture management, nutrient management, and best management practices. This spring pasture walk will focus on weed and pasture plant ID, fertility, and pasture management. The event is free, but please RSVP by calling (410) 887-8090 or e-mail Erika Crowl (ecrowl@umd.edu) or Andy Kness (akness@umd.edu).

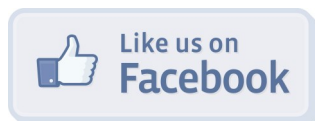
May 15

6-7:30 p.m.

Baltimore County
Agricultural Center
1114 Shawan Rd.
Cockeysville, MD

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Natural Resources



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Back-issues of this publication can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/657>

University of Maryland Extension
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3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 5 May.** Harford County Ag Center Open House. 12-3 PM. 3525 Conowingo Rd. Street, MD 21154.
- 5-6 May.** Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. 8:30-6 PM. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Admission \$5.
- 7 May.** Manure Injection Demo. Fair Hill Farm, Chestertown, MD. 10-1:30 PM. Free. RSVP to jrhodes@umd.edu, (410) 758-0166.
- 9 May.** Women in Ag Webinar: How to Avoid The Probate Process. 12 PM. Register and view [online](#).
- 15 May.** Pasture Walk. Baltimore County Ag Center. 6-7:30 PM. Free. Call (410) 887-8090 to register.
- 15 May.** Cultivate Baltimore: Soil Health & Weed Control. Boone Street Farm, Baltimore, MD. 4-7 PM. \$10. Register [online](#).
- 17 May.** Protecting Your Farm in the Age of Social Media. Baltimore County Extension Office. 6:30 PM. Free. RSVP [online](#) or call (410) 823-1789.
- 17 May.** Grow it Eat it: Strawberry Jam Workshop. 11-2 PM. \$20. Register [online](#) or contact Shauna Henley, (410) 887-8090.
- 19 May.** Small Ruminant Workshop. Crooked Fence Farm, Reisterstown, MD. 9-12 PM. Register [online](#) or e-mail caroline@futureharvestcasa.org.
- 23 May.** Strawberry Twilight Tour. Wye Research & Education Center, Queenstown, MD. 6-8 PM. Free. Call Marsha Dicus to register by May 21, (410) 827-7388.
- 23 May.** Women in Ag Webinar: Food Marketing Trends. 12 PM. Register and view [online](#).
- 29-30 May.** Fundamentals of Nutrient Management. MDA, Annapolis, MD. 9-4 PM. \$125. To register, complete and return [form](#) with payment.
- 13 June.** Sheep & Goat Twilight Tour. Washington County Ag Center, Boonsboro, MD. \$10, kids free. Register [online](#).

May 2018