

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

January 2020

Happy  
New Year

The Extension office will be closed on  
January 1 for the New Year and January  
20 for Martin Luther King, 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

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Ag Extension Educator

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Hello, Harford County!

Well, it's a wrap; 2019 is in the books! Hard to believe that another farming season is behind us. The 2019 growing season offered some much-needed relief in terms of weather after what we experience last year. 2018 was the wettest year in Maryland in recorded history; luckily 2019 brought us more normal rainfall. As of December 20, 2019, we have received a total of 48.04" for the year—a far cry from the 69.86" in 2018 and only about 4" more than normal.

We were fortunate in Harford County, as much of the rest of the state did not receive as good of weather as we did, and the Midwest had an extremely wet growing season, much like we dealt with in 2018. Extreme weather in 2019 has impacted US corn and soybean production.

Average US corn yield in 2019 is estimated at 167 bushels per acre; a 9.4 bushel decrease from 2018.

US soybean yields were also down for 2019, averaging 46.9 bushels/acre; compared to the second highest yielding crop in history of 51.6 bushels/acre achieved in 2018.

Here in Harford County, growing conditions for most of the year were favorable. Corn yields were some of our best and full season soybeans fared well. The mini-drought in August really hurt double-crop soybeans and made for a short crop of fall-cut hay. We will have to see what Mother Nature has in store for us for 2020.

The 2020 growing season will be upon us before we know it. Here are some reminders regarding certifications so that you're all up-to-date for 2020:

**Pesticide and nutrient management.** If your voucher or pesticide license expires at

the end of this year, make sure you renew. The MDA pesticide applicator renewal website is [here](#). If you still need credits, then make plans to attend a meeting this winter. Upcoming meetings that offer pesticide and nutrient management credits include the Harford County Agronomy Meeting and Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day. Details are found inside this issue.

For stand-alone credits (2-hour class), we will offer pesticide training on March 18 and nutrient management training on February 20, both at the Harford County Extension office. Call the office to register.

**Gramoxone/Paraquat Training.** If you use paraquat on your farm, EPA now mandates that you take a training course every three years (separate from your pesticide credits) and take a test to obtain a certification. You will need this certificate to apply and purchase any Gramoxone/paraquat products. The online training module and more information can be found [here](#). Call me at the Extension office if you have questions or need assistance.

**FSMA Food Safety Training.** If you are growing and selling fruits and vegetables, chances are you meet the Federal requirements for needing produce safety training under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Training will be given on January 24 at the Harford County Extension office for those who need to comply with this rule. Details are on page 2, or contact [Angela Ferelli](#) (302-353-7159) if you have questions.

I hope that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays!

Until next time,  
-Andy



## Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day

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Commercial vegetable growers are invited to the 2020 Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Friendly Farm Restaurant. Many topics will be covered in connection with vegetable and fruit production in Maryland. Doors open at 8:30 and the program starts at 9:00 a.m.

**January 23**

9—3:00 p.m.

Friendly Farm Restaurant  
Upperco, MD

This meeting will serve as recertification for Maryland Private Pesticide Applicators, as well as select Pennsylvania credits. In addition, growers who attend specified presentation sessions can renew or receive the required MDA Nutrient Applicators Voucher.

To register online, go to <https://vgd2020.eventbrite.com>. Alternatively, call (410) 887-8090 or email [ecrowl@umd.edu](mailto:ecrowl@umd.edu). If paying by check, make payable to "BCEAC" and mail to University of Maryland Extension, 1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030. Registration is \$22 in advance and \$30 at the door. Morning refreshments and lunch is included with registration. If you require any special needs to addend this program, please call (410) 887-8090 at least two weeks in advance.

## FSMA Produce Safety Training

*Sarah Everhart, Legal Specialist  
University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative*

**January 24**

8—5:00 p.m.

Harford County  
Extension Office  
Street, MD

Reposed from the [Risk Management Education Blog](#)

*This article is not a substitute for legal advice*

There will be several Produce Safety Rule Trainings throughout the state this winter, hosted by a team of experts from the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland, for producers who need to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Farmers who grow produce that is often consumed raw (e.g. berries, leafy greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc.) are likely covered by the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and are required to attend a Produce Safety Rule Training and take certain steps, including but not limited to, identifying and reducing food safety risks on the farm.

If you are unsure how the Produce Safety Rule impacts your operation, attend one of the upcoming trainings to learn what you need to do to be in compliance with the law. Although the compliance dates for the Produce Safety Rule are staggered based on the size of the farm business, even the smallest operations to which the Rule applies must comply by January 27, 2020.

Growers who are exempt from FSMA may also be interested in attending if they need to maintain a food safety certification. These trainings can also satisfy the

food safety trainings obligations for certain GAP programs, including Maryland GAP. Growers who need to comply with FSMA and/or GAP should make sure they send their designated food safety employee to one of the following upcoming trainings:

- Thursday, January 16, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Hyattsville, MD, Future Harvest CASA Conference, attendees should [register](#) for the Thursday Pre-Conference: Safe Foods Safe Farms- Growing Training. For more information contact Angela Ferelli, (302) 353-7159.
- **Friday, January 24, 2020** - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Street, MD. [Register here](#).
- Thursday, February 6, 2020 - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Derwood, MD. Register [here](#).
- Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – McHenry, MD. Register [here](#).

Registration cost is \$25 per attendee. Due to the ongoing need for Food Safety trainings, these trainings will continue to be offered, but registration fees may be more costly in the future - so register today! Growers will receive guidance regarding food safety risks and how to mitigate them, and a Produce Safety Alliance



3 Grower Training manual to take home. Upon completion of the day-long workshop, registrants will receive a certificate of completion via U.S. mail to prove they satisfied the FSMA training requirement.

Funding for this series of food safety trainings is currently made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant PAR-16-137. The views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health & Human

Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.

If you have previously attended a training but have questions about how the Produce Safety Rule applies to your operation, please don't hesitate to contact one of the legal specialists at the Agriculture Law Education Initiative, at [umaglaw@umd.edu](mailto:umaglaw@umd.edu) or (410) 706-7377.

## EPA Approves Pesticide Products for Hemp

*Amy Brown, Professor Emerita*

*Maryland Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced its approval of 10 pesticide products on hemp. Nine of these products are biopesticides and one is a conventional pesticide. The Agency acted on these applications quickly to give growers certainty for next spraying season in 2020 and to make timely purchasing decisions for next year. These approvals were made possible by the 2018 Farm Bill, which removed hemp-derived products from Schedule I status under the Controlled Substances Act.

The conventional pesticide product approved includes the active ingredient potassium salts of fatty acids. The biological products approved include the active ingredients azadirachtin, neem oil, extract of *Reynoutria sachalinensis*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain F727, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747,

soybean oil, garlic oil, and capsicum oleoresin extract.

While EPA oversees pesticide registrations for hemp under FIFRA, other federal agencies are working to streamline their separate regulatory implementation processes for the newly legalized crop. The 2018 Farm Bill directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop a regulatory oversight program for hemp. USDA has since proposed a rule for state-level hemp growing/management plans. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration also plays a role in regulating hemp products when they fall under their regulatory authority.

Find more details, including the complete list of approved products [here](#).

## Changes to Triazine Herbicide Labels

*Amy Brown, Professor Emerita*

*Maryland Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program*

EPA is proposing new, stronger protections to reduce exposure to atrazine—the next step in the registration review process required under FIFRA. Atrazine is a widely used herbicide that controls a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. Atrazine is used on about 75 million acres annually and is most often applied to corn, sorghum, and sugarcane. EPA's proposed decision is based on the 2016 draft ecological risk assessment and the 2018 human health draft risk assessment for atrazine.

As part of this action, EPA is proposing updates to atrazine labels including: mandatory spray drift control measures; a reduction in the maximum application rate

for atrazine used on residential turf, and; other updates to the label requirements.

EPA is also proposing updates to the requirements for propazine and simazine, which are chemically related to atrazine. EPA will be taking comment on the atrazine, propazine and simazine. Comments can be made to the following dockets: [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266](#) (atrazine); [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0250](#) (propazine); and [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0251](#) (simazine) once the Federal Register notice publishes online. Find more details on this action at <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/atrazine-background-and-updates>.

## Hay & Pasture Conference

University of Maryland Extension, University of Delaware Extension, and the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council invites forage producers, grazers, livestock owners, and associated industry personnel to attend the upcoming Maryland-Delaware Hay and Pasture Conference Series in January 2020 (Nutrient Management CEUs will be offered).

The featured speaker for this upcoming series is Dr. Matt Poore, Animal Science Department Extension Leader and Ruminant Nutrition Specialist at North Carolina State University. Dr. Poore will speak on *Making the Most of*

*Adaptive Grazing in Building a Productive Pasture-Based Livestock System* and also on *Building a Balanced and Resilient Forage System Using Perennials and Annuals*. Other topics vary slightly by location, but each event will cover a variety of relevant forage topics including weed control, soil health, pasture renovation and establishment, the use of annual forages, and making quality hay and haylage.

For more details and registration information, please visit [foragecouncil.com/event](https://www.foragecouncil.com/event) or contact Amanda Grev at [agrev@umd.edu](mailto:agrev@umd.edu) or (301) 432-2767 x339.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Maryland-Delaware Hay and Pasture Conference Series

JANUARY 14, 2020	JANUARY 15, 2020	JANUARY 16, 2020	JANUARY 17, 2020
Harrington, DE	Brandywine, MD	Accident, MD	Burkittsville, MD

Topics include: adaptive grazing, weed control, soil health, pasture renovation, annual forages, making quality hay and haylage

Visit <https://www.foragecouncil.com/event> for agendas and registration information



## Value-Added Producer Grant Opportunities

Applications are open for USDA's Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) for 2020. The program will be funded at a total of "\$37 million and any additional FY 2020 funding that becomes available." The deadline to apply is March 10, 2019. [More information here.](#)

Here is information about possible matching funds to support your grant application:

The Maryland Value Added Producer Matching Grant Program (MVAPMG – USDA Option) Designed to encourage participation in USDA's highly

competitive Value Added Producer Grant Program. The USDA VAPG Program requires a one-to-one match on both the Planning Grant and Working Capital Grant options with maximum awards of \$75,000 and \$250,000, respectively. MARBIDCO will support applicants with up to a maximum of 15% of the USDA matching funds requirement. [Learn more.](#)

This grant application takes considerable planning and time to collect the supporting documents. So, start planning your project and collecting the supporting materials early.

## 2018 Farm Bill Workshops

Paul Goeringer, Extension Legal Specialist  
University of Maryland, College Park

This winter, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) is partnering with the University of Maryland Extension and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to host a series of one-day workshops geared towards educating Maryland producers on changes associated with the 2018 Farm

Bill. You can register for any of the workshops by going [here.](#)

The 2018 Farm Bill has been called evolutionary and not revolutionary as the 2014 Farm Bill was. The new Farm Bill continues basic choices of the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) (county and individual levels) program

5 and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program with modifications. The workshops will highlight the changes to these programs and other FSA programs. Participants will also be given the opportunity to understand how to use the decision tools to select between the ARC and PLC programs.

The 2018 Farm Bill allows producers to choose from ARC and PLC. However, unlike the 2014 Farm Bill, which limited their program selection for all five years of the 2014 Farm Bill, producers will make a two-year decision by March 15, 2020, and change the selection beginning in 2021.

Workshops will also include presentations covering additional issues faced by the Maryland agricultural community, including farm succession/estate planning and opioid addiction.

Seven winter workshops will be hosted around Maryland in February to prepare producers before the March 15, 2020 deadline.

Workshops do require registration to attend to guarantee a lunch. Workshops cost \$15 to cover the cost of food. Dates and locations for the workshop series are:

- **Lower Shore – Monday, February 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Wicomico County Extension

Office, 28647 Old Quantico Rd, Salisbury, MD 21802-1836

- **Northern Maryland – Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Baltimore County Extension Office 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030
- **Southern Maryland – Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Charles County Extension Office, 9501 Crain Highway, Box 1 Bel Alton, MD 20611.
- **Mid-Shore – Friday, February 21, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD 21679
- **Western Maryland – Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Allegany College of Maryland, 12401 Willowbrook Rd, Cumberland, MD 21502.
- **Central Maryland - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702
- **Upper Shore – Thursday, February 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** – Calvert Grange Hall, 2357 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911.

To register for any event in this series, click [here](#).

## Starting a Small Farm Series

This class series is designed for people who are considering or in the beginning stages of starting a small farm as a business.

In this class series, we'll explore what it takes to be successful on a small-scale farm. Each session covers topics that apply to a variety of agricultural operations, including fruit and vegetable production.

The topics featured in this workshop series have proven to be essential components for ensuring farm profitability. This program is a collaborative effort between University of Maryland Extension and Future Harvest CASA's Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP) and Foodshed Field School. Classes will be taught by Extension educators and successful farmers in the region, including graduates of the BFTP.

**When:** Class will meet every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, for ten weeks, January 28 through

March 31. In case of inclement weather, a snow-date make-up class is scheduled for April 7. Please arrive with time to park, because class will start at 6:30 pm sharp.

**Where:** Class will be held in Baltimore, MD, at Pleasant Hope Baptist Church. Directions and parking instructions will be provided after registration.

**Registration:** You can attend individual classes for \$10 each, or you can attend the entire 10-part series for a registration fee of \$65. If the registration fee is a financial hardship, please contact Neith Little to inquire about scholarships. E-mail: [ngliddle@umd.edu](mailto:ngliddle@umd.edu) Call: (410) 856-1850.

Questions? Contact Neith Little, [ngliddle@umd.edu](mailto:ngliddle@umd.edu) or (410) 856-1850 x123. More information can be found [online](#).



## Farmer Training & Certification

The Farmer Training and Certification workshops provide opportunities for producers with cropland and pastures who use commercial fertilizer and/or manure to learn how to write nutrient management plans for their operation that meet Maryland Department of Agriculture's regulations. Individuals with fields or pastures high in soil test phosphorus may require additional training and a greater time commitment.

**Required Skills:** Competency in high school math, familiarity with using a keyboard, and the ability to save and retrieve files is essential for completion of the course and nutrient management plan development.

**You will receive:**

- A comprehensive training binder – the training

binder will be used during the class, serve as a reference during the exam, and as a valuable resource when you write future plans for your operation.

- **Certification** – producers who pass the exam will be certified by MDA to write their own nutrient management plans.
- **Voucher training credits** – this class will fulfill the nutrient applicator voucher training requirements.

**Registration Information:** Space is limited and registrations are accepted on a first-come basis; therefore, register early. Paid registrations must be received 10 days before the first class. For more information, please call (410) 841-5959. Classes will be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment.

**9:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day (\$35 certification fee, includes lunch on first day)**

<b>#1: University of Maryland Extension-Wicomico County Office</b>	<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b> (snow date Dec. 6) and <b>December 18<sup>th</sup> Exam/Plan Writing</b> (snow date Dec. 20)
<b>#2: University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center</b>	<b>January 21<sup>st</sup></b> (snow date Jan. 24) and <b>February 4<sup>th</sup> Exam/Plan Writing</b> (snow date Feb. 7)
<b>#3: University of Maryland Extension-Frederick County Office</b>	<b>January 28<sup>th</sup></b> (snow date Jan. 31) and <b>February 11<sup>th</sup> Exam/Plan Writing</b> (snow date Feb. 14)

Please register me for class # \_\_\_\_\_. Enclosed find my \$35 payment for the class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special accommodations needed (e.g. food allergies, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

Submit a separate form for each person. Make check payable to *Maryland Department of Agriculture*. Mail completed form and payment to: Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, Maryland 21401



## Harford County Agronomy Meeting

February 11

9—3:00 p.m.

Deer Creek Overlook  
Street, MD

The Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting will be held on February 11, 2020 at the Deer Creek Overlook on 6 Cherry Hill Rd. in Street, MD. The meeting will satisfy the credit requirements for **private applicator pesticide re-certification** and **nutrient management voucher training**. **New for 2020 will also include select Pennsylvania pesticide credits.**

Check-in begins at 9:00 and the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. This year's topics include: herbicide update; ag law update: Roundup litigation; insecticide seed treatments on corn; conservation leasing and hemp research updates. Participants will also have an opportunity to meet with local agribusiness vendors and sponsors.

**Registration is \$12 prior to February 4** and \$20 thereafter and at the door. Registration includes lunch. Please call the Harford County Extension Office at (410) 638-3255 or e-mail Andy at akness@umd.edu to register. Alternatively, you can complete the **included form** and return with your payment. Checks can be mailed made out to "HC EAC" and mailed to: 3525 Conowingo Rd., Suite 600, Street, MD 21154.

## Grain Marketing Workshop

January 10

8—11:45 a.m.

Harford County  
Extension Office

This breakfast meeting will include speakers on various topics in grain marketing. Come have breakfast and discuss this year's strategies for marketing your grain. Speakers include marketing specialists, traders and more. Topics include local and national grain outlook for 2020, tax considerations, crop insurance and the Farm Bill.

In person: Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD Higher Education Center HES-110. Contact sdill@umd.edu or call (410) 822-1244.

**Broadcasted to: Harford County Extension Office.** Contact: akness@umd.edu or call (410) 638-3255. This meeting is free, but please register ahead of time.

## Save the Date! Second Annual Symposium

**FARMING FORWARD**

**FOOD, FARMERS,  
& COMMUNITY** »

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**

8:30 AM–2 PM

**North Harford High School**

211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, Maryland 21132

**A SYMPOSIUM  
FOR THE PUBLIC  
AND FARMERS**

*Stay tuned for more information in our next issue!*

*Great resources are just a click away!*

*Andrew Kness*

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>

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*Agronomy*

*General Interest*

3525 Conowingo Rd.  
Suite 600  
Street, MD 21154

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

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### Dates to remember

- 10 Jan.** Grain Marketing Update. 8-11:45 a.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).
- 14-17 Jan,** [Hay & Pasture Conferences](#). Various locations. See page 4 or contact Amanda Grev at (301) 432-2767.
- 15 Jan.** [Farm Transfer Workshop](#). 8:30-3 p.m. Calvert Grange, Rising Sun. \$15. Register [online](#) or call (301) 458-5019.
- 16 Jan.** Carroll County Winter Farm Meeting. 9-3 p.m. Westminster, MD. Call (410) 386-2760 for details.
- 23 Jan.** [Central MD Vegetable Growers Day](#). 9-3 p.m. Friendly Farm Restaurant, Upperco. \$22 in advance, \$30 at door. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090.
- 24 Jan.** [FSMA Produce Safety Training](#). 8-5 p.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. \$25. Register [online](#) or call Deanna Baldwin at (410) 841-5769.
- 26 Jan.** [Urban Ag Winter Meeting](#). Baltimore, MD. For details, contact Neith Little (410) 856-1850 or [ngliddle@umd.edu](mailto:nglittle@umd.edu).
- 30 Jan (date in previous issue was incorrect).** Farm Trucking Forum. 9:30-12 p.m. Baltimore County Ag Center. Call Maryland Farm Bureau (410) 922-3426.
- 11 Feb.** [Harford County Agronomy Meeting](#). 9-3 p.m. Deer Creek Overlook, Street. \$12 before Feb 4. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 13 Feb.** [Women In Ag Conference](#). Dover Downs, Dover, DE. Register [online](#) or call Shannon Dill (410) 822-1244.
- 18 Feb.** [Farm Bill Workshop](#). 9-3 p.m. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. \$15. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-3541.
- 19 Feb-Mar 25.** [Annie's Project](#). 5:30-8:30 p.m. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. \$75. Register [online](#) or call Erika Crawl (410) 887-8090.
- 20 Feb.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 9-11 a.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).

# January 2020