Ag Notes
Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

April 2023

University of Maryland Extension

Harford County Agricultural Center
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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hello, Harford County!

By now everyone should be up-to-date with their necessary certifications, such as pesticide licensing and nutrient management vouchers, for the upcoming growing season. If you're still lacking credits, one last option for pesticide and nutrient management credits is our self-paced online training modules. You can access them at https://umeagfs.teachable.com/. Another option for private applicator pesticide credits is our Pesticide Workbook, which is a paper-based training with a series of quiz questions. To request a Workbook, call the Extension office at the number listed to the left. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out and contact me.

Spring is a very busy and hectic time on the farm; remember to stay safe while working! Wishing you a happy Easter and a great start to the 2023 planting season!

Until next time,
-Andy

Seeking On-Farm Research Partners

The Maryland Grain Producers encourages you to sign-up for one of the three new on-farm research trials for the 2023 growing season! Maryland grain check-off dollars are funding technical assistance through the University of Maryland and compensation to you, for this year's on-farm research. Conducting this applied research on farms will lead to meaningful agronomic production data across the state at the field scale.

The three different trials are listed below. Full protocols can be found online at https://go.umd.edu/3n39mzm.

- Nitrogen Rate – the study is evaluating corn yield response to a range of nitrogen application rates.
- Biological Product Evaluation – the study is going to determine the impact of biological fertilizer enhancement products on corn yield.
- Potassium Rate – the study will evaluate corn yield response to potassium fertilizer to determine the agronomic critical level and adjust fertilizer recommendations.

The University of Maryland has been funded by check-off dollars to benefit the future of Maryland grain production, by doing on-farm research. Dr. Nicole Fiorellino and Gene Hahn, the On-Farms Trials Coordinator, will be working directly with you to provide hands-on assistance throughout the entirety of the trial. Compensation is available to participating growers who complete the protocols on their farms.

Findings will be aggregated with no identifying information or location and shared for other farmers to see and learn more. Contact Dr. Fiorellino directly at (443) 446-4275 or at nfiorello@umd.edu to enroll today!

Navigating Value-Added Product Regulations

Carol Allen, Food Safety Agent Associate
University of Maryland, College Park

Many Maryland farms attain profitability through diversification. One such avenue is through value-added products, such as baked goods, jams and jellies, and farm-pressed ciders and juices, to name just a few. According to the USDA agricultural census (2017 USDA census), the value of processed or value-added agricultural products in 2017 was $45 million from 506 farms in the state of Maryland.

If a producer is interested in going that route, there are a dizzying number of laws that apply to the processing, labeling, licensing, and food safety of those products. Megan Todd of the Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) at the University of Maryland presented an introduction to navigating those regulations at the WMREC Fruit Grower's Meeting last week.

The presentation introduced the main influencers in value added products: U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the departments of health, both at Maryland Department of Health (MDH) as well as the local health departments.

Through flowcharts or decision trees, a farmer can begin to understand their legal obligations and the necessary safety controls.

ALEI has obtained a Specialty Crop Block Grant to provide assistance to Maryland farmers when they want to produce a value-added product and need guidance as to what regulations may apply to the production and distribution of their product.

Farmers who are interested in obtaining a copy of *Adding Value to Specialty Crops: Regulatory Decision Trees for Maryland Producers* (Sarah Everhart and Margaret Todd) can do so here: https://forms.gle/cganx5i51EpYrZCf9 or contact the Extension office.

Also available is the UMES Small Farms Pilot Food Lab sample testing for either pH or water activity. The above Google document allows a farmer to indicate their interest. Further detail will be available via email.

Questions regarding the regulation decision trees for value-added specialty crop producers may be directed to Megan Todd (motodd@law.umaryland.edu) or Sarah Everhart (severhart@law.umaryland.edu).

Is GAP training on your to-do list?
Do you have questions about a GAP audit or PSR inspection? Contact Carol Allen, (240) 994-5043 or callen12@umd.edu for help.

Online Modules Available: Owning Farmland

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

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) has released a new online course for rural landowners in Maryland. The *So You Want to Own Farmland in Maryland* course is now available through the University of Maryland's Enterprise Learning Management System – Canvas.

The free program will cover those legal issues that Maryland landowners may face. A grant funds the program through the Northeast Risk Management Education Center.

The online course will feature Paul Goeringer, a Senior Faculty Specialist and Extension Specialist in agricultural law. He will address leasing, landowner liability issues, right-to-farm law, fencing laws, livestock liability, and estate planning.

"This online course is a great opportunity for landowners and other professionals in rural areas to learn about or refresh on some basic legal issues that many deal with daily. They can understand their rights and responsibilities whether they are involved in agriculture or own land in a rural area and live next door to an agricultural operation," said Goeringer.

The online course is free to attend and is at a participant's own pace.

Participants will receive copies of Extension fact sheets and other valuable documents as a part of the online course.

For more information or to register, go to https://go.umd.edu/3ZSkv4r. For more information, please get in touch with Paul Goeringer at lgoering@umd.edu.

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

OTC Antibiotics: What's Available?

Sarah Potts, Dairy and Beef Extension Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

On June 11, 2023, the FDA's new directive, "Guidance for the Industry #263," is slated for implementation, meaning that over-the-counter (OTC) antibiotics will no longer be available through traditional retail channels. Instead, these antibiotics will now require a prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

While livestock producers are continuously working to practice judicious antibiotic usage, no longer having the ability to purchase commonly used antibiotics can throw farmers a curveball. Instead, these antibiotics will only be available with a veterinary prescription and will need to be purchased from a veterinarian or a pharmacy. The Pennsylvania State University Dairy Extension team lists the following antibiotics that will no longer be available for purchase over-the-counter:

Injectable Products

Penicillins, Tetracyclines, Sulfa Antibiotics, Erythromycin, Tylosin, Lincomycin, Spectinomycin, Gentamicin

Intramammary Products (Mastitis Tubes)

Erythromycin, Penicillin, Dihydrostreptomycin, Novobiocin, Cephapirin, Cephapirin Benzathine

Oral Liquids and Boluses

Dihydrostreptomycin, Sulfa Antibiotics, Tetracyclines, Spectinomycin, Gentamicin, Eye Ointments, Genamicin, Tetracyclines

Products that will **not** be impacted by the June 2023 changes include:

Products Under Veterinary Oversight

Prescription Products, Veterinary Feed Directive Products

OTC Animal Health Products

Vaccines, Dewormers, Fly Control, Hormone Implants, Teat Sealants, Ionophore Products

Linda Tikofsky, DVM and senior associate director of dairy professional services at Boehringer Ingelheim, says there are several steps producers should be taking now to prepare for the change.

"I think the number one thing to do is just take inventory of what you're using and what you won't be able to purchase after June 2023," Tikofsky says. "Go through your drug cabinet, take note of what you're using and how often you're using it."

It's hard to know what you need if you don't know what you're treating. According to Tikofsky, part of judicious antibiotic use is understanding the diseases on your farm and knowing how to treat them.

"Understanding what you're up against and how to treat a disease is an important part of animal husbandry," Tikofsky says. "Very often, antibiotics are not the only avenue when treating an illness or condition. Talk with your veterinarian to better understand when and how to treat when using an antibiotic, and work with them to see if there are other treatment options available."

The best way to avoid using antibiotics is to prioritize preventative management. Take time to review herd health protocols and work proactively with your veterinarian and other consultants to address health issues within the herd.

Now is the time to work with your veterinarian to develop a plan to adjust the way your operation will access animal health products.

"Going forward, all prescriptions will need to be provided by a licensed veterinarian with whom the producer has a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship," Tikofsky says. "This really shouldn't affect farmers too much, it will just require them to have a good working relationship with their vet, which is always the goal. When it comes to obtaining antibiotics, producers will either need to purchase antibiotics from the veterinarians themselves or use a distributor that has a pharmacy license. Your vet should be able to help you find one of these distributors."

Surrounding your operation with the best team members should always be top of mind. According to Tifkofsky, now is the time to make sure your entire team is on board with your farm's animal health objectives.

"It's important to not only talk to your veterinarian about this, but also your nutritionist, herd managers and employees," she says. "Make sure you're assembling the right team to set your operation up for success."

Spring Weed Control For Pastures and Hay

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

As things are greening up this spring, you may notice a few not-so-friendly plants popping up around your fields, especially given the milder weather this past winter. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to scout your pastures and hayfields in search of winter annual and biennial weeds. When it comes to weed control, timing of herbicide application critical and it is important to spray when weeds are most susceptible to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Winter annuals typically germinate in the fall, overwinter, and complete their reproductive cycle in the spring or early summer. Common winter annual species include chickweed, purple deadnettle, field pennycress, henbit, horseweed/marestail, shepherd's purse, and the mustard species. Annuals are best controlled during the seedling and early vegetative stage when they are young and actively growing. Herbicide applications will be more effective if made at this stage while they are still vegetative and more susceptible and will prevent them from flowering and producing seed. At this time of year, winter annuals are growing rapidly and will soon begin to flower and set seed; getting on top of these species now before they mature is ideal and will give you the most control. Once the winter annuals in your fields have moved beyond a vegetative stage, an herbicide application may offer some control but you may also want to take note of any problem areas and target them later this year with a late fall application.

Biennials live for two growing seasons, with the first year consisting of only vegetative growth as a seedling and rosette and the second year consisting of vegetative growth and also reproductive growth in the form of an elongated flower stalk. Common biennial species include burdock, bull thistle, musk thistle, and wild carrot. These weeds are best controlled during the seedling and rosette stage (the smaller the better), and should be treated now while they are smaller and more susceptible and before they begin to bolt.

There are a number of herbicides available for control of broadleaf weeds. Herbicide selection should be based on the type of forage and the weed species present. The most common herbicides used for control of broadleaf weeds in grass hay or pasture are the plant growth regulator herbicides, which includes products containing 2,4-D, dicamba, triclopyr, fluroxypyr, or a mix of these (see the table below for a list of common products). These products are safe if applied to grass forages at the labeled rates but can kill or injure desirable broadleaf forages (i.e. clover) in grass-legume mixed pastures.

If weedy annual grasses such as crabgrass, foxtail, panicum, and Japanese stiltgrass are problematic, pendimethalin (Prowl H2O) has a supplemental label that allows for its use on established perennial pastures or hayfields grown for grazing, green chop, silage, or hay production. This product may be applied to perennial grass stands or alfalfa-grass mixed stands. Prowl H2O may be applied as a single application in the early spring, or for more complete control it can be applied as a split application with the first application in early spring and the second application after first cutting (sequential applications must be 30 or more days apart). Research has shown that split applications are able to provide better control than a single, early season application. Keep in mind, pendimethalin is a pre-emergent herbicide, meaning it will only control weeds if applied prior to germination; this product will not control established perennials like roughstalk bluegrass. Japanese stiltgrass is usually the first species to germinate, and can germinate as soon as soil temperatures reach about 50°F. If soil temperatures in your area are already above 50°F it is likely that stiltgrass and crabgrass have already germinated, but a split application of Prowl H2O now and after first cutting can still help control foxtail. There are currently no herbicides labeled to control emerged weedy grasses in grass stands or alfalfa/grass mixes. If soil temperatures in your area are already above 50°F it is likely that stiltgrass and crabgrass have already germinated, but a split application of Prowl H2O now and after first cutting can still help control foxtail. There are currently no herbicides labeled to control emerged weedy grasses in grass stands or alfalfa/grass mixes.

Product[1]	Active Ingredients	Application Rate[2]	General Use/Restricted Use
2,4-D	2,4-D	1 to 2 qt/A	General
Banvel/Clarity	dicamba	0.5 to 2 pt/A	General
Crossbow	2,4-D + triclopyr	1 to 6 qt/	General
PastureGard HL	triclopyr + fluroxypyr	0.75 to 4 pt/A	General
Prowl H2O	pendimethalin	1.1 to 4.2 qt	General
Remedy Ultra 4L	triclopyr	0.5 to 4 pt/A	General
WeedMaster	triclopyr, 2,4-D + dicamba	1 to 4 pt/A	General

[1]Always read and follow all guidelines listed on the product label
[2]For use in established grass pasture or hayfields

Note that if forages were recently seeded and are not yet established many of these herbicides can cause severe crop injury. Most herbicide labels for cool-season perennial grasses state that the grasses should be well established with at least 4-5 inches of growth, although some labels are more restrictive than this. In addition, some of these herbicides have haying or grazing restrictions following application. Always read and follow the guidelines listed on the product label for proper rates, timing, residual effects, and any grazing or harvest restrictions following application.

Lastly, remember that while herbicides can be a useful tool for weed management in pastures and hayfields, they are not the only option for weed control. A program that integrates several different control strategies is generally more successful than relying on a single method. For maximum results, include cultural practices such as selecting adapted species and maintaining optimum soil fertility, mechanical practices such as timely mowing or clipping to suppress weed seed production, and biological practices such as utilizing livestock for controlled grazing or browsing. And remember that weeds are opportunistic; the ultimate strategy and number one form of weed control is competition with a healthy, dense stand of desirable forage species.

Livestock

PASTURE MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

April 19, 2023

5:30 PM

Baltimore County Ag Center

Topics to Include:

Evaluating Pasture Condition

Spring/Summer Weed Control

Grazing Practices to Manage Forage Supply

Register Today!

https://go.umd.edu/2023pasturewalk
or call 410-887-8090

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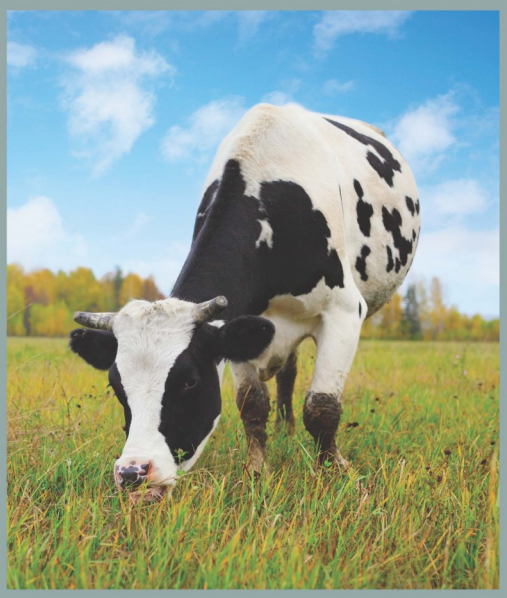
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



Class A CDL Grants

Understanding the new challenges of acquiring Maryland's new Class A Commercial Driver's License process, the Maryland Grain Producers is offering a grant opportunity to farmers across the state. The new required class to obtain a CDL is challenging for farmers due to the time commitment of attending class and cost. The Maryland Grain Producers recognizes these challenges and is here to support farmers and their employees through their first-ever CDL grant. This year, the Grain Producers are offering two grants in the amount of $1,500.

To apply for the new grant, please complete the online application by May 5th.

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
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Agriculture and
Food Systems

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

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Dates to remember

12 Apr. Women in Ag Webinar: Creating Maps of Farm Fields. 12 noon. Free. Register online.

19 Apr. Pasture Field Day. 5:30-8:00 PM. Baltimore County Ag Center, Cockeysville. Free. Register online or call (410) 887-8090.

24-28 Apr. Tire Recycling. 8-2 PM. Scarboro Landfill, Street, MD. **Call ahead** (410) 638-3417.

27 Apr. Pasture Walk at UMD Dairy.6-8 PM. Central MD Research & Education Center, Ellicott City. Free. Register online or call (301) 432-2767 x339.

10 May. Women in Ag Webinar: Farm Well and Septic Care. 12 noon. Free. Register online.

As of April 1, the Harford County Extension office will be located in Howard County.

Just kidding, **April Fools!**

April 2023