

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

# January 2025

The Extension office is closed for New Year's on January 1 and Martin Luther King Day on January 20.



## Hello, Harford County!

Well, 2024 has bit the dust and we will ring in the new year in only a week or so. Now can be a great time to look back on the 2024 growing season and evaluate what worked and didn't work on your operation and plan for 2025.

With inputs high and grain prices low, it helps to have a firm handle on your crop budgets. UME has detailed corn, soybean, and wheat crop budgets available for download online at <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/field-crop-budgets/>.

For those growing vegetable crops, our neighbors at UD have developed some excellent vegetable crop budgets: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/sustainable-production/agribusiness/farm-business-management/>. UD also has some forage budgets available.

All of the templates are pre-populated with "average" or approximate values—you should adjust accordingly for your operation.

If you do not have a good handle on your enterprise budgets, then these can

be great tools to use to get that part of your business under control.

For those growing and marketing grain crops, we have an online grain marketing update on January 17 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. More information is on page 4.

We are getting a steady stream of questions regarding pesticide recertification and renewals. As a reminder, you will need your pesticide credits to renew your license. All renewals are online through <https://www.egov.maryland.gov/mda/pesticides>, or paper renewals can be requested. If you have questions regarding your license renewal, contact MDA at (410) 841-5710.

If you need credits for your pesticide license renewal or for your nutrient management voucher, I have listed a few of our upcoming programs in the table below.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Until next time,  
-Andy

### Upcoming Programs for Pesticide & Nutrient Management Credits

Date & Time	Program	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

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](http://Extension.umd.edu/harford-county)  
[facebook.com/HarfordAg](https://facebook.com/HarfordAg)

Andrew Kness  
Ag Extension Educator  
[akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu)

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## Harford County **MID-WINTER AGRONOMY MEETING** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | 9:30 AM—2:30 PM

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

- Ag law and regulatory update
- PFAS in farmland
- Weed management updates
- Tar spot update and pest management strategies
- Regional ag agency and agribusiness updates
- MDA pesticide and nutrient management updates

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

**\$12 registration** includes morning refreshments and a hot lunch. Registration is \$20 after January 31.

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

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

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



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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## 2025 Fruit & Vegetable Growers Meeting



**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2025  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Summit Manor Hall at Hereford Fire Company  
 510 Monkton Rd., Monkton, MD 21111  
**Cost:** \$20.00 if you pre-register, or \$25.00 at the door, includes lunch

- Topics include:**
- New pesticides/updates for vegetable production
  - Soil health & soil biology
  - Updates on Bt sweet corn efficacy
  - MDA pesticide & nutrient management updates
  - ...and more!

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

To register to attend or get more information, call the University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County Office at (410) 887-8090, sign up on Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/2025VGD>, or fill out the form below and mail to: 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030. **Make checks payable to "BCEAC."**

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

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Sweet Corn Survey: Input Needed

*Kelly Hamby, Entomology Extension Specialist  
 University of Maryland, College Park*

This short survey will help us understand the current practices used by growers for CEW control, and the costs associated with different practices. It is aimed specifically at fresh-market growers, and not at growers of sweet corn for processing (another survey will be used to obtain information on those farms). We'll use the information to identify current fresh-market CEW control practices and their costs, and to evaluate how alternative CEW control practices affect grower costs, sales, and financial performance. Our findings will directly help growers assess the value of alternative control practices to their own businesses.



We offer an [online version](#) (or scan the QR code) of this survey and a 2-page paper version (contact the office for copy), so growers can choose the method that works best for them. Our analyses will aggregate data for different types of growers distinguished by size, region, and marketing outlet. For that reason the questionnaire opens with a set of questions concerning the type of sweet corn enterprise, before asking about specific management practices used to control CEW. We will report estimates for different grower types; all individual responses will be kept strictly confidential, and the questionnaire elicits no personal information about any individual grower.

# Grain Marketing Update

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

The Annual UME Grain Marketing Update will be held Friday, January 10, 2025, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. This virtual meeting will include speakers on various grain marketing topics. Speakers include marketing specialists, traders, and more. Topics include local and national grain outlook for 2025, tax considerations, crop insurance, and crop budgets. The event is open to all, if any accommodations are needed please contact sdill@umd.edu two weeks prior to the event.

Please register at: [https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvcuqhrDMqHtyBEC9P8s\\_IS18oq1uLV\\_AG](https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvcuqhrDMqHtyBEC9P8s_IS18oq1uLV_AG)

## County Farmland Rental Rates Now Available

Elizabeth Thilmany, Faculty Specialist  
University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative

Cash rent lease agreements continue to be the most common type of agricultural lease in Maryland, providing a fixed annual payment per acre and relieving landowners of operating and marketing decisions. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) annually estimates average cash rental rates per acre for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and pastureland at the county and state levels based on data collected from farm-level surveys. For more information on the NASS Cash Rents Survey, visit [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide to NASS Surveys/ Cash Rents by County/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide%20to%20NASS%20Surveys/Cash%20Rents%20by%20County/).

This year, the University of Maryland has updated its publication to provide Maryland-specific insights into these rental rates, supporting producers, landowners,

and other stakeholders in making informed decisions about farmland leases. The 2024 report includes comprehensive data on rental rates for non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland, organized by county and regions.

Updates in the 2024 Report:

The report includes updated graphs with trendlines showing rental rate changes over time, providing a clear view of recent trends in Maryland's non-irrigated, irrigated, and pastureland values. It also offers a detailed breakdown of rental rates by county, highlighting variations across agricultural districts.

Static maps for 2024 show county-level rental rates for non-irrigated cropland and pastureland, enabling producers to visualize rental trends across the state.

The 2024 report is a valuable resource for understanding how factors like soil quality, water access, and economic conditions affect rental rates in Maryland. This information helps producers and landowners make informed rental agreements and land management choices.

The full 2024 report and downloadable data files are available at: <https://go.umd.edu/UMELeases>.

**Maryland County-Level Cash Rental Rates for Non-Irrigated Land (2014-2024)**

County	Ag District	2014	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dorchester	Lower Eastern Shore	95.50	107.00	108.00	88.50	91.00	91.00	79.00	83.00	108.00
Somerset	Lower Eastern Shore	76.50	88.50	76.00	81.50	81.50	92.00	102.00	108.00	89.00
Wicomico	Lower Eastern Shore	77.50	81.50	95.00	84.00	84.00	84.00	90.00	94.50	96.00
Worcester	Lower Eastern Shore	84.50	88.50	87.50	92.50	95.00	103.00	112.00	96.50	104.00
Baltimore	North Central	122.00	75.00	92.50	89.00	83.50	96.50	98.50	97.00	148.00
Carroll	North Central	88.00	136.00	106.00	105.00	99.00	96.00	92.00	92.00	132.00
Frederick	North Central	77.00	105.00	80.00	76.00	76.50	90.50	83.50	101.00	125.00
Harford	North Central	164.00	120.00	138.00	149.00	167.00	156.00	166.00	168.00	123.00
Howard	North Central	76.50	74.00	72.50	89.00	83.50				
Montgomery	North Central	76.50	63.00	49.50	89.00	83.50	66.50	84.00	105.00	113.00
Washington	North Central	76.00	75.00	88.00	74.50	80.50	96.00	85.50	90.50	119.00
Anne Arundel	Southern	51.00	48.50	43.50	61.00	51.00	65.00	69.50	85.00	
Calvert	Southern	57.00	64.50	41.50	61.00	51.00	45.00	41.00	37.50	56.00
Charles	Southern	39.00	39.00	40.50	40.50	36.50	42.50	49.50	53.00	51.00
Prince George's	Southern	51.00	48.50	43.50	38.00	44.00	51.75	54.50	49.25	41.50
St. Mary's	Southern	54.50	45.50	45.00	51.00	52.00	58.50	59.50	45.50	48.50
Caroline	Upper Eastern Shore	95.50	110.00	101.00	101.00	105.00	112.00	126.00	117.00	144.00
Cecil	Upper Eastern Shore	89.50	94.00	103.00	103.00	116.00	138.00	157.00	155.00	141.00
Kent	Upper Eastern Shore	111.00	113.00	131.00	145.00	147.00	159.00	185.00	179.00	186.00
Queen Anne's	Upper Eastern Shore	122.00	136.00	125.00	148.00	136.00	144.00	168.00	143.00	169.00
Talbot	Upper Eastern Shore	109.00	108.00	102.00	102.00	110.00	113.00	113.00	136.00	134.00
Allegany	Western	26.00	23.50	58.00	55.50	28.00				
Garrett	Western	35.50	32.50	37.00	35.50	35.00	37.50	37.00	40.50	40.50
Maryland (all Counties) Average		92.00	100.00	94.00	100.00	98.00	103.00	111.00	117.00	124.00
Minimum		23.50	37.00	37.00	35.50	28.00	37.50	37.00	37.50	40.50
Median		77.00	81.50	88.00	86.25	87.50	92.00	90.00	96.50	116.00
Maximum		164.00	136.00	138.00	149.00	167.00	159.00	185.00	179.00	186.00

# Livestock Processing Equipment Grant

MARBIDCO press release

The Maryland Agriculture and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) has announced the opening of the Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program to help assist with the much-needed expansion of livestock processing capacity in Maryland.

This program offers grants to eligible applicants to purchase livestock processing equipment and/or upgrade facilities to help increase production in Maryland, with a particular focus on large animal and blue catfish processing. (Smaller scale poultry processing projects may also be eligible.)

For the Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program, MARBIDCO will contribute up to 50% towards the eligible costs, with a maximum grant award amount of \$50,000 for USDA-inspected slaughter facility projects (including meat and blue catfish processing), and maximum grant award amount of \$20,000 for other USDA-inspected facilities, custom-exempt processing, or mobile processing projects.

Eligible applicants include individuals and businesses who currently operate livestock and meat processing enterprises in Maryland, as well as those that can start such operations by no later than March 31, 2025. These applicants can include sole proprietorships, partnerships, cooperatives, corporations, or LLCs.

Eligible expenses: Grant funds (and matching funds paid

by the applicant) must be used to purchase livestock and meat processing equipment for USDA-inspected facilities, custom-exempt or mobile processing projects and/or upgrade facilities. Eligible expenses incurred prior to December 2, 2024, are not eligible to be reimbursed using these grant funds.

All applicants should purchase or order equipment no later than April 30, 2025. Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis (proof of payment required) or MARBIDCO can directly pay vendors with submission of approved invoices.

- Minimum Amount of Grant: \$5,000
- Maximum Amount of Grant: \$50,000 per project for USDA-inspected slaughter facilities
- \$20,000 per project for other USDA-inspected facilities, custom-exempt, or mobile processing projects

Match Required: Applicants are required to pay at least 50% of eligible project costs.

The Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program application deadline is **January 17, 2025**.

For more information about the Maryland Livestock Processing Equipment Grant Program, contact Sierra Criste, MARBIDCO Financial Programs Specialist, by email at [scriste@marbidco.org](mailto:scriste@marbidco.org) or by telephone at (410) 267-6807.



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.

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](https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42OVet5uDKcJK5M).



*Peggy Kirk, Attorney and Director  
The Ohio State Agricultural & Resource Law Program*

If you are one of those farm businesses putting off the requirement to file “beneficial ownership information” (BOI) to the federal government under the new Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), you just received an early Christmas present from a federal court in Texas. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas has issued a nationwide preliminary injunction against the CTA, concluding that the law “appears likely unconstitutional.” The court halted enforcement of the CTA and its regulations (the Reporting Rule) and stayed the January 1, 2025 deadline for BOI reporting.

What is the CTA?

The CTA is a new federal law that requires certain businesses to report the identities of those with “beneficial ownership interests” in the business to the federal Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. The CTA’s first reporting deadline was set to be January 1, 2025.

The parties who brought the lawsuit

Six Plaintiffs filed the lawsuit against the United States -- a private individual, three businesses, the Libertarian Party of Mississippi, and the National Federation of Independent Business. The parties claimed that the CTA and its regulations are unconstitutional on several grounds: first, for violating State’s rights under the Ninth and Tenth

Amendments; second, for violating the First Amendment by compelling speech and burdening rights of association, and third, for violating the Fourth Amendment by forcing disclosure of private information.

The court’s analysis

Stating that whether the CTA and its rules are absolutely unconstitutional “is a question for another day,” the court instead focused its opinion on its duty to determine whether the Plaintiffs satisfied the proof necessary for being awarded the “extraordinary relief” of an injunction. Doing so required the court to examine the elements a plaintiff must prove to receive an injunction. The court’s opinion consumes 79-pages.

What does the case mean for farm businesses?

Businesses who haven’t yet filed their BOI information with the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network are not currently required to do so, and the Department of Treasury cannot enforce the law or issue penalties against businesses who do not report. The court case did not address or include any remedies for businesses that have already filed BOI information. Note that the lawsuit is not over and there will be further legal proceedings on both the constitutional challenges and the issuance of a permanent injunction. Expect to hear more from us in the future on the legal status of the CTA and its BOI reporting requirements.

## Ag Law Farmland Workshops

*University of Maryland, Agriculture Law Education Initiative [press release](#) (abridged)*

The Ag Law Education Initiative will host two one-day workshops on Jan. 22nd in Ellicott City and Jan. 29th at Wor-Wic Community College. The workshops will be from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm and will cover legal issues that Maryland landowners may face. A grant funds the program through the Northeast Risk Management Education Center.

The workshop will address leasing, landowner liability issues, right-to-farm law, fencing laws, livestock liability, and estate planning. The workshops will also involve research related to solar development.

Lunch is provided with the workshops. Each workshop will begin at 9 am with a check-in, and the workshops will run from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The dates and locations are:

January 22, Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Bldg 671, Ellicott City, MD 21042, and

January 29, Wor-Wic Community College, 103 Fulton Owen Hall, 6573 Walston Switch Rd, Salisbury, MD 21804.

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

For more information or to register, go to <https://agrisk.umd.edu/events>. For more information, please contact Paul Goering at [lgoering@umd.edu](mailto:lgoering@umd.edu).

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2023-70027-40447.

Maryland's

## HEALTHY SOILS COMPETITIVE FUND

Accepting Applications: December 2, 2024 - March 7, 2025



The Maryland Department of Agriculture will accept applications for our [Healthy Soils Competitive Fund](#) from **December 2, 2024 - March 7, 2025**. If you have an innovative conservation idea for your farm, this program is for you! We provide financial assistance to qualifying farmers who want to adopt a range of soil health and agroforestry practices.

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

Financial assistance is available to manage conservation practices in new and innovative ways that improve soil health, yield, and profitability and capture carbon. Eligible practices include: Cover Crops, Conservation Tillage, Pasture and Hay Planting, Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Conservation Crop Rotation, Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Soil Carbon Amendment, and more.

Contact Nick Miller, Healthy Soils Program Specialist, for more details and how to apply: (410) 841-5866 or [Nicholas.miller@mayland.gov](mailto:Nicholas.miller@mayland.gov).

## Farm Credit Scholarship

Don't miss your chance to launch your future career in agriculture with a scholarship from the Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement! At least 20 scholarships valued at up to \$10,000 each will be awarded to students with big dreams of shaping the agriculture industry.

Those with a passion in agriculture — from farming to food science, ag mechanics, finance, communications, and anything in between — are encouraged to apply.

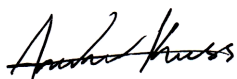
The program is open to:

- High school seniors
- Trade and tech school students
- Current undergrad or graduate students in two-or-four-year programs
- Applicants must live in the Horizon Farm Credit footprint, or Washington, D.C.

Check out [FCFoundationforAg.org](http://FCFoundationforAg.org) for all of the details and to apply. Don't wait — applications close January 3, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2025.

Contact [info@fcfoundationforag.org](mailto:info@fcfoundationforag.org) with questions.

*Great resources are just a click away!*



Andrew Kness  
Senior Extension Agent,  
Agriculture and  
Food Systems

 Like us on  
Facebook

[facebook.com/HarfordAg](https://www.facebook.com/HarfordAg)

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

 [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu)



General Interest

For Students

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

# Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

## Dates to remember

- 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. Call (410) 887-8090.
- 11 Feb.** Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting. 9:30-2:30 PM. Deer Creek Overlook. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 13 Feb-17 Apr.** Beginning Farmer Series. Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM. Register [online](#).
- 15 Feb.** Women in Ag Conference. 9-3 PM. Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Stevensville. \$60. Register [online](#) or call (410) 822-1244.
- 25 Feb.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 10-12 PM. Harford County Extension Office. Call (410) 638-3255 or email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu) to register.

## 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

# January 2025