

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



September 2022

The Extension office will be closed
on September 5 for Labor 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

Andrew Kness

Ag Extension Educator

akness@umd.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tar Spot of Corn Confirmed in Maryland	2
Nutrient Management Training For Greenhouse Growers	3
Ag Law Conference	3
Grazing Workshops	4
Food Ventures Value- Added Online Course	5
Maryland Farming Success Course	5
Farm Bureau Fundraiser	6
Cash Rental Rates	6
Soil Conservation Supervisor Nominations	7
SARE Farmer Grants	7

Hello, Harford County!

I think I say this every year, but it's hard to believe we are in September already! State Fair is in full swing, full season soybeans are getting ready to turn color, corn silage is being chopped, and we're only a couple weeks away from corn grain harvest. I believe all-in-all we have had a pretty good year in the farming community, even with historically high input prices. I've always said that farmers, among other things, are also part magician—they always seem to make it work, even when faced with the most adverse and improbable situations. Lets hope we finish strong with a safe harvest.

Fall is a busy time for many on the farm, but it can be a good time to start to think about preparing for next year. In terms of nutrient management, fall can be a great time of year to pull soil samples from harvested fields for those that need updated samples, and for those operations that are pasture-based, thus can be a great time to get your plan updated. Tricia Hoopes is here in the Extension office for all your nutrient management plan writing needs. Call the office or email Tricia (phoop@umd.edu) if you'd like to start getting your plan updated.

For those that need to renew their private applicator pesticide license this year (expiring in 2022), you will have multiple opportunities to do so through our Extension programming over the fall and winter. I will be scheduling a recertification session for sometime in October or November; stay tuned to the next newsletter for dates. As a reminder, you have until about April 1 of next year to get credits and renew your license, if you wait longer than that, your license will lapse and you will have to re-take the test.

Credits for nutrient management voucher training will also be offered through our fall and winter Extension programs.

As a side note regarding my availability over the next few weeks; I will be out of country and have limited access to email and phone from September 13-30 for a professional development trip. As some of you may recall, I am in LEAD Maryland Class XI, and after a two-year delay thanks to COVID, we are finally taking our international study trip to Spain. Thank you for your patience during this time; if you need assistance, please call the Extension office. I look forward to sharing what I learned about Spain's agriculture and natural resources when I return!

Until next time,
-Andy



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

Tar spot, a foliar disease of corn caused by the fungal pathogen, *Phyllachora maydis*, was reported and confirmed for the first time in Maryland. Tar spot has been present just over the Mason-Dixon Line for a couple of years now where it was first discovered in Lancaster County PA in 2020 and has since spread to several neighboring counties. It was first detected in the United States in Indiana in 2015 and has rapidly spread throughout the Corn Belt. The sample collected from a Harford County farm on August 19 is the first confirmed case in Maryland.



A. Kness, Univ. of Maryland

Figure 1. Symptoms of tar spot on corn. Black raised areas are tar spot and long rectangular grey lesions are from grey leaf spot.

Lesions from tar spot look like someone splattered black paint or tar on the leaves (Figure 1); they are typically raised and they cannot be washed or scraped off of the leaf. It is not too late to scout fields for tar spot; if you suspect that you could have this disease, please contact Andy Kness (akness@umd.edu, 410-638-3255) or you can use the iPIPE website to report your sighting: <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/reporting-form/>. We will then follow up with you to confirm that

it is tar spot. There are several look-alikes that can be confused with tar spot, such as insect frass, bird droppings, and some other foliar diseases, so proper confirmation is essential as we want to monitor the spread of this disease in our state.

Tar spot is believed to spread locally via wind-blown spores and dragging infested corn residue on combines or equipment to new fields.

Right now most corn is probably far enough along to not worry about it too much this year. Once corn reaches mid to late dent, yield losses have been reported to be less severe. However, corn that is infected at early dent and earlier, there is the potential for significant yield loss (50% reported under ideal conditions). Right now it is probably a good practice to scout some fields for tar spot and be prepared to make management adjustments for when it moves into your area.

Tar spot has the potential to cause significant yield loss on susceptible corn hybrids if infection occurs early enough. In 2021, it was estimated that tar spot reduced yields more than any other foliar disease of corn in the US. It thrives under cooler temps (60-low 80s), wet/humid, cloudy conditions, which we just experienced in our area around the time tar spot was detected in Harford County.

Time will tell just how severe this may be in our area or to what extent it will play long-term, but growers should have it on their radar, especially for the 2023 crop and beyond; particularly for those counties in Northern Maryland bordering PA. Considering it seems to be quite happy in the corn belt and in PA, it's probably not leaving us anytime soon and this was likely an unavoidable situation. Hybrid resistance to tar spot and crop rotation plays a large role in managing this disease. The fungus that causes tar spot does not infect any other plant species other than corn and it persists year-to-year in infected corn residue. Foliar fungicides applied around VT/R1 may also play a role in managing the disease.

There is still a lot we need to learn in terms of tar spot disease epidemiology and management for our region. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email me (akness@umd.edu, 410-638-3255).

Nutrient Management Training for Greenhouses

Andrew Ristvey, Commercial Horticulture Extension Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

Nursery Operator Certification (FTC) for writing nursery nutrient management plans will be offered to growers who are interested in attaining Farmer Training Certification for writing nutrient management plans. This training program will assist you in writing a nutrient management plan for your nursery or greenhouse operation, or controlled environment. You must write a nursery nutrient management plan if you are an agricultural business and gross \$2,500 or more per year in sales. With this certification, you will be able to sign-off and submit your own plan and annual implementation reports.

This program consists of a Training Day and an Exam/Signoff Day. This training day, Thursday, September 29th, 2022, will consist of learning the plan-writing process. After the training day, you will have about 5 weeks, during which time you will study the Nursery Nutrient Management Training Manual and develop your plan. The Exam/Signoff Day will be at a location and on a date "to be announced". This date will also be for reviewing your newly developed plan (or renewing your old plan). You must write a plan for Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to become certified.

The process is relatively simple for small (or low-risk) operations, so if your operation size is less than 5 acres, we would strongly encourage you to think about becoming a certified operator. If your operation is larger than 5 acres or you run a controlled environment, we would still encourage you to become a certified operator, even though the nutrient management process may be a little more complicated. For nutrient management consultants who wish to learn more about the process for

developing nutrient management plans for greenhouses and container crop production, this workshop will offer 6 hours of continuing education credits.

The cost for this program is \$35.00 and includes program costs (including lunch) and the MDA exam fee (\$20). For consultants not taking the exam, the cost is \$15. Payment will be required at the beginning of the program. A check can be made out to University of Maryland. A receipt will be available.

If you wish to register, please do so before September 23rd, 2022 by emailing Dr. Andrew Ristvey (aristvey@umd.edu). Add your business name and phone contact number. If you have questions please send an email to me or call me at (410) 827-8056 x113.

Wye Research and Education Center is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, about 20 minutes from the Bay Bridge. A map to WyeREC can be found [here](#). Note the circled area on the map; we will be at the WyeREC Office and Lab location.

At present, this is scheduled to be an in-person meeting. Face masks are not required, but you are welcome to wear one. We will be learning in a large room and we will be adequately spaced. WyeREC is located in Q.A. County and is subject to local/county health department guidelines. Should we receive word of updates, all registered attendees will receive a link to an online virtual program.

September 29

9-3:30 PM

Wye Research Center
Queenstown, MD

Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**AGRICULTURE LAW
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

2022

Friday, October 28 | 7:30 AM - 3 PM
Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel

KEYNOTE: Farm Bill Panel

Learn about carbon credits and what is currently being considered on Capitol Hill.

\$50 Registration to Attend All Sessions Live

\$40 Registration to Attend All Sessions Virtually

2 Nutrient Management Credits Available

Information and registration:

go.umd.edu/aleiconfreg2022

Grazing School & Advanced Grazing Workshop

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

University of Maryland Extension and partners are excited to be bringing back both the Maryland Grazing School and Advanced Grazing Workshop this fall and invite grazers and livestock owners to attend one of these upcoming events!

The Maryland Grazing School will be held over two days on September 29-30, 2022 at Rocklands Farm in Poolesville, MD from 8 AM to 5 PM each day. Designed with producer interests in mind, this two-day grazing school will offer a more in-depth education on pasture and grazing management. The course features multiple hands-on exercises to provide participants with opportunities to work with grazing tools and fencing materials. Topics covered will include forage selection, pasture assessment, grazing management, pasture allocation, fencing and watering options, extending the grazing season, and more! Enrollment is limited to 30 people to keep the group small and allow for more interaction and networking opportunities. For full details and registration information, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/grazingschool>.

The Advanced Grazing Workshop feat. Ranching for Profit will be held over two days on October 20-21, 2022 at the Western Maryland Research and Education

Center in Keedysville, MD from 9 AM to 5 PM each day. This advanced grazing workshop is designed for producers looking to transform their operation into a profitable business with less work and stress. Workshop attendees will dive deeper into the principles behind farm economics and increasing farm profitability, giving them the tools and insights they need to improve their business. The workshop will be taught by Dave Pratt, one of the experts on the Ranching for Profit team and will feature a small group approach with team and class discussions, case studies, videos, and application to participants' own situation. For full details and registration information, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/rfpworkshop>.

These events are brought to you by University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council, Maryland Grazers Network, NE SARE, and American Farmland Trust. Thank you to our event partners!

If you have questions or need assistance please contact your local county Extension office or Amanda Grev at agrev@umd.edu or (301) 432-2767 x339. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity please contact us at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Hope to see you there!

Save the Dates!



MARYLAND GRAZING SCHOOL

September 29-30, 2022
Rocklands Farm, Poolesville, MD
<https://go.umd.edu/grazingschool>

ADVANCED GRAZING WORKSHOP WITH RANCHING FOR PROFIT

October 20-21, 2022
UMD WMREC, Keedysville, MD
<https://go.umd.edu/rfpworkshop>

Maryland Food Ventures Online Course

If you are starting a value-added food business in Maryland, sign up today for the Maryland Food Ventures interactive self-paced online course!

This course covers information for food subject to Maryland Cottage Food or On-Farm Home Processing regulations, like high acid jams, most breads, dried herbs, and raw honey.

Topics include:

- Product Development
- Food Safety & Licensing
- Marketing

- Labelling
- Financing & Pricing for Your Business
- Success Stories from Maryland Value-Added Producers

Course Structure

Short videos, exercises, and quizzes with an average course completion time of five to six hours. Surveys to assess attitude and behaviors related to value-added foods.

Register Today!



Free for a limited time only:
<https://go.umd.edu/mfvcourse>

For special accommodations, please contact Dr. Shauna Henley before starting the course at shenley@umd.edu or (410) 887-8090.

Maryland Farming Success Online Course

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

This summer, the University of Maryland (UMD) is partnering with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and USDA to create a four-module online training course Maryland Farming Success.

This course will allow traditionally underserved and socially disadvantaged audiences to logically develop a plan, focused on financial skills, risk management tools, and legal topics regarding their farm operations, and understand additional existing assistance available from USDA, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and Risk Management Agency programs.

The online training course is separated into four modules designed around preparing farmers for success by providing information about available USDA programs and creating the ability for participants to have a successful business plan, including - mission and goals, enterprise budgeting, risk management, and legal risk management.

*The first module in the learning course, FSA Overview, features speaker USDA FSA Farm Program Chief Robert Wevodau. This module will discuss important program definitions, introduce FSA programs that assist producers and operations, FSA programs focused on socially disadvantaged beginning and veteran farmers, eligibility, application requirements, who to contact for assistance, and other programs offered through the FSA.

*The second module in the learning course, Crop

Insurance Basics, features speaker Extension Legal Specialist Paul Goeringer. This module will discuss crop insurance basics, the federal crop insurance program, existing crop insurance products, how to manage risks in a farm operation, possible crop insurance tools, finding a crop insurance agent, and more.

*The third module in the learning course, Farm Financial Management, features speaker Extension Educator, Shannon Dill. This module will discuss maintaining financial and production records, household budgets, financial statements, goal setting for farm business success, and personal and farm financial management.

*Finally, the fourth module in the learning course, Basic Legal Tool Strategies And Business Organizations, features speaker Extension Legal Specialist Paul Goeringer. This module will discuss legal issues in structuring the farm business, including business structures, risk management strategy tools for legal risks, legal strategies for farm business operations, and other legal competencies.

For more information on the Maryland Farming Success learning course, or to REGISTER, [click here](#).

This material is funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency, under award number RMA21CPT0011599.

Join the Harford County Farm Bureau for a picnic and fundraiser to benefit Fawn View Manor Farms, who lost a barn and equipment due to a fire. The gathering will begin at 4:30 at Highview Farm in Whiteford and food will be catered and served by Pond View Farm from 4:30-7:30 PM. This event is BYOB.

September 17

4:00-7:30 PM

Highview Farm

1555 Kerr Rd., Whiteford

Music and entertainment will be provided by The Mayo Family Band and DJ Wendy Doring. 50/50 boards and auction baskets will be available.

Registration is \$50 per person or \$15 for ages 8-13. You may purchase tickets at the Highview Farm Market (contact Mike Doran, 443-506-8746) and the Harford County Farm Bureau office (contact Alice Archer, 443-417-3505).

2022 Maryland Cash Rental Rates

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

Each year, USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) collects data from 240,000 farms across the United States through the Cash Rent Survey. Once published, this survey will give farmers and renters a ball park range of what land is going for in their area.

As you can imagine, cash rent averages in 2022 increased nationally (table 1). Non-irrigated cropland cash rent went up from \$128/acre in 2021 to \$135/acre in 2022, a 4.73-percent increase. Irrigated cropland saw a 4.41-percent increase, going from \$217/acre on average in 2021 to \$227/acre in 2022.

Pasture rent increased 7.14 percent from \$13/acre in 2021 to \$14/acre in 2022.

So what happened in Maryland? Maryland saw a 7.21-percent increase in average non-irrigated cropland cash rent or up from \$103/acre in 2021 to \$111/acre in 2022 (table 3). Average irrigated cropland increased by 1.99 percent in 2022, up from the \$197/acre average in 2021 to \$201/acre average in 2022. Average pastureland cash rents were down 3.92 percent in Maryland in 2022, going from \$53/acre in 2021 to \$51/acre in 2022.

The full article is available at agrisk.umd.edu.

Table 1: National Average Cash Rents per Acre for 2013-2022, Source USDA-NASS

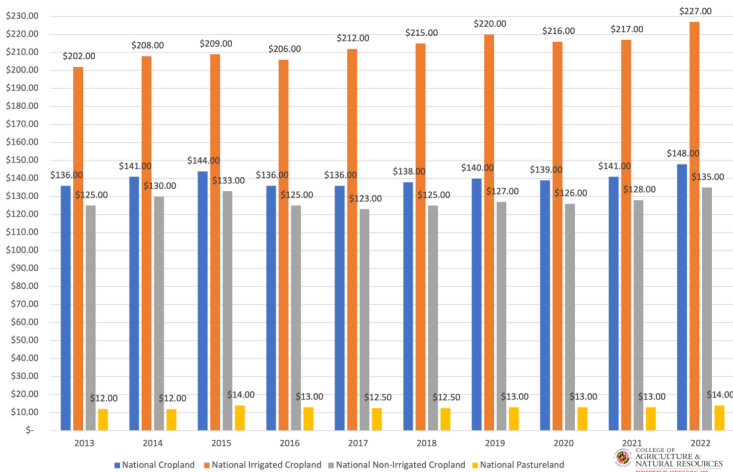
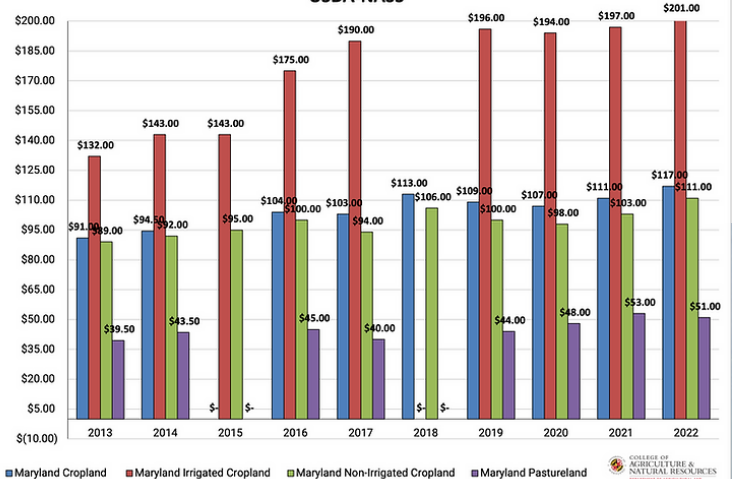


Table 3: Maryland Average Cash Rents per Acre for 2013-2022, Source USDA-NASS



Harford SCD Supervisor Nominations

Nominations for an appointment to the Harford Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors are being accepted by the Maryland State Soil Conservation Committee.

The appointment will be for a term to expire on October 17, 2027, and will fill the expired term of Kimberly Archer-Lewis. Nominations should be sent to: State Soil Conservation Committee, Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 306, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Any interested individual or organization may submit a recommendation. Nomination forms are available at the office of Andrew Kness, Extension Educator, 3525

Conowingo Rd., Suite 600, Street, MD 21154. Forms may also be picked up at the Harford Soil Conservation District, 3525 Conowingo Rd., Suite 500, Street, MD 21154. Nominations should be received by the State Soil Conservation Committee by **October 10, 2022**. The form is now available online at www.mda.maryland.gov (click on Conservation, then committees).

A supervisor must be a resident of the district. District boundaries are the same as county boundaries. Anyone recommended should be able to attend monthly meetings of the Board of Supervisors and have a knowledge of and a sincere interest in proper land use and the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

SARE Farmer Grants



Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

The call for 2023 Farmer Grants is now available. Approximately \$750,000 has been allocated to fund projects for this cycle of Farmer Grants. Awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$30,000, depending upon a project's complexity and duration.

Farmer Grants help farmers try new things that could improve their operations, according to Grant Coordinator Candice Huber.

"Farmers are natural problem solvers," Huber says. "They see something that needs to be done and build a solution. Northeast SARE provides an opportunity for farmers to try solutions that improve quality of life, profitability, and environmental impact."

A wide variety of topics can be funded by Northeast SARE, including marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, social sustainability, climate-smart agriculture practices, urban

and Indigenous agriculture and more. Last year, the cap for Farmer Grants was increased from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

"We're looking for people to pay a reasonable wage for their work on a grant project," Huber says. "The additional funding is also more realistic for complex projects with more collaboration, education, and replication to increase the strength of results."

The online system for submitting proposals will open on **Oct 1, 2022**. **Proposals are due no later than November 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. EST.**

An informational webinar featuring multiple Farmer Grant recipient Tommye Lou Rafes will take place at 12:00 p.m. on October 4, 2022.

Rafes says the benefits of a SARE grant go beyond financial support. There's an emotional support to knowing that your problem is valid and worth spending time to study.

[Click here to view the full request for proposals](#)

[Click here to register for the webinar](#)

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



facebook.com/HarfordAg

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



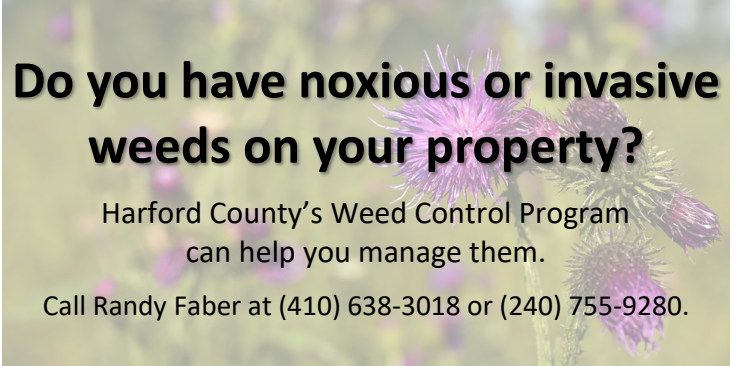
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Dates to remember

- 25-28 Aug, Sept 1-5, Sept 8-11.** Maryland State Fair.
- 13 Sept.** Maryland Beef Webinar Series: Spring Stocker Cattle Recap. 7:30-8:30 PM. Online via Zoom. Register [online](#).
- 14 Sept.** Women in Ag Webinar: Resources and Tool For Cover Crop Management. 12 noon. Online via Zoom. Register [online](#).
- 29-30 Sept.** Maryland Grazing School. 8 AM-5 PM. Rocklands Farm, Poolesville, MD. \$125 (\$150 after 9/14). Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767 x339.
- 08 Oct.** Urban Ag Farmer Field School. 10 AM-2 PM. Farm Alliance of Baltimore Teaching Farm, Baltimore, MD. Free. Register online or call (410) 856-1850.



Do you have noxious or invasive weeds on your property?

Harford County's Weed Control Program can help you manage them.

Call Randy Faber at (410) 638-3018 or (240) 755-9280.

September 2022