

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



February 2025

The Extension office will be closed
February 17 for Presidents' 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

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Hello, Harford County!

I don't know about you, but January seemed to have 97 days in it—funny how some months fly by while others seem to drag on and on. Either way, February is now here and marks the beginning of Black History Month.

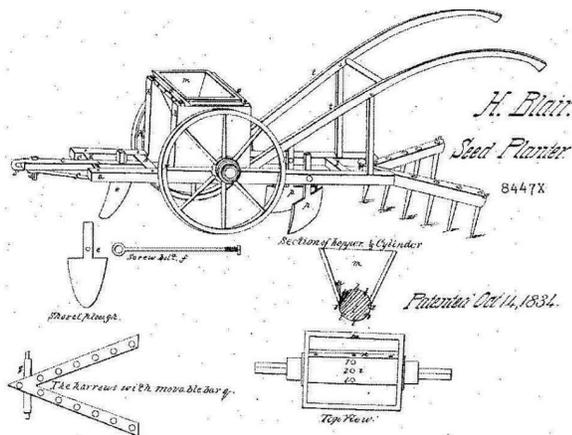
African Americans have obviously made countless contributions to agriculture as a whole, but one local man is particularly interesting and many don't know his story.

Henry Blair was born in Montgomery County, MD in 1807. Even though Blair lived before the Emancipation Proclamation, he was not a slave and worked as a farmer and business owner. Blair went on to invent two of the most important pieces of farm equipment still used today. In 1834 he patented the first corn planter, followed by the cotton planter in 1836.

Blair's invention resembled a wheelbarrow with a hopper to hold seed, which metered and dropped seed into a trench made by a shank on the front of the planter. Rakes at the end of the planter covered the seeds in the furrow. Blair's invention dramatically improved the efficiency and productivity of farmers and paved the way for many planting improvements, eventually evolving into what we have today. Modern day planters still operate by many of the same principals as Blair's planter in 1834.

At the time of his first patent in 1834, he was only the second black person to hold a patent in the United States and his patent is still the only patent in the record that indicates the patent holder's race.

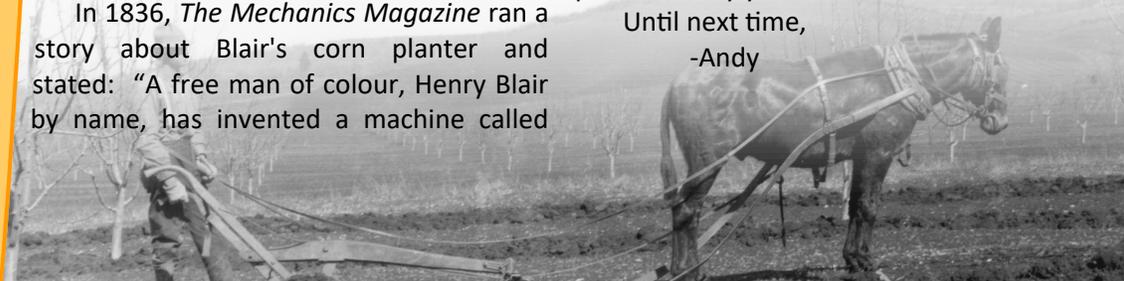
In 1836, *The Mechanics Magazine* ran a story about Blair's corn planter and stated: "A free man of colour, Henry Blair by name, has invented a machine called



the corn-planter, which is now exhibiting in the capital of Washington. It is described as a very simple and ingenious machine, which, as moved by a horse, opens the furrow, drops (at proper intervals, and in an exact and suitable quantity,) the corn, covers it, and levels the earth, so as, in fact, to plant the corn as rapidly as a horse can draw a plough over the ground. The inventor thinks it will save the labor of eight men. He is about to make some alterations in it to adapt it to the planting of cotton."

Blair died in 1860 of unknown causes and little is known about his life outside of his two inventions. Even though Blair was illiterate (as indicated by signing his patent with an "x"), he is a great reminder of how we are all capable of overcoming adversity to achieve something worthwhile. In the coming months, thousands of farmers will pull thousands of planters out of the shed to plant millions of acres of corn all across the United States; Henry Blair, the illiterate black farmer from Maryland, plays a major role in this process every year.

Until next time,
-Andy



Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#) (abridged)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced the first presumptive positive case of H5 avian influenza in a commercial broiler farm in Dorchester County. This is the fourth case of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza (HPAI) on a commercial poultry farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Confirmation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) is pending.

This new case arises six days after a presumptive positive result at a commercial poultry farm in Caroline County. In total, there are seven commercial operations in the Delmarva region confirmed to have HPAI, including two premises in Kent County, DE, and one premises in Accomack County, VA. State officials have quarantined all affected premises, and birds on the properties are or have been depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from affected flocks will not enter the food system.

Avian influenza is a highly contagious airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among birds through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. This virus affects poultry, like chickens, ducks, and turkeys, along with some wild bird species such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, the risk of transmission between birds and the general public is low. Those who work directly with poultry or dairy farms may be more at risk and should follow key biosecurity practices.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture continues to urge growers and backyard flock owners to enhance biosecurity practices and become familiar with what to do if HPAI is suspected in a flock. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention share more guidance [here](#).

- Look for signs of illness. Know the [warning signs](#) of infectious bird diseases.
- Report suspected sick birds: To report a possible case of HPAI in a commercial or backyard flock, call the Maryland Department of Agriculture at (410) 841-5810. Commercial chicken growers and backyard flock owners can email questions about the outbreak to MD.Birdflu@maryland.gov. To report a wild bird in Maryland, call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hotline at (877) 463-6497.

Key biosecurity practices:

- Clean and disinfect transportation. Don't walk through or drive trucks, tractors, or equipment in areas where there may be waterfowl or other wildlife feces. If you can't avoid this, clean your shoes, vehicle, and equipment thoroughly to prevent bringing disease agents back to your flock. This is especially important when visiting with farmers or those who hunt wildfowl such as when gathering at a local coffee shop, restaurant, or gas station.
- Remove loose feed. Remove spilled or uneaten feed right away, and make sure feed storage units are secure and free of holes. Wild birds can carry HPAI.
- Keep visitors to a minimum. Only allow those people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds, including family and friends. Make sure everyone who has contact with your flock follows biosecurity principles.
- Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live poultry. If using a hand sanitizer, first remove manure, feathers, and other materials from your hands because disinfectants will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- Provide disposable boot covers (preferred) and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock. If using a footbath, be sure to remove all droppings, mud, or debris from boots and shoes using a long-handled scrub brush BEFORE stepping into the disinfectant footbath, and always keep it clean.
- Change clothes before entering poultry areas and before exiting the property. Visitors should wear protective outer garments or disposable coveralls, boots, and headgear when handling birds, and shower and/or change when leaving the facility.
- Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility. Before allowing vehicles, trucks, tractors, or tools and equipment—including egg flats and cases that have come in contact with birds or their droppings—to exit the property, make sure they are cleaned and disinfected to prevent contaminated equipment from transporting disease. Do not move or reuse items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected—such as cardboard egg flats.

For more information on avian influenza, visit: <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/AvianFlu.aspx>.



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
- Crash course in PFAS in agriculture
- 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, 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 (\$20 after 1/31)** = \$ _____ *Checks can be made to "HC EAC"*

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

Reposted from the [Ag Risk Management Blog](#). This is not a substitute for legal advice.

As I mentioned in an earlier post, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to review the injunction granted by the 5th Circuit related to Beneficial Ownership Interest (BOI) reporting required under the Corporate Transparency Act. On January 23, 2025, the Supreme Court granted a stay in that injunction pending oral arguments before the 5th Circuit on March 25, 2025. On January 24, 2025, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued guidance that although that injunction was lifted, another nationwide injunction still exists. At this point, FinCEN is only requiring voluntary submissions of BOI reporting.

The second nationwide injunction that was not a part of the Supreme Court's stay is in *Smith v. U.S. Department of the Treasury*, No. 6:24-CV-336-JDK, 2025 WL 41924 (E.D. Tex. Jan. 7, 2025). The U.S. Justice Department or U.S. Department of Treasury has not appealed that ruling. We will have to wait to see the new Administration's direction in appealing this decision or what the new Congress will do with potential legislative solutions. Only voluntary submissions are required, and no deadlines or penalty enforcement are happening.

The Corporate Transparency Act was created intending to prevent money laundering, illicit financial transactions, and financial terrorism. As a part of the law, FinCEN was created in the Department of the Treasury to create a national database of business entities and owners of those business entities that are not subject to regular public disclosure laws. This database required beneficial owners of businesses to disclose certain information. It is important to note that the law does not create exemptions for farms or other small businesses. Only certain larger businesses that met requirements were exempt.

It's important to note the law only impacted those businesses that had filed documentation with the state, such as S corps, C corps, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships. Sole

proprietorships and general partnerships did not have to file BOI with FinCEN. New entities created after January 1, 2024, but before Jan. 1, 2025, had 90 days to file BOI with FinCEN after receiving notification of the entity's registration with their state. New business entities created after January 1, 2025, had 30 days to file BOI with FinCEN after receiving notification of the entity's registration with their state. All entities created before Jan. 1, 2024, had until Jan. 1, 2025, to register BOI with FinCEN.

As mentioned earlier, this reporting is currently on hold pending the review requested by the federal government related to the injunction put in place by the federal district court in Texas. Department of Treasury still encourages businesses covered by the law to file during this period, but it is not required.

For those who have not filed, you should still have the documents ready to go if the injunction is lifted. Department of Treasury will provide those businesses that need to file by January 1, 2025, an opportunity to file before enforcing penalties. This means having the full legal names, addresses, birthdays, and a copy of either a state-issued driver's license, passport, or identification card issued by the state, local government, or tribal government for all owners in the business. This filing can be done online or by working through your attorney or tax professional to file on your company's behalf.

If the injunction is lifted, this filing is not a one-time event. The company would need to update the filing each time ownership changes (such as a member of the LLC leaving or a new member being added). Companies would have 30 days to file after the date of the change is complete. At the same time, if the business changes its name, it is doing business as or changes in the Chief Executive Officer or Managing Member need to be filed with FinCEN no later than 30 days after the change is complete.

Nutrient Management Voucher Training

February 25, 2025
10-12:00 pm

Harford County Extension Office

If you still need credits for your nutrient management voucher, this two-hour class will satisfy the requirements for your renewal. Call (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu to register.

Extension Internship

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is seeking undergraduate students interested in careers in Extension and agriculture industries.

Applications are now open for the 2025 [Creating Leadership and Professional Development Through Extension Internships Program](#). The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm (EST) **March 23, 2025**. If you are a student interested in a career in Extension or agriculture and want to learn more about Extension, applied research, and community outreach, while gaining professional development, leadership skills, and job experience, please apply. This is a great experiential learning opportunity for students seeking a degree or professional certification in agriculture, natural sciences, biological sciences, and related programs. We prioritize students currently enrolled in a two-year program and sophomores and juniors enrolled in a four-year degree program. This is a paid internship!

Access the online application at - <https://go.umd.edu/extensioninternships>; you will need to fill out the form and send a cover letter, resume, unofficial transcripts, and two (2) letters of recommendation -- at least one must be from a current or former professor/instructor, to andrea1@umd.edu.

Program Contacts:

Shannon Dill, Extension Educator - AgFS

410-822-1244 | sdill@umd.edu

Andrea Franchini, Program Coordinator

301-226-7416 | andrea1@umd.edu

This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI Competitive Grant Workforce Development, project MD-UME-09312.

For Students

GAP Training Classes

Carol Allen, Food Safety Agent Associate

University of Maryland, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Would you like to learn about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)? GAP training courses are eight hours of produce safety information. The goal is to have your farm's food safety plan initiated while you are in class.

Topics covered are: worker training, water testing, using manures and composts, managing wildlife, writing Standard Operating Procedures, and other topics. Upon completion, a certificate of training is issued to the attendee by MDA, Food Quality Assurance Program. Then, on your farm initiate the GAP policies, procedures, and record keeping, request a GAP audit from MDA, and your farm can become GAP certified.

Classes form as requested. When would you like to attend? Let us know here: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5sq5Gbuqhm5nD0.

Vegetable Production Survey

Veronica Yurchak is the new Extension Vegetable Specialist with University of Maryland. Veronica started in the fall of 2024 and would like your input into research and extension program priorities. If you grow vegetables commercially, this is your opportunity to provide feedback for the challenges you face and the type of research and support you need to make your business successful. Please complete the survey by following QR code or the link: https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_4T5Z3N9NkQRHZiK.

Veronica can be reached at vjohnso4@umd.edu or (443) 446-4266.



Kayla Griffith, Faculty Specialist and Acting Director
University of Maryland, Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Description: An opportunity for producers with cropland and pastures in Maryland who meet the minimum requirements (\$2,500 gross agricultural income or 8 animal units) to learn how to write their own nutrient management plan (NMP). Interested producers may attend one of four sessions, see registration information below. Upon completion of this course producers will become certified to write their operation's plan and will also fulfill the nutrient applicator voucher training requirements.

Time and Certification: This course requires a significant time commitment. Larger, more complicated farm operations and those with high phosphorus soil test levels and multiple sources of organic amendments may require additional training. Additional optional opportunities will be announced for each session during training. Farmers are required to have current soil and manure/organic tests prior to the training. To become certified, farmers must complete all coursework, pass the certification exam, and have their first nutrient management plan approved by MDA.

Cost and Accommodation:

- Space is limited, register early. Registration will close one week prior to the course date or when capacity is reached.
- Cost for the course is a \$20 exam fee (to be paid directly to MDA following registration, no later than 2 weeks before the start of the course) and \$25 for NuMan Pro software.
- If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this training, please contact Kayla Griffith (kmgriffi@umd.edu, 301-226-7439) no later than two weeks prior to the start of the course.

Below are the four sessions that will be available during the winter and spring 2025. Register for one session only. Please pay particular attention to location, sessions are in-person or online only, there is no hybrid option. Registration is first come, first serve for those who have updated soil tests and manure tests (if applicable). Instructors reserve the right to cancel sessions that do not meet minimum registration requirements. Lunch will not be provided for in-person sessions, please plan accordingly.

Dates	Location	Registration Link
3/24/2025, 3/26/2025, and 4/2/2025	Frederick County Extension Office 330 Montevue Lane Frederick, MD 21702	https://go.umd.edu/FTCSessionCWinter25
3/31/2025 — 5/2/2025	Online	https://go.umd.edu/FTCSessionDWinter25

AIR Due March 1

Maryland Department of Agriculture press release (abridged)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is reminding farmers that Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) outlining nutrient applications made in calendar year 2024 must be submitted by **March 1, 2025**. Electronic reporting is available through [Maryland OneStop](#) for those who want to save time and reduce errors. Farmers new to this electronic reporting option will need to register for an account. Returning farmers should log in to their existing accounts to use the e-file option.

Approximately 5,300 Maryland farmers are regulated by the department's Nutrient Management Program and are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure as well as submit annual

reports summarizing nutrient applications for the previous year. Electronic filing is gaining popularity, with 35% of Maryland farmers using Maryland OneStop to file their AIRs last year. Farmers report that it is faster, easier, and more accurate than paper reporting. Users are guided through the application process and receive a delivery confirmation when the report is submitted and status updates as data is verified.

A mail-in option remains available this year for farmers who want to continue to submit paper reports. Paper forms were mailed to all regulated farmers in mid-January and are available for download on the department's [website](#). For more information, farmers should contact their [regional nutrient management office](#).

Master Gardener Scholarship

Isabel Mooney, Home Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

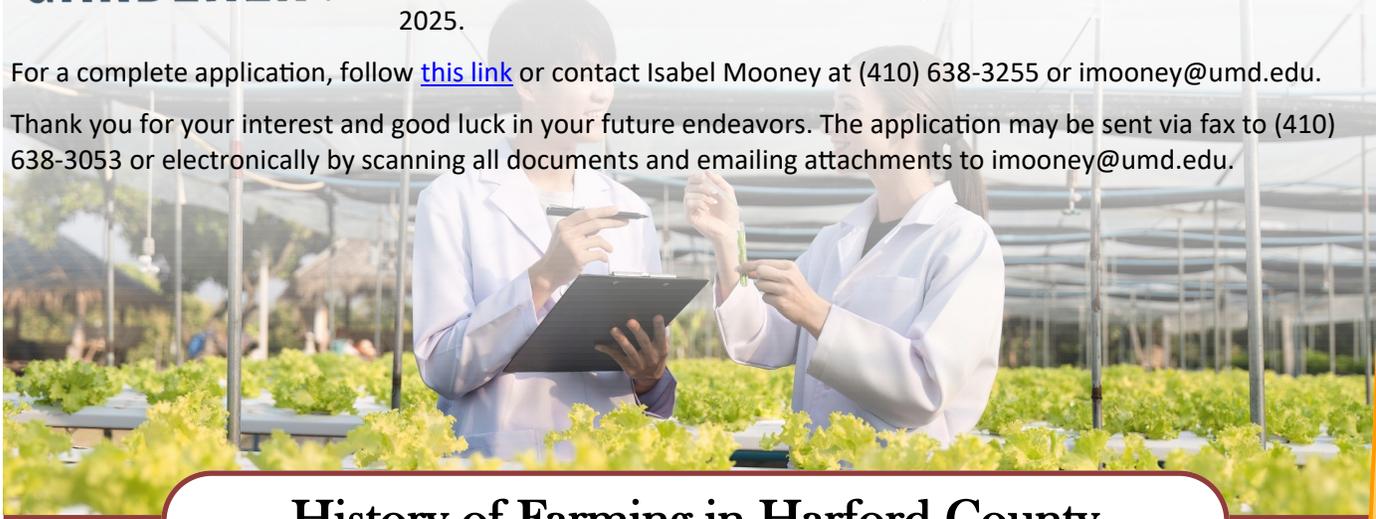
UNIVERSITY OF
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EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER 

The Harford County Extension Advisory Council, in cooperation with the Master Gardeners of Harford County, will be offering a scholarship in the amount of a one-time \$1,000.00 award to a graduating high school senior who resides in Harford County. The recipient must be a student who plans to attend an accredited college or university to pursue studies in Agronomy, Botany, City Landscape Planning, Conservation, Entomology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Horticulture, Landscape Design and/or allied subjects. Qualified applicants must be planning to attend college in the fall of 2025. The completed application must be postmarked by **April 9, 2025**. The winning student will be notified by April 30, 2025.

For a complete application, follow [this link](#) or contact Isabel Mooney at (410) 638-3255 or imooney@umd.edu.

Thank you for your interest and good luck in your future endeavors. The application may be sent via fax to (410) 638-3053 or electronically by scanning all documents and emailing attachments to imooney@umd.edu.



History of Farming in Harford County

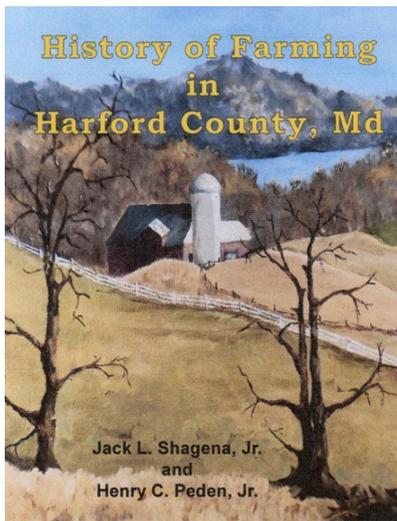
Alice Archer, Harford County Farm Bureau Secretary

Local historians Jack L. Shagena, Jr. and Henry C. Peden, Jr. have just written the "History of Farming in Harford County, Md."

This newly published book contains information about everything related to farming in Harford County. From growing crops to canning, from dairy cows to horses, from barns and silos to farm equipment, and from agricultural organizations to veterinarians, there are stories and photographs that you will find interesting. An extensive list of Harford County farms is provided, along with witty sayings sprinkled throughout the book.

Remember: A farmer is a man – or woman – who is outstanding in the field!

Harford County Farm Bureau is selling copies of the book at a cost of \$35 each. Copies can be obtained from the Farm Bureau office at the Harford County Agricultural Center or by contacting Alice Archer at (443) 417-3505 or harfordfb@gmail.com.



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



For Students

General Interest

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the University of Maryland Extension office at least two weeks prior to the event.

Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

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 to register.

01 Mar. Annual Implementation Report (AIR) due to
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture (MDA). **Mail** completed
forms to MDA or complete online. Contact MDA with
questions or concerns (410) 841-5951.

13 Mar. Private Applicator Pesticide Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford
County Extension Office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638
-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

13 Mar. Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification. 1-3 PM.
Harford County Extension Office. Free. Register by calling
(410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

February 2025