

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



February 2020

The Extension Office will be closed on
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

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Hello, Harford County!

I hope everyone is having a great start to 2020! This issue contains information for a few more upcoming classes to get everyone ready and prepared for the 2020 growing season. If you still need recertification training for nutrient management and pesticide, see pages 4 and 6. On the topic of nutrient management, please see the information below from Baltimore County ag agent, Erika Crowl, regarding changes to Maryland's AIR forms:

It's that time of the year, again.... Time to check your mailbox for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Annual Implementation Reporting (AIR) forms. Reporting forms are due to the Department by **March 1, 2020** to document nutrient application made during the previous calendar year. The reporting form is also available for download on the [Department's website](#).

You may notice a few changes on the 2019 AIR that accommodate the 2019 Legislative SB 546 for reporting requirements of manure and other organics. The changes you will see include:

- Giving the amount of animal manure imported and exported from a farm operation.

- Providing the name and location of farm that is sending and/or receiving manure.
- If manure is received through a broker, the broker MUST provide the operator with the name and location of the sending farm.

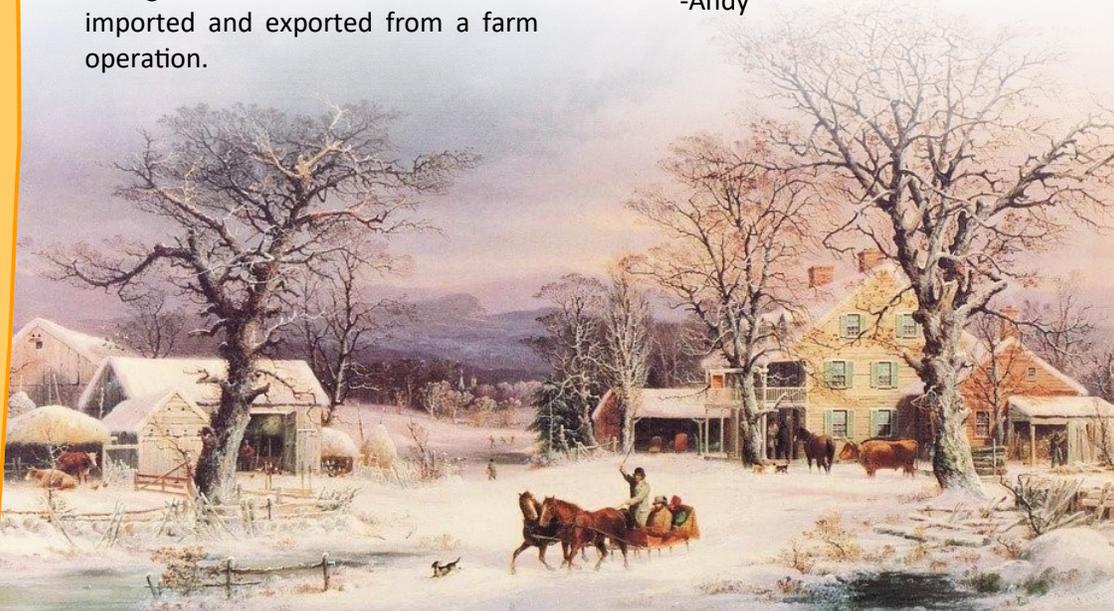
Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should still submit one combined reporting form along with a manure analysis to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Program.

If you fail to file or complete your AIR, Maryland Department of Agriculture reserves the right to administer fines starting 30 days after the warning letter.

For questions concerning how to complete your AIR, plan to attend our AIR workshop on February 24; details on page 6 of this newsletter.

I hope to see a lot of you next week at our Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting (details on page 3)!

Until next time,
-Andy



Annie's Project focuses on the many aspects of farm management and is designed to empower women in overall farm decision making and to build local networks throughout the state. The target audience is farmwomen and women involved in agriculture with a passion for business, agriculture and involvement in the farm operation. Topics for the sessions cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Risk, Human Resources. This course is open to anyone interested in farm management practices.

Feb. 19- Mar. 25

5:30-8:30 p.m.

*Baltimore County
Extension Office*

Annie's Project is approved for FSA Borrower Training, which includes an additional workbook requirement. Please contact Shannon Dill at (410) 822-1244 for more information.

For 2020, Annie's Project will be offered in six sessions at the Baltimore County Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030. Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Dates: February 19, 26, March, 4, 11, 18, & 25th (April 1 snow date).**

The \$75 course registration fee covers all meals and materials. Register [online](#) or contact Erika Crowl at (410) 887-8090.



ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Value-Added Producer Grants

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

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

competitive Value Added Producer Grant Program. The USDA VAPG Program requires a one-to-one match on both the Planning Grant and Working Capital Grant options with maximum awards of \$75,000 and \$250,000, respectively. MARBIDCO will support applicants with up to a maximum of 15% of the USDA matching funds requirement. The MARBIDCO deadline is **February 20, 2020**. Learn more [online](#).

Farm Bill Workshops

This winter, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) is partnering with the University of Maryland Extension and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to host a series of one-day workshops geared towards educating Maryland producers on changes associated with the 2018 Farm Bill. You can register for any of the workshops by going [here](#).

The 2018 Farm Bill has been called evolutionary and not revolutionary as the 2014 Farm Bill was. The new Farm Bill continues basic choices of the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) (county and individual levels) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program with modifications. The workshops will highlight the changes to these programs and other FSA programs. Participants will also be given the opportunity to understand how to use the decision tools to select between the ARC and PLC programs.

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

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

Seven winter workshops will be hosted around Maryland in February to prepare producers before the March 15, 2020 deadline. "Although many eligible producers may think they understand how the programs operate, its important to remember Congress did make changes to the programs," said Paul Goeringer, Extension Legal Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of

3 Maryland. "These workshops allow growers the opportunity to ask questions to specialists from USDA and the University of Maryland."

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

- **Northern Maryland** – Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Baltimore County Extension Office 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030
- Southern Maryland – Wednesday, February 19,

2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Charles County Extension Office, 9501 Crain Highway, Box 1 Bel Alton, MD 20611.

- Central Maryland - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702
- Upper Shore – Thursday, February 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Calvert Grange Hall, 2357 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911.

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

Applications For Industrial Hemp

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program is now accepting applications for the 2020 growing season. In its second year, the program allows eligible farmers to partner with institutions of higher education or the department to grow industrial hemp for research purposes.

"Industrial hemp is another opportunity for Maryland farmers to diversify their operations and one more way that we can ensure rural Maryland is open for business," said Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder. "In its inaugural year, our industrial hemp program received a lot of participation from Maryland farmers and we are excited to see this program grow in 2020."

Farmers interested in growing industrial hemp must partner with an institution of higher education or the Maryland Department of Agriculture to develop a research project and a plan for the use and/or destruction of the crop. Program participants will be allowed to sell their crop for profit at the end of the growing season. Maryland currently does not limit acres or number of applications for this pilot program.

In its first year, the program registered 69 sites for projects partnering with eight different institutions of higher education. In total, 1,500 acres and more than one-million square feet of greenhouse space were registered to grow hemp in 2019.

Industrial hemp and marijuana are different varieties of the same species of plant, *Cannabis sativa*. Marijuana is cultivated because of its production of the psychoactive plant chemical delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. Industrial hemp is cultivated for fiber, seed, oil, and other purposes, and federal and state law requires that the concentration of THC must be less than 0.3% in industrial hemp.

Program applications are available for download on the department's website. Applicants will also be required to apply for an FBI criminal background check.

For more information, visit the program's website or contact Turf and Seed Program Manager Jim Drews at (410) 841-5960 or jim.drews@maryland.gov.

Harford County Agronomy Meeting

February 11

9–3:00 p.m.

Deer Creek Overlook

Don't forget to sign up! The Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting will be held on February 11, 2020 at the Deer Creek Overlook on 6 Cherry Hill Rd. in Street, MD. The meeting will satisfy the credit requirements for private applicator pesticide re-certification and nutrient management voucher training. New for 2020 will also include select Pennsylvania pesticide credits. Check-in begins at 9:00 and the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. This year's topics include: herbicide update; ag law update: Roundup litigation; insecticide seed treatments on corn; conservation leasing and hemp research updates. Participants will also have an opportunity to meet with local agribusiness vendors and sponsors. Registration is **\$12 prior to February 4 and \$20 thereafter** and at the door. Registration includes lunch. Please call the Harford County Extension Office at (410) 638-3255 or e-mail Andy at akness@umd.edu to register. Checks can be made out to "HC EAC" and mailed to: 3525 Conowingo Rd., Suite 600, Street, MD 21154.

Agronomy

Spotted Lanternfly Training & Permits

The Maryland Department of Agriculture and other neighboring states have issued quarantines for counties where the presence of the Spotted Lanternfly has been confirmed. Businesses operating in the quarantine zone must have permits to move equipment and goods within and out of the zone. Go to [Maryland's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Fact Sheet](#) to see if you are operating within the quarantine zone. Harford and Cecil counties are included in the quarantine.

Penn State Extension and the Maryland Department of Agriculture have developed this self-paced online course to train designated employees how to comply with the quarantine. Through short educational videos and handouts, this course will teach the designated employees what they need to know about the spotted lanternfly: its lifecycle and how to identify each life stage; what it eats; and where lays its eggs. They will also learn how to find and destroy spotted lanternflies and their egg masses, and best practices for working in the quarantine zone.

There are three sections in the course. Each section has a quiz at the end. Students will need to

achieve a score greater than 70% on the quizzes in order to pass this course. The designated employee must train fellow employees to work in the quarantine zone without inadvertently spreading these insects and endangering agriculture and commerce. Downloadable training materials in English and Spanish are available in the course; they include PowerPoint presentations and fact sheets.

Once a designated employee passes this course, he or she will receive one (1) spotted lanternfly permit. It is then the designated employee's/business's responsibility to make the needed copies of the permit for company vehicles.

To take the free online course, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/slf-permit-training-md>.

If you have questions about the permitting process, contact Maryland Department of Agriculture Plant Protection and Weed Management Program at (410) 841-5920 or email dontbug.md@maryland.gov.



Private Applicator Pesticide Training

Training for private pesticide applicators will be given through the Harford County Extension Office on March 11 & 18th. Optional training class for **new applicators** will be from 9-11 a.m. on **March 11**, with **exam on March 18**, 9-11 a.m. Cost for the new certification class will be \$20, which includes your own copy of the Maryland Pesticide Core Manual to use as a study guide for the exam.

Recertification training will be offered on **March 18 from 1-3 p.m.** Credits will satisfy Maryland

continuing education credits (CEUs) necessary to renew your private applicator license. There is no cost for this class, but please register ahead of time. Recertification credits are also available at the Mid-Winter Meeting on February 11.

Call the Extension Office (410-638-3255) or e-mail Andy to register (akness@umd.edu).

March 11 & 18

*Harford County
Extension Office*

Dicamba Training

When: March 4, 2020 10:00am-11:00 am.

Registration begins at 9:30 am

Where: Baltimore County Extension Office

1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030

Cost: Free, please register ahead of time. Register by calling (410) 887-8090.

For Commercial & Private applicators

Any certified applicators that plan to buy and/or apply Engenia™, FeXapan™, or XTendiMax® herbicides on over-the-top soybean systems in 2020, is required to attend a yearly training.



Small Flock Workshop

February 29

9—2:00 p.m.

Carroll County
Extension Office

Westminster, MD 21157.

Proposed Seminar Topics Include:

- Breed Characteristics Feeds and Feeding
- Showing Egg Grading and Handling
- Basic Production (meat and eggs)
- Health and Care

Join us for seminars on small flock care, visit with vendors, and talk to our experts! Hosted at the Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agricultural Dr.,

- Biosecurity Poultry Harvesting
- Marketing and Regulations for Selling
- Predator Control And and 'Ask the Experts' panel for your questions

No minimum age requirements. Registration is \$5; free for anyone under 18 or anyone who is an active 4-H or FFA member. Membership proof to 4-H and FFA will be required for free admittance.

For more information and to register, contact: Maegan Perdue, mperdue@umd.edu, (410) 632-1972.

Infectious Coryza Information

The following is a press release from Delaware Department of Agriculture intended for commercial poultry growers; however, backyard flocks and smaller growers should be aware of infectious Coryza

Infectious Coryza is a poultry disease caused by the bacteria *Avibacterium paragallinarum*. This disease does not affect humans. The disease, commonly known as “Coryza” (pronounced core-eye-za) was first detected on the Delmarva Peninsula in backyard flocks during the Summer of 2019, and in commercial layers in Fall of 2019, and one broiler farm in January 2020 – but it is not a new disease. Coryza is currently found in poultry in several regions of the United States and has been around for many years. Because the disease is new to Delmarva, it is important for poultry growers to understand the basics on how the disease is spread, how to prevent getting the disease in your flock, and how to identify it in your poultry.

What are signs of Coryza in poultry? Clinical signs in broilers are variable but may include the following: respiratory disease with or without swollen heads, high mortality in the absence of clear respiratory disease, marked decrease in feed and/or water consumption, nasal discharge, eye inflammation. Older birds in layer flocks or non-commercial flocks may see any of the following: facial swelling or “Swollen heads”, Conjunctivitis (eye redness), discharge from the eyes and nasal openings, sneezing and coughing, decreased feed intake and egg production.

How is Coryza spread? The disease spreads when healthy birds come in contact with bodily fluids from sick birds. The bacteria that causes Coryza is shed in both manure and respiratory secretions. The bacteria can travel from farm to farm in litter or manure,

farming materials or equipment, vehicles, and people who have picked up the bacteria on their clothing, shoes, or hands. Work crews and other visitors who do not change clothing between poultry farms are known to spread Coryza from infected farms to clean farms. Carcasses of dead poultry that are not properly composted can spread Coryza if infected carcasses are carried from farm to farm by animals such as raccoons, foxes, or feral cats.

Protect your birds by taking a few simple steps. These include: restricting traffic to essential visits. Be sure that all visitors follow biosecurity rules, especially those requirements for entry into the poultry house, e.g. proper foot-pan usage or personal protective equipment (PPE). Avoid visits to other poultry farms. If you must visit another poultry farm, be sure to change clothes and clean your hands and shoes before returning to your own farm. Dedicated farm clothing and boots: make sure you have a dedicated pair of farm boots and coveralls that are worn on your farm and which are not worn off the farm. Litter: do not allow manure from layer facilities to be spread in the vicinity of your poultry houses. Shared equipment: do not share equipment with other growers. For more information and videos on biosecurity visit the University of Maryland Extension website: <https://extension.umd.edu/poultry>

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to anyone on our poultry team:

Dr. Jon Moyle: jmoyle@umd.edu; Dr. Nat Tablante: nlt@umd.edu; Jenny Rhodes: jrhodes@umd.edu; Dr. Shawna Weimer: slweimer@umd.edu; Dr. Mostafa Ghanem: mghanem@umd.edu.

Nutrient Management Voucher Training

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The Harford County Extension Office will offer one final nutrient management voucher training before the start of the 2020 field season on **February 20** at the Extension Office located at 3525 Conowingo Rd., Street, MD 21154 from **9-11 a.m.** This program will satisfy the requirements for renewing your nutrient management voucher. Individuals needing a new voucher may also attend. There is no cost associated with this class, but please call the Extension Office at (410) 638-3255 to register.

February 20

9—11 a.m.

*Harford County
Extension Office*

AIR Form Help Day

As seen on the cover page of this month's issue, the MDA has made changes to the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) forms. We have had several inquiries from producers asking for clarification regarding the information required to be reported in the forms. We will be setting up an AIR help session at the Harford County Extension Office on February 24 from 10—2 p.m. Arrive anytime during the 4-hour block and we will help

answer any questions you may have. Bring your Nutrient Management Plan, AIR form, and any relevant records to complete the form. No registration required.

Alternatively, you may bring your plans and forms with you to the Voucher Training on February 20 for AIR assistance.

February 24

10—2 p.m.

*Harford County
Extension Office*

MDA Moves Forward with the PMT

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

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced new funding and initiatives for farmers as it moves forward with the implementation of the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT). A proposed one-year delay in implementation was voted down by the PMT Advisory Committee with support from representatives of the agriculture industry and environmental groups.

A study conducted by BEACON at Salisbury University suggested the affected industries may lack the resources needed to move forward with PMT as planned. In response to those concerns, the department today announced a new set of initiatives that will help bring industries up to speed. The plan includes:

- Improvements to the Manure Transport Program including shorter, more flexible applications and claim forms. The program has set up a new manure hotline (410-841-5864) for farmers interested in moving or receiving manure. Governor Hogan's budget also includes an additional \$1 million for the program from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.
- Partnering with Integrators to more accurately track the supply and demand for manure and connect farmers who need to move manure with farmers looking to apply manure.

- Working with the Maryland Environmental Services to identify facilities that can be used as temporary storage areas for manure until it is ready to be moved to a farm or alternative use facility.
- Potential Partnership with the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company to haul manure out of Maryland to farmers and growers who have expressed interest in using manure as fertilizer.
- Field Science Study to ensure that we are working with the best available science. MDA is working with the University of Maryland on a five-year study on the field science of PMT.
- Continuing to Identify New Alternative Uses for litter through MDA's Animal Waste Technology Grant program and industry partnerships.
- Finding New Ways to Reduce Phosphorus Levels including a research project with University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science analyzing the use of aragonite on fields.
- Outreach to Farmers encouraging the use of manure as a fertilizer, and publicizing the new and improved Manure Transport Program.

More details on this plan are available on the department's [website](#). For more information on the Manure Transport Program, please visit: mda.maryland.gov/manure.



FARMING FORWARD

FOOD, FARMERS, & COMMUNITY

A SYMPOSIUM
FOR THE PUBLIC
AND FARMERS

Saturday, March 7, 2020

8:30 AM–2 PM

North Harford High School

211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, Maryland 21132

Tickets: \$10 (includes breakfast and lunch buffets)

Snow Date: March 14

TICKETS.HARFORD.EDU

Join us to explore the future of agriculture and local food consumerism in Harford County. Learn about new ideas for healthy cooking for your family, be amazed by the innovations that our farmers are practicing to conserve our local ecology, and enjoy a tour of North Harford High School's Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences farm and research facility.

The program will include a **keynote address** by Joe Ligo, Series Producer, *Maryland Farm and Harvest*, Maryland Public Television; **four breakout sessions**; and **breakfast and lunch by Laurrapin Caters**, featuring local agricultural products.

HOSTED BY:

Harford Farmers and
Community Partnership



CO-SPONSORED BY:



For more information, contact Sharon Stowers at [sstowers@Harford.edu](mailto:ssowers@Harford.edu) or 443-412-2059 or visit www.harford.edu/gather.



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Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

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Natural Resources



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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 11 Feb.** [Harford County Agronomy Meeting](#). 9-3 p.m. Deer Creek Overlook, Street. \$12 before Feb 4. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 13 Feb.** [Women In Ag Conference](#). Dover Downs, Dover, DE. Register [online](#) or call Shannon Dill (410) 822-1244.
- 18 Feb.** [Farm Bill Workshop](#). 9-3 p.m. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. \$15. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-3541.
- 19 Feb-Mar 25.** [Annie's Project](#). 5:30-8:30 p.m. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. \$75. Register [online](#) or call Erika Crowl (410) 887-8090.
- 20 Feb.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 9-11 a.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.
- 22 Feb.** Organic Food & Farming Winter Workshop. 8-5 p.m. Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis. \$5 for members, \$20 for non-members. Register [online](#) or at the door.
- 24 Feb.** AIR Workshop. 10-2 p.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. See page 6 for details.
- 29 Feb.** Small Flock Workshop. 9-2 p.m. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster. \$5. Register by calling (410) 632-1972.
- 1 Mar.** Annual Implementation Reports due to MDA.
- 11 Mar.** Pesticide Training for New Applicators. 9-11 a.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. \$20 for Core Manual. Test will be at the Extension Office on **March 18, 9-11 a.m.** Call (410) 638-3255 to register.
- 18 Mar.** Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification Training. 1-3 p.m. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.

February 2020