

For Immediate

Release Date: 1/25/2024

Farm O Gram

Winchester, VA ~ Feeder Cattle (\$/100wt.) (As of 01/15/2024)

Steers:

300 – 400	\$152.00 - \$267.00
400 - 500	\$258.00 - \$268.00
500 - 600	\$152.00 - \$245.00
600 - 700	\$185.00 - \$253.00
700 - 800	\$147.00 - \$226.00
800 - 900	\$206.00 - \$209.00

Heifers:

300 - 400	\$127.00 - \$187.00
400 - 500	\$132.00 - \$199.00
500 - 600	\$140.00 - \$210.00
600 – 700	\$142.00 - \$180.00
700 - 800	\$125.00 - \$154.00
800 - 900	\$112.00 - \$137.00

Slaughter Cows:

Breaker	\$ 78.00 - \$ 96.00
Boner	\$ 79.00 - \$ 94.00
Lean	\$ 62.00 - \$ 86.00

Maryland Grain Bids Prices per Bushel (As of 01/16/2024)

#2 Shelled Corn	\$4.53 - \$4.98
#1 Soybeans	\$11.57 - \$11.87
#1 Wheat	\$5.42 - \$5.82

Wolgemuth Hay Auction ~ New Holland Hay and Straw Prices per Ton (As of 01/15/2024)

Alfalfa	\$220.00 - \$395.00
Mixed Hay	\$ 60.00 - \$395.00
Wheat Straw	\$120.00 - \$150.00

AG Happenings

Winter Ban on Spreading Manure

The Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds farmers that the winter ban on spreading manure and other nutrient sources on cropland, including food-processing residuals (FPRs) began December 16, 2023. Farmers may resume spreading on March 1, 2024, based on their nutrient management plan recommendations, as long as fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen.

Maryland's nutrient management regulations prohibit farmers from spreading manure and other nutrient sources on fields in winter due to the increased risk of runoff into local waterways. Farmers are required to store liquid manure sources generated on farms in structures. The department is authorized to work with livestock farmers to prevent overflows from storage structures and minimize impacts on water quality. In these instances, farmers must contact the Nutrient Management Program for emergency authorization before spreading occurs.

Temporary field stockpiling of "stackable" poultry litter and other qualifying organic nutrient sources is allowed if the moisture content is 60% or less. Farmers may not apply stackable organic nutrient sources to fields in winter under any conditions.

Farmers should contact their regional nutrient management specialist if they have storage concerns, questions about the regulations, or need guidance on storage requirements. For more information, please visit the department's Nutrient Management Program

MDA Offers New Services for Farm Succession Planning

The Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Services (ACReS) program has added farm succession planning to its scope of services at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The University of Maryland Extension also offers similar resources and farmers and watermen are encouraged to seek out either program. Program Director, Dr. Kay-Megan Washington, a recently certified Farm Succession Coordinator by the International Farm Transition Network, is available to provide planned transfer of money, management, and assets in a manner which allows the farm business to continue under a new primary operator. In transitioning a farm business, often the business is owned and/or operated within a family. Due to this overlap between family and business, there may be issues, which arise regarding communication, assumptions and expectations, compensation, management and control, debt acquisition, documentation and recordkeeping.

ACReS offers mediation services to all farmers and watermen. It is important to start mediation as soon as an issue arises – the sooner the service is utilized, the better chance of a positive outcome. The service is completely confidential and is low to no cost. Mediation is a great alternative to lawyers and lawsuits and can move faster than a lawsuit.

For more information on services offered, please visit: <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/acrs.aspx>. You can also contact the Program Coordinator directly, Kay-Megan Washington, at kay-megan.washington1@maryland.gov.

New Private Applicator License Training and Testing

A training session is scheduled for February 5th from 6-9pm at the Extension Office for anyone who would like to take the Maryland private applicator exam. The training session is free. Materials are available in print (for a fee) and online. The training session will cover the important topics for the test. A test will be scheduled later in the spring in Garrett County. New this year, MDA has an online testing option. For more information or questions, contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

Agronomy Meeting-SAVE THE DATE

University of Maryland is collaborating with Freedom Ag and Energy in Oakland to hold an Agronomy Meeting March 7th at the Pleasant Valley Community Building. More info will be coming. If you have questions or to register, contact Freedom Ag and Energy at 301-334-3121 or the Extension Office at 301-334-6960. Pesticide Recertification and Nutrient Management Credits will be offered for WV and MD.