

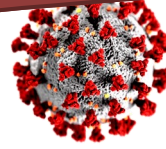
Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

April 2020

The Extension Office is closed to the public until at least April 10 due to COVID-19.



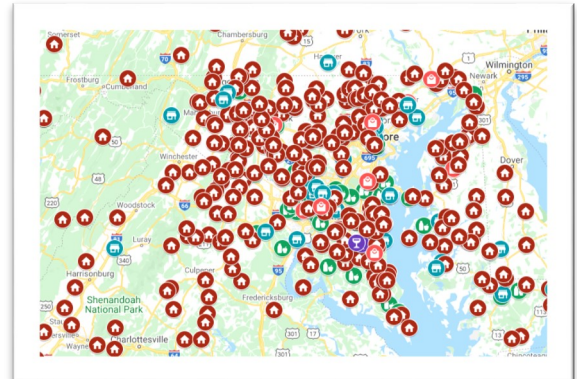
Hello, Harford County!

I hope you are all staying safe during these times! COVID-19 has certainly thrown us all quite a curveball, including us at the University of Maryland and in the local Extension offices. In order to limit the spread of the virus, the University has instructed all faculty and staff to telework until **at least April 10**; this includes us at the Extension office. Also, all in-person classes and programs are canceled until at least April 10. The University will reassess the situation as we approach April, so stay tuned in for updates.

In the meantime, I will be teleworking. I am still available for on-farm and field consultations. The best way to reach me is via email (akness@umd.edu) and those of you that have my cell, feel free to call me. You may also call my office number and leave a voicemail, as I will check it daily.

For those of you that may be direct marketing farm products to consumers, this may be an opportunity to capitalize on an influx of consumers interested in purchasing local products during the pandemic.

Future Harvest and the Maryland Farmers Market Association have announced a new online map to help people find fresh, local foods in the Chesapeake Bay region during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are already 500+ entries on the map. The organizations invite more farmers, markets, and producers to participate.



You can view the [map here](#) (screenshot above). By clicking on the document link in the top left-hand corner, users can find the form to submit an entry and to read the safety protocols. In case people have a hard time finding the docs, they can access the submission form [here](#) to get on the map.

Additional resources for consumers to find farms include [Maryland's Best](#) website and the [Harford Farm Finder app](#).

Inside this issue are also additional resources and information as it relates to COVID-19 and agriculture. I would also like to point out that you may have difficulty finding PPE for pesticide application (masks, gloves, etc.) due to the pandemic; so you may want to start sourcing these items sooner rather than later so that you can try to get your hands on them before you need them. Stay safe and stay away from each other.

Until next time,
-Andy



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:

COVID-19 Updates and
Business Resources 2-3

Syngenta Settlement
Payments 3

Sensitive Crop Locator 4

Chlorpyrifos Regulations 4

2020 US Census 4

Maryland Manure
Transport Program 5

Preparing Your Farm For
The Impacts of COVID-19 6

Ag Plastic Recycling 7

MDA [press release](#)

As the State of Maryland continues its unprecedented response to COVID-19, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is emphasizing the need for businesses involved in the state's food supply chain to continue production.

Reliable access to food is a human right and it is critical that our food supply chain maintain—and even be prepared to expand—operations throughout this state of emergency. Any business involved in food distribution, production, processing, sales and supply will be considered essential, including, but not limited to:

- Agricultural equipment sales and service
- Agricultural supply businesses
- Animal feed supply and distribution
- Farms
- Farmers markets and food banks
- Feed mills
- Food and meat processors and manufacturers, including bakeries, etc.
- Food safety laboratories and inspectors
- Greenhouses and nurseries
- Grocery delivery services
- Pet food manufacturers and distributors
- Retailers, including grocery stores
- Seafood industry (crabbers, watermen, processors, etc.)
- Transportation, distribution and suppliers
- Veterinary services and supplies

As essential businesses, the department is asking you to remain open and operational—normally and safely—until or unless directed otherwise. Develop procedures for safe operation of your facility or farm and post those procedures for the benefit of your employees and the broader public. To clarify, the governor's current order to suspend operations applies only to bars, dine-in restaurants and other non-essential retail locations. All other businesses, especially food-related businesses, are encouraged to continue operating within the parameters and protocols (large gatherings, social distancing, etc.) recommended by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Maryland Department of Health](#).

We understand that there are a number of challenges facing businesses right now. Please keep the Maryland Department of Agriculture informed of any regulatory/statutory challenge or hurdle that may impede production, processing or sales so we can address it accordingly and promptly.

On behalf of the Hogan-Rutherford administration, we appreciate your support and patience as we continue to navigate this constantly-evolving situation with as few disruptions to food production and processing. Thank you for all that you do to ensure Marylanders continue to have access to a safe, reliable food source.

Businesses are encouraged to visit businessexpress.maryland.gov for more information. This portal is updated multiple times each day and is the best source for any questions related to business operations. Any other questions can be sent to secretary.commerce@maryland.gov.

COVID-19 Small Business Survival Guide

The Small Business Development Center has created COVID-19 Small Business Survival Guide. This guide provides current information related to small business best practices during this disaster, emergency funding, state programs, and updates on regulations. This guide is being updated as new information becomes available. Follow the link here: [Maryland SBDC COVID-19 Small Business Survival Guide](#).



Farmers Markets Remain Operational

MDA [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture considers farmers markets an [essential business](#) and an important source of food for many Marylanders. The department is asking that farmers markets remain open during the current state of emergency.

“Farmers markets play a critical role in providing fresh, nutritious and locally-produced food products to customers across the state—especially those Marylanders who live in food deserts and those who rely on SNAP benefits to access fresh produce,” said Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “It is important that we keep that supply line open while making sure we implement the same preventative measures used in grocery stores and other essential retail businesses.”

In response to the state’s efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, markets are urged to make necessary adjustments to promote social distancing; increase access to hand sanitizer/washing stations for staff, vendors and patrons; regularly sanitize any touch surfaces; and consider any operational changes that may reduce the opportunity for infection. More information on prevention is available from the [Maryland Department of Health](#) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

For more information on the state’s response to COVID-19, please visit governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus.

Where’s My Syngenta Settlement Payments?

*Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Legal Specialist
University of Maryland, College Park*

The article is not a substitute for legal advice. Reposted from the [Maryland Agriculture Risk Management Blog](#)

Several of you continue to ask me when you might see checks from the Syngenta corn seed settlement. In late 2018, the court approved the settlement order for the \$1.51 billion MIR162 Syngenta settlement. Based on the final order, payments to producers should have started going out in the second quarter of 2019, but this did not happen. On January 3, 2020, the federal district court in Kansas approved the final settlement. Growers have one last step: provide the claims administrator with an IRS W-9 form either online or by mailing a form into Corn Seed Settlement Program Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 26226, Richmond, Virginia 23260.

The settlement includes all U.S. corn farmers, including those who opted out of the original class-action suit and those who grew Agrisure Duracade corn and Agrisure Viptera corn varieties. The settlement also includes landlords who based rental rates on yield or price, such as a flex-lease based on yield or price or a crop-share lease. Fixed cash landlords are not eligible to participate. The period included in the settlement is September 15, 2013, through the 2018 crop year.

The settlement includes four classes:

- Class 1: Growers and eligible landlords who did not use Duricade or Viptera,
- Class 2: Growers and eligible landlords who did use

Duricade or Viptera,

- Class 3: Grain handlers, and
- Class 4: Ethanol producers.

Claims to three of the four classes will have limited recovery amounts:

- Class 1 will receive a minimum of \$1.44 billion, with the bulk of the settlement going to corn growers and eligible landlords who did not grow Duricade or Viptera corn seeds.
- Class 2 will be limited to \$22.6 million,
- Class 3 will be limited to \$29.9 million, and
- Class 4 will be limited to \$19.5 million.

As a part of the settlement order, the court set aside \$503,333,333.33 for attorneys’ fees.

Based on the recent information, producers should be receiving Notice of Determination forms showing the producer’s portion of the settlement. Expects checks to go out later in 2020. How much can you expect to receive in this settlement? That is still not clear and something I cannot accurately answer.

This latest move means this settlement process should be winding up. Many of the ongoing appeals appear to be resolving themselves with this settlement. If the situation changes, I will provide further information.

Reminder: Complete Your 2020 Census!

What is the Census? The first Census is required by the US Constitution and its purpose is to determine the number of people living in each state in order to appropriately determine how the 435 House of Representatives seats are allocated to each state.

What Should You Expect? Every household will be invited by mail to participate in the 2020

Census. Online submissions will be encouraged, but each household will have the option of responding online, mail, phone.

What's at Stake? Every household's participation in the 2020 Census is important. Census numbers are used to allocate Congressional seats and to determine how approximately \$675 billion in federal funds are allocated.

Each person not counted in the 2020 Census represents an annual loss of

\$1,825 needed to support the services of our community.

These dollars are used to support school, hospital, nursing home, and clinic construction; determine future transportation needs of local communities; forecast future housing needs, including affordable senior housing; design facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, and children; and to plan for future services.

Maryland Sensitive Crop Locator

*Erika Crowl, Agriculture Agent Associate
University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County*



Attention all beekeepers, specialty crop growers, and pesticide applicators!

In 2019, The Maryland Department of Agriculture partnered with the non-profit company FieldWatch™, Inc., to provide online registry tools to **promote good communication** between producers of pesticide-sensitive crops, beekeepers and pesticide applicators.

FieldWatch registry uses precision real-time mapping tools to help pesticide applicators know where beehives and specialty crops are located before spraying and to reduce incidences of off-target pesticide exposure. FieldWatch offers three *free* voluntary mapping tools called DriftWatch, BeeCheck, and FieldCheck for sensitive crops, beehives, and applicators, respectively.

This system is meant to create awareness among farmers and landowners and to improve stewardship in Maryland. To register, go to FieldWatch.com and choose the type of account you would like to create.

For more information about FieldWatch, read this helpful [resource](#) or call The Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Division at (410) 841-5710.

Department to Phase Out Chlorpyrifos

MDA [press release](#), abridged

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced that it will develop regulations to immediately phase out the regular use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide used in agricultural production and turf management. The department will engage agricultural leaders, environmental advocates and farmers to identify a solution that addresses all parties' interests while preserving the established regulatory authority for pesticide use.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets national standards for the sale and use of individual pesticide products. These decisions are determined by an exhaustive, science-based review process. MDA works closely with the EPA to enforce its regulations and provides educational support to ensure that these products are used responsibly and

safely by farmers and licensed applicators. This regulatory solution keeps that authority within the federal and state agencies responsible for pesticide regulation.

The move toward an accelerated phase-out of chlorpyrifos is in step with similar actions in other states and the private industry. Earlier this month, Corteva Agriscience, a major manufacturer of crop protection products, announced that it would cease production and sales of chlorpyrifos by the end of 2020. This decision follows use data in Maryland that shows a sharp decline in the use of chlorpyrifos since the 1990s.

For more information on pesticide regulation in Maryland, please visit the program's [website](#). More information on chlorpyrifos is available on the [EPA website](#).

Pest Update

Manure Transport: Haul Now, Apply Later

MDA [press release](#)

Maryland Department of Agriculture's Manure Transport Program helps cover the cost of transporting manure to farms with low phosphorus fields or to alternative use facilities. Payments of up to \$22.50/ton are available to eligible farmers and manure brokers.

NEW: Haul Now, Apply Later FastTrack Option to Transport Poultry Manure. Farmers who want to switch to poultry manure should check out the new and improved Haul Now, Apply Later Fast Track grants to move poultry manure. With our new and improved FastTrack grants, farmers can *haul poultry manure now, and apply for cost-share reimbursement later*. Download an application and claim form from: mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/manure_management.aspx.

Standard Option to Transport Poultry Litter

Our standard transport grants to move poultry manure are still available to eligible farmers.

- Farmers apply through the local soil conservation district
- Registered manure brokers apply directly to the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- The applicant submits a current nutrient management plan that contains: —Nitrogen-based nutrient recommendations for fields with a soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value that is 100 or less— Phosphorus-based nutrient recommendations for fields with a soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value between 101 and 150.
- Receiving farm fields with a phosphorus Fertility Index Value that is greater than 150 are not eligible to participate in this program.

Requirements for Poultry Litter Transport

Farmers may apply for grants to move poultry litter using either a standard application or the Haul Now,

Our Nutrient Management Advisor, Patricia Hoopes, is still writing plans for farmers. Plans will be written and delivered electronically until we get clearance to re-open the Extension offices. You can reach Tricia via email at phoopes@umd.edu, or leave her a voice mail at (410) 638-3255.

Apply Later FastTrack option. In both instances, the following rules apply:

- Qualifying farmers receive up to \$22.50 per ton to transport poultry litter
- The sending farm must be located in Maryland and raise broiler chickens for one of the participating Delmarva poultry companies
- Poultry litter must be transported more than 7 miles from the sending farm
- Transported poultry litter must be land applied as a nutrient source for an agricultural crop, OR sent to an approved alternative use facility

Grants to Transport Dairy and Livestock Manure

A simplified application process is now in place for dairy and other non-poultry livestock producers who need to move manure:

- Cost-share grants pay up to 87.5 percent of all eligible costs
- Payment rates are based on the transport distance and type of manure, either liquid or solid
- Receiving farm fields are required to have a Maryland soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value below 101
- Manure must be transported more than 1 mile from the sending source
- Only operations receiving the manure may apply for transport grants
- Manure must be applied to crops or hay fields containing less than 25 percent legumes
- Grants to transport dairy and livestock manure are based on the following maximum application rates: 6,000 gallons per acre for liquid/slurry manure or 10 tons per acre for solid/semi-solid manure



*Sarah Potts, Dairy & Beef Specialist and Jeff Semler, Principal Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension*

What is COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (official name: SARS-CoV-2) that was identified in 2019. This virus is responsible for the respiratory disease outbreak that began in Wuhan, China in late 2019 and quickly circulated around the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

How is COVID-19 transmitted and who is at risk?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is transmitted through close contact with infected individuals. Anyone can contract the disease, but symptom severity can vary among individuals. Those who are over age 60, have an underlying medical condition (i.e., diabetes, heart disease, lung disease) or are immunocompromised, are at greatest risk for developing severe symptoms related to the disease. While the mortality rate is low (~1.5%), a significant portion of those infected do require advanced medical care. If resources limit the number of people who are able to receive advanced care, mortality rate will likely increase.

Should I be worried about COVID-19 infecting my animals?

Although there is a coronavirus strain that does affect cattle (Bovine coronavirus), there is no indication that the SARS-CoV-2 virus affects cattle. The Bovine coronavirus attacks the respiratory system and the lower gastrointestinal tract of cattle and generally causes diarrhea in calves and respiratory distress in adult cattle. Unlike the virus that causes COVID-19, there is a vaccine that producers can administer to their cattle to prevent Bovine coronavirus.

What steps can I take to protect my farm from impacts of COVID-19?

All farms will likely be impacted by COVID-19 in some capacity. It is important for producers to develop a plan and be prepared for COVID-19-related issues should certain scenarios become reality.

What should producers prepare for?

1. **Variable Milk and Livestock Prices:** The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the U.S. and world economy and long-term effects are not yet known. These events have already begun affecting milk and livestock

prices and the extent and duration of these impacts likely will not be seen for many months. Although the outlook for milk prices was fairly positive at the beginning of 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly squelched optimism. There are many unknowns contributing to the uncertainty of financial effects of COVID-19 on dairy and livestock producers. Some of that uncertainty stems from actions that indirectly affect the demand for animal products, including “stay-at-home” orders, mass cancellations of gatherings, school closures, and the discontinuation of dine-in service at restaurants. The extent of the effect that COVID-19 will have on U.S. agricultural exports is also largely unknown at this time. During times of such economic uncertainty, producers should develop a plan to cope with the possibility of sustained low prices and reduced income.

2. **Potential Supply-chain Disruptions:** This, perhaps, is the area that is of immediate concern for many dairy and livestock producers. While agriculture and its supporting industries have been deemed “essential” by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, there is no guarantee that all potential disruptions will be completely avoided. At some point, the outbreak of COVID-19 may cause (or, in some cases, has already caused) disruption in one or more of the following areas: milk pick-up schedules, livestock auctions/sales, feed deliveries, veterinary services, and supply deliveries. In addition to disruptions in supply delivery schedules, supply availability may also come into play given that many day-to-day supplies are not manufactured domestically. While these disruptions are out of their control, producers should communicate with necessary suppliers and prepare for the possibility for each of these scenarios. If a scheduled milk pick-up is delayed, producers should be prepared to dump milk. Producers should ensure that they have a few extra days’ worth of supplies or feed on hand in case deliveries are delayed. Planning ahead and placing orders earlier, if possible, can help ease anxiety and fears of such occurrences.

What should producers do right now?

1. **Encourage regular hand washing:** Producers should ensure ample access to soap and water at hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer in areas

7 such as bathrooms, break rooms, and milking parlors. Producers should also remind workers of proper hand-washing protocol. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of 60% or more can be used. Handwashing should take place regularly, especially after sneezing, using the restroom, visiting a public area, and before eating.

2. **Limit close contact with others:** Producers should postpone any non-essential face-to-face meetings until a later date. The CDC recommends individuals avoid close contact with others (i.e., social distancing) whenever possible.
3. **Clean high-touch surfaces regularly:** Producers and workers should practice regular disinfection of common, high-touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, bathrooms, computers, phones, light switches, etc. Bleach-based, alcohol-based (>70%), or general household disinfecting solutions should be effective in sanitizing surfaces. The virus that causes COVID-19 can survive on surfaces for hours or even days after contamination.
4. **Have a plan if you or a significant portion of the workforce becomes ill:** Producers should devise a plan that includes a contingency for labor and a list of daily essential chores in case they or a significant portion of their workforce becomes ill. Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, producers should prepare for the possibility that a portion of the farm workforce could become ill. Producers and workers should not to come to

work if they are experiencing a fever, cough, or respiratory distress to prevent further spread of the virus.

5. **Minimize trips to public places:** This recommendation goes along with number 2. When public outings are unavoidable, such as a trip to the grocery or hardware store, care should be taken to avoid contact with high-touch surfaces as much as possible. Following an outing, producers and workers should be diligent about washing or sanitizing hands afterward. *Quick tip:* keep a bottle of hand sanitizer in the truck and get into the habit of using it each time you get in.
6. **Practice self-care:** Many producers are so busy taking care of their animals that they neglect to take care of themselves. Practices such as eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water, managing stress, and getting plenty of rest all promote good health and wellbeing. Although it is difficult for many producers to fit all of these practices into their busy schedules, maintaining these healthy habits will help support immune function and build strength should they be confronted with an illness such as COVID-19.

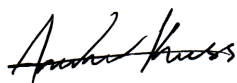
Where can I find more information about?

The CDC has a website dedicated to providing daily updates regarding the spread of COVID-19. The CDC also has several fact sheets available that explain in further detail how COVID-19 is spread, who is at higher risk, and how individuals can help minimize exposure and transmission. Visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html) for more information.

2020 Ag Plastic Recycling

The Scarborough Landfill at 3241 Scarborough Rd, Street, MD 21154 will begin accepting agriculture plastic recycling materials by **appointment only** beginning March 23. To schedule an appointment and for more details, contact Wendy Doring, wdoring@menv.com or (410) 638-3417.





Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Natural Resources



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


akness@umd.edu

[Extension.umd.edu/Harford-county](https://extension.umd.edu/Harford-county)



Back-issues of this publication can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/657>

Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

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Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 6-10 Apr.** Equine Groom Series. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Garrison Forest School, Owings Mills. \$15. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090. **POSTPONED.**
- 8 Apr.** [Women in Ag Webinar: Estate Planning Mistakes & Solutions.](#) 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).
- 22 Apr.** Women in Ag Webinar: [Health Care in Your Senior Years.](#) 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).
- 31 Mar-12 May.** [Sustainable Food Systems Online Lecture Series:](#) Managing Stress on the Farm (3/31); Military Veteran Farmers (5/5); Turning Research into Action: Combating Food Insecurity at UMD (5/12). 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Register [online](#).

Check out these additional online resources from
University of Maryland Extension

	Maryland Grain		Ag Law Initiative
	Agronomy News Blog		Women in Ag
	Nutrient Management		Plant Diagnostic Lab



April 2020