

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

July 2023



The Extension office will be closed on July 4 for Independence 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 know many of us have been relieved to finally see some rain! June brought us much-needed moisture; about 7 inches worth of it, which is about 3 inches more than average for the month but we are still in an approximate 6-inch precipitation deficit. However, the recent rains were timely, as crops were beginning to show some serious signs of drought stress. Corn will be unusually short this year from the lack of early moisture and the constant cloud cover coupled with several weeks of low sunlight intensity due to the smoke blanketing the region from the Canada wild fires. Hopefully yields won't be diminished too much.

Soybeans are a bit of a wildcard and can compensate for adverse conditions, so we will have to see what they do in August and September.

I wanted to point out on page 3 of this newsletter, information regarding tar spot of corn. With the cloudy, rainy days we have had lately, coupled with the unseasonably cool temperatures, tar spot risk in corn is high. If you find any tar spot in your fields, please let me know.

Also, on page 4, is an update on the nutrient management program; I would like to encourage you to attend the summit that MDA is hosting regarding the nutrient management program on July 17 at the Anne Arundel Community College.

Finally, I also encourage you to voice any concerns to your local, state, and federal representatives regarding this sudden change to the nutrient management program if this is something that impacts your operation.



**36th Annual
Harford County Farm Fair
Going "Back to Our Roots"**
July 22-29, 2023

On-Site Parking and
Admission by the Carload

EVERY DAY!

4-H Livestock Shows & Contests
Indoor Exhibits & Demonstrations
Agricultural & Environmental Resource Barn

Horses and Horsepower (Tractor Pulls)

Music on the Showmobile Stage

Various Contests & Competitions for All Ages
Kidway Activities, Wildlife Adventures & More
Local Food Vendors and Beer & Wine Vendors

See the Schedule of Events at www.farmfair.org
(Daily Hours Vary Depending on Show Times & Events)

On a different note, July kicks off the fair season for us in Harford County. The Mason-Dixon Fair runs from July 10-15 and the Harford County Farm Fair runs from July 22-29. I hope to see some of you at the fair this year! Have a great Independence Day!

Until next time,
-Andy



Horticultural Twilight Tour

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The Western Maryland Research & Education Center (WMREC) Horticultural Twilight has returned! This event will be on August 10th, 2023 from 5 p.m.- 8 p.m. at WMREC, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756.

There is no fee to attend this event.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the UME-Carroll Extension Office at least 2 weeks prior to event at (410) 386-2760.

Topics will include:

- NC-140 Update
- Orchard Disease Management Update
- Small Fruit Disease Management Update
- BT sweet corn Update
- Drone use in the Orchard
- Blackberry Variety Trial
- Preview of the New Maryland Hop

August 10

5—8:00 PM

Western MD Research & Education Center

Hop Yard Field Day for Craft Breweries

The University of Maryland and Brewers Association of Maryland field day will offer a hands-on look at the University's hops trial. Come see, 'Monocacy,' a hop that is new to us but not to Maryland. We've sent samples to USDA in Corvallis, Oregon and it has been found to be a truly unique hop unlike any domesticated hops cultivar.

'Monocacy' has been growing "wild" in Central Maryland for many years but is now on display at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center where it is being propagated and grown and will be harvested and processed for use in beer this fall.

Come see it for yourself and hear about the story and the plan to research and develop a real Maryland hop. There will also be a wagon ride out to the hop yard and to the processing areas. There will be beer samples from Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm, the brewery partner for this project.

Location: 18330 Keedysville Rd., Keedysville, MD 21756.

Cost: \$10 for general public, Brewers Association of Maryland Members are free.

Register [here](#) or call Janna at (410) 252-9463.

August 3

10—12:00 PM

Western MD Research & Education Center

Spotted Lanternfly Tracking Survey

The Penn State Extension Grape and Wine Team is calling on those who own, operate, or manage a farm, vineyard, or winery in the Mid-Atlantic region to participate in a survey that aims to track the spread and severity of nymph and adult spotted lanternfly populations during the 2023 season. The survey link is <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/89db89977fbb4404b9bc360898acf890>.

You can learn more about this spotted lanternfly tracking survey and take the [survey here](#).

Results will be automatically displayed on the [SLF Map 2023](#) of the Eastern U.S. You can read more details on the [updates here](#).

Our sincere thanks for your help with tracking the spotted lanternfly!

Take the survey here

August Pasture Walk

August 9

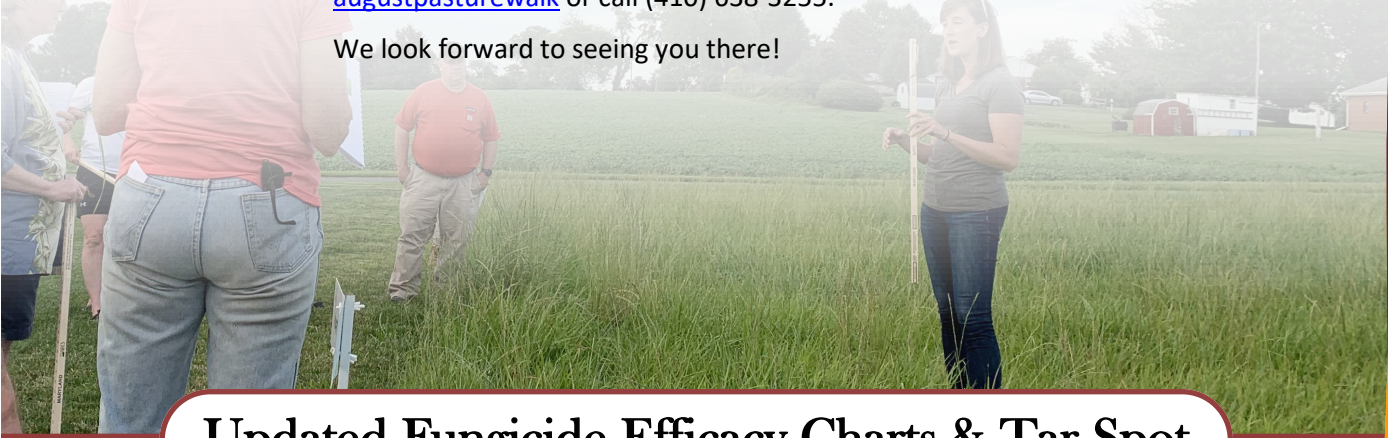
5:30—8:00 PM

Berkley Farms LLC
3610 Berkley Rd.
Darlington, MD

Join us for a pasture walk at Berkley Farms in Darlington on August 9 starting at 5:30 p.m. Livestock owners of all types that utilize pasture are encouraged to attend. We will discuss fall pasture management, fertility, stand evaluation, and pasture seeding/renovation. This will be an informal program, so bring your questions!

The program is free, but please register ahead of time via this link <https://go.umd.edu/augustpasturewalk> or call (410) 638-3255.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Updated Fungicide Efficacy Charts & Tar Spot

Andrew Kness, Senior Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension

Each year, Extension faculty from across the US and Canada compile fungicide efficacy charts for foliar diseases of corn and soybean. These charts list the major foliar diseases of corn and soybean and the relative effectiveness of foliar fungicides for managing those diseases. Ratings are based on the latest data from field trials across the US and Canada. Use the charts to aid your selection of an effective fungicide program for your crop. [Corn](#) and [soybean](#) charts can be accessed online from the [Crop Protection Network](#), or contact me for a hard copy.

Scout for Tar Spot in Corn

As many of you are aware, we confirmed tar spot for the first time in Maryland during the 2022 growing season. Tar spot is a foliar disease of corn caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*. This disease has the potential to significantly impact yield.

Tar spot may appear in corn on any above-ground plant surface and may appear at any growth stage. *P. maydis* requires cooler temperatures and moisture to infect corn. Over the past few weeks we have had relatively cool daytime and nighttime temperatures, coupled with rain (leaf wetness). This combination of cool temperatures and wet plants could flare tar spot infections. I encourage you to scout your fields in the coming weeks to look for the raised, black lesions of tar spot (Figure 1). Research has indicated that fungicide applications around VT/R1 have the best odds of return on investment for managing tar spot; however, in some cases a second application made as late as R4 may also provide an economic benefit **if weather conditions remain cool and wet.**

This year we were awarded a grant from the Maryland Grain Producer's Utilization Board to evaluate fungicide timing for managing tar spot; data will be provided at the end of the season. A second part of this project is to get a handle on how prevalent tar spot is across Maryland. **If you find tar spot in your fields, I would be interested in knowing about it.** You can call, text, or email me (akness@umd.edu), or you can report a sighting at <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/reporting-form/>.



Figure 1. Magnified image of tar spot on corn leaf. Black spots are slightly raised on the upper surface of the leaf and cannot be wiped or scratched off.



Nutrient Management Update

Andrew Kness, Senior Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension

On June 1, MD Secretary of Agriculture, Kevin Atticks, announced the decision to cut the funding to the University of Maryland's (UMD) Nutrient Management Program. UMD gets pass-through dollars from EPA in the form of an annual grant administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) for UMD to hire nutrient management advisors to write nutrient management plans for farmers at no cost.

As of August 31, 2023 all UMD nutrient management planners will be let go, but the University will retain four Nutrient Management Specialists on campus. MDA has indicated they plan to redirect funding to offer cost-share assistance to farmers to help offset the cost of having plans written by the private sector. Details on the structure of this cost-share program have yet to be released by MDA.

What does this mean for you? Producers will either need to find a private plan writer or attend one of the upcoming farmer training certification (FTC) programs to become certified write their own plan. FTC programs will be offered by University of Maryland Extension in conjunction with MDA; more details for FTC program dates to come in the near future. You can contact a private plan writer in your area by referencing [this list](#), or ask the Extension office for a hard copy.

Farmers who are interested in developing state approved nutrient management plans for their own farm or individuals who are interested in writing plans for the private sector can take The Nutrient Management Certification Exam on August 4, 2023 in Annapolis, Easton, and Keedysille, Maryland. The exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions selected from nine knowledge areas. These include general nutrient management; basic soil science; agricultural and environmental management; sampling testing, and analysis for nutrient assessment; basic soil fertility; fertilizer management; manure management; biosolids management; incentives and regulations. You can sign

up by visiting MDA's [Nutrient Management Training website](#).

MDA is offering [listening sessions](#) (see below) and encourages all interested producers to attend. During these sessions producers will have an opportunity to express any concerns and ask questions to the MDA staff regarding the changes to the nutrient management program.

Mid Shore Maryland

July 13, 2023

5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Talbot County Community Center
10028 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

Nutrient Management Summit

July 17, 2023

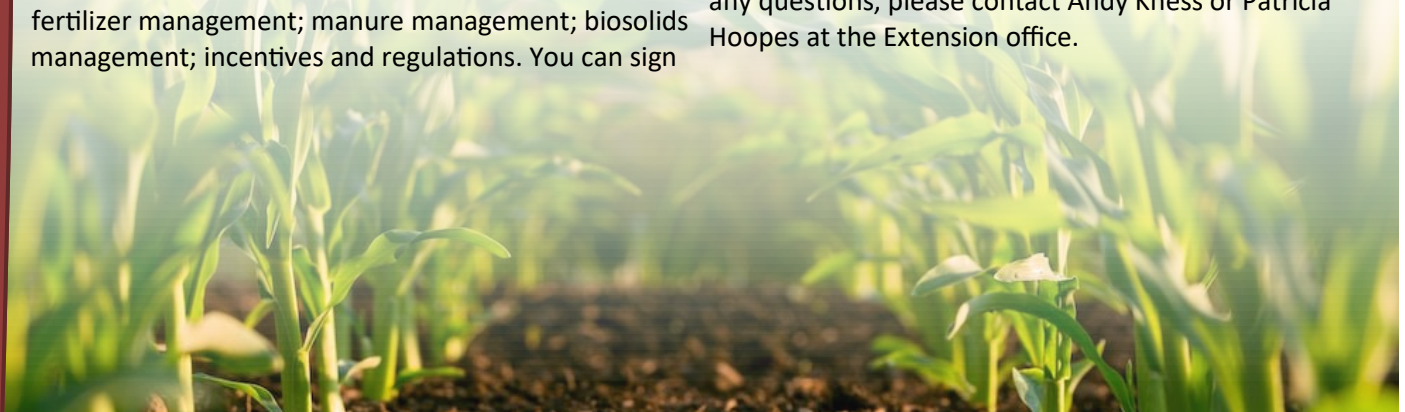
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Anne Arundel Community College
101 College Parkway
Arnold, MD 21012

If you have had a nutrient management plan written in the Harford County Extension office and are an active client, you will be mailed a USB flash drive that will contain all the components to your plan. This should make the transition to a new plan writer much easier.

As stated in a [letter](#) from AGNR Dean Beyrouthy and Dean of Extension, Dr. Jinhee Kim, "We will continue to provide solutions based on sound science to the public, not only in the agricultural realm, but also in healthy living, financial wellness, youth development, leadership and professional development, environmental quality, home gardening, and much more."

We at University of Maryland Extension greatly appreciate your patience and support as we try to navigate these new, unexpected changes. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Kness or Patricia Hoopes at the Extension office.



Cover Crop Sign-Up Open June 26-July 17

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The annual sign-up period for the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Cover Crop Program will take place from June 21 through July 17 at soil conservation district offices statewide. This popular grant program provides farmers with cost-share assistance to offset seed, labor, and equipment costs to plant fall cover crops to protect local water quality, build healthy soils, and capture carbon from the atmosphere.

“This planting season, we are excited to offer new incentive payments to plant mixed species to help farmers increase biodiversity and protect against weather extremes,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “For the tech-savvy farmer, we’ve added drones as an efficient and cost-effective aerial seeding option.”

Fall-planted cover crops provide a range of water quality, soil health, and climate benefits. In addition to protecting local streams and the Chesapeake Bay from nutrient and sediment runoff, they also add organic matter to the soil, control weeds and pests, and help protect fields from too much or too little rain. Cover crops can also absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the soil to help mitigate climate change.

Maryland’s Cover Crop Program provides grants to farmers who plant a variety of small grains and other types of cover crops on their fields following the fall harvest. To help create diversity, eligible cover crop species may be mixed with radish and legumes, including clover, Austrian winter peas, and hairy vetch using a variety of two and three-species mixes.

2023-2024 program highlights include:

- Minimum payment for incorporated seed raised to \$60/acre
- Incentive payment to plant rye and mixed species increased to \$20/acre
- Triticale qualifies for a \$20/acre incentive
- Drones are a new aerial seeding option
- Qualifying farmers must plant at least 10 acres to be eligible for cover crop grants
- For a second year, enhanced payment options are available through the multi-year [Cover Crop Plus+](#)

Program which encourages biodiversity, residue management, and promotes soil health

Approximately \$20 million for Maryland’s 2023-2024 Cover Crop Program has been allocated. Through the program, eligible farmers can receive up to \$105 an acre in cost-share grants to plant traditional cover crops in their fields this fall. This includes a base rate of \$55 an acre and up to \$55 an acre in add-on incentives for using highly valued planting practices. The maximum payment for aerial seeding with add-on incentive payments is \$100 an acre.

The program has returned to in-person grant registration at local soil conservation district offices to improve customer service. Farmers who participated in last year’s cover crop program should check their mailboxes for an application packet containing information on the required documents for registration.

Maryland’s Cover Crop Program is administered by the department’s Conservation Grants Program and the state’s 24 soil conservation districts. Applicants must be in good standing with the program and in compliance with Maryland’s nutrient management regulations. Other restrictions and conditions apply. Funding for the 2023-2024 Cover Crop Program is provided by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

Farmers should contact their local soil conservation district by July 17 to complete their grant applications. For more information, please get in touch with Dawn Bradley at (443) 978-3302 or dawn.bradley@maryland.gov or visit the department’s [website](#).

2023-2024 COVER CROP PLANTING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS					
TRADITIONAL COVER CROPS PAYMENT OPTIONS	NO-TILL	CONVENTIONAL	BROADCAST WITH LIGHT, MINIMUM OR VERTICAL TILLAGE	AERIAL	BROADCAST STALK CHOP AND BROADCAST CULTIPACKER
Base payment:	\$55/acre	\$55/acre	\$55/acre	\$55/acre	\$55/acre
Plant by October 10, add:	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre
Plant between October 11 and November 5, add:	\$5/acre	\$5/acre	\$5/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre
Aerial seed into standing corn on or before September 10, add:	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$10/acre	\$0/acre
Plant rye, triticale, or a multi-species cover crop, add:	\$20/acre	\$20/acre	\$20/acre	\$20/acre	\$20/acre
Terminate cover crop after May 1, add:	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre
MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT:	\$105/acre	\$105/acre	\$105/acre	\$100/acre	\$90/acre
Flat rate: For cover crops incorporated into fields (November 6 through November 15)	\$45/acre	\$45/acre	\$45/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre

Luke Macauley, Wildlife Management Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

Save the date of July 20, 2023, from 9am-2pm, for a symposium titled “Public Land & Private Partnerships for Early Succession Habitat.”

Dramatic declines in pollinators and grassland and shrub-dependent birds like bobwhite quail, meadowlarks, and more highlight the need for habitat improvement efforts on a broad scale. Our vision is for this meeting to provide education, networking, and inspiration to facilitate habitat improvement efforts across the region.

Confirmed speakers include Secretary Kurtz of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Director Pat Emory of the Delaware Fish & Wildlife Division, Dan Murphy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and speakers from Washington College, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, private landowners and more.

Register now at go.umd.edu/quailmeeting. Please share with other landowners and land managers interested in the topic.

The event will be held at the [National Wildlife Visitor Center](https://www.nwvc.org/) in Laurel, Maryland. A list of speakers and the agenda will be forthcoming.

This event is being organized by Eddie Beck, Chapter Volunteer & President of the Chesapeake Bay Chapter Quail Forever, and Luke Macauley, Wildlife Management Specialist with the University of Maryland Extension.



Pesticide Exam Now Available Online

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture in partnership with Everblue, an innovative technology company that specializes in digitizing and automating processes, have introduced the option of online pesticide certification exams to provide greater convenience, access, and flexibility for exam candidates.

“Offering a simplified certification procedure for these exams is an important step towards improving the pesticide licensing procedure as well as customer service,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “The department is excited to begin this partnership and offer these new tools to registrants.”

Using Everblue’s proprietary registration and test delivery system, certification candidates will be able to register online for their state pesticide exam and will be immediately enrolled into their on-demand tests. After a systems check of their computer, registrants will be able to complete their licensure exam from home. Prior to this partnership, candidates were required to test in person and choose from scheduled test dates that occurred every other month.

In addition to a better user experience for test candidates, Everblue’s automated test delivery

workflow also benefits test administrators working at the department. The new platform will single-handedly manage the registration and enrollment of all candidates who choose the online delivery format and will provide online test proctoring to maintain the credibility of the exam experience. Upon completion of the online exam, Everblue will report test results back to the state.

“In essence, the Maryland Department of Agriculture can save time and manual effort by shifting the logistics of exam delivery, proctoring, and scoring to Everblue,” said Chris Boggiano, President of Everblue. “We’ve been offering this service to several other state departments of agriculture, and it’s been working very well, so we fully anticipate this to be an excellent experience for Maryland pesticide operators too.”

Candidates will still have to apply with the state before they can register and take a test. After receiving approval from the state, a candidate will have the option to test remotely with Everblue or follow the traditional path of paper-based testing in person.

For more information about Maryland’s remote pesticide certification and licensure, contact Robert Hofstetter at rob.hofstetter@maryland.gov or Alex Lehmann at alexander.lehmann1@maryland.gov.

LEAD Maryland Fellowship Applications Open



The LEAD Program is seeking applicants, age 21 or older, with career, service, or interest in: production agriculture, natural resources, the environment and conservation, food (processing, sourcing, distribution, marketing, safety), rural communities and development, business, communications, education, government, science and technology, finance, and much more.

Fellowships provide:

- Public Issues Education (PIE);
- Personal growth and leadership development opportunities;
- Communications and problem-solving skills training;
- Support, direction, and resources to help emerging leaders succeed in serving agricultural, natural resources, and rural community sectors;

- Opportunities to learn more about Maryland and to meet leaders from throughout the state.

Over the course of two years, LEAD program curriculum delivers lessons through a series of 9 multi-day seminars, as well as participation in an international study tour.

For more information on the program visit www.leadmaryland.org or sign up for one of the "Ask Me Anything" virtual informational sessions.

"Ask Me Anything" sessions will be held:

- July 13 from 12pm-1pm
- August 8th from 7pm to 8pm
- September 6th from 9am to 10am

Completed [applications](#) are due by the end of the day **October 1, 2023**.

Successful Ag Tire Recycling Collection

Harford County farmers dropped off used tires from their agricultural equipment and vehicles, free of charge, at the Harford Waste Disposal Facility during the week of May 15-19, 2023. Participation was restricted to farms located in Harford County, but there was no limit to the number or size of tires, on or off the rim, that were accepted from each farm.

Wendy Doring, the Senior Lead of Recycling Programs for Maryland Environmental Service (MES) at the Harford Waste Disposal Facility, provided the following report.



Date	Farmer Count	Estimated Tire Count	Daily Tonnage
5/15/2023	76	3748	111.06
5/16/2023	35	2990	80.91
5/17/2023	20	1705	54.69
5/18/2023	16	792	25.41
5/19/2023	13	142	5.73
TOTAL	160	9377	277.8 (Quota was 275)

This agricultural tire recycling program was made possible by the Harford County Department of Public Works, the Harford County Farm Bureau, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Environmental Service.

Mike Doran, President of Harford County Farm Bureau, sent this message to Wendy: "Thanks for all your hard work and dedicating so much of your time towards this tire collection. It was a huge success and proof that Harford County farmers

need to have access to this program as often as possible. Please pass along to your team a huge thank you from Harford County Farm Bureau. None of this would have been possible without all of your support."

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>



akness@umd.edu



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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

10-15 Jul. Mason-Dixon Fair.

17 Jul. Nutrient Management Summit. 9-12 PM. Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold. Free. No registration required.

17 Jul. Cover crop sign-up deadline. Contact Soil Conservation at (410) 638-4828.

20 Jul. Wildlife Management Seminar. 9-2 PM. National Wildlife Visitor's Center, Laurel. Free. Register [online](#).

22-29 Jul. Harford County Farm Fair.

03 Aug. Craft Brewery Hop Yard Field Day. 10-12 PM. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. \$10 public, free for BAM members. Register by calling (410) 252-9463

09 Aug. Pasture Walk. 5:30-8 PM. Berkley Farms, Darlington. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 638-3255.

10 Aug. Horticultural Twilight Tour. 5-8 PM. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 368-2760.

17 Aug. Grow It, Eat It, Preserve It! Canning Pickles. 10-12:30 PM. Harford County Extension office, Street. \$20. Register [online](#) or call (410) 638-3255.

01 Oct. LEAD Maryland applications due.

July 2023