

FARM NOTES

CARROLL COUNTY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

JULY 2023

University of
Maryland Extension

700 Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD 21157
M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(410) 386-2760

[extension.umd.edu/locations/
carroll-county](https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county)

Facebook.com/umecarroll

Bryan Butler
Extension Agent,
Ag & Food Systems



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING UPDATE

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture, [Press Release](#)

Maryland Department of Agriculture Pivots Toward a More Options-Driven Nutrient Management Plan Writing Program

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced a shift in its Nutrient Management Plan Writing Program that will focus on a new approach to education, training, and farmer empowerment. The decision to move to this new options-rich model comes as a greater demand for plan writing has increased following the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland have enjoyed a long-standing partnership regarding Nutrient Management Plan writing and that will continue with this new program,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “In addition to new incentives for farmers, this program will align with Chesapeake Bay goals while giving Maryland farmers the tools they need to succeed as strong stewards of the environment.”

Maryland law requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more or livestock producers with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure. Nutrient management plans specify how much fertilizer, manure or other nutrient sources may be safely applied to crops to achieve yields and prevent excess nutrients from impacting waterways.

Because of their complexity, these plans must be prepared by a certified University of Maryland specialist, certified private consultant, or farmer who is trained and certified by the department to prepare his or her own plan. Driven by input from industry, the nutrient plan writing program will expand Maryland farmers’ access to nutrient management plan writers and plan writing services, helping farmers meet their environmental stewardship needs and grow compliance with statewide regulations.

The transition is anchored by a valued partnership and educational and training expertise provided by The University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, access to new, beneficial cost-share programs and plan-writing services offered by industry professionals.

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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING UPDATE CONT.

The new program features a progressive approach that includes the following:

- Access to beneficial cost-share programs that will provide partial funding to all eligible farmers in Maryland to access plan-writing services from industry professionals;
- Opportunities and workshops to help nutrient management advisors become aware of plan writing employment through the private sector;
- Assisting current University of Maryland planners obtain business licenses to write plans privately;
- MDA funded UMD specialists providing expanded nutrient management plan writing workshops across the state for ALL Maryland farmers (underserved, small, medium, and large). Support may also be provided to write nutrient management plans for smaller operations;
- New opportunities for Maryland-based agricultural organizations to build alliances with privatized nutrient management planning services.

“The time is right to privatize and move in the direction that the department envisioned years ago, and we are supportive of this decision,” said University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Craig Beyrouy. “As is our role and duty as a land-grant institution, AGNR is highly motivated to stay involved and help plan writers and producers with nutrient management education, tools, and advice.”

“We would like to recognize the University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and its Department of Environmental Science and Technology for their success and contributions over the years,” said Atticks. “We look forward to building upon their strong foundation to take this already successful program to new heights.”

For a list of frequently asked questions related to the future of this program please visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s website at mda.maryland.gov.

Editor’s note: If your nutrient management plan is written by a UMD advisor, you should start considering alternative options. A summit focused on the future of nutrient management plan writing is scheduled for July 17 in Annapolis (details not released by MDA at the time of publication).

MDA ANNOUNCES COVER CROP SIGN-UP PERIOD TO OPEN JUNE 21

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture, [Press Release](#)

Includes Increased Payment Rates and Cover Crop+ Option

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.”

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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+ 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](#).

Maryland's 2023-2024 Cover Crop Sign-Up



**Plant a Cover Crop Mix
for Improved Soil Health**

Apply for our Grants June 21-July 17, 2023

Horticultural Twilight

August 10, 2023, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Western Maryland Research & Education Center (WMREC)
18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756

Topics include:

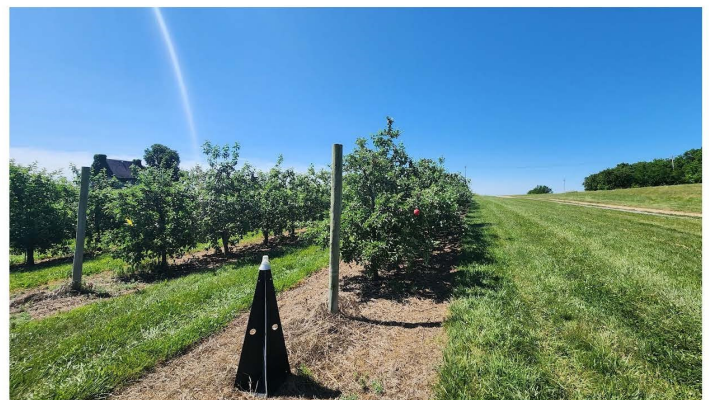
- NC-140 Update
- Orchard Disease Management Update
- Small Fruit Disease Management Update
- BT Sweet Corn Update
- Drone Use in the Orchard
- Blackberry Variety Trial
- Preview New Maryland Hop

*This is a free event. Please register at <https://forms.gle/BFKiUHwBWd7yFcZZ9>
or call 410-386-2760*



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 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.

USDA-ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station Summer Field Day July 18, 2023



12:00 – 1:30pm Picnic Lunch and Regional Extension Updates

1:30 – 5:00pm Orchard Tours

For more information, please contact Drs. Laura Nixon (Laura.Nixon@usda.gov) John Bennett (John.Bennett@usda.gov), or Virginia Cooperative Extension, Mark Sutphin (mark.sutphin@vt.edu).

Appalachian Fruit Research Station, 2217 Wiltshire Road, Kearneysville, WV 25430



**Agricultural
Research
Service**



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

ONLINE PESTICIDE OPTIONS

Source: 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.

INVITATION TO SELF IDENTIFY

On the following page you will find an *Invitation to Self Identify* form. As an organization who partners with federal, state and local government, we are required to collect demographic information on all individuals who participate in any of our programs and or activities. The information you provide will be kept confidential and for the sole purposes of reporting program attendance and does not require any personal identifiers. If you wish to not provide such information, it does not affect your ability to participate in this or any other University of Maryland Extension or Agricultural Research program. If you choose to participate, you may mail the pre-addressed form back to us (please do not include a return address) or you may complete it online via

<https://forms.gle/mfVKTMAyoX3GAvjGA>

GREAT RESOURCES ARE JUST A CLICK AWAY!

Bryan R. Butler, Sr.
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



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<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county>



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 Office of Human Resources Management & Compliance Programs

Invitation to Self-Identify (Individual)

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) as a business entity (Extension Service and AGNR Research) and recipient of federal financial assistance delivers educational programming and leading research. Partnerships formed within our local communities, stakeholder involvement, and disseminating vital information plays a fundamental role in carrying out this integrated approach. As an organization who partners with federal, state and local government, we are required to collect demographic information on all individuals who participate any of our programs and or activities. The purpose of collecting data serves various purposes such as, but not limited to, (1) ensuring our programs are delivered in a non-discriminatory way, (2) solely for planning purposes to deliver programs like the one you invested in today, (3) isolates the amount of funding we acquire to deliver programs to individuals within our communities and beyond Maryland State parameters, and (4) to ensure we are serving all individuals equitably and reaching populations which are underserved, underrepresented and socially disadvantage. As this form is voluntary, we hope you take a moment to identify who you are and help us measure the effectiveness of our inclusive outreach efforts. The information you provide will be kept confidential and for the sole purposes of reporting program attendance and does not require any personal identifiers. If you wish to not provide such information, it does not affect your ability to participate in this or any other University of Maryland Extension or Agricultural Research program.

| ETHNICITY | RACE | SEX |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC OR LATINO <input type="checkbox"/> <u>NOT</u> HISPANIC OR LATINO | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN <input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN <input type="checkbox"/> NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> SOME OTHER RACE <input type="checkbox"/> TWO OR MORE RACES | <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I ELECT NOT TO SELF-IDENTIFY | | AGE <input type="checkbox"/> 18 AND OVER <input type="checkbox"/> UNDER 18 |

Effective January 1, 2023

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.

Carroll County
Farm Notes Subscriber

UME-Carroll County Office
700 Agriculture Center
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MARYLANDERS ONLINE CALL CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
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EXTENSION

 **Marylanders
Online**



Marylanders Online is an initiative through the University of Maryland Extension (UME) and College of Information Studies (INFO) with state funding that aims to bridge the digital divide throughout the state of Maryland.

Marylanders Online Call center is here to provide FREE one-on-one tech support to all the Maryland residents and bring digital equity in Maryland.

It will provide:

- Tech support in English and Spanish
- Any device support including hardware and software
- Assistance in getting connected with internet
- ACP application assistance
- Connect to local organizations offering various digital skills classes, device program, and much more.

Let's connect!

Number: 301-405-9810

Toll Free: 1-866-206-8467

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Monday to Friday

Email:

marylandersonline@umd.edu

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.

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Dates to remember

- July 7 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner, 7:30 a.m.
- July 11 Pasture Walk at Western Maryland Research and Education Center, 6:00 p.m.
- July 17 MDA Cover Crop Sign-up Deadline
- July 17 MDA Nutrient Management Plan Writing Summit, Annapolis, Details TBA
- July 18 USDA-ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station Summer Field Day
- July 20 Public Land & Private Partnerships for Early Succession Habitat @ National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel, MD, 9:00 a.m.
- July 21 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner, 7:30 a.m.

- Aug. 4 Grain Marketing Meeting @ Plum Crazy Diner, 7:30 a.m.
- Aug. 10 Horticultural Twilight @ Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC), Keedysville, MD @ 5 p.m.
- Sept. 29 American Horse Council 2023 Economic Impact Study Survey Due

JULY 2023