

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

January 2026

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

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Happy New Year!
Hello, Harford County!

In only a few days we will be ringing in the new year and this can be a great time to reflect on the 2025 growing season and take a closer look at the upcoming year. 2025 was a decent production year but high input prices kept margins thin.

With inputs predicted to high for 2026, it helps to have a firm handle on your crop budgets. UME has detailed corn, soybean, and wheat crop budgets available for download online at <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/field-crop-budgets/>.

For those growing vegetable crops, our neighbors at University of Delaware have developed some excellent vegetable crop budgets: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/sustainable-production/agribusiness/farm-business-management/>, as well as some forage budgets.

All of the templates are pre-populated with “averages” or approximate values—you should adjust accordingly for your operation.

The Extension office will be closed on
January 2 and January 19 for Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day

If you do not already have budget system, then these can be great tools to use to get a better understanding of your input costs.

We are getting a steady stream of questions regarding pesticide recertification and renewals. As a reminder, you will need your pesticide credits to renew your license. All renewals are online through <https://www.egov.maryland.gov/mda/pesticides>, or paper renewals can be requested. If you have questions regarding your license renewal, contact MDA at (410) 841-5710.

If you need credits for your pesticide license renewal or for your nutrient management voucher, I have listed a few of our upcoming programs in the table below.

Wishing you very Happy New Year!

Until next time,

-Andy

Upcoming Programs for Pesticide & Nutrient Management Credits

Date & Time	Program	Location
January 21, 2026 8:00-12:30 pm	Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day*	Hereford Fire Hall
February 17, 2026 9:00-2:30 pm	Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting*	Deer Creek Overlook
February 25, 2026 10-12:00 pm	Nutrient Management Voucher Training	Harford County Extension Office
March 12, 2026 9:00-11:00 am	Private Applicator Exam (for new applicators)	Harford County Extension Office
March 12, 2026 1:00-3:00 pm	Private Applicator Recertification Training	Harford County Extension Office

*Satisfies credit requirements for BOTH pesticide and nutrient management

Harford County

MID-WINTER AGRONOMY MEETING

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 | 9:30 AM—2:30 PM

Grain farmers and ag professionals are encouraged to join University of Maryland Extension for this educational program focusing on production agronomy. **Doors open at 9:00 a.m.** and the program starts at **9:30 a.m.** Guest speakers include regional experts and University of Maryland faculty covering topics such as:

- Ag law and regulatory update
- Best practices for managing slugs
- Weed management updates
- Regional ag agency and agribusiness updates
- MDA pesticide and nutrient management updates
- And more!

Deer Creek Overlook

6 Cherry Hill Rd.

Street, MD 21154

\$12 registration includes morning refreshments and a hot lunch. Registration is \$20 after February 3.

RSVP by calling (410) 638-3255, e-mail akness@umd.edu, or complete and return the registration form below.

*Topics satisfy requirements for **Maryland pesticide and nutrient management renewal.***

Return form with payment to: **3525 Conowingo Rd, Suite 600, Street, MD 21154**



Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____ **× \$12 each = \$** _____ *Checks can be made payable to “**HC EAC**”*

Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting



Producers of fruit and vegetables may be interested in the various topics and sessions on the latest in Agriculture in Maryland.

The meeting will be held on January 21, 2026 at the Hereford Fire Hall-Summit Manor at 510 Monkton Rd., Monkton, MD 21111. Numerous commercial displays and representatives will be there to discuss new products and plans for the upcoming year.

This meeting serves as recertification for Maryland private pesticide applicators and offers recertification credits for Pennsylvania recertification. Presentations will also satisfy continuing education credits to renew Maryland nutrient applicator voucher.

The doors will open at 7:30 a.m. with refreshments and to visit commercial exhibits. The presentations begin at 8:30 a.m. and will end with lunch at noon.

Cost of the event is \$25.00 if you pre-register. The meeting location is conveniently located about one mile east of I-83 via Mt. Carmel Rd. and right onto York Rd.

To inquire more information or if you need special accommodations, please call the Baltimore County Office of the University of Maryland Extension at (410) 887-8090.

Register at <https://go.umd.edu/veggiegrowers2026>, complete and return the form below, or call (410) 887-8090.

Fill out the form below and mail to: 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030. **Make checks payable to "BCEAC."**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ x \$25.00 Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

Approximately 2,000 fruit & vegetable growers, students, educators, and extension personnel will participate in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention, **January 27-29** at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA – The Sweetest Place On Earth! Over 160 companies will be represented in the trade show, with a waiting list of exhibitors anxious to secure a spot. Monday will feature pre-convention workshops and a farm market bus tour. The various associations' committees are diligently planning the convention educational sessions with the goal of building on the 48-year history of a premier grower educational event.

For more information, visit <https://mafvc.org/>.

2026
MID-ATLANTIC
fruit & vegetable convention
JANUARY 27-29, 2026
 HERSHEY LODGE
 Hershey, Pennsylvania
www.mafvc.org

Farm Succession & Estate Planning Workshops

4

Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Legal Specialist
University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC), University of Maryland Extension, and the Ag Law Education Initiative will host three one-day workshops on January 13 in Mountain Lake Park, January 27 at the Central MD Research and Education Center, and February 11 at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center, in the English Room. The Farm Succession and Estate Planning workshops will be from 10 am to 2:30 pm.

The free program will assist Maryland farm families in starting the estate planning process, including creating a successful succession plan, having difficult conversations, and health insurance options for farmers. A grant funds the program through the Northeast Risk Management Education Center.

The workshop will feature Dr. Jesse Ketterman, Senior Agent, Dr. Alex Chan, Senior Agent, and a Farm Succession Coordinator, and Paul Goeringer, a Principal Faculty Specialist and Extension Specialist in agricultural law.

“Farm families often want to plan for the future but don’t always know where to start,” said Paul Goeringer. “These workshops give Maryland landowners the tools, confidence, and practical guidance they need to begin building a succession plan that protects both their operations and their families for generations to come.”

Lunch is provided with the workshops. Each workshop will begin at 9:45 am with a check-in, and the workshops will run from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. The dates and locations are:

- January 13, Garrett County University of Maryland Extension Office, 1916 MD-135, Mountain Lake Park, MD 21550
- January 27, Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Bldg 671, Ellicott City, MD 21042
- February 11, Eastern Shore Hospital Center, English Room, 5262 Woods Rd, Cambridge, MD 21613

Participants will receive copies of Extension fact sheets and other valuable documents as a part of the workshop series.

For more information or to register, go to <https://agrisk.umd.edu/events>. For more information, please contact Paul Goeringer at lgoering@umd.edu or (301) 405-3541.

This work is supported by the Northeast Extension Risk Management project award no. 2024-70027-42540, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Reminder: Winter Fertilizer Spreading Ban

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is reminding farmers that the winter ban on spreading manure, food processing residuals (FPRs), and other nutrient sources on cropland begins on December 16, 2025. Farmers can resume spreading these materials on March 1, 2026, as long as they follow their nutrient management plan recommendations and ensure that fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen.

Maryland’s nutrient management regulations prohibit spreading of manure, food processing residuals, and other nutrient sources on fields during winter due to the increased risk of runoff into local waterways. Farmers are required to store liquid manure generated on their farms in designated structures. The department is authorized to assist livestock farmers in preventing overflows from these storage structures and in minimizing impacts on water quality. If there is a potential overflow, farmers must contact the Nutrient Management Program at (410) 841-5959 for emergency authorization before any spreading occurs.

Temporary field stockpiling of “stackable” poultry litter and other qualifying organic nutrient sources is permitted if the moisture content is 60% or less. However, farmers are not allowed to apply stackable organic nutrient sources to fields during the winter months under any conditions. For concerns about storage, questions regarding the regulations, or guidance on storage requirements, farmers should contact their [regional nutrient management specialist](#). For more information, please visit the department’s Nutrient Management Program [website](#).

2026 Annie's Project

Shannon Dill, Principal Agriculture Agent and Assistant Director of Operations
University of Maryland Extension



ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

We are excited to announce the 2026 Annie's Project class. Below are details and attached is the tentative course schedule.

Annie's Project

Annie was a woman who grew up in a small town in Northern Illinois. Her goal was to marry a farmer and she did. Annie spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her farm husband. Together they did great things, but it wasn't easy. This is Annie's Project – to take her experiences and share it with women involved in agriculture.

Objectives

Annie's project is designed to empower women in agriculture to manage information and learn about agriculture in a relaxed local network. The target audience is women with a passion for agriculture. Annie's Project is a six-week online experience designed especially for women to help them develop their management and decision-making skills. Annie's Project will help develop an understanding, interpretation, and opportunities in agriculture

Wednesdays starting February 18 - March, 2026 (NO CLASS Feb 25)

Mid-Shore Maryland (In-person)

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: University of Maryland Extension-Queen Anne's County, 505 Railroad Avenue, Suite 4, Centreville, MD 21617

Virtual Option

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Online (through Zoom)

Note: Reading and project assignments outside of class time about 1 hour per week.

Annie's Project is approved for USDA FSA Borrower training. This includes classroom time and a workbook that will need to be completed. There is an additional \$100 charge for the FSA portion. More information about this is located at <https://go.umd.edu/anniesprojectfsa>.

The cost is \$50 for the series and includes a portfolio, access to an online learning platform and access to all presentations and worksheets, access to financial and legal advice, and support from a variety of community partners.

Register at

<https://2026anniesproject.eventbrite.com>. For more information on the curriculum and program logistics, please contact Shannon Dill at (sdill@umd.edu) or Jenny Rhodes at (jrhodes@umd.edu), or visit the website at <https://go.umd.edu/anniesproject>.

2025 Soybean Variety Trials

Nicole Fiorellino, Assistant Professor & Extension Agronomist
University of Maryland, College Park

The 2025 UMD Soybean Variety Trials results have been published. The trial is performed annually at multiple UMD Research and Education Centers and we thank the managers at the facilities for their assistance with these trials. The factsheet can be downloaded from the MD Crops website at <https://psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops> or contact the Extension office for a hard copy. Many thanks to Louis Thorne, Gene Hahn, and Audrey Sultenfuss for their assistance with the trials. These trials could not be completed without them.

We are grateful for the funding provided by Maryland Soybean Board to support these trials. MSB provides our program with checkoff funding to support applied agricultural research and generate results that directly benefit Maryland soybean growers.

For more information on how to interpret and utilize hybrid/variety trial data, check out our fact sheet, [What do the numbers really mean? Interpreting variety trial results](#).

Central Maryland Forage Conference

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Early bird: \$25; Early bird & MDFC Membership: \$45; After January 12, 2026 - Regular Admission: \$30; Regular Admission & MDFC Membership: \$50

Location: Mt. Airy Fire Company Activities Grounds, 1008 Twin Arch Road, Mount Airy, MD 21771

Description: Topics include native warm-season grasses and more to be announced. Doors open at 8:30 am, with the meeting starting at 9 am. Morning refreshments and lunch are included. Nutrient management and pesticide applicator credits will be

offered. Registration is required, with early bird pricing available through January 12th. Discounted Maryland-Delaware Forage Council membership is available with the purchase of a ticket. If you would like to pay by check or cash, please call the UME-Frederick Office at 301-600-3576. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have questions or need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact us at 301-600-3576.

For more information or to register, contact Nathan Glenn at (410) 313-2704 (naglenn@umd.edu), Kelly Nichols at (301) 226-7954 (kellyn@umd.edu), and Amanda Grev at (301) 226-7575 (agrev@umd.edu) Registration: <http://go.umd.edu/cmdforage>.



**January 13th
Harrington, DE**

<https://go.umd.edu/deforage>



**January 20th
Prince Frederick, MD**

<https://go.umd.edu/smdforage>

Save the Date!

2026 MARYLAND-DELAWARE FORAGE CONFERENCES



**January 21st
Grantsville, MD**

<https://go.umd.edu/wmdforage>



**January 22nd
Frederick, MD**

<https://go.umd.edu/cmdforage>



Extension Internship

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is seeking undergraduate students interested in careers in Extension and agriculture industries.

Applications are now open for the [2026 Creating Leadership and Professional Development Through Extension Internships Program](#). The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm (EST) **March 22, 2026**. Students who are interested in a career in Extension or agriculture industries and want to learn more about Extension, applied research, and community outreach, while gaining professional development, leadership skills, and job experience, are encouraged to apply. This is a great experiential learning opportunity for students seeking a degree or professional certification in agriculture, natural sciences, biological sciences, and related programs. We prioritize students currently enrolled in a two-year program and sophomores and juniors enrolled in a four-year degree program. This is a paid internship!

Access the online application at <https://go.umd.edu/extensioninternships>, and fill out the form and send a cover letter, resume, unofficial transcripts, and two (2) letters of recommendation—at least one must be from a current or former professor/instructor. Send documents to andrea1@umd.edu.

Program Contact

Shannon Dill, Extension Educator, AgFS

410-822-1244 | sdill@umd.edu

Andrea Franchini, Program Coordinator

301-226-7416 | andrea1@umd.edu

This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI Competitive Grant Workforce Development, project MD-UME-09312.

About the University of Maryland Extension

University of Maryland Extension (UME) is a statewide, non-formal education system within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. UME

educational programs and problem-solving assistance are available to citizens and are based on the research and experience of land grant universities such as the University of Maryland, College Park. In Maryland, UME employs approximately 200 faculty and approximately 200 support staff and contractual employees located at the University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; 23 counties; Baltimore City; and four research and education centers. Many UME faculty members located on the College Park and Eastern Shore campuses have joint appointments with research and academic programs. These joint appointments promote the exchange of knowledge between the universities and among academic specialties.



SAVE THE DATE

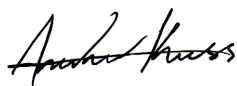
Mid-Atlantic **4R** Science Symposium

FREE EVENT: Registration Now Open

Lancaster, PA | January 26, 2026

Agenda released in early January

CEU's available



Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



Like us on
Facebook

facebook.com/HarfordAg

Back-issues can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/harford-county/agriculture-and-nutrient-management>



akness@umd.edu



Great resources are just a click away!

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.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the University of Maryland Extension office at least two weeks prior to the event.

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Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 21 Jan.** Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day. 8-12:30 PM, Hereford Fire Hall. Registration coming soon. Call (410) 887-8090.
- 22 Jan.** Central Maryland Forage Conference. 9-3 PM. Mt. Airy Activities Grounds. Registration \$25-\$50. Register [online](#) or call (301) 226-7575.
- 26 Jan.** Mid-Atlantic 4-R Symposium. 9-2 PM. Lancaster, PA. Free. Register [online](#).
- 27 Jan.** Estate Panning Workshop. 10-2:30 PM. Central MD Research & Education Center, Ellicott City. Free. Register online or call (301) 405-3541.
- 11 Feb.** Mid-Atlantic Women in Ag Conference. 9-3 PM, Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. Register [online](#) or call (410) 822-1244.
- 17 Feb.** Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting. 9-2:30 PM, Deer Creek Overlook. \$12 before February 3, \$20 after. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 25 Feb.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 10-12 PM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu to register.
- 26 Feb.** Precision Ag Technology Conference. Crowne Plaza, Annapolis. \$85 before January 25. Register [online](#) or call (301) 226-7400.

January 2026