Ag Notes
Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

June 2019

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
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hello, Harford County!

In April, the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistics Services (USDA NASS) published the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture data. The U.S. Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years and provides the most comprehensive dataset on the status and impact of U.S. agriculture, down to the county level. These data are used extensively by government officials, granting agencies, public and private organizations, etc. to make important decisions regarding agriculture in the United States.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture published a short summary of Maryland's statistics in a press release on April 11; but what about Harford County? The full, county-by-county report can be viewed on the NASS website, but here are a few points that I found to be particularly interesting:

- The number of farms and acreage in farms reported in the 2017 Census increased to 628 farms on 74,273 acres; up from 582 farms on 65,472 acres reported in the 2012 Census. It is great to see the reported acreage increase, as it more accurately reflects the actual amount of farmland in the County; which is somewhere closer to 100,000 acres, according to USDA satellite imaging data and tax assessments. This goes to show why accurate reporting by farmers and landowners is critical to showing agriculture's impact on our community and economy.
- The average farm size in Harford County is 118 acres, with a median of 27 acres. This means that of Harford County's 628 farms, 50% (314) are larger than 27 acres, and 50% are smaller. These data indicate that Harford County's landscape is dominated by many small farms; however, 28 farms in the county operate over 500 acres. Harford County ranks among the highest in the state in estimated market value of farmland and buildings, at $10,906 per acre.
- Harford County farmers reported nearly $46 million dollars in market value of agricultural products sold, which is down slightly from the 2012 Census. This equates to $73,066 per farm, with a net cash income of $6,290.
- Of Maryland's' approximately 12,400 farms, only 43% report net gains in farm income. In Harford County, only 32% report net gains. This is likely a function of several years of depressed commodity and crop prices, as well as Harford County's significant number of small farms and small, part-time hobby farm operations. Forty-one percent of Harford County's principal operators report farming as their primary occupation.
- The average age of principal operators in Harford County is 59.3 years old. In 2017, there were a reported 2,262 young producers in Maryland, farming nearly 280,000 acres. The USDA defines a young producer as one whom has been farming for 10 years or less. In Harford County, there are 147 young producers farming 14,484 acres. Seventy-one of the 147 are the principal operators of the farm.
- Harford County has 495 female producers (43% of total) who manage nearly 39,000 acres. Female producers make up 38% of Maryland farmers.
- Consistent with National trends, 97% of farms in Maryland are family-owned; in Harford County, 99% are family-owned.

Harford County has a rich agricultural heritage and agriculture plays a significant part of the County's economy, community, and natural resources. For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov.

Until next time,
-Andy

Livestock

Grass Forage Field Walk

June 25

6—8:00 PM
Clear Meadow Farm
3114 Troyer Rd.
White Hall, MD

Join us for an educational field walk of a perennial grass forage demonstration planting at Clear Meadow Farm in White Hall, MD.

Local experts from the University of Maryland Extension and The Mill will be on-hand to answer questions and provide information about the 15 different demonstration plots, grass species, and their potential utility on your farm. Participants will get an up-close look at each planting and will be able to observe differences in the forage types. Planting, spring maintenance, and yield information will be discussed.

Registration is free, but please RSVP by calling (410) 638-3255, or e-mail akness@umd.edu.

Pasture Walk: Asian Longhorned Tick

June 26

6—8:30 PM
Roseda Black Angus Farm
15317 Carroll Rd.
Monkton, MD

The University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, Department of Entomology, and University of Maryland Extension are hosting a free Pasture Walk Series that will be held throughout the state. The focus of the series will be two-fold: pasture management, as well as education concerning the Asian Longhorned Tick and its potential effects on our livestock industry. These ticks can be found throughout the spring and summer months, and thrive in tall grasses under wet, humid conditions, meaning conditions are ripe for potential infestations.

For more information about this program, please visit our website: https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/pasture-walk-and-tick-education-series. You can register online by clicking here. Please contact Racheal Slattery, Dairy & Beef Extension Coordinator, at rslatt@umd.edu or (301) 405-1392 with any questions, concerns or to register offline.

Dairy

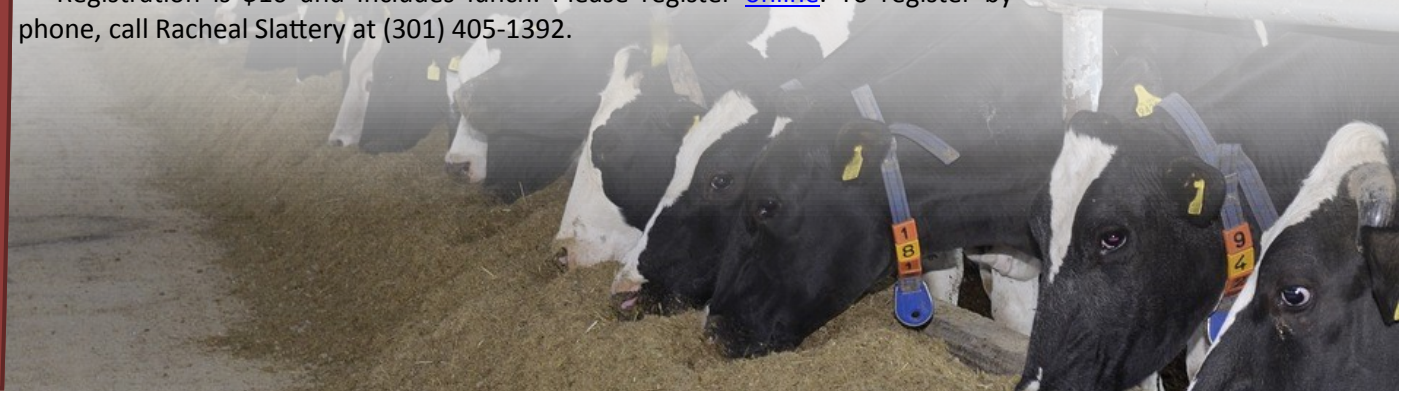
Dairy Field Day

August 9

10—2:15 PM
Central MD Research & Education Center
4240 Folly Quarter Rd.
Ellicott City, MD

Dairy producers and ag service professionals are invited to attend University of Maryland's Dairy Field Day. Participants will get to meet two new University of Maryland Extension faculty: Amanda Grev, pasture specialist; and Sarah Potts, dairy and Beef specialist. Topics covered will include: transition cow management, choosing inoculants for forages, rumination monitoring, and an on-farm demonstration of mastitis culturing.

Registration is $10 and includes lunch. Please register online. To register by phone, call Racheal Slattery at (301) 405-1392.



Dairy Risk Management Meetings

Maryland Department of Agriculture press release

June 13

10—12 PM
Harford County
Extension Office

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is partnering with the University of Maryland Extension and United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to host regional meetings for dairy farmers in Maryland, June 12-14. The meetings will provide information on available risk management tools, including FSA's Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, and a new state cost-share program that will cover its premium costs for Maryland farmers.

"Dairy farmers across the country have been struggling with low milk prices and high feed costs for years," said Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "We want to make sure our department is doing everything we can to help Maryland dairy farmers through these tough times. I encourage all of our dairy farmers to attend one of these regional meetings and learn more about the risk management options available at the state and federal level."

Governor Hogan included $1.5 million in his supplemental budget to pay premium costs for dairy farmers participating in the new DMC program. The state program will cover Tier I production in 2019 (up to 5 million pounds of milk produced) at the $9.50 margin coverage level. Premiums will be paid directly from the department to FSA on behalf of Maryland producers. Farmers can begin signing up for the DMC program at their local FSA field office starting June 17.

Each meeting will start at 10 a.m. and end at noon. Meeting locations are listed below. Contact Mark Powell for more information at (410) 841-5775, or mark.powell@maryland.gov.

- June 12 – Washington County Extension Office, 7303 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, Md. 21713
- **June 13** – Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agricultural Center Dr., Westminster, Md. 21157

  This meeting will also be available via livestream at the **Harford County Extension Office**, 3525 Conowingo Rd., Suite 600, Street, Md. 21154; and the Baltimore County Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, Md. 21030.
- June 14 – Kent County Extension Office, 709 Morgnec Road #202, Chestertown, Md. 21620

To register and attend the Harford County meeting, call the Extension Office at (410) 638-3255. There is no cost to attend this program.

2019 Section 18 Label Approved for Bifenthrin

Bryan Butler, Principal Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County

The registered products, Brigade WSB (10% bifenthrin, EPA Reg. No. 279-3108) manufactured by FMC Corporation; and Bifenture EC (25.1% bifenthrin, EPA Reg. No. 70506-57) and Bifenture 10DF (10% bifenthrin, EPA Reg. No. 70506-227), both manufactured by United Phosphorus, Inc. may be applied to apples, peaches, and nectarines.

Applications must be made post-bloom, by ground only, at a rate of 0.08 to 0.2 lb. active ingredient bifenthrin (a.i.) per acre; no more than 0.5 lb. a.i. per acre may be applied per year; multiple applications may be made at a minimum of 30 day intervals; a restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours and pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 14 days must be observed.

All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA-registered product labels, as well as those outlined on the section 18 use directions referenced in your request, must be followed.

These exemptions expire October 15, 2019.

To help minimize exposure to pollinators, the following statement on the application timing must be

observed: "Do not apply this product until after petal fall."

To mitigate risks to aquatic organisms, section 3 product label requirements must be strictly followed. For ground applications (the only method allowed under this exemption) a 10 foot vegetative buffer strip, or a 25 foot buffer zone, is required between the site of application and adjacent bodies of water. Recommendations on the section 3 product labels regarding droplet size, wind direction and speed, temperature inversions, and other factors affecting off-site drift or runoff of bifenthrin must also be carefully followed.

In addition, the following statements from the section 3 labels are reiterated:

This pesticide is extremely toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates. Use with care when applying in areas adjacent to any body of water. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not make applications when weather conditions favor drift from treated areas. Drift and runoff from treated areas may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in neighboring areas. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash waters.

This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds while bees are foraging the treatment area.

This is the eighth year that emergency exemption requests have been made for the uses of bifenthrin on apple, peach, and nectarine. An IR-4 petition to support a section 3 registration is currently undergoing review within the Agency. While progress toward registration is adequate at this time, you are encouraged to remain in contact with the registrant on status updates. In the event that MDA requests emergency exemptions for these uses next year, EPA is making a preliminary determination that they are eligible for the re-certification program (40 CFR 166.20(b)(5)) in 2019.

Allium Leafminer Moving South in Maryland

Jerry Brust, Extension IPM Vegetable Specialist
University of Maryland

The new pest of onion, leek and garlic, the Allium leafminer, is moving south in Maryland. It was first observed in Maryland in Cecil county in 2017 (as well as Harford County), but now the fly's tell-tale marks (Figure 1) have been found in a Baltimore City chives planting. This new pest was first found in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in December 2015. Unfortunately, it is my guess that the pest is now probably in many northern/central areas of Maryland.

New transplants or seedings of onions or leeks should be watched closely for the tell-tale signs of the fly's damage, which are several very small white dots in a row along the leaf of an allium plant (Figure 1). Penn State has a great deal of good information about the new pest which can be found at: Penn State Allium Leafminer Pest Alert page. Growers should look for these signs on any newly planted allium species, but especially on leeks. You can cover any Allium planting with row cover to keep the flies off; or if needed, treat with insecticides as found in the 2019 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Recommendations guide.

Figure 1. *Symptoms of damage caused by the Allium leafminer. Image: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.*

General Forestry Course

Learn to be a steward of the land this fall with the University of Maryland Extension General Forestry Course. Both paper and online versions of the course will be offered, beginning September 1 through December 15, 2019. Registration opens June 1, and interested participants can register online at extension.umd.edu/forestry-course.

This is a non-credit course with no formal classes – work from the comfort of your home using your own woodlot, a friend's or a public forest. The course covers how to protect your trees from insects, diseases, and fire; step-by-step procedures walk you through a forest inventory and stand analysis; and the details of the forestry business are presented, including tax nuances and the sale and harvest of forest products. Ultimately, the course exercises help you develop the framework for a stewardship plan for your forest.

The cost for this forestry course is $150. Included in the cost are copies of the supplemental readings ("A Sand County Almanac, The Woodland Steward, American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery," a small pamphlet entitled "What Tree Is That?" and "Common Native Trees of Virginia Tree Identification Guide"). The paper version text and appendices for the course are in binder form. Online users receive a flash drive of the paper version of the text and appendices. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

To learn more about the course and what it entails, go to extension.umd.edu/forestry-course. There you can read a lesson from the text, view an interactive exercise, read through detailed course information and FAQs.

For more information, contact Nancy Stewart at the University of Maryland Extension, Wye Research and Education Center, P.O. Box 169, Queenstown, Md., 21658, (410) 827-8056, ext. 107, or nstewar1@umd.edu.

2019 Agronomic Fungicide Recommendations

Andrew Kness, Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

As we get into the swing of the 2019 growing season, it can be helpful to have access to a quick reference for fungicide recommendations for if/when diseases become a problem on your farm. As you are aware, there are several products available for disease management and it can be difficult and confusing to select the appropriate product. Also remember that just because a pesticide is labeled for use on a particular crop to manage a specific pest, does not necessarily mean or guarantee that the pesticide will work to manage it. Pest populations are constantly evolving and therefore develop resistance to products over time. A good example of this is the fungicide, propiconazole; once very effective for managing head scab of wheat, is now ineffective against the pathogen.

To help aid your fungicide selections, the Crop Protection Network has some great resources on fungicide efficacy that they update each year (and soon to come, insecticides and herbicides). The Crop Protection Network is a multi-state and international partnership of university and provincial Extension specialists, and public and private professionals that provides unbiased, research-based information.

These publications list the relative fungicide efficacy for the major diseases of corn, soybeans, and small grains and are linked below. If you have trouble accessing or interpreting the information, contact your local agriculture agent.

- 2019 Corn Fungicide Efficacy Table
- 2019 Soybean Fungicide Efficacy Table for foliar diseases
- 2019 Soybean Fungicide Efficacy Table for seedling diseases
- 2019 Small Grain Fungicide Efficacy Table
- Updated Small Grain Fungicide Efficacy Table to include Miravis Ace® (adepydin)

Nutrient Management Planning Reminders

Patricia Hoopes, Nutrient Management Advisor
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

The Nutrient Management Planning toolbox has tools for every season to improve Nutrient Management Plans.

Two tools that we are able to use this time of year are:

1. The Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT) test, and;
2. The manure spreader calibration.

The PSNT test is useful to determine if enough nitrogen is in the soil to finish the corn crop. This test is for corn grain only where the crop is nitrogen dependent on a previous manure application or legume crop. The corn crop must have received less than 50 lbs. of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer and the corn must be from 6 to 12 inches in height at the time of testing. The test will discover either there is enough nitrogen in the soil or that the nitrogen in the soil is insufficient. If the nitrogen is low, a nitrogen recommendation will be given.

A manure spreader calibration determines the rate of application, and thus the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium supplied to the crop through the mineralization of manure. This is important to know to ensure the crop gets an adequate amount of nutrients.

If you would like information or assistance with the PSNT test or manure spreader calibration, please call Tricia Hoopes at (410) 638-3255.

Agriculture Plastic Recycling

All plastics should be as clean as possible and stored under cover to minimize moisture. Farmers should separate the plastic by the type (i.e., do not mix baling twine in with stretch wrap) and make sure that the bundles of plastic can be handled by one person.

The following plastics will be acceptable for recycling:

- Polypropylene baler twine. Please keep colors separated.
- White supersacks and feed bags; #4 okay; no #5 PP (polypropylene) woven.
- Colored or dirty supersacks. Try to reuse as many times as possible.
- Clear stretch wrap.
- Clear greenhouse covers.
- White bale wrap.
- Clean and bundled drip tape. Must be separated from field mulch
- Stacked, polystyrene greenhouse trays. Separated and stacked. Usually #5 or #6.

The following plastics are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**:

- Sweet corn cover/clear.
- Black field mulch.
- Co-mingled drip tape. Please separate.
- No dairy bio gloves.
- No dairy medical supplies.
- No residential trash.

Please call ahead of time (number below) to make an appointment to drop off. We need to make sure we have manpower to help unload and we want to log farmers coming in for AG plastic drop off.

If anyone needs additional supersacks please, call Wendy Doring at (410) 638-3417 or (301) 832-8884.

Thank you for all that you do to keep Harford County beautiful!

June is National Dairy Month!

While dairy farms in Maryland and across the United States have been struggling through very tough economic times, dairy still ranks as the 4th largest sector of Maryland agriculture based on farm sales. To celebrate dairy month, check out some local Harford County dairy products at a farmers market, a farm store, or on Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail!

Next Gen Farmland Acquisition Program Now Open

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) has announced that the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program ("Next Gen Program") is now open to help qualified young or beginning farmers who seek to purchase farmland but need some specialized financial assistance to enter (or continue in) the agricultural profession.

The Next Gen Program is a relatively fast-moving farmland conservation easement option purchase program that is designed to help facilitate the transfer of farmland to a new generation of farmers, while also effectively helping to preserve the subject agricultural land from development. The selection for participation in this program is expected to be competitive.

"We are very appreciative of the great support that we have received from the Hogan Administration and the Maryland General Assembly for this innovative dual-purpose program," said Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO's Executive Director. The State Government recently approved a third year of funding – $2.5 million – for the Next Gen Program in FY 2020, matching a similar amount of funding that was provided in FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Through the Next Gen Program, MARBIDCO pays up to 51% of the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the land only (with a cap of $500,000). The Next Gen Program funds are provided as a down-payment at the real estate settlement and MARBIRDO takes a contractual option on the farmland preservation easement purchase. This is designed to help enable a commercial lender to also make a loan to help with the purchase of the farm. The Next Gen Farmer will then have a period of several years to sell the permanent easement to a rural land preservation program that is able to hold the permanent conservation easement (thus extinguishing the development rights on the property). Once a permanent easement sale has been facilitated, the Next Gen Farmer will repay MARBIDCO the original Next Gen Program option amount, plus a 3% administrative fee, using the money from the permanent easement sale. If the Next Gen Farmer cannot sell the permanent easement within the specified timeframe, the Next Gen option will be exercised (for no additional money) and a permanent easement on the property will be held by a "third-party default easement holder" (either a county agricultural land program or a private land trust designated by MARBIDCO).

While there is no age restriction to participate in the program, persons who are "beginner farmers" will have a greater likelihood of being selected to participate. The Next Gen Program defines a "beginner farmer" as those not owning a farm or ranch (or owning less than 20 acres currently), not operating a farm or ranch as a principal operator for more than 10 years and have at least one year of farming experience. The beginner farmer must also plan to actively participate in the farming operation.

Persons interested in applying to the Next Gen Program are requested to make contact with their respective county agricultural land preservation staff (in the county in which the farmland is located; Bill Amoss, Harford County: (410) 638-3235) by no later than Friday, **June 28, 2019**, to discuss the suitability of a subject farm being permanently preserved. The formal Next Gen Program application submission deadline is Wednesday, July 31, 2019; by no later than 4:00 p.m., at the MARBIDCO offices in Annapolis. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants selected for the Next Gen Program will be notified by mid-October, with the actual real estate settlements expected to occur once land appraisals been conducted and other transactional closing work has been completed (sometime during the winter of 2019/2020).

Further information about the Next Gen Program may be obtained by contacting Allison Roe, Financial Programs Specialist, at (410) 267-6807, or by visiting MARBIDCO's website at: www.marbidco.org.

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Natural Resources

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

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Dates to remember

5 Jun. Webinar: Structuring Cost-Share for Conservation on Leased Land. 12-2pm. Free. Register online.

12 Jun. Temporary Livestock Fencing Workshop. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. Free. Register online or call Brian Campbell at (717) 300-8118.

12 Jun. Women in Ag Webinar: Emotional Well-Being: Warning Signs and Resources. 12pm. Free. Register online.

13 Jun. Dairy Risk Management Meeting. 10-12pm. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

19 Jun. Goat Twilight Tour & Tasting. 4-7pm. Washington County Agricultural Center, Boonsboro. $10. Register online or call (301) 432-2767 x315.

21 Jun. Harford County Agricultural Grant applications due. Contact Jason Gallion at (410) 638-3511 for more information.

21 Jun-17 Jul. Maryland Cover Crop Sign-up period. Harford Soil Conservation District, Street. Call (410) 638-4828.

22 Jun. Breakfast On The Farm. 9-1pm. Middletown, MD. Free. Register online or call (301) 405-1392.

25 Jun. Grass Forage Field Walk. 6-8pm. Clear Meadow Farm, White Hall. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

26 Jun. Asian Longhorned Tick Pasture Walk. 6-8:30pm. Roseda Black Angus Farm, Monkton. Free. Register online or call (301) 405-1392.

26 Jun. Women in Ag Webinar: Putting All Your Eggs in a Basket. 12PM. Free. Register online.

22-27 Jul. Harford County Farm Fair. Harford County Fairgrounds, Bel Air.

9 Aug. Dairy Field Day. 10-2:15pm. Central MD Research & Education Center, Ellicott City. $10. Register online or call (301) 405-1392.

June 2019