

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

November 2023

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center

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Street, MD 21154
(410) 638-3255

M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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Hello, Harford County!



Well, soon we will be gathering around the table and enjoying a Thanksgiving meal with family and friends; seems like just yesterday we were talking about the start of the season and here it is nearly over! I hope harvest has been smooth and bountiful on your farm. Considering how dry we were at the start of the season, then again in August and September, yields on corn and soybeans have been surprisingly strong. Hopefully that trend continues through the end of harvest.

This is your annual reminder to check your pesticide and nutrient management certifications for renewal. If your private applicator license expires in December of 2023, you should get a notice from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) in the next few weeks to log into the MDA system to renew your license. As a reminder, you need four (4) credits every three years to renew your license, which is

The Extension office will be closed on November 10 for Veterans Day and November 23-24 for Thanksgiving.

equal to two hours of instruction. If you need credits, don't forget to attend one of our winter meetings! I listed a few of our local meetings in the table below. Also note that if your license expires on December 31 and you have no credits, you will have a grace period until the end of April 2024 to obtain credits before your license lapses.

Similarly, if you need to renew your nutrient applicator voucher, you will need two-hours worth of nutrient management training during your three-year voucher period.

If you have any questions regarding pesticide or nutrient management certification, please reach out to me. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Until next time,
-Andy

Upcoming Programs for Pesticide & Nutrient Management Credits

Date & Time	Program	Location
November 7, 2023 9:00-11:00 am	Private Applicator Exam (for new applicators)	Harford County Extension Office
November 7, 2023 1:00-3:00 pm	Private Applicator Recertification Training	Harford County Extension Office
December 7, 2023 8:00-12:00 pm	Northern Maryland Field Crops Day*	Friendly Farm Restaurant
January 25, 2024 8:00-12:00 pm	Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day*	Hereford Fire Hall
February 13, 2024 8:30-2:30 pm	Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting*	Deer Creek Overlook
February 22, 2024 1:00-3:00 pm	Nutrient Management Voucher Training	Harford County Extension Office
March 26, 2024 9:00-11:00 am	Private Applicator Exam (for new applicators)	Harford County Extension Office
March 26, 2024 1:00-3:00 pm	Private Applicator Recertification Training	Harford County Extension Office

*Satisfies credits for BOTH pesticide and nutrient management

Maryland Grain Producers press release

The Maryland Grain Producers are offering a total of \$15,000 through seven scholarships for the 2024 to 2025 school year. There are three different scholarship opportunities for Grain Producer Members and non-members. Applications are due online by January 31st.

"The number of strong applications received for the first year of our new program showed our board the value and need to support all of our members and those interested in agriculture." said Maryland Grain Producer Association President, Justin Brendel. The three different scholarship opportunities are outlined below.

Maryland Grain Honoree Scholarship

- Awarding three scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each.
- Must be a member of the Maryland Grain Producers Association.
- Must be attending a secondary education school studying agriculture or working towards a degree to directly benefit the agriculture industry.

Maryland Grain Membership Scholarship

- Awarding two scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each.
- Must be a member of the Maryland Grain Producers Association.
- Must be attending a secondary education school, with any area of study.

Maryland Grain Production Scholarship

- Awarding two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.
- Must be attending a secondary education school studying agriculture or working towards a degree to directly benefit the agriculture industry.

GRAIN PRODUCERS SCHOLARSHIP 2024

Scholarship Type	Amount	Eligibility Requirements
Grain Honoree Scholarship	\$3,000	Must be a member working towards a degree to benefit the agriculture industry.
Grain Membership Scholarship	\$2,000	Must be a member and attending a secondary education school, with any degree.
Grain Production Scholarship	\$1,000	For non-members working towards a degree to benefit the agriculture industry.

For the three different opportunities all applicants are only eligible to receive a scholarship two times and only eligible to apply for one of the three scholarships available. One's family farm may not have requested Maryland grain checkoff refunds in the last 12 months. Lastly, graduate students are ineligible to apply.

In addition to our scholarship program, those eligible for the Honoree and Membership Scholarship, as well as grad students, would be eligible for the National Corn Growers Scholarships, please visit their website (ncga.com/) to learn more and apply online.

For more information and to apply online for our 2024 scholarship program, visit our website at MarylandGrain.org/Scholarship-3/. Please contact our team if you have any questions.

For questions, contact Jenell McHenry at jenell.mdag@gmail.com or (443) 262-6969.



2023 Corn Trial Results

Nicole Fiorellino, Extension Agronomist
University of Maryland, College Park

The University of Maryland offers a fee-based, corn hybrid performance testing program to local and national seed companies. The results from these replicated trials provide agronomic performance information about corn hybrids tested at five locations in Maryland considered representative of the state's geography and weather conditions.

During 2023, 57 hybrids were tested using three maturity groups: early season (13 hybrids), mid-season (15 hybrids), and full season (29 hybrids). Each company designated maturity group assignments for hybrids they submitted.

The factsheet with the results can be downloaded from the MD Crops website at <https://psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops> or you may call Andy Kness at (410) 638-3255 to obtain a printed copy.

Many thanks to Louis Thorne and Joe Crank for their leadership and management of the trials, from seed organization, to planting, to harvest. These trials could not be completed without them.

We are grateful for the funding provided by Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board to support these trials. MGPUB provides our program with checkoff funding to support applied agricultural research and generate results that directly benefit Maryland producers.

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.](#)

Northern Maryland Field Crops Day

December 7

8 AM—12 PM

Friendly Farms
Restaurant

**ALL PRODUCERS OF CORN,
SOYBEANS, SMALL GRAINS AND HAY**

**You are invited to attend the
2023 Northern Maryland
Field Crops Day**

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Risk Management Strategies
- Understanding Nitrogen release from Cover Crops
- Crash Course on Corn Diseases
- Update on Wheat Varieties
- MDA Nutrient Management and Pesticide Updates

Ticket Order Form

\$28.00 if you pre-register, or \$35.00 at the door, includes an all-you-can-eat lunch. This meeting serves as recertification for Maryland private pesticide applicators and offers recertification credits for Pennsylvania Applicators.

In addition, producers can attend specific presentations to also renew their Maryland nutrient applicator's voucher and earn Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits.

To register to attend call the University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County Office at (410) 887-8090 or fill out the form below and mail to: 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Make checks out to BCEAC.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Tickets @ \$28: _____ Total: _____



Maryland-Native Hop Beer

Heavy Seas press release

Heavy Seas Beer, home of Maryland's original and largest craft brewer, is excited to announce "Altimore" - the first release in a series of beers crafted using a unique Maryland-native hop variety, the *Monocacy* hop.

Discovered in the late 1960s by Dr. Ray Edigar, the *Monocacy* hop remained a hidden gem until recently. Dr. Edigar, unaware of its rarity and Maryland origin, grew the hop in his garden for years. He recently partnered with researchers at the University of Maryland Extension to test the plant's DNA-sequence, and when the results came back, they learned that the hop was completely genetically unique to Maryland.

Distinguished by its distinct chemical profile and adaptability to Maryland's hot, humid climate, the *Monocacy* hop has piqued interest for potential commercial cultivation. Ongoing research, led by the University of Maryland Extension, will include hop propagation and evaluation, while making the hop available to more local brewers for experimentation.

"From what we can tell so far, *Monocacy* grows very well in Maryland. Our hope is to continue growing it, share it with more local brewers, while we continue testing its commercial viability," says Bryan Butler, Principle Agent in Agriculture and Natural Resources with the University of Maryland Extension. "It will be critical to see if the *Monocacy* hop can not only thrive, but excel in crafting outstanding beers."

On September 21st, Heavy Seas visited the [Western Maryland Research & Education Center](#), where the Maryland-native hop is currently growing, to witness the harvesting of the *Monocacy* hop and collect hand-picked wet hops directly from the vine. Immediately

post-harvest, the Heavy Seas team returned to their Halethorpe-based brewery to brew a batch of beer using this hop.

"The *Monocacy* hop offers spicy, herbaceous, floral aromatics. For our inaugural brew, we chose to craft an Altbier, a traditional German beer style, using whole-flower *Monocacy* hops for bittering and finishing, which should provide a really nice aroma to this beer," says Chris Leonard, Heavy Seas Brewmaster and Director of Operations.

In the coming weeks, Heavy Seas anticipates receiving *Monocacy* hop pellets, alongside additional chemical analyses for a deeper understanding of the hop's characteristics for future experimental brews. "We're excited to see what else we can create. We plan to explore different beer styles and utilize the *Monocacy* hop in different stages of the production to test how it can be best employed," says Leonard.

The first beer in this series, "Altimore" officially releases on Friday, October 20th, available exclusively on draft at the [Heavy Seas Taproom](#) (located onsite at the Heavy Seas brewery). Fans can look forward to more *Monocacy* -hop beer releases from Heavy Seas in 2024, including plans for packaged products for broader market distribution.

"Brewing with locally-grown Maryland hops is a special opportunity. If this hop continues to thrive and enhance the flavor of beer, and more Maryland brewers can use it, that's pretty amazing!" says Caroline Sisson, Heavy Seas Brand Manager.

On February 6, 2024, Maryland Public Television (MPT) will air an informative segment on the *Monocacy* hop.

Follow the excitement on social media @heavyseasbeer.



Updated Tax Credits for Food Donations

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

Updates in legislation will impact Maryland farmers this year as enhanced tax credits are now available for food donations. As of July, farmers are able to claim 100 percent wholesale credit to all food—certified organic or otherwise.

“This is a great improvement for all farms across Maryland,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “Not only are food banks and non-profits benefiting, but the farmers will now receive full wholesale credit for their products.”

The Farmers Feeding Families Act of 2022 increased the wholesale credit to 100 percent for all food where the original bill allowed farmers to claim credit on only 50 percent of the wholesale value of their donated food products (75 percent for organic). Wholesale values will be determined by MDA utilizing data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market, which provides daily guidance on wholesale pricing for produce and seafood in Maryland.

The tax credit is capped at \$5,000 per year per farm. Exceptions may be made by the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, allowing the tax credit to be increased from \$5,000 per farm to \$10,000 per farm. In addition to the updated tax credit, changes to the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program, formerly known as the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program, will now include a focus on certified Chesapeake invasive species providers.

The Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program of 2019 was established to encourage each state agency to structure its procurement procedures to try to achieve an overall

percentage goal of 20 percent of its total dollar value of procurement contracts for food being made directly or indirectly to certified local farm enterprises. An agency may achieve the goal through competitive sealed bids and proposals and small procurements under terms in current law.

With the addition of certified Chesapeake invasive species, this now includes blue catfish and any other “finfish species” that is (1) ranked as high priority in the Maryland Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan and (2) harvested from the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.

Those interested in becoming a part of the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program may apply through [OneStop](#), the state’s online registration tool. After the Maryland Department of Agriculture has approved certification, farms or Chesapeake Invasive Species Providers are eligible to work alongside the department to bid out their products to state institutions and universities.

Information on how to receive the tax credit will be published on the department’s website at mda.maryland.gov.

For more information on the tax credit program, please contact Mark Powell at mark.powell@maryland.gov. For more information on the Certified Local Farm and Fish program, please visit mda.maryland.gov or contact Karen Fedor at localfood@maryland.gov.

Farmer and Market Technology Survey

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Maryland is transitioning to an electronic processor for the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program for the 2024 season. In order to best understand needs and capacities, MDA has created a survey seeking farmer and farmers' markets input that we will be able to use to inform our procurement process. Ideally we're hearing from as many farmers and markets as possible throughout the state, so your feedback is greatly appreciated.

The survey is found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/eFMNPSurvey>.



UME Nutrient Management Update

University of Maryland press release

University of Maryland Extension (UME) has launched an enhanced nutrient management planning process designed to adapt to modern farming practices and operations that better align with Maryland's agricultural regulations and environmental goals. Moving forward, UME will now administer and coordinate statewide nutrient management planning following the finalization of the agreement between the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

This reinvigorated effort marks a significant opportunity for enhanced collaboration between UME led advisors and the farming community. The program will build on its prior successes and service model that includes no cost nutrient management plans; soil, manure and tissue sampling assistance and guidance; farmer training and certification; continuing education training opportunities, and much more.

Maryland law requires farmers grossing at least \$2,500 a year or livestock producers with at least 8,000 pounds 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.

Key highlights of the reinvigorated program:

Statewide Coverage: UME will increase staffing to provide nutrient management planning coverage across the entire state. Farmers across Maryland can benefit from this service, ensuring sustainable and responsible agricultural practices.

Staffing and Training: As part of this initiative, the university is in the process of hiring and training additional nutrient management advisors. These advisors will play a crucial role in assisting farmers and facilitating compliance with Maryland's regulations. There are multiple positions statewide at various locations, with more information available at <https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/113947>.

Scientifically Grounded Plans: Nutrient management plans developed through this program are rooted in scientific principles and adhere to Maryland's regulatory framework, promoting both profitable and sustainable farming practices.

"The University of Maryland Extension is committed to the improvement of this program and increasing farmer accessibility to help them meet their regulatory goals and preserve Maryland's waterways," said Craig Beyrouly, dean and director of AGNR. "We are thrilled to launch this new model in our ongoing efforts to support Maryland's agricultural community."

The University of Maryland Extension encourages all farmers and stakeholders interested in nutrient management planning to reach out to their respective county Extension offices. These offices serve as valuable resources and points of contact for accessing this essential service and connecting with trained advisors. For more information on the UME Nutrient Management Program visit go.umd.edu/anmp and for a list of Extension offices visit <https://extension.umd.edu/locations>.



100th Harford County Farm Bureau Banquet



Please join us on **Friday, November 17** for Harford County Farm Bureau's 100th Banquet and Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place at **Pond View Farm**, 2601 Jolly Acres Road, White Hall, MD 21161. The social will start at **6:00 PM** with dinner being served at 6:30.

The event will feature a silent auction of Baked Goods courtesy of the Women's Committee, a live auction for items for your home and farm, and recognition of Harford County's Legacy Farms.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 12 years of age and under. Checks can be made payable to Harford County Farm Bureau, Inc., 3525 Conowingo Rd. Ste 200, Street, MD 21154. Please **RSVP by November 9** to harfordfb@gmail.com, or call Secretary Alice Archer, at (443) 417-3505.

Maryland Buyer-Grower Expo

Maryland's Best Expo connects farmers and small business owners in Maryland to local, regional, and national buyers. Our focus is on connecting our wonderful farmers of produce, dairy, and meats, alongside our seafood purveyors and agritourism partners to buyers - whether small or national - so that more consumers can enjoy all of these amazing Maryland offerings!

The expo will feature booths from our exhibitors, sponsors, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture. New this year - buyers will host 1:1 meeting for those interested in learning how to work with larger chain stores. Sign-ups will be available in the app closer to the event.

Register by December 20; tickets are free.

We look forward to seeing you January 9!

MARYLAND'S BEST EXPO 2024

Registration
NOW
LIVE!

Connecting buyers with producers of vegetables, fruits, dairy, seafood and more

JANUARY 9, 2024



Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium
550 Taylor Ave. | Annapolis, MD 21401

- ✓ Meet local producers of vegetables, fruits, seafood, coffee, dairy products and much more!
- ✓ Grow your program's commitment to providing local commodities in your stores



**REGISTER BY
DECEMBER 20:
CLICK HERE**

OR CALL AUDREY 410-841-5838

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Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



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



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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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Dates to remember

02-04 Nov. UMES Small Farm Conference. University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne. Register [online](#).

07 Nov. Apple Workshop. 8:30-3:30 PM. Western MD Research and Education Center, Keedysville. \$20. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-1323.

07 Nov. Private Applicator Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension Office. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.

07 Nov. Private Applicator Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension Office. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.

14-16 Nov. Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School. Ocean City, MD. Register and more info [here](#).

16 Nov. Ag Law Conference. 8-3 PM. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Annapolis. Price varies. More information [online](#) or call (301) 405-3541

17 Nov. Harford County Farm Bureau 100th Annual Banquet. 6 PM. Pond View Farm, White Hall. \$35 adult, \$15 kids. Call (443) 417-3505.

07 Dec. Northern Maryland Field Crops Day. 8-12 PM. Friendly Farm Restaurant. \$28 in advance, \$35 at door. Call (410) 887-8090 to register.

25 Jan. Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day. Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton. Details to come.

November 2023