

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

January 2018

The Extension Office will be closed on January 1 for the New Year and January 8-9 for our office move.

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County Office
Suite 600

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spotted Lanternfly Detected in Delaware	2
Developments in Ag Law for 2017	3
Grain Marketing Workshop	4
Harford County Agronomy Meeting	5
2018 Women in Agriculture Conference	5
Maryland Winter Application Restrictions	6
Nutrient Management Voucher Training	6
Scholarships	7
Farm Transition Workshop	7

Hello, Harford County!

Happy New Year! Another year in the books and I hope 2017 treated you, your family and your farm well! As we begin to prepare for another year, I wanted to update you on a few things happening in Extension and with the Harford County Extension Ag program (now that I've been here for over a year).

First, as many of you know who get my e-mails, our office move to the new Harford County Agricultural Center that was initially scheduled for December 13-15, has been pushed back and re-scheduled once again. We are now scheduled to **move January 8-9, 2018**. Our Office will be closed for those two days as we transfer all our furniture, files, equipment, computer and phones. We are sorry for the inconvenience this causes.

Once we're finally moved in to the new location, I encourage you to come and visit us! It will be a great facility and future plans include ample space for demonstration gardens and demonstration field plots, which I intend to conduct in the future.

As in years past, the Harford County Extension Office will continue to offer both pesticide training and nutrient applicator voucher training. Generally, I will offer these as separate 2-hour classes in both October and March, and also offered in combination with larger programs, like the Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting (February 13) and regional Extension meetings such as Field Crops Day and our Vegetable Growers Day. Also, don't forget to come in and get your nutrient management plan from Tricia! Now is the perfect time to get it done so

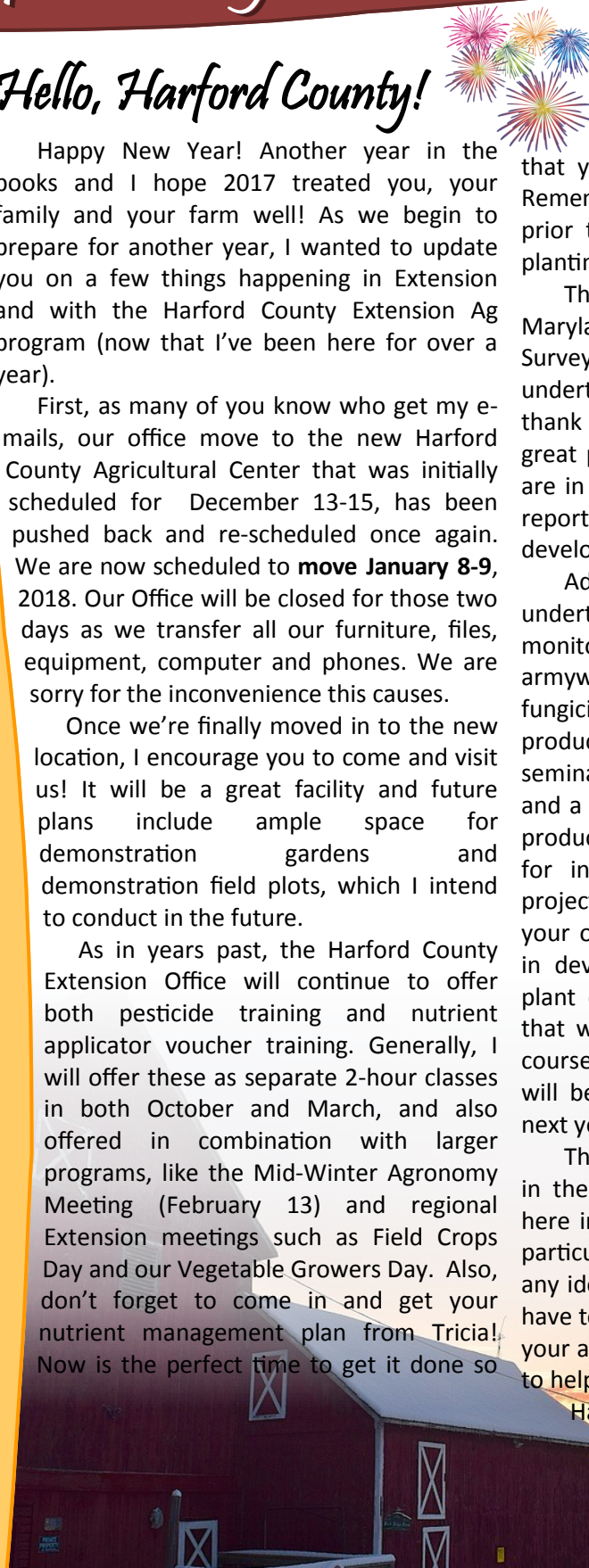
that you have a plan in-hand come spring. Remember, you need to have a valid plan prior to any spring nutrient applications or planting.

This past year we concluded our Northern Maryland Agricultural Needs Assessment Survey; this was one of the first tasks that I undertook when I joined Extension and I thank everyone who responded—we had great participation from Harford County! We are in the process of putting together a final report on the data and will be using it to develop better programs for you.

Additional projects that I have undertaken include: a sentinel apiary bee monitoring project, corn earworm and fall armyworm trapping project, applied soybean fungicide research, hops and malting barley production research, equine management seminars, rotational grazing demonstrations, and a brand new short-course series on beef production. In the future, be on the lookout for information and offerings from these projects and how they can help you improve your operation. Future programs that I have in development include a soils course and plant disease course for farmers. Also note that we are conducting the beef producer's course this year in Washington County, but will be bringing it closer to Harford County next year, so stay tuned!

This is just a small fraction of what I have in the pipeline for agriculture programming here in Harford and Maryland. If anything in particular strikes your interest, or you have any ideas or input, I'm glad to hear what you have to say! As always, I will continue to serve your ag needs, so please contact me; I'm glad to help!

Have a Happy & Safe New Year,
-Andy



Invasive Species Watch

Peter Coffey, Small Farms & Alternative Agriculture Educator
University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County

The **Spotted Lanternfly**, *Lycorma delicatula*, an invasive planthopper, was discovered in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014. Despite efforts by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, this insect has now spread to 13 counties in Pennsylvania, which are now under government quarantine.

It is native to China, India, Vietnam, and introduced to Korea where it has become a major pest. This insect has the potential to greatly impact the grape, hops and logging industries. **Early detection is vital.** "Eradicating the Spotted Lanternfly is important not only for our citizens, but for our economy, as well," said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding in a news release. "This invasive insect threatens to destroy \$18 billion worth of agricultural commodities here like apples, grapes and hardwoods, inflicting a devastating impact on the livelihoods of our producers and businesses."

If you live outside of the quarantine area in Pennsylvania and find a spotted lanternfly, report it! The counties currently quarantined are Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill. It has also been confirmed in New Castle County Delaware, and Delaware County New York. Inspect all items coming from these counties, particularly tools, equipment, vehicles and any plant materials (particularly live plants and mulches).



Identification:

The Spotted Lanternfly adult is approximately 1" long and 1/2" wide at rest. The forewing is grey with black spots and the wings tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in grey. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band. The legs and head are black; the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Immature stages are black with white spots,



and develop red patches as they grow.

Signs & Symptoms:

Trees, such as tree of heaven and willow, will develop weeping wounds. These wounds will leave a greyish or black trail along the trunk. This sap will attract other insects to feed, notably wasps and ants. In late fall, adults will lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces like stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, and structures. Newly laid egg masses have a grey mud-like covering which can take on a dry cracked appearance over time. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30-50 brownish seed-like deposits in 4-7 columns on the trunk, roughly an inch long.

What to do if you find a spotted lanternfly:

Collect a specimen of any life stage to be turned in to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Entomology lab for verification. Submit samples with the [Entomology Program Sample Submission Form](#).

Scrap egg masses, double bag them and throw them away. Please [report all destroyed egg masses](#) on our website.

Take a picture of any life stage (including egg masses) and submit to Badbug@pa.gov.

Report a site: If you can't take a specimen or photograph, call the Automated Invasive Species Report Line at 1-866-253-7189 and leave a message detailing your sighting and contact information.



Viable SLF egg masses (left) can be on trees, rocks, or any other solid object and can be present from September through May. The empty remains of eggs that have hatched out (right) can be found at any time of the year. Photos: E. Swackhamer, Penn State.

Developments in Ag Law for 2017

Paul Goeringer, Extension Legal Specialist
University of Maryland, College Park

Posted to [Maryland Risk Management Education Blog](#)

With 2017 coming to an end, I want to take a minute to look back at many of the top legal developments impacting Maryland agriculture in the year. Many of these legal developments may seem like repeats from my 2016 update; click [here](#) to see. With those repeated issues, in many cases we have seen resolutions, and we will probably continue to see litigation further develop with a few issues in 2018. Moving into 2018, we will probably see new issues develop as a new Farm Bill debate and cycle potentially begins. If you have not already signed up for updates, go to <http://feeds.feedblitz.com/MDRMEB> to get email updates sent to you as new content is available.

Emissions Reporting Under CERCLA

In April, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ended an exemption created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2009. This exemption freed animal operations from reporting emissions of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). Environmental groups challenged this exemption in federal court, and EPA in 2010 asked the court for time to reconsider the exemption.

This year, the federal court of appeals held that EPA did not have the authority to exempt animal operations from reporting emissions. EPA is now working to implement the ruling from the court of appeals earlier this year. The federal court had issued an order earlier that livestock producers had till November 22 to notify the National Response Center (NCR) of reportable emissions of ammonia or hydrogen

sulfide. The court delayed this order at the eleventh hour till January 22, 2018. After notifying NCR, growers will have 30 days to file the appropriate paperwork with EPA. To determine if your animal operation qualifies, check out this page developed by EPA (<http://bit.ly/2hvsPDw>). To learn more about this ruling, check this post out: <http://bit.ly/2gWdVJZ>.

Drift Issues Caused by Dicamba

This year was the first growing season that new, reduced-drift versions of dicamba were allowed on soybeans and cotton varieties resistant to dicamba. Many expected fewer drift damage issues compared to 2016, but in 2017 final dicamba-related damage is estimated at 3.6 million acres across the United States. Due to this damage, we have seen some class action lawsuits filed across the country. These lawsuits often rely on a common set of claims; see an overview of one class action suit at <http://bit.ly/2vgkuNH>.

Continued issues with dicamba drift damage have caused many states to reconsider their approvals of the new types of dicamba and to limit dicamba's usage during the growing season. EPA has also issued new restrictions on the new dicambas. This issue will continue to be a top issue in many places across the country in 2018.

Trump Administration Delays or Pulls Obama Era Regulations

Over the course of the year, we have seen the new Trump administration delay, pull, or begin to develop new regulations related to those issued during the Obama administration. The controversial, "Waters of the United States," or WOTUS rule, developed by the Obama administration would have expanded the



reach of the Clean Water Act in the number of water bodies covered. After becoming final, a federal district court and a federal court of appeals stayed the final rule, and the Supreme Court recently heard a challenge to this stay in enforcement issued by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Trump administration has begun the process to revise this rule to something closer to previous Supreme Court rulings. Stay tuned in 2018 for what this proposed revised rule would say.

In December 2016, the Obama administration announced two proposed rules and an interim rule covering poultry and livestock production contracts; see <http://bit.ly/2iLqKEk>. In October 2017, the Trump administration announced plans to withdraw the interim rule but has not announced any movement on the two proposed rules.

In November, the Trump administration also delayed the effective date of final rules related to organic livestock and poultry standards developed for the National Organic Program by the Obama administration. This delay will push the rules potentially going into effect till 2018. Organic Trade Association has sued USDA over this delay. The Organic Trade Association claim the delay violates federal law; to read more about the delay, click [here](#).

Proposed Settlement Reached in Syngenta Class Action Lawsuit

In June, the first trial in the Syngenta MIR162 class action litigation began in Kansas; for the details of this class action; see <http://bit.ly/2iL5ky2>. The first trial involved the class of Kansas corn growers which did not grow the MIR162 variety. In that first trial, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the corn growers for \$218 million. A second trial began in September involving Minnesota plaintiffs. While the second trial was going on, the parties announced a settlement to all claims. Details of the settlement are currently unknown, and probably will not be known till

2018. News reports estimate the settlement is for \$1.4 billion and includes all plaintiffs who did not grow the MIR162 variety, covering the growing years between 2013 and 2017. To read about how the settlement could impact growers, see <http://bit.ly/2kgme0Z>.

Cases to Watch in 2018

You might be thinking at this point: Paul, what should I be on the lookout for in Maryland in 2018? There are already a couple of cases on the radar for 2018, besides just the dicamba class actions discussed earlier. Food & Water Watch v. USDA is a challenge to Farm Service Agency (FSA) providing a loan guarantee to a poultry grower starting a farm in Maryland. The group claims that FSA should not have issued a Finding of No Significant Impact required under the National Environmental Protection Act. This case will potentially require FSA to revise how the agency handles environmental reviews before approving loan guarantees for U.S. poultry farms. To learn more, see this [review](#) of Food & Water Watch's complaint.

Another case with legal implications on Maryland agriculture is the appeal of the circuit court's decision which ruled state law preempted Montgomery County's pesticide ordinance. The county has approved appealing this ruling to the Court of Special Appeals. If the county prevails, it may open the door for other counties in Maryland to regulate pesticides, creating differing standards among the counties. For an overview of the circuit court's ruling, see <http://bit.ly/2wxlsAS>.

As 2017 draws to a close, we will see new issues develop in 2018. We will also see many issues hopefully conclude. As we move forward, keep checking the Risk Management Education Blog (agrisk.umd.edu) for how these new developments will impact your operations. I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Grain Marketing Workshop

This breakfast meeting will include speakers on various topics in grain marketing. Come have breakfast and discuss this year's strategies for marketing your grain. Speakers include marketing specialists, traders and more. Topics include local and national grain outlook for 2018, tax considerations, crop insurance and the farm bill. This is a workshop that will be live-streamed in the Harford County Extension Office from the Eastern Shore. No charge for the workshop and a light breakfast will be provided. Please register by January 15 by calling (410) 638-3255 or e-mail akness@umd.edu.

January 18

8-11:30 AM

*Harford County
Extension Office*

3525 Conowingo Rd.

Street, MD

Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting

February 13

9-3:30PM

Deer Creek Overlook

The Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting will be held on February 13, 2018 at the Deer Creek Overlook on 6 Cherry Hill Rd. in Street, MD. The meeting will satisfy the credit requirements for private applicator pesticide re-certification and nutrient management voucher training. Check-in begins at 8:30 and the program will begin at 9 a.m. This year's topics include: herbicide resistance and dicamba; soybean and wheat disease update; seed saving laws and considerations; nutrient management; and grain bin safety. Participants will also have an opportunity to meet with local agribusiness vendors and sponsors. A full program agenda can be found [here](#). **Registration is \$12 in advance** or \$20 at the door and includes lunch. Please call the Harford County Extension Office at (410) 638-3255 or e-mail Andy at akness@umd.edu to register. Checks can be mailed made out to "HC EAC" and mailed to our **new office location** (Suite 600, 3525 Conowingo Rd., Street, MD 21154) **after January 9**, or our old PO Box 663 in Forest Hill **before January 8**.



2018 Women In Agriculture Conference

Women across the region coming together to EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER. February 9, 2018 will mark our 17th Annual MidAtlantic Women In Agriculture Regional Conference. The conference goals are to provide women involved in agriculture an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and family lives. Sessions will cover topics in marketing, financial, production and legal.

Back by popular demand we will offer a preconference, February 8, 2018 with the option of two topics: Social Media and Specialty crops.

Location: Dover Downs Hotel & Casino Dover, Delaware (room rates available). Registration is open: www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag. **Early Bird Pricing** Available until 12/31/17. For further information, contact: Shannon Dill at sdill@umd.edu or (410) 822-1244

Starting a Small Farm for Local Markets

Ten-week series for beginning and aspiring farmers. Classes meet Wednesdays starting January 24, 2018. Topics will cover multiple areas from business planning, marketing, equipment, pest management and much more! Cost is \$60 for the entire series, or \$10 per session. More information can be found [online](#) or by contacting Neith Little: [ngliddle@umd.edu](mailto:nglittle@umd.edu) or (410) 856-1850x123.

January 24-March 28

Baltimore County Extension Office
Cockeysville, MD



Maryland Winter Application Restrictions

Darren Alles, Nutrient Management Specialist
Maryland Department of Agriculture | (410) 838-6181

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding operators that the application of nutrient sources is restricted statewide during the winter application period starting December 16 thru February 28. All stackable organic sources, including on-farm generated and imported sources (i.e. poultry litter, spent mushroom soil, compost, imported manure etc.), must be stored in available storage structures on site followed by temporary field stockpiling. The stockpiling of these materials must follow the stockpiling guidance contained in the Maryland Nutrient Management Manual (NM Manual) under the modified 2016 Nutrient Application Requirements.

Liquid manure sources generated on the farm must be stored in available storage structures through the winter period. An emergency provision in the modified regulations allows MDA to work with farmers to prevent overflow from storage structures during the winter period. Under these circumstances, farmers will need to consult with their regional MDA nutrient management specialist for liquid manure application guidance. A 100-foot setback from surface waters is required for any emergency application during the winter. Field conditions for winter application must consider vegetative cover, small grain crops, and established hay fields and pastures along with restrictions concerning soil saturation, when snow is greater than one inch, or hard frozen ground is greater than 2 inches.

The prohibition against making a winter application does not apply to a liquid nutrient source that originates from a dairy or livestock operation with less than 50 animal units until February 28, 2020. However, the emergency provision for winter application of a liquid nutrient source generated on the farm also applies currently to these operations

with 50 animal units or less. Farmers in this category will need to consult with their regional MDA nutrient management specialist, adhere to a 100-foot setback from surface waters, and consider the crop cover and ground conditions prior to making application.

Farmers will need to contact their nutrient management consultant to have their current plan amended for winter fertility application rates and deductions from their spring fertility application rates for the crops applied on. Farmers challenged with the inability to avoid liquid manure applications during the winter are required to enter into agreement of intent with the Soil Conservation District and evaluate winter storage management options for implementation to their operation. Farmers may begin applications for all organic sources beginning March 1 provided that the field conditions are suitable (i.e soil saturation, snow, and hard-frozen ground limitations).

Inorganic fertilizer sources are also restricted during the winter application restriction period with the exception of certain situations. For small grains and perennial forage crops, nitrogen may be applied at green-up as recommended in the NM Manual. Certain nutrients may be applied for greenhouse production and for other vegetable and small fruit crops as listed in the NM Manual. The restriction on the application of chemical fertilizers during the winter also does not apply to potash or liming materials. Farmers may begin applications for all inorganic sources beginning March 1 provided that the field conditions are suitable (i.e soil saturation, snow, and hard-frozen ground limitations).

For more information, contact your regional MDA nutrient management specialist or MDA's Nutrient Management Program at (410) 841-5959.

Upcoming Regional Nutrient Management Voucher Training Sessions

January 26, 2018	Central MD Vegetable Growers' Meeting	9-3PM. Friendly Farm Restaurant, Upperco, MD
February 6, 2018	Carroll County Winter Agronomy Meeting	9-3PM. Carroll County Extension, Westminster, MD
February 13, 2018	Harford County Winter Agronomy Meeting	9-3PM. Deer Creek Overlook, Street, MD
March 7, 2018	Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training	8:30-11AM. Baltimore County Extension, Cockeysville, MD
March 13, 2018	Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training	9-11AM. Harford County Extension, Street, MD

Graduate Programs in Applied Entomology

Understanding and managing insects—both harmful and beneficial—can have a profound impact on individuals, communities, and the environment. UMD's [Graduate Programs in Applied Entomology](#) provides an understanding about the importance of insects and their roles in various ecosystems. Programs include a Masters in Applied Entomology or Graduate Certificates in either Beekeeping, Pest Management, Sustainable Agriculture, or Urban Agriculture. Develop best practices, skills, and knowledge to improve your management strategies and enrich your professional opportunities.

Graduate Programs in Applied Entomology are offered through UMD's [online learning environment](#), using a 12-week calendar format that benefits working professionals with flexibility, convenience, and accessibility. Instruction is provided by UMD faculty and experts in the field. The programs are offered through the Department of Entomology in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences.

[Click here to get further information about the online graduate programs we offer.](#)

Farm Bureau Scholarship

The Maryland Farm Bureau will offer five \$2,000 scholarships. Applicants must be high school seniors starting college in the fall of 2018 or full time college students at any community college or four-year institution. Applicants or their parents/guardians must be members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Three of the scholarships will be offered to agricultural curriculum majors and two scholarships will be offered to non-agricultural or agricultural curriculum majors. Selection will be made by a committee designated by Maryland Farm Bureau.

To apply, students must return the [application form](#) with a current photo (which will be used in a recognition program and a press release recipient announcement as well as on the Farm Bureau webpage) and an essay on: *"With 3-5 generations removed from the farm, how do you see your role as an advocate for agriculture to minimize the knowledge gap between farmers and consumers and promote a more positive image for agriculture?"*

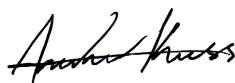
Complete application instructions and forms can be found [online](#).

Harford County Farm Transition Workshop

Don't forget to sign up for the farm transition workshop on January 17! Harford County will be one of several workshop locations in a series of one-day workshops to be held throughout Maryland this fall and winter for family farmers interested in learning about the components of a successful farm transition.

The Workshop will be held January 17 at Deer Creek Overlook at Harford County 4-H Camp, 6 Cherry Hill Rd, Street, MD 21154 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sessions will cover family communications, business planning, forestry planning issues, estate and transition planning, agricultural land preservation and estate taxes. Lunch will be provided and there will be no cost for the program, but **please register by January 10**. Call the Harford County Extension Office at (410) 638-3255 or e-mail akness@umd.edu to register.

Great resources are just a click away!



Andrew Kness
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For Students

General Interest

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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 11 Jan.** [Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference](#). January 11, 7:30-4 PM. Garrett College CTTC Accident, MD. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Call (301) 334-6960.
- 17 Jan.** [Farm Succession Workshop](#). 9-2 PM. Deer Creek Overlook, Street, MD. Free. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 18 Jan.** Grain Marketing Workshop. (broadcasted live from Chesapeake College). 8-11:30 AM. Harford County Extension Office, Street, MD. Free. Call (410) 638-3255.
- Jan 21.** [Urban Farmer Winter Meeting](#). 12-5 PM. Baltimore, MD. \$10. Call (410) 856-1850 x 123.
- Jan 26.** [Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting](#). January 8:30-3:30 PM. Friendly Farms Restaurant, Upperco, MD. \$15 in advance, \$25 at the door. Call (410) 887-8090.
- 30 Jan– 1 Feb.** [Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention](#). January 30-Feb. 1. Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA. \$75-\$165. Register [online](#).
- 6 Feb.** [Carroll County Mid-Winter Farm Meeting](#). 9-3:30 PM. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call (410) 386-2760.
- 9 Feb.** [Women in Ag Conference](#). Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, Dover, DE. Call Shannon Dill (410) 822-1244.
- 10 Feb.** [Mid-Atlantic Small Flock Expo](#). 9-3 PM. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call (410) 742-1178.
- 13 Feb.** [Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting](#). 9-3 PM. Deer Creek Overlook, Street, MD. \$12 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 21 Feb.** [Pesticide re-certification training](#). 6-8PM. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call (410) 386-2760.
- 27 Feb.** Pesticide training. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville, MD. New training 9-11 AM, re-certification training 1-3 PM. Call (410) 887-8090.

January 2018