

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

September 2019

The Extension Office will be closed on  
September 2 for Labor Day



### Hello, Harford County!

August has been considerably hot and dry; such conditions often favor the accelerated development of many insects. You have probably noticed one such insect that is out in force this year—the fall webworm.

We have gotten several inquiries from concerned citizens regarding this insect, what can be done to manage it, and why the County isn't spraying or doing anything to manage their populations.

The insect in question is the fall webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*), which is a species of moth indigenous to most of the United States. These moths are sometimes confused with and/or incorrectly referred to as bag worms (*Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*), eastern tent caterpillars (*Malacosoma americanum*), and even gypsy moths (*Lymantria dispar*). Fall webworm is easily distinguished from these other three moth species because webworm caterpillars spin web nests on the terminal ends of branches during late summer and into fall, whereas the eastern tent caterpillar spins web nests in the spring and do so in the crotches of branches, not on the terminal tips of branches. Bag worms make small, cocoon-like bags that resemble little pinecones and primarily feed on conifers. Gypsy moths do not build any type of web or nest.

The fall webworm is a common pest of many deciduous trees, but prefer hickory, walnut, birch, cherry, and crabapple. They overwinter as pupa on the forest floor. Adults emerge from their cocoons in May and female moths lay eggs on host plants, which take about one week to hatch. The tiny hatchling caterpillars start feeding as a



Fall webworm feeding on black walnut. Image: A. Kness, University of Maryland

group on the tree and spin a web/nest around the foliage they consume. Depending on weather, the caterpillars will pupate into adult moths in about six weeks; however, unusually warm temperatures can accelerate their development (as many have observed in the recent weeks). Fall webworm has two generations per year in Maryland.

For a typical homeowner or forestland owner, management of fall webworm is not necessary. The caterpillars feed on foliage too close to leaf drop in the fall to cause any significant damage to established trees. Webworms rarely do enough damage to kill an established, healthy tree; although, the nests are quite ugly, so pruning them out of trees will improve the ornamental value of your landscape. Because several species of beneficial insects and birds feed on fall webworm, it is not advised (or economical) to treat trees with an insecticide, nor is it advised to burn the nests on the tree, which will cause more stress to the tree than the webworms themselves. Trees will leaf out in the spring without any noticeable damage.

Until next time,  
-Andy

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.

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Andrew Kness

Ag Extension Educator

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# USDA Releases 2019 Cash Rent Averages

Paul Goeringer and Nerice Millet-Williams  
 Reprinted from the [Maryland Risk Management Blog](#), abridged

**Table 1: U.S. Average Cash Rents per Acre for 2011-2019, Source USDA-NASS**



(table 1). Non-irrigated cropland cash rent went from \$125/acre in 2018 to \$127/acre in 2019 or a 1.6 percent increase. Irrigated cropland saw a 2.33 percent increase, going from \$215/acre on average in 2018 to \$220/acre on average in 2019 (table 1). Pasture rent increased from an average of \$12.50/acre in 2018 to \$13/acre in 2019 or a 4 percent increase (table 1).

How did we do in Maryland compared with the national increases? The answer depends on where you lease farmland.

Maryland saw a 5.66 percent decrease of average non-irrigated cropland cash rent or

down \$106/acre in 2018 to \$100/acre in 2019 (table 3). Average irrigated cropland increased by 3.16 percent in 2019, up from \$190/acre average in 2017 to \$196/acre average in 2019 (table 3). Average pasture land cash rents were up 10 percent in Maryland in 2019, from \$40/acre in 2017 to \$44/acre in 2019 (table 3).

Look for a later post on county rental rate data once that is released later this year by NASS. For more information on farmland leasing, see the "Lease Agreements" section of UME's [Grain Marketing website](#).

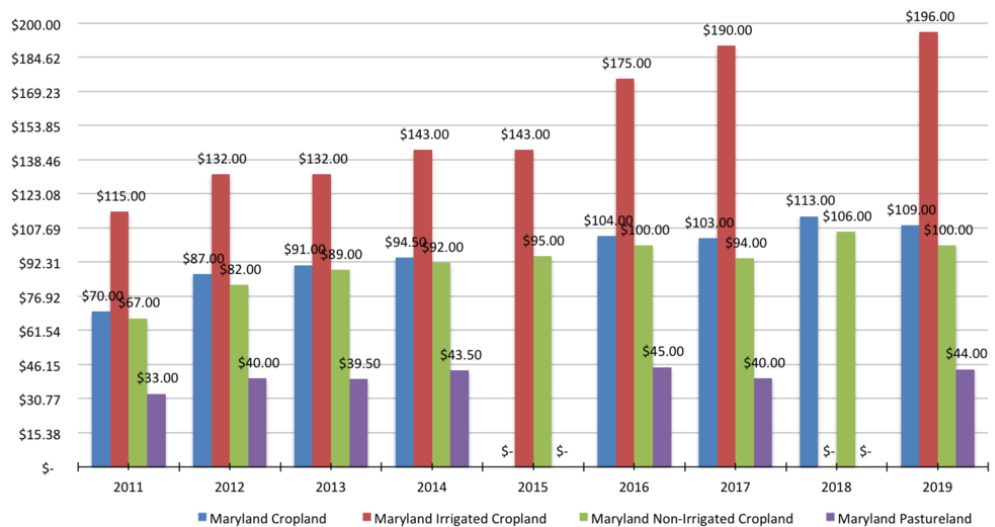
*This is not a substitute for legal advice.*

USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) updated data on cash rent paid by farmers in 2019. NASS collects this data from 240,000 farms across the United States annually through the Cash Rent Survey -data used by other agencies throughout USDA. The survey results can also give us an idea of what other tenants in the area may be paying per acre for farmland.

One important note: many of you often ask me what is a good cash rent price. I honestly have no idea what a fair cash rent price is for you, or the other party, based on the farmland. The averages will give you a good starting point, but you should always consider determining what a good price is for you. Resources exist at [www.aglease101.org](http://www.aglease101.org) to help you calculate a cash rent, a crop-share rent, or a flex-cash rent. Utilizing these resources first can help you determine rent prices that will work for you.

Nationally, cash rent averages in 2019 were mixed

**Table 3: Maryland Average Cash Rents per Acre for 2011-2019, Source USDA-NASS**





## Where Are My Syngenta Settlement Payments?

Paul Goeringer, Legal Specialist

Reposted from the [Maryland Risk Management Blog](#)

*This article is not a substitute for legal advice.*

A number of you have asked when potential Syngenta settlement checks would be released to growers. In late 2018, the settlement order was approved for the \$1.51 billion MIR162 Syngenta settlement. Based on the final order, payments to producers should have started going out in the second quarter of 2019. At this time that has not happened, but recently the [Settlement website](#) has been updated to reflect to show that class members can expect to see class determinations will go out in July 2019 that will show their compensable recovery quantity. Other producers who did not supply enough information, should have gotten notices of rejection in June 2019. Payment timing is expected to be at the earliest February 2020.

The settlement includes all U.S. corn farmers, including those who opted out of the original class action suit and those who grew Agrisure Duracade corn and Agrisure Viptera corn varieties. The settlement will also include landlords who based rental rates on yield or price, such as a flex-lease based on yield or price or a crop-share lease. Fixed cash landlords are not eligible to participate. The period included in the settlement is September 15, 2013, through the 2018 crop year.

The settlement will include four classes:

- Class 1: Growers and eligible landlords who did not use Duricade or Viptera,
- Class 2: Growers and eligible landlords who did use Duricade or Viptera,
- Class 3: Grain handlers, and
- Class 4: Ethanol producers.

Claims to three of the four classes will have limited recovery amounts:

- Class 1 will receive a minimum of \$1.44 billion, with

the bulk of the settlement going to corn growers and eligible landlords who did not grow Duricade or Viptera corn seeds.

- Class 2 will be limited to \$22.6 million,
- Class 3 will be limited to \$29.9 million, and
- Class 4 will be limited to \$19.5 million.

As a part of the settlement order, the court set aside \$503,333,333.33 for attorneys' fees. A later order clarified that the attorneys' fees should be divided up by the following percentages:

- 49 percent to pool Kansas Multi-District Litigation attorneys,
- 23.5 percent to pool for Minnesota state court attorneys,
- 15.5 percent to pool for Illinois state court attorneys, and
- 12 percent to individual retained private attorneys (IRPAs).

This later order invalidates many of the contingent fee agreements, where attorneys would collect a percentage of amounts recovered by their clients in the settlement.

Several IRPAs are currently appealing the final order, arguing the judge did not have the authority to invalidate the contingent fee agreements. At the same time, other appeals are on-going from class members claiming the final settlement is not fair to the class members.

These on-going appeals could potentially impact how final settlement checks are distributed to growers. But from recent posts on [cornseedsettlement.com](#), growers who participated in the suit should expect to see information later this month with potential settlement checks coming in February 2020.



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

Compared to the 2018 wheat crop, 2019 was a much better year for Fusarium head blight (FHB, also known as head scab). Growing quality wheat in Maryland starts with proper variety selection. As you look ahead to the 2020 wheat crop, select wheat varieties that have good FHB “resistance.” I put resistance in quotations because there is no truly resistant variety to head scab; only varying degrees of susceptibility. Nevertheless, planting a somewhat resistant variety will go a long way in managing FHB and keeping vomitoxin levels (DON) lower in your grain compared to a susceptible variety.

To aid in your selection of wheat varieties, the University of Maryland screens several wheat varieties for their resistance to *Fusarium graminearum*, the causal agent of FHB. The results from the [2019 trials can be found here](#). If you would like a hard copy, or have questions interpreting the

results, give me a call at the Extension Office.

Additional considerations for FHB management include:

- Planting behind soybeans rather than corn or other grains. The FHB pathogen survives on residue of corn, wheat, barley, oats, and other grasses; however, it does not persist on soybean residue.
- If planting into corn residue, consider tillage if it is an option for your farm. Sizing and burying corn residue will accelerate its decomposition and reduce the FHB pathogen survival.
- Fungicides in spring 2020. Please note that fall fungicide applications **do not** have any effect on managing FHB. More information will be covered concerning fungicide recommendations in the spring, or review one of my articles [from earlier this year](#).

## Beef Producer’s Short Course: Reproduction

Reproductive efficiency has long been recognized as the most important aspect of commercial beef production. This session will assist producers in improving their herd management and selection for reproductive performance, which could significantly improve profit potential.

Topic areas that will be covered include: Beef Genetics, Choosing the right bull for your program, Reproduction, Synchronization Protocols, Artificial Insemination, and Calving.

Educational resources will include: all presentations and handouts as well as producer resources.

To participate in the Maryland Beef Producer’s Short Course Series II, please submit a completed application and registration fee of \$50 by September 30, 2019. The application form is available [online](#), or contact Racheal Slattery (contact info below). All educational materials, lunch, and

snack breaks are included. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than three days prior to the event.

Please contact Racheal Slattery, Beef and Dairy Coordinator at (301) 405-1392 or [rslatt@umd.edu](mailto:rslatt@umd.edu) with any questions or concerns.

*October 4*

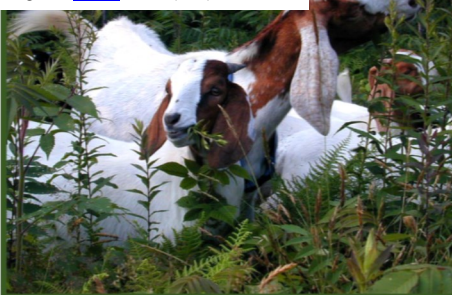
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Baltimore County  
Extension Office

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019**

**Registration: \$35**

Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767



**SMALL RUMINANT PASTURE, GRAZING, & BROWSING CONFERENCE**  
Western Maryland Research & Education Center, Keedysville, Maryland



## Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) Outreach

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) current (2014) General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations (AFO Permit) expires on November 30, 2019. The AFO Permit is reissued every five years.

If you are an existing operation that is currently registered, you must complete the following in order to continue your permit coverage:

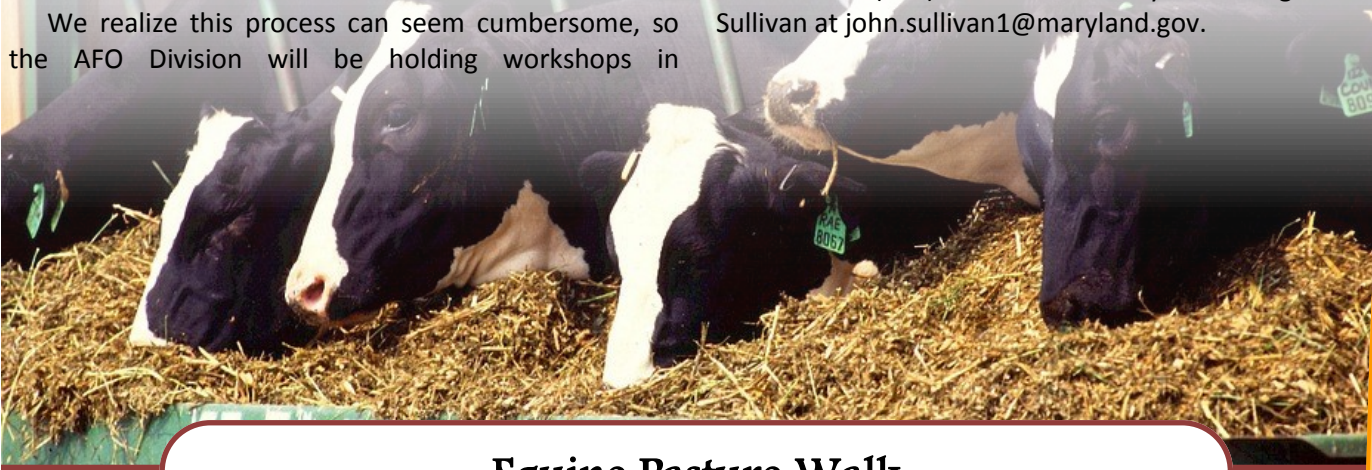
- Notify MDE at least 60 days prior to the permit's expiration (by October 1, 2019) that the AFO is still in operation through completing and submitting the Notice of Continuation of Coverage (NOCO) form; and
- Send in the Notice of Intent (NOI) form and applicable fee within 60 days after the new permit is issued (by January 30, 2020).

We realize this process can seem cumbersome, so the AFO Division will be holding workshops in

September and October on the Eastern and Western Shores in order to assist in filling out the NOCO form, in addition to answering any questions about the NOCOs, NOIs, and the AFO Division in general. These workshops will be held at the following locations and on the following dates:

- UMD Ext. Caroline Office, 9194 Legion Rd, Suite 4, Denton, MD 21629. September 12, 2019. 11-1 PM.
- UMD Ext. Wicomico Office, 28647 Old Quantico Rd, Salisbury, MD 21801. September 19, 2019. 11-1 PM.
- Western MD Research and Education Center, Washington Co. 18330 Keedysville Rd., Keedysville, MD 21756. October 3, 2019. 11-1 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact the AFO Division at (410) 537-3314 or by e-mailing John Sullivan at [john.sullivan1@maryland.gov](mailto:john.sullivan1@maryland.gov).



## Equine Pasture Walk

*September 18*

5:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.  
Sagamore Farm

Join the University of Maryland Extension at Sagamore Farm (3366 Belmont Ave., Reisterstown, MD 21136) for an equine fall pasture management field day.

- Fall Fertilization and Weed Control
- Forage Selection and Establishment
- And learn how Sagamore Farm maintains their pastures

RSVP to Erika Crowl at [ecrowl@umd.edu](mailto:ecrowl@umd.edu) or (410) 887-8090. Please let us know by September 4 if you require special assistance to attend this program.

The pasture walk will start at 5:30 p.m. and we will cover topics including:

- Pasture Assessment and Evaluation





**Course Description:**

Hands-on activities to enhance any certified farmer or certified nutrient management consultant's skill set.

- Grape and small fruit tissue sampling and interpretation, led by Dr. Joe Fiola
- Estimating Hay and Pasture Forage Yields, led by Dr. Amanda Grev
- Manure spreader calibrations, led by the UMD Agricultural Nutrient Management Team

During the lunch break, MDA will have a question and answer session.

This course satisfies **four hours of credit** toward consultants' or operators' nutrient management continuing education requirement.

**Who Should Attend:**

Certified nutrient management consultants, or operators, and any individual interested in increasing practical crop production and nutrient management knowledge.

Registration Deadline is **September 6, 2019**. Directions will be sent with confirmation.

**Cost:**

\$30.00 for the day, payable in advance, covers materials, lunch and coffee breaks. For more information, call (410) 841-5959.

*September 11*

9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.  
Western MD Research & Education Center

**REGISTRATION FORM****MARYLAND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Continuing Education Workshop

*"Practical Experiences in Nutrient Management 2019"*Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Certified? Yes  No 

Affiliation firm: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate # (For CEUs): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with payment to:** Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Pkwy., Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Make check payable to Maryland Department of Agriculture.

**Pesticide Training Dates**

Training for private pesticide applicators will be given through the Harford County Extension Office on October 8 and 15. Optional training class for new applicators will be from **9-11 a.m.** on **October 8**, with exam on **October 15, 9-11 a.m.** Cost for the new certification class will be **\$7**, which includes your own copy of the Maryland Pesticide Core Manual to use as a study guide for the exam.

Recertification training will be offered on **October 15** from **1-3 p.m.** Credits will satisfy Maryland continuing education credits (CEUs) necessary to renew your private applicator license. There is no cost

for this class, but please register ahead of time.

**Please bring your applicator certification number with you to the meeting.**

Please call the Harford County Extension Office to register (410) 638-3255, or e-mail [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu). For a list of additional training dates, call the extension office, or visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture [website](#). As a reminder, recertification credits will also be offered at our Extension winter meetings (such as the Winter Agronomy Meeting).

*October 8 & 15*

Harford County  
Extension Office

## Harford Farm Finder Website

Harford County Government [press release](#)



Harford County's newest app makes it easy to enjoy homegrown products and help support family farms. The Harford Farm Finder is an online map of area agribusinesses selling healthy produce, meats, dairy products, delicious ice cream, craft beer, wine and

more. The app is posted on the county website at [www.harfordcountymd.gov/harfordfarmfinder](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/harfordfarmfinder).

Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, the farm finder was developed in-house by the administration under County Executive Barry Glassman, in partnership with Harford Community College and North Harford High School's Natural Resources and Agricultural Science Magnet Program. Users will see a Harford County map displaying farm locations with charming icons to identify each farm's primary products. Clicking on the icon reveals the farm's address and website, when available.

"Harford County is known for our beautiful farms and award-winning agricultural products, but even lifelong residents may be surprised at the vast array of goods raised in our own backyard," County Executive Barry Glassman said. "I invite everyone to try out our newest app - the Harford County Farm Finder makes it easy to buy local!"

Farms that would like to be included in the app may send an email to [jcgallion@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:jcgallion@harfordcountymd.gov). The Harford Farm Finder was introduced in the inaugural issue of Homegrown Harford, a publication from Harford County's Office of Community & Economic Development and Division of Agricultural Services. This magazine celebrates the county's agricultural heritage, with current stories highlighting farm families, young future farmers, women in farming, Harford's barn quilt trail and beverage tour, and a farm directory. Copies of Homegrown Harford are available in all Harford County Public Library branches, at the Harford County Agricultural Center in Street, or by calling Harford County Community & Economic Development at (410) 638- 3045 ext. 1807.

## Maryland Value-Added Producer Grants

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) has announced a grant incentive funding opportunity to encourage Maryland's agricultural producers to expand or diversify their business operations by installing capital assets (equipment and fixtures) to make a product that is "value added." Eligible applicants must be a crop or livestock producer or processor, agricultural cooperative, seafood processor, or primary or secondary timber products processor, and have been in business for a minimum of two years.

MARBIDCO will offer incentive grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000, distributed on a competitive basis, for capital projects that help farmers, forest product

operations, and seafood processors expand or diversify their business operations through value added activities. The financial match required from the rural business must be at least equal to the amount requested from MARBIDCO.

The application deadline is **Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 4 p.m.** Applications received in the mail with a Saturday, September 21, 2019 postmark will also be accepted. Grant award announcements should be made by mid November 2019.

For more information about the MVAPG-CAO Program, contact Daniel Sweeney, MARBIDCO's Financial Programs Associate, at (410) 267-6807 or visit MARBIDCO's website at [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org).

Andrew Kness  
Extension Agent,  
Agriculture and  
Natural Resources



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[Extension.umd.edu/Harford-county](https://extension.umd.edu/Harford-county)



*Great resources are just a click away!*

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

3525 Conowingo Rd.  
Suite 600  
Street, MD 21154

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

# Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

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## Dates to remember

- 8 Sept.** Harford Soil Conservation District 75th Anniversary Celebration. 2-6pm. Swan Harbor Farm, Havre de Grace.
- 18 Sept.** [Equine Pasture Walk](#). 5:30-8:30pm. Sagamore Farm, Reisterstown. Free. Register by calling (410) 887-8090.
- 11 Sept.** [Practical Experiences in Nutrient Management](#). 9-2:30pm. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. \$30. Registration form on pg 6.
- 11 Sept.** [Women in Ag Webinar: This Just In. Your Ag-Role for Media Requests](#). 12pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 20 Sept.** [UMD Institute of Applied Ag Open House](#). 9:30-12pm. College Park. Free. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-4686.
- 25 Sept.** [Women in Ag Webinar: This Managing Your Forested Farmland](#). 12pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 4 Oct.** [Beef Producers Short-Course, Series II: Reproduction](#). 8:30-3:30pm. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville, MD. \$50. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-1392 by **September 30**.
- 8 Oct.** Private Applicator Training For New Applicators. 9-11am. Harford County Extension Office, Street. \$7. Exam on **Oct. 15, 9-11am**. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or e-mail [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).
- 15 Oct.** Private Applicator Recertification Training . 1-3pm. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or e-mail [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).
- 19 Oct.** [Small Ruminant Pasture, Grazing, and Browsing Conference](#). 9-4pm. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. \$35. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767.

September 2019