

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

 February 2023

The Extension office will be closed
on February 20 for President's Day

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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Andrew Kness

Ag Extension Educator
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MDA Healthy Soils
Program

Hello, Harford County!

I hope 2023 is off to a good start for you! Even though January has seemingly been dreary, cold, and wet; oddly enough we are running almost one inch shy of our average annual precipitation so far for 2023. But as you know, that can quickly change.

In this issue you'll find several reminders and updates to consider as you get ready for the 2023 growing season. If you still need pesticide credits or nutrient vouchers, there's still some opportunities to renew those. The Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting is coming up on February 14 and provides all necessary credit hours for private pesticide applicators, nutrient management, and select ag commercial pesticide credits. Also don't forget about paraquat training; this can be completed online at <https://npsec.us/paraquat>. New label changes now require anyone who purchases or applies paraquat products to be certified.

If you have a nutrient management plan, don't forget to complete your AIR by March 1. You should have received a form in the mail; but if not, you can complete your AIR online or download a blank form from [MDA's website](https://mda.org). Also if you plan to apply for any type of cost-share (such as cover crop), remember that you need to have a current nutrient management plan for the cropping season or you may be denied cost-share money.

This is a very busy time of year for nutrient management planning, so if you need a plan or an updated plan, please contact Patricia Hoopes in our office sooner rather than later!

If you have any question or concerns, please reach out. I hope to see you at an upcoming program soon!

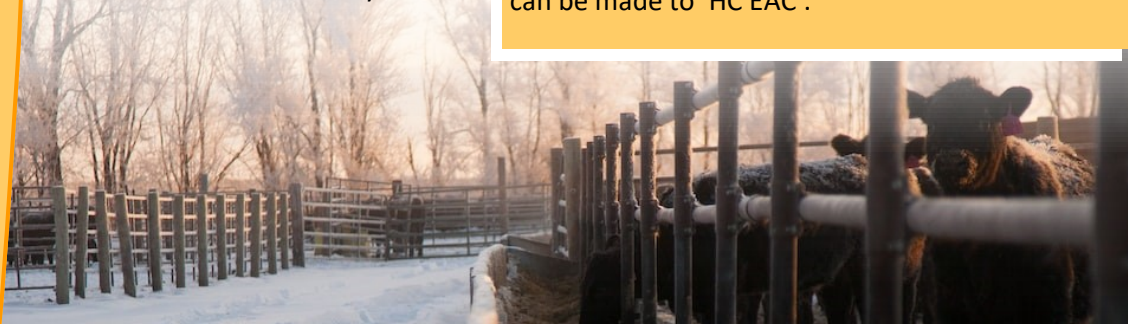
Until next time,
-Andy

Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting

There's still time to register for the Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting at Deer Creek Overlook, 6 Cherry Hill Rd, Street, MD! Maryland pesticide credits and nutrient management credits, as well as select PA pesticide credits will be offered. Early registration is \$12 (before February 6) and \$20 thereafter.

Topics include Tar Spot in Corn presented by Alyssa Collins from Penn State; Weed Management Updates from our weed management specialist, Kurt Vollmer; Deer Management With Forage Soybeans from our wildlife management specialist, Luke McCauley; Alternative Fertilizer Sources for Pastures and Forages from our forage specialist, Amanda Grev; and MDA pesticide and nutrient management updates. Morning refreshments provided by Farm Credit and lunch is provided by Pit-n-Pinchers. Doors open at 9 and the program starts at 9:30 a.m. and lasts until 3:00 p.m.

Call the office to register: (410) 638-3255. Checks can be made to 'HC EAC'.



Annual Implementation Reports Due March 1

MDA's Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) are due March 1, 2023. These reports outline nutrient applications made in the 2022 calendar year and maybe submitted either via paper or through the online [Maryland OneStop](#) portal.

MDA sent out the paper forms last week, so you should be seeing them arrive in the mail now. However, MDA is encouraging producers to file electronically for a faster, easier, and more accurate reporting.

To get started:

1. Go to onestop.md.gov
2. Scroll down until you see Department of Agriculture under state agencies.
3. Follow the instructions to complete your report.

For more information, please contact MDA at (410) 841-5959.

Nutrient Management Voucher Training, February 23, 1-3 p.m.

Nutrient management vouchers are required for anyone applying fertilizer (synthetic or organic) or manure on their farm. Vouchers are valid for three years. In order to renew, you must attend a two-tour training course.

A two-hour training course for nutrient management vouchers will be offered at the Harford County Extension office on February 23 from 1-3 p.m. This class is free, but please register ahead by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu. As a reminder, voucher credits will also be available at the Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting on February 14.

Farmer Training and Certification Series: "Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan"

Learn how to write a nutrient management plan for your operation that meets Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations. The "Agronomic FTC" class is suited for commodity crops (e.g. corn/soybean), hay/pasture, and/or animal farm operations using commercial fertilizer and/or manure. The "Small Intensive Food Production FTC" is meant for urban farms, or farms growing a large amount of fresh market vegetables/fruits, and addresses use of more complex organic nutrient applications.

Fields or pastures high in soil-test phosphorus may require additional training and a greater time commitment.

Required Skills and Resources

- Competency in high school math and basic computer skills.
- Bring up-to-date soil results, manure results (if applicable), crop plans/ history on field-by-field basis.

Schedule

In-Person Sessions (choose the location most convenient to you) 9:30am-4:30pm each day:

Agronomic FTC- Baltimore County Extension Office (Cockeysville, MD):

Day 1 (instructional day): Monday February 6, 2023

Day 2 (instructional day): Wednesday February 8, 2023 (snow day 2/13)

Day 3 (exam/plan development): Monday February 27, 2023

Small-Intensive Food Production FTC- Baltimore City Extension Office- (Baltimore, MD):

Day 1 (instructional day): Wednesday March 1, 2023

Day 2 (instructional day): Wednesday March 8, 2023

Day 3 (instructional day): Monday March 13, 2023 (snow day 3/15)

Day 4 (exam/plan development): Monday March 27, 2023

Registration

Registration is required. **Classes will be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment.**

Link to register: <https://go.umd.edu/FTC2023Baltimore>

For more information, please call 301-405-2465 or email Emileigh at rosso@umd.edu.

Cost: \$30-includes USB drive with course materials and lunch on days 1 & 2 due by check to MDA one week before class starts

If you want to take the exam to become certified: Additional \$20 exam fee due by check to MDA- Exam application will be distributed to registrants

Checks should be made out to Maryland Department of Agriculture and sent to the address below; include course name and start date in the memo line:

Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Maryland Department of Agriculture

50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy

Annapolis, MD 21401

Cost-Share for Split-Applying Nitrogen

Janell Eck, Delaware Maryland 4R Alliance

Cost-share is available to farmers interested in adding an additional split to their nitrogen application on their 2023 corn crop. The Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association and their agribusiness partners will work directly with producers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed for the third and final year of this grant opportunity. Farmers who apply an additional split of nitrogen, and leave a control strip with the same total poundage will be eligible for a \$15 an acre incentive payment.

Farmers are eligible to enroll 40 acres or 400 acres, as long as a control strip is available in each field. The 4R Alliance requires past crop and yield data as well as 2023 corn yield checks to analyze and compare results. Data collected over the three-year grant will be compiled for a published case study.

In 2021, five Maryland farms participated and had an average yield increase of 19.2 bushels per acre where they use an additional split to their nitrogen applications versus all of it upfront. Of the 11 participating farmers in Pennsylvania, farmers saw an average yield increase of 17.6 bushels per acre and a 12 percent increase in nitrogen use efficiency. Check out more results [here](#).

To enroll today and to learn more please contact our team! Eric Rosenbaum for Pennsylvania at 484-788-7263 or by emailing ericrosenbaum@rosetreeconsulting.com. For Delaware and Maryland contact Jenell Eck McHenry at 443-262-6969 or by emailing jenell.mdag@gmail.com. Sign-up is encouraged to be submitted by **April 1st**.

Funding is provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. The Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Alliance was awarded a three-year grant for education, training, and cost-share to increase the implementation of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices. Learn more about our work online at 4rmidatlantic.com.

Conservation Buffer Initiative Open

Maryland Department of Agriculture press release, abridged

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is opening the 2023 signup period for its Conservation Buffer Initiative from **January 30 through March 10, 2023**. New this year, qualifying farmers who plant forest buffers will receive a one-time \$1,000/acre signing bonus on top of the incentive payment for this practice.

Now in its third year, Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative offers attractive incentive payments, easy sign-up, and a variety of management options for farmers who want to plant streamside buffers on their farms to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Plan includes a goal to plant 63,980 acres of buffers by 2025. As of June 30, 2022, Maryland has achieved more than 80% of this goal. Three types of buffers are eligible for funding and free technical assistance from local soil conservation districts under this program: **forest buffers** planted next to waterways, **grass buffers** planted next to waterways or field ditches, and **watercourse access control areas** adjacent to pastures.

Program highlights include:

- Payment rates range from \$500/acre for an existing

grass buffer, to a maximum of \$4,500/acre to install a riparian forest buffer with pasture fencing

- New this year, annual maintenance payments offered for forest buffers during the first 5 years of the contract
- An extra one-time bonus payment of \$1,000/acre offered for enrolled forest buffers
- Mowing and hay harvesting are allowed; nutrient applications are not.
- Contracts are for 5 or 10 years
- Soil conservation districts will provide free technical assistance to install your buffer
- All work must be completed by June 30, 2024

Farmers who want to install new buffers on land adjacent to waterways or improve existing buffers are encouraged to sign up for these grants by March 10, 2023. Applications and required forms are available on the [website](#) and may be mailed or emailed to the program by the deadline.

Technical staff working in [local soil conservation districts](#) can help with questions about the application

Backyard Farming Sessions

Small Ruminant Series

Join UME experts online every other Thursday at 7pm to learn more about owning sheep and goats!

Bottle Feeding Lambs and Kids

February 9, 2023

Lamb and Kid 911

February 23, 2023

I'm Not Buying It: Things to know and questions to ask before you buy

March 9, 2023

Got Milk? Are dairy goats a good fit for your farm?

March 23, 2023

Registration is required!

Register one time and select the small ruminant sessions you want to attend. <https://go.umd.edu/kid911>.



Flock Friday Sessions

Join UME experts online every Friday at noon to learn more about owning poultry.

Poultry 911

February 3, 2023

Poopology

February 10, 2023

Pooper Scoopin'

February 17, 2023

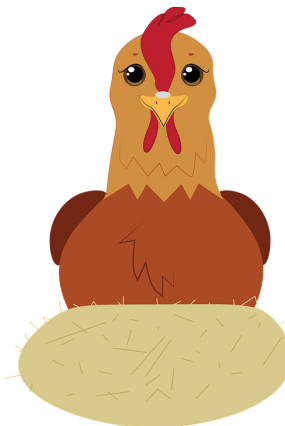
Manure and Mortalities

February 24, 2023

Registration is required!

Register one time and select the small ruminant sessions you want to attend. <https://go.umd.edu/chickenmanure>

Contact Meagan Perdue at (443) 523-4389 for more information.



Converting Manure into Energy

Megan Stibble, Administrative Assistant, LEAD Maryland University of Maryland Extension

The LEAD Maryland Alumni Committee would like to share an upcoming [event](#) with you.

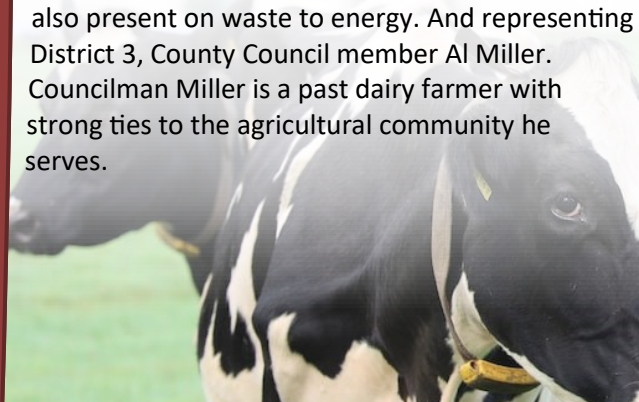
On March 30th from 10:30 am to noon at Kilby Farms, in Colora, we will see a methane digester. This is a great chance to learn how to generate energy from manure. Poultry growers can also learn about reducing poultry litter odor issues!

Speakers will be Ben and Liz Flahart, owners of Kilby Farm, Inc., and Cliff and Andrea Sensenig who run a dairy in nearby Quarryville, PA. From the University of Maryland Environmental Science and Technology department, Dr. Amro Hassanein will also present on waste to energy. And representing District 3, County Council member Al Miller. Councilman Miller is a past dairy farmer with strong ties to the agricultural community he serves.

The registration fee is \$20 and will cover a meal from Smokehouse Grill. Registration is open now until March 24th. There will be no refunds given. Questions can be directed to Megan Stibble at (443) 446-4248.

March 30

10:30-Noon
Kilby Farms
Colora, MD



Commercial Vegetable Recommendations

The Critical Updates for the [2022/2023 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations](#) are now available: [Download your copy here](#) or call the Extension office for a copy.

2022/2023
Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable
Production Recommendations



2022 Census of Agriculture

In January, USDA mailed the 2022 Census of Agriculture to all known agriculture producers in the United States. If you have not already responded, you have until February 6, 2023 to respond via mail or online at agcounts.usda.gov.

I encourage all producers to complete the census as accurately as possible, as it is the most comprehensive dataset we have of agriculture in the United States down to the local level. These data inform decisions and influence policy at the local, state, and federal level, so it is very important that we accurately represent our industry. Your individual identity is not disclosed in the data. Full results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture will be released in 2024. To learn more, visit www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus.



Women in Ag Conference

February 16, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

The conference's 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.

Cost: \$45.00 **Location:** Tidewater Inn, 101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601

Registration: <https://2023womeninagconf.eventbrite.com>



AG SAFETY DAY

PRESENTED BY:



Nationwide



Saturday February 25th
9 AM - 11 AM

Topics:

- Understanding Your Farm Policy
- Farm Truck Safety Inspections
- Maryland Lisc. Type & Class
- SHA Hauling Permit Eligibility
- Grain Bin Rescue Equipment

FREE Event

Summit Manor at Hereford
510 Monkton Rd.
Monkton, MD 21111

Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/AGSafety2023>



Registration is open for an upcoming workshop on soil amendments and composting for Maryland produce growers. The workshop is part of ongoing collaborative work with the Maryland Food Safety Network, Future Harvest, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance to provide food safety education that helps growers understand and implement federal regulations under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

The single-day Soil Amendments Workshop will be hosted at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park to help growers understand best practices of using and making biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO), such as compost. Attendees will hear perspectives from industry, University of Maryland Extension, and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

- **Date and time:** March 9, 2023, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM EDT
- **Location:** Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, Maryland 20855
- **Cost:** \$10 (covers expenses for the provided light breakfast and lunch)
- **Register:** Online <https://soilamendmentworkshop.eventbrite.com> or
- Contact Megan Todd with questions, motodd@law.umaryland.edu, (316) 993-5293

Soil amendments are any of the materials growers add to the soil - like compost and fertilizers - to improve its physical or chemical properties and promote better crop growth. Biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAOs) are those that come from animals, like

manure or animal mortalities, and can include pre- and post-consumer waste like table scraps. Proper use of soil amendments is critical for managing soil fertility, improving soil quality, and often results in healthier and tastier crops.

However, soil amendments, particularly BSAAOs, that are untreated or inadequately treated prior to application can contain harmful human pathogens that can cause foodborne illness in consumers. This topic is especially relevant to growers of specialty crops that are typically eat raw and produce covered by the FSMA Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

Workshop speakers will provide an overview on the PSR and draft guidance from the FDA to understand the current regulatory framework and requirements regarding soil amendments, the basics of how to compost, and the benefits of using BSAAOs to the soil and the farm. The intent is to help growers understand risks and benefits of using BSAAOs and how to comply with the current requirements. It will also provide an update on the status of BSAAO Risk Assessment, associated research, and discuss the possible future of Subpart F provisions for the use of untreated BSAAO on covered farms. Attendees will receive a certificate of workshop completion for their records.

This workshop is supported by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award U2FFD007444 totaling \$856,887 with 100 percent funded by FDA/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by FDA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

March 9

8:30—3:00 p.m.
Derwood, MD

Pesticide Training Dates

We are holding training in March for individuals needing pesticide training. Applicators that already have a license and need continuing education credits may attend the two-hour training at the Harford County Extension Office on **March 8 from 1-3 p.m.** Be sure to bring your certification number to get credit. This training is free of charge, but please register ahead of time.

For individuals that need to take the exam to acquire their private applicator pesticide license, an exam will be held at the Harford County Extension Office on **March 8 from 9-11 a.m.** Be sure to bring your drivers license for

identification. An **optional** training session to prepare for the exam will be held on **March 1 from 9-11 a.m.** at the Harford County Extension Office. Copies of the Private Applicator Core Manual will be available for purchase for \$10. Checks can be made out to "HC EAC."

To register for the exam, new applicator training, or recertification training, please email akness@umd.edu or call the Extension Office at (410) 638-3255.

March 1 & 8

Harford County
Extension Office

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Internship

Creating Leadership & Professional Development



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Undergraduate students currently enrolled in a professional certification, two-year or four-year degree in agriculture, natural sciences, biological sciences, or a related STEM program

WHEN ?

10 weeks starting May 30, with Virtual Orientation and Pre-Internship Training prior to start date

Where to Apply?

Find details & application at <https://go.umd.edu/extensioninternship>

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

Healthy Soils Grant

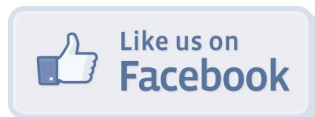
Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture will begin accepting applications for its new Healthy Soils Competitive Fund on January 3rd, 2023. If you have an innovative conservation idea for your farm, this program is for you! It provides financial assistance to qualifying farmers who adopt conservation practices that provide soil, water, and climate benefits. Its aim is to support farmers and operators who are ineligible for other programs. Grants up to \$50,000 are available. MDA will accept applications from January 3rd, 2023, through **March 3rd, 2023**. Grant recipients will be announced by April 30th, 2023.

For more information, go to https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Soil-Health.aspx.

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



facebook.com/HarfordAg

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



akness@umd.edu



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Suite 600
Street, MD 21154

UNIVERSITY OF
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EXTENSION

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 14 Feb.** Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting. 9-3 PM. Deer Creek Overlook. \$12 in advance, \$20 at door. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.
- 23 Feb.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension Office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.
- 25 Feb.** Ag Safety Day. 9-11 AM. Hereford Fire Hall. Free. Register online tinyurl.com/AGSafety2023.
- 01 Mar.** Annual Implementation Reports due to MDA.
- 01 Mar.** Private Applicator Exam Prep Class. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension Office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

- 08 Mar.** Private Applicator Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension Office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.
- 08 Mar.** Private Applicator Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension Office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.
- 09 Mar.** Produce Safety Rule Training: Soil Amendments. 8:30 -3:30 PM. Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood. \$10. Register [online](#) or call (316) 993-5293.
- 11 Mar.** North Harford FFA Alumni Annual Barn Dance. 6-10 PM. Pond View Farm. \$40 per ticket. Tickets available online <https://2023FFAAlumniBarnDance.eventbrite.com>.

February 2023