

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

## Garrett County Ag Newsletter



Agriculture & Food Systems

December 2023

### Tri State Hay and Pasture Conference to be Held



The Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference will be held at Garrett College, Garrett Information Enterprise Center located at 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD on Wednesday, January 17th from 9am to 4pm in room 111.

The annual event will feature regional experts and local speakers covering a variety of topics on growing and managing forages on the farm. A full agenda will be published in early January.

Participants will receive Nutrient Management recertification credits for licenses and applicator vouchers in Maryland and West Virginia. The cost for the event is \$30 and will include a light breakfast and lunch.

To register for the event, please contact Continuing Education & Workforce Development at 301-387-3069. The registration deadline for the event is January 11th. Registration is required, as space is limited.

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### Winter Ban on Spreading Manure Begins December 16

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 6, 2023)**– The **Maryland Department of Agriculture** reminds farmers that the winter ban on spreading manure and other nutrient sources on cropland, including food processing residuals (FPRs) begins **December 16, 2023**. Farmers may resume spreading on March 1, 2024, based on their nutrient management plan recommendations, as long as fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen.



Maryland's nutrient management regulations prohibit farmers from spreading manure and other nutrient sources on fields in winter due to the increased risk of runoff into local waterways. Farmers are required to store liquid manure sources generated on farms in structures. The department is authorized to work with livestock farmers to prevent overflows from storage structures and minimize impacts on water quality. In these instances, farmers must contact the **Nutrient Management Program** for emergency authorization before spreading occurs.

Temporary field stockpiling of "stackable" poultry litter and other qualifying organic nutrient sources is allowed if the moisture content is 60% or less. Farmers may not apply stackable organic nutrient sources to fields in winter under any conditions.

Farmers should contact their regional [nutrient management specialist](#) if they have storage concerns, questions about the regulations, or need guidance on storage requirements. For more information, please visit the department's Nutrient Management Program [website](#).

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## MDA Offers New Services for Farm Succession Planning



**ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 11, 2023)** – The **Maryland Agricultural Conflict Resolution Services (ACReS)** program has added farm succession planning to its scope of services at the **Maryland Department of Agriculture**. The [University of Maryland Extension](#) also offers similar resources and farmers and watermen are encouraged to seek out either program. Program

Director, Dr. Kay-Megan Washington, a recently certified **Farm Succession Coordinator** by the **International Farm Transition Network**, is available to provide planned transfer of money, management, and assets in a manner which allows the farm business to continue under a new primary operator. In transitioning a farm business, often the business is owned and/or operated within a family. Due to this overlap between family and business, there may be issues which arise regarding communication, assumptions and expectations, compensation, management and control, debt acquisition, documentation and recordkeeping.

ACReS offers mediation services to all farmers and watermen. It is important to start mediation as soon as an issue arises – the sooner the service is utilized, the better chance of a positive outcome. The service is completely confidential and is low to no-cost. Mediation is a great alternative to lawyers and lawsuits and can also move faster than a lawsuit.

"We are proud to expand our services to farmers and watermen in Maryland;" said **Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks**. "Planning for the future is critical to the health of farms and watermen across the state; we are excited that Dr. Washington is certified and can offer this service for free."

For more information on services offered, please visit: <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/acrs.aspx>. You can also contact the Program Coordinator directly, Kay-Megan Washington, at [kay-](mailto:kay-megan.washington@mda.maryland.gov)

## Backyard Farming Series: Flock Fridays begins February 2024



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**AgFS**  
Agriculture & Food Systems

### Backyard Farming Zoom Sessions Flock Fridays

- **Keeping Your Flock Healthy**  
Feed quality, health, biosecurity, etc.  
February 2, 2024
- **Mixing and Making Your Own Feed**  
Is it right for me?  
February 9, 2024
- **Pasture Poultry Basics**  
Advantages and disadvantages of raising poultry on pasture  
February 16, 2024
- **Small Flock Economics**  
February 23, 2024

*You may register for any of the above sessions at <https://go.umd.edu/chickenfeed>.*

**Backyard Flock sessions will be held on Fridays at noon EST.**

Registration is required. If you do not have internet access, contact Maegan at 443-523-4389 or [mperdue@umd.edu](mailto:mperdue@umd.edu) for call in options. Sessions will be approximately one hour.

If you need reasonable accommodations, please email Maegan Perdue 2 weeks prior to the session.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

Backyard Farming Zoom Sessions will begin February 2024. These sessions, known as Flock Fridays will be held on Fridays at noon and will detail the following:

- February 2, 2024: Keeping Your Flock Healthy-Feed quality, health, biosecurity, etc.
- February 9, 2024: Is it right for me?
- February 16, 2024: Advantages and disadvantages of raising poultry on pasture
- February 23, 2024: Small Flock Economics.

You may register for any of the sessions at <https://go.umd.edu/chickenfeed>. Registration is required. For additional information, contact Maegan at 443-523-4389.

## Do You Need A Nutrient Management Plan?





University of Maryland is continuing to offer nutrient management planning on a first come first serve basis.

Garrett County will have a full time planner starting in January however that person will also be covering Allegany County. Please get your request in as soon as possible for a plan to be written.

We will put you in line for a plan once we have soil test results and manure test results if needed. Soil samples are good for three years and manure samples for two years. If you are not sure when your last samples were taken, give us a call and we can check the files.

The Garrett office is no longer sending out soil samples but we have soil bags and information for you to send out your samples. Stop by and pick up soil sample bags and the info. Now is a good time to get soil samples before the ground freezes or the snow gets too deep. Don't wait till the last minute to request a plan especially if you intend to use NRCS or MDA cost share, apply for manure transport or cover crop payments. We can not write a plan once you have started applying nutrients to your ground including manure.

If you have any questions, call the extension office at 301-334-6960.

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## Statewide Agriculture Newsletters



Newsletters from UME offer informative, researched-based information that the reader can put into practice. Informative articles include crop production, disease information, animal science, and upcoming programs. Take a closer look at the newsletters listed below.

The **Agronomy News** is a statewide newsletter for farmers, consultants, researchers, and educators interested in grain and row crop forage production systems. This newsletter is published once a month during the growing season and will include topics pertinent to agronomic crop production. Subscribers will receive an email with the latest edition.

[Agronomy News](#)

The **Fruit & Vegetable News** is a timely publication for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry available electronically from April through October. Published by the University of Maryland Extension Agriculture and Food Systems team.

[Fruit & Vegetable News](#)

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## Update AG Client Contact Information

Please [click here](#) to update your contact information and to stay updated on everything agriculture-related in Garrett County and the tri-state area.

**CONTACT US**



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## UME Garrett County Agriculture & Food System

**William Lantz, Principal Agent**  
Agriculture & Food System  
[wlantz@umd.edu](mailto:wlantz@umd.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Except for Observed Holidays



[Faculty/Staff Directory](#)



Agriculture & Food Systems

**Email:** [rcvetnic@umd.edu](mailto:rcvetnic@umd.edu)

**Website:** <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county>

**Location:** 1916 Maryland Hwy., Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

**Phone:** 301-334-6960

**Office Hours:** M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm excluding holidays

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/4HGarrettCoMD>

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personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact us at 301-334-6960.

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**Roberta Cvetnick**

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters