

For Immediate

Release Date: 12/21/2023

Farm O Gram

Winchester, VA ~ Feeder Cattle (\$/100wt.) (As of 12/11/2023)

Steers:

300 – 400	\$182.00 - \$225.00
400 - 500	\$160.00 - \$242.00
500 - 600	\$182.00 - \$221.00
600 - 700	\$210.00 - \$220.00
700 - 800	\$190.00 - \$211.00
800 - 900	\$165.00 - \$196.00

Heifers:

300 - 400	\$140.00 - \$220.00
400 - 500	\$155.00 - \$227.00
500 - 600	\$145.00 - \$207.00
600 – 700	\$165.00 - \$195.00
700 - 800	\$110.00 - \$175.00
800 - 900	\$170.00

Slaughter Cows:

Breaker	\$ 77.00 - \$ 86.00
Boner	\$ 70.00 - \$83.00
Lean	\$ 60.00 - \$ 70.00

Maryland Grain Bids Prices per Bushel (As of 12/05/2023)

#2 Shelled Corn	\$4.95 - \$5.00
#1 Soybeans	\$12.33 - \$12.63
#1 Wheat	\$5.37 - \$5.92

Wolgemuth Hay Auction ~ New Holland Hay and Straw Prices per Ton (As of 12/06/2023)

Alfalfa	\$165.00 - \$240.00
Mixed Hay	\$ 50.00 - \$320.00
Wheat Straw	\$100.00 - \$155.00

AG Happenings

Tri State Hay and Pasture Conference

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. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact us at 301-334-6960 by January 3, 2024.

Backyard Farming Zoom Sessions to Begin

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.

Winter Ban on Spreading Manure Begins December 16

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.

MDA Offers New Services for Farm Succession Planning

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.

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-megan.washington1@maryland.gov.

