In September 2017, Syngenta agreed to settle claims brought by U.S. farmers for bringing Viptera and Duracade corn varieties to market before approval in China. On March 12, 2018, Syngenta formally announced that it would be settling all U.S. corn growers, grain handlers, and ethanol plant claims for $1.51 billion. This settlement, from media reports, will include all U.S. corn farmers including those who opted out of the original class action suit and those who grew Agrisure Duracade Corn and/or Agrisure Viptera corn varieties. The settlement will be for a period starting after September 15, 2013, and continue through the 2017/2018 crop year. You are not required to retain an attorney to assist you in collecting on this settlement.

The settlement will include four classes defined as:

1. Growers who did not use Duricade or Viptera,
2. Growers who did use Duricade or Viptera,
3. Grain handlers, and
4. Ethanol producers.

Claims to three of the four classes will be limited in the amount that can recover.

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

A bulk of the settlement will go to the growers who did not grow Duricade or Viptera corn seeds with Class 1 receiving at least $1.44 billion. If a person qualifies in two classes (for example you grew Duracade seed one year but not in other years) you are permitted under terms of the proposed settlement to collect in multiple classes as long as no duplicative recovery is collected. The settlement will not allow for recovery on silage or fed on-farm corn.

Producers in Class 1 and Class 2 will prove the amount they are entitled to recover by using USDA's Form FSA 578. Form 578 determines the producer's corn acreage minus any failed acres and silage acres. This acreage will be multiplied by the county average yield for the marketing year reported by NASS deducting the percentage of bushels fed on the farm reported by the producer, multiplying by the marketing year weighted average to get the recovery amount for that marketing year.

The weighted averages for each market year are:

1. 2013/14 - 26%
2. 2014/15 - 33%
3. 2015/16 - 20%
4. 2016/17 - 11%
5. 2017/18 - 10%
**APRIL 2018**

01 - Easter

03 - **Timely Ag Issues/Grain Marketing**, 7:30 a.m., QA Extension Office, Centreville, MD, coffee, donuts.

11 - WIA Wednesday Webinar—Legal Implications of Pesticide Drift. For information and to register visit [http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars](http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars).

12 - Challenges in Managing Water Resources, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Cecil County Administration Building, Elkton, MD. To register call 410-996-5280 or visit [https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/gardening](https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/gardening). Details P8

13 - Online Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. To register for this on-line event contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906 or register online.

18 - DPI Booster Banquet. Contact the DPI office, 302-856-9037 for tickets.


21 - Backyard Poultry Workshop, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Cecil County Administration Building, Elkton, MD. To register, call 410-996-5280, or visit [https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/gardening](https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/gardening). Details P8

22 - Earth Day [https://www.earthday.org/](https://www.earthday.org/)

25 - WIA Wednesday Webinar—Small Flock Management - Getting Started with Your Backyard Flock. For information and to register visit [http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars](http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars).

27 - Arbor Day [https://www.arborday.org/](https://www.arborday.org/)

28 - Maryland Day 2018, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., University of Maryland, College Park. For more information, visit [https://www.marylandday.umd.edu/](https://www.marylandday.umd.edu/)

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**MAY 2018**

01 - **Timely Ag Issues/Grain Marketing**, 7:30 a.m., QA Extension Office, Centreville, MD, coffee, donuts.

09 - WIA Wednesday Webinar—How to Avoid the Probate Process. For information and to register visit [http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars](http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars).

12 - Eastern Shore Spring Show, Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park, Centreville, MD. [https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/4-h-youth/fairs-and-shows](https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/4-h-youth/fairs-and-shows)

13 - Mother’s Day

19 - Armed Forces Day


28 - Memorial Day


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**JUNE 2018**

01 - **Timely Ag Issues/Grain Marketing**, 7:30 a.m., QA Extension Office, Centreville, MD, coffee, donuts.

13 - Poultry Mortality Composting Short Course and Demonstration, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Wye REC, Queenstown, MD. For registration information, 301-405-1198, tscites@umd.edu, or visit Poultry Mortality.

13 - WIA Wednesday Webinar—Holy Hashtag! For information and to register visit [http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars](http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars).

27 - WIA Wednesday Webinar—Facebook Promotions. For information and to register visit [http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars](http://www.extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars).

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The 2018 Pest Management Guides are available in PDF* format and are divided into three volumes: Field Crops (456-016), Horticultural and Forest Crops (456-017), and Home Grounds and Animals (456-018). Three-hole-punched and shrink-wrapped copies will be available for purchase at the Pest Management Guide Store, [https://apps.cals.vt.edu/flex/PMGOordering/PMGOordering.html](https://apps.cals.vt.edu/flex/PMGOordering/PMGOordering.html).
**2018 Sponsors**

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- Maryland Department of Ag. – Crop Insurance – John Hall
- Nagel Crop Insurance - Chad Nagel & Mark Sultenfuss
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- Southern States – Q.A. Co. Service – David Conley
- Syngenta- Brenda Riggleman
- USDA / NASS – Dale P. Hawks
- Willards Agri. Service

**ThankYou!**

**Informational Displays**

- University of Maryland Extension - Queen Anne’s County
- Queen Anne’s County Farm Service Agency
- Queen Anne’s County Soil Conservation District

Please check out this program on …..

Public Information – QACTV www.qactv.com/ QAC TV7

https://youtu.be/o10hmKAi5aE

https://youtu.be/Mbl10DL5HGc

https://youtu.be/uRAyZj9ZuDY

https://youtu.be/HiW0OvYeN80

https://youtu.be/bfyXsswpG50
Elkton, MD – Cecil County is within the radiological impact zones of several nuclear power generating stations. The University of Maryland Extension (UME) Cecil County Office and multiple other agencies are collaborating with the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide disaster preparedness information relating to the agricultural community.

When there is a possible radiological incident from nearby nuclear power generating stations, the EOC will activate to the Calling Center and monitor the impact of a release. The EOC is responsible for various groups. The UME and a couple other county agencies are responsible for the agricultural community and need to be able to reach out and provide guidance to residents on actions that are necessary to protect animals and humans. In order to provide this notification service and guidance, the UME needs contact information on all Cecil County agricultural operations. *This information will be for UME-Cecil use only, except during training and actual incidents where others may see/utilize the information.*

UME Cecil County is asking that all Cecil County agricultural operations contact them and provide emergency contact information for their operations. Please call Doris Behnke or Donna Witkowski at the Cecil County Extension Office at 410-996-5280 or provide the information on a secured online form at https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/agriculture/agricultural-disaster-preparedness-information.

**SYNGENTA** (continued from page 1)

The weighted averages represent damage impact determined by the Plaintiffs’ economic experts during the course of the litigation. For example, if a producer seeking recovery had reported 100 acres on her FSA Form 578 with a county yield of 150 bushels per acre and no silage or fed on-farm corn reported in marketing year 2014/15. The producer is entitled to in 2014/15 a compensable recovery quantity of 4,950 bushels in 2014/15 marketing year. At this time, a dollar value is unknown on that compensable recovery quantity. The recovery method for the other two classes (grain handlers and ethanol producers) will follow a different format. This overview will not cover those recovery methods.

Judge Lungstrum must still approve the settlement. If approved, a fund will be created to pay claims to farmers (possibly in early 2019). Ten days after approval of the settlement the first notice will be sent out. A producer will have 90 days after the first notice is mailed to opt-out of the settlement. Many growers may have already opted out of the class action, but will potentially need to opt-out again based on the language of the proposed settlement agreement. Claims are paid within 150 days of the first notice being mailed out. To notify corn growers, a mailing list of U.S. producers who received corn subsidy payments from USDA from 2013-2017 was obtained from USDA. The attorneys will also look at buying additional mailing lists of corn growers from ethanol plants and grain handlers.

As additional details are made available, I will work to update this post with the latest information.

The Maryland Risk Management Blog, is provided by the [Maryland Crop Insurance Project](http://www.marylandcropinsure.com) and the University of Maryland’s [Agriculture Law Education Initiative](http://www.aglaw.umd.edu/). This blog provides readers with information on legal and risk management issues important to Maryland agriculture, upcoming events, and new materials that may interest readers. To subscribe to the blog, visit [http://www.aglaw.umd.edu/](http://www.aglaw.umd.edu/). If you have issues or thoughts on topics Ashley, Sarah, Wele, and Paul should address, [click here](http://www.aglaw.umd.edu/) to send them.
Kent County Weed Control Program is Back!!!

After a hiatus of several years, the Kent County Weed Control Program was re-instituted in 2017 by request of Kent County citizens and agricultural agencies. A cooperative venture between Kent County Government and Maryland Department of Agriculture Weed Management, the program has the following goals: (1) educate land owners and managers regarding their responsibility to comply with Maryland’s Noxious Weed Law, (2) notify land owners and managers when they are not in compliance, (3) offer noxious weed management advice and (4) provide fee-for-service treatment of noxious and other invasive weeds.

Scott Rowe serves as the Kent County Weed Control Coordinator. He works three days a week from mid-April to November and can be contacted at 410-708-1227 or rowe@kentgov.org.

Weed Control Program brochures are available at the Kent County Extension Office and local ag agencies. An electronic version is available by e-mailing Scott.

Cecil County Department of Public Works Noxious Weed Control

The Cecil County Weed Control Program will be up and running as of May 1 for the control of noxious and invasive weeds on your property. Noxious weeds threaten the productive land of farmers and can cause unsightly and unwanted problems in the lawns and gardens of homeowners.

As a service to county residents, the Cecil County Department of Public Works (DPW), in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, operates a weed control program to assist farmers, developers, right-of-way owners, federal, state, and local agencies and other landowners, in controlling noxious weeds and certain other invasive species such as phragmites.

For more information, contact Ron Penhollow, 410-996-6270. For more information on the Noxious Weed Control Program, view the brochure at http://www.ccgov.org/government/public-works/public-works-divisions/roads-division.
https://youtu.be/m6LWDOs0Knl

https://youtu.be/KfmVyE0bir8

https://youtu.be/8uLdYj-4-pI

https://youtu.be/Z_pWjLrOi_g

https://youtu.be/COVkA0ljjbA

https://youtu.be/ZAjQOEbb0So

Thank You!!

2018 Organic Production Workshop Sponsors

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Cecil County Farm Bureau Recognizes Dividing Farm
William and Lynda Jeanes, Jr.
2017 Outstanding Farm Operation

Dividing Farm, operated by William and Lynda Jeanes, Jr., has been recognized by the Cecil County Farm Bureau as the William D. Cissel Outstanding Farm Operation of the Year for 2017. The Jeanes family operates a grain farm growing corn, wheat, and soybeans on approximately 1000 acres of farm land in lower Cecil County. They are being recognized for their success in farming, involvement in the local community, and commitment to agriculture.

This was the 50th year that the Cecil County Farm Bureau has recognized an outstanding farm operation. The award was created to bring greater attention to the importance of agriculture in the county. The name of the award has evolved to reflect changes in our farm community. Initially, the award was called "Farmer of the Year". However, recognizing the role spouses play in any successful farm operation, the name was later changed to "Farm Couple of the Year". But for those of us involved in agriculture know that farming is a family affair, so the name was later changed to "Farm Family of the Year". Unfortunately, farm family does not include the incorporations and partnerships that exist today so the name of the award was later changed to its current name, "The Outstanding Farm Operation of the Year". Despite this evolution of the name over time, the criteria used to select the recipient of the award remains consistent with the criteria that was set forth in the original by-laws of the award dating back to 1967. Similar to the award, the Jeanes family's history is also rich, having farmed in Cecil County since the late 1600s.

William (Bill) Jeanes Jr began his farming career in the summer of 1970 when he was home from college on summer break, helping Teddy Meckling on his farm until he went out on his own. Initially, having no land of his own, Bill rented land from various farmers and with success, slowly his operation began to flourish. In 1977, Bill and Lynda's life together began, later marrying in 1981.

Lynda, daughter of Jim Groves and his wife Lillian Hoffner Groves, was no stranger to agriculture. She grew up on an angus cattle farm in New York until seventh grade when she moved back to the Ware Farm in Cecil County where they established and maintained for the Ware's, a pure-bred angus beef cattle herd for over 20 years. Lynda shared a love for cows and farming, actively participating in 4-H, showing angus steers and heifers at various shows throughout Maryland. After graduating from Bo Manor High School, Lynda attended Salisbury University, obtaining a Bachelor's degree and began a teaching career at Cecilton Elementary School in 1970. In 1976, she completed her Masters in education from Salisbury University and would go on to teach various grades at Cecilton Elementary for 39 years before retiring in 2009.

In September of 1982, Bill and Lynda celebrated the birth of their first child, William (Billy) and in June of 1984, had their daughter, Alison. Billy and Alison shared their parents' love of farming which was evident from an early age, always eager for an excuse to help their father on the farm. In addition to helping on the family farm, Billy has his own trucking company, delivering mushroom soil to farmers. After college, Allison lived in Baltimore for a brief time before deciding to move back to the farm in 2016. Having an appreciation for the peace and beauty of the farm, she now commutes to Annapolis every day, working as a lawyer in Annapolis. Billy and his wife Katie Davidson Jeanes are grooming the next generation of farmers with their two daughters, Madison and Lilly, ensuring the Jeanes family legacy continues.

Bill has been very involved in the local community, participating in various organizations such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Waterman's Association, Upper Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the Board of Appeals for Planning and Zoning. He was a member of the Cecil County Young Farmers in the early 1970s, representing Cecil County at the 1975 American Farm Bureau Federation's Discussion Meet competition. Bill has always shared a concern for the health of the Chesapeake Bay and worked to change the misperception that Maryland farmers were to blame for the bay's pollution. Bill and Lynda continue to be active in the community by supporting the local 4-H at their livestock sale each year and actively participating in several local organizations that raise money for school scholarships.

The Jeanes family's deeply rooted tradition of farming and caring for the land is evident and will continue for many years to come with three generations currently help out on Dividing Farm. I couldn't think of a more deserving farm family to be recognized as The Outstanding Farm Operation of the Year for 2017.

Follow the link to view a video highlighting why Dividing Farm, William and Lynda Jeanes Jr are being recognized for the award: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2UErkKbwtk.
Thursday Presentation

April 12 - Challenges in Managing Water Resources

Less than one percent of water on the planet is useable. Water resource management is a very important issue with regard to conservation and protection of water. Take a peek into the dynamics of water conservation as Dr. Ritter explains emphasizing home ownership and agricultural strategies.

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
FREE - Bill Ritter, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Delaware

How To Register
If you would like more information, or are interested in registering for any of these programs, visit our website, https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/gardening, or call the Cecil County Extension Office, 410-996-5280.

Saturday Workshop

April 21 - Backyard Poultry

Considering chickens? This workshop will give you a foundation in managing a small backyard flock including nutrition, housing, predator control, breed selection and basic healthcare. The program will also introduce other backyard fowl including ducks, turkeys, geese and guinea fowl.

10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
FREE - Michael DePaola, Small Farm Hobbyist

LOCATION: Cecil County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton, MD 21921
Lectures: Use front entrance
Workshops: Use back entrance (Senior Center)

Contact your local UME Agriculture Educator:
Cecil County ~ Doris Behnke at 410-996-5280 or dbehnke@umd.edu
Kent County ~ Nate Richards at 410-778-1661 or nrichard@umd.edu
Queen Anne’s County ~ Jennifer Rhodes at 410-758-0166 or jrhodes@umd.edu

The University of Maryland Extension is a partnership among the U. S. Department of Agriculture, land-grant universities and local governments in each state. Faculty and staff of University of Maryland Extension (UME) provide research-based information, educational programs and services on a variety of subject areas.