Corn, soybeans and wheat are the major agronomic crops grown in Maryland representing over 900,000 acres of cropland and valued at over $700 million (NASS 2012). In order to provide the most current education and research University of Maryland Extension provides winter agronomy meetings for Maryland farmers, crop advisors and agriculture professionals.

The goal is to provide updates on products, research results and regulatory certifications to increase farm vitality through increased yields and profits.

Farmers from the Lower Eastern Shore to Western Maryland participated in annual winter agronomy meetings to increase crop production knowledge, meet regulatory requirements and improve production practices. In 2016, over 480 farmers attended sessions. Of those attending over 58% have been farming more than 20 years with the average farmer tilling 605 acres.
Over 93% of the participants report that the session will benefit their farming operation. Participants report information and production practices that will be implemented following the program. These include: Improved pest management practices (29%), Improved fertility management (47%), Improved crop production practices (46%), Use of risk management tools (12%), Regulatory information (31%), A new product or practice (26%).

**Production Practices Implemented**

- Improved pest management practices: 29%
- Improved fertility management: 47%
- Improved crop production practices: 46%
- Use of risk management tools: 12%
- Regulatory information: 31%
- A new product or practice: 26%

**Farm Production and Profitability**

Winter agronomy meeting participants were asked the expected yield increase due to knowledge and skills gained from Extension programming. The average participant will increase yield per acre between 6.5% and 9.6%.

Agronomy meeting participants were also asked the expected profitability increase per acre due to knowledge and skills gained from Extension programming. The average participant increases profitability between $16.23 and $25.23 per acre. Using the average acres farmed per person the overall average profitability is $(20.23*605ac) = $12,239.15 per person.