Ag Notes
Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

August 2020

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
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hello, Harford County!

I hope everyone is managing the heat we are experiencing! Luckily we received some much-needed rain and hopefully August will bring some more precipitation for our crops to finish strong.

Starting on July 21, some Extension offices began a phased-in reopening. Here in the Harford County office, several of our faculty and staff have returned to the office for work rather than teleworking. If you recall in our last issue, I had explained that in order to visit the office you must first schedule an appointment. Since then the University has retracted that statement, as the offices will remain closed to visitors until further notice. I apologize for any inconvenience. In the meantime, I'd be happy to meet you on-farm.

The following is an additional update from Laura Wormuth, Communications Coordinator for University of Maryland Extension:

As the community outreach arm of the University of Maryland, we have been serving Maryland's neighborhoods and residents for over 100 years, and despite the recent changes, Extension remains committed to keeping our state strong and healthy.

As Maryland begins its implementation plan for returning to offices and research facilities, University of Maryland Extension (UME) personnel will be following the university, state and county guidelines to protect our most valuable resource — the people and communities we work with throughout Maryland.

UME employees will only return to their offices if county/city government is open. Administration is regularly assessing the situation to ensure the health and safety of all employees.

For the safety of our colleagues and clients, county personnel will follow university, state and county specific protocols to include wearing masks, symptom monitoring, and social distancing within office areas as well. For the safety of everyone, clients will be required to make appointments to meet with Extension faculty and staff.

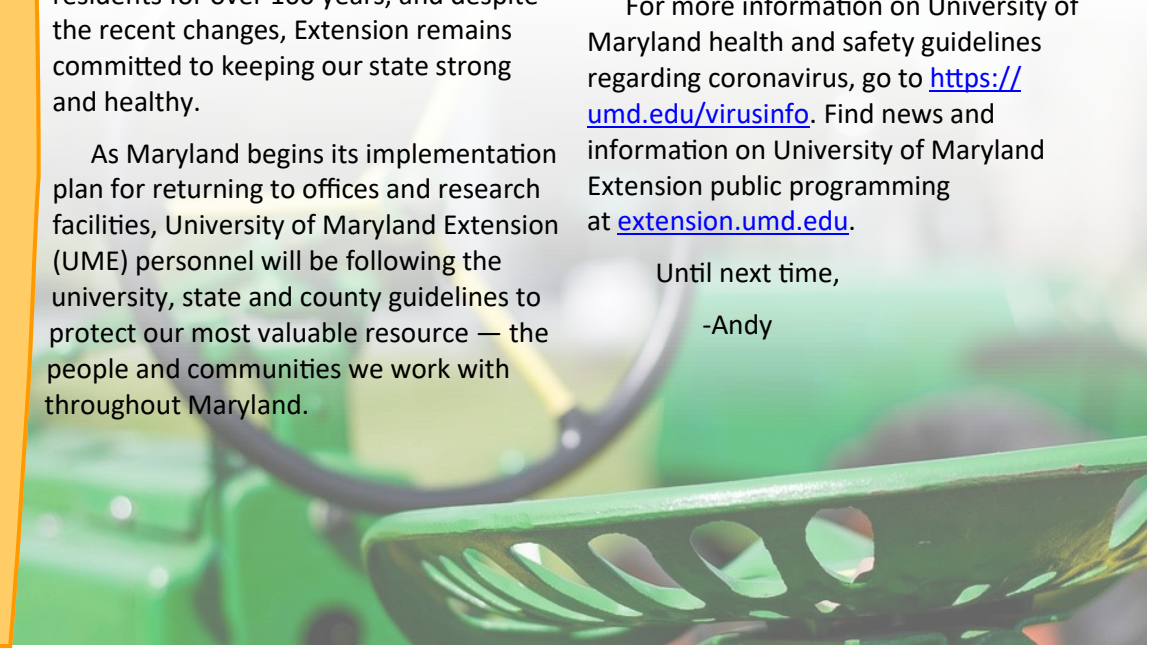
Master Gardener and 4-H programming is cancelled through July 31, 2020. UME will begin to hold limited in-person programming of groups up to 10 people, including the Extension faculty member, in outdoor venues, while wearing masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing.

We are still available for assistance throughout this time and you may contact us by phone or email, and we are continuing programming through online and virtual formats. A list of events can be found at https://agnr.umd.edu/events/.

For more information on University of Maryland health and safety guidelines regarding coronavirus, go to https://umd.edu/virusinfo. Find news and information on University of Maryland Extension public programming at extension.umd.edu.

Until next time,

-Andy



What's Going on With Dicamba?

Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Law Legal Specialist
University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative

Reposted from the Ag Risk Management Blog. This is not a substitute for legal advice.

Dicamba has been back in the news lately in several areas. EPA recently moved to cancel registrations for three dicamba products, XtendiMax, Engenia, and FeXapa, based on a ruling in the Ninth Circuit. Growers have till the end of July 2020 to use existing stocks. And Bayer, the parent company of Monsanto, recently announced settlement of around $400 million for class-action lawsuits filed against possible drift damage caused by the company's XtendiMax product. Although details of that settlement will not be known for a while, let's step back and get a sense of what this means for growers.

What are the dicamba drift lawsuits about?

Producers experiencing dicamba drift damage brought the current *In re Dicamba Herbicides Litigation* against the manufacturers of the dicamba -based herbicides XtendiMax and Engenia. With the federal claims, the plaintiffs argue that Monsanto and BASF Corporation violated § 1125(a) of the Lanham Act in marketing both XtendiMax and Engenia dicamba-based herbicides. The plaintiffs also allege that state claims focused on negligence claims in product design, failure to warn of negligence in the design, failure to warn of the dangers, and poor training sales of representatives for the two dicamba-based herbicides.

Only one of the federal lawsuits has gone to trial on similar claims in *In re Dicamba Herbicides Litigation*. A federal jury in *Bader Farms, Inc. v. Monsanto Co.* awarded a Missouri peach grower $265 million in damages, $15 million in actual damages, and $250 million punitive damages. The defendants are currently appealing this decision.

What is in the settlement?

The exact terms of the settlement are currently unknown. The plaintiffs and defendants have agreed in principle to settle claims of yield losses due to dicamba damage from 2015 to 2020. $300 million of the settlement will cover specific losses to soybean growers during that period. Another $100 million of the settlement will go towards non-soybean damage and include the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees.

Who will be eligible?

What still is not known is how broad the eligibility will be. We do not know if this will be nationwide or limited to the class action lawsuit states. As mentioned above, we currently know the settlement will cover yield losses due to drift damage from 2015 to 2020. We will have to wait for the final settlement agreement to be announced to get more details on eligibility.

How will you apply?

How to apply is another good question for which we currently do not have an answer. When the final settlement agreement is announced we will get a sense of the timeline for eligibility. Since this settlement includes the 2020 crop year, we can assume that signup would not even start until after completing the 2020 harvest to allow time to determine potential damage. Because the settlement is based on yield damage, we can assume you will need to submit crop insurance documentation or have calibrated yield monitoring data to verify this yield loss due to dicamba drift damage.

How does this relate to the on-going lawsuit in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals?

The recently announced settlement and the lawsuit in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals are related in the sense that they both include many of the same dicamba-based herbicide products, and that is about it. As mentioned earlier, the class action settlement is based around federal claims that the defendants violated the Lanham Act and state law-based tort claims. The claims in the Ninth Circuit are related to EPA's approval of the 2018 registration for BASF, Bayer, and Corteva dicamba-based herbicide products.

Based on the court's vacatur of that registration, EPA has moved to cancel the three dicamba-based herbicides', XtendiMax, Engenia, and FeXapa, registrations. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA only has authority to either cancel or suspend federal pesticide registrations. With a suspension or cancellation, EPA can set the conditions on which canceled or suspended pesticides can be sold, distributed, or used.

Looking forward, the 2018 registrations for these three products would have expired later this year. EPA will need to consider the Ninth Circuit's ruling in the process to reregister these three products. We will have to watch this process to see if the products are reregistered in time for the 2021 growing season.

Free Webinar: Investing in Your Farm's Future

August 6 - 27
6:00—7:30 PM
Online

A free, online series entitled "Investing in Your Farm's Future" will begin on Thursday, **August 6** and will run for four consecutive Thursdays from **6:00 to 7:30 PM**. Topics include "Retirement Planning" (August 6), "Health Insurance in Later Years" (August 13), "Business Planning and Communications" (August 20), and "Legal Topics, Planning Tools and Finding the Right Team" (August 27). The series is free but registration is required. You may register for any or all of the sessions offered. **To register, visit https://go.umd.edu/5Qv**.

This series is a collaborative effort between University of Maryland Extension, College of AGNR, Maryland Department of Agriculture, University of Delaware Extension and UMD Agriculture Law Education Initiative.

Pumpkin Spray Program

Bryan Butler, Principal Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County

I have been asked by several growers that attended last year's WMREC Horticultural Twilight for the Insecticide and Fungicide program we used over the various pumpkin projects at the farm in 2019.

This was the tenth year for some variation of looking at spray programs for pumpkins at WMREC. Dr. Kate Everts has been the Principle Investigator on this project, and Doug Price at Keedysville has done a great job keeping this project afloat. For this season what really stood out to me was stem quality and storage quality. This project evolved from a program of no spray blocks, IPM blocks and premium spray program blocks. Although yields were not that different between IPM and premium blocks, the quality of the stems in the premium blocks was vastly superior as was reduction in loss when pumpkins were held in storage. Stems not only looked better but they were significantly stronger. The 2019 timeline is a continuation of what would have been the more extensive spray programs and again pumpkins held in storage well into March of 2020.

- 6/3 – pumpkins planted
- 6/4 – sprayed Strategy + Roundup PowerMax
- 7/9 – Asana XL + Echo 720
- 7/22 – Asana XL + Echo 720 + Ranman
- 8/6 – Endigo ZC + Echo 720 + Tanos + Champ Formula 2 Flowable
- 8/16 – Asana XL + Ranman + Rally 40WSP
- 8/26 – Echo 720 + Procure 480SC + Tanos + Champ Formula 2 Flowable + Brigade WSB
- 9/4 – Pristine + Brigade WSB
- 9/18 – Pristine + Endigo ZC
- 10/1 – Harvest

Additional pumpkin recommendations can be found in the 2020-2021 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations.

Basic GAP in a Virtual Format

It is never too late, or too early to become GAP certified. The Plant Science Food Safety Group is offering virtual classes in preparation to become certified in Maryland Good Agricultural Practices (MD GAP). GAP certification provides the assurance to customers that a farm is employing high standards in farming methods that reduce the likelihood of contaminating produce with food borne pathogens. This includes practices that address water quality, manure and compost use, worker health and hygiene and contamination from wild life, domestic animals and livestock.

This program is appropriate for the farm that has recently initiated direct marketing to consumers or the farm that is considering a wholesale contract. Also aspiring farmers would be wise to include GAPs when constructing their business models. Contact Carol Allen (callen12@umd.edu) or Angela Ferelli (angfer@umd.edu) for more information about the program.

Already MD GAP certified? We also provide one-on-one guidance to help a farm prepare for the USDA GAP programs.

Assessing Pastures in Preparation for Renovation

Amanda Grev, Forage & Pasture Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

With the current warm temperatures it may feel like fall is still far away, but the end of summer will be here before we know it and now is the time to be thinking ahead about plans for pasture renovation this fall. Despite our best managerial efforts, many of our forage stands will eventually require some form of renovation. Whether we have simply let our fertility slip, lapsed in our harvest management, allowed some fields to become overgrazed, or weeds have taken over and outcompeted the desirable forages, an unproductive pasture is often the result. Couple this with the severe drought and extreme wet conditions that Mother Nature has all too often thrown our way in recent years and we may find ourselves scratching our heads and wondering how we got here and what to do about it.

The first step is to recognize that poor forage stands are often a symptom of an underlying cause. More often than not, the major causes of poor pasture productivity include a lack of adequate fertilization and/or poor grazing or harvest management. If this is the case, keep in mind that if a stand is thin as a result of poor soil fertility or overgrazing, the problem will not correct itself just because you've added more seed. To achieve real success, these underlying issues will need to be corrected. If environmental conditions such as flooding or drought are at fault, we can work to overcome those by selecting species or varieties that will be more resilient to those conditions moving forward.

Along those lines, one other point of note is that renovation does not always require completely starting over with a full reseeding. Renovation can also occur in the form of improvements in management, better fertilization and weed control, the addition of legumes into grass pastures, or overseeding into thinner areas.

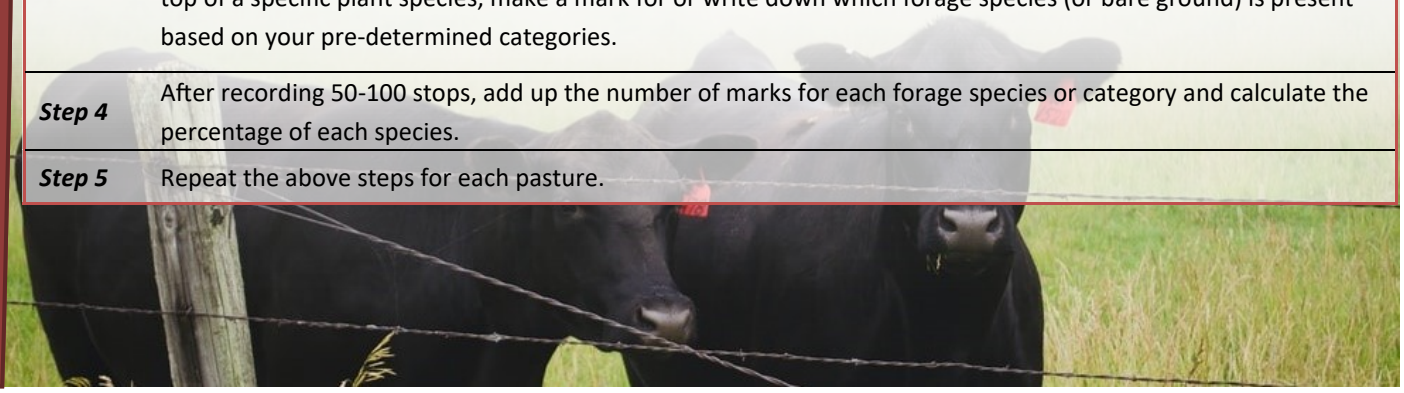
When deciding whether or not renovation is needed, take some time to assess the current condition of your pastures. Are they performing as well as you would like? Has there been excess damage from environmental conditions? How well have you been managing the stand? Are there a lot of undesirable species or weeds present? In addition to asking yourself these questions, an objective assessment of the pasture stand can be helpful. One such assessment is the step-point method, which involves walking through each pasture in a random pattern and noting the forage species (or lack thereof) at various locations throughout the pasture (see specific steps below). Recording these observations allows you to objectively calculate the vegetative cover and percent desirable forages for a given field. In addition, take note of other key indicators such as forage diversity, plant vigor, presence of insect or disease damage, signs of erosion, or other observations as you walk.

If damage is light and there is a high proportion of desirable species and a low proportion of bare ground or undesirable weeds, then some rest, fertility, and weed control might be all you really need. If the damage is more moderate, perhaps frost seeding in some clovers or overseeding the worst areas would also help. If you have a low proportion of desirable species and a higher proportion of bare ground or undesirable weeds, you may want to consider terminating the existing stand and reestablishing the field with a suitable forage species based on your farm, your system, and your needs.

If you do decide to fully renovate, you have several options. The renovation process is a chance to upgrade your forage

The Step-Point Method for Pasture Vegetative Cover Assessment

Step 1	Denote or mark a specific spot on the tip or edge of a shoe or boot.
Step 2	Based on the major species present in your pasture, determine which forage species to include as categories. As an example, you could include tall fescue, orchardgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, white clover, red clover, other legume, other grass, undesirable species (weeds), and bare ground.
Step 3	Walk through the pasture in a random zig-zag pattern stretching from one end of the field to the other. Avoid walking near gates, waterers, laneways, or other heavily used areas. Every 10 to 20 steps (depending on pasture size), stop and take note of what is directly under the designated spot on your shoe. The spot will fall directly on top of a specific plant species, make a mark for or write down which forage species (or bare ground) is present based on your pre-determined categories.
Step 4	After recording 50-100 stops, add up the number of marks for each forage species or category and calculate the percentage of each species.
Step 5	Repeat the above steps for each pasture.



Hay and Pasture Webinar

Join experts via Zoom from University of Maryland Extension and The Mill to learn about different grass forage species that might be right for your operation.

Topics to Include:

- Forage species and their utility
- Variety persistence and yield
- Establishment and renovation
- Learn about The Mill's grass forage demo plots

Date: Sept 2, 2020
Time: 3 PM
Cost: Free

Registration Required
https://go.umd.edu/foragetalk

Contact:
Andy Kness | akness@umd.edu
Erika Crowl | ecrowl@umd.edu

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The Mill

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Pasture & Forage

system and to capitalize on new and improved forage genetics. You may decide to do a rotation or two with an annual forage as a smother crop to help suppress weed populations, prevent soil erosion, build soil fertility, mitigate soil compaction, and provide a high quality forage source during the renovation process prior to planting the field back into a perennial stand. Either way, there are several steps you should follow to make sure the reseeding process goes smoothly, so start thinking ahead on some of the necessary steps moving forward. Think about forage options that will work for you and look for good quality seed to purchase. If you don't have a recent soil test, take some soil samples and begin correcting any soil pH or fertility deficiencies. If weeds are a problem, be sure to allow adequate time to achieve good weed control and still be able to plant in a timely manner. Recognize that in some situations a single herbicide application may not always be enough, and be mindful of any herbicide carryover that might affect seeding.

No matter how you decide to proceed, now is the time to be thinking ahead and making plans for this fall. Stay tuned next month for an overview of the key steps for optimum forage establishment and some common establishment mistakes to avoid.

Unsolicited Seed Packages From China

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is aware that people across the country, including in Maryland, have received unsolicited packages of seeds from China in recent days. MDA is working closely with its partners at USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to monitor this situation.

If you live in Maryland and have received a package of seeds that you did not order, please **report them immediately** to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Management program at ppwm.mda@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5920.

Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until MDA or USDA APHIS contacts you with further instructions. **Do not plant any seeds** from unknown origins.

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

Small Grain Variety Trials

Andrew Kness, Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

Results from the 2020 University of Maryland small grain variety trials are posted online or hard copies may be requested through the Extension office. Each year, seed companies submit seed varieties for testing, so keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list of wheat and barley varieties, but provides useful information regarding several varieties tested across five locations in Maryland. These replicated plots provide information on yield, test weight and other plant characteristics.

When reading the report it is important to factor in the statistical information provided; do not just simply look at the numerically highest yielding variety and dismiss the rest of the data. For example, while Dyna-Gro WX20731 achieved numerically the highest statewide average yield (101.5 bu/a) in the test, it did not differ from 13 other varieties in the test (down to 93.7 bu/a). In other words, these 14 varieties are likely to perform similarly and we can say with a high degree of certainty that they yield the same under similar conditions. For more information regarding the interpretation variety trial data, see this Extension Fact Sheet: https://extension.umd.edu/learn/publications/what-do-numbers-really-mean-interpreting-variety-trial-results.

Due to COVID-19 closing the testing lab, DON vomitoxin data for the tested wheat varieties have yet to be processed. As soon as these data become available, we will distribute the results. In the meantime, ratings for Fusarium head blight (FHB) symptoms (reported as FHB index) are provided in the report, but keep in mind that FHB index does not consistently correlate with DON numbers. In other words, a variety can show few symptoms of DON (low FHB index score), but have very high levels of DON in the grain and visa versa.

If you have any questions regarding these data, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Nutrient Management & Cover Crop Cost Share

Qualifying for cover crop cost share requires a current Nutrient Management Plan

If you do not have a nutrient management plan (NMP) for fall 2020 call your advisor today. Remember that Nutrient Management Plans are always developed looking forward.

Check-list for fall planning:

- Current soil sample analyses.
- Current manure sample analyses.
- Rotations for fall 2020 crops. (Note: if spring 2021 rotations are provided, the spring plan can be developed at the same time.)

Enhancements:

- Manure spreader calibration
- FSNT (Fall Soil Nitrate Test)

Please call Tricia Hoopes at (410) 638-3255 for questions and scheduling. Help is available for manure spreader calibration and the FSNT. Please, leave a message and your call will be returned.

MD Green Registry Welcomes Farms

Wendy Doring, Recycling Programs
Maryland Environmental Services

Maryland Green Registry

We are trying to get folks on board to sign up for the Maryland Green Registry. It's a great way to show once again how Farms and Farmers continue to reduce waste and recycle because they care about their environment. It's Free and only takes a few moments. Folks who register will receive free newsletter with tips and tricks from other businesses or farms in the state of Maryland. Great networking opportunity. Harford County boasts three farms at this time that have registered!

The Maryland Green Registry is a free, voluntary program offering tips and resources to help businesses and other organizations set and meet their own goals on the path to sustainability. Collectively, Maryland Green Registry members have reported saving over $76 million annually through the proven, practical measures they have shared in their online member profiles.

Become a member in three easy steps!

1. Go to the Join Here page to download the member profile form.
2. Share information on at least **five** environmental practices in place at your facility.
3. Provide a measurable result related to at least **one** of these practices.

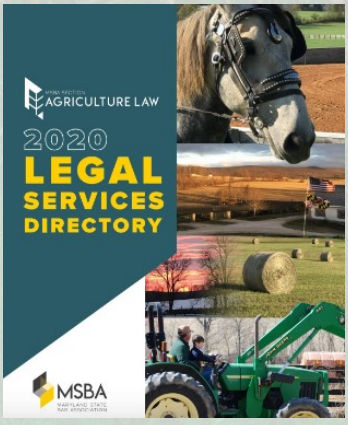
Collect your membership benefits:

- Increased visibility of your organization's environmental efforts through the Maryland Green Registry website and use of the Maryland Green Registry logo.
- Free information and technical assistance on implementing new environmental best practices.
- Information on webinars and conferences to help you continue your greening efforts.
- Recognition and eligibility for the annual Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards.

Whether you're just getting started in greening your facility or are looking to push your environmental program to the next level, join the Maryland Green Registry to demonstrate your commitment to a strong, proactive approach to environmental management. For more information, contact Wendy Dorning at (410) 638-3417 or wdoring@menv.com.

Updated Ag Legal Directory

The Maryland State Bar's Ag Law section has updated the directory of members in the state who have an interest in ag law. You can find an online version of the directory here or contact the Extension office for a print copy.



Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
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facebook.com/HarfordAg

Back-issues of this publication can be found at: https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/657

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Dates to remember

06-27 Aug. Webinar: Investing in Your Farm's Future. Thursdays, 6-7:30 PM. Free. Register online.

09-12 Aug. Penn State Virtual Ag Progress Days. Free. Click here for information.

12 Aug. Women in Ag Webinar: Marketing Campaigns. 12 PM. Free. Register online.

18 Aug. Webinar: Starting a Farm in Maryland. 1-2 PM. Free. Register online.

26 Aug. Women in Ag Webinar: Emotional Well-Being. 12 PM. Free. Register online.

02 Sept. Hay and Pasture Webinar. 3 PM. Free. Register online.

Check out these additional online resources from

Maryland Grain	Ag Law Initiative
Agronomy News Blog	Women in Ag
Nutrient Management	Plant Diagnostic Lab
Extension Website	

August 2020