

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

September 2021



The Extension office will be closed on
September 6 for Labor Day

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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Hello, Harford County!

Hopefully everyone is having a great summer; hard to believe we are winding down and approaching harvest season. Soon winter will be here and Extension will be hosting it's winter meeting series. As we plan for these meetings, we would greatly appreciate your input regarding format as it relates to potential COVID-19 restrictions. Earlier this month you should have received a postcard or email from us with a very short survey. If you have not already completed the survey, please do so. If you have completed it, thank you! The link to the online survey is: <https://forms.gle/Y1XE5ptLgqc7Sxuo8>.

A common question we get in the Extension office is "what's a fair crop rental rate?" To answer this question, I refer folks to data from the USDA survey. USDA has recently released the average cash rental rates for 2021. The following (abridged) article is written by Paul Goeringer, our Ag Legal Specialist.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) updated data on cash rent paid by farmers in 2021. NASS collects this data annually from 240,000 farms across the United States through the Cash Rent Survey - data used by other agencies throughout USDA. The survey results give us an idea of what other tenants in an area may be paying per acre for renting farmland.

One important note: many of you often ask me just what constitutes a reasonable

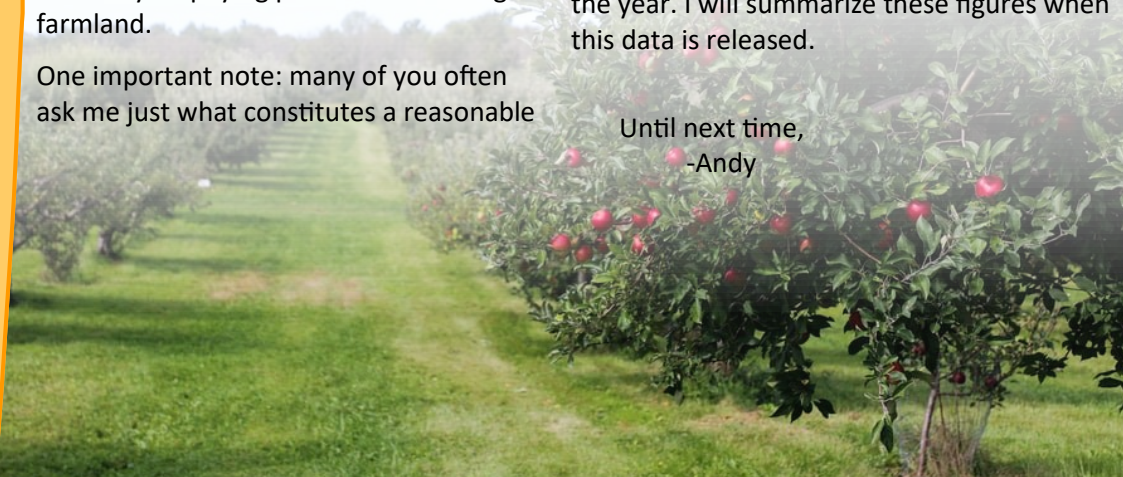
cash rent price. I honestly have no idea what an affordable cash rent price is for you or the other party based on a specific piece of farmland. The averages will give you a good starting point, but you should always consider a reasonable price carefully. Resources at <http://www.aglease101.org> will help you calculate cash rent, crop-share rent, or flex-cash rent. Utilizing these resources first can help you determine rent prices that will work for you.

Nationally, cash rent averages in 2021 were up. Non-irrigated cropland cash rent went up from \$126/acre in 2020 to \$128/acre in 2021, a 1.56 percent increase. Irrigated cropland saw a 0.46 percent increase, going from \$216/acre on average in 2020 to \$217/acre in 2021. Pasture rent stayed steady at \$13/acre in 2021.

Maryland saw a 4.85 percent increase in average non-irrigated cropland cash rent, going from \$98/acre in 2020 to \$103/acre in 2021. Average irrigated cropland increased by 1.52 percent in 2021, going from a \$194/acre average in 2020 to \$197/acre average in 2021. Average pastureland cash rents were up 9.43 percent in Maryland in 2021, going from \$48/acre in 2020 to \$53/acre in 2021.

USDA will release county-specific data later in the year. I will summarize these figures when this data is released.

Until next time,
-Andy



Kelly Nichols, Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County

Japanese stiltgrass is an invasive grass that is typically seen in wooded areas. It likes shaded, wet areas and can easily take over the forest understory. Unfortunately, it can also creep into pastures and hay fields. The leaves of Japanese stiltgrass are wider and shorter than most of our common pasture grasses. There is also a distinctive silvery midvein that is slightly off-center from the middle of the leaf (Figure 1). Japanese stiltgrass also has a shallow root system, so it can be pulled out easily. For more information on how to identify stiltgrass, visit USDA's [National Invasive Species Information Center website](https://www.nisic.gov/).



Figure 1. Japanese stiltgrass.

The one (and only one) positive thing about this invasive is that it is an annual, so there's no perennial root system to contend with. However, as an annual, stiltgrass spreads by seeds. Seedheads start to form in mid-September through October. Once they are visible but before they produce hard seed (Figure 2), mow the area to prevent the seeds from maturing and becoming viable. Stiltgrass will likely not have enough time to regrow and set more seeds before the first frost.



Figure 2. Japanese stiltgrass seed head emerging.

Herbicides are another option. A broad spectrum herbicide such as glyphosate, can be used to control stiltgrass; however, keep in mind that broad spectrum herbicides will injure or kill any plant that it touches. So, this would be an option for spot-spraying heavily infested areas.

Prowl H2O[®], which contains the active ingredient pendimethalin, is labeled for applications on established grass that has at least 6 tillers. Prowl H2O is a pre-emergent herbicide, and must be applied before the stiltgrass emerges in order to suppress germination. Stiltgrass can germinate as early as when the soil temperature is about 50°F, so Prowl H2O will need to be applied earlier than when we may be used to when

controlling other summer annual weeds. While Prowl H2O is a good option, re-seeding restrictions of 10 months for pasture grasses and 6 months for alfalfa may make it a challenge for re-seeding after the stiltgrass is gone. (Remember, Prowl H2O is a pre-emergent herbicide, so it will prevent grass and alfalfa seeds from germinating, too). If Prowl H2O is used, manage the bare areas so that weeds cannot take over before re-seeding can be done.

Once a control method is implemented, re-seed bare areas so they are not left for stiltgrass and other weeds to fill back in. Following your nutrient management plan can also be helpful to provide the hay and pasture grasses the fertility they need to compete with the stiltgrass.



MDA's Pesticide Disposal Program runs through **September 15, 2021**. If you have old or unwanted pesticides, download and complete the [registration form](#) or contact MDA at (410) 841-5710.

Weeds in Grass Forages: When to Spray?

*Adapted from: Dwight Lingenselter, Weed Management Specialist
Penn State University*

As many farmers are cutting forages during this time of year, they are noticing weeds in the field. This prompts many questions to us about how and when to control weeds. The answer really depends on a few important factors, including: kinds of weeds in the field; their lifecycle (i.e., summer annual, biennial, warm-season or cool-season perennial, etc.); time of year; condition of the stand; and environmental conditions (e.g., drought).

Once the forage has been mowed and baled, now is the time to prepare for a timely herbicide application. Do not spray immediately after harvest. Weeds must have time to regrow – enough leaf foliage must exist to get proper spray coverage. Summer annuals such as ragweed, pigweeds, lambsquarters, smartweeds, etc. need several days to recover from cutting and then can be sprayed with a systemic herbicide if necessary. It is best to allow perennial weeds to grow about 12-15 inches or so (usually about a month after cutting) before an herbicide application.

Warm-season perennials such as horsenettle, hemp dogbane, common milkweed, smooth groundcherry, pokeweed, bindweed, poison ivy, and brambles should be sprayed with a systemic herbicide(s) from September 1 through October or before a hard frost. In general, applications by October 1 may be more effective. An additional 2 to 4-week or more application window can exist for Canada thistle and quackgrass, because of their cool-season habit of growth.

The most common herbicides used for control of many broadleaf weeds in the late summer/early fall is 2,4-D and/or dicamba (Clarity, etc.) and other systemic products such as triclopyr (e.g., Crossbow, Candor, Crossroad, Remedy Ultra) or metsulfuron (Cimarron) can be options as well. (However, be cautious of crop rotational restrictions with triclopyr and metsulfuron). A combination of these products may be the best solution for a mixture of different perennial weeds.

Late summer is not the best time to control annual grassy weeds such as yellow and giant foxtail, and large crabgrass with herbicides. No selective, effective, or economical products exist for this application, so mowing is the best option to keep the weeds from setting seeds. Quackgrass can be difficult to control in grass forages. Either spot spray or use a wiper applicator, if possible, with glyphosate to control this weed. Also, keep in mind that drought can cause weeds (and forages) to have slower regrowth and make it more difficult to get the herbicide into the weeds. Under droughty conditions make sure to use higher spray volumes (15-20 gallons/acre) and include any necessary adjuvants in the spray mixture. And finally, if the stand is severely declining, fall (not spring) is a best time to kill it in order to prepare for rotation to another crop.

4R Field Day

September 9, 2021 · 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Delaware-Maryland 4R Alliance is hosting a data driven field day. Compiled and analyzed farm data is a critical component to maximizing nutrient management. Members of the farming and agribusiness community are invited to Mr. Lee McDaniel's picturesque, Indian Springs Farm (856 Priestford Rd., Darlington, MD) to hear from our partners Willard and The Mill about different data management strategies and see Atlantic Tractor equipment that can optimize data collection. Recognized 4R Advocate, Mr. Mike Kurek from Pennsylvania, will be the Keynote Speaker. Lunch will be provided. This is a free event.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-data-driven-4r-field-day-tickets-165976553339>



A Data Driven 4R Field Day
September 9th | 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Indian Springs Farm | 856 Priestford Rd, Darlington, MD

DELAWARE
MARYLAND
4R Alliance

Maryland Grazing School

September 23-24, 2021 · 8:00 am– 5:00 pm

Designed with producer interests in mind, this 2-day grazing school at Clagett Farm (11904 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772) will offer a more in-depth education on pasture and grazing management.

Topics include:

- Forage identification and selection
- Assessing and monitoring pasture health
- Methods for measuring forage yield
- Principles of pasture management
- Pasture allocation (grazer's math)
- And more!

Register: go.umd.edu/mdgrazingschool

This course features multiple hands-on exercises to provide you with opportunities to work with grazing tools and fencing materials. Enrollment is limited to 30 people to keep the group small and allow for more interaction and networking opportunities. You will also have an opportunity to sit down with an instructor to begin developing a customized grazing plan for your farm.

Lunch will be provided each day, as well as dinner on Thursday evening. Activities will take place both indoors and outdoors, so be sure to plan accordingly.

If you have questions or need assistance please contact your local county extension office or Amanda Grev at agrev@umd.edu or (301) 432-2767 x339.

Advanced Grazing School

October 14-15, 2021 · 8:00 am– 5:00 pm

This advanced grazing workshop will be held at UMD-WMREC (18330 Keedeysville Rd., Keedeysville, MD 21756) Here we will dive deeper into the principles behind grazing practices and increasing farm profitability, giving you the tools and insights you need to improve your business.

Topics include:

- Cattlemen vs. Grassmen
- Evaluating Ecological Processes
- Cell Grazing Principles
- Grazing Cell Design
- Econ-omics or Eco-nomics
- Three Secrets for Increasing Profit

- Crunching the Numbers
- And more!

Register: go.umd.edu/advancedgrazing

This workshop will be taught by Dallas Mount, one of the experts on the Ranching for Profit team. The workshop will feature a small group approach with team and class discussions, case studies, videos, constant interaction, and direct application to the participants' own situation to make for a fun and effective learning environment.

If you have questions or need assistance please contact your local county extension office or Amanda Grev at agrev@umd.edu or (301) 432-2767 x339.



Corn & Soybean Yield Estimates

Kelly Nichols, Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County

Corn

Estimating corn yield can be done in a few simple steps. You'll need a measuring tape, pencil, and a notepad, or the worksheet below. In order to get the best estimate, it is recommended to take several samples from representative areas of the field.

Step 1. Measure 1/1000th of an acre. If you have 30-inch rows, you will need to measure 17.4 feet. If your row spacing is different, take 43.56 sq. ft./A divided by the row spacing in feet. For example, a 20-inch row spacing is 1.67 feet. $43.56 \div 1.67 = 26.1$ feet, so you'll need to measure 26.1 feet of the row.

Step 2. Count the total number of ears in the measured section of the row.

Write the number of ears here: _____ (A)

Step 3. On three different ears, count the number of rows around per ear, as well as the number of kernels per row. Do not count aborted or damaged kernels, as they will not contribute to yield. Next, calculate the total and the average.

	Number of rows per ear	Number of kernels per row
Ear 1		
Ear 2		
Ear 3		
Total		
Average	(B)	(C)

Step 4. Calculate the number of kernels per ear. To do this, multiply the average number of rows per ear (B) by the number of kernels per row (C) from Step 3.

_____ rows per ear (B) X _____
kernels per ear (C) = _____ kernels per ear (D).

Step 5. Calculate the number of kernels per acre. Multiply the number of kernels per ear (D) by the number of ears (A) by 1,000.

_____ kernels per ear (D) X _____ number
of ears (A) X 1,000 = _____ kernels per acre (E).

Step 6. Estimate yield at 15.5% moisture. Divide the number of kernels per acre (E) by 90,000 kernels/bu.
_____ kernels per acre (E) \div 90,000 = _____
estimated bu/A.

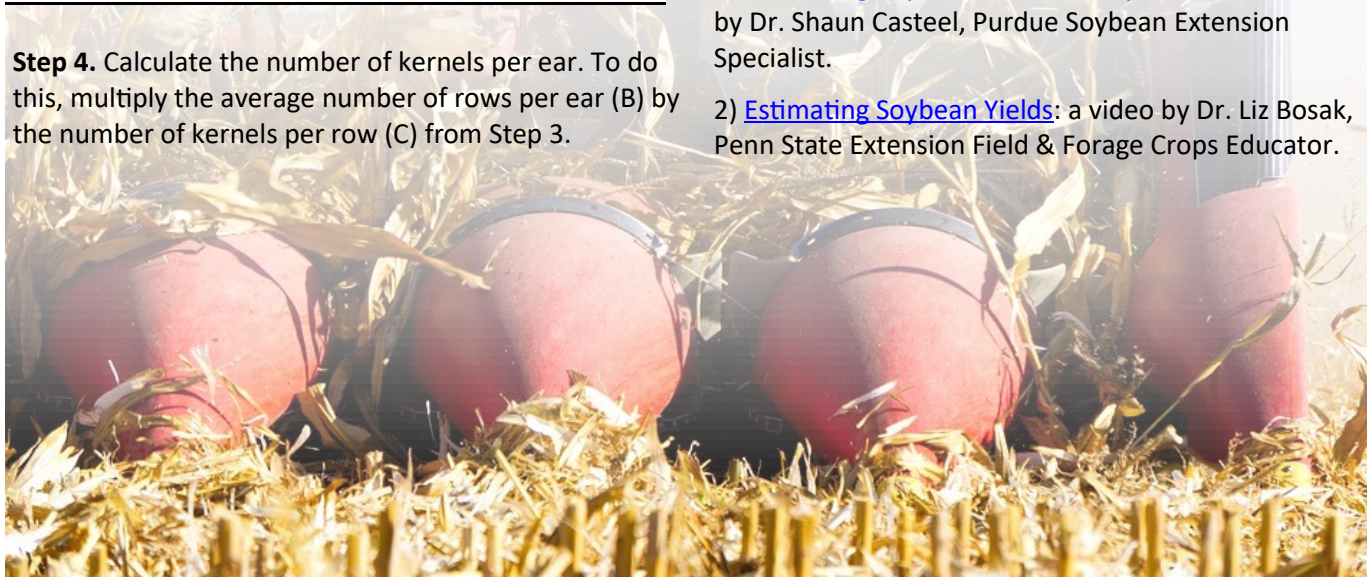
Step 7. If you would like to estimate silage yield, Penn State Extension suggests dividing the estimated grain yield by a factor of 6.5 to 7.5. This will provide an estimate of wet tons at 35% dry matter.

Soybean

Just a few notes on estimating soybean yield. In order to reduce variability of soybean yield estimates, sample more than five areas in a field (however, this can be time-consuming). Also, wait until the soybeans have reach at least the R6 growth stage; at this growth stage, the soybeans have green pods with seeds that fill the pod. This will provide a more realistic yield estimate.

Estimating soybean yield involves counting the number of pods in a specified area of the field. You will also need the number of seeds per pod (2.5 can be used as a conservative estimate), as well as the seed size factor. There are two excellent resources which explain the steps of estimating soybean yield:

- 1) [Estimating Soybean Yields – Simplified](#): a fact sheet by Dr. Shaun Casteel, Purdue Soybean Extension Specialist.
- 2) [Estimating Soybean Yields](#): a video by Dr. Liz Bosak, Penn State Extension Field & Forage Crops Educator.



Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced that over 20 high-priority agricultural conservation practices are now eligible for cost-share funding of up to 100% through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Installation of these practices by farmers will help Maryland meet its 2025 Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals.

“Clean water and healthy natural resources benefit all Marylanders,” said Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “The department is committed to providing farmers with the financial and technical resources and support they need to install best management practices on their farms that will improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.”

Earlier this year, Governor Larry Hogan signed a [new law](#) that authorizes MDA to provide farmers with cost-share assistance that covers up to 100% of eligible costs to install certain high-priority best management practices on farms.

Qualifying practices must have at least a 10-year maintenance life; provide environmental benefits that are consistent with Maryland’s Watershed Implementation Plan; and focus largely on in-field or

edge-of-field practices that protect local waterways from nutrient runoff associated with crop production. In addition, these practices are required to be implemented as part of a current Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan developed by a local [soil conservation district](#).

Practices now eligible for up to 100% cost-share funding and free technical assistance include: Conservation; drainage practices; Conservation cover; Critical area planting; Diversion; Stream exclusion fencing; Field border; Filter strip; Grade stabilization structure; Grassed waterway; Lined waterway or outlet; Riparian forest buffer; Riparian herbaceous cover; Sediment basin; Terrace system; Tree and shrub establishment; Wetland restoration or creation.

Interested farmers should contact their local soil conservation district to apply for cost-share funding and to receive free technical assistance to design and install these practices. To be eligible for cost-share assistance, applicants must be in good standing with MDA, the MACS Program and in compliance with Maryland’s nutrient management regulations.

Other restrictions may apply. For more information, please contact MDA’s Conservation Grants Program at (410) 841-5864.

Equine Needs Assessment Survey

University of Maryland Extension is conducting a survey for research purposes to learn more about the current educational needs of adults interested in the care and enjoyment of horses throughout Maryland. This brief survey will take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

If you agree to participate, please see the link to the survey <https://go.umd.edu/2021MarylandEquineNeedsAssessment>

Your answers are confidential and in no way will your individual answers be identified with you.

By providing us with your feedback, UME will be better able to provide educational programs and services that meet your needs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please Erika Crowl at (410) 887-8090 or ecrowl@umd.edu.



**2021 Maryland
Equine Needs Assessment**

**Scan to take the
Survey**

Forestry for the Bay Workshop Series

Harford Land Trust and The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay are hosting a Forestry for the Bay Woodland Workshop Series this fall for landowners across Harford County.

Do you want to know how to better manage your woods? Interested in learning more about your forest? Need tips on managing invasive species? If so, the Woodland Workshop Series is for you!

Attend sessions led by experts from the Alliance for The Chesapeake Bay to learn more about how to manage your forest and property for better woodland health and a cleaner Chesapeake Bay.

Woods in Your Backyard: Two-part Session
Thursday, October 14, 6-7:30 pm (VIRTUAL)
and Saturday, October 16, 9-12 pm at Harford Glen

Discover Your Woods Tour: Stoney Demonstration Forest
Friday, October 29, 2-5 pm

Managing Invasive Species
Friday, November 5, 2-5 pm at 1725 Trappe Church Rd, Darlington, MD 21034

Woods and Your Wallet
Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 – 8:00 pm (VIRTUAL)

Registration is open now. Learn more and register here: <https://www.harfordlandtrust.org/events/woodland-series/>

Stop-Use Order for Some Organic Products



For our organic vegetable growers in the Mid-Atlantic the California Department of Food and Agriculture's State Organic Program issued a STOP USE notice for W.O.W. (WHACK OUT WEEDS!) and ECOMIGHT-PRO products, manufactured by EcoMight LLC.

W.O.W. (WHACK OUT WEEDS!) and ECOMIGHT-PRO product samples

have tested positive for the presence of synthetic chemical compounds Glyphosate; Bifenthrin; and Permethrin. Additionally, the W.O.W. (WHACK OUT WEEDS!) product samples tested positive for the presence of synthetic chemical compounds Cypermethrin and Carbaryl.

These identified synthetic chemical compounds are prohibited for use in organic production by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program.



Registration

- Single player \$125
- Super Socially Distant Player \$100 (Play from any course during the month of September)
- Ag advantage \$20 (1-Mulligan, 1-Throw, 1-Power Drive)

Registration includes:

- Golf cart
- All you can eat hot dogs & hamburgers and two courtesy beverages
- A chance to win team prizes

For more information, please visit maefonline.com

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and



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Back-issues can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/harford-county/agriculture-and-nutrient-management>



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Dates to remember

02 Sept. Beef Cattle Webinar Series: Weaning Beef Calves—Reduce Stress and Build Immunity. 7:30-8:30 PM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#).

08 Sept. Women in Ag Webinar: Managing Farm Finances. 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).

09 Sept. [4R Field Day](#). 9-12 PM. Indian Springs Farm, Darlington, MD. Free. Register [online](#).

23-24 Sept. [Maryland Grazing School](#). 8 AM-5 PM, Claggett Farm, Upper Marlboro. Early registration \$125, \$150 after 9/1/21. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767.

14-15 Oct. [Advanced Grazing School](#). 8 AM-5 PM. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. \$100-\$150. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767.

07 Oct. [Beef Cattle Webinar Series: Cattle Nutrition 101](#).

7:30 PM. Virtual via Zoom. Register [online](#).

If you have any questions or require any special accommodations to attend a UME program, please contact the Extension office.

September 2021