

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Let's Go
O's
October 2023



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

facebook.com/HarfordAg

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Hello, Harford County!

Happy October! After a hot, dry end to the summer the weather has finally changed. In August we went pretty much the entire month without any significant rainfall, similar to what we experienced earlier in the growing season in May and June. Even with the return of some rain, we are still short on precipitation for the year. Year-to-date rainfall totals for our county are around 29 inches; which is over 10 inches short of our normal though September.

The drier summer contributed to a growing season that was relatively quiet in terms of plant diseases; although we did find that tar spot of corn has expanded its distribution and can be found at low levels in many fields across the county. Fortunately, this disease appears to have come in late enough so that it should not be of much concern for yield. In my travels I have also confirmed its presence in Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Kent, Caroline, and Queen Anne's counties. As anticipated, this disease has spread and will likely continue to do so; however, it is yet to be determined how significant of a problem it will be in the future. In 2022, it had no measurable impact on yield, and based on the timing of infection in most fields this year (late into reproductive stages), I do not expect any major concerns. We will continue to monitor and conduct research on this new disease in the years to come.

Switching topics, I would like to draw your attention to Nutrient Management; **we are hiring several [Nutrient Management Advisor](#) positions across the state.** There are open positions in Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Caroline, Frederick, Garrett, Allegany, Montgomery, Wicomico, and Worcester. If you or someone you know of is interested, please view the entire job posting at ejobs.umd.edu and search for position #128851. All applications must be submitted online through ejobs.umd.edu. If you have any questions about the positions you may reach out to me. Here in Harford County we are fortunate to still have Patricia Hoopes with us, so be sure to contact her for your nutrient management planning needs.

Finally, on a personal note, I will be out on medical leave starting October 17 for the first of two hip replacement procedures. I do not know how long the recovery will be, but at the very least I will be out for a few weeks. During this time I will still be checking email and messages but it may take me a little longer than usual to get back you and it may be a little while before I am out and about to see you at meetings or on your farms. In the interim, my colleagues, Erika Crowl and Bryan Butler, will be able to help cover in my absence.

Until next time,
-Andy



Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has confirmed the presence of beech leaf disease and the associated nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae maccannii* (Figure 1) in Harford County. Beech leaf disease is a new disease affecting all beech species including American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). The disease has been found in surrounding states including Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Beech Leaf Disease causes a dark banding or striping between the leaf veins (Figure 2). Trees with severe symptoms are heavily banded with yellowing, shrunken, and thickened leaves. The disease can kill understory trees in two years and mature trees in six to ten years. Treatments for are currently being researched.



Figure 1. Microscope image of the nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae maccannii*, associated with beech leaf disease.

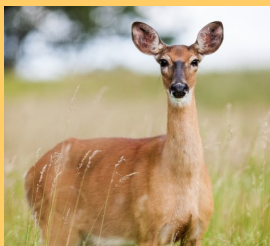


Figure 2. Symptoms of beech leaf disease on beech leaves.

“I applaud the department’s Forest Pest team for their quick action on identifying this disease,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “The team will continue to monitor and report the spread of Beech Leaf disease as it occurs. Homeowners are encouraged to do the same.”

To report symptoms of Beech Leaf Disease data can be entered on the Tree Health Survey app (<https://treehealthapp>) or reported by email to fpm.mda@maryland.gov. For additional information visit the UMD Extension Website at: <https://bit.ly/3Eny7eO>. Additional Counties are being tested for presence of the BLD and the nematode. Permanent survey plots have been set up across Maryland since 2019.

Deer Damage Survey



In an effort to understand the ongoing deer problem Maryland farmers are facing, the Maryland Department of Agriculture has developed a survey to better assist with addressing the issue when developing policy.

The survey can be found on MDA's website at, <https://bit.ly/MDAdeersurvey>.

Sign-Up for 2023 to 2024 On-Farm Trials Today!

Wheat N Rate

The objective of this study is to evaluate current nitrogen (N) fertilizer recommendations to high management wheat in Maryland.

Corn N Rate

The objective of this study is to evaluate corn yield response to a range of nitrogen application rates across Mid-Atlantic conditions.

Biological Eval

The objective of this study is to determine the impact of biological fertilizer enhancement products on corn yield. Aiming to identify if there are conditions in MD where these products are more likely to increase yield.



<https://bit.ly/UMDonFarmTrials>

FSMA Guide For Small Farms

Nicole Cook, Environmental and Agricultural Faculty Legal Specialist
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Agriculture Law Education Initiative

This article is not substitute for legal advice. Reposted from the [Ag Risk Management Blog](#).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [released a guide](#) in May to help small farms and businesses comply with the requirements of the new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) [Food Traceability Rule](#). You can download a copy of the guide [here](#).

The guide provides a general overview of the traceability rule, the requirements for a traceability plan, and recordkeeping requirements. Specifically, the guide covers:

- Who is subject to the traceability rule
- Who is exempt from the rule (includes a link to the FDA's software tool to help you determine whether you qualify for an exemption)
- What records are required to be kept, and for how long
- How to apply for a modification or exemption
- How to petition the FDA for waivers of one or more of the requirements
- Consequences of failing to comply with the traceability rule

The guide is not law. It is the agency's recommendations for how small enterprises might comply with the traceability rule. Although the guide is written for the small-farms audiences, it is a useful reference for any size farm or business.

The traceability rule was first published in November 2022. It mandates traceability recordkeeping requirements for those who "manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods" on the [Food Traceability List](#) (FTL). Additionally, persons who manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods on the FTL must implement a traceability plan that outlines procedures for maintaining records, identifying, and assigning lot codes for FTL foods. This means that, if you ever handle an FTL food (and you're not exempt from the rule), you will need to have a traceability plan in place. The compliance date for the rule's recordkeeping requirements is January 20, 2026.

If you have questions about FSMA, the Produce Safety Rule, or the new traceability rule, you can contact Carol Allen, Agent Associate with the University of Maryland Plant Science Food Safety Group, at callen12@umd.edu, or contact an ALEI Legal Specialist by visiting umaglaw.org or emailing umaglaw@umd.edu.

Vegetable Specialist Dr. Jerry Brust Retires

Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) senior agent, Dr. Jerry Brust, retired from University of Maryland Extension (UME) at the end of August.

Jerry has worked as a UME integrated pest management (IPM) vegetable specialist since 2005, contributing many important education and research efforts. The last five years he gave 176 talks to growers and created UME's Vegetable Production website aimed at helping Mid-Atlantic growers. Jerry wrote numerous articles for the website that discussed horticulture, disease, and IPM topics, and he created a photo library of insect and production issues in vegetables.

When asked what he liked about working at UME, Jerry replied, "working with a variety of people to accomplish programs that helped with grower problems." As an IPM specialist, he enjoyed "having the freedom to decide what research projects to work on and seeing results from that research."

Throughout his career, Jerry dedicated time and energy

to researching important topics on nutrient and pest management for growing commercial vegetable crops and brought in \$4.3 million in research grants. He also collaborated with colleagues on important projects like the Philadelphia Orchard Project, the ECO City Farms incubator group, and the Agriculture and Food Systems Extension Commercial Horticulture Team.

Dr. Darren Jarboe, AgFS assistant director and program leader, said, "Maryland growers found Jerry's vegetable work important in helping them be successful in their farming operations. His expertise has been a great resource for our agriculture and food systems educators across the state. We wish Jerry well in his retirement."

In addition to his work at UMD, Jerry served as editor for the "Crop Production: Horticulture" section of the journal *Frontiers in Physiology* and was a reviewer for the journals *HortTechnology*, *Journal of Economic Entomology*, *Plant Protection Research*, and *Environmental Entomology*.

Apple Workshop

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Harvest and postharvest practices for improving apple fruit marketability: Fruit quality and safety workshop will be held at the University of Maryland, Western Maryland Research and Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost to attend the workshop is \$20 which includes snacks, lunch, coffee, and networking. Learn about the latest technologies and strategies for improving apple fruit marketability while maintaining fruit quality and produce safety. Presentations, demonstrations, and discussions! To register go to <https://2023-AppleWorkshop.eventbrite.ca>.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Registration

Apple Fruit Quality/Horticulture

9:00 a.m. - Apple fruit physiological disorders and their effects on quality. Dr. Macarena Faruh, University of Maryland

9:45 a.m. - Plant growth regulators and their effects on fruit quality. Dr. Macarena Faruh, University of Maryland

10:30 a.m. - Break

10:45 a.m. - Weed management effects on fruit quality. Mr. Dave Myers, University of Maryland Extension-Anne Arundel Co.

11:15 a.m. - Connecting the dots: Orchard management, apple tree decline, and postharvest rots. Dr. Kari Peter, Penn State University

Noon - Working Lunch

Apple Fruit Safety

1:00 p.m. - Sanitization of irrigation water. Dr. Rohan Tikekar, University of Maryland

1:30 p.m. - Reducing cross contamination risk during washing of fresh produce using sanitizers. Dr. Rohan Tikekar, University of Maryland

2:00 p.m. - Break

2:15 p.m. - Picking Baskets, Field Crates and Bulk Bins: What is the Best Way to Clean and Sanitize Them? Ms. Carol Allen, University of Maryland

2:45 p.m. - Introducing the New Worker Health & Hygiene Video. Ms. Carol Allen, University of Maryland

3:30 p.m. - Wrap up and evaluation/surveys

For more information or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event (two weeks prior), please contact Dr. Macarena Faruh at mfaruh@umd.edu or by calling (301) 405-1323

November 7

8:30 AM—3:30 PM
Western MD Research
& Education Center

UMES Small Farm Conference



**SMALL FARM
CONFERENCE**
November 2-4, 2023

**20
YEARS**

Includes bus tours to local farms, seminars, workshops, exhibitors, and more!

<https://UMESsmallfarmsconference2023.eventbrite.com>


UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL AND
NATURAL SCIENCES
UMES EXTENSION



The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will be celebrating its 20th annual Small Farm Conference set for November 2nd-4th. The exciting three-day program is jam-packed with interactive pre-conference workshops, off-site farm bus tours, seminars, networking opportunities, door prize giveaways, and special guest appearances!

To preview the online conference program or register visit: <https://wwwcp.umes.edu/extension/small-farms-program/conference/> or

<https://UMESsmallfarmsconference2023.eventbrite.com>

November 2-4

University of Maryland
Eastern Shore



Cost-Share For Manure Transport & Injection

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)



The Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds farmers that cost-share funding is available to help cover the cost of hauling all types of manure to fall-planted crop fields with acceptable soil phosphorus levels. Grants are also available to offset costs associated with injecting liquid manure into the soil to prevent nutrient runoff and reduce odors.

All fall manure transport and injection projects must be completed by **December 15**. Claims for payment should be submitted to the department's Conservation Grants Office by **January 15, 2024**.

Key Program Highlights:

- Receiving farms/businesses can receive up to \$28/ton to transport poultry manure to qualifying fields with acceptable soil phosphorus levels or alternative

use projects that can use the product safely.

- Cost-share grants to transport dairy and livestock manure to qualifying fields cover up to 87.5% of eligible costs.
- *FastTrack* and standard transport options are available for both poultry and dairy/livestock manure.
- Farmers can receive up to \$45/acre for costs associated with injecting liquid manure into the soil. Please note that poultry manure is not eligible for this option due to its low moisture content.

FastTrack (haul now, apply later) applications for poultry and dairy/livestock manure can be downloaded from the [website](#). For special circumstances where applicants are not eligible for *Fast Track*, farmers should contact their local [soil conservation district](#) to apply for our standard grants. These grants require pre-approval before manure is transported or injected.

The Department's Conservation Grants Program administers manure transport and injection grants. Applicants must be in good standing with the program and in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. Download the "<https://littr.io/>" app to find manure or contact a poultry manure broker [here](#).

For more information, please contact the Manure Management Program at (410) 841-5864.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The [Farm Storage Facility Loan Program](#) (FSFL) provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture. Eligible facility types include grain bins, hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying and handling and storage equipment is also eligible, including storage and handling trucks. Eligible facilities and equipment may be new or used, permanently affixed or portable.

FSFL is an excellent financing program for on-farm storage and handling for small and mid-sized farms, and

for new farmers. Loan terms vary from 3 to 12 years. The maximum loan amount for storage facilities is \$500,000. The maximum loan amount for storage and handling trucks is \$100,000. In 2016 FSA introduced a new loan category, the microloan, for loans with an aggregate balance up to \$50,000. Microloans offer a 5 percent down payment requirement, compared to a 15 percent down payment for a regular FSFL, and waive the regular three-year production history requirement.

For more information, contact your county USDA Farm Service Center or visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/index>.

Ranching for Profit Workshop

Amanda Grev, Forage and Pasture Management Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

University of Maryland Extension and partners are excited to be bringing back the Ranching for Profit Workshop this fall and invite grazers, livestock owners, farmers, and associated industry partners to attend!

The **Ranching for Profit Workshop** will be held over two days on **October 12-13, 2023** at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD from 9 AM to 5 PM each day. This workshop is designed for producers looking to transform their operation into a profitable business with less work and stress. Workshop attendees will dive deeper into the principles behind farm economics and increasing farm profitability, giving them the tools and insights they need to improve their business. Topics covered will include the following:

Day 1 (Oct 12th): Three Secrets for Increasing Profits

- Setting a profit target and working backwards to achieve it
- Project profit or loss using the RFP 7-step profit planning model
- Use benchmarks to identify your profit drivers and find your "dead wood"
- Restructuring your operation for profitability

Day 2 (Oct 13th): Cattlemen vs. Grassmen - Economic Leverage of Grazing

- The value of cattle vs. the value of grass
- Stocking rate vs. carrying capacity
- Soil health is the foundation of ag business health
- Applying the 3 secrets for increasing profits into the 5 cell grazing principles

The workshop will be taught by Dallas Mount, CEO of Ranch Management Consultants and one of many experts on the Ranching for Profit team. The workshop will feature a small group approach with team and class discussions, case studies, videos, and application to participants' own situation. For full details and registration information, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/rfpworkshop>.

This event is brought to you in partnership by University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council, Maryland Grazers Network, NRCS, and NE SARE. Thank you to our event partners!

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. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity please contact us at least two weeks prior to the event. Hope to see you there!



RANCHING FOR PROFIT WORKSHOP

A WORKSHOP ON FARM ECONOMICS AND INCREASING PROFITABILITY
TAUGHT BY DALLAS MOUNT, RMC

Hosted by UMD Extension
October 12-13, 2023

Howard County Fairgrounds
West Friendship, MD

<https://go.umd.edu/rfpworkshop>

University of Maryland is an equal opportunity provider



Private Applicator Pesticide Training & Testing

Private applicator training will be offered at the Extension office on the dates listed below. Please call the office or email akness@umd.edu to register.

Pesticide Exam | Training and testing for new applicators

- November 7, 2023 | 9-11:00 a.m.
- March 26, 2024 | 9-11:00 a.m.
- New for 2023 is an online exam. Contact MDA for details and to sign up. 410-349-7552.

- Training materials available in the Extension office for \$10. Call or email to request. Self-paced online training videos available on our website at <https://umeagfs.teachable.com/p/private-pesticide-applicators-optional-training>.

Private Applicator Recertification | CEUs for private pesticide applicators

- November 7, 2023 | 1-3:00 p.m.
- March 26, 2024 | 1-3:00 p.m.



For more information or to schedule a drop off please call 410-638-3417

All plastics should be as clean as possible and stored under cover to minimize moisture. Farms should separate plastics by type. All types of Ag Plastics are received in Super sacs that are provided by Office of Recycling.

Acceptable:

- *Polypropylene Baler Twine-Please keep colors separated.
- *White Super sacs **No #5 polypropylene
- *Colored or Dirty Super Sacs
- *Feed Bags 100% LD #4 **Woven bags not acceptable
- *Clear Stretch Wrap
- *Clear Greenhouse Covers
- *White Bale Wrap
- *Clean and Bundled Drip Tape- Must be separated from filed mulch.
- *Stacked, Polystyrene Greenhouse Trays-Separated and Stacked. Usually #5 or #6

Not Acceptable:

- *Woven Feed Bags
- *Sweet Corn Cover/Clear
- *Bale Netting Wrap
- *Black Field Mulch
- *Comingled Drip Tape-Please separate
- *Dairy Bio Gloves
- *Dairy Medical Supplies
- *Residential Trash

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



Like us on
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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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UNIVERSITY OF
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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

11 Oct. Women in Ag Webinar: Estate Planning. 12 noon.
Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#).

12-13 Oct. Ranching For Profit. 8:30-3:30 PM. Howard
County Fairgrounds. 9-5 PM. \$100-\$150. Register [online](#) or
call (301)-432-2767.

18 Oct. Pasture Walk. 5-7:30 PM. Ambling Brook Farm,
Frederick. Free. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767.

02-04 Nov. UMES Small Farm Conference. University of
Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne. Register [online](#).

07 Nov. Apple Workshop. 8:30-3:30 PM. Western MD
Research and Education Center, Keedysville. \$20. Register
[online](#) or call (301) 405-1323.

07 Nov. Private Applicator Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County
Extension Office. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.

07 Nov. Private Applicator Recertification Training. 1-3 PM.
Harford County Extension Office. Register by calling (410)
638-3255.

07 Dec. Northern Maryland Field Crops Day. Friendly Farm
Restaurant. Details to come.

October 2023