

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

 **March 2024**

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!

As we think about the month of March, many of us can't help but think about St. Patrick's Day and the four-leaf clovers. The four-leaf clover has become the iconic logo of 4-H and as I write this I can't help but be reminded of 4-H and its origins that run so deep in agriculture and our communities.

Even though 4-H is an Extension program, 4-H has roots that predate the Cooperative Extension System. In the late 1800s, researchers working at land-grant institutions across the US found that adults working in the farming community were not always the quickest to adopt new technology or ideas on the farm. If America was going to become the Agricultural superpower that we are today, we realized that we needed a better way to introduce new ideas and technology onto the farm—this is where youth came in. Researchers found that youth were much more eager to experiment and try new ideas which they would then bring back to the adults on the farm.

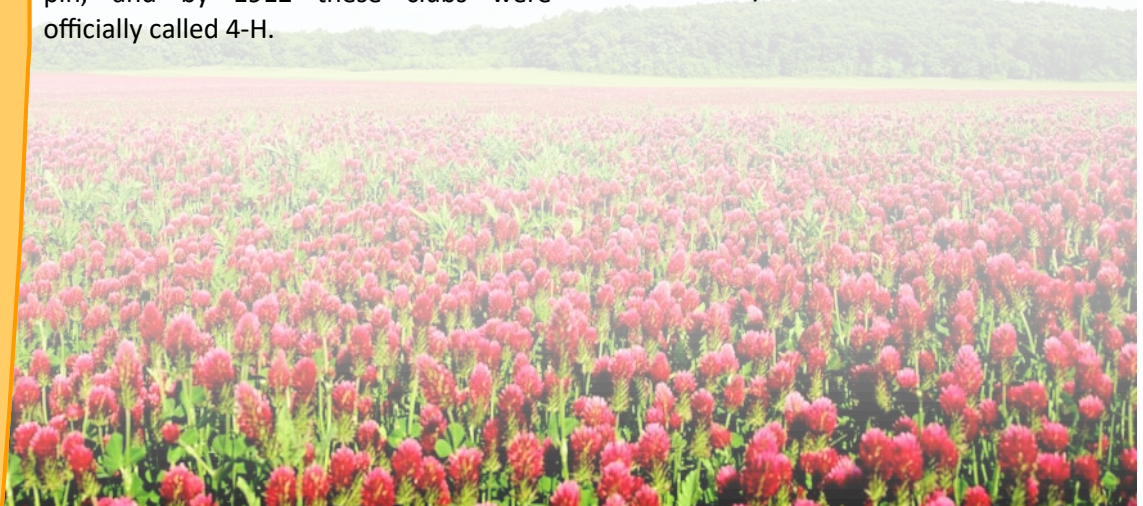
By the early 1900s, youth clubs started to form across the US to introduce these new agricultural technologies; among the first was A. B. Graham of Ohio's "tomato club" and "corn club" in 1902, marking the birth of 4-H clubs. Later in 1910, Jessie Field Shambaugh designed the 4-H clover pin, and by 1912 these clubs were officially called 4-H.

In 1914 congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which formally established the Cooperative Extension System and along with it the 4-H program became a formal national Extension program.

The Cooperative Extension System is a partnership of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 100 land-grant universities and more than 3,000 county offices across the nation. Cooperative Extension combines the expertise and resources of federal, state, and local governments and is designed to meet the need for research, knowledge and educational programs at the local community level.

Today, 4-H has grown into the largest youth development program in the Country and it is still deeply rooted in agriculture. Here in Harford County we are fortunate to have a very strong and thriving 4-H program thanks to all the volunteers, leaders, and 4-H youth! Many of you are already involved in 4-H in some capacity, but if not and you are interested, contact our office and speak to one of our 4-H faculty or staff members to learn more. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Until next time,
-Andy



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

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

A recent Arizona federal district court ruling has vacated the 2020 registrations for dicamba products used over the top in cotton and soybean production. The ruling is based on violations of federal law requiring the public to have an opportunity to comment on the proposed “new uses” in 2020. This ruling currently means for growers that these products might not be available for the 2024 growing season. Based on the ruling, we are waiting to determine what the defendants will do next. Update: On Feb. 14, the EPA issued an existing stocks order to allow for limited continued usage for the dicambas at issue for stocks no longer in control of the pesticide companies. A table of what is allowed is below; to read that order, [click here](#).

Court’s Decision

This litigation stems from the registrations issued in 2020 and amendments made in 2022 and 2023 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the “new use” over-the-top applications of dicamba products. At issue in this is did EPA violate the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) when approving the “new use” registrations in 2020.

The court agreed with the plaintiffs that the 2020 registration was a “new use” because the 2016 and 2018 registrations had been vacated and canceled by an earlier court ruling. EPA had to treat the 2020 registration for over-the-top applications of dicamba products as a new use. This “new use” registration required the EPA to publish the 2020 registrations and allow the public to comment.

Because of the violations in issuing the 2020 registration for over-the-top use of dicamba products, the court turns to whether an exception should be granted to EPA to remand the registrations without vacatur. Vacatur is a Latin term meaning it is vacated. Based on the record, the court determines that vacatur is warranted and an exemption should not be granted. EPA had failed to consider many potential risks when assessing the new uses, and based on prior court rulings, it had effectively allowed the dicamba products on the market with no registrations since 2016.

What Does All This Mean?

We are currently back in a wait-and-see mode regarding whether dicamba will be available for over-the-top uses during the 2024 growing season. It is unclear at this time if EPA will appeal this ruling and request a stay while the Ninth Circuit is hearing the appeal. If the EPA does appeal and receive a stay, this will allow sales of dicambas used in over-the-top applications to continue. If EPA does not appeal, we could see what we did in 2020 with EPA canceling the registration based on a court ruling but allowing already purchased products to be used during the growing season.

One vital issue to note in all this is that Bayer (the parent company of Monsanto) in 2023 began to bring lawsuits claiming growers saved seeds for replanting the new Xtendimax technology. These are similar to those brought when growers would save Roundup Ready technology before the patent expired, but a few have one difference. Several lawsuits highlight that growers additionally violated patents by spraying dicambas that were unapproved for over-the-top applications. Why is it important to note this here? Many growers may assume that they can spray dicambas unregistered for over-the-top applications, but that can come with stiff penalties from state agencies and EPA and, at the same time, may open growers up to claims of patent violations.

Updated: Table from order highlighting what is

State(s)	End Date for Sale & Distribution of Existing Stocks for Use (2.b)	End Date for Use of Existing Stocks (2.c & 2.d)*
IA, IL, IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale & Distribution of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium: May 13, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium: June 12, 2024, or V4 growth stage (soybean) or 1st square growth stage (cotton) in 2024, whichever comes first
MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale & Distribution of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium to Purchasers South of I-94: May 13, 2024 Sale & Distribution of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium to Purchasers North of I-94: May 31, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium south of I-94: June 12, 2024 Use of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium north of I-94: June 30, 2024
SD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale & Distribution of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium: May 21, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium: June 20, 2024
AL, AZ, AR, CO, DE, FL (excluding Palm Beach County), GA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, NE, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN (excluding Wilson County), TX, VA, WV, WI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale & Distribution of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium for Use on Dicamba-Tolerant Soybean: May 31, 2024 Sale & Distribution of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium for Use on Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton: June 30, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium on Dicamba-Tolerant Soybean: June 30, 2024 Use of XtendiMax, Engenia, or Tavium on Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton: July 30, 2024

Avian Influenza in a Charles County Flock

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

State laboratory testing has detected a case of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (HPAI) in a Charles County backyard flock. State Department of Agriculture officials have quarantined all affected premises, and birds on the properties are being or have been depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from affected flocks will not enter the food system.

Confirmation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory is pending with final results anticipated in the coming days.

"The latest non-negative result should serve as a reminder for all poultry growers, operators, and backyard flock owners to remain vigilant when it comes to the threat of HPAI, especially as the spring migratory season begins," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. "Regardless of flock size, biosecurity remains the most effective way to prevent the spread of this disease among poultry."

Avian influenza is a highly contagious airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among birds through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. This virus affects chickens, ducks, and turkeys, along with some wild bird species such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, the risk of transmission between birds and the general public is low.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture recommends the following common-sense biosecurity steps if HPAI is suspected on personal property, wild birds, or in a commercial operation. Look for signs of illness. Know the [warning signs](#) of infectious bird diseases. Report suspected sick birds:

- To report a possible case of HPAI call the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5810.
- Commercial chicken growers and backyard flock owners can email questions about the outbreak to MD.Birdflu@maryland.gov.

Key biosecurity practices:

- Clean and disinfect transportation. Don't walk through or drive trucks, tractors, or equipment in areas where waterfowl or other wildlife feces may be. If you can't avoid this, clean your shoes, vehicle,

and equipment thoroughly to prevent bringing disease agents back to your flock. This is especially important when visiting with farmers or those who hunt wild fowl such as when gathering at a local coffee shop, restaurant, or gas station.

- Remove loose feed. Don't give wild birds, rodents, and insects a free lunch. Remove spilled or uneaten feed right away, and make sure feed storage units are secure and free of holes. Wild birds can carry HPAI.
- Keep visitors to a minimum. Only allow those people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds, including family and friends. Make sure everyone who has contact with your flock follows biosecurity principles.
- Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live poultry. Wash with soap and water. If using a hand sanitizer, first remove manure, feathers, and other materials from your hands because disinfectants will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- Provide disposable boot covers (preferred) and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock. If using a footbath, be sure to remove all droppings, mud or debris from boots and shoes using a long-handled scrub brush BEFORE stepping into the disinfectant footbath, and always keep it clean.
- Change clothes before entering poultry areas and before exiting the property. Visitors should wear protective outer garments or disposable coveralls, boots, and headgear when handling birds, and shower and/or change clothes when leaving the facility.
- Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility. Before allowing vehicles, trucks, tractors, or tools and equipment—including egg flats and cases that have come in contact with birds or their droppings—to exit the property, make sure they are cleaned and disinfected to prevent contaminated equipment from transporting disease. Do not move or reuse items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected—such as cardboard egg flats.

For more information on avian influenza, visit: <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/AvianFlu.aspx>.

Private Applicator Exam

We will host a private applicator pesticide exam at the Harford County Extension office on March 26 from 9-11:00 a.m. Please call the office or email akness@umd.edu to register in advance. Study materials are available for purchase at the Extension office for \$20. An optional prep class for the exam will be held the week prior to the exam on March 19 from 9-11:00 a.m. at the Extension office.

Private Applicator Recertification Training

If you still need credits to renew your private applicator pesticide license, we are holding a training at the Extension office on March 26, 1-3:00 p.m. The class is free but please register ahead of time by calling the office at (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

Harford County Equine Roundtable

*Alyssa Jeffries, Agricultural Economic Development Associate
Harford County Government*

The Agricultural Economic Development Associate with Harford County is working to meet with each agricultural business here in the County and learn how the County can enact changes to help our ag community to continue to thrive. I am working with Tracey Gay of Molly Hill Farm to organize an equine roundtable for March 18 at 6pm in the large conference room at the Harford County Agricultural center (3525 Conowingo Rd in Street). We will be providing light refreshments and we hope that you will consider joining us!

- Harford County Horse Owners
- Want to learn more about how the county can help you as a horse owner?
- Is there something you want to discuss with your local government?
- Want to talk to other equine owners to pick their brains about being successful?
- Want to talk to other horse owners about

equine business?

- Tracey Gay is the Equine representative for Economic Development Agricultural Advisory Board of Harford County and will bring back any questions you may have to the Board.
- Recycle Feed Bags, Grants for Land Owners, Manure Removal, etc....

March 18

6:00 PM

Harford County
Agricultural Center

Join us at the Harford County Ag center on March 18 at 6pm for a round table discussion!

Please register by March 10 by contacting Alyssa Jeffries at (410) 638-3511 or arjeffries@harfordcountymd.gov (and please include the number of people who will be accompanying you). Please come prepared with any questions, concerns, or insights.

2024 Winter Equine Seminars

January 18 - Rehabilitation: Healing and Prevention with Dr. Chris Smith at *Foxhall Equine Center*

February 22 - Optimizing Equine Fertility with Dr. Bill Hess at the *Baltimore County Ag Center*

March 21 - Avoiding Lameness with Proper Conditioning and Nutrition with Dr. Andrew McClain at the *Baltimore County Ag Center*

All seminars will
be in-person from
6:00-8:00 pm.

Register Here:
<https://bit.ly/WinterEquineSeminars>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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2024 Dairy Margin Coverage

USDA press release (abridged)

Starting February 28, dairy producers will be able to enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), an important safety net program offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides producers with price support to help offset milk and feed price differences. This year's DMC signup begins Feb. 28, 2024, and ends April 29, 2024. For those who sign up for 2024 DMC coverage, payments may begin as soon as March 4, 2024, for any payments that triggered in January 2024.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has revised the regulations for DMC to allow eligible dairy operations to make a one-time adjustment to established production history. This adjustment will be accomplished by combining previously established supplemental production history with DMC production history for those dairy operations that participated in Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage during a prior coverage year. DMC has also been authorized through calendar year 2024. Congress passed a 2018 Farm Bill extension requiring these regulatory changes to the program.

DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. In 2023, Dairy Margin Coverage payments triggered in 11 months including two months, June and July, where the margin fell below the catastrophic level of \$4.00 per hundredweight, a first for Dairy Margin Coverage or its predecessor Margin Protection Program.

2024 DMC Coverage and Premium Fees

FSA has revised DMC regulations to extend coverage for calendar year 2024, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2024, and to provide an adjustment to the production history for dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of production. In previous years, smaller dairy operations could establish a supplemental production history and receive Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage. For 2024, dairy producers can establish one adjusted base production history through DMC for each participating dairy operation to better reflect the operation's current production.

For 2024 DMC enrollment, dairy operations that established supplemental production history through Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for coverage years 2021 through 2023, will combine the supplemental production history with established production history for one adjusted base production history.

For dairy operations enrolled in 2023 DMC under a multi-year lock-in contract, lock-in eligibility will be extended until Dec. 31, 2024. In addition, dairy operations enrolled in multi-year lock-in contracts are eligible for the discounted DMC premium rate during the 2024 coverage year. To confirm 2024 DMC lock-in coverage or opt out in favor of an annual contract for 2024, dairy operations having lock-in contracts must enroll during the 2024 DMC enrollment period.

DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, minus a \$100 administrative fee. The administrative fee is waived for dairy producers who are considered limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or a military veteran. To determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the [online dairy decision tool](#).

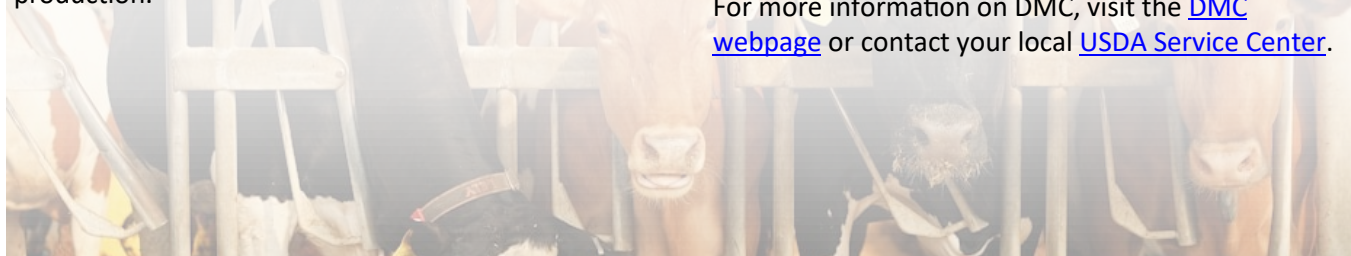
DMC Payments

DMC payments are calculated using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses. These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay.

More Information

USDA also offers other risk management tools for dairy producers, including the [Dairy Revenue Protection \(DRP\)](#) plan that protects against a decline in milk revenue (yield and price) and the [Livestock Gross Margin \(LGM\)](#) plan, which provides protection against the loss of the market value of milk minus the feed costs. Both DRP and LGM livestock insurance policies are offered through the Risk Management Agency. Producers should contact their [local crop insurance agent](#) for more information.

For more information on DMC, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).



The Harford County Public Library invites restaurants and value-added agricultural producers, including breweries and wineries, to showcase their businesses at the **Taste of Harford on Sunday, May 19th, from 1 pm to 4 pm at Vignon Manor Farm.**

This one-of-a-kind event is anticipated to attract more than 800 guests. Proceeds will support Library programs, resources, and services accessible to all Harford County residents.

Participating restaurants, breweries, wineries, and agricultural producers will be recognized in radio, online, and print advertising, press releases, on the event web page, and social media posts. In addition, participating businesses will be recognized on posters, flyers, event signage and programs, and flat screens in Harford County Public Library's 11 branches. The marketing reach for participating businesses exceeds 700,000 views!

Restaurants, breweries, wineries, or value-added agricultural businesses can participate at no cost, but vendors are asked to provide 800 "tastes" of a specialty they would like to showcase at the event.

A "**Best Bite of Harford County**" Competition will be held at the event and determined by the popular vote of attending guests.

Participants' expense to provide 800 "tastes," and a Temporary Food Service License, if necessary, will be recognized as in-kind donations to the Library. Partners will receive a letter recognizing the value of this expense, which is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Restaurants with off-site catering licenses do not need a Temporary Food Service License.

All partners will be provided with a table, linens, and two chairs. Utensil washing stations will be provided and shared by no more than three restaurants. Handwashing stations and access to electricity may also be made available upon request. The Harford County Health Department will contact all participants to provide guidance regarding whether a Temporary Food Service License is necessary and to provide additional support. More details regarding handwashing stations are available at www.hcplonline.org.

Set up on Sunday, May 19th will begin at 10

am. Participating vendors must be set up by 12pm for a Harford County Health Department walk-through. Partners are asked to remain at their table until 4pm so that guests can learn more about their business. Partners may provide additional tastes, sell additional products (applicable by law), gift certificates, and other items at the event, and distribute promotional items at their table. Partners should fill out the online form at www.hcplonline.org to confirm their participation.

Tickets for the Taste of Harford, \$40 per person or \$75 per couple, will go on sale in March. Sponsorship and additional information are available at www.hcplonline.org. To learn more about the Taste of Harford please contact Amber C. Shrodes at shrodes@hcplonline.org or by phone at (410) 273-5600 X 6513.

The Harford County Public Library Foundation is honored and grateful for partnerships with Harford County Government and Visit Harford and their efforts to support the Taste of Harford.



Taste of HARFORD

Sunday, May 19
1:00-4:00 pm
Vignon Manor Farm
425 Darlington Rd,
Havre de Grace

1 Ticket for \$40
or 2 tickets for \$75

Celebrate the diverse flavors and skills of our culinary community! Bring your friends, family, and appetite for an unforgettable day of food, music, art, and more.

The Taste of Harford will showcase over 50 Harford County local restaurants, value-added agriculture producers, breweries, and wineries. A "Best Bite of Harford County" competition will be held at the event and determined by popular vote of attending guests.

Proceeds benefit Harford County Public Library programs, resources, and services.

Live Deliciously!

Harford County Public Library
FOUNDATION

Transition to Organic Farming

March 19

8 AM—2 PM

Chesapeake College

Are you contemplating a transition to organic production, currently undergoing the transition process, or just curious about organic farming?

The University of Maryland Extension invites you to register for a half-day seminar from 8 am to 2 pm on March 19, 2024 at the Eastern Shore Higher Education Center – Chesapeake College. The agenda for the day includes presentations by Klaas Martens,

Chris Johnson and Brian Kalmbach covering key topics such as the direction and future of organic production, insights into organic grain markets, and navigating certification, regulations, and requirements. Additionally, there will be a farmer roundtable discussion featuring panelists representing various aspects of organic farming, including grain, vegetable, animal, and research. Light breakfast refreshments and lunch will be served.

Space is limited so register today: <https://go.umd.edu/TOPP>

For more information or any inquiries contact Dwayne Joseph at dwaynej@umd.edu or by calling (443) 480-8369.

2024 Commercial Vegetable Production Guide

The 2024 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations is now available. This comprehensive guide provides recommendations on variety selection, site preparation, weed management, and pest management for all major vegetable crops grown in the mid-Atlantic. Recommendations are generated through research from mid-Atlantic land-grant Extension services. The guide is available for free online (<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/mid-atlantic-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations-eb-236/>) or contact the Extension office for a hard copy.

Become a Certified Local Producer

Are you looking to expand your business? Check out MDA's new Certified Local Farm and Fish Program. This initiative supports local growers by encouraging state agencies and public four-year universities to purchase 20% of their food from Certified Local Farm and Chesapeake Invasive Species Providers. Learn more on MDA's website: https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Pages/certified-local-farm.aspx

Nutrient Management Trainings

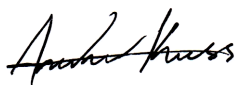
Farmer Training Certification (FTC)

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Maryland Extension will offer an in-person Farmer Training and Certification (FTC) Workshop at MDA for farmers who want to become certified to write their own nutrient management plans. This workshop is for producers with cropland and pastures that use commercial fertilizer and/or manure. The course will be March 14-15, and 22nd at MDA headquarters in Annapolis. To register, complete the [online form](#) or call Kayla Griffith at (301) 226-7439.

Voucher Training

For those that need nutrient management credits to renew their voucher or need a new voucher, training will be offered at the Harford County Extension office on March 21 from 1-3:00 p.m. Anyone spreading commercial fertilizer or manure on 10 or more acres of land is required to have a nutrient management voucher. The class is free but please register in advance by calling our office at (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu.

Great resources are just a click away!



Andrew Kness

Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



facebook.com/HarfordAg

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



akness@umd.edu



General Interest

Nutrient Management

UNIVERSITY OF
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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 05 Mar.** Produce Safety Workshop: Cleaning & Sanitizing. 8:30 -5 PM. Firebird Research Farm, Beltsville, MD. \$15.
Register [online](#).
- 19 Mar.** Private Pesticide New Applicator Optional Training (prep for exam). 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension office. \$20 for study materials. Call (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu to register.
- 21 Mar.** Nutrient Management Voucher Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension office. Call (410) 638-3255 or email akness@umd.edu to register.
- 26 Mar.** Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension office. \$20 for study materials. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.
- 26 Mar.** Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.

March 2024