

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

November 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  
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## Hello, Harford County!



Well, we are back in yet another dry spell. We have not had any rain since October 1, making for an exceptionally dry and dangerous harvest. Several close calls with combine fires have been reported in the area, so be sure to take precautions when harvesting. We have some tips in this [article on our website](#).

As we close in on the end of the growing season, this is your annual reminder to check your pesticide and nutrient management certifications for renewal. If your private applicator license expires in December of 2024, you should get a notice from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) in the next few weeks to log into the MDA system to renew your license. As a reminder, you need four (4) credits every three years to renew your license, which is equal to two hours of instruction. If you need credits, don't forget to attend one of our winter meetings! I listed a few of our local meetings in the table below. Also note that

The Extension office will be closed on November 11 for Veterans Day and November 28-29 for Thanksgiving

if your license expires on December 31 and you don't have credits, you will have a grace period until the end of April 2025 to obtain credits before your license lapses.

Similarly, if you need to renew your nutrient applicator voucher, you will need two-hours worth of nutrient management training during your three-year voucher period.

If you have any questions regarding pesticide or nutrient management certification, please reach out to me.

We will also be closed on November 11 in observance of Veterans Day—we owe great thanks to all who have served our great country, thank you. Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Until next time,  
-Andy

### Upcoming Programs for Pesticide & Nutrient Management Credits

Date & Time	Program	Location
November 14, 2024 9:00-11:00 am	Private Applicator Exam (for new applicators)	Harford County Extension Office
November 14, 2024 1:00-3:00 pm	Private Applicator Recertification Training	Harford County Extension Office
December 5, 2024 8:00-12:00 pm	Northern Maryland Field Crops Day*	Hereford Fire Hall ( <b>NEW LOCATION</b> )
January 22, 2025 8:00-12:00 pm	Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day*	Hereford Fire Hall
February 11, 2025 8:30-2:30 pm	Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting*	Deer Creek Overlook
February 25, 2025 10-12:00 pm	Nutrient Management Voucher Training	Harford County Extension Office
March 13, 2025 9:00-11:00 am	Private Applicator Exam (for new applicators)	Harford County Extension Office
March 13, 2025 1:00-3:00 pm	Private Applicator Recertification Training	Harford County Extension Office

\*Satisfies credits for BOTH pesticide and nutrient management

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced that cost-share funding to install a range of popular best management practices is now available for small-scale equine and livestock operations with at least 1,000 pounds of live animal weight. This expansion of the [Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share \(MACS\)](#) Program extends the popular conservation assistance program to these smaller farms. Previously, participation in MACS was limited to operations with 8,000 or more pounds of live animal weight.

“We are actively seeking out and working with small farms to get them the financial assistance they need to improve the natural resources that support their operations,” said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “Erosion and runoff are issues that all equine and livestock operations—large and small—face. We are excited to expand our conservation programs to help everyone do their part to protect the natural resources we all depend on.”

MACS currently funds 40 conservation practices that help farmers and landowners reduce soil erosion, manage animal manure, and control nutrient runoff to protect the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay, as well as mitigate impacts associated with



climate change. The program provides up to 100% cost-share for high-priority practices such as forest buffers and stream exclusion fencing.

Examples of qualifying conservation practices that benefit equine and livestock operations include:

- Watering Facilities – Up to 87.5% cost-share
- Pasture Management – Up to 87.5% cost-share
- Animal Waste Storage Structures – Up to 87.5% cost-share
- Heavy Use Area Protection – Up to 87.5% cost-share
- Roof Runoff Structures – Up to 87.5% cost-share
- Stream Exclusion Fencing – Up to 100% cost-share
- Interior Pasture Fencing – Up to 50% cost-share

Since 1984, MACS has helped thousands of farmers protect natural resources on their farms, safeguard local water quality, and enhance the health of their livestock. Please contact your [local soil conservation district](#) (410-638-4828) to learn more about our conservation grants for small equine and livestock operations. Additional information for equine operations can be found on [MDA’s Horse Outreach Workgroup website](#).

## New Livestock Ruminant Specialist

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Brittany Fletcher to the University of Maryland Extension Team. Brittany is the new Ruminant Livestock Specialist at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center. Brittany brings a rich background in livestock management, having grown up on a small farm in Lineboro, Maryland, where she and her family raised cattle, sheep, and hogs. Brittany earned her M.S. in feedlot cattle nutrition from Oklahoma State University in 2021, where her research focused on trace mineral supplementation strategies. In 2024, she completed her Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University, specializing in ruminant nutrition with a focus on managing woody plant encroachment in the Great Plains through mixed-species grazing of cattle and goats. As part of her role, Brittany will develop Extension programming and conduct applied research for small ruminants, beef, and dairy cattle across the state. Brittany can be reached at [bffletch1@umd.edu](mailto:bffletch1@umd.edu) or (301) 226-7576.



## Animal Disease Traceability Rule Change

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is notifying cattle and bison producers about an important update to the disease traceability rule [announced](#) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**Starting November 5, 2024, OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION (ID) for cattle will be required to be both electronically and visually readable.**

This updated requirement applies to animals moving within the state or across state lines when submitting official tests or vaccinations, such as tuberculosis testing and brucellosis vaccination.

The following types of cattle are required to have electronic ID (EID) when crossing state lines:

- Dairy cattle of any age or sex
- Sexually intact beef cattle and bison aged 18 months or older

- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeos, shows, or exhibitions

While a wand reader is not mandatory to read the printed numbers on the tags, it is recommended to reduce transcription errors and improve accuracy. Producers should also be aware that removing existing official ID tags from any animal is illegal. It is prohibited to place two 840 RFID tags with different numbers on a single animal, but management tags may be added as needed. Official 840 RFID tags are not reusable, and correct placement is essential for effective tag retention.

Additional information regarding the seven common myths and misunderstandings about the new regulations can be found [here](#). For information or questions, producers can contact the Animal Disease Traceability team at the Maryland Department of Agriculture at (410) 841-5810 or [animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov](mailto:animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov).

## Conservation Buffer Initiative

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#), abridged

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced the 2024-2025 enrollment period for the popular Conservation Buffer Initiative will run from October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. To help Maryland meet its ambitious tree planting goals, qualifying farmers who plant forest buffers through this program will receive a one-time \$1,000/acre signing bonus along with the program's standard incentive payment.

Entering its fifth year, Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative provides farmers with attractive incentive payments to plant buffers next to streams to improve water quality and support the state's climate goals. Three types of buffers are eligible for funding and free technical assistance from local soil conservation districts under the program: forest buffers planted next to waterways, grass buffers planted next to waterways or field ditches, and watercourse access control areas adjacent to pastures. Program highlights include:

- Payment rates range from \$500 per acre for existing grass buffers to a maximum of \$4,500 per acre to install a riparian forest buffer with pasture fencing
- Mowing and hay harvesting are allowed; nutrient applications are not
- Farmers receive 75% of the project cost upfront and

the remaining 25% after verification of planting for new or improved buffers and 100% of the eligible payment for existing buffers that have been field-verified

- An extra one-time bonus payment of \$1,000/acre for enrolled forest buffers is offered
- Annual maintenance payments are available for forest buffers during the first five years
- Contracts are for 5 or 10 years
- Soil conservation districts can provide free technical assistance to get your buffer installed
- Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis based on availability of funding
- All work must be completed within one year of the Agreement's signing date

Farmers wanting to install new buffers on land adjacent to waterways or improve existing buffers are encouraged to apply for this program. Applications and required forms are available on the [website](#) and at [local soil conservation districts](#) (410-638-4828). Questions? Conservation experts at your local soil conservation district office are standing by to help you with your application.

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced that the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) has approved emergency regulations to establish a new permit program for food processing residuals (FPRs) and make corresponding amendments to the Maryland Nutrient Management Manual.

Food processing residuals are generated during the production and processing of food products such as milk and poultry. New legislation, which took effect July 1, 2024, requires the department to oversee the transport, storage, and land application of food processing residuals on Maryland farms as a nutrient source. People who engage in these activities must first obtain a permit from the department. The new rules are designed to ensure that FPRs are managed to protect air and water quality.

“With the passage of House Bill 991 and Senate Bill 1074, the department has been granted the authority to establish a permit program for FPRs. The new requirement aims to address citizen complaints while still allowing the land application of this important nutrient source, following Maryland’s nutrient management regulations,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks.

In 2023, Maryland joined a growing list of states regulating FPRs by requiring direct injection or same-day deep incorporation of FPRs on all cropland except hay fields. But residents in several Maryland counties have asked for stronger regulations and new permit requirements which are now in place.

- If you are a Maryland farmer who uses FPRs, here’s what you need to know and do.
- A Food Processing Residuals Utilization Permit is required if you plan to transport, store, or land apply FPRs on Maryland farmland.
- A separate permit is required for each activity (transport, storage or spreading).
- Permit holders are required to post a bond to ensure compliance.
- Applications for transport and storage received by November 15 to be issued by January 1.
- Farmers who have submitted their applications by November 15 may continue to transport or store FPRs until the permit determination has been made.
- Applications for land application of FPRs are due to the department by January 15. Permits will be issued by March 1, when land application of nutrient sources resumes.
- All FPRs must be applied to fields following Maryland’s nutrient management regulations. Nutrient management staff will be making site and field inspections to ensure compliance.

For more information on the new regulations, please visit [mda.maryland.gov/conservation](http://mda.maryland.gov/conservation). To request a permit application, please contact: Dwight Dotterer, Administrator, Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, Phone: 410-841-5877 | Email [dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov](mailto:dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov).

## 2025 Custom Farming Rate Survey

Extension services in Maryland and Delaware will be collecting farming custom survey rates this fall. We need your assistance securing up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery rental rates, and hired labor costs. Custom rates are used widely by farmers across the states, so we need the best information available.

Please respond even if you know only a few rates. We want information on actual rates, either what you PAID TO HIRE work or what you CHARGED TO PERFORM custom work. Custom Rates should include all ownership costs of implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel, and lube. Reported rates will be summarized in the Custom Rate Survey to show a range and averages for the states. NO individual names or rates will be published in the Custom Rate Survey.

The results will be available at local Extension Offices and will be available online at <https://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing>. We hope this publication will benefit you as a custom farm operator. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

The survey can be completed online at: <https://go.umd.edu/customrate2025> or to get a blank survey call the Talbot County Extension office at (410) 822-1244. Please complete the survey by December 31, 2024.

## Annual Ag Law Conference

**November 12**

8:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Annapolis, MD

Registration is now open for our annual agricultural and environmental law conference.

Struggling to stay updated on the latest in agricultural and environmental regulations? Look no further! The Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference (AELC), proudly presented by the Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI), is a one-of-a-kind occasion that unites professionals from Maryland's agriculture, conservation, and legal sectors. Mark your calendars for **November 12th**, as the event unfolds from 8 AM to 3 PM at the Graduate Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Registration is now open.

The in person AELC is an opportunity for networking, educational growth, and discussing the intricacies of environmental law and agriculture. With topics like right-to-farm laws, planning for the future of value-added agriculture, and solar development in Maryland there's a little something for everyone!

The ALEI conference is a great investment to learn more about current issues impacting agriculture and the environment. Anyone with questions or in need of more information may email [umaglaw@umd.edu](mailto:umaglaw@umd.edu).

Register online at <https://app.certain.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x3425340abcd> or call (301) 405-9471.

## Pesticide Training Dates

We will be hosting private pesticide applicator training at the Extension office (3525 Conowingo Rd, Street, MD 21154) fall and winter. Dates and times are listed below. There is no fee to attend the classes, but please register ahead of time to ensure accurate headcount for educational materials. Please call the Extension office to register, (410) 638-3255, or email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).

**Private Applicator Recertification Training** (4 CEUs in category PVT for private applicator renewal). As a reminder, if your license expires in December of 2024, you will need 4 CEUs by spring 2025 in order to renew your private applicator license.

- November 14, 2024 | 1-3:00 p.m.
- March 13, 2025 | 1-3:00 p.m.

- Credits will also be offered at Northern Maryland Field Crops Day (December 5), Central MD Vegetable Growers Day (January 22), and the Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting (February 11).

**Optional Private Applicator Prep Course and Exam.** \$20 for a hard copy of the *Maryland Private Applicator Core Manual* study guide.

- November 5, 2024 | Prep for Exam | 9-11:00 a.m.
- November 14, 2024 | Exam | 9-11:00 a.m.
- March 6, 2025 | Prep for Exam | 9-11:00 a.m.
- March 13, 2025 | Exam | 9-11:00 a.m.

## Septic System Survey

*Cameron Smith, Graduate Student  
University of Maryland, School of Public Health*

We are working on a project to understand the risk of septic system failure and the risk of contamination of well water for homes that rely on septic systems. Our project team includes researchers from the University of Maryland, George Mason University, Resources for the Future, and the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP). This project has been approved by the University of Maryland IRBNet Package #2219091-1.

We invite you to participate in a short survey (around 9 minutes long) to provide us with more information

about your septic system and well. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in this study.

If you agree to participate, please use this link to access the survey: [https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV\\_3kJ12mOAEw80K0K](https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_3kJ12mOAEw80K0K).

Your answers are confidential and will not be shared with any other party, and only used by project investigators.

We appreciate your participation!

Ag Law

Pesticide Training

General Interest

# 2024 Corn Trial Results

Nicole Fiorellino, Extension Agronomist  
University of Maryland, College Park

The University of Maryland offers a fee-based, corn hybrid performance testing program to local and national seed companies. The results from these replicated trials provide agronomic performance information about corn hybrids tested at five locations in Maryland considered representative of the state’s geography and weather conditions.

During 2024, 50 hybrids were tested using three maturity groups: early season (8 hybrids), mid-season (17 hybrids), and full season (25 hybrids). Each company designated maturity group assignments for hybrids they submitted.

The factsheet with the results can be downloaded from the MD Crops website at <https://psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops> or you may call Andy Kness at (410) 638-3255 to obtain a printed copy.

Many thanks to Louis Thorne, Gene Hahn, and Audrey Sultenfuss for their time spent preparing, establishing, collecting data, and preparing the report. These trials could not be completed without them. I greatly appreciate the Center managers and personnel who assist our team with executing these trials.

We are grateful for the funding provided by Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board to support these trials. MGPUB provides our program with checkoff funding to support applied agricultural research and generate results that directly benefit Maryland producers.

For more information on how to interpret and utilize hybrid/variety trial data, check out our fact sheet, [What do the numbers really mean? Interpreting variety trial results.](#)

## Northern Maryland Field Crops Day

December 5

8:00 AM—12:00 PM

**NEW LOCATION:** *Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton, MD*

ALL PRODUCERS OF CORN,

SOYBEANS, SMALL GRAINS AND HAY

You are invited to attend the

2024 Northern Maryland

Field Crops Day

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Herbicide Update
- PFAS in Ag Land
- Crash Course in Soybean Disease ID
- Ag Law Update
- MDA Nutrient Management and Pesticide Updates

### Ticket Order Form

\$20.00 if you pre-register, includes an all-you-can-eat lunch. This meeting serves as recertification for Maryland private pesticide applicators and offers recertification credits for Pennsylvania Applicators. **\*\*Note the new location: Summit Manor at Hereford Fire Hall, 510 Monkton Rd, Monkton, MD 21111.**

**In addition, producers can attend specific presentations to also renew their Maryland nutrient applicator’s voucher and earn Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits.**

To register to attend call the University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County Office at (410) 887-8090 or fill out the form below and mail to: 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Make checks out to “BCEAC.” Or, **register online at <https://bit.ly/2024FCD>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets @ \$20: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Food Waste Donations for Livestock Feed

The Hope Center, a food donation center located at 2845 Churchville Road in Churchville, would like to begin an effort to offer unused donations to local farmers for animal feed. Some of the foods donated regularly are chicken nuggets/patties, canned and fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, cereal, crackers, and yogurt. Items and quantities will vary from week to week and farmers are asked to come to the Center to pick up the food, and to bring their own 5 gallon buckets, bags, or boxes to be used for food transport.

Farmers who are interested in picking up the excess food are asked to text Robert at (443) 787-9290 with their interest and contact information (name and cell number). He will create a text group to be used to message donation details directly to farmers on a weekly basis.

The first pick-up date will be Monday October 7th from 1-2 p.m. After the first pick-up, regular donation days/times will be: Mondays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m., first come first serve.

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**AgFS**  
Agriculture & Food Systems

## Backyard Farming Zoom Sessions

### Small Ruminants: The Good, Bad and the Ugly

- **Are Dairy Goats a Good Fit For My Farm?**  
November 5, 2024
- **Managing Manure and Mortalities on Small Farms**  
November 12, 2024
- **Meet the New UME Ruminant Specialist plus Q & A**  
November 19, 2024
- **Farm Signage from a Legal Specialist's Perspective**  
December 3, 2024
- **Guardians**  
December 10, 2024

**You may register for any of the above sessions at <https://go.umd.edu/goodandbad>.**

**The Small Ruminant sessions will be held on Tuesdays at 7 pm EST.**

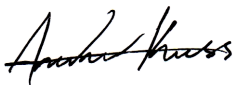
Registration is required. If you do not have adequate internet access, contact Maegan at 301-226-7543 or [mperdue@umd.edu](mailto:mperdue@umd.edu) for call in options. Sessions will be approximately one hour.

If you need reasonable accommodations, please email Maegan Perdue 2 weeks prior to the session.

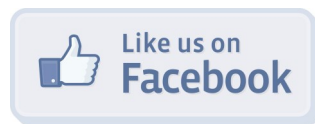
University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

General Interest

*Great resources are just a click away!*



Andrew Kness  
Senior Extension Agent,  
Agriculture and  
Food Systems



[facebook.com/HarfordAg](https://facebook.com/HarfordAg)

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

 [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu)



University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the University of Maryland Extension office at least two weeks prior to the event.

Suite 600  
3525 Conowingo Rd.  
Street, MD 21154

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# Ag Notes

*Harford County Newsletter*

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## *Dates to remember*

**12 Nov.** Ag Law Conference. 8-3 PM. Annapolis, MD.  
Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-9471.

**14 Nov.** Pesticide Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 or email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu) to register.

**14 Nov.** Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Call (410) 638-3255 or email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu) to register.

**19-21 Nov.** Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School. Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Prices vary. Register at [go.umd.edu/24crop](http://go.umd.edu/24crop).

**05 Dec.** Northern Maryland Field Crops Day. 8-12 PM.  
**\*NEW LOCATION\*:** Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton. \$20.  
Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or at [bit.ly/2024FCD](http://bit.ly/2024FCD).

**22 Jan.** Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting. 8-12 PM. Hereford Fire Hall, Monkton. Details to come.

# November 2024