

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Winter 2021

ALLEGANY COUNTY AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone and hopefully 2021 will be better! COVID-19 posed its difficulties and folks have risen to meet those challenges in their work, family, and community. We've had to figure out new ways of doing things and it has tested everyone's patience. We've made it through 2020 and I want to encourage you to just keep standing.

Extension has had to make adjustments in the way we connect with our clients, audiences and stakeholders. We truly appreciate you sticking with us through these turbulent times. We have worked diligently to move our in-person programming to virtual platforms in light of State and University safety protocols. We certainly miss seeing all of you and look forward to holding in-person classes and events once again. But until that happens, we want you to know that we have online opportunities for you to get the same great research based information for the next few months. Please look through this newsletter and check out all of the free programming being offered in January and February. You can also see a full list of offerings on our revamped website: <https://extension.umd.edu/agriculture/agriculture-events>. UME online winter meetings are free and available to help you maintain your nutrient management voucher certification and private applicator license.

Our office is closed at the moment, but we are still on the job, working from home. As always, feel free to contact me with any agricultural, farm management, regulatory, or pest control questions. You can call the office at 301-724-3320 or send me an email at sfrick@umd.edu. I sincerely hope you and your family have a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2021!

Sherry Frick
Allegany UME
AGNR Educator



2021 MARYLAND-DELAWARE VIRTUAL FORAGE CONFERENCE

JAN 14 | JAN 19 2021

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE



January 14, 2021

9:00 am Welcome

9:15 am Strategies to Boost Summer Production using Warm-Season Forages

*Dr. Chris Teutsch, Forage Associate Professor and Extension Specialist
University of Kentucky*

10:15 am Pasture Renovation 101

*Jeff Semler, Agriculture Extension Educator, Washington County
University of Maryland Extension*

11:00 am Weed Management for Pastures/Hayfields: Is There Anything New?

*Dr. Mark VanGessel, Weed Science Professor and Extension Specialist
University of Delaware*

11:45 am Time for Discussion/Adjourn

Complete recertification forms and program evaluations

January 19, 2021

9:00 am Welcome

9:15 am Drying Hay When Mother Nature Doesn't Cooperate

*Dr. Dan Undersander, Forage Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin*

10:15 am Maintaining Persistence and Productivity in Forage Stands

*Dr. Amanda Grev, Extension Specialist, Forage and Pasture
University of Maryland Extension*

11:00 am Optimizing Soil Fertility for Forages

*Ben Beale, Agriculture Extension Educator, St. Mary's County
University of Maryland Extension*

11:45 am Time for Discussion/Adjourn

Complete recertification forms and program evaluations

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/forage>

CCA, Nutrient Management, and Private Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered

**Questions? Call your local county extension office or contact
Amanda Grev at agrev@umd.edu or 301-432-2767**



2021 WEDNESDAY WEBINARS

Offered the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Topics cover all areas of risk management. To see the full listing look at the graphic below and to register visit:

<http://extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars>

Additionally, be sure to check out our website <https://extension.umd.edu/womeninag> for access to archived webinars and more information on other Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Programs.

GOOD MORNING, FARMER!

Beginning December 2020 and running through March 2021, the University of Maryland Extension will host **Good Morning, Farmer!** An online gathering place where farmers can discuss topics of interest, learn from experts and provide support through community fellowship.

For more information and links to registration, please go to:

<https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/good-morning-farmer>



- **January 13:**
Financial Management
Speaker: Dorothy Knuckles
- **January 20:**
Nutrition
Speaker: Erin Jewell
- **January 27:**
Consumer Misinformation
Speaker: Kayla Griffith
- **February 3:**
Marketing Your Farm
Speaker: Ginger Myers
- **February 10:**
Public Perception of Farmers
Speaker: Chuck Schuster
- **February 17:**
Winter Blues
Speaker: Dave Myers

2021 MARYLAND CROP PRODUCTION MEETINGS

UME has scheduled the following dates for this year's crop production meetings.

The meetings are free and will be held online. Registration is required.

Vegetable Growers - January 28, 8am to 12pm

Fruit Growers - February 10, 8am to 12pm

Forage Meetings:

- ♦ January 14, 9am to 12pm
- ♦ January 19, 9am to 12pm

Agronomy Meetings:

- ♦ January 21, 8am to 12pm
- ♦ February 17, 4:30 to 8:30pm
- ♦ February 26, 8am to 12pm

For a complete list and to register go to: <https://go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings>.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CORNER

Annual Implementation Reports: 2020 Reporting

New this year, farmers will have the option to file their AIRs electronically using the **Maryland OneStop** portal. The e-filing option will be available beginning January 11, 2021. For farmers who want to continue to submit paper reports, PDFs will be uploaded to the website listed below.



Please check this MDA webpage for updates and instructions:

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/air.aspx

Conservation Reserve Program General Sign Up January 4 through February 12, 2021

Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#) can sign up for the popular program until February 12, 2021. CRP is a land conservation program administered by FSA. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. This competitive program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

Through CRP, farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Farmers and ranchers who participate in CRP help provide numerous benefits to their local region and the nation's environment and economy. CRP general signup is held annually and is competitive; general signup includes increased opportunities for wildlife habitat enrollment through the [State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement](#) (SAFE) initiative.

New cropland offered in the program must have been planted for four out of six crop years from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, producers with land already enrolled but expiring on September 30, 2021, can re-enroll this year. The acreage offered by producers and landowners is evaluated competitively; accepted offers will begin October 1, 2021.

ASCD Spring Fruit Tree Sale



Allegany Soil Conservation District will hold a fruit tree sale in the spring. Details will be shared when available.

Check the ASCD website for updates:

<https://www.alleganyscd.com/>

2020 FORAGE VARIETY TRIAL UPDATE

Amanda Grev, UME Pasture and Forage Specialist

As new forage varieties continue to be developed and released, the efficacy and performance of these varieties needs to be evaluated. Similarly, as forage and livestock producers are making decisions on which forage species and variety to establish, it is helpful to compare performance data from a number of available varieties. To this end, the University of Maryland Extension Forage Team is in the process of establishing a series of forage variety trials.

In September 2019, an orchardgrass variety trial was established at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC) in Keedysville, MD in order to evaluate select orchardgrass varieties based on forage production and quality. Plots were arranged in a randomized complete block design with each individual entry replicated four times. All varieties were planted at a rate of 25 pounds per acre; seed was broadcast and then cultipacked to establish good seed-to-soil contact. The varieties planted included: Alpine, Bounty II, Extend, HLR Blend, Inavale, Olathe, Pennlate, and Rushmore II.

Data collection began when the majority of forage varieties reached the boot stage of development (prior to seed head emergence). The first cutting occurred on May 18, 2020; this was followed by a second cutting on August 3, 2020 and a third and final cutting on September 28, 2020. At each cutting, forage biomass was collected along a 3 ft. by 20 ft. strip from the center of each plot using a forage harvester set to a cutting height of 4 inches. Collected biomass was weighed, dried in a forced air oven, and weighed again for dry matter and forage yield determination. Sub-samples were also taken from each plot and sent to a commercial laboratory for forage quality analysis.

Seasonal cumulative yield for all orchardgrass varieties ranged from 3.6 to 3.8 tons per acre (Figure 1). Statistical analysis indicates no significant difference in forage yield among any of the varieties for the 2020 growing season. Forage quality analysis is underway; forage quality results will be shared once the analysis is complete.

A big thank you to Jeff Semler and the entire WMREC crew for their assistance in getting this trial started and their help with harvest and data collection. Seed for this study was donated by DLF Pickseed, Seedway, and Kings Agriseeds. These plots will continue to be evaluated for yield, quality, and additional performance parameters in the coming years. We hope to expand the trial to include multiple locations, as well as additional forage species and varieties.

2020 Total Forage Yield by Variety

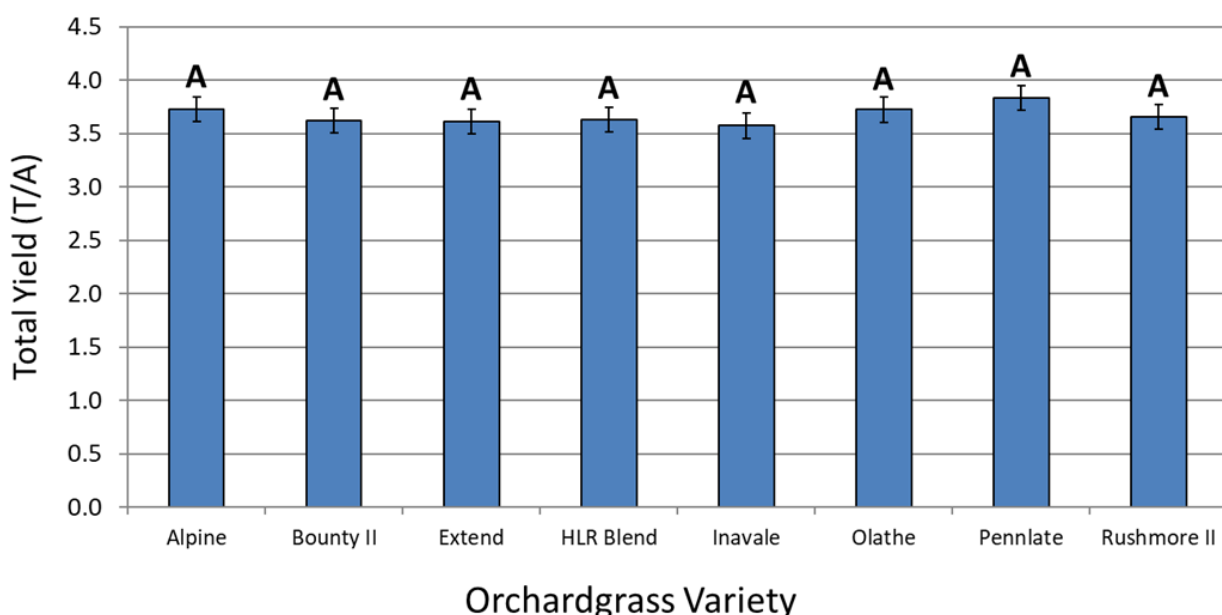


Figure 1. Orchardgrass forage variety trial yield results for 2020, presented as total seasonal yield in tons per acre. Varieties marked by a common letter indicate similar yield production (i.e. no significant difference).

NASS TO CONDUCT ARMS SURVEY

Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farms and ranches. The results of this survey are the only source of information available for objective evaluation of many critical issues related to agriculture and the rural economy.



Farmer participation in ARMS ensures that policy makers and others, including farmers and ranchers themselves, base important decisions on facts straight from the source. ARMS also tells the story of American agriculture to the public that has less and less direct contact with the farm community.

An Agricultural Resource Management Survey from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be mailed to selected producers on December 28, 2020. Producers will have until April 23, 2021 to complete this survey. Producers can respond online or by mail. If producers do not respond by February, trained enumerators will call to schedule a telephone interview to collect the data by phone.

This survey reaches a large sample of hog producers, and will include questions about COVID-19 related impacts on production, loans or grant applications for swine operations, and loss of off-farm employment and unemployment compensation. Accurate information from producers will have a direct impact on farm policy.

For more information about this survey, visit: nass.usda.gov/go/arms



MORE NEWSLETTERS

Need more ag-related information? Check out the various newsletters across the state available from University of Maryland Extension.

Agronomy News - <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/agronomy-news-1>

Annie's Project (Women in Agriculture) - <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/annies-project-newsletter>

Commercial Poultry - <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/commercial-poultry>

Branching Out (Woodland) - <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/branching-out>

Vegetable & Fruit News - <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/vegetable-fruit-headline-news>

And Many More - <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters>

ARC POWER GRANT AWARDED FOR INDUSTRIAL HEMP FEASIBILITY STUDY, SEPTEMBER 2020



The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to the Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council (WMRC&D) for their proposal titled, “Feasibility Study for Industrial Hemp Processing Industry.” Grant partners include the Mountain Maryland Hemp Alliance, Garrett and Preston Counties Economic Development, Garrett College, FSU, Elysian Holdings and others. This project funds the creation of a feasibility study to determine the steps, conditions and resources necessary to establish an industrial hemp processing facility that serves western Maryland, northeast West Virginia, and south-central Pennsylvania regions. Currently, the Project Oversight Committee is seeking to hire a research consultant. As part of the project, Extension educators from UME, Penn State, and WVU will develop and deliver an education program for local farmers who are interested in learning more about industrial hemp production, processing, and markets. The workshops will be offered February through April.

The target region has an economically important agriculture industry. In the past 100 years, the area has focused on livestock and dairy production but the market has experienced a steady decline due to competition from large-scale operations out west. Industrial hemp shows promise for improving farm income, sustainability, community tax bases and soil health. Providing education and convenient access to processing capacity is critical to increasing the number of farmers willing to grow hemp. One of the ARC's POWER Initiative goals is to strengthen and diversify the economy in Appalachia's coal impacted communities.

Industrial hemp (without THC) was legalized by the 2018 Farm Bill and has attracted strong commercial and state government support in North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky. Industrial hemp is a multi-purpose crop that provides potential for farm income two to three times that of the revenues per hectare provided by other commodity crops such as corn and soybeans. The feasibility study will include an assessment of the hemp supply chain, including best practices from surrounding states, other regions and countries, markets, and potential products and partners needed to create a successful entity. The intended long-term impact of this project is the creation of a regional hemp growing and processing model, with opportunities for new farm revenue sources, for new and expanding businesses, for attracting new entrepreneurs, for increased employment, and for ancillary businesses development benefits.

As farmers begin to grow industrial hemp in the region, they will need a market for their products. While buyers of processed hemp components (flower, seed and stalk) and products are numerous, no processing facility exists in the region that could help farmers to access those opportunities. This project seeks to educate and survey farmers, while developing a model for an industrial hemp processing facility in the region from market data and best practices. The current hemp farmers in the region need off-farm processing facilities, such as extra drying and storage space, and commercial kitchen facilities for preparing products for sale. A phased hemp processing facility development may be a viable approach, but this will be part of the project's analysis. Based on project analysis and research, a plan will be developed on the requirements and best approaches for creation of a regional hemp processing capability.

Sources include the ARC POWER Feasibility Study for Industrial Hemp Processing Industry application and the related RFP. For more details visit <http://www.mountainmarylandhemp.org/>

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**MASTER
GARDENER** 

The Maryland Master Gardener Program, a volunteer education program taught and administered by University of Maryland Extension (UME), puts research-based knowledge and environmental power into the hands of people who want to create sustainable gardens and landscapes, and protect and improve natural resources. Master Gardeners are citizens from all walks of life who combine their love of plants, people, and the environment to help residents solve problems and make environmentally-sound decisions on public and private properties.