

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

March 2019



Hello, Harford County!

Thank you to all who came out to our Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting on February 12! For the most part, the snow didn't keep people away. However, if you did miss the meeting and you still need pesticide credits or your nutrient management voucher renewed, give me a call and we can find another training for you. On February 26 we will offer nutrient management voucher training and pesticide recertification on March 14. See inside for more details.

If you recall, last month I very briefly introduced our new Area Extension Director, Dr. Mandeep Virk-Baker. The following is a more complete introduction and background.

Dr. Mandeep K. Virk-Baker joined the Area Extension Director Position for Northern Cluster (Baltimore, Carroll, and Harford Counties) at the University of Maryland Extension, and recently relocated with her family to Baltimore County from Henrico, Virginia. Prior to joining UME, Dr. Virk-Baker served as the Public Health Policy Director at United Sikhs. As a public health scientist trained at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Virk-Baker is deeply passionate about improving public health and is thrilled for the opportunity to work closely with the Northern cluster stakeholders, UME leadership, faculty, staff, and the local communities to improve the lives of Marylanders.

Dr. Virk-Baker has extensive public health program administration experience. Dr. Virk-Baker served as the Director for Division of Community Nutrition, Director for Women Infant and Children (WIC) program, and Director for

Child and Adult Food Care program (CACF) at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). While at VDH, Dr. Virk-Baker lead federally funded special supplemental nutrition programs to improve health and well-being of women, infants and children across the thirty-five health districts. Previously, Dr. Virk-Baker served as the Associate Nutrition Advisor at the University of California, Davis, where she led the Cooperative Extension low-income nutrition education funded by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program. She was also responsible for conducting a multi-county-based education and applied public health and nutrition research program for two large counties in California.

Dr. Virk-Baker received a Bachelor of Science, and a Master of Food and Nutrition degree from the Panjab University Chandigarh, India. Dr. Virk-Baker received her doctoral degree in Nutrition Sciences from the University of Alabama. Dr. Virk-Baker completed post-doctoral fellowships at the NIH, and the Office of the US Surgeon General.

Dr. Virk-Baker grew-up in a farming family in India, and the family's agricultural roots run deep as her grandparents, great-grandparents and their ancestors were farmers. Dr. Virk-Baker's family grows wheat, rice, sunflower, sweet potatoes, and sugarcane in their ancestral farms in India. In her spare time, Dr. Virk-Baker enjoys gardening, hiking, and playing with her Labrador retrievers.

We hop that you will get a chance to meet Dr. Virk-Baker at future Extension events!

Until next time,
-Andy

University of
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Agricultural Center

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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TRAINING AND STEWARDSHIP

DICAMBA TRAINING

Growers planning to use approved formulations of dicamba over-the-top of soybeans in the 2019 growing season are required to attend a dicamba training session. This training course will satisfy the requirements for those planning to use Enginia, FeXapan, or XtendiMax on dicamba-tolerant Xtend soybeans. Maryland pesticide recertification credits will also be offered. Call the Baltimore County Extension Office to register (410) 887-8090.

March 11

10-12 PM

Baltimore County
Extension Office
Cockeysville, MD

Pesticide Applicator Training

Training for private pesticide applicators will be given through the Harford County Extension Office on **March 7th & 14th**. Optional training class for **new applicators** will be from 9-11AM on **March 7**, with exam on **March 14**, 9-11AM. Cost for the new certification class will be \$7, which includes your own copy of the *Maryland Pesticide Core Manual* to use as a study guide for the exam.

March 7 & 14

Harford County
Extension Office

Recertification training will be offered on **March 14** from 1-3PM. Credits will satisfy Maryland continuing education credits (CEUs) necessary to renew your private applicator license. There is no cost for this class, but please register ahead of time.

Call the Extension Office (410-638-3255) or e-mail Andy to register (akness@umd.edu).

Herbicide Resistant Weeds Workshop

University of Maryland Extension, in collaboration with University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and Virginia Cooperative Extension, will host a series of herbicide resistant weeds workshops across the region. Topics include an overview of weed resistance challenges, focus on Palmer amaranth, common ragweed, marehail and others, integrated management strategies, and current research findings from local trials. Contact Matt Morris at (301) 600-3578 for more information.

March 6

8-1 PM

Frederick County
Extension Office

This workshop is free and includes lunch, but please RSVP. To register for the March 6 meeting in Frederick, call (301) 600-3576. To register for the March 7 meeting in Chestertown, call (410) 778-1661.

March 7

8-1 PM

Chestertown Volunteer
Fire Company



2019 Maryland Beef Industry Survey

Currently, the only way to get information related to the Maryland Beef Industry is via the 2012 Ag Census, which tells us the approximate number, county locations, size of primary operation (herd and acreage), approximate demographics and age. What this census doesn't tell us is: their future plans, greatest challenges, preferred method of education and outreach and what topics they would like to see in the areas of education programming. In order to properly develop extension programming that will meet the current and future needs of our producers, we need to establish a baseline of information. The best way to collect this information would be to directly ask our Maryland Beef Industry producers. What information we will collect: operation characteristics including county location, type, and size; age of producers and their tenure in the industry; future plans; greatest challenges; preferred methods of education and outreach; topics for educational programming; production data that will include type of housing, pasture management, nutrition and how producers buy, sell and market their cattle.

Our survey will open February 1, 2019 and remain open for response until **April 8, 2019**. Completing the survey should take no more than **10-15 minutes** with

the results being used to offer targeted educational outreach and training on topics related to beef production. This will help maintain and grow a viable beef production industry in Maryland and help sustain this important agricultural sector of the economy.

All data will be stored on a secure server with access restricted to members of the research team. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, **confidential**, and will not affect your ability to take advantage of UME programs. This research has been approved by the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board (IRB #1158581-2).

The **easiest** way to complete the survey is to type the following link into a web browser on your computer: <https://tinyurl.com/2019MD-beefsurvey>.

You can also request a paper survey if preferred at rlatt@umd.edu or (301) 405-1392.

If you need any further information on the survey or how the results will be used, please contact Racheal Slattery, Beef and Dairy Extension Coordinator at The University of Maryland at rlatt@umd.edu or (301) 405-1392.

Hogan to contribute \$1.5 million to dairy industry

Article originally posted in the February 8, 2019 issue of the Delmarva Farmer, abridged

Gov. Larry Hogan took the opportunity before a big crowd at the annual Taste of Maryland Agriculture event to make a big announcement for Maryland dairy farmers.

Addressing more than 700 agricultural leaders and legislators at the Maryland Agriculture Council's annual event, Hogan announced his decision to contribute about \$1.5 million in state funds to enable Maryland dairy farmers to participate in a new federal funding program, creating up to \$17 million in available assistance.

"For months we have been searching for a way to help our dairy farmers who are facing particularly challenging times," Hogan said. "I want all of you to be the first to know tonight that earlier today I made the decision to put additional state resources that will be combined with federal funds and will mean up to \$17 million in emergency funding to assist and support our Maryland dairy farmers."

Following the announcement, the governor will authorize the state to pay up to \$1.5 million to cover the farmers' share of the premium cost to participate in

the Dairy Margin Coverage Program to leverage a significant amount – projected at up to \$17 million – of federal funds for Maryland farmers. The Farm Bill was signed in December 2018 and amended the Margin Protection Program. The program is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency.

As dairy farmers in Maryland and across the nation continue to struggle due to low milk prices, many dairies are forced to sell their herds.

The number of dairy farms in Maryland has declined nearly every year since the late 1980s when the state boasted more than 1,400 of them. There were only 417 in 2017 and Scott Youse, Maryland Agriculture Council president and a Ridgely, Md., dairy farmer said the figure now stands at 364.

In his remarks prior to Hogan's announcement, Youse urged legislators present to fund the Maryland Dairy Emergency Trust Fund, which was created in 2007 but never given any money to operate. The state's dairy industry has long requested a \$5 million investment in the fund to help struggling dairy farms.

Status of Industrial Hemp in the US & Maryland

Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland Extension Legal Specialist
 Article posted to [Maryland Risk Management Education Blog](#)

Farmers across the country are looking to begin producing hemp. The 2014 Farm Bill allowed states to develop hemp research programs, but the 2018 Farm Bill significantly changes the classification of hemp and allows states to begin developing regulations for legal hemp production. The 2018 Farm Bill removes hemp from the definition of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act and allows states and tribal governments to begin developing hemp production plans. Hemp produced under these plans will potentially be eligible for federal crop insurance. Although the 2018 Farm Bill has made changes to hemp, it is still currently not legal to grow hemp in Maryland until the state develops and has an approved hemp production plan in place.

Changes to the Controlled Substances Act

The 2018 Farm Bill declassifies hemp as a controlled substance. Under Section 12619 classification the definition of marijuana does not include hemp. Section 10113 defines hemp to be “the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.” Any hemp plants with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (THC) level greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis is considered marijuana and still illegal under federal law.

State and Federal Hemp Production Plans

Although hemp is no longer a Schedule 1 drug, this does not mean it is legal to grow. To be legal, Section 10113 requires that a state, tribe, or federal

government develop a hemp production plan. Using such a hemp production plan, a state, tribe, or federal government will monitor producers and regulate hemp production. Section 10113 lays out two routes for a producer to legally begin producing hemp. The first route is for a state or tribal government to take charge of regulating hemp production within their boundaries. To do so, a state department of agriculture will submit to USDA a hemp production plan for approval. The hemp production plan must include:

- 1) The system of land where hemp is being produced, including the legal description of the land. The system will need to maintain land records for at least three years.
- 2) Testing procedures to demonstrate that hemp produced has less than 0.3 percent THC concentration level per dry weight basis.
- 3) Procedures for destroying any plants and products with THC concentrations higher than allowed by the law.
- 4) Procedures to enforce the law.
- 5) Procedures for conducting at minimum annual inspections of a random sample of hemp producers to verify hemp produced in the state does not violate the law.
- 6) A system to convey hemp producers information to USDA.
- 7) Certification for USDA that the state or tribe has the resources and personnel to carry out the requirements of the hemp production plan.

A producer must comply first with the state's hemp production plan before legally growing hemp. Currently, these plans are expected to take a



5 year to 18 months for states to finalize and USDA to approve.

If the state or tribal government does not have an approved production plan, then a producer may still be able to produce hemp under a hemp production plan developed by USDA. For example, if state law still classifies hemp as a controlled substance, then Section 10113 will not preempt this. Section 10113 allows states or tribal governments explicitly to prevent hemp production in their boundaries. If the state or tribal government does not criminalize hemp production, then the USDA hemp production plan will need to meet the same minimum criteria required for states and tribal governments.

Violations

Section 10113 lays out potential violations. A producer can negligently violate a state plan, tribal government plan, or USDA hemp production plan by not providing a proper legal description of the land where the hemp will be produced, by failing to obtain the required license or other authorization required under the plan before producing hemp, and by producing hemp with a THC level greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis; these are just some examples of potential violations.

With the first negligent violation, a producer can correct the violation by complying with a corrective action plan developed by the state, tribal government, or USDA. Three negligent violations in five years will result in barring the producer from producing hemp for five years. Note that Section 10113 does not allow anyone with a felony drug conviction within the past ten years to grow hemp under a hemp production plan.

Crop Insurance Coverage

Section 11119 adds hemp to the list of insurable agricultural commodities under the Federal Crop Insurance Act. Other provisions in the Farm Bill will allow USDA to develop pilot programs which will allow for the establishment of hemp coverage.

Status of Industrial Hemp in Maryland

Maryland's criminal law currently excludes hemp from the definition of marijuana. Section 5-101 excludes "the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3% on a dry weight basis." (Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law. § 5-101 (r)(2)(vi)). Currently, the Maryland General Assembly would need to give MDA the authority to create a hemp production plan (Md. Code Ann., Agric. §§ 14-101 to 14-102). MDA only has the authority to create a hemp pilot research program and would need additional authority to develop the hemp production plan and any additional protections that the General Assembly may want to add beyond what the 2018 Farm Bill does. Until then, hemp remains illegal to produce in the state.

One important note about the 2018 Farm Bill, Section 10114 allows for hemp products to be transported freely through states. States can still ban hemp products, but the state would not be able to limit transportation through the state of hemp products bound for other states. But until hemp production plans are approved by USDA, hemp can only legally be grown under existing state research programs.

MDA Offers Grants for Manure Injection

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is offering cost-share grants to help farmers cover the cost of injecting manure into cropland to lower the potential for nutrient runoff to surface waters and reduce on-farm odors.

Cost-share assistance is available to hire custom operators, rent or lease equipment, or offset operating costs associated with using equipment needed to inject liquid manure into the soil. Eligible farmers may receive up to \$45 an acre in cost-share funds based on a maximum application rate of 6,000 gallons per acre. In addition, grants are available to haul manure. Rates for manure transport are based on the distance between the manure source and the field.

Manure injection and manure transport grants are administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Applicants must be in good standing with the program and in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management Regulations. All spring and summer injected manure must be completed by September 9 and all claims for payment received by October 9. Other restrictions apply.

Farmers should visit their local **soil conservation district** office as soon as possible to apply.

For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture at (410) 841-5864.

Where to Find Ag Money and How to Get It!

The LEAD Maryland Alumni committee is holding a workshop on "Where to Find Ag Money and How to Get It!" on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 from 8:30 - 2:00 held at the Baltimore County Agriculture Center. The workshop will include speakers from the USDA, Rural Development Value Added, and Farm Service Agency; MidAtlantic Farm Credit, MARBIDCO, UMD Extension, and the Washington and Howard County Economic Development offices. A delicious lunch catered by Richardson's Farm Market is included in the \$30 registration. Successful grant recipients will be on hand to ask about their successes and challenges. To find out who has the money and how to write grants, [register now](#) or call (410) 827-8056!

March 12

8:30-2 PM

Baltimore County
Extension Office

Food Trends For Vegetable, Other Specialty Crops

*Gordon Johnson, Fruit & Vegetable Extension Specialist
University of Delaware*

Vegetable growers that direct market or that target marketing programs to entice buyers should be on the leading edge of food trends. Food trends are driven by many factors such as health benefits, dietary shifts, public values, celebrity recognition, and customer diversity. The great thing about food trends is that you, as a grower and marketer, can help to start trends, invent new ways to market your produce, develop tastes in your customer base, and help define new eating habits.

In recent years other vegetable trends have waxed and waned. The word on the street is that kale's best days are now behind it. However, Brussels sprouts are still going strong, cauliflower is being put into everything, arugula is still hanging in there, and beets are on the upswing (2018 was the year of the beet).

Beets are an interesting study in trendiness. Five years ago, you would see small sections of beets in the fresh, canned, pickled, and frozen sections of the supermarket. Maybe 10 selections at most. Now there are beet products in the juice, snack, and health product sections. Why? Because beets are being promoted by the "health" industry as a superfood.

A current question that is being asked by trend analysts is what will replace kale in the "greens" arena.

One group that is gaining traction is chard and beet greens. Chard is now being sought by chefs as the new greens item to add menu selections.

Other trend followers suggest that "wild" tasting plants will be part of the new trend driven by chefs. This includes sorrel, dandelion, an amaranth. Yes, all the weeds in my yard now have become trendy. Take dandelion as an example. There are dozens of types of dandelions from the common weed to cultivated types. All parts of the weedy dandelion can be used as food and a medicinal. Dandelion greens are very nutritious

and can be added to salad and soups or cooked as a greens side dish. I expect to see some growers start to provide this as an actual crop. It is also perennial.

Edible amaranth is a close relative to pigweed and makes a rich flavored cooked green. It is very easily grown and loves the summer heat. In addition to this new trend, it is a favorite of many immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa.

Sorrel is lemony flavored and there are selections that have been made for specific leaf attributes. It is this flavor that has brought it back to the table. Expect to see it more on plates in the future.

Other interesting trends include:

- Vegetable "steaks:" These are vegetables that can be sliced and grilled like steaks. Think eggplant;
- Small sizes: Small versions of popular vegetables. Snack peppers, snack cucumbers, mini eggplants, mini squashes and much more are becoming more and more popular. This follows the past baby vegetable trend but with new crops;
- Color and color blends: Colorful vegetables are big time trendy, especially in blends or mixtures. Everything from chard to cauliflower, carrots to peppers;
- Fermentable foods: Grow foods for your customers to ferment. Start a fermenting circle. Cabbage, Napa, Pak choy, daikon, cucumbers, peppers, and much more; and
- Ugly produce: Off shapes and types are now sought. Have an eggplant that looks like Elvis? Fused squash? The ugliest tomato? Or just start your own trend. I used to put a box of tomato rejects at farmers markets labeled "throwing tomatoes." While it did not add to my sales, it did make customers laugh.

Farm Stress & Mental Health Workshop

March 6

9-2:30 PM

Bel Air Library

The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) has recently been awarded funding from the Rural Maryland Council

(RMC) and The Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation to host workshops around the state focused on bringing awareness to Mental Health in rural areas. While not often talked about in our industry, farmers have one of the highest suicide rates of any job in the U.S., according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Farmers are also among the highest risk professions for drug abuse and alcoholism.

MASCD, in partnership with University of Maryland Extension, is hoping to make a change in that trend within the state of Maryland. Through workshops being held in March, individuals working in the field with farmers on a daily basis will receive training to detect early warning signs and prevention methods for severe mental stress and substance abuse. These workshops will be targeted towards, but not limited to, agricultural

lenders, agribusiness professionals, crop consultants, extension agents, farm bureau leaders, nutrient management planners, and soil conservation district employees. Farmers and farm families are also welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The workshops will be held at four locations around the state this coming winter; including one at Chesapeake College on March 5, **Harford County Public Library in Bel Air library on March 6**, Frederick Community College on March 7, and the Charles Soil Conservation District on March 8, 2019.

MASCD hopes this project will benefit farm families across the state of Maryland. For more information, contact Danielle Bauer, 443-262-8491 or Danielle.mdag@gmail.com.

Follow this [link to register](#) or call Danielle Bauer listed above. Registration is free and includes lunch.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with mental stress, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Food, Farmers, and Community

OPENING THE DIALOGUE

A SYMPOSIUM FOR THE PUBLIC AND FARMERS

Saturday, March 16, 2019

8:30 AM–1:30 PM

Harford Community College

The James F. LaCalle Conference Room

Edgewood Hall, Room 132

401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, MD 21015

Tickets: \$10 (includes breakfast and lunch buffets)

Space is limited.

tickets.harford.edu

Join us to learn about the current state of Harford County's agriculture and food system and the advantages of "buying local." We will discuss the Harford County Agricultural Preservation and Soil Conservation initiatives and how they affect the quality of life in Harford County; learn about economic, regulatory and other issues that farmers must navigate in order to run a viable business; educate participants on the complexities of new trends in farming and eating, such as Organic, Hormone Free, etc.; and explore what is behind the food label. We welcome everyone, even if you have little or no knowledge of farming or food!

The program will include a **keynote address** by Julie Oberg, Deputy Secretary of Maryland Agriculture; **four breakout sessions**; the unveiling of Harford County's **new Interactive Agricultural Map**; and **breakfast, lunch and snacks** featuring local agricultural products.

Great resources are just a click away!



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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 6 Mar.** Herbicide Resistant Weeds Workshop. Frederick County Extension Office, Frederick, MD. 8-1 PM. Free. Call (301) 600-3578.
- 6 Mar.** [Farm Stress & Mental Health Workshop](#). Bel Air Library, Bel Air, MD. 9-2:30 PM. Free. Register [online](#) or call (443) 262-8491.
- 7 Mar.** Herbicide Resistant Weeds Workshop. Chestertown Fire Hall, Chestertown, MD. 8-1 PM. Free. Call (410) 778-1661.
- 7 Mar.** [New Private Applicator Pesticide Training](#). Harford County Extension Office, Street, MD. 9-11AM. \$7. **Exam on Mar 14, 9-11 AM.** Call (410) 638-3255.
- 11 Mar.** Dicamba & Pesticide Applicator Training. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville, MD. 10-12 PM. Free. Call (410) 887-8090.
- 12 Mar.** [Where to find ag money & how to get it](#). Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville, MD. 8:30-2 PM. \$30. Register [online](#) or call (410) 827-8056.
- 13 Mar.** Women in Ag Webinar: Protecting Yourself & Others On The Farm. 12 PM. Register [online](#).
- 13 Mar.** [On Farm Readiness Review Training](#). UMD Upper Marlboro Research Farm, Upper Marlboro, MD. 8:30-3:30 PM. \$20. Register [online](#) or call (410) 841-5769.
- 14 Mar.** [Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification Training](#). Harford County Extension Office, Street, MD. 1-3PM. Free. Call (410) 638-3255.
- 16 Mar.** Harford County Ag Symposium. Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD. \$10. Tickets : tickets.harford.edu.
- 18 Mar.** [Basic GAP Training](#). Baltimore City Extension Office. 8:30-4 PM. \$20. Register [online](#) or call (410) 856-1850.
- 27 Mar.** Women in Ag Webinar: Soils & Salts—From Fertilizer to Tidewater. 12 PM. Register [online](#).

March 2019