

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION



# November 2020

The Extension office will be closed on  
November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving

University of  
Maryland Extension

Harford County  
Agricultural Center

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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## Hello, Harford County!

Happy Halloween and soon-to-be Thanksgiving! Here are a couple of reminders from the Extension office.

As the year winds down and we approach winter, now is a good time to think about nutrient management planning. Our Nutrient Management Advisor, Tricia Hoopes, is still available to write your plan. Now can be a good time to contact Tricia so that she can get your plan finished sooner rather than later. Now is also a good time to pull soil samples before the ground freezes if your plan requires new samples (samples are valid for 3 years). Call the office and speak to Tricia if you are in need of a plan.

Inside this newsletter you will find more details on our winter meeting schedule and credit recertification. On page 2 you will find information on our Virtual Northern Maryland Field Crops Day program and alternative viewing options. There is also more information on other statewide agronomy meetings occurring on different dates across the state that are open for any and all to attend.

On page 3 there is information regarding standalone self-paced recertification credits for Maryland private pesticide applicator and Nutrient Management Voucher CEUs. Also on page 3 is a reminder of the upcoming private applicator exams occurring in our region on November 4, 10, and 12.

Fall is also a time when people start considering renewing or updating farmland leases, and the USDA recently released their survey data for county farmland rental rates. These data represent average reported farmland rental rates in the county for the farmland type (non-irrigated and pasture). I have summarized the rates in the table below.

Summary of Harford County Farmland Rental Rates (\$/Acre)

	2020	2019	2018
Non-irrigated	\$167.00	\$149.00	\$138.00
Pasture	\$39.00	\$39.00	\$55.00

For a complete summary of cash farmland rental rate data for Maryland, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing/lease-agreements> and download the [Crop Cash Rental Rates](#) document.

As a reminder, the Extension office is open by appointment only; faculty and staff are happy to assist you with your needs, so don't hesitate to reach out.

I hope everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Until next time,  
-Andy

In last month's newsletter we explained our winter grower meeting plan for this year. Details are reiterated below, along with additional information regarding registration. In addition to the meetings listed below, several other online meetings will be occurring during the winter months, which are open to any and all who wish to attend. For a complete list, visit: [go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings](http://go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings) (infographic also on last page). All meetings are free of charge, but please register ahead of time.

**Northern Maryland Field Crops Day  
December 3, 2020 | 8-12:15 pm.**

Presentations	
8:00 am	Soybean Population Research <i>Kelly Nichols &amp; Bryan Butler</i> <i>University of Maryland</i>
8:30 am	Pesticide Legal Update <i>Paul Goeringer</i> <i>University of Maryland</i>
9:00 am	Herbicide & Weed Update <i>Kurt Vollmer</i> <i>University of Maryland</i>
9:30 am	MDA Pesticide Update <i>Kelly Love</i>
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Precision Management in an Imprecise World <i>Josh McGrath</i> <i>University of Kentucky</i>
10:45 am	Cover Crops, Nutrient Retention, & Soil Carbon <i>Ray Weil</i> <i>University of Maryland</i>
11:45 am	MDA Nutrient Management Update <i>Bryan Harris</i>

For those that cannot attend the live webinar on December 3, there are additional viewing options:

- 1.) Request the recording to view later at your own pace on your own computer. Materials will be mailed to you on a USB flash drive.
- 2.) For those that can only attend an in-person meeting, the program will be recorded and shown from 8-noon at these three viewing sessions on the following dates and locations. Seating is limited to the first 30 people and all COVID safety precautions must be observed:

- December 3, 2020 | Baltimore County Ag Center**
- January 14, 2021 | Carroll County Ag Center**
- February 16, 2021 | Deer Creek Overlook**

To sign up for the live webinar, USB recordings, or in-person viewing sessions, call your local Extension office or fill out this online form: <https://forms.gle/unc6abhpu9LrgF9o7>

For those interested in fruit and vegetable topics, **Central Maryland Fruit and Vegetable Grower's Day** will be held on January 28, 2021 from 8:00-12:15 pm. Like Field Crops Day, this program will be online via Zoom. You can choose to attend the live webinar, receive a recording on a USB drive, or view the program in-person to a small audience. **In-person viewing sessions** of the webinar will take place simultaneously on January 28 from three locations: the Baltimore County Extension Office in Cockeysville, MD; Carroll County Ag Center in Westminster, MD; and the Harford County Ag Center in Street, MD. Meeting topics will follow in the December newsletter. You may sign up by filling out this online form <https://forms.gle/inoDwgVWrhAE2hDD9> or call the Extension office.



## Online Self-Paced Recertification

The University of Maryland Extension has created an additional way for you to earn CEU credits towards private pesticide applicator and nutrient management vouchers. A new online self-paced learning module will allow you to watch prerecorded online webinars at your own pace through our University of Maryland Pesticide and Nutrient Management Portal. You can pick and choose which webinars are of interest to you to obtain the needed credit hours (you must watch at least 2 hours worth of content to get credit). Additional topics will be added in the future.

To access this training, complete the request form at <https://go.umd.edu/pestandnutrient>, include your name and contact information. You will be asked to click on what training you are interested in and asked your

certification number, which can be found on your pesticide certification card or nutrient management voucher. You will then be directed to the video series. These are best watched on a tablet or computer, as there are questions embedded in each video that you must answer. Once you complete the required amount of time, your name and information will be forwarded to MDA for credits toward your certification. For private pesticide applicators that expire in December 2020, remember that you must go online to renew and print your license by visiting <https://egov.maryland.gov/MDA/Pesticides/LicenseRenewal>. Instructions on how to renew are available in [this video](#), or call MDA or the Extension office for assistance.

## Upcoming Pesticide Applicator Exam Dates

University of Maryland Extension and Maryland Department of Agriculture will offer the Pesticide Private Applicator Exam on **November 4, 10, & 12, 2020** at the Harford County Extension Office, Baltimore County Agriculture Center, and the Carroll County Extension Office, respectively, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can arrive at any point during that block of time; however, only 10 people will be allowed in the testing area at one time. Others will need to wait in their vehicle until a space opens. You are asked to bring your own pencil and calculator, you CANNOT use your cell phone as a calculator.

**Registration is required!** Please call the Extension office to register, or complete this online signup form: <https://go.umd.edu/pestexam>.

All visitors who attend the **Baltimore County** exam must use the BACO Safe App when entering the building. Visit <https://bacosafe.org>.

**Study materials:** If you need the study materials you can contact your local Extension office <https://extension.umd.edu/locations>. You may attend an **online pre-recorded training** prior to the exam at <https://go.umd.edu/applicatortraining> to help you prepare for the exam.

**Safety measures:** The event will be either indoor or under an outside pavilion with a maximum of 10 people in the testing area (depending on University protocols at the time). Each individual will sign in and be directed

### Private Pesticide Applicator Exam Opportunities

November 4, 2020 | Harford County Extension Office

November 10, 2020 | Baltimore County Ag Center

November 12, 2020 | Carroll County Extension Office

Time: 9am - 12pm  
1pm - 3pm

**Registration is Required!**  
<https://go.umd.edu/pestexam>

Training manuals are available at \$20 a piece.

Contact your local Extension office.  
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations>

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"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

to their own table in order to complete the exam. **Masks and social distancing will be required.** The table and any supplies will be wiped down before the next individual sits down. COVID-19 policies are in effect. If you sign up for this program, you are agreeing to safety protocols outlined by the University of Maryland. You will be required to leave if you do not follow the procedures and instructions.

## COVID Relief Bonus CFAP Payment

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will issue a bonus payment to Maryland farmers based on a percentage (15%) of federal Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 1 (CFAP1) funds received for the CFAP1 period that ended Sept. 11, 2020. **Deadline for the bonus payment is December 1 at 5:00 PM.**

CFAP1 provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a 5% or greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions from COVID-19, and face additional significant marketing costs. The commodities covered are: aquaculture (finfish and crayfish), corn, cut flowers, dairy, livestock (excluding poultry), nursery, small grains, soybeans and specialty crops.

**Applications will be online and must be completed by following this link:** <https://onestop.md.gov/forms/maryland-cares-act-cfap1-bonus-5f5bb7a9274b2e00fb5c9466>.

## SANG Farmland Acquisition Grant

### [MARBIDCO Land Preservation Programs](#)

The Small Acreage Next Generation Program (SANG) is available to help qualified young or beginning farmers who have trouble entering the agricultural profession, because of relatively high farmland costs and lack of access to adequate financial capital, to purchase smaller farmland properties that are between 10 to 49 acres. The program is essentially a fast-moving farmland conservation easement option purchase program that is designed to help facilitate the transfer of farmland to a new generation of farmers, and help preserve the small acreage agricultural land from future development. Using the SANG Program, MARBIDCO is able to provide 40% to 60% of the Fair Market Value (FMV) (land only) in exchange for a permanent agricultural conservation easement, and that money is used as a down-payment to purchase the farmland.

While there is no age restriction to participate in the program, persons who are “beginner farmers” will have a greater likelihood of being selected to participate. A “beginner farmer” is defined as not owning a farm or ranch (or owning less than 9 acres), not operating a farm or ranch as a principal operator for more than 10 years, having at least one year of farming experience, and expecting to substantially participate in the farming operation on the subject property.

People interested in applying to the SANG Program are requested to make contact with their county

farmland preservation program office (in the county in which the farmland is located) by no later than a month before submission, to discuss the suitability of a subject farm being permanently preserved. Moreover, certain required paperwork prepared by farm property sellers must be received in the county office by no later than a month in advance. Harford County’s farmland preservation program director is Bill Amoss, (410) 638-3235.

The Small Acreage Next Gen Program application deadline (including submission of all required forms and related attachments) is on a **monthly basis**, with applications due on the last business day of each month by no later than 4:00 p.m., at the MARBIDCO office in Annapolis. Late applications will not be accepted. Most approved SANG Program farm purchases can be completed in 6 to 8 months. A commercial lender is also required to be involved in the transaction.

Download the SANG application [here](#), or call the Extension office for a hard copy.

Further information about the SANG Program may be obtained by contacting Allison Roe, Financial Programs Specialist, by telephone at: (410) 267-6807, or by email at: [aroe@marbidco.org](mailto:aroe@marbidco.org).

For business planning resources, download this University of Maryland Extension and Agriculture Law Education Initiative [flyer](#). Additional resources can be found on the [resources webpage](#).



# Managing Algae in Ponds

Andrew Lazur, Water Quality Specialist  
University of Maryland Extension

There are three types of algae common to Maryland ponds: planktonic, filamentous and macroalgae. Planktonic algae is microscopic and provide important beneficial ecological functions in a pond including, producing oxygen through photosynthesis and serving as the base of the food chain. A healthy pond will typically have a light green color and you can see in the water about two feet. Certain species, such as blue green algae, under preferred growing conditions (warm water and excessive nutrients) can form scums or mats that may be both odorous and toxic to animals if consumed (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Blue-green algal scum (left) and filamentous algal mat (right).

Filamentous algae are single-celled and form long chains or threads and is also known as pond moss. This species grows on the pond bottom, floats up to the surface, and is undesirable due to conflicts with recreational use including fishing and swimming (Figure 1).

There are two common species of macroalgae, Chara, or musk grass, and Nitella or stonewort. Both species can be floating or submerged and resemble submerged aquatic species known to be prolific such as coontail or pondweed.

All three types of algae are common and thrive in

ponds with excessive nutrients. The first step in managing algae populations that are considered a nuisance is to reduce or eliminate nutrients from entering the pond. A 10-foot grass or vegetative buffer around the perimeter can help trap nutrients before they reach the pond. Not encouraging geese by feeding is also important. The two common control methods are physical or chemical. Physical removal is just that, collecting the algae with a pool net when the wind blows it to one side, or raking it. This method is only practical if the amount of algae is limited. Aquatic copper-based herbicides are very effective on algae.

Copper compounds are a contact herbicide and must be applied **directly** to the algae for effective treatment. Copper herbicides are also toxic to fish especially in low alkalinity waters, so testing water is important, and following label instructions completely. Many ponds are stream fed and discharge to state waters, and therefore a [permit](#) from MD Dept. of Environment is required to

apply aquatic pesticides.

There are numerous certified aquatic businesses that provide aquatic vegetation management services, and the MD Dept. of Agriculture has a searchable database: (<https://www.egov.maryland.gov/MDA/Pesticides>).

Remember, aquatic plants thrive where excessive nutrients exist, so limiting drainage to ponds is a key management step, otherwise, they will repopulate after removal or herbicide treatment. For more information on aquatic plant identification and management, go to: <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>.

## Dicamba Registration Update

EPA announced their approval of new five-year registrations for two dicamba products and is extending the registration of an additional dicamba product. All three registrations include new control measures to ensure these products are used effectively while protecting the environment.

Products Approved:

- XtemdiMax with VaporGrip Technology
- Engenia Herbicide

- Tavium Plus VaporGrip Technology (extended registration)

These registrations are only for use on dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans and will expire in 2025. Read the full press release [here](#).

Erika Crowl & Andrew Kness  
University of Maryland Extension

Recent interest has been generated in using drones to seed cover crops into agronomic crops in small, irregularly shaped fields with rolling terrain or those fields otherwise not suitable for aerial seeding using a fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter. However, little is known about how effective drones are at seeding cover crops and if they can deliver seed at the appropriate rate to establish a sufficient cover crop. In order to evaluate cover crop stand establishment seeded via drones, we conducted an on-farm trial with support from the Maryland Soybean Board.



**Figure 1.** Field location of drone-seeded cover crop (outlined in red). Image: Google Maps.

A cover crop of radish was flown on to a 26 acre standing corn field in Baltimore County, MD on August 27, 2020 at the rate of 16 pounds of pure live seed per acre using a HSE-TTA drone equipped with a spin spreader capable of carrying 40 lbs of seed. The field was an excellent candidate for this trial because of its irregular shape, rolling terrain, and close proximity to power lines and wood lines (Figure 1). Corn grain was harvested on September 15, 2020 and

cover crop establishment was measured on October 21, 2020 by counting the number of radish plants per square foot in a one square foot area at 20 random locations across the field. The average cover crop plant population in the field was 3.1 plants/ft<sup>2</sup>, with a minimum of 0 and maximum of 6. Radish plants averaged 5 inches in height at the time of rating.



**Figure 2.** Unedited image (left) and percentage canopy cover image (right) calculated by Canopeo software showing 31% coverage.

Canopy density was calculated using the Canopeo<sup>®</sup> application for smartphones (Oklahoma State University Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Stillwater, OK; [www.canopeoapp.com](http://www.canopeoapp.com)). Images were captured at 20 random locations across the field at a height of 2.5 feet above the ground and percentage green canopy was calculated by the Canopeo software (Figure 2). Average canopy coverage was 39.1%, with a minimum and maximum value of 20.3 and 53%, respectively.

Aerial establishment of cover crops is heavily influenced by soil moisture availability. August and early September saw sufficient rainfall in the region, contributing to conducive conditions for cover crop establishment. These data, representing only one field and one environment, demonstrate the potential that aerial seeding a radish cover crop with drones may be an effective method for establishing cover crops in these challenging fields. Future work will be done to replicate and gather additional data so that we can fully understand the feasibility of seeding cover crops with drones.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank A-1 Aerials, K Drone Services, Graystone Farm, and the Maryland Soybean Board for supporting this work.

# SARE Farmer Grants

The Northeast SARE organization is now accepting proposals for the [Northeast SARE Farmer Grant Program](#).

**Proposals are due online by 5 p.m. ET on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.**

Farmer Grants provide research funds for commercial farms to explore new ideas in almost any aspect of production, marketing and other topics that influence successful farming in the region. The call for proposals, including detailed instructions and supporting documents, are posted on the Northeast SARE website at [www.northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant](http://www.northeastsare.org/FarmerGrant).

## Cover Crop Planting Extension

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has extended the Cover Crop Program planting deadline to **November 12th**. The only species accepted for this extension will be **wheat, spelt, rye, and triticale**. Planting methods allowed are no-till, broadcast with light, minimum or vertical tillage, and conventional. Contact your local soil conservation district for details (Harford County District can be reached at 410-638-4828).

### Save the Dates!

2020-2021 UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND EXTENSION

VIRTUAL WINTER  
CROP PRODUCTION  
MEETINGS

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR, NUTRIENT  
MANAGEMENT & CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR  
CREDITS WILL BE OFFERED.

DETAILS & REGISTRATION: [go.umd.edu/  
WinterAgMeetings](http://go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings)

#### FRUIT GROWERS

December 10 2020 - Thursday 8am-Noon  
February 10, 2021 - Wednesday 8am-Noon

#### VEGETABLE GROWERS

December 2, 2020 - Wednesday 8am-Noon  
January 28, 2021 - Thursday 8am-Noon

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.

## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

#### AGRONOMY

December 1, 2020 - Tuesday 4pm-8:30pm  
December 3, 2020 - Thursday 8am-Noon  
January 21, 2021 - Thursday 8am-Noon  
February 17, 2021 - Wednesday 4pm-8:30pm  
February 26, 2021 - Friday 8am-Noon

#### FORAGE

January 14, 2021 - Thursday Morning  
January 19, 2021 - Tuesday Morning

Connect with your local  
Extension educator for  
notifications of events.

<https://extension.umd.edu/agriculture>  
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations>

General Interest

*Great resources are just a click away!*



Andrew Kness  
Extension Agent,  
Agriculture and  
Natural Resources



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# Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

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## Dates to remember

- 04 Nov.** Harford County private pesticide applicator exam. 9-12pm & 1-3pm. Register [online](#) or call (410) 638-3255.
- 06-07 Nov.** UMES Small Farm Conference. \$15-\$25. Register [online](#) or contact Berran Rodgers, (410) 651-6693.
- 10 Nov.** Baltimore County private pesticide applicator exam. 9-12pm & 1-3pm. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090.
- 12 Nov.** Carroll County private pesticide applicator exam. 9-12pm & 1-3pm. Register [online](#) or call (410) 386-2760.
- 01 Dec-19 Jan.** UMD Extension Virtual Winter Ag Meetings. Free. Multiple dates & times. See pg 7 for details or visit [go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings](http://go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings)
- 03 Dec.** Virtual Northern MD Field Crops Day. 8-12:15pm. Free. Register [online](#) or call the Extension office.

Check out these additional online resources from

 <a href="#">Maryland Grain</a>	 <a href="#">Ag Law Initiative</a>
 <a href="#">Agronomy News Blog</a>	 <a href="#">Women in Ag</a>
 <a href="#">Nutrient Management</a>	 <a href="#">Plant Diagnostic Lab</a>
 <a href="#">Extension Website</a>	

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