

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

July 2020

University of
Maryland Extension

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Agricultural Center

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Hello, Harford County!

I hope everyone is doing well as we move into the month of July. Typically, we would all be gearing up for the Harford County Farm Fair this time of year; but this year has been about as atypical as any of us could imagine. Seemingly every month we find ourselves in the midst of a new global, natural, social, or economic disaster.

On the coronavirus front, Maryland is fortunate to be experiencing a significant decline in cases over the past few weeks. As a result, the University of Maryland will begin a phased-in reopening, which includes the Extension offices. Beginning July 20, Extension offices will reopen to the public; although on a limited basis.

If you wish to visit the Extension office after July 20, you will have to schedule an appointment, maintain social (physical) distance during the visit, wear a mask, and comply with all other CDC guidelines in order to help protect the safety of you and our faculty and staff.

During the phased-in reopening, faculty and staff will still be encouraged to telework, as recommended by state guidelines. In accordance with the Family First Coronavirus Act, it will be up to the discretion of individual employees to

University of Maryland Extension
offices remain closed until July 17 and
a phase-in reopening will occur
starting July 20.

determine how frequent or infrequent they will be visiting the office.

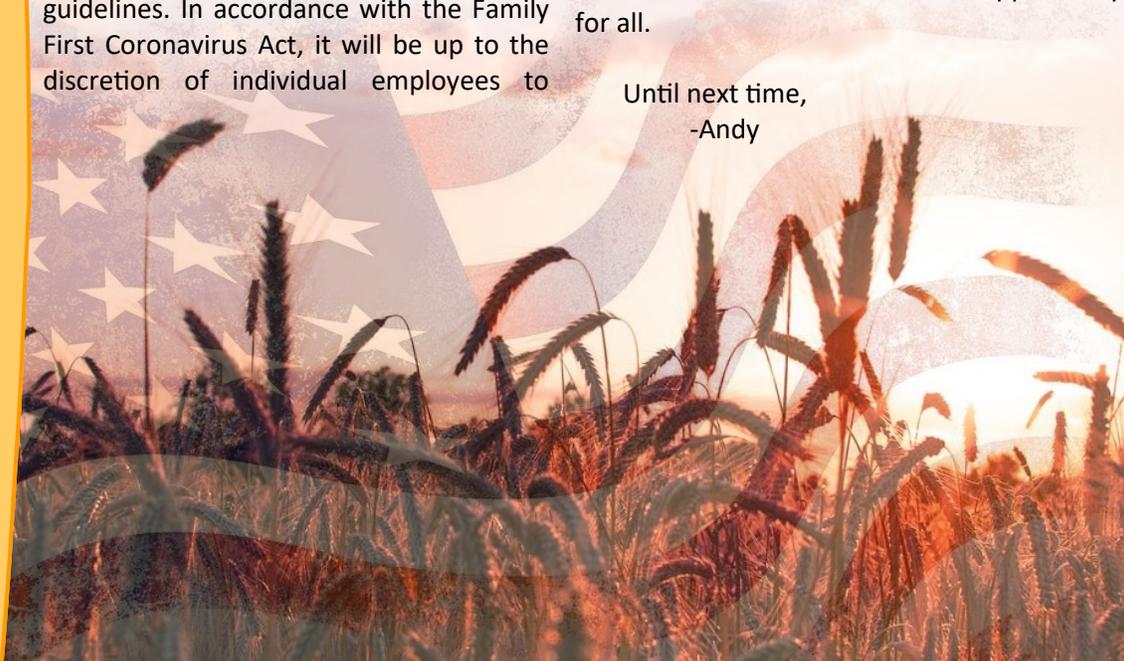
For myself, I plan on having an increased presence in the office after July 20. The best way to reach me will still be via email, phone call, or text; so please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

I also wanted to bring to your attention the recent guidelines set forth by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) regarding livestock fairs, shows, and auctions, should you find yourself involved in one this summer. The guidelines can be found on MDA’s website: <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/category/covid-19/>. If you want a hard copy, let me know.

All of us at the Harford County Extension office are excited to return to a bit more “normal” work environment and will continue to serve your needs.

I wish everyone a very safe and happy Independence Day as we celebrate our great country, which is a beacon of freedom worldwide and affords so much opportunity for all.

Until next time,
-Andy



Bryan Butler, Principal Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County

Bifenthrin receives 2020 Section 18 for control of BMSB on Apples, Peaches and Nectarines on May 21, 2020. The registered products, Brigade WSB (10% bifenthrin, EPA Reg. No. 279-3108) manufactured by FMC Corporation; and Bifenture EC (25.1% bifenthrin, EPA Reg. No. 70506-57) and Bifenture 10DF (10% bifenthrin, EPA Reg. No. 70506-227), both manufactured by UPL NA Inc. may be applied. Applications must be made post-bloom, by ground only, at a rate of 0.08 to 0.2 lb. active ingredient bifenthrin (a.i.) per acre; no more than 0.5 lb. a.i. per acre may be applied per year; multiple applications may be made at a minimum of 30 day intervals; a restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours and pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 14 days must be observed.

All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA-registered product labels, as well as those outlined on the section 18 use directions referenced in your request, must be followed.

These exemptions expire October 15, 2020.

To help minimize exposure to pollinators, the following statement on the application timing must be observed: "Do not apply this product until after petal fall." To mitigate risks to aquatic organisms, section 3 product label requirements must be strictly followed. For ground applications (the only method allowed under this exemption) a 10 ft vegetative buffer strip, or a 25 ft buffer zone is required between the site of

application and adjacent bodies of water. Recommendations on the section 3 product labels regarding droplet size, wind direction and speed, temperature inversions, and other factors affecting off-site drift or runoff of bifenthrin must also be carefully followed.

In addition, the following statements from the section 3 labels are reiterated: This pesticide is extremely toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates. Use with care when applying in areas adjacent to any body of water. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not make applications when weather conditions favor drift from treated areas. Drift and runoff from treated areas may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in neighboring areas. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash waters.

This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds while bees are foraging the treatment area.

This is the ninth year that emergency exemption requests have been made for the uses of bifenthrin on apple, peach, and nectarine. An IR-4 petition to support a section 3 registration is currently undergoing review within EPA.

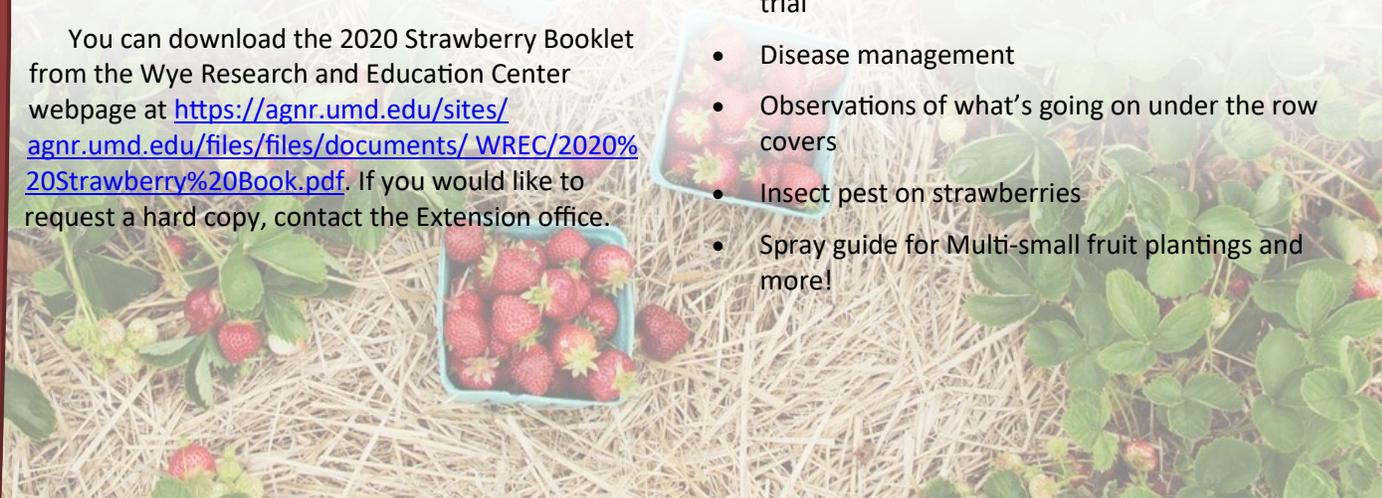
2020 Strawberry Booklet is Available!

Unfortunately, due to the circumstances with COVID-19, our annual Strawberry Twilight Tour has been cancelled.

You can download the 2020 Strawberry Booklet from the Wye Research and Education Center webpage at <https://agnr.umd.edu/sites/agnr.umd.edu/files/files/documents/WREC/2020%20Strawberry%20Book.pdf>. If you would like to request a hard copy, contact the Extension office.

In this year's book, you will find:

- Information from the 2018/19 Strawberry variety trial
- Disease management
- Observations of what's going on under the row covers
- Insect pest on strawberries
- Spray guide for Multi-small fruit plantings and more!



Produce Safety “How-To” Webinars

Sarah Everhart, Legal Specialist
University of Maryland, Agriculture Law Education Initiative

In the past few years, many produce growers in our region have attended a mandatory full-day training class to learn about the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) according to state Departments of Agriculture. However, there are common reasons why farms, despite best efforts, are not noncompliant with the PSR. In an effort to help farmers achieve compliance, the Maryland Food Safety Network has created a monthly webinar series on how to remedy common areas of PSR non-compliance. The series, titled “Food Safety Fridays- a ‘How-to’ Webinar Series” will be held one Friday each month from May to November. The next webinar on June 19, 2020, at noon, will focus on conducting water risk assessments. Register here: <https://foodsafetyfridays.eventbrite.com>.

To make a complete “PSR compliant” water risk assessment, growers are required to perform and document an annual inspection of their farm’s water distribution system from “source to spigot.” According to Molly Gillingham at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, “by conducting on-farm readiness reviews we work with growers to identify areas of their farm that need to be strengthened in order to comply with the PSR. An annual water distribution inspection is something that has consistently been found lacking on many Maryland farms. In order to comply, growers need to understand what needs to be included in this type of assessment and how to properly document the inspection.” This type of practical information will be provided in the webinar on June 19th.

This webinar series is recommended for operators who have attended a Produce Safety Rule Grower Training and want more information on how to apply what they learned and what records they need to keep to be in compliance with the PSR. Because the PSR is based in federal law and establishes national standards, growers from outside of Maryland are welcome to attend and will benefit from tuning in.

The series kicked off on May 22, 2020 with a webinar on how to effectively and efficiently train your workers, which was recorded and is available to watch on the Maryland Food Safety Network Platforms, including <http://umaglaw.org/about/food-safety/> and <https://extension.umd.edu/foodsafety>. The other webinars in the series will be as follows:

- **July 17, 2020, How to: Get a Handle On Water Quality:** Learn how to properly test your water, communicate with the water testing lab, and how to interpret water test results.
- **August 21, 2020, How to: Manage Wildlife:** Learn how to conduct pre-harvest assessments for wildlife and how to create appropriate buffer zones for contaminated produce.
- **September 18, 2020, How to: Develop a Sanitation Program:** Learn how to identify equipment requiring cleaning and sanitizing (including transportation equipment) and create and implement cleaning and sanitizing schedules.
- **October 16, 2020, How to: Apply, Handle and Store Biological Soil Amendments:** Learn how to determine if your soil amendment is treated or untreated, establish composting protocols, and safely apply and manage untreated amendments on the farm.
- **November 20, 2020, How to: Put It All Together in a Food Safety Plan:** Learn how to structure what you have learned throughout the webinar series into a customized food safety plan for your farm.

Register for the webinars today at <https://foodsafetyfridays.eventbrite.com>! Registration for each webinar is required.

Funding for this series of webinars was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant PAR-16-137. The views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health & Human Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.



Dicamba Registrations Cancelled by US Court

EPA [press release](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a key order providing farmers with needed clarity following the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' June 3, 2020 vacatur of three dicamba registrations. Today's [cancellation order](#) outlines limited and specific circumstances under which existing stocks of the three affected dicamba products can be used for a limited period of time. EPA's order will advance protection of public health and the environment by ensuring use of existing stocks follows important application procedures.

"At the height of the growing season, the Court's decision has threatened the livelihood of our nation's farmers and the global food supply," **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. EPA's order will mitigate some of the devastating economic consequences of the Court's decision for growers, and particularly rural communities, at a time they are experiencing great stress due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Details of the Order

EPA's order addresses sale, distribution, and use of existing stocks of the three affected dicamba products – XtendiMax with vapor grip technology, Engenia, and FeXapan.

1. Distribution or sale by any person is generally prohibited except for ensuring proper disposal or return to the registrant.
2. Growers and commercial applicators **may use existing stocks that were in their possession on June 3, 2020**, the effective date of the Court decision. Such use must be consistent with the product's previously-approved label, and **may not continue after July 31, 2020**.

Background

On June 3, 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [issued](#) an order vacating EPA's pesticide registrations containing the active ingredient dicamba: Xtendimax with VaporGrip Technology (EPA Reg. No. 524-617); Engenia – (EPA Reg. No. 7969-345); and FeXapan – (EPA Reg. No. 352-913).

Dicamba is a valuable pest control tool that farmers nationwide planned to use during the 2020 growing season. Since the Court issued its opinion, the agency has been overwhelmed with letters and calls from farmers citing the devastation of this decision on the millions of acres of crops, millions of dollars already invested by farmers, and threat to America's food supply.

PPE Guidance From EPA

This original announcement was published by the EPA on June 1, 2020. [Click here for more.](#)

There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans, especially during the COVID-19 public health emergency. EPA has heard from states and stakeholders about Personal Protective Equipment shortages in the agricultural sector. To respond to these reports and to help ensure the health and safety of America's farmers, EPA is providing temporary guidance regarding respiratory protection requirements for agricultural pesticide handlers.

Additional Information

The temporary guidance outlines approaches to address the unavailability of required respiratory protection and respiratory fit testing that should first be exhausted before considering any alternative options. Options include:

- Use alternative NIOSH-approved respirators offering equivalent or greater respiratory protection than those required on the pesticide label;

- Hire commercial applicator services with enough respirators and respiratory protection capabilities;
- Opt to use agricultural pesticide products that do not require respirators; or
- Delay pesticide applications until another compliant option is available.

If the above options are exhausted, EPA's guidance provides additional options with strict terms, conditions, and exhaustion requirements to minimize potential incremental risks to workers: Reuse and extended use of disposable N95 filter facepiece respirator; Use of "expired" respirators; Use of respirators certified in certain other countries or jurisdictions meeting protective conditions outlined; or Delay the annual respirator "fit test."

This is a temporary policy. EPA will assess the continued need for and scope of this temporary guidance on a regular basis. To read the guidance in full and to learn more about EPA's Worker Protection Standard, visit [this webpage](#).

Corn & Soybean Fungicide Recommendations

Andrew Kness, Agriculture Extension Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

As the 2020 growing season moves on, it can be helpful to have access to a quick reference for fungicide recommendations for if/when diseases become a problem on your farm. As you are aware, there are several products available for disease management and it can be difficult and confusing to select the appropriate product. Also remember that just because a pesticide is labeled for use on a particular crop to manage a specific pest, does not necessarily guarantee that the pesticide will work to manage it. Pest populations are constantly evolving and therefore develop resistance to products over time. A good example of this is the fungicide, propiconazole; once very effective for managing head scab of wheat, is now ineffective against the pathogen.

To help aid your fungicide selections, the [Crop Protection Network](#) has some great resources on fungicide efficacy that they update each year (and soon

to come, insecticides and herbicides). The Crop Protection Network is a multi-state and international partnership of university and provincial Extension specialists and public and private professionals that provides unbiased, research-based information.

These publications list the relative fungicide efficacy for the major diseases of corn and soybeans and are linked below. If you have trouble accessing or interpreting the information, feel free to contact me.

- [2020 Corn Fungicide Efficacy Table](#)
- [2020 Soybean Fungicide Efficacy Table for foliar diseases](#)
- [2020 Soybean Fungicide Efficacy Table for seedling diseases](#)

2020 Cover Crop Sign-Up

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

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced that this year's cover crop sign-up will be conducted entirely by mail from **July 1 through July 17**.

Farmers who participated in last year's cover crop program will receive registration packets in the mail later in June. The packet includes an application, program flyer, step-by-step instructions, and return envelope that has been pre-addressed to a local soil conservation district. Beginning July 1, applications will also be available on the program's [website](#). To be considered for cost-share, applications must be postmarked by July 17. Farmers who have questions or need assistance with their applications should contact their [local soil conservation district](#).

Eligible farmers can receive up to \$60/acre in cost-share grants to incorporate traditional cover crops into their fields this fall. The maximum payment for aerial seeding with incentives is \$65/acre. Here are some additional highlights:

- The base payment is \$40/acre for incorporated seed and \$45/acre for aerial seed or aerial ground seeding.
- A \$10/acre early planting incentive is offered for incorporated seed.

- Farmers who aerial seed or aerial ground seed cover crops into standing corn on or before September 10 qualify for a \$10/acre incentive payment.
- Incentives to terminate cover crops after May 1, 2021 may be available.
- Farmers may plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum, tobacco, vegetables, and — new this year — hemp and millet.

To help create crop diversity, eligible cover crop species may be mixed with radishes and legumes, including clover, Austrian winter peas, and hairy vetch using a variety of two and three-species mixes.

Farmers are required to include a completed current Nutrient Management Plan Certification with their cover crop applications. This form may be downloaded from the [website](#), and must be signed by both the farm operator and the person who prepared the farm's Nutrient Management Plan.

For more information, contact your local soil conservation district office or visit: https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/cover_crop.aspx

Reposted from [Morning Ag Clips blog](#) and Farmers For a Sustainable Future

New analysis of updated data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, combined with U.S. Department of Agriculture data, shows U.S. farmers and ranchers continue to reduce per-unit greenhouse gas emissions. All told, **the U.S. agricultural sector accounts for less than 10% of total U.S. emissions.** That's less than the emissions from the transportation, electricity generation and industrial sectors. Globally, agriculture accounts for about 24% of GHG emissions.

The EPA's [U.S. Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) provides a first look at 2018 U.S. emissions data, which is incorporated into a new Market Intel report from the American Farm Bureau Federation. The [Market Intel report](#) finds that per-unit methane emissions from livestock have declined since 1990 as livestock producers have increased productivity. During the past 30 years, U.S. milk production has increased 71% while per-unit emissions of milk have declined by almost 25%. Beef production has increased almost 50%, while per-unit emissions have fallen nearly 8%.

Meanwhile, American farmers are producing more crops on fewer acres, according to an analysis of USDA data. When compared to farm production in 1990, U.S. farmers would have needed almost 100 million additional acres to grow the same amount of corn, cotton, rice, soybeans and wheat they harvested in 2018.

"We're doing more with less and proud to lead the world in agricultural advances," said American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. "Smarter farming, new strategies and technology are helping farmers reduce their environmental footprint and provide solutions."

The analysis builds on data shared during the launch of Farmers for a Sustainable Future (FSF), a coalition of agriculture groups aimed at educating lawmakers and finding solutions to challenges posed by climate change. The gains farmers have made in reducing their environmental footprint have been significant, and FSF supports federal investment in innovation, science-based research, voluntary conservation programs, resilient infrastructure, and incentives to assist farmers in furthering these efforts.

"Corn farmers are proud of their successful efforts to improve soil, water and air quality," said Kevin Ross, president of the National Corn Growers Association, an FSF member. "These efforts are paying off in increased carbon sequestration and carbon retention in the soil, which helps offset agriculture's relatively low contribution to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions."

Learn more about Farmers for a Sustainable Future at www.SustainableFarming.us. To access the American Farm Bureau Market Intel analysis, go to www.fb.org/market-intel/ghg.

Nutrient Management Update

As a reminder, our Office is still available for your nutrient management needs. Tricia Hoopes is still hard at work writing plans from her home office, and if you still have corn less than 12 inches tall, Tricia can also perform a PSNT at your request.

If you have any nutrient management questions or plan writing needs, contact Tricia at phoopes@umd.edu or call (410) 638-3255 and leave a message. Summer can be a great time for equine operators to renew/update their plans.



Dairy Safety-Net Program

USDA [press release](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces that Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) safety-net signup for 2021 coverage will begin **October 12 and will run through December 11, 2020**. DMC has already triggered payments for two months for producers who signed up for 2020 coverage.

"If we've learned anything in the past six months, it's to expect the unexpected," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "Nobody would have imagined the significant impact that current, unforeseen circumstances have had on an already fragile dairy market. It's during unprecedented times like these that the importance of offering agricultural producers support through the delivery of Farm Bill safety-net programs such as DMC becomes indisputably apparent."

The April 2020 income over feed cost margin was \$6.03 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the second payment of 2020 for dairy producers who purchased the appropriate level of coverage under the [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program. The April margin reflects a more than a \$3 drop from the March \$9.15 cwt. income over feed cost margin.

As of June 15, FSA has issued more than \$100 million in much-needed program benefits to dairy producers who purchased DMC coverage for 2020.

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, DMC is a voluntary

risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Over 13,000 operations enrolled in the program for the 2020 calendar year.

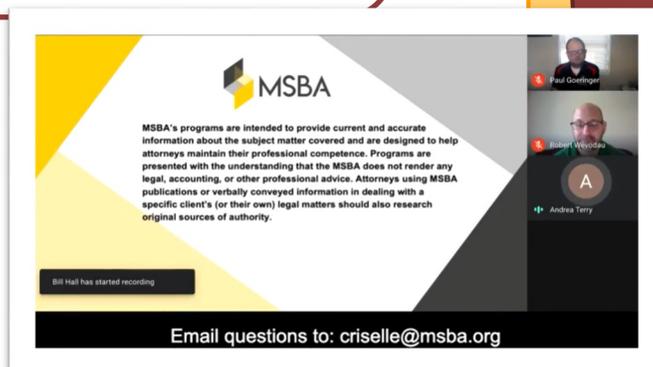
All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors may also be required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone, and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](#).

For more information, visit [farmers.gov DMC webpage](#) or contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](#).

Overview of CFAP

USDA has recently announced a new program to provide assistance to growers and livestock producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. The new Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will begin to signup on **May 26 and close on August 28th**. See <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap> from USDA. CFAP will provide support to eligible livestock, wool, dairy, non-specialty crop, and specialty crop producers.

For a better understanding of the CFAP program, view our [fact sheet](#) or this [YouTube video](#).



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Back-issues of this publication can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/657>

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Dairy

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Dates to remember

- 19 Jun-20 Nov.** Food Safety Friday: FSMA “how-to” webinars.
Various topics. 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#) or contact Sarah
Everhart for more information, SEverhart@law.umaryland.edu.
- 8 Jul.** [Women in Ag Webinar: Designing a Successful Pasture and
Grazing System](#). 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).
- 22 Jul.** [Women in Ag Webinar: Starting a Beef Herd](#). 12 noon. Free.
Register [online](#).

Check out these additional online resources from

	Maryland Grain		Ag Law Initiative
	Agronomy News Blog		Women in Ag
	Nutrient Management		Plant Diagnostic Lab
		Extension Website	

July 2020