

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

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!



March 2021

Please schedule an appointment if you need to visit the Extension office

Mid March marks one year since COVID-19 took a grip on our society and forced us to adapt to a different “normal.” Since March, most faculty and staff in Extension have been teleworking or limiting their presence in the County offices in order to limit the spread of the virus.

As of March 1 this year, the University is still encouraging its employees to telework as much as possible; therefore, we ask that you call ahead or schedule an appointment in order to visit us at the Extension office or any of the other agencies here in the Harford County Agricultural Center. This was we can ensure that folks you’re meeting with are present.

As you are aware, many Extension programs have been adapted to a virtual format over this past year. Extension has conducted a series of winter crop production meetings over the winter months. These meetings cover topics in the areas of agronomy, fruits, vegetables, forages, and integrated weed management.

Most of these meetings have already occurred, but have been recorded and are now available to watch; you can also still get your pesticide and nutrient management voucher credits by watching the videos.

To view the videos, visit <https://go.umd.edu/WinterAgMeetings>.

For those who are reading that do not have internet, I would like to remind you that we can also send you a recorded copy of either Northern Maryland Field Crops Day Agronomy Meeting or Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Day meeting. The recording can be mailed to you on a USB flash drive which you can watch on any computer or device that accepts a USB drive. For more information or to request a copy, please contact the Extension office.

As we approach the 2021 growing season, I would like to encourage you to sign up for our monthly statewide newsletters; [Agronomy News](#) has all agronomy and forage-related topics, and [Fruit & Vegetable News](#) has all commercial fruit and vegetable related topics. Sign up for Agronomy News at: go.umd.edu/agronomysubscribe and Fruit & Vegetable News by emailing myersrd@umd.edu.

As always, if you need to get ahold of me, please call or send me an email. As a reminder, I am also still available for farm visits. Stay safe!

Until next time,
-Andy



2021 Spring Equine Webinar Series

Join us in the evenings for an online equine webinar series. Classes will start at 5:00 p.m. on March 30 and end on April 27. Topics and speakers are listed below. Follow the registration link for each webinar in order to register. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Crowl, ecrowl@umd.edu or (410) 887-8090.

March 30,
April 13 & 27

5:00 PM
Online via Zoom

March 30: *Spring Pasture Management*

Andy Kness, University of Maryland Extension

<https://go.umd.edu/pastures>

April 13: *What Vaccines Do My Horses Need?*

Erika Crowl, University of Maryland Extension

<https://go.umd.edu/springvaccines>

April 27: *Develop a Fly Control Plan For Your Farm*

Erika Crowl, University of Maryland Extension

<https://go.umd.edu/flycontrol>



Calving Workshop

*Racheal Slattery, Dairy and Beef Program Extension Coordinator
University of Maryland, College Park*

With calving season right around the corner, the University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences together with Maryland Extension will be holding a free zoom webinar for all things calving for all interested cattle producers. The goal of this webinar will be to cover all areas of calving including, prepping for the upcoming calving season, common calving management techniques, as well as strategies for handling issues that may come up. This webinar will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 7-8:30pm and Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 7-8:30pm (both

events will cover the same material). For those unable to attend either date, the webinar will be recorded and uploaded to our beef resources webpage following the March 18th event (<https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/resources>).

While the events are free, registration is required.

To register for the Tuesday, March 2nd Webinar: <http://go.umd.edu/calving-tues>

To register for the Thursday, March 18th Webinar: <http://go.umd.edu/calving-thurs>



Pesticide Applicator Exam

Exams will be offered on **March 11, 2021** from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Baltimore County Ag Center.

You **MUST** register by March 8, 2021. Register at <https://go.umd.edu/Marchpestexam>

Study materials - If you need the Private Pesticide Applicator Core Manual, please contact the Extension office. The manuals are \$20 each. You may watch an online pre-recorded training prior to the exam at <https://go.umd.edu/applicatortraining>.

Annual Dicamba Training

Any certified applicator applying Dicamba products approved for over-the-top use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans are required to complete an annual training.

Bayer is now offering an online training module for applicators. You may take the online training here, <https://training.roundupreadyxtend.com/>.

Once the training is completed, you'll receive a printable certificate for proof of training for this crop year.

Products Registered for over-the-top use on soybeans are as follows: BASF XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology EPA Reg. No. 524-617; Bayer Engenia Herbicide EPA Reg No. 7969-472; Syngenta Tavium Plus VaporGrip Technology EPA Reg. No. 100-1623

Food Aggregation Grants

The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) is accepting applications for its new Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Pilot Program.

This program is designed to support the development of a local food aggregation infrastructure in Maryland to help meet current and future wholesale and institutional market demand for locally produced food products. For Fiscal Year 2021, MARBIDCO has up to \$435,000 available to fund such projects.

Created by the General Assembly in 2020, MARBIDCO's grant program is designed to support a new procurement goal for state agencies and universities to purchase at least 20% of their food from Maryland Certified Local Farm Enterprises. These will be farms that adhere to Maryland's nutrient management requirements and opt to be included on a list that will be maintained by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Some institutional and wholesale buyers have found it difficult to engage and contract with farmers to meet their local food sourcing needs. The establishment of the new Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program, coupled with the creation and expansion of distributors of local food in Maryland, is designed to connect small farmers with wholesale and institutional buyers to increase sales for farmers.

The purpose of MARBIDCO's new Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Pilot Program is to create opportunities for small farmers to sell products to wholesale and institutional markets and demonstrate how the investment of funds can help to grow and

strengthen Maryland's local food system. The grants will be used to fund projects that help small farmers aggregate their products to make them attractive to the institutional or wholesale buyer and for projects that will help institutional buyers increase their capacity to purchase locally-grown food.

Farm products can include fresh food as well as food that has been preserved for out-of-season consumption. It is anticipated that funds will be used to provide financial support to both small-scale and large-scale aggregation projects.

Grants of between \$25,000 and \$100,000 are available for small-scale (farmer-led) projects that include at least three Certified Local Farm Enterprise farmers. Grants of between \$150,000 and \$350,000 are available for large-scale projects led by a public institution that plans to engage with at least three Certified Local Farm Enterprise farmers to purchase locally-grown food. Public institutions can include counties and municipalities, school systems, rural regional councils, and colleges and universities. All projects will require at least a 10% match.

The application deadline for the Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Pilot Program is April 15. Persons interested in applying to this program are encouraged to go to the MARBIDCO website for more details and applications.

Further information about these programs may be obtained by contacting Stacy Kubofcik, Senior Programs Officer, at skubofcik@marbidco.org, calling (410) 267-6807, or by visiting www.marbidco.org.

Hemp Final Rule Published; But Could Change

Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Legal Extension Specialist
University of Maryland, College Park

Reposted from the [Aq Risk Management blog](#)

This article is not substitute for legal advice.

On January 15, 2021, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) published the final hemp rule for Hemp Domestic Production. The final rule will make changes related to sampling for testing, including expanding the days before harvest and how the testing must take place; testing done by a non-Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registered lab till December 31, 2022; changes to what will be considered a negligent violation; changes to requirements related to the destruction of a hot crop; and allowances to remediate a crop testing over the 0.3 percent THC threshold.

Although this final rule was scheduled to go into effect on March 22, 2021, it is currently on hold. On January 20, 2021, the Biden administration placed a 60-day hold pending a review of all final rules similar to the hemp rule, potentially delaying its effective date. We will not know what will happen to the final rule until the review is completed.

What Has Not Changed

In 2019, USDA AMS published the interim final Hemp Rule (interim rule) to begin implementing the U.S. domestic hemp production program under the 2018 Farm Bill. Looking at the final rule, several things remain consistent with the interim rule. The final rule leaves the requirement to measure total THC, which is the measurement of both THC and THCA.

The acceptable level of THC will remain at 0.3 percent. Comments had pointed out that allowing up to 1 percent of THC would still be safe, but such a change would require Congressional action. In the last Congress, Senator Rand Paul introduced legislation to increase the THC levels to 1 percent but was not passed. Senator Paul has not reintroduced this legislation with the start of the new Congress.

Final Rule Changes

The final rule will change the sampling window before harvest from 15 days to 30 days. Commenters had pointed out the confusion that the 15-day window would create and the issues it may cause for growers. AMS agreed to provide additional flexibility by allowing the extra 15 days before harvest to test a crop.

AMS is also changing where samples must be collected



Edwin Remsberg

from approximately "five to eight inches in length from the main stem (which includes the leaves and flowers), "terminal bud" (which occurs at the end of a stem), or "central cola" (a cut stem that could develop into a bud) of the flowering top of the plant" (Final Hemp Rule, §990.3(ii) and §990.24(b)). AMS moved away from the interim rule's requirements to take samples from the top 1/3 of the plant.

AMS will also allow states and tribes to develop a performance-based method of testing to allow for more flexibility. The performance-based method must ensure a confidence level of 95 percent that the hemp will not test beyond the 0.3 percent THC level. States or tribal governments can use the performance-based method with a seed certification process or process identifying varieties with consistently compliant hemp plants in that state or tribal territory. The performance-based method will also be acceptable for hemp grown for research purposes and a producer who has consistently produced compliant hemp over a long period of time.

The interim rule required samples to be tested in a DEA-registered laboratory to determine the THC level. AMS suspended this requirement for the 2020 growing season. The final rule will not require samples to be tested in a DEA-registered laboratory until December 31, 2022. As of January 2020, there were only 44 DEA-registered laboratories in 22 different states. This delay in requiring a DEA-registered laboratory is intended to allow more laboratories to register and ease growers' concerns of potential delays.

What is considered a negligent violation also increases under the final rule. Under the interim rule, a crop testing at 0.5 percent or higher would be considered a negligent violation. The final rule will increase this to 1

5 percent THC. As long as the grower uses reasonable farming practices but grows hemp testing over 0.3 percent, but below 1 percent, it will not be a negligent violation unless the concentration of THC is over 1 percent. A grower with three negligent violations in a five-year period will be ineligible from growing hemp starting with the third negligent violation date. If a grower has multiple fields testing above 1 percent THC, this will only be considered one violation for that year.

The final rule is less strict about destroying a crop testing over 0.3 percent THC. Under the interim final rule, the destruction of marijuana required to destroy the hemp could only be carried out by the DEA or another authorized entity. Under the final rule, growers will use a list of approved methods to destroy hemp testing over 0.3 percent THC, found [here](#), providing hemp growers, states, and tribal governments greater flexibility to destroy hemp.

The final rule provides the opportunity to remediate a

hemp crop testing over 0.3 percent THC to make the crop compliant. Remediation under the final rule can be accomplished by removing and destroying flower material while retaining stalk, stems, leaf material, and seeds. Remediation can also happen by shredding the entire plant into a biomass-like material, then re-testing the shredded biomass material for compliance. AMS agreed with commenters on the interim rule of the need for remediation to be included; AMS remediation guidelines may be found [here](#).

Conclusion

This final rule, one of many rules issued in the last days of the Trump administration, is currently being reviewed by the new Biden administration. As of writing this, the rule is delayed 60 days from going into effect. Maryland and other states will be updating state plans to conform to the final regulation once it goes into effect.

Grain Bin Safety

Grain entrapments and engulfment are preventable hazards associated with grain storage. In 2019, there were 38 reported entrapment incidents of which 23 were fatal. ASABE standard S624, recommends that all grain bins produced after August 2018 have anchor points for a lifeline and harness rated to 2000 lbs. of vertical pull. There are more than 260,000 exempt grain handling facilities across the U.S. where most of these incidents occur. Unfortunately, about 1 in 5 of these grain-related incidents involve children.

Through the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety, Penn State is conducting a 2-part research project related to retrofitting safe entry technologies on farm grain bin structures. The first part of the project is doing non-destructive grain bin tests to determine feasibility of retrofitting on-farm grain bin structures with anchor points for a lifeline and harness system. The second part is a survey to learn more about agricultural producer's awareness about grain bin hazards and safety as well as their willingness to implement new safety practices into their operation.



WORK AROUND OR HAVE GRAIN BINS?
Take our survey.

 PennState Extension

Anyone who works around or owns a grain bin is eligible to participate in the survey. Survey participants can enter a drawing for a chance to win 1 of 3 \$75 Visa gift cards. To participate in the survey, click on the following link and complete by **March 15, 2021**: https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8D15JcDC4uKShf.



Webinar: Writing Your Own NM Plan

The Farmer Training and Certification Online workshop provides an opportunity for producers with cropland and pastures who use commercial fertilizer and/or manure to learn how to write nutrient management plans (NMP) for their operation that meet Maryland Department of Agriculture's regulations.

The online nature of this course offering requires individual learning within an online learning platform. Participants are expected to have the necessary computer skills, outlined below, to successfully complete the online course with minimal computer technical assistance.

The course requires a minimum time commitment of 15-20 hours of individual online learning over 5 weeks. Those with larger, more complicated farm operations and those with cropland or pastures with high phosphorus soil test levels may require additional training and a larger time commitment.

Before registering, ensure you have the required materials and skills to successfully complete this course (this course is not designed or intended for those with basic computer skills only).

Required Materials & Skills:

- Reliable internet connection
- Email address
- Computer with Windows 7 or later (NuMan Pro software is not compatible with Mac)
- Printer, Microsoft Word and Excel
- PDF reader software (Adobe Acrobat or similar)
- Familiarity with web browsing, Experience with MS computer programs.

You will receive:

- Access to the Online Course – This online course is administered via the University of Maryland's Enterprise Learning Management Systems (ELMS-Canvas).
 - A comprehensive training binder (electronic version) – The training binder will consist of all materials referenced throughout the course, compiled in one document. The binder materials will be used during the class, serve as a reference during the exam, and as a valuable resource when you write future NMPs for your farm operation.
 - NuMan Pro software – The NuMan Pro software is needed to develop your NMP. The software will be provided to participants at a discounted price, outlined below.
 - Certification – Producers who pass the exam and complete development of their NMP will be certified by MDA to write their own NMPs.
 - Voucher training credits – This class will fulfill the nutrient applicator voucher training requirements.
- Cost and Registration Information

Space is limited therefore, register early. **Registration will close on March 5 or when capacity is reached.** Cost for the course includes a \$25 NuMan Pro license fee (to be paid directly to UMD following registration) and a \$20 exam fee (to be paid directly to MDA following registration).

To register for the Winter 2021 FTC Online offering (March 15 – April 16, see course outline below), go to go.umd.edu/FTCWinter2021

Week 1	Online Modules 1 and 2	Online Office Hours offered: 3/18/2021, 4-5pm 3/19/2021, 11am-12pm
Week 2	Online Modules 3 and 4	Online Office Hours offered: 3/25/2021, 4-5pm 3/26/2021, 11am-12pm
Week 3	Online Modules 5 and 6	Online Office Hours offered: 4/1/2021, 4-5pm 4/2/2021, 11am-12pm
Week 4	Online Modules 7 and 8	Online Office Hours offered: 4/8/2021, 4-5pm 4/9/2021, 11am-12pm
Week 5	Certification Exam NMP Submission	Online Certification Exam: 4/12/2021, 10am-12pm NMP Submitted to MDA by: 4/16/2021, 5pm

Streamside Tree Planting Financial Assistance

The Healthy Streams Farm Stewardship Program (HSFSP) offers agricultural producers in the Susquehanna and Northeast River watersheds in Cecil County and Harford County, MD, the opportunity to earn funds to help pay for any conservation work on the farm.

Overview

HSFSP will provide producers a \$4000 Conservation Voucher for each acre of new forest buffer planted along their streams. The Alliance will work with participating producers to implement the buffers through the Alliance's reforestation program or by accessing state or federal cost share programs.

The producer may use these Conservation Vouchers to help plan and implement any conservation work needed on the farm. Vouchers can be used to support practice design, conservation planning, construction management and materials, equipment, stream buffer maintenance practices, fencing and more. The producer may also use vouchers to cover their private costs associated with public conservation cost share programs.

Leveraging the vouchers with these conservation

programs such as the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Maryland Agriculture Water Quality Cost Share Program (MACS) will help increase whole farm conservation.

Expectations for farmers

- Landowner must agree to keep and maintain the new forested buffer for 15 years.
- Buffers must be a least 35 feet wide along the waterway.
- Landowner must allow for or implement post-planting care of trees, which includes applying herbicide around the tree shelters and mowing twice annually for three years.
- No economic use of the buffer is allowed including haying, grazing or flash grazing.

For more information, please contact Craig Highfield, chighfield@allianceforthebay.org or call (443) 949-0575.

Ag Plastic Recycling

Ag Plastic Collection will resume the first week of April 2021 at the Scarboro Landfill in Street. At this time there are no totes available to fill. Totes should be available in middle to late April.

Mulch- We have plenty of mulch available. Come on in.

Contact Wendy Doring for questions or more information, wdoring@menv.com or (410) 638-3417.



Ag Symposium

Join us for the third annual Harford County Agriculture Symposium on March 20 from 9-12 noon! Fun for all ages as we explore the diverse agricultural landscape and heritage of Harford County! The event is free, but please register ahead of time!

Visit <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/FormCenter/Agriculture-59/Rooted-in-Agriculture-A-Virtual-Symposium-338> for more information and to register.



ROOTED IN AGRICULTURE

A FREE virtual event for everyone!

Great resources are just a click away!



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[Extension.umd.edu/Harford-county](https://extension.umd.edu/Harford-county)



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

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Dates to remember

- 01 Mar.** Nutrient Management AIR due to MDA. Questions call Darren Alles, (410) 991-3114.
- 03-31 Mar.** Beginning Small Farm Workshop Series. 6-9 PM. Online via Zoom. Register [online](#).
- 11 Mar.** Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. 8:30-11:30 AM. Baltimore County Ag Center, Cockeysville, MD. Free. Study materials \$20. Register [online](#) or by calling the Extension office.
- 20 Mar.** Harford County Agriculture Symposium. 9-12 noon. Online. Register [online](#).
- 30 Mar-27 Apr.** Spring Equine Webinar Series. 5:00 PM. Free. Details on page 2. Register online: <https://extension.umd.edu/events/series/6583>

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	

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