

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center
Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154
(410) 638-3255
M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county
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Hello, Harford County!

Happy Memorial Day! I hope everyone had a great start to their summer and took time to remember the sacrifices made by the men and women in our Armed Forces; thanks to them we can live and farm in the greatest country!

As of June 1, the Harford County Agricultural Center will unlock it's doors and you no longer need an appointment to visit the office! We still ask that you wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated. We are excited to be one step closer to "normal."

The month of May in Harford County, and across much of the state, was unseasonably dry. As I write this we have accumulated approximately 15 inches of rain in 2021, putting us about 5 inches short compared to the 30-year average. The long-term forecast released by NOAA indicates 40% probability of above-normal precipitation for June, so perhaps we will get some relief. With some timely rains, crops still have very high yield potential.

One final and important note; the **Harford County Ag Grants Program** is back for 2021. To apply, visit www.harfordcountymd.gov/AgGrants or contact Jason Gallion for more information (410) 638-3511. Applications are being accepted through **June 18**.

Until next time,
-Andy



June 2021



**2021
Harford County
Agricultural
Grants**



7 Things to Know:

1. Anyone can apply for Harford County Agricultural Grants
2. Projects must support Harford County agriculture
3. \$20,000 maximum award per applicant
4. Matching funds only; county pays 75%/applicant 25%
5. Grants are for reimbursements only; receipts required
6. Submit all receipts for awarded projects by June 30, 2022
7. Not for permanent structures or capital improvements

May 15

Applications available online at www.harfordcountymd.gov/AgGrants or by calling Jason Gallion at 410-638-3511

June 18

Last day to submit applications

July 1

Grant awards announced; funding available

Submit completed online at:
www.harfordcountymd.gov/AgGrants

Questions?

Contact Jason Gallion at 410-638-3511
or jcgallion@harfordcountymd.gov



Capital for Very Small Rural Businesses

USDA press release (abridged)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it has implemented a series of actions to make it easier for very small rural businesses to get access to capital.

The Department published a final rule outlining changes to the [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#) (RMAP). The program provides loans and grants to microenterprise development organizations to help them establish revolving loan programs to assist microenterprises, businesses with 10 or fewer full-time employees. It also provides annual funding to development organizations to conduct training and provide technical assistance to microloan borrowers.

USDA made the improvements to implement changes required in the 2018 Farm Bill and to make the program more effective, more user-friendly and more consistent with other USDA business programs.

Among other things, these improvements:

- Allow lenders to receive their initial technical assistance grant in an amount up to 25% of their new loan amount. The maximum loan amount remains at \$500,000.
- Allow a microlender's technical assistance funds

to be replenished annually to a minimum of 20% of its outstanding loans to small businesses, not to exceed 25% of its loan balance, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The maximum percentage is not changed. Previously, there was no minimum percentage of grant funds to a microlender.

- Give microlenders the discretion to request loan funds more often than quarterly to meet the microlender's loan demand.
- Increase program eligibility by reducing the minimum application priority score to be eligible for program funding.
- Add clarifying language emphasizing that the total outstanding loan balance from a lender to any one microborrower may not exceed \$50,000.

The changes take effect May 14, 2021. For additional information, see page 26348 of the May 14, 2021 [Federal Register](#). Program applications are accepted on a continuous basis in Rural Development State Offices which can be found at: <https://rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>

If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

USDA Grant Opportunities

Ginger Myers, Agriculture Marketing Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

The USDA announced grant two opportunities for building local markets and enterprises; both deadlines are **June 21st, 2021**:

- [The Farmers Market Promotion Program \(FMPP\)](#) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant, and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.

- [The Local Food Promotion Program \(LFPP\)](#) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer-to-consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.

Entities for both funding opportunities that are eligible to apply include:

- Agricultural businesses and cooperatives.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations.
- Food councils.
- Economic development corporations.
- Local governments.
- Nonprofit and public benefit corporations.
- Producer networks or associations.
- Regional farmers' market authorities.
- Tribal governments.

Grazing Brassicas & Reducing Emissions

Northeast SARE May 2021 Newsletter

Dairy farmers who graze their animals face both economic and environmental challenges. Feed costs reduce farm profitability especially during times of low ("summer slump" and end of season) and no (winter) pasture production. In addition, recent environmental concerns have been raised when comparing methane emissions on forage-based dairies to their confinement counterparts. To address both issues, animal scientist Kathy Soder of the USDA ARS Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit led a multi-state Northeast SARE Research and Education Grant project to conduct an integrated research and farmer outreach program aimed at supporting the adoption of brassicas on forage-based dairies in the region.

The PA-NH team worked with farmers to assess knowledge gaps and research needs on using brassicas in grazing systems. Farmer concerns about crop establishment and animal health informed the project. In the lab, Soder tested the effects of turnip, canola and forage rape on ruminal fermentation and methane output of an annual ryegrass diet and found that "all three brassicas reduced methane output by approximately 50% when compared to annual ryegrass,

without negatively impacting nutrient digestibility." The team also conducted field trials of these brassica crops to assess their fall forage potential; results suggested that these brassicas "produced nearly double the forage yield of the annual ryegrass, with two to three times the protein and energy, which would result in significantly more grazing days, and greater animal productivity, in the late fall when other forages are typically dormant."

Project partner Andre Brito of the University of NH conducted a two-year grazing study on the university's organic dairy farm. Replacing conserved feed with grazing canola during the late fall to extend the grazing season, they found that cows grazing the canola consumed less baleage than control cows but were able to maintain milk production while reducing methane emissions. The team concluded that brassicas can be used as a high quality forage for late season grazing but farmers need to use caution with this crop due to their elevated glucosinolates that may cause animal health concerns if consumed in excess.

A fact sheet on how to implement brassicas in a grazing system can be downloaded [here](#), or call the Extension office.

Livestock

New Extension Livestock Newsletter

Cattle Tales Livestock Newsletter

May 2021

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AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

Inside this issue:

Body Condition Score is a Critical Management Tool for Cow-Calf Producers	2
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Editor's Note:

Spring is here, and with it endless opportunities to implement a winter's worth of planning. Many producers, myself included, are wrapping up calving, implementing pre-breeding vaccinations and estrous synchronization programs, turning out stocker calves, making their way to the feedlot, preparing for insecticide tags and minerals to help their cattle be as successful as possible in the upcoming hot months. Like the dormant fields of alfalfa in the winter, it has been some time since the University of Maryland Extension put out a state livestock newsletter. But with warm weather and new hires, both entities are entering a new season with goals of high yields.

My goal with the Cattle Tales Livestock Newsletter is to provide science based production recommendations for the livestock producers of Maryland and beyond. From the basics of animal health, to the most intensive of grazing and reproductive management, I hope this newsletter will serve as a catalyst to bring the most innovative of practices to the area, or at the very least, start worthwhile discussions amongst producers and researchers alike. Here at UMD Extension, we love to hear from you, the producers, about challenges you face. We are here to serve. Please consider subscribing for future newsletters, providing feedback on articles, and letting us know what you'd like to read about in the future.

Happy Trails,

Charlie Sasser M

The University of Maryland Livestock Extension Team has developed a new newsletter that will be sent out quarterly covering a range of topics relevant to the season for several livestock species. If you'd like to receive the newsletter, use this link: <https://go.umd.edu/subscribe-livestock-newsletter>. Also, feel free to share with anyone who may be interested!



Equine Pasture Walks

Join us for a hands-on pasture walk. Extension agents and specialists will lead discussions on topics that include:

- Improving Soil Health and Fertility
- Summer Weed Control Options
- Pasture Evaluation and Assessment
- Grazing Management

The program will be offered at the Baltimore County Ag Center, 1114 Shewan Rd., Cockeysville, MD and at the Central MD Research & Education Center (CMREC), 4241 Folly Quarter Rd., Ellicott City, MD.

The event is free, but registration is required. Use the links below:

Register here for June 22 at Baltimore County: https://go.umd.edu/equinefieldday_balt

Register here for June 29 at CMREC: https://go.umd.edu/equinefieldday_cmrec

Questions, please call Erika Crowl, (410) 638-3255 or email ecrowl@umd.edu.

June 22

6:00—8:00 PM
Baltimore County
Agriculture Center

June 29

6:00—8:00 PM
Central MD Research &
Education Center

Corn & Soybean Fungicide Recommendations

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

Fungicide efficacy tables for corn and soybeans have been updated for 2021. The Crop Protection Network (cropprotectionnetwork.com) is a national working group comprised of Extension agents and specialists from across North America that provide data through publications regarding pest management in agronomic crops. The website and publications can be a great resource to your operation. Click below the most recent fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean. If you would like to request a hard copy, call the Extension office.

[Click Here for Corn](#)

[Click Here for Soybean](#)

Cyclamen Mites Found in Strawberries

Jerry Brust, Vegetable IPM Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

Cyclamen mites have been found in a few mid-Atlantic strawberry fields as well as more widespread to the south of us in North Carolina. Once we start to warm up they may become more of a problem along with two-spotted spider mites. The cyclamen mites have been found most often in plasticulture strawberries and less often in matted row systems. Usually cyclamen mites (*Phytonemus pallidus*) cause much of their damage to bedding plants, but they also can cause significant problems in strawberries. Adult cyclamen mites are usually never seen as they are only a quarter of a mm long and a 20X hand lens or dissecting microscope is needed to see them.



UC Statewide IPM Project, 2000 Regents, Univ. California

Figure 1. Adult female cyclamen mite (yellow arrow), eggs (black arrows) and larva (red arrow).

Adult mites are oval-shaped and a glossy creamy orange (Fig. 1) with males being smaller than females. The hind legs of females are thread-like and in males are pincerlike (the male uses these hind legs to transport female pupae to new locations on the plant). The eggs are translucent and comparatively large, about $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of an adult (Fig. 1). Egg masses in leaf crevices can be so numerous that they look like tiny piles of salt. Female adults overwinter in strawberry crowns and can also be present on transplants. Female mites lay their eggs on strawberry leaves that hatch into tiny, white, six-legged larvae (Fig. 1). The entire life cycle of the cyclamen mite is less than 3 weeks and therefore populations can build quickly. Although there are multiple generations each year, populations tend to peak in early spring and again in late summer.

Cyclamen mites use their piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on plant material. Symptoms of infestation can be found throughout the plant. However, at low populations, cyclamen mites can usually be found along the midvein of young, unfolded leaves and under the calyx of newly emerged flower buds. As numbers increase, mites can be found anywhere on the plant. The infested leaves will appear stunted and crumpled (Fig. 2), while flowers wither and die and fruit becomes shrunken with protruding seeds



Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ontario Canada

Figure 2. Cyclamen mite damage to strawberry—crinkled deformed younger leaves.

(Fig. 3). By the time these symptoms appear, it is too late to limit damage, so cyclamen mites should be managed preventively. Treatments should be applied when 1 leaf in 10 shows cyclamen mite damage.

Growers should watch for deformed leaves starting when new buds emerge from the crown and continuing until harvest. Older fields will most likely have more problems. In order to be sure of the presence of cyclamen mite, you need to examine the newest leaves in the crown, specifically the mid vein and lower part of a leaf where it joins the petiole. Magnification (20-40X) is recommended for confirmation of cyclamen mites.

Early detection of cyclamen mites is essential in achieving best control. Thorough spray coverage of the crown leaves is important for good control, so high volumes of water are needed (60-100 gal/a). Horticultural oils can be used if temperatures are below 88 °F. Agri-Mek SC or Portal XLO also can be used for mite control. Predatory mites can be used and work best if cyclamen mite populations are small and confined to scattered hot-spots in a field.



Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ontario Canada

Figure 3. Cyclamen mite damage to strawberry fruit—protruding seeds .

Fundamentals of Nutrient Management

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This training course provides participants with a basic overview of knowledge areas covered by the Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Examination. Topics include state nutrient management regulations, nutrient management principles, basic soil science, and soil fertility recommendations. Instructors are university and government experts.

June 21-24

9:30-11 AM

Online via Zoom

Anyone planning to take the Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Examination, consultants and farmers interested in refreshing their nutrient management knowledge, and natural resource personnel would benefit from attendance. The Certification Examination will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021.

To register, [click here](#). If you have questions, please contact Emileigh Lucas at (301) 405-2465 or erosso@umd.edu.

Private Applicator Exams

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

MDA will be proctoring exams on June 14, 16, and 17th only. ALL EXAMS will be held in Annapolis. There will be NO exams in Boonsboro or Cambridge. Exams will be taken in your vehicle in the visitor lot of MDA. You can reserve your spot by "purchasing" tickets to the exam block that you would like to attend on Eventbrite.com. There will be a link listed below. Exam spaces are limited, please reserve your spot early.

There is no fee for reserving your spot. Exam blocks are 2.5 hours each. Please only take the most important categories as your time is limited 2.5 hours only. Exam Blocks are at 8:30am and 11:30am. Tickets can only be purchased through June 9, 2021 in order for us to prepare testing materials for each test taker.

If you are not feeling well, or showing symptoms of COVID-19, Please stay home!

When you arrive please park your vehicle facing out, and then come to the designated area to pick up your exam packet. You can then return to your car to take the exam. When you are finished you will return your complete packet to MDA staff. Masks are required during all interactions with staff.

We will be implementing the following rules for anyone coming to take exams. Procedures are in place for the safety of the MDA staff as well as all examinees. Failure to follow procedure may result in automatic failure.

- Exams will occur rain or shine.
- One person per vehicle.

- Please back your vehicle into the parking space to allow MDA to observe you taking your exam.
- Please make sure that your phone is turned off and is upside down on colored sheet provided in your packet on your dashboard and visible to MDA staff.
- Please bring your own #2 pencils & calculator (This is to reduce contact between you and MDA staff).
- The MDA building is not open to the public at this point, so there will be no access to the buildings or restrooms. Please plan ahead.
- MDA reserves the right to observe you while you are testing. Failure to allow observation will result in exam failure.
- Please come as close to your time frame as possible.
- Please be aware that you will only have 2.5 hours for exams. Tests will be collected at the end of your time block.
- Bring Eventbrite ticket and Identification.
- We will only accept cash or check. Correct change only.
- Tests cannot be graded on site. Exam results will be mailed in 2-3 weeks.

Reserve your spot: <https://mdajune2021exam.eventbrite.com>

If you would like study materials, contact the Extension office.



“What It Takes” Farm Tour Series

Organized by the Young Farmers of Harford County Farm Bureau



EXCLUSIVE!

BEHIND-THE-SCENES!

FOR ALL FARMERS AGES 16–35

**FARMER - LED
FARM TOURS**

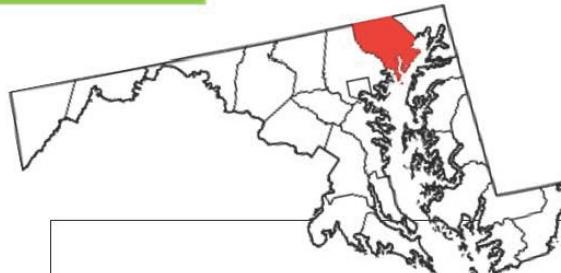
+ Q&A

Summer - Fall 2021

Join us as we gather as a community and learn “What It Takes” to grow a long-term farm business! Harford County Farm Bureau members and future farmers ages 16-35 are invited to join the Harford County Young Farmers on a series of tours of established farms in the county. We will observe pastures and fields, tractors and equipment, and farm stands and processing facilities (as available). The information will be geared toward sharing business strategies for producing and selling local products to the surrounding community. Light refreshments will be provided.

TOUR DATES & TIMES:

- Monday, June 28 - seeking farmer!
- Tuesday, July 13 - seeking farmer!
- Wednesday, August 4 - seeking farmer!
- Monday, September 20 - seeking farmer!
- Friday, October 15 - seeking farmer!
- Monday, November 22 3:30pm Jones Family Farm + 5pm Thanksgiving “Local” Potluck Challenge



**Please RSVP! Contact Reese Jones
Co-Chair of Young Farmers**

Text/Call 443-987-4259

Accommodations for physical disability or dietary restrictions can be made with advanced notice.

Young Farmers strives to be inclusive and does not discriminate based on physical ability, gender, religion, sexual orientation, race, or national identity. Farmers interested in this event who are over age 35 may be included, at the discretion of the organizers. For Farm Bureau events for all ages, see the “Harford County Farm Bureau” Facebook page.



Great resources are just a click away!



Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and

Natural Resources



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Facebook

facebook.com/HarfordAg



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Dates to remember

01 Jun—30 Sept. [Pesticide Container Recycling](#) at The Mill of Black Horse (for Mill customers only). Call (410) 329-6010 for instructions. All containers must be properly rinsed!

04 Jun, 02 Jul, 06 Aug, 03 Sept. [Pesticide Container Recycling](#) at the Scarboro Landfill. 9-3 PM. All containers must be properly rinsed!

21-24 Jun. [Fundamentals of Nutrient Management](#). 9:30-11 AM online. Free. Register [online](#).

18 Jun. [Harford County Ag Grants](#) due.

23 Jun. [Women in Ag Webinar: Forage Sampling and Analysis Interpretation](#). 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).

22 Jun. Equine Pasture Walk. 6-8:30 PM. Baltimore County Ag Center, Cockeysville. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090.

June 2021