AG INSIGHT

June 2021

University of Maryland Extension

Baltimore County
1114 Shawan Rd.
Cockeysville, MD 21030
(410) 887-8090
M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

IN THIS ISSUE

Update on Extension

Happy Memorial Day! I hope everyone had a great start to their summer despite the chilly temps and the much needed rain. I trust that you all 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 Baltimore County Extension Office will unlock it's doors and you no longer need an appointment to visit the office! At this time faculty are still in a hybrid work environment, so it would still be best to call ahead of time before visiting 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" and look forward to seeing you in-person again!

New Extension Livestock Newsletter

Cattle Tales Livestock Newsletter

May 2021 — Edition 1

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION
AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

Inside this issue:

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 first cutting of hay, and placing orders 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 Sosscer MS

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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!

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments • U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

MDA's Annual Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Maryland Department of Agriculture, full press release here

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation Section has announced the 2021 dates and drop-off locations for its Pesticide Container Recycling Program. On certain days from June through September farmers, pesticide applicators, and other pesticide users can recycle used plastic pesticide containers at no cost at locations in Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot, Washington, and Wicomico counties.

"For the past 28 years, the department has provided farmers and pesticide applicators with the opportunity to dispose of used pesticide containers safely and responsibly for free at convenient locations around the state," said Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder. "This program not only recycles plastics, it also helps keep pesticide residue out of our local waterways and soil, ultimately helping to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries."

Those participating in the program are asked to properly rinse containers before drop-off. Containers acceptable for recycling will be chipped into recyclable plastic flakes by the Agricultural Container Recycling Council and transported to an approved recycling facility. Since its inception, the program has yielded over 1 million tons of recyclable plastic flakes.

Maryland's Pesticide Container Recycling Program is a combined effort of state, county, and federal agencies and the private industry working together to protect the environment. Rinsing and recycling empty pesticide containers will help to reduce the potential for contamination in groundwater and the Chesapeake Bay while also saving valuable landfill space. The program is free and open to all agricultural producers and pesticide applicators.

A schedule of 2021 collection dates and locations is available on the department's website. Please be sure your containers meet the department's specifications prior to drop-off.

Equine Pasture Field Day

June 22, 2021– Baltimore County Extension Office
1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030

June 29, 2021– Central MD Research & Education Center
4241 Folly Quarter Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042

Time: 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

Topics will include:

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

The event is FREE, but registration is required.

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.

Check out our Extension Blogs!

University of Maryland Extension has a few blogs that might interest you!

Maryland Agronomy -http://blog.umd.edu/agronomynews/

Maryland Beef - http://blog.umd.edu/mdbeef/

Maryland Horse - http://blog.umd.edu/equine/

Private Pesticide Applicator Exam

For Private Applicators:
An exam will be offered on **June 14,16, and 17, 2021** from 8:30 am-11:30 am and 11:30 am—2:30 pm at the Maryland Department of Agriculture building in Annapolis, MD.

You **MUST** register prior to the exam.
Register at https://mdajune2021exam.eventbrite.com

Study materials - If you need the Private Pesticide Applicator Core Manual, please contact Erika Crowl at ecrowl@umd.edu or 410-887-8090. The manuals are $20 each. You may attend an online pre-recorded training prior to the exam at https://go.umd.edu/applicatortraining.

Fungicide Efficacy Tables

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. The following are the most recent fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean.

For Corn- https://go.umd.edu/fungicidesforcorn

For Soybeans- https://go.umd.edu/fungicidesforbeans

Fundamentals of Nutrient Management

June 21-24, 2021 · 9:30am– 11:00am

This online 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
- Soil fertility recommendations.

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, visit https://go.umd.edu/nmtraining

USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

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$4 million in competitive grants is available to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov for planning and implementation projects until midnight July 30, 2021.

Planning Projects: Planning projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, urban agroforestry or food forests, and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

Implementation Projects: Implementation projects that accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, educational endeavors and urban farming policy implementation.

Check out the 2021 Women in Agriculture Webinars. Webinars are offered the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Noon. They are **FREE** and open to all!

To register: https://universityofextension.eventbrite.com/

Upcoming Topics:

June 9th– Tips for Successful Family Meetings

June 23rd - Forage Sampling and Forage Analysis Interpretation

July 14th– What do you need to know to grow your own fruit

July 28th- Principals of Biological Control

August 11th– Basics of Pond Management

August 25th– Principals of Agronomy

Controlling Flies and Ticks in Your Livestock

Racheal Slattery, University of Maryland

Dr. Megan Fritz, University of Maryland

Fly and tick season is here, unfortunately. But there are management methods, both chemical and environmental, that will help you better control both the fly and tick populations that are going to try and wreak havoc with your livestock. Generally, in a pasture-based setting, chemical control of flies and ticks is going to be more effective than most environmental management strategies, though an integrated approach of both is recommended.

Chemical fly control methods include fly tags, pour-ons, sprays, mists, fogs and dust (Cydectins, Ivermections, Permethrins, Pyrethriods – examples for each species listed below) that are applied directly to livestock. Fly tags are rubber or plastic ear tags that are impregnated with either a synthetic pyrethroid or organophosphate insecticide. While a very effective tool to combat flies, they are also one of the number one way to build insecticide resistance on your farm when not used properly. The most common methods to create resistance is only using one fly tag per animal vs one per ear, not tagging calves, putting tags in too early (not before early to mid-June), not removing them at the end of fly season, and not alternating the type of fly tag used every year. There are also feed additives and minerals that can help reduce flies by attacking the larve laid in manure, though for the best results, they will need to be fed to livestock prior to and during the fly season.

As the temperatures start to rise here in Maryland, working your livestock will become more and more stressful for them. Self-apply devices such as back oilers, back and/or face rubbers and dust bags allow for the animals to have access to their own fly control - requiring less labor for you and less stress for them. For the most effective use of these devices, you'll want to make sure they are located in "heavy traffic" or "pass through" areas of your farm. Examples of these areas are near waterers, over salt/mineral licks, hanging over alleys towards barns, pasture gates, etc. Most fly control methods are also highly effective on controlling the tick populations, including the invasive Longhorned Tick. The key to effective fly and tick control using chemical agents is to remember to re-apply to the devices on a routine basis and to alternate type used so as not to build resistance on your farm.

Some methods of environmental management for fly control include dragging pastures to break up manure, keeping barn pens as clean and dry as possible, cleaning up spilled or spoiled feed, and using fans to circulate air as a means to discourage flies from making their way around your barn. Environmental tick control includes limiting livestock access to wooded areas and clipping tall grass along fence lines – particularly along tree-lined edges as these shaded areas make prime habitats for many tick varieties.

One management strategy to always keep in mind is how you move new animals on to your farm. Make sure to always look them over (particularly their ears, neck and chest/brisket areas) to make sure they aren't carrying any ticks or other external parasites that could spread around your farm, keep them isolated for two weeks from the rest of your animals, and spray or use a pour-on that will help to kill any external pests you may have missed.

Controlling flies and ticks is an important part of good livestock management. Help make this fly and tick season more successful by getting into a management routine that works for your farm.

Examples of Chemical Fly and Tick Controls for Different Livestock Species:

•Beef Cattle: Bayer Permectrin II, Gordan's Livestock Backrubber & Pour-on, Agri-labs Vet Gun and Vet Caps, Tarter Superduty Cattle Mineral, Ivermectin Pour-on, Prozap VIPInsect Spray, Boss and Ultra Boss Pour-ons, Python Livestock Dust, Cydectin Pour-on, Ivermax

•Sheep: Python Livestock Dust, Boss and Ultra Boss Pour-ons, Absorbine Flys-X Ready-to Use Insecticide, Gordon's Goat and Sheep Spray, Synergize DeLice Pour-on, Purina Sheep Mineral with Clarifly, Fly Off, Crovect, Dysect Sheep Pour-on

•Goats: Python Livestock Dust, Gordon's Goat and Sheep Spray, Boss and Ultra Boss Pour-ons, High Octane Fly Control Show Feed, Gordons Permethrin 10, Bug Check, Revenge Dust-On Fly, Lice and Tick Control

Watch for Thrips and Mites in Vegetables

Jerry Brust, University of Maryland

The hotter temperatures we have had have caused thrips and to a lesser extent two spotted spider mite, TSSM (*Tetranychus urticae*) populations to rapidly increase in some vegetable fields. These pests feed by puncturing the outer layer of plant tissue and sucking out the cell contents, which results in stippling, discolored flecking, or silvering of the leaf surface (Fig.1). We will talk mostly about thrips this time as I covered TSSMs in an earlier article. Thrips feeding is usually accompanied by black flecks of frass (thrips poop) (Fig. 1a), while mite poop is white or clear. These two pests can discolor and scar leaf, flower, and fruit surfaces, and distort plant parts and, in the case of thrips, vector plant pathogens. There are several species of vegetable thrips with the most common being the Eastern flower thrips, *Frankliniella tritici*, Tobacco thrips *Frankliniella fusca*, Western flower thrips, *F. occidentalis* and Onion thrips *Thrips tabaci*. The last three species are the ones most likely to transmit tomato spotted wilt virus, TSWV. Thrips feeding produces various tissue responses, including scar formation and distorted growth (fig. 2). Females of most plant-feeding species lay their kidney-shaped eggs on or into plant tissue (this latter placement makes it practically impossible to find thrips eggs on plants). Thrips hatch from an egg and develop into two larval stages and then the 'prepupa and pupa' stages, before becoming an adult. The prepupae and pupae of most species drop to the soil or leaf litter to pupate. Thrips have several generations (up to eight) a year. When the weather is warm, the life cycle may be as short as 2 weeks.

Thrips thresholds for vegetables are: flowers of tomato, pepper or watermelon can tolerate 5 thrips/flower with no fruit developmental problems. Squash and pumpkin flowers can tolerate 5-10 thrips/flower with no effect on fruit quality. One or two applications of a pyrethroid or neonic or spinosad (see 2020/2021 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendation guide) applied with enough water (60-80 gal/a, you have to have thorough coverage) should control most thrips infestations. For two spotted spider mites Agri-Mek has shown very good results even when spray coverage was inadequate. There are several other miticides such as Acramite that also will give good control of TSSM and can be found in the recommendations guide. Be sure to apply any pesticides when bees will not be active in the field.

Some of the populations of thrips and mites in the field now are probably the result of transplants that were lightly infested with these pests. These infestations usually consist of immatures, which are hard to spot or eggs that are just about impossible to find if they laid inside leaf tissue (thrips) or there are only a few of them on the underside of the leaf in crevices (mites). Studies I have conducted show that if you treat your transplants (especially tomatoes) with 2 applications of a horticultural oil spray (0.5-1% by volume) with the first application coming 7-10 days before transplanting and the 2nd coming 1-2 days (or per label instructions) before you go to the field, you can almost eliminate any thrips or two spotted spider mite problems that started from your transplants. During the season spraying more than 3-4 times for thrips or two spotted spider mites in the field over a 4-5-week period with little control will lead to an even worse problem. This is because the sprays will greatly reduce all of the pests' natural enemies, but not the thrips or TSSM that may have developed resistance to the applied pesticides. Once you apply an insecticide or miticide you need to evaluate how well it worked by scouting the field again a few days after the application. If the pests are still very active you need to reevaluate what was applied and how it was applied. Contact your county educator or crop specialist for help in making the evaluation.

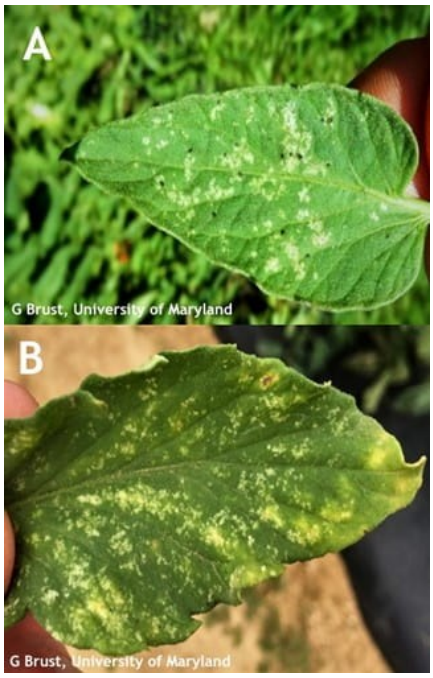

Figure 1. Thrips feeding on tomato leaf, black specks are thrips feces (A) and feeding damage by mites (B)

Figure 2. Pepper leaf distortions due to thrips feeding

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June 9	Women in Ag Webinar: Tips for a Successful Family Meeting. 12 noon . Free. Register online
June 21-24	Fundamentals of Nutrient Management. 9:30am. Free. Register online.
June 22	Baltimore County Equine Pasture Walk. 6:00pm. Free. Register online.
June 23	Women in Ag Webinar: Forage Sampling and Analysis Interpretation. 12 noon . Free. Register online
June 29	CMREC Equine Pasture Walk. 6:00pm Free. Register online.

Check out these additional online resources

Agronomy News	Ag Marketing
Extension Website	Fruit & Vegetable News
Maryland Horse Blog	Nutrient Management
Sheep & Goat Newsletter	Women in Ag

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