

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

August 2021

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!

I hope everyone is having a great summer! So far the weather has been treating us pretty well; let's hope that continues. Hopefully you were also able to get out and show and/or enjoy our Harford County fair season! The Mason-Dixon Fair had a great turnout and a record number of livestock exhibitors and our Harford County 4-H/FFA fair wraps up this Saturday (7/31). Thank you to all whom put in so much time and effort to make these fairs possible!

I have two additional notes that I want to pass along. The first being a **correction** to our last issue regarding the **spotted lantern fly** (SLF) permits. In the article I stated that MDA will issue permits that are valid for one year—this is incorrect; at least, for now it's incorrect. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MDA will not be requiring a renewal of the permit for this year. Moving forward (2022 and beyond), MDA is not certain whether or not they will require the permits to be renewed annually. We anticipate having more clarification from MDA regarding SLF permits later this year.

The second item is regarding a **one-time CRP bonus payment**. Details are in the MDA press release quoted below.

Maryland farmers who are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) with contracts due to expire on Sept. 30, 2021, now have the opportunity to transition to a 30-year contract option through the U.S.



Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative (CLEAR30). To encourage participation, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a one-time bonus payment of \$1,000/acre as an incentive for CLEAR30-approved contracts in Maryland. The CLEAR30 initiative provides an opportunity for Maryland producers to receive incentives for a 30-year commitment to water quality practices on their land, building on their original 10-to 15-year CRP and CREP contracts.

MDA's bonus payment of \$1,000/acre will be eligible on accepted CLEAR30 contracts **except for** grass waterways and contour grass strips.

Current CRP and CREP enrollees with contracts expiring before Sept. 30, 2021, must apply with a local [USDA Service Center](#) before **Aug. 6, 2021**. Farmers interested in MDA's \$1,000/acre signup bonus, should contact their [local soil conservation district](#) before **Aug. 6, 2021**.

"The benefits of CLEAR30 enrollment and the additional bonus payment from the department, makes this opportunity a win-win for Maryland farmers and the environment," said Sec. Bartenfelder.

For more information on CLEAR30, please visit the USDA Farm Service Agency [website](#). For questions or details on MDA's bonus payment, please contact Alisha Mulkey at alisha.mulkey@maryland.gov.

Until next time,
-Andy

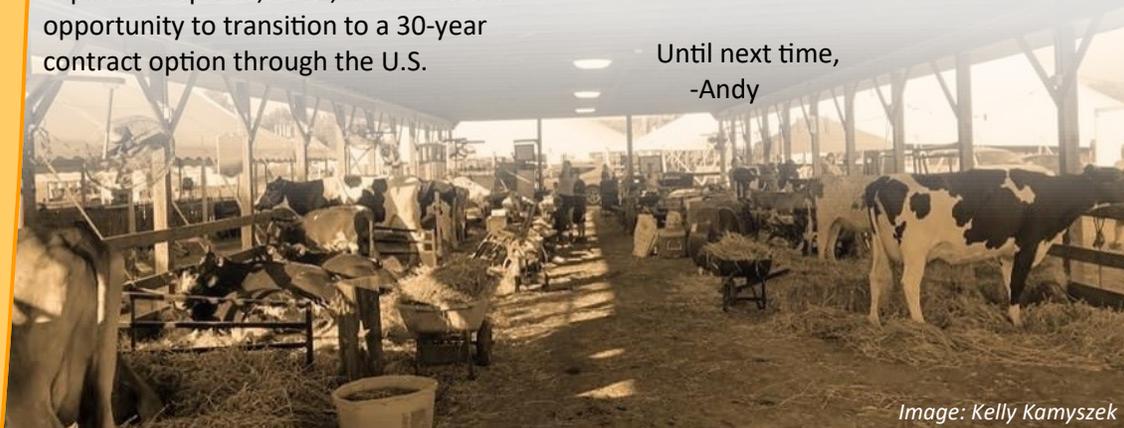


Image: Kelly Kamyszek

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

Before anyone panics, this disease has not been confirmed in Maryland; however, it is close by and could potentially spread to our state. As you're scouting fields this summer, keep this one in the back of your mind.

Tar spot is a fungal disease of corn caused by *Phyllachora maydis*. It was first discovered in the United States in 2015. In Latin America where tar spot is more common, another fungal species, *Monographella maydis*, is known to occur in complex with *P. maydis*; however, only *P. maydis* has been found in the United States.

The initial occurrence of tar spot in 2015 was limited to a couple of counties in Indiana, but by 2018 it had spread across much of the US corn belt and caused serious economic damage. In 2020, tar spot was confirmed in corn fields in Lancaster County Pennsylvania (Fig 1). We believe this large geographic jump came from variety trial seed contaminated with infected corn residue that was planted into variety trial plots.

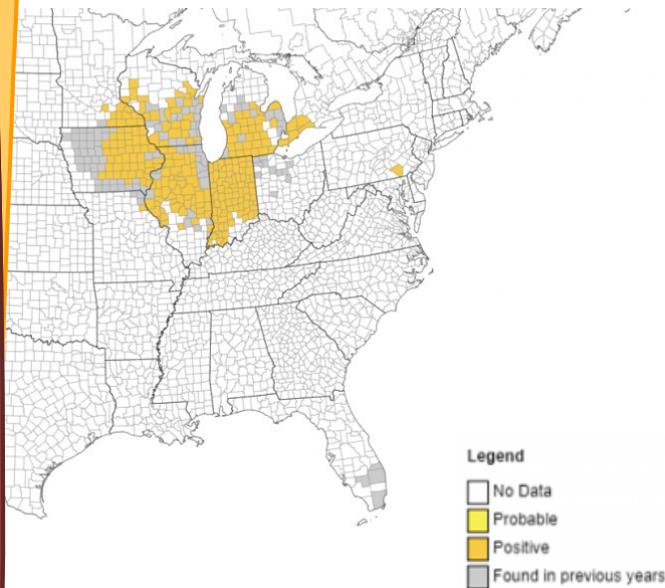


Figure 1. Map of tar spot in the United States after the 2020 growing season. Map generated from: <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/tarspot/>.

Primary symptoms of tar spot are the presence of glossy black, raised lesions on the leaves (Fig 2). These lesions look like someone splattered paint or tar on the leaves, hence the name. These symptoms have been observed to occur from VT to maturity. Lesions are also visible on dried plant parts.



Figure 2. Tar spot symptoms on a corn leaf.

The fungus that causes tar spot overwinters in infected corn residue; however, it is unknown how well, or if, this pathogen will overwinter here in Maryland or if this disease will be of any economic importance in this region.

Currently there are no management recommendations for this disease for our area, because as stated, it is yet to be confirmed in Maryland and unknown if it will be a problem. For the 2021 corn crop, be on the lookout for this disease in your corn fields, especially if you have any corn hybrid trials planted in your field. If you suspect you found this disease, please contact Andrew Kness (410-638-3255, akness@umd.edu) and we will work with you to confirm identification.



Soybean Field Day

Soybean Checkoff Research Field Day

August 11, 2021

Wye Research & Education Center



Maryland farmers and industry professionals are invited to join the Maryland Soybean Board on **August 11** at the Wye

Research and Education Center (124 Wye Narrows Dr, Queenstown, MD 21658) to learn about checkoff-funded research out in the field and enjoy a snakehead fish fry and barbeque dinner. Research to be featured includes a spray drone demonstration, use of forage soybeans to control deer damage, evaluation of growth-promoting projects, variety trials, cover crops, and weed management. CEUs are available. Although this is a free event, pre-registration is encouraged:

<https://msbfieldday2021.eventbrite.com>

August 11

2:30-8:00 PM

Wye Research & Education Center
Queenstown, MD

Agronomy

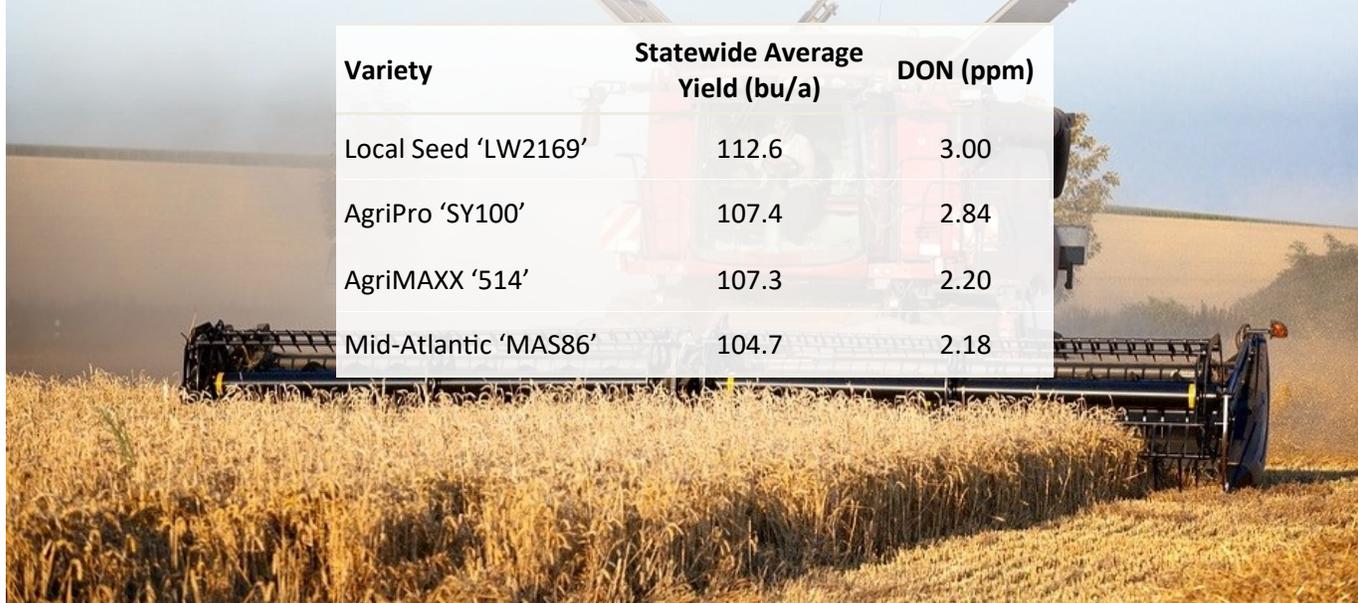
Small Grain Variety Trial Results

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

Results of the 2021 Maryland Wheat and Barley Variety Trials are now available. The trials evaluate wheat and barley yield, head scab/DON, and growth of select varieties planted across the state of Maryland. Data is used to help farmers and crop advisors select the best performing varieties. When picking varieties, remember to select varieties that have good yield stability and have good resistance to Fusarium head blight. Some of the top performers are in the table below.

An online copy of the report can be downloaded at <http://blog.umd.edu/agronomynews/2021/07/23/2021-maryland-small-grain-variety-trials/> or call the Extension office for a hard copy. For more information about how to interpret and apply variety trial data, consult this [fact sheet](#). For questions regarding the small grain trials, contact Dr. Vijay Tiwari (vktiwari@umd.edu) or Dr. Nidhi Rawat (nidhirwt@umd.edu).

Variety	Statewide Average Yield (bu/a)	DON (ppm)
Local Seed 'LW2169'	112.6	3.00
AgriPro 'SY100'	107.4	2.84
AgriMAXX '514'	107.3	2.20
Mid-Atlantic 'MAS86'	104.7	2.18



USDA [press release](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced loan interest rates for July 2021, which are effective July 1. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures, or meet cash flow needs.

Operating, Ownership and Emergency Loans

FSA offers farm ownership and operating loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers, whether multi-generational, long-time or new to the industry, obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation. FSA also offers emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. For many loan options, FSA sets aside funding for historically underserved producers, including beginning, women, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Hispanic farmers and ranchers.

Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for July 2021 are as follows:

- [Farm Operating Loans](#) (Direct): 1.875%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct): 3.250%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.500%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Down Payment): 1.500%
- [Emergency Loan](#) (Amount of Actual Loss): 2.875%

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.

You can find out which of these loans may be right for you by using our [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

Commodity and Storage Facility Loans

Additionally, FSA provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage facilities and purchase handling equipment and loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are low. Funds for these loans are provided through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and are administered by FSA.

- [Commodity Loans](#) (less than one year disbursed): 1.125%

- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#): Three-year loan terms: 0.375%; Five-year loan terms: 0.750%; Seven-year loan terms: 1.250%; Ten-year loan terms: 1.500%; Twelve-year loan terms: 1.750%
- [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](#) (15 years): 1.875%

Disaster Support

FSA also reminds rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small businesses affected by the year's winter storms, drought, and other natural disasters that USDA has programs that provide assistance. USDA staff in the regional, state and county offices are prepared with a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to residents, agricultural producers and impacted communities. Many programs are available without an official disaster designation, including several risk management and disaster assistance options.

Pandemic Support

Through September 1, 2021, FSA's Disaster Set-Aside provision is available to direct loan borrowers who have been impacted by the pandemic. This enables an upcoming annual installment to be set aside for the year and added to the final installment. For annual operating loans, the loan maturity date may be extended up to twelve months in order to set aside the installment. This provision is normally used in the wake of natural disasters, and a second Disaster Set-Aside may be available for direct loan borrowers who already have a DSA in place on a loan due to another designated natural disaster.

More Information

Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at fsa.usda.gov or by contacting your [local USDA Service Center](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

Equine Pasture Renovation Workshop

Is your horse dreaming of greener pastures? Learn how to renovate and restore your pastures and make those dreams come true!

University of Maryland Extension experts and guests from Maryland Soil Conservation will discuss topics including:

- Preparing ground before seeding
- Selection of seed varieties
- Planting options
- Management after seeding

This "walking and talking" event will be held at our Equine

Rotational Grazing Demonstration Site at 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Join us at 6:00 pm to check in. The program will run until 8:00 pm. Dress for the weather and be prepared to walk around our fields!

\$10 Registration is required. Click [here](#) for details or go to <https://go.umd.edu/equine-pasture-renovation>. For more information, contact Jennifer Reynolds, (301) 405-1547.

August 17

6-8:00 PM

Central MD Research
& Education Center
Ellicott City, MD

Small Ruminant & Pasture Field Day

August 12

Western MD Research
& Education Center
Keedysville, MD

The University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center will host a Small Ruminant & Pasture Field Day on Thursday, August 12, from 4 to 7 pm. The event is free

to attend, but pre-registration is requested by August 5. To register, go to <https://go.umd.edu/2021fieldday>.

Wagon tours will leave at 4:30 and 5:30 pm. Tour stops will include setting up a rotational grazing system, which forages to plant, managing seasonal fluctuations in forages, and an overview of the small ruminant research program. Refreshments will be available.

The research center is located at 18330 Keedysville Road,

Keedysville, MD 21756. Sheep and goat research has been conducted there since 2004. This year's research project is a pasture supplementation study with Katahdin ram lambs. It is funded by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. A separate Katahdin Day will be held on September 27 at the Washington County Ag Center.

The field day is sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, Future Harvest CASA, Northeast SARE, and the Maryland Grazers Network. For more information about the field day or small ruminant (sheep and goat) programs, contact Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu.

Beef Cattle Webinar: Fall Pasture Management

Join us for our new monthly beef cattle webinar series on the first Thursday of each month from 7:30-8:30 pm. During this session, we will discuss some things you can be doing this fall to enhance your pasture system.

This event is free, but you must register ahead of time in order to attend. Register online [here](#). If you have questions regarding this program, contact Sarah Potts, sbpotts@umd.edu.

August 5

7:30-8:30 PM

Online via Zoom



Sunburn In Fruiting Vegetables

Gordon Johnson, Fruit and Vegetable Specialist
University of Delaware

With the recent hot temperatures and more predicted, there is high potential for sunburn in fruits and fruiting vegetables. Growers may need to consider ways to protect against sunburn. Sunburn is most prevalent on days with high temperatures, clear skies and high light radiation. We commonly see sunburn in watermelons, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, apples, strawberries, and brambles (raspberries and blackberries).



G Johnson, University of Delaware

Figure 1. Sunburn necrosis and photooxidative sunburn on pepper fruit. Note secondary disease infections on damaged tissue.

There are three types of sunburn which may have effects on the fruits. The first, **sunburn necrosis**, is where skin, peel, or fruit tissue dies on the sun exposed side of the fruit. Cell membrane integrity is lost in this type of sunburn and cells leak their contents. The critical fruit tissue temperature for sunburn necrosis varies. Research has shown that the fruit skin temperature threshold for sunburn necrosis is 100 to 104°F for cucumbers; 105 to 108°F for peppers, and 125 to 127°F for apples.

The second type of sunburn injury is **sunburn browning**. This sunburn does not cause tissue death but does cause loss of pigmentation resulting in a yellow, bronze, or brown spot on the sun exposed side of the fruit. Cells remain alive, cell membranes retain their integrity, cells do not leak, but pigments such as chlorophyll, carotenes, and xanthophylls are denatured or destroyed. This type of sunburn browning occurs at a temperature about 5°F lower than sunburn necrosis. Light is required for sunburn browning. Fruits may be marketable but will be a lower grade.

The third type of sunburn is **photooxidative sunburn**. This is where shaded fruit are suddenly exposed to sunlight as might occur with late pruning, after storms where leaf cover is suddenly lost, or when vines are turned in drive rows. In this type of sunburn, the fruits

will become photobleached by the excess light because the fruit is not acclimatized to high light levels, and fruit tissue will die. This bleaching will occur at much lower fruit temperatures than the other types of sunburn. Damaged tissue is often white in color.

Genetics also play a role in sunburn. Varieties with darker colored fruit, those with more open canopies, and those with more open fruit clusters have higher risk of sunburn. Some varieties have other genetic properties that predispose them to sunburn; for example, some blackberries are more susceptible to UV light.

Control of sunburn in fruits starts with developing good leaf cover in the canopy to shade the fruit. Fruits most susceptible to sunburn will be those that are most exposed, especially in the afternoon. Anything that reduces canopy cover will increase sunburn, such as foliar diseases, wilting due to inadequate irrigation, and excessive or late pruning. Physiological leaf roll, common in some solanaceous crops such as tomato, can also increase sunburn.

In crops with large percentages of exposed fruits at risk of sunburn, fruits can be protected by artificial shading using shade cloth (10-30% shade). However, this is not practical for large acreages. For sunburn protection at a field scale, use of film spray-on materials can reduce or eliminate sunburn. These materials are kaolin clay based, calcium carbonate (lime) based, or talc based and leave a white particle film on the fruit (such as Surround, Screen Duo, Purshade and many others). There are also film products that protect fruits from sunburn but do not leave a white residue, such as Raynox. Apply these materials at the manufacturer's rates for sunburn protection. They may have to be reapplied after heavy rains or multiple overhead irrigation events.

While particle films have gained use in tree fruits, their usefulness in vegetables is still unclear. Research at UD and the UMD has shown reduced fruit disorders such as sunburn in peppers and white tissue in tomatoes when applied over those crops. Watermelon growers have used clay and lime-based products for many years to reduce sunburn in that crop in southern states.

There are some drawbacks to the use of particle films; there is added cost to wash or brush the material off at harvest. Where overhead irrigation is used, or during rainy weather, the material can be partially washed off of plants, reducing effectiveness and requiring additional applications. Buyers may also have standards relating to the use of particle films and may not accept products with visible residues.

HARFORD COUNTY LANDOWNERS

AG PRESERVATION SEMINAR

Explore the options for preserving your farmland & protecting your legacy

Saturday
August 21, 2021
8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Harford Community College
Chesapeake Center
401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air



TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Background on land preservation in Harford County
- Getting value for your land through conservation easements
- Legal and survey requirements
- Effects on property value and taxes
- Available programs to consider



BARRY GLASSMAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

QUESTIONS?

wdamoss@harfordcountymd.gov | 410.638.3235
jrwilson@harfordcountymd.gov | 410.638.3103 x1365

The Mill™ Save the Date
8/25/2021
CROP SHOWCASE



Education • Tours • Vendors • and more!



The Mill's Crop Showcase is celebrating 11 years of education, demonstration and fellowship for farmers at our annual event. Learn from leading industry experts and hop on a wagon for a tour across the farm to get the inside scoop on the various products, applications and technologies being studied this year!

Mark your calendars for a fun, educational day!

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and



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akness@umd.edu



Back-issues can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/harford-county/agriculture-and-nutrient-management>

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact your local University of Maryland Extension Office.

General Interest

UNIVERSITY OF
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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 05 Aug.** Beef Cattle Webinar Series: Fall Pasture Management. 7:30-8:30 PM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#).
- 11 Aug.** Soybean Twilight Tour. 2:30-8 PM. Wye Research & Education Center, Queenstown. Free. Register [online](#).
- 11 Aug.** [Women in Ag Webinar: Basics of Pond Management](#). 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).
- 12 Aug.** Small Ruminant & Pasture Field Day. 4-7 PM. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. Free. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767 x343.
- 17 Aug.** Equine Pasture Renovation/Establishment Workshop. 6-8 PM. Central MD Research & Education Center, Ellicott City. \$10. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-1547.
- 25 Aug.** The Mill Crop Showcase. Clear Meadow Farm, White Hall. Free. Register [online](#) or call 1-800-993-3300.
- 25 Aug.** [Women in Ag Webinar: Principles of Agronomy](#). 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).
- 26 Aug-06 Sept.** Maryland State Fair. Timonium, MD.
- 02 Sept.** Beef Cattle Webinar Series: Weaning Beef Calves—Reduce Stress and Build Immunity. 7:30-8:30 PM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#).

August 2021