UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Winter 2021

Allegany County Agriculture in Action

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Nutrient Management Corner

Get Ahead of the Game!

Beat the springtime rush to get your 2022 nutrient management plan by taking soil and manure samples now. Give Ashby Ruddle, our Nutrient Management Advisor, a call at 301-724-3320 to find out if you need new samples for your 2022 plan. You can also check your 2021 nutrient management plan to see which fields' soil tests are expiring in 2022. Soil tests are good for three years. If you apply manure and have under 20 animal units (20,000 lbs), no manure sample is required. In such cases, a book value for the manure analysis will be used. Ashby has already been busy this fall with writing plans for 2022.

Contact Ashby at the number above to get your 2022 plan started today!

Nutrient Management Voucher Training November 8, 6-8 pm, Constitution Park

This class is for Allegany farmers who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres of pasture or cropland. Nutrient Applicator Vouchers are valid for three years. In order to renew an applicator voucher, voucher holders are required to complete at least two hours of an MDA-approved educational program in nutrient application or management. If your voucher is due to expire in December 2021, this class is for you. Letters of invitation will be sent to those whose vouchers are expiring.

Please call Sherry Frick at 301-724-3320 to register.

Pesticide Safety Corner

EPA Takes Action to Address Risk from Chlorpyrifos and Protect Children's Health

In August 2021, EPA released a final rule revoking all "tolerances" for chlorpyrifos, which establishes an amount of a pesticide that is allowed on food. Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide, acaricide and miticide used primarily to control foliage and soil-borne insect pests. The agency will issue a Notice of Intent to Cancel under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to cancel registered food uses of chlorpyrifos associated with the revoked tolerances. Read EPA's press statement. Maryland banned the use of chlorpyrifos in 2021.

Bayer to Remove RoundUp from Lawn & Garden Market

Monsanto's parent company announced it will remove glyphosate-based products from retail store shelves by 2023 to prevent future litigation claims related to the chemical ingredient. The company will replace its Lawn & Garden market glyphosate-based products with new formulations that rely on alternative active ingredients beginning in 2023. According to Bayer, "This move is being made exclusively to manage litigation risk and not because of any safety concerns. As the vast majority of claims in the litigation come from Lawn & Garden market users, this action largely eliminates the primary source of future claims beyond an assumed latency period. There will be no change in the availability of the company's glyphosate formulations in the U.S. professional and agricultural markets."

Pesticide Private Applicator Recertification – November 18, 6-8 pm, Constitution Park

This class is for Allegany farmers who hold Pesticide Private Applicator certificates that will expire in December 2021. These certificates are valid for three years. In the last year of the current certification period, private applicators are required to attend 2 hours of recertification training. Letters of invitation will be sent to those whose certificates are about to expire. Please call Sherry Frick at 301-724-3320 to register.

Alternative Ways to Get Pesticide Recertification

A team of Extension agents from University of Maryland, University of Delaware, and Penn State have produced a workbook for applicators that do not have access to our virtual training materials. This workbook is intended to give Maryland Private Pesticide Applicators the recertification training (4 credits = 2 hours) needed to renew the applicator's license. Topics covered in this workbook are MDA-approved and are equivalent to two hours of in-person training needed every three years to renew your private applicator's license. This workbook is also approved for three (3) Delaware credits and two (2) core Pennsylvania credits. In order to receive credit you must complete the entire workbook. At the end of the workbook you will answer a 30-question quiz and return it to the Baltimore County Extension office. To order your free workbook, please call the Allegany County Extension office at 301-724-3320.

The second option for recertification is an online, self-paced module. Farmers can request access to the module here: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2aZCn9ezCcChoGh, or from the UME Pesticide page: https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/row-crop-forage-production/maryland-grain/pesticide-applicators. After completing the request form, you will be directed to a link where you can select videos to watch for credit. You must watch at least two hours of training videos and complete the quizzes embedded in the videos. Once you meet the requirements, an Extension agent will send your name to MDA so that CEUs can be applied to your account.

Stockpiling Pasture for Fall and Winter Grazing

Dr. Amanda Grev, Extension Specialist, Pasture and Forage

With August upon us, we may still be feeling the heat of the summer at the moment, but whether or not we're ready cooler temperatures are just around the corner and it's time to be thinking about winter feeding strategies. Using harvested forages for winter feed represents a substantial expense for livestock operations. For many grazing operations, stockpiling can be an effective strategy to extend forage resources further into the fall and winter season, reducing the costs associated with harvesting and storing feed and providing high-quality pasture for fall and winter grazing.

What is stockpiling?

The concept of stockpiling is simple. Rather than cutting, drying, and storing hay to feed over the winter, existing pastures are allowed to grow and accumulate forage in the field to be grazed by livestock in a later season. Under this management strategy, grazing animals are removed from pastures in late summer and forages are allowed to accumulate growth through the late summer and fall. The cool, late-season temperatures make it possible for the accumulation of high-quality forage even after an extended period of growth. This stockpiled forage is then available for grazing throughout the fall and winter months, reducing the costs associated with feeding stored feeds.

Which forages work best?

Although a number of different forages can be stockpiled, some forage species will hold their nutritional value longer than others in the winter months. Compared to other cool-season grasses, tall fescue is well adapted for stockpiling, as it has the ability to accumulate a substantial amount of fall growth and tolerate colder temperatures without losing quality. In addition, the waxy layer or cuticle on the leaves of tall fescue make the plant more resistant to frost damage or deterioration. Tall fescue also forms a good sod, making it more tolerant to foot traffic and minimizing impacts on its productivity the following season.

How is stockpiling accomplished?

Early August is the time to begin stockpiling for fall and winter grazing. To prepare for stockpiling, pastures should be grazed (or clipped) down to a 3 to 4-inch stubble height to ensure that the accumulated forage will come from new growth. After livestock are removed, 40 to 60 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer should be applied to stimulate additional regrowth and optimize forage accumulation and quality. The grasses should then be allowed to regrow until forage growth dramatically slows or ceases completely.

It should be noted that not all nitrogen fertilizers will be equally efficient when fertilizing pastures in the fall. In urea or urea-based fertilizers, the ammonia is volatile and a substantial amount of the nitrogen from these sources will be released to the atmosphere via volatilization when applied during the hot and humid days of late summer. To minimize this volatilization, these nitrogen sources should be applied immediately prior to a significant rainfall event. Ammonium nitrate is the most efficient source of nitrogen for stockpiling, but it is often more expensive than other sources.

Continued on next page.

Stockpiling Pasture for Fall and Winter Grazing *continued*

Will yield and quality be good?
Where tall fescue was successfully stockpiled, yields of 1 to over 1.5 tons of dry matter per acre have been documented. Higher yields will be achieved if nitrogen is applied immediately after the last cutting or grazing compared to pastures that did not receive fertilization or were fertilized later in the fall.

Forage quality of stockpiled tall fescue can be very good. Depending on the amount of nitrogen applied, fall-grown tall fescue can average 12 to 18% protein and can maintain good nutritional value throughout the fall season. Research has demonstrated that stockpiled tall fescue has sufficient quality to carry dry cows through the winter and could carry lactating beef cows into January without additional supplementation. However, the forage quality and digestibility of stockpiled forages is variable and will decline as growth accumulates, forages mature, and winter conditions continue. To confirm nutritional value, forage samples should be taken and analyzed to ensure the pasture is meeting the nutritional requirements of the animals utilizing it.

How to utilize stockpiled forage?
Stockpiled forage can be valuable under a variety of grazing methods, but forage utilization can be increased substantially by using improved grazing practices. If livestock are allowed to continuously graze the entire pasture with unrestricted access, efficiency will be lower and the potential grazing period will be shortened due to waste and trampling damage. To minimize waste and get the most from stockpiled forage, pastures should be either rotationally or strip grazed. Strip grazing is a management system that involves giving livestock a fresh area of pasture every day or every few days by moving a temporary electric fence in the pasture. This method limits the area available for grazing, helping to increase pasture carrying capacity and maximize forage utilization.

Summary
Removing livestock and fertilizing pastures or hayfields in late summer will allow forage growth to be stockpiled for late fall and winter grazing. Utilization of stockpiled pasture is an economically-advantageous management strategy that will extend the grazing season, minimize winter hay feeding and stored feed requirements, and provide high-quality forage without negatively impacting the persistence of forage stands.

Cattle Tales Livestock Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter is focused on bringing timely, relevant information to Maryland's livestock producers. You can view the most recent issue and past issues here https://extension.umd.edu/resource/cattle-tales-livestock-newsletter.

You can also subscribe to the mailing list.

Fall Armyworm Alert: Scout Sod and Pastures!

Kelly Hamby, Extension Entomology Specialist, University of Maryland | kahamby@umd.edu and
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Exerpt:
A fall armyworm outbreak is occurring throughout Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio. In early September we received a report of armyworm damage to sod from Maryland's Eastern Shore as well as residential lawns in Lewes, Delaware. This appears to be one of the most significant armyworm flights in many years. Scout turf, sod, pasture grasses, any late sweet corn that has not yet headed, and when the time comes, small grain and cover crops. Females lay egg masses containing between 50 and 200 eggs, meaning damage can be localized and intense and that it does not take many moths to infest a field. It is important to catch an infestation as early as possible. Larvae consume 80% of their total intake during the last three days of larval development. Often, it is during this period or just after larvae have finished that damage is noticed, occurring seemingly overnight as if an army had stripped the field. It takes about 14-19 days for larvae to mature.

Although fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is a native pest to North America and a chronic pest in the southeastern US, reports of fall armyworm activity and outbreaks are unusually high this year. There are numerous reports of heavy fall armyworm activity coming out of Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and other states. In Maryland, there have been cases reported across much of the state so far, including Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Calvert, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St.Mary's, and Washington counties. Weather conditions have allowed fall armyworm to flourish this year, so producers are encouraged to be on the lookout for potential problems.

Fall armyworm larvae may range in color from light green to almost black, with several stripes along the body. The head of the fall armyworm is marked with a light-colored, inverted Y-shape. This "Y" distinguishes the fall armyworm from other armyworm species. Fall armyworm damage is most likely to occur from August through October when populations are at seasonal highs. Droughty conditions are often favorable for the fall armyworm because many of their natural enemies are less active during droughts. Fall armyworms can be found up until the first killing frost although the risk of damage declines as it gets cooler.

The economic threshold for fall armyworms is typically 2-3 caterpillars per square foot. If you find three or more armyworms per square foot, an insecticide treatment or early harvest may be warranted. There are numerous insecticides that can be used for controlling fall armyworm caterpillars in forages, but rates and restrictions vary by crop so be sure to carefully read pesticide label restrictions by crop and take note of any grazing or harvest restrictions. Some insecticide options may include products containing pyrethroids, chlorantraniliprole, methoxyfenozide, spinosad, or carbaryl. Note that control of larger larvae is less effective with pyrethroids and is sometimes difficult with any insecticide. The label will have a recommended range for application rates; use higher rates when the grass is thick, when fall armyworm populations are high, and when caterpillars are larger. If possible, try to apply insecticides later in the day to coincide with the time when fall armyworm are more active and increase the probability of them encountering a lethal residue.

Harvesting the field for hay is also an option and can be an alternative to insecticides. The harvesting process will kill some caterpillars directly, and others will die from exposure to the high soil surface temperatures after harvest. However, mowing needs to be done as soon as possible and surviving fall armyworms will continue to feed so the faster the hay can be raked and baled the better.
To see this September 2021 article in full, please visit
https://extension.umd.edu/resource/agronomy-news-september-2021

USDA Extends Deadline to Apply for Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers with Animal Losses

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16, 2021—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional time for livestock and poultry producers to apply for the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP). Producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing may now apply for assistance for those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals through October 12, 2021, rather than the original deadline of Sept. 17, 2021. PLIP is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

"Livestock and poultry producers were among the hardest hit by the pandemic," said Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "We want to ensure that all eligible producers have the opportunity to apply for this critical assistance. The October 12 deadline also aligns with the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 deadline."

PLIP provides payments to producers for losses of livestock or poultry depopulated from March 1, 2020 through December 26, 2020, due to insufficient processing access as a result of the pandemic. Payments are based on 80% of the fair market value of the livestock and poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animal. Eligible livestock and poultry include swine, chickens and turkeys.

PLIP payments are calculated by multiplying the number of head of eligible livestock or poultry by the payment rate per head, and then subtracting the amount of any payments the eligible livestock or poultry owner has received for disposal of the livestock or poultry under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or a state program. The payments will also be reduced by any Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 1 and 2) payments paid on the same inventory of swine that were depopulated.

Eligible livestock and poultry producers can apply for PLIP through the October 12, 2021 deadline by completing the FSA-620, Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program application, and submitting it to any FSA county office. Additional documentation may be required. Visit https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/plip for more information on how to apply.

Additional Pandemic Assistance
Other programs within the Pandemic Assistance for Producer initiative with upcoming deadlines include:

October 12 - Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2, which provides critical support to agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions.
October 15 - Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers, which provides financial relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19.

To learn more about USDA's commitment to deliver financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers and businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions, visit https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance.

Input Needed on Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Maryland Agricultural

Josh Bollinger, University of Maryland

At the direction of the Maryland State legislature, the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology (Hughes Center), Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) are working together to create a process and strategy to develop a Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Maryland Agriculture. Input from Maryland farmers and representatives of agriculture entities is needed to inform this statewide effort.

The Chesapeake Bay region is the third-most vulnerable area in the U.S. to sea-level rise. Maryland is experiencing warmer nighttime temperatures, changes in precipitation, the emergence of invasive species and pests, and other climate-induced adverse conditions. These have the potential to significantly affect agriculture, its economic state, and the communities that rely on the sector.

The last climate vulnerability assessment performed for Maryland was completed in 2010 and focused on the state as a whole rather than specifically on agriculture. However, climate science has advanced to the point where it is now possible to develop mitigation strategies for farmers experiencing impacts to their productions caused by climate changes.

The current phase of this assessment includes outlining the process to develop a Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Maryland Agriculture. The vulnerability assessment will inform the subsequent development of adaptation strategies for Maryland agriculture in the face of climate-induced impacts and increase agriculture's resilience to extreme weather events. This state-level assessment can enable a more focused examination of Maryland agriculture's unique assets and the challenges the state's farmers and foresters face in a changing climate.

Input from producers, who are on the front line of changing conditions, is needed to ensure that the vulnerability assessment is properly designed. Producers and agricultural stakeholders can provide input via a survey at https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/QRKpZxJ

Advanced Grazing Workshop

In-person at WMREC, October 14-15, 8 am – 5 pm

Registration Information:
go.umd.edu/advancedgrazing

This advanced grazing workshop will dive deeper into the principles behind grazing practices and increasing farm profitability, giving you the tools and insights you need to improve your business.

USDA Introduces New Insurance Policy for Farmers Who Sell Locally

USDA has a new insurance option for agricultural producers with small farms who sell locally. The Micro Farm policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products. It is offered through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of $100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of $125,000 or less.

For more detail visit: https://rma.usda.gov/News-Room/Press/Press-Releases/2021-News/USDA-Introduces-New-Insurance-Policy-for-Farmers-Who-Sell-Locally?utm_campaign=insuranceplan&utm_content=newplan&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

2021 Maryland Average Pasture Land Rental Rates $53 per Acre

Maryland saw a 4.85% increase in average non-irrigated cropland cash rent, going from $98/acre in 2020 to $103/acre in 2021 (figure 3). Average irrigated cropland increased by 1.52% in 2021, going from a $194/acre average in 2020 to $197/acre average in 2021. Average pasture land cash rents were up 9.43% in Maryland in 2021, going from $48/acre in 2020 to $53/acre in 2021.

For more information on Maryland and Delaware cash rental averages, see Paul Goeringer's blog https://www.agrisk.umd.edu/post/nass-releases-delaware-and-maryland-statewide-cash-rental-rate-averages-for-2021 Paul is a University of Maryland Agriculture Legal Specialist.