

Farm News

Winter 2022

January

Inside this issue:

Up Coming Events	2-8
MDA Certified Local Farm Program	9
New "Micro Farm" Insurance Policy	9-10
Aflatoxin Testing Available	10
Evaluation of Hot-Set Tomatoes Cultivars	10-13
St. Mary's County Nutrient Management Program Updates	14
Attached Fliers	15-22

Greetings Southern Maryland Farmers—

It's time to say goodbye to 2021 and prepare anew for the next growing season. Each year brings forth its very own blessings and challenges. As for 2021, we experienced a decent growing season. We finally had a more normal weather pattern, with the 2021 annual total rainfall recorded in Mechanicsville coming in at 47.44 inches, which is very close to the 46.97 inch historical average. Rainfall was above average during summer months and below average during fall months. Prices and yields were both high for grain crops—something we rarely experience. Demand has remained strong for local food products including fresh market vegetable, fruits and livestock. 2021 presented a number of challenges as well—first and foremost, we had to say an unexpected goodbye to too many farm friends. The cost of doing business continues to rise and unavailability of growing supplies continues into 2022. COVID-19 is still wreaking havoc on the world with a new variant Omicron spreading quickly through our communities.

However, as with every year, the days will steadily grow longer and temperatures higher as the earth prepares for the next trip around the sun. Seed catalogs litter kitchen tables as we decide the best varieties to plant for next year. The first seedlings of 2022 have already begun to sprout in greenhouses. The well of optimism runs full as a new season of renewal and regeneration will soon be upon us.

Grain prices continue to trade favorably with December corn trading at \$5.50, November soybeans trading at \$13.00, and July wheat trading at \$7.50. Of course, input prices also continue to rise. Fertilizer specifically has risen to record highs with Nitrogen around \$1 per pound and Potash around 65 cents per pound. There are also widespread shortages of glyphosate (Roundup) and glufosinate (Liberty). Other crop protection products may also be limited as well. I suggest talking with your distributor now to begin making plans for next season. I also suggest talking with your crop insurance agent and reviewing policies. In this region, we are always only a week away from drought in the summer. High grain prices do not do you much good if you do not have any grain to sell, and with the price of inputs, this is lining up to be a risky season.

While on the subject of herbicides, remember that new rules are now in place for the use of paraquat. As required by product labels, certified applicators must successfully complete an EPA-approved training program before mixing, loading, and/or applying paraquat. The training provides important information about paraquat's toxicity, new label requirements and restrictions, and the consequences of misuse. I am incorporating the required training and exam into the pesticide recertification training that is offered each fall and spring. You may also take the training and exam online at this link: <https://npsec.us/paraquat>. In addition, all new Paraquat sold in containers less than 125 gallons in size will be fitted with a closed handling system.

Southern Maryland farmers now have a new option for managing annoying soil borne pests. A group of local farmers invested in a Sioux SF-50 Soil Steamer and will be providing custom soil steaming services. Steaming is an effective option for managing soil diseases such as Verticillium Wilt, Fusarium Wilt, Timber Rot, Southern Wilt, Fusarium Crown Rot, Bacterial Wilt, Corky Root Rot, nematodes, and weed seeds. The technology is approved for organic farms. The unit can typically steam 1000 square feet at a time. A standard 30' x 96' high tunnel requires three lengthwise passes to complete. For more information, see the attached flier.

Finally, this time of year, your So MD Extension Agents are thinking up new trials and on-farm experiments. So far, we have a number of on-farm trials planned including a second year hot set tomato variety trial, hightunnel artisan tomato trial, continued herbicide trials for palmer amaranth and ragweed management, and a grafted watermelon spacing and pollinizer study. If you have something you would like to try on your farm please give us call. Ben



UME St. Mary's County
26737 Radio Station Way, Suite E-2
Leonardtown, MD 20650
TE: 301-475-4484

UP COMING EVENTS

Announcing the Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference



Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Calvert County Fairgrounds Banquet Hall

140 Calvert Fair Dr., Prince Frederick, MD 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Catered Lunch includes Fried Chicken and All the Fixing's

Be sure to make plans to attend the 2022 So MD Hay and Pasture Conference. We have a great line up of speakers to tackle the latest challenges in forage production.

Registration fee for the Southern Maryland conference will be \$15 per person by January 10th and \$20 after the 10th. Checks should be made payable to University of Maryland and sent to Hay & Pasture Conference, University of Maryland Extension, PO Box 663, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (phone: 301-475-4484).

Attendance at this program will also fulfill the requirements for Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification and Nutrient Management Voucher Training.

If you need special assistance to participate in the Forage Conference, please contact Ben Beale, University of Maryland Extension, (301) 475-4484, by January 10, 2022.

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

In case of inclement weather, a message with the status of the meeting will be available at 301-475-4484.

Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference

UNIVERSITY OF
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Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Calvert County Fairgrounds Banquet Hall
140 Calvert Fair Dr
Prince Frederick, MD 20678 - registration \$15



NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ATTENDING _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Southern Maryland Forage Conference Program Agenda

January 18, 2022

**Calvert County Fairgrounds Banquet Hall
140 Calvert Fair Dr., Prince Frederick, MD**

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. *Registration, refreshments, visit exhibits*
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. *Moderator Welcome*
Moderator: Ben Beale, Extension Educator, UMD Extension, St. Mary's Co.
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. *Frequently Found Forage Fertility Problems in So MD*
Alan Leslie, Extension Educator, University of Maryland Extension Charles Co.
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. *Break*
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Weed Control in Hay and Pasture Systems*
Dave Myers and Ben Beale, Extension Educators, UMD Extension, Anne Arundel and St. Mary's Co.
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. *Improving Soil Quality and Organic Matter in Grazing Systems*
Charles Sasscer III, Extension Educator and Marketing Specialist, UMD Extension, Extension Prince Georges Co.
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Words from the Maryland Delaware Forage Council*
Amanda Grev, Member of Board of Directors-MDFC
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. *Lunch- Fried Chicken and all the Fixing's*
- 12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. *From Seed to Harvest- BMP's to Optimize New Forage Stand Production*
Dave Myers and Ben Beale, Extension Educators, UMD Extension, Anne Arundel and St. Mary's Co.
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. *Tall Fescue Management to Mitigate Toxicosis*
Amanda Grev, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Maryland
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Pesticide Recertification and Nutrient Voucher Required Topics*
Southern Maryland Ag Agent Team, University of Maryland Extension

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The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Annual Maryland's Best Expo January 19, 2022

10am – 2pm at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in the Banquet Room in Annapolis, Md.

The meeting is designed for Maryland growers, seafood companies, producers, and processors interested in selling their products to buyers from grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools and other venues.

Who should attend this event:

- A Maryland farmer, seafood producer, or processor interested in finding new markets for your products (Depending on the product, it must either be grown or produced in Maryland)
- A buyer from a grocery store, restaurant, hospital, school, or other venue looking to purchase Maryland grown or produced products
- A service provider in agriculture and local food such as a county extension agent, food writer, etc.

There is no fee for Buyers or Ag Services Providers to attend.

January 19, 2022— 10 am to 2 pm Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium N Room (Club Banquet Room) 511 Taylor Ave. Annapolis, MD 21401

Please pull in gate 5 off of Taylor Ave. and park near Gate C or D. To get to the banquet room enter the stadium at Gate C. Parking will be \$5.

For questions contact Karen Fedor at karen.fedor@maryland.gov or 410-841-5773.

Seafood producers contact Stone Slade at: stone.slade@maryland.gov

Buyers register for FREE here: [Buyer Registration Link](#)

Growers, artisan food companies and seafood companies register here: [Exhibitor Registration Link](#) Extension, media etc. register here: [Others Registration Link](#)



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For Immediate Release

Date: December 20, 2021

Maryland-Delaware Forage Conferences

University of Maryland Extension, University of Delaware Extension, and the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council invites forage producers, grazers, livestock owners, and associated industry personnel to attend the upcoming Maryland-Delaware Forage Conferences in January 2022.

For 2022, the conferences will use a hybrid format with two in-person and two virtual options. Conference dates and locations are as follows:

- Southern Maryland: January 18th from 9 AM to 3 PM in Prince Frederick, MD
- Central Maryland: January 19th from 9 AM to 3 PM in Middletown, MD
- Virtual: January 25th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM online via Zoom
- Virtual: January 27th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM online via Zoom

The featured speakers for the virtual conference sessions include Dr. Jessica Williamson with AGCO Corporation, speaking on '*Round Bale Silage Management for Optimizing Yield and Quality*'; Tom Kilcer with Advanced Ag Systems, speaking on '*Male Sterile BMR Sorghum: A Breakthrough Energy Forage Replacement for Corn Silage*'; and Dr. Greg Halich with the University of Kentucky, speaking on '*Bale Grazing: Feeding Hay the Easy Way*'. Other topics for the virtual sessions will include livestock selection for grazing systems, tips for working with your processor, and a direct marketing panel with discussion on labeling guidelines and successful marketing strategies.

Topics for the in-person conferences will include soil fertility and strategies for dealing with high fertilizer prices, improving soil quality and organic matter in grazing systems, a systems approach to limiting feed costs, and pesticide and weed management updates.

Participants are welcome to join for one or more sessions. Registration is required to attend, and CCA, Nutrient Management, and Private Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered at each session. For additional details and registration information, please visit <https://www.foragecouncil.com/event>. If you have questions or need assistance or accommodations please contact your local county Extension office or Amanda Grev at agrev@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 x339.

Whether you decide to join us in-person or virtually, we hope to see you in January!

Maryland Grape Growers Conference January 19-20, 2022 8:45-4:00pm Online via Zoom

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: \$50-\$80. Price differs for early registration and members.

Topics to Include:

- Vineyard Site Selection
- Vineyard Economics
- Cultivars and Establishment Considerations

- Understanding Vineyard Soils

- Grapes Diseases

- Spotted Lanternfly

- Grower Panel

- ...and more!

Register: <https://go.umd.edu/MGGA>.

Private Applicator Training January 20th at the Charlotte Hall Library, 5-7 pm

A note about pesticide recertification. If your license expired in December of 2021 and you do not yet have credits, please plan to attend one of the upcoming recertification courses. There are many options this year. First option to attend the pesticide recertification class on January 20th from 5-7 pm in the Charlotte Hall Library. Other options include attendance at the So MD Hay and Pasture Conference or the So MD Fruit and Vegetable Conference or a virtual meeting. Third, you may watch recorded modules through the UME Pesticide Safety and Training webpage to earn credits. You may watch these recorded talks at anytime online. Finally, a group of Educators has created a hardcopy workbook that you read, complete a quiz and then return for credit. You may call any Extension office for a free copy of the workbook. For more information on the pesticide training options visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pesticide-safety-and-training>

Remember that even though you may have the credits necessary to renew your license, you must still pay MDA your \$7 renewal fee. You should have gotten an email and/or postcard from MDA with instructions on how to do this. If you didn't receive this correspondence, then call MDA Pesticide Regulation at (410) 841-5710. You can also call MDA to request a written renewal form in the mail if you do not have internet access.

Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Meeting Thursday, February 10, 2022

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting on February 10, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Baden Volunteer Fire Department. This meeting will provide Private Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification.

Speakers will provide IPM updates and present on a broad range of production topics. Also at this meeting sponsors will showcase their products and services, and state vegetable organization leaders will be present to recruit and answer your questions.

Registration is required. There is a \$15 fee payable at the door. Participants may be required to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

Register on-line for this event at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county> or call the St. Mary's County Extension office at 301-475-4482.

Seating may be limited for on-site participation due to University of Maryland COVID 19 meeting rule compliance.

See the attached meeting flier for full program details.

Live Online Sessions Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification April 5, 2022

If you would like the opportunity to learn from home, yet still be engaged, then be sure to enroll in this **Live Online Private Pesticide Recertification Training**, scheduled for **from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.**

The session will focus on pesticide use and related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This ZOOM recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. ZOOM is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a live ZOOM session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.



Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation. **Registration is required by April 4th** in order to receive ZOOM login instructions.

Register on-line for this event at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county> or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Live On-Line Sessions Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification April 19, 2022

If you would like the opportunity to learn from home, yet still be engaged, then be sure to enroll in the **Live Online Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification Training**, scheduled for **from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2022.**



This session will focus on fertility and production related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This ZOOM recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. ZOOM is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a live ZOOM session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation. **Registration by April 18th is required** in order to receive ZOOM login instructions.

Register on-line for this event at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county> or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Virtual Winter Production Meetings

Unable to attend our in-person winter production meetings? UME will be hosting several statewide virtual meetings. The meetings will serve as recertification for Maryland private pesticide applicators, Maryland nutrient voucher, and offer recertification credits for Pennsylvania and Delaware pesticide applicators.

Agronomy Meeting

February 3, 2022 | 10:00am-2:30pm

Register here: <https://go.umd.edu/virtualagronomymeeting>

Vegetable Grower Meeting

February 8, 2022 | 4:00pm-8:30pm

Register here: <https://go.umd.edu/virtualvegetablemeeting>

Fruit Grower Meeting

March 1, 2022 | 8:30am-1:00pm

Register here: <https://go.umd.edu/virtualfruitmeeting>

Forage Conference

January 25 & 27, 2022 | 9:00am-12:15pm

Register here: <http://go.umd.edu/virtualforageconference>



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CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Check out the Cultivating Conservation Workshop Series. Offered in-person from January to June in 2022 around the State of MD and DE. They are FREE and open to all!

Federal programs can be complex to navigate, especially for beginning farmers or individuals who have not established a relationship with the sponsoring agency. "Cultivating Conservation for Maryland and Delaware's Small and Historically Underserved Farmers" will target historically underserved groups to increase their knowledge of conservation practices and programs. The course will cover an overview of conservation practices, available conservation programs provided by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and other agencies, understanding of application processes, eligibility, and contractual agreements, and how conservation projects can fit into an overall farm plan.

The University of Maryland Extension and Agriculture Law Education Initiative team, in cooperation with University of Delaware Extension, Maryland and Delaware NRCS, and Soil Conservation District field offices, will deliver education and outreach through classroom and hands-on experiences and tours of conservation offices.

The program will provide six hours of classroom instruction and will occur during evenings or weekends. It is free and open to anyone interested in adopting conservation practices on their farm. Meals and handouts are included. To register visit <https://go.umd.edu/bfsconservation>.

Locations:

Lower Eastern Shore Maryland

January 18, 25 and February 1, 2022

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Somerset Extension Office, 30730 Park Dr, Princess Anne, MD 21853

Children welcome, activities for ages 5+

Baltimore City

March 12, 2022

9:00am - 3:00pm

Baltimore City Extension Office, 6615 Reisterstown Road, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21215

New Castle County, Delaware

March 22 and 24, 2022

5:30pm - 8:30pm

New Castle County Extension Office, 461 Wyoming Road, Newark, DE 19716

Southern Maryland

June 9 and 23, 2022

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Charles Soil Conservation District Office, 4200 Gardiner Rd, Waldorf, MD 20601

This project is funded through the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant. The program is open to all if you need special accommodations.

MDA Certified Local Farm Program

The recently established Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program (CLFEP) spearheaded by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is one effort that will encourage state agencies, including public four-year universities, to achieve an overall goal of purchasing 20% of their food from MDA's directory of certified local farm enterprises.

A certified local farm enterprise is one that meets specified nutrient management requirements in current Maryland law and is certified by MDA. The program regulations are currently in development but scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2021. Meanwhile, MDA has started compiling the [Certified Local Farm Enterprise Directory](#) to help state purchasers connect with qualifying producers.

To register your farm as a Certified Local Farm:

- Register. Complete the [short online application](#) – you can also fill it out by hand, just print the [online form](#) and mail it to MDA. NOTE - starting in December, the application will be available only via [Maryland OneStop](#).
- Farm verification. MDA will verify that you have a nutrient management plan. Out-of-state producers, who may not be required by their state law to have a plan, can still qualify for the directory if they can provide proof that they satisfy the program's nutrient management plan requirements.
- Certification. Producers will receive notification that their farm is certified once the nutrient management plan is verified. Contact information, list of products, and certification number will be placed in the certified local farm enterprises public directory for state agencies to access. MDA will ask for updates to directory information once a year.
- What is the cost to become a Certified Local Farm Enterprise? There is no cost to become a Certified Local Farm Enterprise.

Anyone with questions can reach out to the CLFEP Director Karen Fedor by Phone: (410) 841-5773; or email, karen.fedor@maryland.gov For additional information, visit the program's [web-site](#).

New “Micro Farm” Insurance Policy

Agricultural producers with small-scale farms who sell locally can now get simplified insurance coverage through a new policy designed for their needs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed the new Micro Farm policy, which simplifies recordkeeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products.

Micro Farm is offered through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and is geared to local producers. Details include:

Eligibility: *Micro Farm* 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. The increase in allowable revenue for a carry-over insured will allow for some farm growth in subsequent years before they become ineligible for the program. RMA's research showed that 85% of producers who sell locally reported they made less than \$75,000 in gross sales.

Coverage Levels: All coverage levels will be available to producers using *Micro Farm*. This will enable producers to purchase the 80% and 85% coverage levels without providing additional paperwork.

Underwriting and Recordkeeping Requirements: *Micro Farm* minimizes underwriting and recordkeeping requirements, and producers will not have to report expenses and individual commodities.

Post-production Revenue: Producers can include post-production activities as revenue, such as washing and packaging commodities or value-added products like jam.

Micro Farm is available for the 2022 crop year. Sales closing dates are Jan. 31, 2022, Feb. 28, 2022, or March 15, 2022, depending on the producer's county. Producers with crops insured under another crop insurance policy or a vertically integrated operation will not be eligible. This new policy derived from research directed by the 2018 Farm Bill, and it includes feedback from producers who grow for their local communities. [See the full report.](#)

Specialty and Organic Crops: The *Micro Farm* policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers. This includes WFRP, which provides coverage for producers with larger operations that may not be eligible for *Micro Farm*. RMA recently made [improvements to WFRP](#) as part of a broader set of [new policies and expanded policies](#) to assist specialty crop and organic producers.

More Information: Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). If you have difficulty finding an agent, contact your [RMA Regional Office](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

Aflatoxin Testing Available

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is once again partnering with University of Maryland Extension offices to provide free aflatoxin testing to Maryland farmers impacted by the wet growing season. Aflatoxin and other mycotoxins such as fumonisin and vomitoxin (DON) are produced by fungal ear rots. The incidence of these rots in corn has been greater this year due to the wet growing season and prolonged wet harvest. If you have corn or other grain that you are feeding to livestock and wish to have the sample tested, please contact your local Extension Agent for instructions on how to submit a sample.

Evaluation of Hot-Set Tomato Cultivars to Fill the Summer Slump in Southern Maryland

Ben Beale, Extension Educator, St. Mary's County

Alan Leslie, Extension Educator, Charles County

During the 2021 growing season, we trialed 13 cultivars of tomatoes (Table 1) that show promise to set fruit in high temperatures during hotter summer conditions present in Southern MD (Fig. 1). The trial also included standard varieties for comparison purposes. This year, tomato trials were also located on 10 cooperating farms in St. Mary's and Charles Counties as well as a formal replicated field trial at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center-Upper Marlboro Facility (CMREC). Cultivars under trial are listed in the table below. Transplants were set in the field between the first and third week of June depending on trial location, with the CMREC site planted on June 3. Most plants were up to the fourth string by mid-July with harvest of first fruit just beginning by early August. Temperatures in the three weeks prior to first harvest reached well into the upper 90's. The goal of this trial is to find some new cultivars that will perform well during the traditional summer slump, where pollination and fruit set suffer from high heat in other varieties.



Figure 1. Example of tomatoes under trial (variety: Roadster).

Table 1. Cultivars evaluated in the 2021 trial. Asterisk () denotes that these varieties are currently recommended for commercial production in MD.*

Cultivar	Seed Company Description
Red Deuce*	Extra-large fruit for early vine ripe harvest. High-yielding producer of smooth fruit. A good fit for fresh market with its solid, meaty interior, and good color.
Red Mountain*	Produces smooth fruit on a compact plant with good cover. A clean fit for the second early slot, shows excellent quality from one pick to the next.
Red Morning*	Red Morning tomato plants produce early maturing, large red round fruit on improved determinate plants that offer good cover. Great yields of high quality large fruit. The deep red fruit have smooth shoulders and exceptional quality. Resistant to V, F 1, 2 and tomato Mosaic Virus. Intermediate resistance to Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus.
Scarlet Red*	Scarlet Red is a fresh market shipper tomato with great flavor. Here we offer a fresh market shipper with the firmness and fruit quality of Florida 47R, but with a much improved flavor. Scarlet Red is a high yielding tomato produced on a vigorous determinate plant. Its extra-large fruit have a deep red color, a scarlet red interior, and excellent firmness and shelf life. Scarlet Red works well for either mature green or vine ripe harvest, and your customers are delighted with its improved eating quality over others in this class.
Roadster	Roadster (STM2261) is a high quality determinate salad variety featuring a combination of early maturity and extra-large size. Fruit are an attractive red, very firm and smooth shouldered with good flavor. Suited for both mature green and vine ripe markets. The plants are medium tall and benefit from light pruning. Roadster has a concentrated set and very high yield potential.

Red Snapper	Red Snapper is a versatile and adaptable determinate salad variety. Fruit are an attractive red color, firm and have a good shelf-life. It is suited for both mature green and vine ripe markets. The plants are medium tall, have mid cover and benefit from pruning. Red Snapper has a more manageable plant than most hot set commercial varieties with good fruit set potential.
STM 2255	STM2255 is a very versatile and adaptable determinate salad variety with high yield potential and good vine-ripe flavor. Fruit are an attractive red color, firm and have a good shelf-life. It can be used for both mature green and vine ripe markets. The plants are medium tall, have mid cover and benefit from pruning. STM2255 has potential to be used in multiple slots and regions across the eastern USA.
Bejo 3437	Bejo-3437 is a high eating quality/high yield variety that works great as a gas green in Florida fall/winter but has great roadside vine ripe potential in the Mid-Atlantic region. Size on 3437 is a bit smaller (Lg-XI on first set then Md-Lg up the plant) than some of the other varieties, but is comparable to Roadster. Highest yielding cultivar in 2020 Cornell trials.
Camaro*	Camaro produces early maturing, extra-large and firm red globe shaped fruit, on mid-compact determinate plants. Setting and size is good through the plant with final yield potential being high. Due to the plant habit, pruning is either unnecessary or should be low. The deep red fruit have smooth shoulders and perform well for both vine-ripe or for mature green gassing.
Grand Marshall*	Grand Marshall is a vigorous hot set variety with extra-large and large fruit that are firm, deep oblate shaped, on medium strong to strong vigorous determinate plants. Yield potential is high. Pruning is beneficial and at a low to medium level. The deep red fruit have smooth shoulders and perform well for both vine-ripe or for mature green gassing. Grand Marshall has good performance under hot conditions and often when bacterial pressure is present.
Rambler	Rambler is an adaptable, high-quality determinate salad variety featuring high yield potential of jumbo and extra-large fruit. Fruit size, color, quality and firmness is excellent. Suited for both mature green and vine ripe markets. The plants are medium-tall and benefit from light to no pruning.
Bejo 3345	Consistent through multiple harvests. Firm with great eating quality. Dual purpose that will hold for the shipper market and roadside stands. Crimson genes. Performs well in the open field with high stakes and in high tunnels/greenhouses for extended harvest.
XTM 5187- Thunderbird	Thunderbird is an improved quality, high yielding hot set determinate round variety with a strong plant and good general disease resistance. The plants have a good balance of cover and ease of harvest. Fruit are extra-large in size, very firm, with good shelf-life. The color is deep red and part of the Sakata high color range. Thunderbird is a dual-purpose variety with both vine-ripe and mature green potential.

At the CMREC site, harvest was carried out from the first week of August through the second week of September, with a total of seven harvests. Plants were grown following the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Production Recommendations Guide, and received weekly fertilization injected through drip irrigation under plastic mulch and weekly preventive fungicide sprays. Figure 2 shows the total marketable yield across all varieties tested, with the current standard varieties grown in Southern Maryland highlighted in orange. Several varieties on test outperformed both standard varieties, and among them only Grand Marshall is currently recommended for commercial production in MD. Figure 3 shows the average fruit size of all varieties on test, and shows that the two varieties commonly used for mid-season field production in Southern MD account for the largest (Red Deuce) and smallest (Red Mountain) varieties tested. All other varieties have average fruit sizes that fall between these two. Other parameters measured include fruit quality and plant growth and vigor. Additional results from the initial year of the study will be made available at local Extension vegetable production meetings, and a full report will be available after next year's field season.

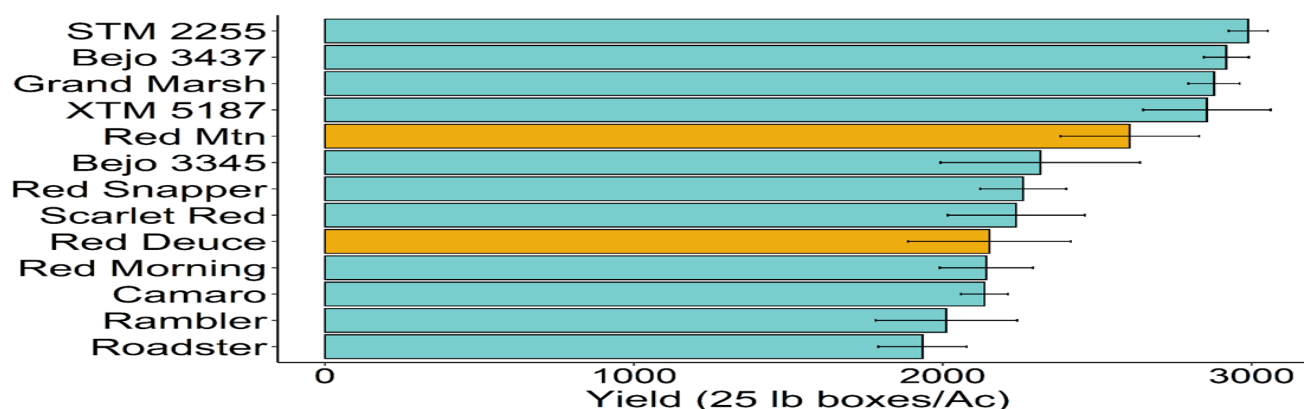


Figure 2. Average total yield of the 13 tomato varieties tested at the CMREC site in 2021. Varieties highlighted in orange are current standards for mid-summer field production in Southern Maryland.

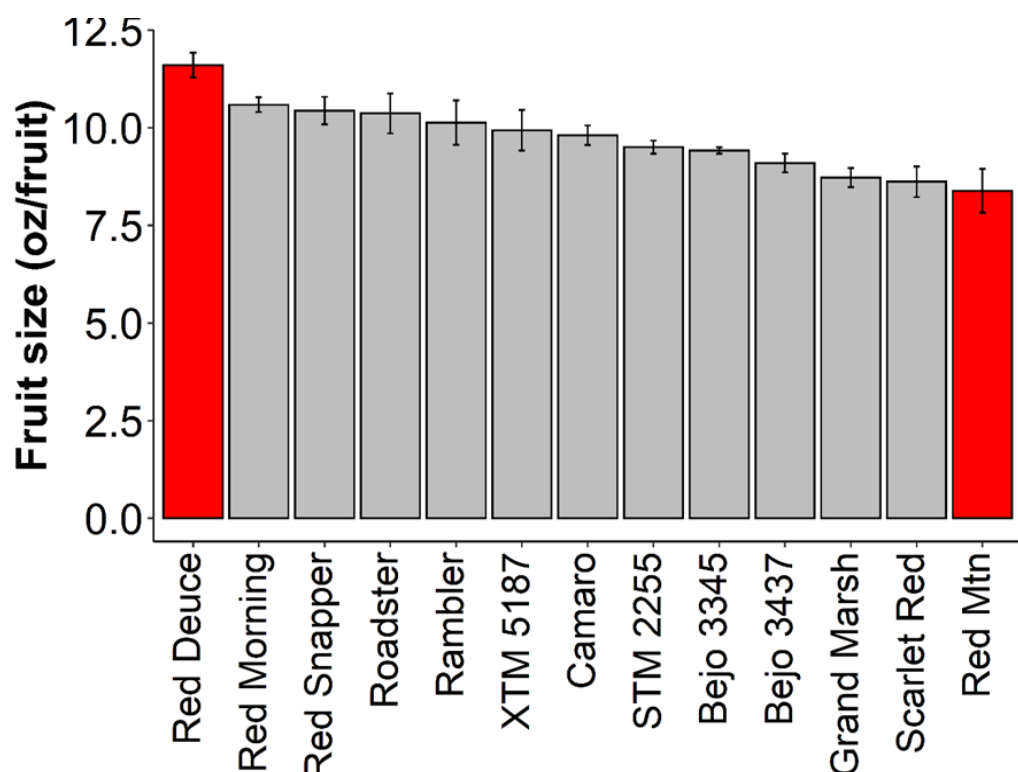


Figure 3. Average fruit size of different tomato cultivars in 2021 trial. Bars highlighted in red are current standards for mid-season field tomato production in Southern MD.

This project is planned to be repeated again next season, and we will again be recruiting local farmers to grow these different varieties on-farm for evaluation. As a part of evaluating these varieties, we are interested in learning the opinions of local farmers on how these varieties perform compare to some of the typical varieties planted for mid-season production. Extension will provide transplants of each variety free of cost to participants, and tomatoes are to be grown, harvested, and sold according to your typical production practice; no special protocol needs to be followed. We would only ask participants to fill out a survey questionnaire on the quality of each variety, and allow us to rate the plants at one point during the summer. If you are interested in participating in the 2022 trial, contact Alan Leslie at (301) 539-3055 or aleslie@umd.edu.

[http://extension.umd.edu/
st-marys-county](http://extension.umd.edu/st-marys-county)

**All the best for a
Productive
Year**



Benjamin E. Beale, Extension Educator
UME – St. Mary's County
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Greg Simpson
Nutrient Management Advisor
UME—St. Mary's County

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UME – St. Mary's County

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UME – St. Mary's County

UME St. Mary's County
26737 Radio Station Way,
Suite E-2
Leonardtown, MD 20650
TE: 301-475-4484

St. Mary's County Nutrient Management Program Update

Snow on the ground and colder temperatures is a sure indication that it is time to get your nutrient management plans in order for the coming spring. Plans should be completed prior to the application of nutrients which may begin on March 1st. This means it is crunch time here in the nutrient management office and to help the plan development process run as smoothly as possible you should be prepared to provide the following information: current soil analyses (within 3 years), manure analyses for farms with more than 20,000 lbs. of live animal weight, types and numbers of livestock, records of organics applications for 2021 (including manure, compost, Bloom, etc.), and intended crop plan for 2022. Plan information may be provided in person at the Extension office or emailed to simpsong@umd.edu.

Nutrient management plans are required for all farming operations that have a gross annual income greater than \$2,500 and/or 8,000 lbs. or more of livestock. If you are unsure whether you need new samples or would like soil sample bags, lab submittal forms, etc., you can give me a call at 301-475-4480 or send an email to simpsong@umd.edu.

On the Lighter Side...

Farmer Giles is so interested in conserving energy, he built a pig-powered car.
He has to get rid of it, though. Every time he turns a corner, the tires squeal

What do you get when a chicken lays an egg on top of a barn?
An eggroll!

Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the utter side!
Why did the rooster cross the road? To prove it wasn't chicken!
Why did the horse cross the road? To visit his neighborhood!
Why did the farmer cross the road? To get all of his animals back!

Why shouldn't you tell a secret on a farm? Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears!

Sponsors

Prince George's County
Soil Conservation District

Charles County
Soil Conservation District

Southern Maryland Agricultural Development
Commission (SMADC)

Anne Arundel County
Soil Conservation District

Kirby Agri

St. Mary's County
Soil Conservation District

J. David Mullinix & Sons, Inc.

A.A. Co. Farm, Lawn & Garden Center, LLC

Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau

NetGlo

Registration

Ticket Fee: **\$15.00.**

Please register online at the Anne Arundel Extension Website Upcoming Programs Section: [Click Here](#) or by calling your local Extension office no later than February 8, 2022 to ensure lunch availability. Tickets will be held and paid for at the door. Thank You.

Anne Arundel County Extension Office
97 Dairy Lane
Gambrills, MD 21054
410 222-3906

Calvert County Extension Office
30 Duke Street, Room 103
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410 535-3662 or 301 855-1150

Charles County Extension Office
9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 119
La Plata, MD 20646
301 934-5403 or 301 753-8195

Prince George's County Extension Office
6707 Groveton Drive
Clinton, MD 20735
301 868-9366

St. Mary's County Extension Office
P. O. Box 663
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301 475-4482



Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Meeting

Thursday, February 10, 2022

**Baden Fire Hall
16608 Brandywine Road
Brandywine, Maryland 20613**



University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

7:30 a.m. Doors Open

8:00 a.m. Visit Sponsor Displays
Enjoy Coffee & Doughnuts



8:45 a.m. Welcome & Thank You Sponsors and Partners

9:00 a.m. Trellised Cucumbers
Dr. Alan Leslie
Extension Ag Educator
Charles County
University of Maryland

9:30 a.m. Hot Set Tomatoes
Mr. Ben Beale
Extension Ag Educator
St. Mary's County
University of Maryland

10:00 a.m. Watermelon and Pumpkin Weed Management
Dr. Kurt Vollmer
Extension Weed Specialist
WYEREC
University of Maryland

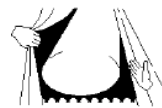
10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. North East Urban Farm Survey Results
Ms. Neith Little
Extension Urban Ag Educator
Baltimore City
University of Maryland

11:15 a.m. Choosing the Right Fruit Cultivar
Dr. Haley Sater
Extension Ag Educator
Wicomico County
University of Maryland

11:45 Sponsors Recognized

Noon Lunch & Visit Sponsor Displays



1:00 p.m. Farm Stress Management
Ms. Shannon Dill
Extension Ag Educator
Talbot County
University of Maryland

1:30 p.m. Canopy and Weather Strawberry Disease Management
Dr. Mengjun Hu
Fruit Pathologist
PSLA
University of Maryland

2:00 p.m. Biostimulants in Vegetables
Dr. Jerry Brust
IPM Vegetable Specialist
CMREC
University of Maryland

2:30 p.m. Vegetable IWM with Cover Crops and Plastic
Dr. Dwayne Joseph
Postdoctoral Associate
Entomology Department
University of Maryland

3:00 p.m. Food Safety Program Update
Ms. Carol Allen
Agent Associate Food Safety
PSLA
University of Maryland

3:30 p.m. Nutrient Management & Pesticide Law Update

4:00 p.m. Adjourn & Visit Sponsors



Remember to Sign Pesticide Recertification & Nutrient Management Rosters and Complete the Meeting Survey



PRODUCE SAFETY TRAINING

Brought to you by the Maryland Food Safety Network



Food Quality Assurance Program



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION



PLANT SCIENCE FOOD SAFETY GROUP

WHY

- Learn about the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) regulations and how they apply to your operation.
- This class is a one time federal requirement for farmers growing fresh produce.

INCLUDES

- Course Materials (Produce Safety Rule Grower Training Manual v1.2)
- PSA/AFDO Certificate of Course Completion (attendance for all modules required)
- Light breakfast and lunch

SIGN UP

CONTACT BEN BEALE, St. Mary's Co. Extension

Call: [301 475-4481](tel:3014754481) Email: bbeale@umd.edu

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://saintmaryMDfoodsafety.eventbrite.com>

*Participants may be encouraged to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. Seating may be limited for on-site participation.

WHEN

**Thursday,
February 17,
2022**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

WHERE

**St. Mary's County
Extension Office**

**26737 Radio Station Way,
Leonardtown, MD, 20650**

COST

\$25

Funding for this series of work described in this article is supported by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award U2FFD007444 totaling \$523,497 with 100 percent funded by FDA]/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by FDA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



Save the Date!

Farmers' Market Managers and Farmer Vendors

Register now for Free Upcoming Workshops

The University of Maryland Extension - Maryland SNAP-Ed Program, in partnership with the Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) is offering free workshops for farmer vendors and for market managers.

Learn about:

- Best practices in food safety for farmer vendors and farmers' market managers
- Marketing and promotion techniques to increase healthy food access, and farmer and market revenue

Participants can receive free resources to support best practices learned in the workshop:

- Farmers Market Food Safety Compliance Kit that includes signage, checklists, and more!
- Portable handwashing stations are also available for markets that did not receive one in 2021
- MD SNAP-Ed e-resources to make healthy food access changes at markets and at vendor booths

Registration is required for these free workshops - please click on a link below to complete the registration and save your spot for a market manager or a farmer vendor session.

- **Market Manager Workshop** - pick the day/time that works best for you - 2 options to choose from:
 - January 19, 2022: 10 am - 12 pm - Click to register [here](#)
 - February 9, 2022P: 7 pm - 9 pm Click to register [here](#)
- **Farmer Vendor Workshop** pick the day/time that works best for you - 2 options to choose from:
 - January 31, 2022: 10 am - 12 pm - Click to register [here](#)
 - February 16, 2022: 7 pm - 9 pm - Click to register [here](#)

After registering for one of the free workshops, you will receive a confirmation email containing information to join the meeting. Workshops will be live, interactive sessions and will not be recorded. Anyone with questions about attending a training may contact Lynn Rubin Traversa, MD SNAP-Ed Healthy Food Systems Coordinator lrubin@umd.edu



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**AGRICULTURE LAW
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**
MPOWERING THE STATE

Put the Natural Power
of Steam to Work for
You

Increase Yields
Decrease Labor

Control Of:

Verticillium Wilt

Fusarium Wilt

Timber Rot

Southern Wilt

Fusarium Crown Rot

Bacterial Wilt

Corky Root Rot

Nematodes

Weed Seeds

Approved for Organic Farms

We Come to You! Will
Travel to VA, MD and
Southern PA

Custom Soil Steaming
for Your Farm
Operation

You supply the water--
we do all the rest

Contact us for an estimate
today:

Write to:

Loveville Steaming Service
25964 Loveville Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Loveville Soil Steaming Service

Rid Your Hightunnel of
Persistent Pests in One
Easy Step



Using a Sioux SF-50 Trailable
Steaming Unit

More about our service:

We use a Sioux SF-50 Steamer. The unit is trailered with 12V controls, gas powered pump and diesel fuel burner. All we need is a supply of water when operating to replenish water lost to steam.

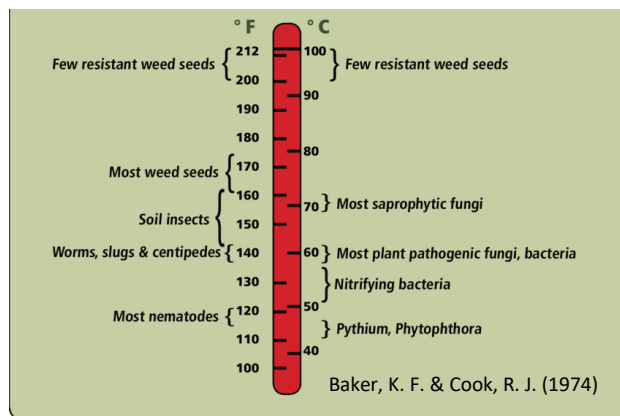
We typically steam 1000 sq feet at a time. A standard 30' x 96' high tunnel requires three lengthwise passes to complete. The steam time depends on the final desired temperature and soil depth. We typically steam for three hours to bring the soil temperature to 180 degrees for 30 minutes at six inch depth. Steaming time can be adjusted based on your preferences and target pests.

The soil should be tilled before steaming. We prefer the soil on the drier side with no clumps. We will provide all needed material for steaming including labor, tarp, steam sock, weighted chains, etc.

After contacting us, we will provide an estimate of the job cost based on estimated job time and travel cost.

We encourage farmers to work together in an area to steam multiple tunnels at once to decrease travel costs. Each job will be different but average cost for a standard tunnel is 30-35 cents per square foot plus travel cost.

After steaming, care should be taken to limit soil disturbance and not bring in new soil or weed seeds.



Recommendations from University of Maryland Extension

- General recommendation is to steam to a temperature of at least 160°F at the 6-inch soil depth for at least 30 minutes.

- Weed seeds can be controlled by steaming until the top 2 inches of soil reaches 180°F. Soil borne diseases such as fusarium crown wilt, southern bacterial wilt, timber rot, and nematodes can remain viable deeper in the soil. Thus, we recommend steaming to the rooting depth (6-8 inches) for control of these pests.
- Steaming only controls pest present in the soil. Pests that move in air currents and can be reintroduced, such as many insects; some diseases such as leaf mold, leaf spots, timber rot; and wind borne weed seeds will not be controlled. Steaming will eliminate the inoculum present in the soil.
- Practice good sanitation of the greenhouse structure, plastic, and stakes for control of diseases like bacterial spot and TMV.
- If possible, prepare beds beforehand and limit disturbance after steaming.
- Plan for an immediate release of nitrate nitrogen and a reduction in potassium soon after steaming. Adjust your fertility program accordingly and take tissue test during the growing season.
- Steaming in the fall or winter and allowing soil to rest for 1-2 months may avoid some of the fertility issues.
- Adding a clean compost after steaming may increase microbial activity, though our experience indicates no reduction in yield and a return to full biological soil health soon after steaming.

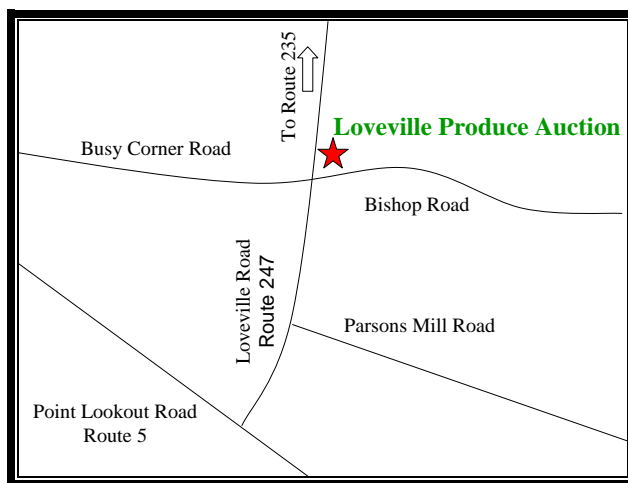
For technical information on steaming, contact:

University of Maryland Extension
St. Mary's County
301-475-4484
bbeale@umd.edu

SELLER RULES

1. A permanent grower's number is required.
2. Seller must fill out consignment forms, listing seller number, name, address and type of items and quantity to be sold.
3. Seller will tag individual lots with tags provided by Loveville Produce Auction stating the seller number, item and quantity. **Each box must have Traceability Label attached.**
4. Unloading of produce is responsibility of GROWER/SELLER. No unloading on Sundays.
5. Payment period runs from Monday to Friday with checks available at the auction on the following Friday. There will be a \$10 charge on reissued lost checks. There will be a \$1.00 a day charge on small lots.
6. Any misrepresentation of produce will be cause for adjustment.
7. Selling of produce on grounds by the auction ONLY!
8. Produce of inferior quality may be rejected by the Loveville Produce Auction.
9. Standard uniform boxing required.
10. Out of Tri-County area consignors with permission only.
11. Produce raised in Tri-County area will be sold first.
12. 9% commission charged on all sales.
13. SELLER may not bid or declare "no sale" on their own produce.
14. By requesting GROWER/SELLER number, SELLER agrees to these terms and conditions.
15. Merchandise left on premises is subject to become Loveville Produce Auction property 30 minutes before next sale.

We are located at
40454 Bishop Road
Loveville, Maryland



Driving Directions from the North: Take Maryland Route 5 South to St. Mary's County. At the Route 5/235 split, bear right to continue on Route 5 for approximately 5 miles. Turn left onto Loveville Road/Route 247. Travel approximately 0.8 miles and turn right onto Bishop Road. The Loveville Produce Auction is approximately 0.1 mile on your left.



LOVEVILLE PRODUCE AUCTION



Fresh Produce Picked Daily

2022

Located at 40454 Bishop Road
Loveville, Maryland

Mailing address:
Loveville Produce Auction
25641 Lone Spruce Lane
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

February 2022						
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Auction sales scheduled to begin
Mondays at 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Small Lot Auction to begin ½ hour
after regular auction starts.

Special Auctions scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

Craft Auction - Saturday, April 30

Pumpkins Galore – Wednesday, September 28

Annual Buyer/Grower Meeting to be held on
December 9th – 9 am
at Dove Point Variety
25120 Dove Point Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

BUYER RULES

1. Cash or pre-approved checks only.
2. BUYER is to pay in FULL on day of auction.
3. A buyer's number must be obtained before bidding. Regular buyers will be given a permanent number.
4. Inspection of produce prior to purchase is responsibility of BUYER.
5. BUYER is responsible for produce after purchase.
6. BUYER agrees that Loveville Produce Auction serves as an agent of the seller only and is not responsible for accident, injury, or inferior products.
7. NO SALE OR RESALE OF PRODUCE ON GROUNDS, EXCEPT THROUGH THE AUCTION.
8. Any adjustments for produce rejected must be transacted prior to produce leaving Loveville Produce Auction.
9. ALL produce will be sold in the quantity stated on the tag of that lot. Splitting lots is managers' decision only.
10. By requesting BUYER number, BUYER agrees to these terms and conditions.
11. Merchandise left on premises is subject to become Loveville Produce Auction property 30 minutes before next sale.
12. No loading on Sundays.

