



# MOUNTAIN TOP AG NEWS

*"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace." Aldo Leopold*

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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.*

## APPALACHIAN GRAZING CONFERENCE 2022

The Appalachian Grazing Conference is set to be held March 10-12, 2022 at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place Hotel. The theme of this year's conference is "Managing Water and Grasslands". This conference is held every two years and offers informative presentations and demonstrations to farmers with cattle, goats, and sheep. Participants hear from America's leading speakers on strategies designed to increase their profits.

With so many informative presentations about livestock and forage management strategies to increase profits, the 2022 Appalachian Grazing Conference is an opportunity that Appalachian livestock producers should not miss! There will be presentations of interest to those with cattle, goats and sheep. The event has a reasonable registration fee of only \$200 which covers all materials, meals and breaks.


The Thursday afternoon tour will visit two commercial cow/calf

operations in Harrison County. Both operations have a focus to develop a totally forage-based commercial beef management system. The tour will begin at 12 noon with the loading of the bus at the Waterfront Marriott Hotel and conclude with dinner at 6 p.m., returning to the Hotel at 7 p.m. Cost of the tour is \$35 and covers the meal and the tour. Space is limited to 45 participants.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Greg Judy. Greg and Jan Judy of Clark, Missouri, run a grazing operation on 1,620 acres of leased and owned land. Greg and Jan went from near bankruptcy in 1999 to paying off a 200-acre farm and house in 3 years with custom grazing on leased land and are completely debt-free. They own four farms and lease 12 farms. They graze cattle, hair sheep, guardian dogs, and also sawmill and grow shiitake mushrooms.

For more information please visit [www.wvagc.com](http://www.wvagc.com) or contact Jim Foster at [farmerjim85@yahoo.com](mailto:farmerjim85@yahoo.com) or 304-349-4985.

## Private Pesticide Applicator Test Training



Farmers that apply restricted-use pesticides are required to have a Maryland Private Applicators License. The Private Applicator Licenses allow farmers to apply restricted-use pesticides to property that they own or manage for the purposes of farming. To obtain a Private Applicator License, farmers must pass the Private Applicator Maryland exam and apply for the licenses. A training will be held on January 31st from 6:30-9:30 pm at the Garrett County Extension Office. Study materials are also available (cost of \$16) at the Extension office or online (free) at <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/MD%20Core%20Manual.pdf>. The test will be given by MDA in Garrett County later in the winter or early spring. If you plan to attend the training or would like study materials, please contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE RENEWAL

For anyone that currently holds a Maryland Private Applicator license, you need to renew your license once every three year. All licenses expire on December 31st. Check your license to see what year it expires. To renew your license you need to acquire 4 credits (30 minutes per credit) of approved continuing education. To obtain the continuing education you can attend in person meetings, complete online webinars or complete a written workbook. (See box to the side for more details on each of these.) Once you have completed the training you will need to complete the online renewal or request a paper renewal form. Post cards will be sent in the fall with instructions on how to complete the renewal online. If you do not wish to complete the renewal online (requires email and payment online), contact the Extension Office or MDA and a paper renewal form can be sent. Either method will require you to pay the \$7.00 fee. If you have any questions about renewing your license, contact the extension office at 301-334-6960.

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*"Agriculture is the most healthful,  
most useful and most noble  
employment of man."*

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### IN PERSON MEETING

- Feb 15 - Southern States Agronomy Meeting
- Feb 16 - David N Yoder Crop Meeting
- December 2022 – meeting will be held in Oakland and Grantsville for renewal

### ONLINE WEBINARS

[https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2aZCn9ezCcChoGh](https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2aZCn9ezCcChoGh)

You will complete a request form then watch 2 hours of webinars with embedded questions. Those will be submitted to MDA and a paper renewal form will be issued.

### PAPER WORKBOOK

Call the Extension Office and request the workbook. The workbook will be sent through the mail. Complete the workbook and mail to the address provided. You will receive a paper renewal form in the mail.

## VIRTUAL VEGETABLE & FRUIT MEETING

There will be 2 opportunities to participate in the MD statewide virtual grower meetings. Follow the links below for the meeting you are interested in attending:

Vegetable meeting is Feb. 8, 2022 from 4-8:30 pm:

<https://bit.ly/3fNVWjy>

Fruit meeting is March 1, 2022 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm:

<https://bit.ly/3KtIEYO>

## UNIVERSITY OF MD EXTENSION VIRTUAL AGRONOMY MEETING

University of Maryland Extension will host a statewide Virtual Agronomy Meeting on February 3, 2022. The meeting will begin at 10 am and participants must register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m6a23>. Topics will include weed management, fungicide use on corn and soybeans, soil fertility and variety trial data. The meeting will offer complete re-certification credits for Maryland and Pennsylvania private pesticide applicators and Maryland nutrient management voucher.

## NUTRIENT APPLICATOR VOUCHER RENEWAL

Farmers that apply nutrients in the form of fertilizer and manure to 10 or more acres are required to hold a Nutrient Applicator Voucher from the Maryland Department of Agriculture. To obtain a voucher or renew a Nutrient Applicator Voucher an individual must attend a two hour MDA approved training. The voucher is good for 3 years. Voucher can be renewed at in person crop meetings (see in person meeting dates above) and through online webinars. To complete the online webinars go to <https://bit.ly/33zDp8c> and complete the survey then watch 2 hours of nutrient management webinars answering the embedded questions. The completed webinar info will be sent to MDA who will issue a new or renewed voucher. If you have any question call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## Selling Farm Products to the Public?

If you are selling farm products or services to the public, or have an Agritourism enterprise, or just want to get the word out about your agribusiness, you need to get listed or update your listing on [www.GarrettFarms.org](http://www.GarrettFarms.org). Just go to the website and check the "Farms A-Z" page to see if you're already listed. If not, or if you are listed and the info needs updated, send the information to Melissa Bolyard at: 301-334-7285, or [mbolyard@garrettcountry.org](mailto:mbolyard@garrettcountry.org)

IT IS FREE!!

## GARRETT CO. FORESTRY BOARD SCHOLARSHIP

The GCFB will award a scholarship of \$250 to a Garrett County resident student pursuing a degree in a forestry or natural resource related field. You may be attending any college/university/technical school, as long as you are a resident of Garrett County and pursuing a degree in a natural resources field. Applications are due by March 1 and selection will be made by mid-April. Download application at:

<https://gcforestryboard.wixsite.com/gcfb/scholarship>.

## IN-PERSON AGRONOMY MEETINGS

Two in person Agronomy Meetings will be held this winter. The first is being sponsored by Southern States Oakland Cooperative on February 15th at the Pleasant Valley Community Building from 9:30am to 2:30pm. If you plan to attend this meeting please call the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960 or Oakland Southern States at 301-334-3121. The second meeting will be held at the Springs Community Building in Spring, PA and is being sponsored by David N Yoder on Wednesday, February 16th from 9:00am to 12:30pm. If you plan to attend this meeting please call David at 301-895-4056. Both of the agronomy meetings will provide credits for Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification Credits and nutrient management credits toward both the Nutrient Management Voucher and Nutrient Management Consultant re-certification. If you have any questions about these meetings please contact the Extension Office.

## TRACTOR SAFETY & OPERATION TRAINING

University of Maryland Extension will be offering a National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) training this summer. Dates and times will be set once interested individuals contact the Extension Office. In 1968, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was amended by the Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture establishing the age of employment in agriculture as 16 years of age or 14 years of age with special training. Part of the hazardous operations includes operating a farm tractor over 20 horsepower. The NSTMOP training would qualify youth ages 14 & 15 to operate equipment on farms owned and operated by someone other than their legal guardians. The training is a combination of classroom instruction and operation of tractors and farm machinery. Anyone 13 years and older (adults are welcome) would be eligible to attend the training. Anyone interested please call the Extension Office for additional information.



### FFA NEWS

The Southern High School Greenhouse is planning for a Spring Plant Sale. Hanging baskets, bedding flowers, herbs, and vegetable plants will be available. Plants are raised and cared for by the Plant Science class. All funds raised from this plant sale are directly used to help fund and support the agriculture program at Southern High School. This year the greenhouse will be opening on Monday, May 2nd. Hours of operation will be Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00 PM and Saturdays 8:00-12:00 PM. Questions can be directed to Ms. Bethany Meyers through email at [bethany.meyers@garrettschools.org](mailto:bethany.meyers@garrettschools.org).

## DEEP CREEK FARMERS MARKET

A new farmers market is coming to Garrett County in 2022! The goal of this market is to serve all Garrett County residents and visitors alike, and specifically the Deep Creek Lake area. The founding Board of Directors is currently finalizing the location of this new market, but it has been determined that it will be located along the 219 corridor in the McHenry area.

The Board is now seeking new vendor applications. This market is open to vendors of all varieties, from farmers to crafts-persons, to community organizations. Farms will be prioritized as vendors, but all potential vendors are encouraged to apply. This vision for this market is to create a fresh, casual and fun "destination" and experience for customers.

The market will take place on Friday evenings from 3-7pm, and will begin on Memorial Day weekend

(June 3rd, 2022), and continue until Labor Day weekend (September 2nd, 2022) at a minimum, at which point it may be extended if a majority of vendors agree to continue into the Fall.

Vendors can choose to pay ahead to set up for the whole season, or select specific dates that they would like to attend, and pay on a week-to-week basis. Regular attendance is encouraged for all vendors, especially while the market gets established in its first year. The application can be found [HERE](#) or you can email [deepcreekfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:deepcreekfarmersmarket@gmail.com). Please direct all questions to the above email address, or contact Allison Boyd at 508-631-5531.

Be sure to follow and like Deep Creek Farmers Market on social media (Facebook & Instagram).



## OFFICIAL ROLL OUT OF WATER-WISE

Water-Wise is a voluntary conservation landscape certification program that allows property owners to be recognized for implementing best management practices on their landscape. This program was brought to Garrett County in 2019, but due to pandemic restrictions, no sites have been certified. University of Maryland Extension is partnering with Garrett College CEWD, Garrett County Government Dept. of Planning & Land Management, and the Garrett County Forestry Board. Landowners that participate can help reduce pesticides, improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and much more! You just need 36 inches (or points) on the Water-Wise yardstick to qualify. Master Gardeners visit your site and certify it, after which time, you will receive a small metal sign to display. A free, virtual informational session is planned for March 8 at 12:30pm and is being advertised on social media and through Garrett College CEWD online catalog.

Additional classes are being offered to discuss how to get your property ready for certification through Garrett College Continuing Education and Workforce Development. Classes are scheduled for 6pm on the dates listed below and cost \$10 per class.

**March 17, 2022**

### **Water Wise: Manage your Landscape by Planting Wisely**

Placing the "right plant in the right place" will not only help the plant to thrive and reach its full potential, it will also help prevent it from causing you unnecessary stress with gardening chores. Grouping plants based on their moisture, sunlight, and maintenance needs help create a unique habitat and healthy ecosystem in your landscape. The Maryland Department of Agriculture states that lawn fertilizer accounts for approximately 44 percent of the fertilizer sold in Maryland. Excess fertilizer application can create salt problems in the soil, affect winter hardiness, exaggerate pest problems, and make plants grow excessively (more mowing). Fertilize only as needed based on soil test recommendations to avoid over-fertilizing. Nitrogen and Phosphorus are two nutrients found in most fertilizers that can leach out of soil, wash off landscapes and pollute water sources.

**April 14, 2022**

### **Water Wise: Techniques to Control Stormwater Runoff and Manage Your Water**

This course will cover some landscape practices that reduce the quantity and improve the quality of water that leaves the landscape. By slowing down the water and cleaning it up before it exits, overall water quality can be improved. Water runoff often has soil particles and pollution, such as debris, fertilizer, and pesticides, which can harm living organisms, habitats, and water

quality. Waterfront properties include small streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes and owners of these gems have a unique opportunity to maintain these fragile ecosystems that need special management considerations so that these waterways can increase quality of life for people, animals, and plants.

**May 19, 2022**

### **Water Wise: Do's & Don'ts with Composting, Mulching, and Lawn Care**

This course will dive into the composting process. Discuss the importance of mulching to help retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperature, prevent erosion, and stop weeds from germinating. We will also spend some time talking about proper lawn care maintenance.

**June 2, 2022**

### **Water Wise: Balancing Inputs in Your Landscape Can Help Attract Wildlife**

Wildlife thrives on native plants. Provide adequate food, water, and shelter to increase the amount and type of wildlife species that visit your yard. Take this course to learn more about creating habitat to welcome many different forms of wildlife. Integrated Pest Management is a comprehensive process used to manage pests. It involves an understanding of the life cycle of the pest, other organisms, (like beneficial organisms, our pets and ourselves) and the effects of a pesticide on all of these things. When confronted with a pest problem, consider all possible options for control before using a pesticide. Pesticides should be used sparingly. Remember the label on the pesticide container is the LAW. It must be followed correctly and strictly. The pest or problem you are treating for must be listed on the label.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nutrient Management planning for 2022 is well underway. Producers will need to have a current soil test (every 3 years) and manure samples (every year) if applying manure. Producers will also need to update their crop rotation plan for 2022. There has been a change in the price of soil and manure samples. Soil samples are now \$12 a sample (there is a postage charge of \$5 if you have less than 5 samples) and Manure samples are \$50. The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Annual Implementation Report form will be hitting the producer's mailbox soon. The form can be filled out online or Jill Hauser can help assist with the completion of this form in the office by appointment or at one of the winter crop meetings. If you have any questions please contact Jill Hauser at the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

## ON-FARM SOLAR WORKSHOP SERIES HITS THE ROAD IN MARYLAND

Are you interested in using solar electricity to power your home, farm or business? If so, you'll want to join a session of the upcoming Solar Workshop series to be offered through the University of Maryland Extension. Each workshop will explore the opportunities and challenges associated with solar electricity, or solar photovoltaics (PV). Residents, farmers, and business owners will learn more about how solar electricity can be sustainably used in powering homes, farms and businesses across the state.

In light of Maryland's high energy costs, as well as the decreasing cost of solar technology, many are choosing to offset their energy use with small-scale solar electric systems. Others have an interest in the various environmental benefits associated with solar electricity. Various federal and state policies, including tax credits and SREC incentives, have further contributed to this residential and commercial market growth. The leasing of land to support large-scale solar installations has also come under the spotlight recently, with over 200 MW of utility-scale capacity installed in Maryland since 2017. Regardless of the motivations, Maryland has become one of the fastest-growing solar energy producers in the country, ranking 17th in the nation for solar power production in 2020.

If you're considering solar for your home, farm or business, or if you are simply interested in learning more about solar electricity, then please join an upcoming session of this Solar Workshop series. Attendees will learn about the opportunities, challenges, and practical applications of solar PV in Maryland. Each workshop will cover important topics and hands-on training which can help you successfully install a solar electric system, including:

- market trends and opportunities for Maryland's solar industry;
- Basic principles of solar technology and system components;
- System sizing and design through load and site assessments; and
- Economics, financing, and incentives for solar electric systems.

The workshop series kicks off in March, with additional dates and locations to be announced soon. Workshops are free to attend, but registration is required. More information and registration details can be found online at [go.umd.edu/Solar2022](http://go.umd.edu/Solar2022).

- Wed., March 23, 2022 (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)  
Garrett College CTTC Building  
116 Industrial Park Drive  
Accident, MD 21520
- Thurs., April 28, 2022 (5:30 pm – 7:30 pm)  
Allegany College of Maryland  
12401 Willowbrook Rd  
Cumberland, MD 21502


The workshops will be presented by Dr. Drew Schiavone, energy specialist with the University of Maryland Extension, and other guest speakers. For more information, or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact Drew Schiavone ([dschiavo@umd.edu](mailto:dschiavo@umd.edu), 301-432-2767).

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*"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit,  
because it will in the end contribute  
most to real wealth, good morals, and  
happiness."*

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## MOUNTAIN FRESH FARMERS MARKET



The Mountain Fresh Producers Association is partnering with the Garrett County Arts Council to hold its winter markets in the new \$SMART ART Shared Workspace in the back of the Gallery Shop in downtown Oakland. The space, newly renovated, has a large garage door for easy access for loading/unloading as well as public entrances from Second Street (the Gallery Shop) and Bankers Alley. Produce vendors have been selling lots of storage crops such as winter squash, beets, onions, potatoes, and garlic as well as eggs and meats along with baked goods, crafts, personal care items and jams/jellies.

The Mountain Fresh Producers Association will release new vendor applications for the 2022 summer season soon. In order to become a member of the market, vendors must grow, produce, make, or bake what they sell. The summer season markets will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, from May 28 through October 29, 2022. Applications will be available at the website [www.MountainFresh.org](http://www.MountainFresh.org) and on the Mountain Fresh Farmers Market Facebook page or picked up at the UMD Extension Office at 1916 Maryland Highway in Mt. Lake Park. Applications can also be mailed to interested parties – if you need a mailed application, you may call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960 to request one.

# MARYLAND-DELAWARE VIRTUAL FORAGE CONFERENCE

The Maryland-Delaware Forage Conference will once again be offered in a virtual format for 2022. The virtual sessions will follow the same format as last year and will take place over two partial days on January 25th and January 27th starting at 9 AM each morning. Participants are welcome to join for one or both sessions.

Certified crop advisor, nutrient management, and private pesticide applicator credits will be offered.

Participants can earn the following:

\*\*MD - 2 Nutrient Management CEUs, 6 Pesticide CEUs

\*\*DE - 2 Nutrient Management CEUs, 0 Pesticide CEUs

## Jan 25th Agenda

- \*9:00 am Welcome
- \*9:15 am Livestock Selection for Grazing Systems, Charlie Sasscer, University of Maryland Extension
- \*10:00 am Tips for Working with Your Processor and Marketing those Cuts, Brian Moyer, Penn State Extension
- \*10:45 am Direct Marketing Panel: Labeling Guidelines and Considerations for Successful Marketing
- \*12:15 pm Q&A/Adjourn

## Jan 27th Agenda

- \*9:00 am Welcome
- \*9:15 am Round Bale Silage Management for Optimizing Yield and Quality, Dr. Jessica Williamson, AGCO Corp
- \*10:15 am Male Sterile BMR Sorghum: A Breakthrough Energy Forage Replacement for Corn Silage, Tom Kilcer, Advanced Ag Systems
- \*11:15 am Bale Grazing: Feeding Hay the Easy Way, Dr. Greg Halich, University of Kentucky
- \*12:15 pm Q&A/Adjourn

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