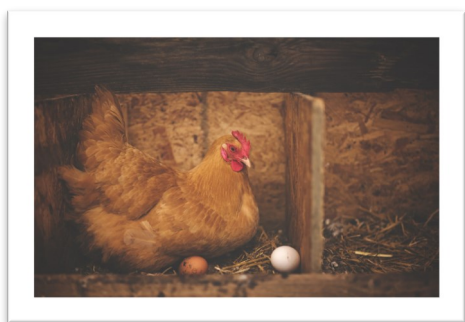


INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Nutrient Management
- Tall Fescue Workshop
- UME News Websites
- Farm Solar Workshop
- FSA Loans
- Local Farm Program
- Farm Stress Management
- MDA Video Series
- Grant Received
- USDA Census



ASCD 2022 FRUIT TREE SALE

Allegheny Soil Conservation District will be holding their annual fruit tree sale for Spring 2022. Fliers will be mailed out shortly. If you have any questions or would like to receive a flier/order form, please call Mona at 240-609-3493.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION VIRTUAL WINTER FRUIT MEETING

March 1, 2022
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

This meeting will offer complete recertification credits for Maryland private pesticide applicator, Maryland nutrient management voucher, and CCAs.



To register for this free event:

<https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tf-grrzlrGtD1KmHByyqr6eKT9PyyDo-X>

UME BACKYARD FARMING SERIES (meat chicken focus)

- Introduction to Meat Chickens: March 18, 2022
- Breed Selection: March 25, 2022
- Management: April 1, 2022
- Processing Chickens: April 8, 2022

All virtual sessions will be at Noon EST. Registration is at go.umd.edu/drumstick



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CORNER

Annual Implementation Reports due to Maryland Department of Agriculture, March 1.

If you have 8,000 pounds of animal weight or make \$2,500 or more from agricultural products, you are required to have a nutrient management plan. Most of the information needed to fill out the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) will be found in your 2021 nutrient management plan. The purpose of the AIR is to report the nutrients that you applied for the year.



You may have received the green form in the mail for you to fill out and mail back. If you did not, you can download the AIR form from MDA's website:

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/2021_AIR_Fill_In_Form.pdf

Or you can directly enter your information online at the Maryland OneStop Portal:

<https://onestop.md.gov/forms/nutrient-management-annual-implementation-report-air-61c0aa180b323600012d37c9>

To find instructions for filling out the AIR, visit:

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/2021_Form_Instructions.pdf

Finally, if you need help filling out the forms, please contact MDA at 410-841-5959.

2022 NOVEL TALL FESCUE RENOVATION WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 30, 2022; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Western Maryland Research and Education Center
18330 Keedysville Rd., Keedysville, MD 21756

Toxic tall fescue reduces livestock weight gains and lowers reproductive performance. This one day workshop focuses on managing tall fescue toxicity and integrating novel tall fescue varieties into a grazing system. Speakers include local producers, company representatives and extension specialist and researchers from across the country. Topics includes fescue toxicosis symptoms/causes, economics, establishment and first year management, seed/endophyte testing, transitioning from toxic fescue, incentives and cost shares, plot tour, and a producer panel. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Cost: \$65 before March 20, \$80 thereafter. To register go to Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/novel-tall-fescue-workshop-maryland-tickets-228445435447>

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION NEWS, EVENTS, & PUBLICATIONS

For more news from UME, check out the News & Events page at

<https://extension.umd.edu/news-events>

UME Publications - <https://extension.umd.edu/publications>



ON FARM SOLAR WORKSHOP SERIES COMING TO ALLEGANY COUNTY - APRIL 28, 2022

Are you interested in using solar electricity to power your home, farm, or business? If so, you'll want to join one of the University of Maryland Extension's Solar Workshops that is nearest to you. Each workshop will be geared towards the location that it's being offered, but all participants 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 solar renewable energy credits (SRECs), 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 megawatts (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 the nearest Solar Workshop to you. 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 to help you decide if solar is right for you, and how you can install a solar electric system that will meet your needs.

Topics will include:

- 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.

These Solar Workshops kick 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

Wed., March 23, 2022

(5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)
Garrett College CTTC Bldg
116 Industrial Park Drive
Accident, MD 21520

Wed., March 30, 2022

(10:30 am - 12:30 pm)
Western Maryland REC
18330 Keedysville Rd
Keedysville, MD 21756

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, 301-432-2767).

APPLYING FOR FSA GUARANTEED LOANS

USDA, Maryland Newsletter – December 17, 2021



FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses. FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,825,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

For more information on guaranteed loans, contact your County USDA Service Center at 301-501-5885.

APPLYING FOR FSA DIRECT LOANS

USDA, Maryland Newsletter – December 17, 2021

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain, or strengthen their farm or ranch. Direct loans are processed, approved and serviced by FSA loan officers.

Direct farm **operating loans** can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm **ownership loans** can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is \$600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is \$400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years. Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

Current FSA Program Deadlines

Reach out to your local FSA office for more information and questions, 301-501-5885.

- Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program - February 15
- Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-Up - March 11
- Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Covered Programs - March 15
- Dairy Margin Coverage & Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage - March 25

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 has a nutrient management plan. 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. There is no cost to become a Certified Local Farm Enterprise.

Here's how to register your farm as a Certified Local Farm:

1. **Register**

Complete the short online application here:

https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Pages/certified-local-farm.aspx

2. **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.

3. **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.

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

FARM STRESS MANAGEMENT

Farm families are the backbone of America, providing important commodities like food, grains, and they are a significant component of our national economy. Having healthy farms and healthy farm families promotes environmental stewardship, cultural legacies, and rural community growth.

But farm families are feeling the pressure of an inconsistent and unreliable economy. Finances, legal issues, and physical and mental well-being are all at the forefront of agricultural concerns. Farmers have been forced to parcel off their land, file for bankruptcy, deny their children inherency rights, and take secondary jobs off the farm to provide health insurance and supplemental income to make ends meet. These stressors can lead to mental and emotional distress, substance abuse, anxiety, depression, and even suicide.

Because of the critical role of farmers in our state and across the nation, the University of Maryland Extension has prepared this selection of assets to help farm families navigate the numerous resources available online and provide timely, science-based education and information to support prosperous farms and healthy farm families. Choose from Financial Resources, Stress Management, or Legal Resources to find a variety of online information, guides, and tools developed to help in each of these areas. These resources can be found on our website: <https://go.umd.edu/FarmStressManagement>

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW CONSERVATION VIDEO SERIES

Local Farmers and Conservation Experts Tell Their Stories

ANNAPOLIS, MD (Jan. 12, 2022) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has launched a new video series that spotlights Maryland farmers who are making a difference for our state’s natural resources and the Chesapeake Bay.

‘Maryland Farmers: Partners in Conservation’ showcases local farmers and the conservation projects they have installed to manage manure, safeguard local streams, build healthy soils, and protect the natural resources that we all depend on. You can watch the series on the MDA website:



https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Videos.aspx or visit the MDA’s YouTube channel.

“Our new video series invites viewers to the farm to learn firsthand about conservation projects—both large and small—that Maryland farmers have installed to restore natural resources and make daily farm chores easier,” said Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “Whether you’re a farmer with a conservation project in mind or someone who is curious about how farmers grow our food, there’s something for everyone in this series of short videos.” here are currently three videos available for viewing with several new videos under construction. Here’s a rundown on the videos now available for viewing:

1. In the Manure Management video (3:35), you’ll meet two Frederick County livestock farmers who have installed waste storage systems on their farms to protect local streams, improve operations and make daily chores easier.
2. The Stream Restoration video (4:50), features a Baltimore County beef farmer who is improving water quality.
3. The Engineering and Technology video (2:34), highlights the range of free conservation services that are available to Maryland farmers who want to install best management practices to protect soil, water and living resources.

Additional videos will be posted in coming weeks. Future topics will focus on pasture management techniques to save on feed costs and improve animal health, nutrient management for greater efficiency, and the wonders of wetlands to improve water quality and wildlife.

Allegany County UME Faculty and Staff ♦ 301-724-3320

Sherry Frick

Extension Educator
sfrick@umd.edu

Ashby Ruddle

Nutrient Management Advisor
aruddle@umd.edu

Jody Parrish

Administrative Assistant II
jparrish@umd.edu

Joni Reed

Administrative Assistant I
jonireed@umd.edu

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/allegany-county>

FRICK RECEIVES GRANTS FROM MARYLAND AGRICULTURE COUNCIL AND WESTERN MARYLAND FOOD COUNCIL FOR ALLEGANY BUY LOCAL CAMPAIGN

Sherry Frick, UME-Allegany Agriculture Educator and WMFC member, received grant monies for a 2022 campaign to promote local agriculture in Allegany County. With help from other food council members, Frick applied for a \$990 grant through the Maryland Agriculture Council and a \$1200 grant from the Western Maryland Food Council. Both grant applications were approved. The Maryland Agriculture Council generously upped the amount to \$1,600 after Gary and Sonia Mangum added more funds to the Council's allotment for 2022.

The purpose of the "Allegany Buy Local Campaign" is to promote agriculture in our county, create a central directory where people can connect to local farmers and their products, to increase farm sales, and strengthen the local economy. Currently, potential customers looking for local farm products have no one-stop website directory to find what they are looking for.

Information can be found at the local farmers market site: <https://alleganyfarmersmarket.wordpress.com/>, some at the www.GarrettFarms.org site, some by doing online searches, and some from social media searches. The "Allegany Buy Local Campaign" will create a brand and logo, central website, Facebook and Instagram presence, social media campaigns, and marketing materials in the hopes of more easily connecting customers and local producers. The targeted roll out is June 1, 2022.



Frick will seek out farmers who want to participate in this free service in the coming months. The website will share information about participating farms' products, location, contact information, links to their websites or social media platforms, pictures, and vision statement. The campaign will assist those farmers who do not have the capacity to maintain their own website and social media presence. For those farms who already have websites and social media, the newly created "Allegany Buy Local" website and Facebook page will connect to their current online presence and provide greater exposure and increased traffic for them. In addition to connecting customers with farmers, Frick hopes that this website will serve as a way to promote farmer to farmer sales as well. All farm products will be included on this website including, but not limited to fruits, vegetables, hay, straw, grain, seed (certified), plants, value added products, honey, fiber, eggs, meats, livestock, etc.

MARYLAND MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



The Maryland Master Gardener Program, a volunteer education program taught and administered by University of Maryland Extension (UME), puts research-based knowledge and environmental power into the hands of people who want to create sustainable gardens and landscapes, and protect and improve natural resources. Master Gardeners are citizens from all walks of life who combine their love of plants, people, and the environment to help residents solve problems and make environmentally-sound decisions on public and private properties.

For more information on the Master Gardener Program in Allegany County, call 301-724-3320.



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Terry Matlock (720) 822-3030

terry.matlock@usda.gov

Jodi Halvorson (916) 738-6609

jodi.halvorson@usda.gov

USDA to test 2022 Census of Agriculture online questionnaire in new Respondent Portal *new portal aims to enhance customer experience while ensuring secure, confidential data collection*

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 2021 – Starting in January, approximately 15,000 agricultural producers across the nation and the various segments of U.S. agriculture will receive an invitation to assist in the online 2022 Census of Agriculture Content Test. The Content Test, which will run through spring, is a critical part of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service’s (NASS’s) preparation for the once-every-five-year Census of Agriculture. Participants in the test will be asked to complete the 2022 Census of Agriculture online questionnaire via a new Respondent Portal aimed to improve the reporting experience for all producers.

“NASS would not be able to supply valuable agricultural data without producer participation. We recognize that time is valuable, and our goal is to improve producers’ experience when responding to our surveys,” said Census and Survey Division Director Barbara Rater. “That’s why NASS has been gathering feedback from producers over the last year to assist in modernizing areas of our data collection, which includes the development of our new Respondent Portal. We are grateful to the participants in this Content Test. Their support will assist us in analyzing the portal’s capabilities and help ensure that future census data remain as accurate as possible.”

NASS has been preparing for the 2022 Census of Agriculture since 2018, when they began evaluating the content and design of the previous Census questionnaire and soliciting public input into the 2022 Census. The 2022 Census of Agriculture will mail out to all known U.S. producers next fall.

The Census of Agriculture is the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. The data are widely used to inform decisions that benefit the agricultural community and the nation – from decisions guiding essential food delivery systems, succession planning, and new and beginning farmer programs, to decisions affecting agriculture practices, land stewardship, sustainability, and more.

In accordance with federal law, NASS keeps all responses confidential and uses them for statistical purposes only. Anyone who needs assistance completing the Content Test can call 888-424-7828. For more information about the Census of Agriculture, or if you are a producer who does not currently receive NASS surveys or censuses, visit www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. The Sign Up to Be Counted in the 2022 Census button is at the top of the page.

###

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.