

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

March 2022



University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center

Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154
(410) 638-3255

M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county

facebook.com/HarfordAg

Andrew Kness

Ag Extension Educator

akness@umd.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Avian Influenza Alert	2
Backyard Poultry Webinar Series	3
Novel Tall Fescue Workshop	3
Beef Production Webinars	3
Solar Leases on Farmland	4
Sensitive Crop Locator	4
Dicamba Training	5
IPM App	5
4R Webinar	6
4R Vouchers	6
Scholarships	7
Produce Safety Training	7

Hello, Harford County!

After a month of February that saw temperature swings all over the place, the extended forecast is looking to be a bit more normal and spring-like; hopefully you are ready for spring!

As I write this, we are all gearing up and preparing for the 2022 crop with a lot of uncertainty and volatility, making us wonder how 2022 will shake out. Fertilizer, fuel, and other input costs have been rapidly increasing since the start of winter due to supply chain issues related to COVID-19. These record high input costs have been further accelerated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Perhaps the only fortunate thing to come out of this awful mess are record high commodity markets, which we will need to offset the record high input prices. That is unless you need to purchase grain to feed livestock, then it's adding more insult to injury.

As I am sure most know, Ukraine and Russia are two major agricultural producers. About 70% of Ukraine's landmass is agricultural and ranks in the top ten in the world for corn, barley, rapeseed, wheat, and soybean production, and number one in sunflower seed production. Ukraine also accounts for about 20% of global exports of rapeseed and barley, and 16% of corn exports and 12% of global wheat exports. These are not small numbers on the scale of global production, and as a result, grain

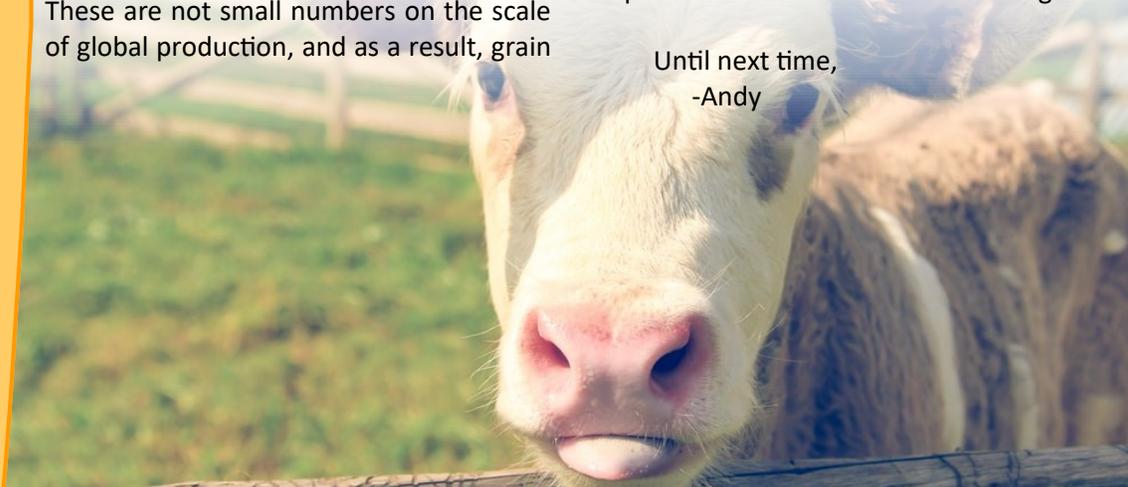
markets have responded accordingly. There's no telling exactly how things will play out, but we certainly all hope for the best for the people of Ukraine.

March 1 also marks the first day in Maryland where we are permitted to spread nutrients for the 2022 growing season; it won't be long before planters hit the fields! March also marks the tail end of our major meeting season in Extension. Since November, we have offered several virtual and in-person educational opportunities, many of which serve as recertification for pesticide licenses and nutrient management.

If you happened to miss all of these opportunities and you still need pesticide and/or nutrient management credits, please contact me and we will sort out the best way to get you up-to-date. If you have specific questions related to your pesticide license, please call MDA Pesticide Regulation at (410) 841-5710. For specific questions regarding your nutrient management voucher, call MDA Nutrient Management at (410) 841-5959.

Also note that I am hosting an in-person private applicator **pesticide recertification** training class from 1-3 pm on **March 8** at the Extension office and a **private applicator exam** from 9-11 am. These meetings are free, but please call ahead or email me to register.

Until next time,
-Andy



USDA press release

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial poultry flock in New Castle County, Delaware.

Samples from the flock were tested at the University of Delaware's Allen Laboratory in Newark, part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and confirmed at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa.

APHIS is working closely with state animal health officials in Delaware on a joint incident response. State officials quarantined the affected premises, and birds on the property will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from the flock will not enter the food system.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections [do not present an immediate public health concern](#). No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 °F kills bacteria and viruses.

As part of existing avian influenza response plans, Federal and State partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flocks. The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, and USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets and in migratory wild bird populations.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. APHIS has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources>.

USDA will report these findings to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as international trading partners. USDA also continues to communicate with trading partners to encourage

adherence to OIE standards and minimize trade impacts. OIE trade guidelines call on countries to base trade restrictions on sound science and, whenever possible, limit restrictions to those animals and animal products within a defined region that pose a risk of spreading disease of concern.

APHIS will continue to announce the first case of HPAI in commercial and backyard flocks detected in a State but will not announce subsequent detections in the State. All cases in commercial and backyard flocks will be listed on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through APHIS' toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. APHIS urges producers to consider bringing birds indoors when possible to further prevent exposures. The Animal Health Protection Act authorizes APHIS to provide indemnity payments to producers for birds and eggs that must be depopulated during a disease response. APHIS also provides compensation for disposal activities and virus elimination activities. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>.

Additional background

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds. AI viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and neuraminidase or "N" proteins, of which there are 9 (N1–N9). Many different combinations of "H" and "N" proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype and can be further broken down into different strains which circulate within flyways/geographic regions. AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity (low or high)—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic poultry.

Backyard Chicken Webinars

A series of free backyard poultry webinars will be offered on Fridays from March 18-April 8 beginning at noon.

Webinars will last approximately 45 minutes. To register, visit go.umd.edu/drumstick.

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

Novel Tall Fescue Workshop

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 specialists from across the country.

This workshop is brought to you in partnership by University of Maryland Extension and the Alliance for Grassland Renewal and will take place on March 30, 2022 at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD. For details, agenda, and registration information, click on the link below.

Register at <https://TallFescueMD2022.eventbrite.com> or call Amanda Grey, (301) 432-2767 x339.



Maryland Beef Webinars

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 pm

March 8 — To deworm or not to deworm?

April 12 — Breeding and Genetics

May — Break for weekly public beef education series

June 14 — Interpreting a Forage Analysis

July 12 — Mineral Nutrition for Beef Cattle

August 9 — Pasture Management: Stockpiling Tips

September 13 — Spring Stocker Cattle Recap:
Successes and Lessons Learned

October 11 — Utilizing Crop Residue as a Forage Source

November 8 — Benchmarking for Success

December 13 — Wintering Bulls and Cows



Focus Group: Solar Leases on Farmland

*Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Legal Specialist.
University of Maryland Agricultural Law Education Initiative*

Researchers from the University of Maryland and Cornell University are organizing a focus group meeting with landowners from Maryland to gather information on their views and actions related to large-scale solar leases on farmland. Any landowner that has signed a solar lease, considered or declined a solar lease is invited to participate in a 1.5-hour virtual meeting with other landowners around the state. The information we gather will help us develop new resources and tools to support landowners and communities in their efforts to adapt to changing land uses. Participation is voluntary and confidential, but it is very important to us to gather landowner opinions about the benefits or

challenges of leases for large-scale solar installations around the state. **Any landowner that participates in a focus group discussion will receive a \$15 VISA gift card in appreciation of their time after the meeting.**

If you are a landowner interested in participating, please visit this website to let us know your availability: go.umd.edu/solar-focus-groups.

We will also be holding focus group meetings this spring with municipal officials and attorneys.

For more information, contact Paul Goeringer (lgoering@umd.edu) or Elizabeth Thilmany (thilmany@umd.edu).

Field Watch Sensitive Crop Locator

*Joe Fiola, Viticulture Specialist
University of Maryland Extension*

This is a reminder to renew your FieldWatch site for 2022. If you are not aware of this important service, please read below. FieldWatch (previously Sensitive Crop Locator) is a resource that communicates the presence of your vineyards, orchards, and/or other herbicide drift sensitive crops, to commercial applicators and adjacent farms. FieldWatch is a comprehensive and streamlined database offering Maryland growers and applicators four different layers, DriftWatch, BeeCheck, CropCheck, and the new FieldCheck. Please visit <https://fieldwatch.com/> for more detail and to enter your site. There is no fee.

If you would like more detailed information on why you should have your site on Driftwatch or more detailed information of the risks of non-target herbicide damage to sensitive crops, please see below for a Timely Vit on Avoiding Injury to Grapes From Off-Target Herbicide Exposure. The online article form and the “print-

friendly” versions of this “TimelyVit” are available on my website.

Avoiding Injury to Grapes From Off-Target Herbicide Exposure

Webpage: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/avoiding-injury-grapes-target-herbicide-exposure>

Printable pdf format: <https://www.printfriendly.com/p/g/kYG75y>

Additional TimelyVits are always available on my website: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/timely-viticulture>

Additional viticultural information is always available on my website: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/fruit-vegetable-production/grapes-and-fruit>



Dicamba Training

BASF is excited to announce that annual dicamba applicator training offerings are now available. This training is required for every applicator who applies Engenia herbicide or other dicamba-based herbicides approved for over-the-top (OTT) applications on dicamba-tolerant soybean and cotton.

Applicator training and certification can be obtained in multiple formats based on your schedule and needs. Due to COVID-19, dicamba applicator training will be primarily available through online offerings such as a self-paced training module and live virtual webinars. Limited in person dicamba applicator training opportunities may be available in your area, your local BASF representative will alert you to these sessions.

Please visit www.Engeniaherbicide.com/training.html for training options.

Self-Paced Online Module:

BASF has changed platforms for the 2022 season to enhance the experience and reliability of our online training module. This self-paced option will take approximately one hour to complete and contains a mandatory quiz at the end. Once the module is completed a certificate is displayed that should be kept for your records. A copy of your certificate will also be provided to the e-mail address you use to register for the course. It is recommended that you complete this training on a web browser through a computer with a reliable internet connection.

Live Virtual Webinars:

Live webinars, hosted by BASF experts, review the same content provided in the online module but this format allows for the opportunity to address questions from attendees during the session. There will be a total of 10 events that are scheduled to occur on select Tuesdays at 10 AM Eastern. These webinars start on February 1, 2022 and run through June 7, 2022 Attendance is limited to the first 250 attendees per event so register early for the event that best fits your schedule. Live Virtual Webinars are scheduled for:

- March 8, 2022 @ 10 AM Eastern
- March 15, 2022 @ 10 AM Eastern
- April 12, 2022 @ 10 AM Eastern
- May 10, 2022 @ 10 AM Eastern
- June 7, 2022 @ 10 AM Eastern

As a reminder only certified applicators may apply Engenia herbicide or other dicamba-based herbicides approved for over-the-top (OTT) applications on dicamba tolerant soybean and cotton. Some states have or are actively considering additional restrictions and requirements. Check with your state pesticide regulatory agency for additional training and application requirements or restrictions and to stay current on any new developments.

Please reach out to your local BASF representative or email engeniaquestions@basf.com if you have any questions about BASF's dicamba applicator trainings or other questions about Engenia herbicide.

Post Update

MyIPM Row Crops App



MyIPM for Row Crops

The MyIPM for Row Crops app is now available on Apple and Android devices! This app was developed at Clemson University with the support of the Southern Region IPM Center and collaborators at Universities across the Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern, and Mid-Southern United States. The app provides pest management information for insects

and diseases of corn, cotton, sorghum, soybean, and peanut, including labeled pesticides and rates, photos of pests and diseases, life cycle information, and non-chemical control strategies. Search for "MyIPM Row Crops" in the Apple App Store or Google Play.



Download for Apple



Download for Android

4R's To Lower Fertilizer Costs

The Annual Delaware Maryland 4R Meeting will be held virtually on March 15th. There is a great agenda covering hot topics and updates! Nutrient Management and CCA credits will be offered. Be sure to register online [here](#).



APPLY 4R'S TO LOWER FERTILIZER COSTS

Tuesday, March 15th | 10:00 AM Online
Register Online

- 10:00 AM - Welcome and Introductions
- 10:05 AM - Delaware Maryland 4R Alliance
- 10:15 AM - 2021 Split Nitrogen Cost Share Results
- 10:35 AM - 2020 NFWF Grant Update
- 10:50 AM - CBT Voucher Update
- 11:00 AM - Barriers to Access and Use of Poultry Litter
- 11:30 AM - Current Market Factors Affecting Fertilizer



4R Incentive for Harford and Cecil County

A new voucher project proposes to provide technical assistance directly to farmers, to help farmers understand the language and data used to identify and implement precision ag and nutrient management practices. This project will enable farmers to make more informed decisions on their nutrient management practices.

Fifteen farmers from Harford and Cecil County will receive a \$1,000 voucher that they can use to pay a

participating agribusiness advisor of their choice to provide individual coaching including data compilation, analysis, planning, and guidance on how to implement practices on their farm. We currently have five vouchers available!

Contact Amy Jacobs (ajacobs@tnc.org) for enrollment or visit <https://4rmidatlantic.com/2021-voucher-program/> for more information.



Scholarships

Mid-Atlantic CCA Scholarship

The Mid Atlantic Certified Crop Advisers (MACCA) has established a scholarship program, that will award up to two deserving students with scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each (\$500 for each semester) enrolled in an agronomy related program at an accredited junior college or university. Up to one year after college graduation, recipients will have the opportunity to take the CCA Exam, free of cost.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to students interested in pursuing a career in plant and soil sciences. Given the declining number of students enrolled in agronomy-related programs in our region, the Mid Atlantic Certified Crop Advisers believe it is important to encourage students to consider careers in agronomy by supporting their educational needs through financial support.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a resident of or attending school in the Mid-Atlantic region (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, or West Virginia).

Students must be enrolled in or accepted to a 2-year or 4-year institution working towards a degree in agronomy or related field.

Masters and graduate students will be considered for the

opportunity to take the CCA Exam free of cost, but will not be eligible for a financial contribution. Applicants may only receive the scholarship two times.

Applications due March 11, 2022. Apply online at <http://www.midatlanticcca.org/scholarships/>.

Farm Bureau Scholarship

Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) is giving back to its members and students of the community by offering five \$2,000 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Applicants must be high-school seniors starting college in the fall of 2022 or full-time college students at any accredited community college or four-year institution. Applicants, or their parents/guardians, must be members of Maryland Farm Bureau.

Three of the scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing academic disciplines in food, agriculture, and/or natural resources. The remaining two scholarships are open to students in any academic discipline.

Students must apply online at <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/MFBScholarship2022>. Online applications must be submitted by **March 25 at 5:00 p.m.** For more information or to apply, visit the official application website at bit.ly/MDFBScholarship.

Virtual Produce Safety Rule Training

Wednesday & Thursday, March 16 & 17, 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Materials fee: \$25.00

Registration: <https://march2022foodsafety.eventbrite.com>.



Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



Like us on
Facebook

facebook.com/HarfordAg

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



akness@umd.edu



University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

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

For Students

General Interest

Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

08 Mar. Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.

08 Mar. Private Pesticide Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Call (410) 638-3255 to register.

09 Mar. Women in Ag Webinar: Calf Care 101. 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).

16-17 Mar. Produce Safety Rule Training. 12:30-5:00 PM. Online. Register at march2022foodsafety.eventbrite.com.

30 Mar. Novel Tall Fescue Workshop. 8:15-4:15 PM. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. \$65-\$80. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767.

02 Apr. [UMD Annual Wye Angus Sale](#). 12-3 PM. Wye Angus Farm, Queenstown. Call (410) 827-6016 for more information.

05 Apr. Online Private Pesticide Applicator Training. 6-8 PM. Free. Register [online](#).

March 2022