



University of Maryland Extension

Baltimore County
1114 Shawan Rd.
Cockeysville, MD 21030
(410) 887-8090
M–F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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January 2022

Commercial Vegetable Growers are invited to the 2022 Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022.

Topics will include:

- Blueberry Fertility
- Strawberry Disease Management
- Apple Rootstocks
- Management of Spider Mite and Thrips
- MDA updates
-and more!

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022

Time: 8:00 am– 1:30 pm

Location: Friendly Farm Restaurant, 17434 Foreston Rd., Upperco, MD 21155

Cost:

\$28.00 if you pre-register, or \$35.00 at the door, includes an-all-you-can-eat lunch
This meeting serves as Recertification for Maryland private pesticide applicators, Maryland nutrient voucher, and offers recertification credits for Pennsylvania pesticide applicators.

To register to attend or get more information call the University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore County Office at 410-887-8090, sign up on Eventbrite at <https://2022veggieday.eventbrite.com>, or fill out the form below and mail to: 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 2, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Make checks out to BCEAC.

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Payment: # attending _____ **x\$**





Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan Training

Learn how to write a nutrient management plan for your operation that meets Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations. These classes are suited for agronomic crop, hay/pasture, and/or animal farm operations using commercial fertilizer and/or manure. *Fields or pastures high in soil-test phosphorus may require additional training and a greater time commitment*



REQUIRED SKILLS & RESOURCES

- Competency in high school math, familiarity with using a keyboard, and the ability to save and retrieve files is essential.
- Bring up-to-date soil analyses, manure analyses (if applicable), and crop plans/history on a field-by-field basis. Detailed guidance will be emailed to registrants.

DATES

In-Person Sessions (choose the location most convenient to you) 9:30am-4:30pm each day:

Wye Research and Education Center (Queenstown, MD):

- **Day 1 (instructional day):** Tuesday January 18, 2022
- **Day 2 (instructional day):** Thursday January 20, 2022
- **Day 3 (exam/plan development):** Tuesday February 1, 2022 (snow day 2/3)

Washington County University of Maryland Extension Office (Boonsboro, MD):

- **Day 1 (instructional day):** Wednesday January 26, 2022
- **Day 2 (instructional day):** Friday January 28, 2022
- **Day 3 (exam/plan development):** Wednesday February 9, 2022 (snow day 2/11)

COST

- \$30-includes binder of materials and lunch on days 1 & 2
- **If you want to take the exam to become certified:** Additional \$20 exam fee due by check to MDA-Exam application will be distributed to registrants

REGISTRATION

Registrations must be received 14 days before the first class. For more information, please call 301-405-2465 or email Emileigh at erosso@umd.edu. **Classes will be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment.**

Space is limited! **Register NOW!**

Baltimore County Weed Control Board

Baltimore County Weed Control Board is looking to hire a part-time employee. The new hire will manage and coordinate the Weed Control Program in and for Baltimore County. Responsibilities include contact with the agricultural community, land-owners and businesses in a regulatory and educational capacity; as well as coordinating activities to provide a viable spray service. Supervision is received through the Maryland Department of Agriculture - Weed Control Section. Program is overseen by the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 18 years of age.
- Working knowledge of pumps, motors and spray equipment with ability to use and to maintain such equipment in a safe and effective manner is useful.
- Preference will be given for: Practical farm experience, pesticide spraying experience, and familiarity with MD State Noxious Weeds
- Strong and effective spoken and written (English) communication skills including the ability to prepare necessary forms and reports, and to explain weed control regulations to others.

To Apply, Call Baltimore County Soil Conservation at 410-527-5920

NOW HIRING



PRESENTS OUR 23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TOGETHER, WE CAN

ONLINE JANUARY 13-14, 2022
WWW.FUTUREHARVEST.ORG

To prioritize the health, safety, and resilience of our agricultural community, we're gathering together **online for 2022**.

Don't miss this energizing winter gathering! Join us using your computer or smartphone for inspiration, lessons, and networking for the season ahead.

Events and Special Sessions:

- Farmer of the Foodshed awards
- Interactive cooking demonstrations
- Interactive photo contest
- Bookstore with games and prizes
- Membership meeting

Two Main Conference Days:

- More than 20 sessions for advanced and beginning farmers, activists, and educators
- Live chats and networking inside the event
- Facilitated farmer-to-farmer meet-ups
- Engaging one-on-one opportunities with service providers, exhibitors, and business coaches
- Recorded sessions for later viewing

Keynote:

NEW AGE AGRARIANISM: Growing for a Regenerative, Sustainable, and Equitable Planet

Renard Turner, co-owner of Vanguard Ranch in Louisa County, VA



Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities

Contact: conference@futureharvest.org

Virtual Produce Safety Grower Training



January 26-27, 2022 • 12:30pm-4:45pm

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'

Topics Include:

- On-Farm Readiness Reviews
- Worker Health, Hygiene, & Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife and Land Use
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- ...and more!

Cost: \$25.00

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



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 | 3:30pm-8:30pm

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

Fruit Grower Meeting

March 1, 2022 | 8:30am-12:30pm

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



Maryland Grape Growers Annual Conference

January 19-20, 2022 • 8:45am– 4:00pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: \$50-\$80. Prices 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>





Maryland– Delaware Forage Conferences

January 16, 2022 • 9:00am– 3:00pm

The **Central Maryland Forage Conference** will take place at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company (1 Fireman's Lane., Middletown, MD 21769).

Topics will include:

- Soil fertility
- Strategies for dealing with high fertilizer prices,
- Improving soil quality and organic matter in grazing systems,
- Systems approach to limiting feed costs
- Pesticide and weed management updates.

Cost: \$15-\$20

Registration is required to attend.

<https://go.umd.edu/cmdforageconference>

CCA, Nutrient Management, and Private Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered.

January 25 & 27, 2022 • 9:00am– 12:30pm

The **Virtual Forage Conference** will be held online over two half-day sessions on January 25th and January 27th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM each day.

Topics will include:

- Livestock selection for grazing systems
- Tips for working with your processor
- Direct marketing panel with discussion on labeling guidelines and successful marketing strategies.
- Round bale silage management
- BMR sorghum as a forage crop
- Bale grazing.

Registration is free but is required to attend. For additional details and registration information, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/virtualforageconference>.

CCA, Nutrient Management, and Private Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered at each session.



Maryland Urban Farmer Winter Meetings

January 22 & 24, 2022 • 1:00pm– 3:00pm

Day 1 (In-person): Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Meet at Real Food Farm, 2701 St. Lo Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, to practice pruning fig trees and to meet and socialize with other urban farmers (hot cocoa and coffee provided)

Day 2 (online): Monday, January 24, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Topics include results of a survey of urban farmers across the Northeast USA; Urban agriculture in Lagos, Nigeria; Food safety legal issues for urban growers; Variety trial of basil resistance to downy mildew; E. Coli testing harvested rainwater; Tomato and trellised cucumber variety trials; Farm stress resources; Greenhouse design; Aquaponics production methods; and How to sell "Farm to School."

Cost: \$7.00

Register: <https://go.umd.edu/urbanfarmmeeting> or call 410-856-1850 x122



2022 Delmarva Soil Summit

February 7 & 8, 2022 • 8:00pm– 7:00pm

Join more than 200 agronomist to soak up the latest research and innovations to improve small and large scale farming operations on February 7th & 8th in Salisbury, MD

Topics to include: soil health 101, a deep dive into cover crop management, measuring soil health, carbon sequestration, and much more!

The 2022 Delmarva Soil Summit offers options to attend either in person or virtually:

- **In-person attendees** will have access to two days of keynote speakers and breakout sessions, small group clinics, a poster session, exhibitors and networking opportunities, along with access to all presentation recordings for a full year after the conference. Lunches, continental breakfasts and light fare at Monday evening's networking reception are included. (Hybrid Ticket)
- **Virtual attendees** will have access to all keynote and breakout presentations, along with access to all presentation recordings for a full year after the conference.

Register here: <https://viewstub.com/2022-Delmarva-Soil-Summit#>



Interested in H-2A Farmworkers? Time to Get Started

Sarah Everhart, University of Maryland, ALEI

As it becomes increasingly difficult to find domestic farm labor, many farm employers are considering whether foreign workers, able to temporarily work in the United States via an H-2A visa, are the solution. Although popular, the H-2A visa program can be difficult for employers to navigate. Given the need for foreign farm labor and the problems with the H-2A visa program, reforming the program is a hotly debated political topic. The one part of the H-2A visa system that all folks, regardless of political affiliation, typically agree upon is that employers who need H-2A workers have to start the process months in advance of the workers' anticipated start date. This article will outline the major steps that Maryland employers need to take to get H-2A visa workers on the farm this spring.

Employers who are new to the H-2A visa program are highly encouraged to seek assistance from their State's Workforce Agency. In Maryland, the Department of Labor provides assistance to farmers with the H-2A visa program by and through the Rural Services Coordinator Norton Pereira at (301) 326-6006 or at norton.pereira@maryland.gov.

The first step in the process is either create or confirm that you have an active Maryland Workforce Exchange [account](#) set up with the State. The second step in the process is an [application](#) with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for a temporary labor certification. Employers will need to submit a job order to DOL no fewer than sixty (60) days and no more than seventy-five (75) days before the day the worker is first needed. To be approved for such a certification, agricultural employers must demonstrate that the job is of a temporary or seasonal nature, that there are not enough U.S. workers who are "able, willing, qualified and available to perform work at the place and time needed," and that the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States will not be "adversely affected" by the importation of guest workers.

The third step is the creation of a state clearance job order and a mandatory housing inspection. The Maryland Foreign Labor Certification office will help with these steps. In Maryland, Norton Pereira (see contact information above) can assist employers with this part of the process.



After receiving a temporary labor certification from DOL, an employer will file a Form I-129 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). According to Pereira, this is a part of the process where employers can have problems if they don't strictly follow the submission instructions. Once the petition is approved by USCIS, prospective foreign workers can apply for H-2A nonimmigrant visas at the U.S. embassy or consulate in their home countries.

Once hired, H-2A visa workers must be paid the higher of: (a) the local "prevailing wage" as determined by State Workforce Agency and the DOL; (b) the State or Federal minimum wage, or (c) the "adverse effect wage rate" (AEWR) which is the average wage of nonsupervisory field and livestock workers as determined by a USDA survey. The highest of those wages in 2021 was the AEWR at \$14.05/hour in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. However, the DOL recently [announced](#) that it plans to revise the calculation of the AEWR. The DOL performs regular audits of agricultural employers to ensure that H-2A visa workers are being properly treated and compensated.

In addition to wages, employers must provide H-2A visa workers housing at no cost and either provide three meals a day (workers can be charged an amount per meal published by DOL) or adequate kitchen facilities so the workers can cook their own meals. The housing provided to H-2A workers must meet all applicable Federal and State health and safety standards.

The transportation costs to get H-2A visa workers from their home countries to the farm as well as a daily fee for meals during the travel period are required to be paid by the employer when the worker has completed at least 50% of the work contract period. Upon expiration of the contract, the agricultural employer must also pay for the workers' transportation costs to return home.

Given the extensive recordkeeping burdens related to H-2A visa worker employment, the Agriculture Law Education Initiative has numerous tools including a [recordkeeping self-audit checklist](#) and recorded [webinars](#) to help employers stay in compliance. Any employers with questions can contact one of the ALEI legal specialists at 410-706-7377.

Extensión en Español

Looking for quality material on horticulture, gardening, agriculture, and nature in Spanish? Visit <https://extensionesp.umd.edu/> & Subscribe

Material de calidad y exclusivamente en español sobre horticultura, jardinería, agricultura y naturaleza. ¡Visítenos y suscríbete!

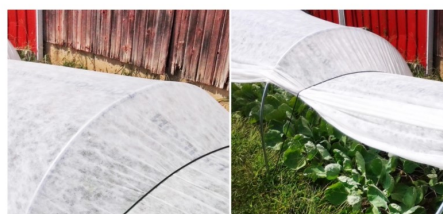
¡Extensión en Español está en línea!

Extensión en Español

Rede de Extensión de la Universidad de Maryland



Posteos Recientes



Buscar ...

CATEGORÍAS

- Frutas
- Huerta
- Naturaleza
- Plagas
- Polinización

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

Sin eventos próximos

POSTEOS RECIENTES

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

University of Maryland Extension
Baltimore County Office
1114 Shawan Rd., Suite 2
Cockeysville, MD 21030

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 13-14 Future Harvest Conference.
Register [online](#).

Jan 19-20 Maryland Grape Growers Conference.
8:45am. \$50-\$80. Register [online](#).

Jan 16 Central MD Forage Conference.
9:00am. \$15-\$20. Register [online](#).

Jan 22 & 24 Maryland Urban Farmer Meeting.
1:00pm. \$7. Register [online](#).

Jan 26 How to Write Your Nutrient Management Plan. 9:30am. \$30. Register by calling 301-405-2465.

Jan 26-27 Virtual Produce Safety Training.
12:30pm. \$25. Register [online](#).

Feb 3 Virtual Agronomy Meetings.
10:00am. FREE. Register [online](#).

Feb 8 Virtual Vegetable Meeting.
3:30pm. FREE. Register [online](#).

March 1 Virtual Fruit Meeting.
8:30am. FREE. Register [online](#).

Check out these additional online resources

[Agronomy News](#)

[Ag Marketing](#)

[Ag Law Initiative](#)

[Extension Website](#)

[Fruit & Vegetable News](#)

[Nutrient Management](#)

[Sheep & Goat Newsletter](#)

[Women in Ag](#)

Agriculture Agent

Erika Crowl
Extension Agent, Agriculture
ecrowl@umd.edu

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