



University of Maryland Extension

Baltimore County

1114 Shawan Rd.

Cockeysville, MD 21030

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M–F 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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Avian Influenza Alert

MDA press release

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is alerting all poultry growers, operators and owners to remain vigilant and enhance biosecurity practices now that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in a commercial poultry flock in Delaware.

“I want to stress that this confirmed case does not represent a public health concern or outbreak,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “Avian influenza does not affect poultry meat or egg products, which remain safe to eat and handle.”

“As the ‘bird flu’ continues to spread across the United States and into our neighboring states, I urge both commercial and backyard flock owners to do everything possible to help prevent the spread of disease in our state, and the broader Delmarva region. The easiest way to do this is to practice good biosecurity and sanitation practices, and keep wild birds away from your flocks,” he said.

Avian influenza is a highly contagious virus that affects poultry, like chickens, ducks, and turkeys along with some wild bird species such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors. It has appeared sporadically over the last several decades in bird populations throughout the globe. Wild birds can carry the virus without becoming sick, while domesticated birds can become very sick and die. Maryland continues to work with its federal and state partners on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flock.

Maryland growers should take the following extra steps to prevent flocks from becoming infected:

- Restrict access to poultry by posting “Restricted Access” signage, securing the area with a locked gate, or both.
- Ensure that contaminated materials

March 2022

on the ground are not transported into the poultry growing house or area.

- Provide the following items to anyone entering or leaving any area where poultry are kept:
- Footbaths and foot mats with disinfectant;
- Boot washing and disinfectant station;
- Footwear change or foot covers.
- Cover and secure feed to prevent wild birds, rodents, or other animals from accessing it.
- Cover and properly contain used litter, or other disease-containing organic materials to prevent wild birds, rodents, or other animals from accessing them, and keep them from being blown around by the wind.
- Allow MDA to enter the premises during normal working hours to inspect your biosecurity and sanitation practices. Keep and maintain a log of associates or employees that access houses.
- Report any unusual bird deaths or sudden increases in sick birds to the MDA Animal Health Program at 410-841-5810 or 410-841-5971. Also contact the USDA at 866-536-7593.
- Read up about HPAI and biosecurity measures on the MDA [website](#).

Commercial chicken growers and backyard flock owners can email questions about the outbreak to MD.Birdflu@maryland.gov. In addition, the [USDA’s Defend the Flock](#) website has information on ways to help mitigate the risk of avian influenza, including instructional videos, additional biosecurity measures, and photos that show the signs of illness in birds. Please visit the department’s [Avian Flu](#) website for more information on avian influenza.

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments • U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating



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 Grev, (301) 432-2767 x339



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

Cut Flower Workshop

University of Maryland will be hosting a 3-day commercial cut flower workshop on **March 15, 16, and 17, 2022**. This program will be held at various locations for lectures and there will be site visits to different cut flower operations.

Day 1: High tunnel production: lectures and visiting locations with high tunnels.

Day 2: Crops to produce in high tunnels, Managing soil in high tunnels, Big bucks in spring cut flowers, Marketing cut flowers via local markets, Raised bed demonstration, Soil fertility, Using and calibrating fertilizer injectors

Day 3: Marketing - tricks of the trade, unusual woody cut stems, Walk-in coolers, Setting up a trickle irrigation system, Small equipment to make cut flower production easier

See the [schedule](#) for details and registration.



Private Pesticide Applicator Exam

Date: March 10th

Time: 9:00am -11:00am

Location: Baltimore County Ag Center

1114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030

To register, call the office at 410-887-8090

Visit <https://go.umd.edu/pesticideapplicatortraining> to check out the online training modules.



Focus Group: Solar Leases on Farmland

Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland

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).



March 24, 2022 • 9:00am

The Northeast Pasture Consortium (NEPC) Annual Meeting is a gathering intended to share ongoing research and field experience related to pasture-based livestock production in the Northeast, as well as to create connection between individuals, industry, agencies, and organizations doing this work and provide guidance on future research and development priorities.

This year's Virtual Annual Meeting on **March 24**, which will feature a full day of scientific and experiential presentations, posters, and discussion, including a real-time 2022 Grazing Research Priorities-setting session.

Topics to Include:

- Farm Succession Planning
- Carbon Sequestration in Pasture-Based Systems
- Diversified Meats
- Grass-Only Dairy
- Small Ruminant Grazing Under Solar Arrays
- And more!

Register Today!

https://whova.com/portal/registration/npcam_202202/

For more information, contact Jennifer Colby at jenn@howlingwolffarm.com or Jessica Williamson at jessicarobinettewilliamson@hotmail.com



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



Registration:

<https://go.umd.edu/beef-webinars>



Split N Cost-Share

Can you add another split of nitrogen to your corn crop? The 4R Alliance is seeking farmers to add an additional split of nitrogen for \$15/ acre.

Please contact Jenell Eck McHenry at Jenell.mdag@gmail.com or 443-262-6969 for enrollment details and more information.



SPLIT NITROGEN COST SHARE
Available through the Mid-Atlantic 4R Nutrient Stewardship Association

Contact us by March 15th to enroll your 2022 corn crop!

Pennsylvania Farmers -
Eric Rosenbaum at 484-788-7263
Delaware/Maryland Farmers -
Jenell Eck McHenry at 443-262-6969

4R MID-ATLANTIC
4rmidatlantic.com

2022 Call for Proposals for Northeast SARE Partnership Grant Programs

This program funds applied research, demonstration and education projects conducted by anyone who works with farmers. Projects must directly partner with a farmer or farmers.



Award maximum: \$30,000

Proposals are due by April 12, 2022, 5 p.m. ET.

Online submission system opens March 1, 2022.

Learn more about the Partnership Grant Program by visiting, <https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/partnership-grant-program/>

Partnership Grant Program Webinar

Grant coordinator Candice Huber provides information about the Northeast SARE Partnership Grant program including what “partnership” means, who is eligible to apply, and the types of projects and expenses that can be funded. The pre-recorded webinar also includes a presentation by Samuel Anderson, Cornell Cooperative Extension, about his experiences applying for and managing a Partnership Grant for his project, [Two-spotted Spider Mite IPM for Urban Agriculture](#).

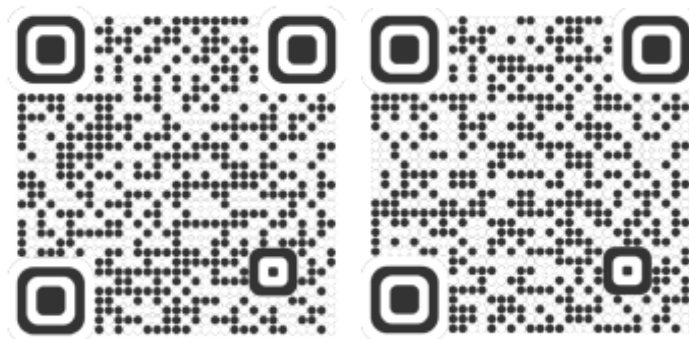
You can watch the webinar by visiting, <https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/partnership-grant-program/partnership-grant-webinar/>



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 Android Download for Apple

Maryland Poultry Premise Registration

All poultry owners are required by law to register their flock with Maryland Department of Agriculture regardless of the number of birds they own or their purpose. By definition poultry includes: Chickens, turkeys, ratites, waterfowl, game birds, and domestic/captive pigeons.

Why? This requirement is to help protection of disease outbreaks. In the event of a poultry disease outbreak, poultry owners will be notified so they can take measures to protect their birds.

How? Poultry owners can access the form online by visiting, <https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Documents/poultry-registration-form.pdf>. Once you have filled out the form, you can mail it back to:

Maryland Poultry Registration

Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401



Biological Soil Amendment of Animal Origin (BSAAO) Workshop



Sarah Everhart, University of Maryland

Spring is approaching and agricultural producers may have soil amendments on their mind.

Soil amendments are any of the materials growers add to the soil - like compost and fertilizers - to improve its physical or chemical properties. Biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAOs) are those that come from animals, like manure or animal mortalities. Proper use of soil amendments is critical for managing soil fertility and improving soil quality, and often results in healthier, tastier crops. However, soil amendments, particularly BSAAOs, that are untreated or inadequately treated prior to application can contain harmful human pathogens that could cause illness in consumers.

The Maryland Food Safety Network is hosting a single-day Soil Amendments Workshop at the Maryland Department of Agriculture to help growers understand best practices of using and making biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO), such as compost. This topic is especially relevant to produce covered by the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Growers covered by the PSR will need to ensure they are complying with Attendees will hear perspectives from industry, University of Maryland Extension (UME), and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

- Date and Time: Tue, March 22, 2022, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM EDT
- Location: Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401
- Cost: \$10 (covers expenses for the provided light breakfast and lunch)
- Register Online psrcompostworkshop.eventbrite.com



Open camera and hover over QR code to open registration

Speakers from UME and the FDA will provide an overview on the Produce Safety Rule and draft guidance to understand the current regulatory framework and requirements regarding soil amendments, the basics of how to compost, and the benefits of using BSAAOs to the soil and the farm. The intent is to help growers understand risks and benefits of using BSAAOs and how to comply with the current requirements. It will also provide an update on the status of BSAAO Risk Assessment, associated research, and discuss the possible future of Subpart F provisions for the use of untreated BSAAO on covered farms. Attendees will receive a certificate of workshop completion for their records.

Anyone with questions or who would like to register by phone may contact Sarah Everhart, 410-458-2475, severhart@law.umaryland.edu.

Field Watch Sensitive Crop Locator

Joe Fiola, 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>



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

University of Maryland Extension
Baltimore County Office
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Start your Nutrient Management Planning Now!

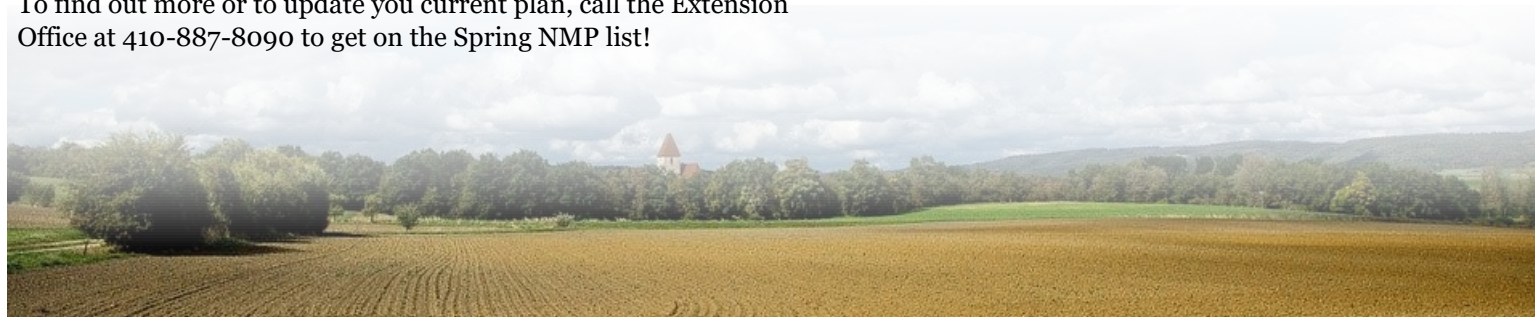
Maryland Department of Agriculture Regulations require any farmer or operator who has 8 or more animal units and/ or grosses \$2,500 or more annually on their operation to have a Nutrient Management Plan. The University of Maryland offers a free plan writing service throughout the State.

What will you need?

- Soil Analysis for each field
- Manure Analysis if you plan to spread any manure.
- Crop rotation plan
- Animal unit head count

To find out more or to update your current plan, call the Extension Office at 410-887-8090 to get on the Spring NMP list!

Check out these additional online resources

[Agronomy News](#)[Ag Marketing](#)[Ag Law Initiative](#)[Extension Website](#)[Fruit & Vegetable News](#)[Nutrient Management](#)[Sheep & Goat News](#)[Women in Ag](#)

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