

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



May 2024

The Extension office will be closed May 27 in observance of Memorial Day



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

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Hello, Harford County!

Welcome to May! On April 22 we celebrated Earth Day and while many of us in the industry of agriculture consider every day Earth Day, it still allows for us to reflect on the impacts our industry has on the Earth.

If you're a Farm Bureau member, you may have read the recent article that cited recently published data that shows that agriculture accounts for only 4% of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and only about 10% nationally.

I have written to this point in previous issues, but it is worth reiterating how small our GHG footprint really is; especially considering agriculture is the #1 land use and industry in our state, covering more than 2 million acres.

Nationally, agriculture accounts for 9.4% of US GHG emissions according to the latest EPA data. By comparison, transportation accounts for 29%, industry 30% and residential and commercial 31%.

What I think is also important to realize is that these statistics are strictly emissions and do not take into account the sequestration of carbon dioxide in agricultural systems. GHG removal in land and forestry sectors account for 12% GHG reduction. This means that agriculture is essentially a net zero GHG emitter. I believe this is quite a feat that should be

championed; instead, we are all too familiar with the ongoing narrative that "agriculture is killing the earth," especially when it comes to methane emissions in livestock production. Livestock GHG emissions is an even smaller proportion of total GHG emissions. According to the EPA, methane accounts for about 12% of total US GHG emissions; of that 12%, only 9% is from livestock.

These numbers are encouraging and will only improve as we advance agricultural technologies.

All this data can be found on the EPA's website (epa.gov); feel free to share it with someone who is misinformed.

One quick note regarding the operations of the Extension office—as of April 8, I have been appointed interim director of the Harford County Extension office, so if you have any operational questions related to our office, they can be directed to me. I want to note that I am still the ag agent here as well, which I will always make priority.

Enjoy Memorial Day as we remember all those who have lost their lives serving to protect our great Country.

Until next time,

-Andy



The 2024 National Agritourism Survey is now collecting responses. All agricultural operations that welcome visitors—whether for on-farm direct sales, educational programs, entertainment, farm stays, recreation, special events, and more—are invited to complete the survey.

By participating in this survey, you'll help us pinpoint the types of support farmers like you require—whether it's getting business assistance, developing

networks, applying for grants, or navigating zoning and liability issues.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Claudia Schmidt, a Penn State Extension specialist (cschmidt@psu.edu).

Thank you for your time spent taking this survey.

[Click here](#) to take the survey

Streamside Planting Financial Assistance

The Healthy Streams Farm Stewardship Program (HSFSP) offers agricultural producers in Baltimore, Harford, and Cecil Counties the opportunity to earn funds to help pay for any conservation work on the farm.

Overview

The Alliance will use HSFSP to provide producers a \$4000 Conservation Voucher per acre for planting new forest buffers along their streams. If the producers implement the buffers through a state or USDA cost share program or other buffer program, they can apply the Conservation Vouchers to help plan and implement any conservation work needed on the farm.

Vouchers can be used to support conservation practice design, planning, construction management and materials, equipment, stream buffer maintenance practices, fencing and more. The producer may also use vouchers to cover their private costs associated with public conservation cost share programs.

Leveraging the vouchers with conservation programs such as the USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), or Maryland's Agriculture

Water Quality Cost Share Program (MACS) will help increase whole farm conservation.

Funding is limited. Projects will be accepted on a first come basis until the funds are depleted.

Expectations for farmers

- Landowner must agree to keep and maintain the new forested buffer for 15 years.
- Buffers must be a least 35 feet wide along the waterway.
- Landowner must allow for or implement post-planting care of trees, which includes applying herbicide around the tree shelters and mowing twice annually for three years.
- No economic use of the buffer is allowed including haying, grazing or flash grazing.

For more information, please contact:

Craig Highfield, Forests Program Director

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

chighfield@allianceforthebay.org

(443) 949-0575



Order Restricting Movement of Dairy Cattle

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture today issued an [order](#) restricting movement of dairy cattle into Maryland from states with confirmed outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in their herds.

Last week, USDA [announced](#) detections of HPAI in dairy cattle herds in several states including Texas, Kansas, Michigan, Idaho, Ohio, North Carolina and New Mexico following increased illness and lower milk production rates among herds. USDA National Veterinary Laboratory Services confirmed the strain is H5N1, which has been circulating in the wild bird population for the last several years and appears to have been introduced to these herds by wild birds.

Although there have been no detections of HPAI in cattle in Maryland, producers are reminded to practice strong biosecurity. Cattle owners should minimize animal movements and isolate sick cattle. New animals should be quarantined for a minimum of two weeks before introducing them to an established herd.

“Maryland is home to a robust dairy and cattle genetics industry. The Maryland Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with state and federal partners, is actively monitoring and responding to this situation,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. “This order acts as another layer of protection for our Maryland farmers and ag industry partners.”

In addition to the confirmed detections in dairy herds, on April 1 a case of HPAI in a human was reported in Texas and confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This isolated case does not alter the overall human health risk assessment for H5N1 bird flu in the United States, as the CDC considers the risk to the general public to be low.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has stated there is no concern about the safety of the milk supply or that this circumstance poses a risk to consumer health because products are pasteurized before entering the market. Additionally, dairies are required to send only milk from healthy animals into processing for human consumption. If milk from cows showing symptoms of illness or exposed to those infected with avian influenza is intended to be used to feed calves or other animals, the FDA strongly encourages that it be pasteurized or otherwise heat treated to kill harmful bacteria or viruses, such as influenza, before calf feeding.

Avian influenza, commonly referred to as “bird flu,” is a respiratory illness caused by an Influenza A virus in birds. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed that the risk of transmission of avian influenza between birds or cattle and the general public remains low.

To prevent the spread of avian influenza, the Maryland Department of Agriculture advises poultry and livestock owners to adopt the following biosecurity measures:

1. Make biosecurity a daily practice to safeguard your agricultural animals.
2. Stay vigilant for signs of illness and be familiar with the symptoms of infectious diseases.
3. Report any suspected agricultural animals to the Maryland Department of Agriculture by calling 410-841-5810.
4. Commercial chicken growers and backyard flock owners can seek guidance by emailing their questions about the outbreak to MD.Birdflu@maryland.gov.



Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in dairy herds in Idaho, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Michigan and Ohio. A single case of HPAI in a human has been confirmed in Texas, however, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has assessed the public risk as low.

What's Being Done in Maryland:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is actively working with state and federal partners to monitor and respond to the situation. Farms and individuals involved in animal farming are encouraged to stay alert, become familiar with the signs of HPAI in poultry and cattle and take measures to protect their flocks and herds.

On April 10, 2024 MDA Secretary Kevin Atticks signed an [order](#) restricting the movement of dairy cattle into Maryland from states with confirmed cases of HPAI in dairy herds.

Milk Safety:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has assured consumers that the milk supply is safe. All milk products undergo pasteurization before reaching the market, and dairies are required to send only milk

from healthy animals for human consumption. The FDA strongly recommends heat treatment of milk from cows showing signs of illness or exposed to avian influenza before feeding it to calves.

Tips for Poultry and Livestock Owners:

Poultry and livestock owners are encouraged to practice biosecurity daily to protect their animals, watch for signs of illness, and report any suspected cases to the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Is it safe to drink milk during the avian influenza outbreak? YES. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration assures the safety of the milk supply through pasteurization and strict regulations.
2. How can I protect my poultry and livestock from avian influenza? You can safeguard your animals by practicing biosecurity, staying alert for signs of illness, and reporting any suspected cases to the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

For more information on potential human health impacts, please visit the [Maryland Department of Health's FAQ page](#). For more information or resources from our Federal partners, please visit the links to the right or contact MD.Birdflu@maryland.gov.

[Link to University of Maryland HPAI Biosecurity Resources:](https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/animal-science/maryland-poultry/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai/)

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/animal-science/maryland-poultry/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai/>



Overview of Fungicides for Head Scab Control

Andrew Kness, Senior Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland extension, Harford County

As we approach the middle of May, wheat will begin flowering and we will have to consider fungicide applications to wheat to manage *Fusarium* head blight (FHB), also known as head scab. FHB is the most economically important disease of wheat, causing not only yield reductions, but more seriously, grain quality issues due to the production of the mycotoxin deoxynivalenol (DON), also called vomitoxin.

The pathogen that causes FHB, *Fusarium graminearum*, persists in wheat, small grain, and corn residue. It infects the wheat plant through the open flower, which is why flowering is such an important management timing for quality wheat production. *Fusarium graminearum* requires moist conditions and moderate temperatures (59-86°F) to initiate infection. If these conditions are met during flowering, the pathogen will infect susceptible wheat varieties and cause disease.

Management of FHB requires a layered approach of IPM practices, with the major management practices being the selection of a good wheat variety and subsequent good planting and fertility practices, plus the use of a fungicide at flowering should the environmental conditions be conducive for FHB development. The wheatcab.psu.edu map can be helpful in predicting FHB risk to wheat around flowering. Historically, this model has been over 70% effective at predicting FHB outbreaks and should be consulted when making fungicide decisions. If you decide to apply a fungicide to manage FHB, there are three important factors to consider: 1.) Timing, 2.) Application method, and 3.) Active ingredient.

As mentioned earlier, the pathogen can only infect wheat through the open flower, so you need to time your fungicide application as close to flowering, or Feekes Growth Stage 10.5.1, as possible (Figure 1). This growth stage is defined by the appearance of yellow anthers in the center of the wheat spike. Once this stage is reached, the application window is about 5-7 days. Some fungicide products are labelled for application as early as Feekes 10.3 (half head emergence); however, this timing is not as optimal as 10.5.1—so wait if you can.

The second factor is application method. Most of our fungicides on wheat go on with a ground sprayer. For ground applications

it is important to achieve good coverage of the wheat heads, not the foliage. To do this, spray volumes should be at least 20 gallons/acre and you should use bi-directional spray nozzles angled forward and backwards. This combination of spray volume and angled nozzles results in thorough coverage of the wheat heads. Aerial applications should be done at 5 gallons/acre for maximum coverage.

The final consideration is fungicide active ingredient. Triazole and HDMI fungicides work best on FHB. Products include: Prosaro Pro, Prosaro, Miravis Ace, Saphaerex, Proline, and Caramba; Folicur has less efficacy than the others and Tilt is no longer effective on FHB. Do not apply any group 11 (Qoi/strobilurin) fungicides like Approach, Headline, or Quadris after heading as these products can actually increase DON levels in the grain.



A. Kness, Univ. of Maryland

Figure 1. Wheat at Feekes 10.5.1, indicating proper fungicide timing for FHB.

Agronomy



SMALL GRAIN FIELD DAYS

Contact Jenell McHenry to register:
(443) 262-8491 | jenell.mdag@gmail.com



Maryland Grain Producers & Maryland Crop Improvement

May 22 - Wye R&EC
May 23 - Clarksville R&EC

3:00 PM - Welcome
3:15 PM - View Commercial Plots & Hear from Local Seed Retailers
4:15 PM - UMD Small Grains Breeding Program - Dr. Vijay Tiwari
4:40 PM - Systems Approach to Managing Fusarium Headblight - Dr. Nidhi Rawat
5:00 PM - Nitrogen Rate in High Management Wheat - Dr. Nicole Fiorelino
5:20 PM - Travel to Dinner

GAPs Training and PSR Introduction

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Attend this in-person event to receive certification for Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) from the Maryland Department of Agriculture and an introduction to the Produce Safety Rule (PSR). All-day attendance is mandatory to earn the certificate. Topics include:

- Writing a food safety plan
- Hazard analysis
- Wildlife food safety management
- Production water safety
- How to handle waste

- Good harvest and post-harvest handling practices
- Postharvest water
- Standard operating procedures
- GAP implementation

This event is free but please register https://agmr.umd.edu/events/good-agricultural-practices-introduction-to-produce-safety-rule/?featured_date=1361 or call (240) 994-5043.

May 10

8—4:30 PM

Plantation Park Heights
Urban Farm
Baltimore, MD

Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarships

The **Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarship** is available to applicants whose families are members of Harford County Farm Bureau. The applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time accredited 2 or 4 year college, university, or technical school, and the applicant's chosen curriculum must be in an approved program in agriculture or an agriculturally related field.



The **Harford County 4-H Memorial Scholarship** is available to graduating high school seniors who have been a member of Harford County 4-H for a minimum of 2 years. The applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time accredited 2 or 4 year college, university, or technical school. It is not necessary for the applicant's chosen curriculum to be agriculturally related. This scholarship was established to memorialize several Harford County 4-H members who lost their lives at a young age because of accidents or health issues. Funds for this scholarship come from donations and from the sale of 4-H livestock projects which are sold at the Harford County Farm Fair.

There is one scholarship application form, which can be used for either or both scholarships. To obtain an electronic copy, please contact the Farm Bureau office at harfordfb@gmail.com or call Alice Archer at 443-417-3505.

The completed application and all requested information should be sent to: Harford County Farm Bureau, 3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 200, Street, MD 21154-1900. **Applications must be postmarked by or delivered to the Farm Bureau office at the Harford County Agricultural Center by Friday, May 31, 2024.**

Planting Green Workshop

Farmers and ag service providers are invited to learn about the latest research on planting green techniques and slug control methods.

Activities will include:

- Planting green demonstration
- Biomass and root sampling activities
- Soil pit investigation
- Slug scouting and control methods
- Single species and mixes, sandy and clay soils

When: Thursday, May 9, 2024
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

*Field day will include coffee, light breakfast and lunch

Where: Central Maryland
Research and Education Center

12000 Beaver Dam Rd, Glenn Dale, MD 20769

For More information and to register: <https://millionacrechallenge.org/planting-green-workshop/> or call Sarah Hirsh at (410) 651-1350.

May 9

9:30—2:30

Central MD Research &
Education Center



HARFORD COUNTY Agriculture week

General Interest

**SATURDAY
MAY 11**

**6th Annual Symposium
Farmers, Community,
and the Environment:
Nourishing Our Resources Together**

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Deer Creek Overlook 4-H Camp
6 Cherry Hill Road, Street
<https://harford.universitytickets.com>

**TUESDAY
MAY 14**

**Farm Visitation Day
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Spend the day celebrating agriculture!
Harford County Farm Bureau invites you to
visit any or all of five local farms. Each farm
will welcome you with a special activity and
a description and tour of their operation.
www.harfordcountymd.gov/Ag

**THURSDAY
MAY 16**

**An Evening at the
Steppingstone Farm Museum
4 - 7 p.m.**

461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre De Grace
Come for a fun-filled evening at the farm
with demonstrations, exhibit tours and
food trucks. Family & pet friendly.
www.steppingstonemuseum.org

**SATURDAY
MAY 18**

Buy Local at Farmers Markets!

Bel Air Market
(2 South Bond Street)

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Open Saturdays, April 13 - Nov. 23

Havre de Grace Market
(100 Block of St. Johns Street & Hutchins Park)

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Open Saturdays, May 4 - Dec. 21

**SUNDAY
MAY 19**

Taste of Harford

1 - 4 p.m.

Vignon Manor Farm
425 Darlington Road, Havre De Grace
Enjoy over 50 local restaurants, breweries,
wineries & value-added agriculture
producers. Proceeds benefit Harford County
Public Library programs & services.

410-638-3511 or arjeffries@harfordcountymd.gov | 3525 Conowingo Road, Street

Great resources are just a click away!

Andrew Kness

Andrew Kness
Senior Extension Agent,
Agriculture and
Food Systems



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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 the University of Maryland Extension office at least two weeks prior to the event.

3525 Conowingo Rd.
Suite 600
Street, MD 21154

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Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 09 May.** Planting Green Workshop. 9:30-2:30 PM. Central MD Research & Education Center, Clarksville, MD. Register [online](#) or call (410) 651-1350
- 10 May.** Produce Safety and GAPs Training. 8-4:30 PM. Park Heights Urban Farm, Baltimore, MD. Free. Register [online](#).
- 11-19 May.** Harford County Agriculture Week.
- 11 May.** Harford County Ag Symposium. 8-2 PM. Deer Creek Overlook, Street, MD. Tickets available at tickets.harford.edu or call (443) 412-2211.
- 22 & 23 May.** Small Grains Field Days. UMD Wye and Central MD Research & Education Centers.
- 11 Jun.** Women in Ag Webinar: Land Use Considerations with Focus on Solar Development. 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#).

BERRY TWILIGHT TOUR

MAY 14, 2024

5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

WYE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

CENTER, QUEENSTOWN, MD

TO REGISTER:

[BIT.LY/3IBC4TU](https://bit.ly/3IBC4TU)

RSVP BY MAY 10TH



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

May 2024