The Cool-Season Grasses and Weeds: Identification and Management Workshop is quickly approaching! The event will be held on June 10 from 9:30 am to 2:15 pm at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center - Clarksville Facility. This will be a follow up to the No-till Drill Demonstration Field Days held in mid-March and will be a day full of interactive presentations, on-site field evaluations, and tons of practical information you can take back to your clients!

The workshop will cover information on plant and weed identification, evaluating no-till drill planting, and will include a discussion on the current equine rotational grazing research occurring at the Clarksville Facility. Speakers will include equine and pasture specialists such as Scott Glenn, R. Jay Ugiansky, Amy Burk, Les Vough, and Elmer Dengler.

This workshop is open to the public. Please see the attached document for the complete agenda and contact Kelly Brannan at kbrannan@umd.edu to register. Registration is free, but must be submitted by Thursday, June 5, 2008.

Click for more information.

Master Marketing
Ginger S. Myers, Regional Marketing Specialist
Ag and Natural Resources

Attached is the latest edition in the "Mastering Marketing" series of the MCE Ag and Natural Resources Marketing Program. Whether you're marketing products, services, or information, parceling and re-packaging it into smaller "bites" can help you net greater returns.

Click for more information.

It is the policy of the University of Maryland, Agricultural Experiment Station and Maryland Cooperative Extension, that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability.
“Timely Viticulture” is designed to give those in the Maryland grape industry a timely reminder of things they should be considering in the vineyard or when establishing a planting. Attached please find some timely information about early disease management from Anne DeMarsay. For more information on disease management please check out Extension Fact Sheet 848, Guidelines for Developing an Effective Fungicide Spray Program for Wine Grapes in Maryland, 2008, at: http://extension.umd.edu/publications/PDFs/FS848.pdf.

Pre-bloom to Post-bloom Disease Management
The period from just before bloom to 3 to 4 weeks after bloom is critical for protecting flowers and newly set fruit from black rot (BR), Phomopsis fruit rot (Ph), powdery mildew (PM), downy mildew (DM), and Botrytis bunch rot infection. Maryland growers may refer to Extension Fact Sheet 848, Guidelines for Developing an Effective Fungicide Spray Program for Wine Grapes in Maryland, 2008, for specific management recommendations at: http://extension.umd.edu/publications/PDFs/FS848.pdf.

Fire Blight in Apples
Anne DeMarsay, Ph.D.
Regional Extension Specialist
Because of the severity of fire blight in some orchards and plantings in 2007 and again this year, I've put together a handout based on an article in the Tree Fruit Spray Bulletin by the late Paul Steiner. It is a lucid explanation of how fire blight develops and what determines its severity, and I could not improve on his work. The handout also outlines his fire blight management program for commercial growers, which is still the standard recommended by pathologists in this region. I've appended an illustration of the "ugly stub" method of pruning from the Home Fruit Production Guide for those who may not be familiar with this method.

Just one caution: growers must use Maryblyt or a similar program to forecast blossom infection periods if they plan to use the antibiotic streptomycin. Applying streptomycin without using a forecasting tool is ineffective, a waste of money, and encourages the development of antibiotic resistance. In large areas of the country, the fire blight bacterium has already become immune to streptomycin, and we don't want to lose this valuable tool here in the mid-Atlantic through careless use.

Grain and Oilseed Markets
The grain and oilseed markets are a moving target. Information is constantly fed into the trading pits where commodity prices are bid accordingly, seeking to find equilibrium. At times isolated events can have drastic effects upon prices. At other times the information hasn't really changed all that much from month to month or week to week. It is important for us to weigh the factors that are impacting the commodities market while not losing sight of those factors influencing the markets that have not changed. Crude oil prices, while recently peaking at $133.70 per barrel, have backed off this week with July crude trading at $129.86 in overnight trading. The U.S. dollar index, which set its low at 71.05 on April 22nd (closing at 71.54 that day), closed at 72.62 in yesterday's trading. The point being that energy prices are still high and the value of the dollar is still low. The looming question, as related to commodity marketing, is whether these factors: oil prices and the value of the dollar are changing? Could we be seeing a reversal in the trends?

Apparently, the verdict is still out on the influence that Index Funds have on commodity prices. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) issued a report, prior to the conduct of the April forum, stating that the funds are not having any undue influence on commodity prices. Obviously, there are varying opinions on this issue. The biggest
influence in these markets may well be the fact that we are dealing with demand driven markets. Eventually, any vagaries in the markets will work themselves out. In the meantime, we shouldn't look for any changes forthcoming regarding trading rules for the different classifications of speculative traders.

**Corn Analysis**

The nation's corn crop is now 88 percent planted, 6 to 8 points behind the same week last year and the 5-year average. Slightly over half of the crop is emerged, running about 14 points behind last year and 28 points behind the 5-year average. A warming trend is forecast for the Corn Belt this week with temperatures around the 80 degree mark which is expected to enhance '08 crop development.

USDA officially opened some of the CRP to haying or grazing late Tuesday. Futures traders were said to view this development as slightly bearish to corn futures because the decision could result in slightly less corn being fed.

Weekly export shipments of U.S. corn are considered neutral to bullish. Neutral because actual shipments were running well behind the pace needed to meet projections. Bullish because the combined export sales report showed sales at 30.6 million bushels. This was above the range of estimates and slightly ahead that needed to stay on pace with USDA's projection of 2.5 billion bushels to be exported in the '07/'08 marketing year.

**Soybean Analysis**

Argentine soybean export shipments have been stopped again due to the farmer strike. In the short run the Argentine strike is beneficial to U.S. and Brazilian export business. The soybean harvest is now complete in the Southern Hemisphere. U.S. soybean planting is now slightly over 50 percent, running 22 points behind the 5-year average and 15 points behind last year.

The weekly export sales report for soybeans was bullish. Only 0.5 million bushels (mb) were needed last week to stay on pace with USDA's projection of 1.090 billion bushels for the '07/'08 marketing year. The combined total for weekly sales was reported at 31.9 mb. Shipments were also ahead of the amount needed to be on pace with projections.

**Wheat Analysis**

As the '08 wheat harvest nears pressure is said to be building on wheat prices. World demand for new crop wheat is very strong. The actual size and quality of this year's harvest won't be known until the wheat is in the bin. Wheat prices are being supported by outside forces.

Accumulated sales for the 50th week of this marketing year for wheat are at 1.257 billion bushels as compared to USDA's forecast of 1.280 bb. Weekly sales were within the range of estimates. Shipments were far behind the 57.7 mb needed to stay on pace with projections. The export situation for wheat is said to be bearish to neutral.

**Market Strategy**

Throughout the summer commodity markets will be driven by weather developments, energy prices, the value of the dollar, fund investing, and global demand. Normally speaking, the corn market is entering that period of time that a seasonal high is made. Whether that holds true this year or not depends upon crop development. Remember, there is no room for margin of error in U.S. corn and soybean production this year.

The soybean market is currently being influenced by the situation in Argentina. China has been on a buying spree in recent months in preparation for hosting the Olympics. The consuming public is beginning to conserve by cutting back on travel plans for the summer. More Americans stayed home this Memorial Day weekend when compared to last year. As demand for energy slows the price of crude oil is likely to come down.

The U.S. corn crop is nearly planted. Actual acreage planted will be reported on June 31st. Dec '08 corn futures are currently trading at $6.15 per bushel; Nov '08 soybeans at $13.48 per bushel; and July '08 wheat at $7.49 per bushel.

For technical assistance on making grain marketing decisions contact:

Carl L. German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist  
Department of Food & Resource Economics  
208 Townsend Hall  
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-2130  
Phone: 302-831-1317 Fax: 302-831-6243  
List owner<grn-mktgd@udel.edu> "E-Grain Marketing Club"; and  
<www.agri-culturehealth.com> "Farm Retail/Wholesale Marketing Web Site".
Attended are a couple of Information Sheets about corn production issues during cool, wet springs. One deals with a number of stresses/challenges that the corn plant faces with the weather we have been experiencing. The other is about making a replant decision.

I am interested in hearing from you about problems farmers are having in your counties with their crops. I know that some corn got planted fairly early on the Eastern Shore but there is likely still a lot to plant on this side of the Bay.

Also attached is an Information Sheet that discusses lodging. We already have a substantial amount and are likely to see even more as the wheat heads get heavier during the next 2-4 weeks.

Click below for more information

Maryland Field Crop Pathology News
21 May 2008
Arvydas Grybauskas, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist
University of Maryland

The small grain / field crop and strawberry twilight tour is on tonight at 6:00 PM at the Wye Research and Education Center, near Queenstown MD. Small grain variety, management and fungicide trials will be on display. The strawberry tour folks say if we field crop folks are nice we can have some of their strawberries, too. For those who can’t make it, this edition of the newsletter will cover some of the same information.

Crop Development:
The continued wet and cool weather has slowed wheat development so that some wheat in northern counties is yet to flower. Wheat that I have been watching closely in research plots in the central part of the state is now 1-2 weeks past flowering. I suspect with the expected warming trend that wheat in the northern tier will rapidly push out of the boot and flower within 1-3 days afterwards.

Fusarium Head Blight (Scab) Risk:
The scab risk level has declined through most of the state in spite of the rains to low because of the cool temperatures. This does not mean that you will not see any scabby heads this season. We have already observed the first symptoms of scab in some of our research plots. The cool temperatures though have significantly reduced the disease potential and it is unlikely to be widespread or severe this season. For those who still have wheat yet to flower, continue to monitor the scab forecasting website www.wheatscab.psu.edu. If we have warmer weather and a continuation of rain then the risk could still go back up. Fortunately it looks like we are headed for some drier weather.

Foliar Diseases & Last Fungicide Options:
Some producers have held off on fungicide applications at heading waiting to see how the scab risk potential played out for them. Growers in the northern tier are at this decision point. Fungicides applied at heading have no effect on scab, but the registered fungicides that can be applied at flowering can have an effect on mildew and rust. I have some very good data from this season’s trials that indicate the new product Proline is very good against powdery mildew if applied before the flag leaf has significant disease development. Also at low levels of leaf rust, which has been slow to develop because it has been too cool for it, the new products Proline and Caramba are doing well against this disease. Therefore, if you don’t have a
significant buildup of powdery mildew in the lower canopy, and you don’t have any sign of rust on the upper leaves then with the varieties we have (resistance holding up) even with disease favorable weather, you can hold off to flowering to cover all your fungicide-manageable diseases.

**Stripe Rust:**
I found stripe rust for the first time this season on Monday, 19 May, in an unsprayed research plot at the Wye. Incidence was very low, just a handful of leaves in one plot. This rust disease does best in cool weather. This warrants a call to look for signs of stripe rust in northern fields to see if there are any other sites where it has appeared. In general it is too late to cause significant losses in central to southern parts of the state, although if it stays cool it may look a little rough just before the crop matures. However if there are other locations with stripe rust in more northern fields then there is a chance this could cause losses in susceptible varieties if the weather stays cool.

**Wheat spindle streak mosaic virus:**
Cool wet weather throughout most of the small grain season has been ideal for the soil-borne viruses in wheat. We have a nursery for WSSMV at the Wye where we evaluate resistance. Support for that project comes from check-off funds, and we gratefully acknowledge the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board for the grant to keep this nursery going. The only way to manage this disease is to use resistant varieties. Attached is a table with an evaluation of the varieties in this year’s state wheat trial. The data integrates data from previous trials where available. The key columns are the last two. These are rescaled scores that smooth out the differences between seasons. Low scores are resistant and high scores are susceptible. Note the most conservative way of declaring resistance is to look at the last column and to make sure there is more than one year of data producing that value. A master list of evaluations from 2001- through 2008 will be made available soon.

Click for more information.

WSSMV08 Summary Table.pdf

Check Out Our Updated County Website
Anne Arundel County Extension website:
http://annearundel.umd.edu/

The current and past agricultural newsletter additions are available for viewing or copy at:
http://annearundel.umd.edu/AGNR/agnews.cfm

An agricultural bulletin page is also available for viewing or copy under our hot topics section at:
http://annearundel.umd.edu/AGNR/agnews.cfm

New on the website 2008: Anne Arundel County Agricultural Program Teaching Modules - Streaming Video: http://annearundel.umd.edu/Agriculture.cfm

Also relive the history of Extension and University of Maryland College of Agriculture Land Grant Mission by viewing the 150 Years Anniversary PowerPoint: http://annearundel.umd.edu/files/University%20of%20Maryland%20150%20Year%20Anniversary.pps

Thanks for Partnering
Thanks for partnering with Maryland Cooperative Extension, and supporting our programs.

R. David Myers, Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Anne Arundel & Prince George’s Counties