Dave’s Ramble

Previously, I recanted tales of the honey bee hunters, but hornets and yellow jackets are altogether different and generally require a “Macedonian Call” for bee warriors. “They typically are not aggressive and won’t sting until July!” an often stated and very interesting fact concerning hornets and yellow jackets. Although, I have concluded that they are merely evasive, trying to keep a low profile until sufficient numbers have been reared, only to become ever meaner until September, at which time they will attack at will.

At an early age, with advanced bee warrior training at the side of my grandfather, I mastered the most successful tactics: “You have to attack when they are in the hive, while keeping them from leaving the hive!” My grandfather’s timeless words. Because hornets only have a bottom hole in the large hanging paper hive, a flame directly under the hive is all you need. Grandpap and I were in the VW Bug, a broom stick wrapped with kerosene soaked rags, extending out the wing vent window. The rags were lit as we drove toward and directly under the largest hornets’ nest I had ever seen. Not a single bee made a successful escape as the hive and a good portion of my grandma’s favorite holly tree was consumed with fire.

I also enjoyed the shotgun approach to hornet control; three 12 gauges with number 8 birdshot leveled at point blank, “Three, Two, One, Fire!” No survivors.

Yellow jackets are much trickier, we generally resorted to flammable liquids poured at dusk into the ground nest and lighted. By the age of ten, I was a true bee warrior. The neighborhood gang was playing football when we discovered a yellow jacket nest in our favorite ball field. We merely placed a metal trash can lid over the hive entrance and played on. We later decided it to be prudent to get rid of the yellow jackets; so we devised our strategy. We all went home to dress in two layers of clothes, with winter coats, gloves, boots and hats; each of us also grabbed a shovel or broom and returned, probably with some odd looks from our parents along the way. We gathered around the trash can lid. Of course, as the most trained bee warrior, it would be my job to lift the lid. Once the lid was lifted, all we had to do was pound and shovel until every bee laid dead. The plan was going well until the first holler “Ouch!” followed by “Run!” The amazing thing is we killed all of the yellow jackets with only one wounded bee warrior.

Calendar of Events

Mark Your Calendars --- Plan To Participate

- November 17-19- Crop Mgmt. School - Ocean City
- December TBA - Southern MD Crops Dinner - Brandywine
- December 14 - Crops IPM Workshop NM/PAT - Ext Office
- Jan. 5, 2016 - Pesticide Certification Training - Ext Office
- Jan. 13, 2016 - So. MD Forage Conference - Brandywine
- Jan. 19, 2016 - Pesticide Certification Exam - Ext Office
- January TBA - Central MD Vegetable Meeting - Upperco
- Feb. 11, 2016 - So. MD Vegetable & Fruit Meeting - Bowie
- Mar. 15, 2016 - Pasture & Crop Workshop NM/PAT-Ext Office
- April 8, 2016 - On-Line Nutrient Voucher Recertification
- April 15, 2016 - On-Line Pesticide Applicator Recertification

Fall 2015

Inside This Issue

- Fall and Winter Meetings
- Vegetable & Crop Insect Update
- Agronomic Crop Disease Update
- AG Marketing News Update
- MDA News
- USDA News
- EPA Pesticide Program Updates
FALL & WINTER MEETINGS
Mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of the fall and winter meetings.

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School
November 17-19, 2015

The Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City on November 17-19, 2015. Individuals seeking advanced training in soil and water, soil fertility, crop production and pest management will have an opportunity at hands on, intensive sessions that also provide continuing education units (CEU’s) for the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Program.

Register at: https://www.psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops

Southern Maryland Crops Dinner Conference
December TBA, 2015

The Southern Maryland Agents would like to invite everyone to join with our University specialists to have your questions answered about crop production and pest control at the Southern MD Crops Conference on December TBA, 2015, 4:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Baden Firehouse Hall in Brandywine, MD.

Attendance at this conference will satisfy the requirement for the Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher.

Please call your local Extension office to register.

Crop Sustainability & IPM Workshop
Pesticide Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training
December 14, 2015

Make plans to attend the Crop Sustainability & IPM Workshop at the Anne Arundel Extension Office, Monday December 14th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

This workshop will explore advanced crop production practices focusing on sustainability, food security and integrated pest management tactics. Topics will include: Crop selection; integrated crop management; soil fertility; weed control; insect control; and disease control for field crops, fruits and vegetables.

Maryland/Delaware Forage Council
Southern MD Hay & Pasture Conference
January 13, 2016

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Hay & Forage Conference in Waldorf, MD.

Topics will be presented covering all aspects of hay and pasture production. The programs will address key issues and concerns facing hay and pasture producers.

The conferences also features displays and exhibits by numerous agribusinesses. Attendees will be able to obtain information on seed, fertilizer, equipment, fencing, etc. needed for hay and pasture production and management.

More detailed program information on the Southern Maryland Conference will soon be available on the Web at: http://www.mdforages.umd.edu or through local county Extension and NRCS/Soil Conservation District offices in MD.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification will be awarded for full class participation.

Register on-line for this event at: http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Become a MD Certified Private Pesticide Applicator

If you have allowed your Private Pesticide Applicator Certification to expire or are a new applicant, then you are invited to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training and Examination. It’s a two-step process:

Step 1: A Private Applicator Certification Training will be conducted at the Anne Arundel Extension Office from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

Step 2: A Private Pesticide Applicator Exam will be given at the Anne Arundel Extension Office from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

Register on-line for this event at: http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.
Central Maryland Vegetable Growers Meeting
Date TBA

This well sponsored, large grower meeting always offers a great deal of vegetable industry information. Pesticide recertification credits are awarded for attending this meeting. For full meeting details, and to register call the Baltimore County Extension Office at 410-771-1761.

Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting
February 11, 2016

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting on February 11, 2016, at the Bowie Elks in Anne Arundel County. This meeting will provide Private Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification. Speakers will provide IPM updates and present on a broad range of production topics.

Also meeting sponsors will showcase their products and services, and state vegetable organization leaders will be present to recruit and answer your questions. Please attend and make this meeting the best ever.
Register on-line for this event at: http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Field Crops & Pasture IPM Workshop
March 15, 2016

Make plans to attend the Field Crops & Pasture IPM Workshop, on March 15, 2016 at the Anne Arundel Extension Office from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This workshop will explore advanced concepts of pasture and field crop production in the Southern Maryland region from establishment to harvest, including animal utilization. Topics will include: Crop selection; integrated crop management; soil fertility; weed control; insect control; and disease control for soybeans, corn, wheat, barley and hay crops.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification will be awarded for full class participation.
Register on-line for this event at: http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Live On-Line Session
Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification
April 8, 2016

If you would like the opportunity to learn from home, yet still be engaged, then be sure to enroll in the Live On-Line Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification Training, scheduled for from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2016.

This session will focus on fertility and production related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This Adobe Connect recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. Adobe Connect is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a live Adobe Connect session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation.

Register on-line for this event at: http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

Live On-Line Session
Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification
April 15, 2016

If you would like the opportunity to learn from home, yet still be engaged, then be sure to enroll in this Live On-Line Private Pesticide Recertification Training, scheduled for from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 15, 2016.

The session will focus on pesticide use and related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This Adobe Connect recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. Adobe Connect is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a live Adobe Connect session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation.

Registration by April 13th is required in order to receive Adobe Connect login instructions.

Register on-line for this event at: http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.
Vegetable Crop Insect Update
By Joanne Whalen
DE Extension IPM Specialist
jwhalen@udel.edu

Cole Crops
Continue to sample for cabbage looper, diamondback larvae, beet and fall armyworms and Harlequin bug. Although the pyrethroids will provide control of Harlequin bugs they are not effective on beet armyworm or diamondback. Be sure to scout and select controls options based on the complex of insects present in the field.

Lima Beans
Continue to scout for stink bugs, lygus bugs, soybean looper and corn earworm. If present in the mix, be sure to select a material labeled for soybean loopers.

Melons
Continue to scout all melons for aphids and cucumber beetles and rind feeding caterpillars. Treatments for aphids should be applied before populations explode and leaf curling occurs. In addition, be sure to read the label regarding when a penetrating surfactant is needed in order to achieve effective control.

Peppers
At this time of year, aphids, corn borer, corn earworm, beet armyworm and fall armyworm are all potential problems in peppers. Be sure to select the material that will control the complex of insects present in the field.

Spinach
Webworms and beet armyworms moths continue to be active at this time and controls need to be applied when worms first hatch and before they have moved deep into the hearts of the plants. Also, remember that both insects can produce webbing on the plants. Generally, at least 2 applications are needed to achieve control of webworms and beet armyworm.

Agronomic Crop Insect Update
Joanne Whalen, DE Extension IPM Specialist
jwhalen@udel.edu

Alfalfa and Grass Hay Crops
Continue to watch for defoliators in grass hay crops and alfalfa. We continue to see economic levels in an occasional field. Significant damage can occur in grass hay fields from true armyworm and fall armyworm. It is important to catch populations before significant damage has occurred and when larvae are small. In addition to checking labels for rates, be sure to check for all restrictions, including, but not limited to, comments on control under high populations and size of larvae; days to harvest and forage/silage restrictions. No thresholds are available; however, controls should be applied before significant defoliation occurs.

Small Grains
As you make plans to plant small grains, you need to remember that Hessian fly can still be a problem. Since the fly survives as puparia (“flax seeds”) in wheat stubble through the summer, you should still consider this pest as you make plans to plant small grains. Although damage in our area has generally been the result of spring infestations, we can see damage in the fall. Plants attacked in the spring have shortened and weakened stems that may eventually break just above the first or second node, causing plants to lodge near harvest. Plants attacked in the fall at the one-leaf stage may be killed outright. Wheat attacked later in the fall will be severely stunted, with the first tillers killed and plant growth delayed. Plants infested in the fall can be recognized by their darker than normal bluish coloration and leaves with unusually broad blades. The following combinations of strategies are needed to reduce problems from Hessian fly: (a) Completely plowing under infested wheat stubble to prevent flies from emerging. (b) Avoid planting wheat into last season's wheat stubble, especially if it was infested with Hessian fly.
(c) Avoid planting wheat next to last season’s wheat fields – the most serious infestations can occur when wheat is early planted into wheat stubble or into fields next to wheat stubble.

(d) Eliminate volunteer wheat before planting to prevent early egg-laying.

(e) Do not use wheat as a fall cover crop near fields with infestations.

(f) Plant after the fly-free date.

(g) Plant resistant varieties. You should look for varieties that have resistance to Biotype L. You will need to check with your seed dealers to identify varieties that our adapted our area.

The following link from Alabama provides additional information on Hessian Fly Management (http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/HessianFly.php)

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**IPM Threshold Guide Agronomic Field Crops**

**ECONOMIC THRESHOLD** — Level of pest activity when control action is suggested to prevent economic injury

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Available at: [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/IPMAgronomicCropsGuide2009.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/IPMAgronomicCropsGuide2009.pdf)

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**Nematode Assay Laboratories for Maryland Samples**

This message is to inform you all that the University of Delaware no longer accepts out of state soil samples for nematode testing. There are other university-affiliated nematology labs that will accept out of state samples for nematode testing — three are listed below. Sample submission information, fees and addresses can be found at the websites for each lab.

Virginia Tech Nematology Laboratory (phone 540-231-4650) at: [https://www.ppws.vt.edu/extension/nematode-laboratory/index.html](https://www.ppws.vt.edu/extension/nematode-laboratory/index.html)

Clemson Plant Problem Clinic and Nematode Assay Lab at: [http://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant_industry/pest_nursery_programs/plant_prob_clinic/](http://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant_industry/pest_nursery_programs/plant_prob_clinic/)

Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory and Nematode Detection Service at: [https://njaes.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab/](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab/)

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**IT’S AUGUST – ARE YOUR COVER CROPS GROWING YET?**

Sarah Hirsh, Graduate Research Assistant & Ray Weil, Professor

Department of Environmental Science and Technology

University of Maryland

Most folks are thinking about vacation, or maybe harvest...not cover crop planting in August. But for cover crops to really pay, they need time to work in the fall...and that means planting in August – or at least by early September. Unless you are taking off corn silage, such early planting will probably mean planting cover crops before the cash crop is pulled from the field. Think air-seeding with Hi-boys or aerial seeding with aircraft as the crop senesces and dries down...or maybe do the air seeding right after side-dressing corn and really give the cover crop a head start. Other strategies include using extremely early maturing corn hybrids in some field to get a jump on cover crop planting and lock in high prices. While these strategies may not work in every field, and may not be for the faint of heart, they can pay off well.
Plant now, save later - save nitrogen, that is. Planting cover crops early can clean up nitrogen (N) left in the soil after summer crops and capture deep soil N, which would otherwise likely be leached away over the winter. If aggressive cover crops have an extra few weeks of warm long day length growing time in September they may pick up large quantities of nitrogen from 4 ft down - or deeper -- before they shut down with winter weather. Our research group is finding more soluble soil nitrogen, even high-yielding corn crops, than you might expect.

Lots of folks assume that corn keeps taking up nitrogen from the soil pretty much right up to harvest. But in fact, during late August and September when corn is filling grain, the nitrogen for that grain is coming mainly from other parts of the corn plant. That’s why the plant starts to yellow, generally beginning with the bottom leaves. During this 4 to 6 week period when the corn uptake of nitrogen has virtually ceased, but the crop isn’t ready for harvest, soluble nitrogen remaining in the soil, and that still being released by microbial decay, is subject to being washed down with percolating rainwater. By the time the corn is finally harvested, much of this nitrogen maybe several feet deep. By the time traditional cover crops are maximizing growth in spring that nitrogen is long gone.

Soil samples taken by our research group down to 7 ft deep on 14 farms in late August to mid-September, 2014, indicated that on average of about 300 lbs/acre of mineral N remained in the soil profile after summer crops. Early planted cover crops we measured captured 50-250 lbs/acre of N in the fall. With rapid-decaying species, most of that nitrogen is released by the spring, and may contribute to increased yields, reduced fertilizer requirements, and reduced N loading from farms to the Bay. Because of the warmer temperatures and longer days, each day in August or early September is worth about three or four days in October, in terms of cover crop growth and nutrient capture (see photo).

In fall 2014 and spring 2015 we used a heavy isotope (15N) to trace nitrogen uptake by forage radish (Raphanus sativus) and rye (Secale cereale) cover crops. The heavy nitrogen isotope in the form of potassium nitrate was buried at 3.5 or 7 ft deep in late August, about the time that corn nitrogen uptake has nearly ceased. Cover crops were planted above the buried 15N. The presence of the heavier 15N could then be detected in the biomass of the cover crops using mass spectrometer technology. When the forage radish and rye were planted September 1, both species captured the buried N from 3.5 ft deep. However, when planted October 1, neither species captured any of the buried N.

The choice of cover crops species is important in order to capture N in the fall and release it in the spring. While rye and forage radish are both deep-rooted species, rye will hold onto (immobilize nutrients rather than release them in the spring. Forage radish winter kills and decomposes quickly, releasing its nutrients early – maybe too early. Cover crops that include several species can provide both spring ground-cover and release of nutrients in time to be used by cash crops. Including other species such as N-fixing legumes could add additional N to the system in spring.

In order to get the maximum benefits from cover crops, alternative approaches may be necessary to work them into the cropping rotation. Some crops are conducive to early-planted cover crops, such as corn silage, potatoes, or other vegetable crops. In addition, early season corn varieties could allow for earlier planting of cover crops. For later harvested corn crops, cover crops can be aerially seeded into standing corn in early August-early September. Similarly, cover crops can be seeded during late summer using a hi-boy air seeder with drop-down nozzles to ensure good seed distribution and soil contact. If you have irrigation, applying about 1/3 inch of water, after aerial seeding can greatly improve the stand and growth of these cover crops.

It is even possible to get fall cover crops started earlier. Interseeding into corn at N side-dress time has also worked well. Special Hi-boy style drills are being developed for this purpose. Clover, radish and ryegrass are good species to try with interseeding. They won’t growth enough to compete with the corn or interfere with harvest, but once the corn canopy opens up in late summer, the cover crops will start to take off.

However you achieve it, the goal is to have your fields looking green the day after harvest and covered with 1 to 3 tons of high-nutrient dry matter before winter sets-in.
Fall Control of Perennial Weeds
Mark VanGessel, DE Extension Weed Specialist
mjv@udel.edu

Fall is often the best time and the most convenient time to treat most perennial weeds because it is the time that plants are best able to move the herbicide to the roots where it will do the most good. When considering fall weed control the emphasis should be on what the patch of weeds will look like next spring or summer not the amount of dead stems this fall. Also, it is important to consider that a fall application will not eradicate a stand of perennial weeds; the fall application will reduce the stand size or the stand vigor.

Fall application of glyphosate is the most flexible treatment for most perennial weeds such as bermudagrass, Canada thistle, common milkweed, common pokeweed, dock, hemp dogbane, horseradish and johnsongrass. Rates of 1 to 1.25 lb acid per acre are consistently the most economical (or about 1.5X the normal use rate for annual weeds). Dicamba (Banvel) at 2 to 4 pints is also labeled for artichoke, bindweeds, dock, hemp dogbane, horseradish, milkweeds, pokeweed or Canada thistle. Planting small grains must be delayed after dicamba application 20 days per pint of dicamba applied. Fall herbicide applications should be made to actively growing plants. It is best to allow plants to recover after harvest and to spray prior to mowing the corn stalks. Allow 10 to 14 days after treatment before disturbing the treated plants. If fall applications are delayed, remember weed species differ in their sensitivity to frost; some are easily killed by frost (i.e. horseradish) others can withstand relatively heavy frosts. Check the weeds prior to application to be sure they are actively growing.

Secretary Bartenfelder Announces Record Cover Crop Enrollment

During the Governor’s Agriculture Day lunch at the 134th Maryland State Fair, Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder announced record cover crop program enrollment by Maryland farmers as he applauded the agriculture community for their extraordinary stewardship efforts.

For the 2015/2016 Cover Crop Program, 1,835 Maryland farmers requested funding to plant a record 656,170 acres of winter grains. Maryland farmers have exceeded the Watershed Implementation Plan milestone goals in 2011, 2013 and 2015 for cover crops and are on track to exceed the next two year milestone in 2017 with this new record enrollment acreage. Cover crops are one of the most cost-effective means of helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay. The State has allocated $22.5 million for the 2015/2016 program, which is estimated to pay for every certified planted acre in program.

“The State Fair is a chance to remind ourselves of our roots and to see the work that Maryland farmers are doing to create jobs, strengthen our economy, and feed our families. Agriculture contributes $8.25 billion annually to our state and the future of agriculture and our rural economies is strong,” said Governor Hogan. “Our record cover crop announcement is great news for our farmers who continue to voluntarily take strong conservation actions on their farms, diversify their operations and use new technologies as they become available.”

“Not only is Maryland’s cover crop program a very attractive and flexible program, it has the potential to do more for the Bay than ever before,” said Agriculture Secretary Bartenfelder. “We commend and thank all farmers who, together, have applied to plant more than half a million acres of small grain crops that protect our soil and water by taking up any remaining nutrients and preventing soil erosion over the winter.”

For a chart showing cover crop acres and applications, 2007 to 2015:
For enrollment statistics by county, visit:
The University of Maryland Extension (UME)’s Woodland Stewardship Education program serves woodland owners, natural resource professionals and interested citizens. Please consider attending one of these offerings. Additional events are listed on the Event Calendar at http://extension.umd.edu/woodland.

1. **Maryland Tree Farm/Maryland Forest Association Regional Meeting** – September 10, 2015, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Allegany College of Maryland, Cumberland, MD
   
   Join us for an evening of fellowship and information. Presentation topics include management of Emerald Ash Borer and Northern Long-Ear Bat. Around 7:30 pm, two concurrent presentations will discuss the new Tree Farm inspection and certification program and MFA-related topics, such as changes to the Sediment and Erosion Control standards. Dinner is included (nominal charge). Please contact MFA at (410) 823-1789 or director@mdforests.org to RSVP or for more information.
   
   **Additional meetings will be held October 14th at the American Legion in Salisbury, MD and October 27th at the Baltimore County Agricultural Center.**

2. **Nature-based Forestry: The Pro Silva Movement in Europe** – September 17, 2015, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, online
   
   The next presentation in our WSE Webinars series features Lyle Almond, University of Maryland Forest Stewardship Educator. Lyle will provide an overview of the “Pro Silva” movement that is sweeping across the continent. It promotes continuous cover forestry, which mimics natural forest stand development for optimizing social, ecological, and economic benefits. The webinar will include Lyle’s first-hand experience with the movement through his work in the nation of Slovenia.
   
   This webinar is free and will be conducted through Adobe Connect. Registration is requested. To register, go to: http://woodlandwebinars-prosilvamovement.eventbrite.com

3. **Backyard Woodland Workshop & Field Tour** - Thursday, October 15, 2015, 9:00 am – 12 noon, Washington County Agricultural Education Center, Boonsboro MD
   
   Are you interested learning how better to manage the natural areas on your property or convert some lawn into natural area? You are invited to join Jonathan Kays, a Natural Resource Extension Specialist with the University of Maryland Extension, for “The Woods in Your Backyard Workshop & Field Tour.” The workshop will be held at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center at 7303 Sharpsburg Pike in Boonsboro and a nearby demonstration site. This workshop will provide the basics of woodland and wildlife management for property owners with more than an acre, but is useful for smaller properties as well.
   
   The workshops costs $15.00 per person. To register, contact Diane Woodring at 301-791-1304 or dwoodrin@umd.edu. The registration form may also be downloaded from our Events calendar at: https://extension.umd.edu/events/thu-2015-10-15-0900-backyard-woodland-workshop-field-tour
   
   Visit our website: http://extension.umd.edu/woodland

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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

**AGRICULTURE LAW EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

**MPowering the State**

**Agricultural Law Education Initiative**

http://umaglaw.org

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**2015 Crop Insurance Workshop**

Registration is now open for the 2015 Crop Insurance Workshop on Sept. 10 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis. Currently confirmed speakers include: Gene Gantz of RMA, Mike Alston of RMA to discuss the Whole Farm Crop Insurance product, Stephen Frerichs to give an update from the Hill, and representative from USDA-FSA to give an update on Farm Bill implementation. We hope to have all our speakers confirmed and will distribute an agenda in the coming days.

Please register at: http://go.umd.edu/MDCropInsWorkshop

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**Gardening questions? Pest Problems?**

The Home and Garden Information Center can help!

HGIC website at:

http://extension.umd.edu/hgic
The Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center (MREDC)

Jump Start Your Fall Marketing Season Now
Ginger S. Myers
Extension Marketing Specialist
University of Maryland
gsmyers@umd.edu

Summertime and the season is busy. Planting, harvesting, marketing, coordinating employees, and dealing with customers leave little time in the day to prepare for the busy fall agritourism and direct marketing season. But, now is just the right time to plan ahead for the Fall “crunch” time. Here’s a quick checklist of planning activities to tackle now for a more successful and less stressful Fall season:

1. Review what management protocols and marketing activities worked well for you during the last Fall season, and even more importantly, which one didn’t. Make management adjustments to address those problems.
2. Get a large desk calendar and circle your important Fall event dates and harvest dates. Count back from those dates and circle the date when planning, advertising, hiring, or product ordering needs to start.
3. Develop your advertising and social media marketing calendar and market those dates on the large desk calendar. Check what other activities and events are happening in your area in the same Fall period that you could piggy back on for cross-promotion. These type os links can be very helpful for social media promotions.
4. Check that your displays, checkout areas, and equipment is in good working order.
5. Line up enough help for the entire season.
6. Plan and execute at least one new activity or offering to help keep your product mix fresh.

“Tools for Building Your Online Marketing Plan”
Available on the web at:
http://extension.umd.edu/learn/tools-building-your-online-marketing-plan

Homeowners Urged to Use Responsible Lawn Care Practices during Summer Months

With summer in full swing, the Maryland Department of Agriculture urges homeowners to allow established lawns to go dormant during the hot, dry weather. Applying fertilizer to force a lawn to turn green during its dormancy period can damage the grass and contribute to nutrient pollution in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Dormant lawns will green up when cooler temperatures arrive and rainfall increases. To help shade grass and conserve moisture, raise the mower’s cutting height by ½ inch to 1 inch during periods of hot, dry weather and leave grass clippings on the lawn as a source of free fertilizer. For more tips and information on Maryland’s Lawn Fertilizer Law go to: www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer or extension.umd.edu/hgic.

The summer 2015 issue of Wild & Woolly has been published to the Maryland Small Ruminant Page.
http://www.sheepandgoat.com/

The newsletter is also available on ISSUU and as a PDF file:
http://issuu.com/mdsheepgoat/docs/summer2015
USDA Expands Farm Safety Net, Offers Greater Flexibility for Beginning, Organic and Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Whole Farm Coverage Now Available in Every County Across the Nation

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden today announced that Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance will be available in every county in the nation in 2016. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is also making changes to the policy to help farmers and ranchers with diversified crops including beginning, organic, and fruit and vegetable growers, better access Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.

"Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance allows producers who have previously had limited access to a risk management safety net, to insure all of the commodities on their farm at once instead of one commodity at a time," said Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. "That gives them the option of embracing more crop diversity on their farm and helps support the production of a wider variety of foods."

USDA also provided additional flexibility to producers by making the following changes, including:

• **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers** – RMA makes it easier for more beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the program by reducing the required records from five to three historical years, plus farming records from the past year. Additionally, any beginning farmer and rancher may qualify by using the former farm operator’s federal farm tax records if the beginning farmer or rancher assumes at least 90 percent of the farm operation.

• **Livestock Producers** – RMA removed the previous cap that limited participants to those who received 35 percent or less of their income from livestock production. Producers will now be able to insure up to $1 million worth of animals and animal products.

• **Expanding Operations** – RMA increased the cap on historical revenue for expanding operations to 35 percent from its previous 10 percent to better allow growing farms the opportunity to cover their growth in the insurance guarantee.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection includes a wide range of available coverage levels, provides coverage for replanting annual commodities, includes provisions that increase coverage for expanding operations, and allows the inclusion of market readiness costs in the coverage. The policy is tailored for most farms, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. The policy covers farms or ranches with up to $8.5 million in insured revenue.

For more information, including product availability, visit the RMA Whole-Farm Web page. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at www.rma.usda.gov.

EPA Releases Report on Maryland Agriculture Programs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today it has completed an evaluation of Maryland’s animal agriculture regulations and programs. The assessment, which is one of six that the agency is conducting of state animal agriculture programs within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, found that Maryland has a robust and well-implemented state program.

EPA conducts periodic reviews of state programs as part of its oversight responsibilities under the Clean Water Act. This assessment looked at Maryland’s implementation of federal and state regulatory programs, as well as voluntary incentive-based programs to meet the nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution reduction commitments in its Watershed Implementation Plan under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL.

EPA will use the assessment along with its ongoing Chesapeake Bay TMDL evaluations to help ensure that Maryland has the programs, policies, and resources necessary to succeed with its plan to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

The assessment found that Maryland’s Nutrient Management Program has broad coverage, regulating over 5,400 farms throughout the state, including both crop and livestock farms. In addition to requiring farmers to develop and implement nutrient management plans, the program requires agricultural conservation practices such as setbacks for nutrient applications next to streams, and livestock stream exclusion practices. Maryland also finalized the Phosphorus Management Tool regulations in June 2015 which will help farmers properly manage phosphorus, based on the latest science.
According to the assessment, Maryland’s Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) program is well-implemented and requires permit coverage for approximately 570 farms out of about 5,400 farms regulated by the state Nutrient Management Program. The Maryland Department of the Environment issues CAFO permits, conducts regular farm visits, and takes enforcement actions and issues fines for noncompliance.

Maryland has developed an Agricultural Certainty Program to further encourage farmers to implement agricultural conservation and maintains the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program which provides funding to farmers to implement required conservation practices.

In addition to the Maryland assessment, EPA also released its evaluations today of animal agriculture programs in Delaware and West Virginia. The agency issued similar reports on animal agriculture programs in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia earlier this year.

The reports are available at:
http://www.epa.gov/region3/animal/ChesapeakeBay/EnsuringResults.html, (Click on the Agriculture tab)
Contact Information: David Sternberg (215) 814-5548
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Junk Science, Reporting, and Sources

Science information often passes through many hands before it gets to the public. As University of Florida professor Dr. Kevin Folta said, “It is really unfortunate that non-scientists who are excited to sensationalize an issue distort legitimate science.” Some misinterpret or slant information—even press releases can be misleading. The best advice from the experts is to read carefully and go to the original source.

As Dr. David Songstad’s recent article explained, CAST is one example of a source that provides credible information. http://www.cast-science.org/
County Website Features:

Anne Arundel County Extension website: 
https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county

Ag Newsletter Production Pointers
The current and past agricultural newsletter additions are available for viewing or copy at: 
https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/anne-arundel-county-agnr-newsletter#

Ag Bulletins
An agricultural bulletin page is also available for viewing or copy under our hot topics section at: 
https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/agriculture-bulletins

Ag Web Modules
New website features in Anne Arundel County - Agricultural Program Teaching Modules: 
http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/farm-production-web-modules

“Tomorrow’s Farmers” Web Modules”
https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/tomorrows-farmer-web-modules

4-H Youth Development
For more information, contact Amanda Wahle at awahle@umd.edu or call 410-222-3900

Family & Consumer Sciences
For more information, contact Vanessa Bright vbright@umd.edu call 410-222-3903

Agriculture & Natural Resources
For more information, contact Dave Myers myersrd@umd.edu or call 410 222-3906

Master Gardener Program
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Nutrient Management
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