Nutrient Management Time

It is time to start planning for the 2014 crop year. If new soil samples need to be taken, the best time is right after crop harvest. Plans can be written using soil samples up to three years old if nutrient application takes place prior to the three year date. Manure samples must be taken yearly.

Farmers need to have fertility recommendations in hand prior to any nutrient application. The sooner you can get me your plan information the sooner I can get your plan updated and keep you in compliance.

If you plan on applying any nutrients this fall to small grains which will NOT be enrolled in the Cover Crop Program you need to contact me as soon as possible so a Fall Soil Nitrate Test can be run to see if you can apply or need to nitrogen this fall. Extension Brief (EBR-15) explains what nitrate levels allow additional nitrogen to be added.

There are some new regulations taken place with surface water buffers, new Phosphorus Management Tool and Fall Soil Nitrate Test for small grains harvested for grain. If you should have any questions please call our office and I will try to answer your questions or find the answer for you.

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Talbot County Corn Club and Soybean Improvement Awards

Samples are being taken now for the 62nd Annual Talbot County Corn Club and the 43rd Annual Soybean Improvement awards. It is great to continue this Talbot County Tradition. If you would like to submit a sample and did not get the yield packet please call the Extension Office at 410-822-1244. The awards will be held in January 23, 2014.

The club would again like to thank the participants, sponsors and unit leaders that make this event possible.
Maryland’s Cover Crop Program is viewed as the most successful water quality improvement initiative in the Chesapeake Bay region. Low seed germination was widespread in 2008 as a result of the severe Fusarium outbreak in the region. Low seed germination is again an issue for 2013 as a result of sporadic Fusarium outbreaks in some areas and some pre-harvest sprouting caused by the rainy harvest experienced this year. The Program’s recommended seeding rates for cereals are: rye (112 lb or 2 bu/acre); wheat (120 lb or 2 bu/acre) and barley (120 lb or 2 ½ bu/acre). The question that many are asking is: How do I attain an acceptable stand when the germination of my seed lot is below the standard of 80%? MDA is recommending that you contact your Extension office to get assistance regarding what an acceptable stand is. This article will hopefully help you adjust to low germination cereal cover crop seed.

University of Maryland Extension recommends that farmers planting cereals for commodity production use a seeds/ft² approach which allows compensation for seed lot size variation. The Maryland Cover Crop Program mandates volume rates (2 bu/a for rye and wheat; 2.5 bu/a for barley) when any of these species are planted as a cover crop. A two-year study that was funded by MGPUB compared cover crop performance of these three species when planted at volume and three seeds/ft² treatments. The results of that research are the basis for the following cover crop seeding rate recommendations for the cereal species. Examples of seeding rates for low germination seed lots for the three cereal species are provided in the Recommendations below.

**Summary of Research Findings**

Two years of research indicated that the seeding rates for cereal species used as cover crops can be less than the volume rates described by the current Maryland Cover Crop Program regulations.

This research indicated that seeding rates for the cover crop program should be defined as seeds/ft² because this method accounts for the variations in seed size that can occur among species and for different seed lots within a species. Regardless of species planted, when a seeds/ft² method is used, it is important to know both the seed size and germination of the seed lot to be used.

Planting cereal cover crops at a seeds/ft² rate should result in cost-savings because a lesser amount of seed would be required. An exception would occur when seed size for the species used is exceptionally large.

Amount of N uptake that will occur will vary by amount of residual N present at a location.

Amount of N uptake will generally be greater for earlier planted cereal cover crops than for later planted cereal cover crops.

**Recommendations**

The following seeding rate recommendations require that cereal cover crops be planted using a tillage practice that incorporates the seed into the soil, i.e. planting with a grain drill or broadcasting seed followed by incorporation with either a vertical tillage implement or a disk. The goal is to establish as uniform a stand as possible.

Rye cover crop should be planted at 30 - 35 viable (adjusted for seed lot germination) seeds/ft². Example: a rye seed lot with 85% germination would require 35 - 41 seeds/ft² to be planted. Low germination example: a rye seed lot with 75% germination would require 40–47 seeds/ft² to be planted.
Wheat cover crop should be planted at 20 - 25 viable seeds/ft². Example: a wheat seed lot with 90% germination would require 22-28 seeds/ft² to be planted. Low germination example: a wheat seed lot with 70% germination would require 29–36 seeds/ft² to be planted.

Barley cover crop should be planted at 24 - 30 viable seeds/ft². Example: a barley seed lot with 90% germination would require 27 - 33 seeds/ft² to be planted. Low germination example: a barley seed lot with 75% germination would require 32-40 seeds/ft² to be planted.

2013 Wheat and Barley Trials Results

The University of Maryland annually conducts variety performance trials with small grains. These tests are conducted annually to provide producers, farmers, and any interested persons with information pertaining to the performance of small grains grown in Maryland. The 2013 small grains variety trial is now available on the MD crops website. The wheat and barley variety tests are established each year at five locations, which are representative of the range of environments in which wheat and barley are produced in Maryland.

http://mdcrops.umd.edu/wheat/index.cfm

Agriculture in Maryland - Maryland Public Broadcasting

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Maryland Public Television and the Maryland Department of Agriculture are hosting a series of programs about agriculture in Maryland that will premiere on Maryland Public Television (HD) on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. All 13 segments of the series will air on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and then be repeated on MPT2 as follows:
- Thursdays at 11:30 p.m.
- Sundays at 6:00 a.m.
- Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

The program will run for thirteen weeks, rest for thirteen weeks, repeat for thirteen weeks, rest for thirteen weeks and then possibly have a premiere for season 2 in November 2014.

The Maryland Farm Bureau has posted a 3-minute promotion for the series on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mxM_tCuFtw&feature=youtu.be

Dates for New Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Exam

Beginning October 1, 2013, lawn care professionals hired to apply fertilizers to turfgrass must be certified by MDA’s Nutrient Management Program or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified. The requirement is a major component of Maryland’s new lawn fertilizer law.

Visit www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer and follow the link to “training classes.” Additional exams and training sessions are currently being planned and will be posted on MDA’s website as they become available.

To assist lawn care professionals in preparing for the exam, MDA and the University of Maryland (UMD) have developed a training manual and study guide which are available on the MDA website. The training manual includes information on soils and fertility, soil testing, interpreting fertilizer labels, use and calibration of fertilizer application equipment, UMD fertilizer recommendations and other knowledge areas that will be covered by the Maryland Professional Applicator Certification Exam.
UPCOMING EASTERN SHORE AG PROGRAMS FALL 2013

OCTOBER 2013

October 5 - AGNR Open House 10:00 am. to 3:00 p.m Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Clarksville Facility at 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD

October 10 - 9:00am to 4:00pm Maintaining vegetation on high use areas not only provides forage, but protects the soil, recycles nutrients and reduces sediment and nutrient runoff. Bermuda grass is a sustainable and aesthetically pleasing alternative to un-vegetated or hardened high use areas for livestock. Join the indoor and outdoor sessions to discuss Bermuda grass characteristics, selection, establishment, management and use.

2 locations and dates to choose from:

•Howard County Fairgrounds; October 8, 2013

•University of Maryland Eastern Shore; October 10, 2013

Time: 9:00am- 4:00pm (light rain or shine, lunch on your own)
See more at: http://extension.umd.edu/news/events

October 21 - "Farming – Pencil to Plow" - The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the University of Maryland Extension are pleased to announce that they have combined their technical expertise to offer an eight (8) week entrepreneurial training course designed for beginning farmers and those producers interested in diversifying their operation.

The course will be offered starting on October 21, 2013 held each Monday evening through December 9, 2013. Topics to be covered will include awareness of government regulation, developing a business plan, cash flow statements, understanding customer base, marketing, and understanding the importance of budgeting. Participants who complete this training course will prepare a business plan to present to potential lending sources and a certificate of completion issued by NxLevel a nationally recognized entrepreneurship training provider. For registration information, contact Joe Giordano by phone 410-758-0166, email tgiordano_2000@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER 2013

November 6 - Estate Planning Workshop Chesapeake College, Wye Mills. More info to follow in up-coming Agline newsletters.

November 7 - Greenhouse Conference Chesapeake College, Wye Mills. More information or to register contact sdill@umd.edu or call 410-822-1244.

www.mdcrops.umd.edu

Cropping Systems Research and Extension site at the University of Maryland
November 8 and 9
2013 Small Farm Conference – University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne MD
Bermudagrass for High Animal Use Areas Training

November 19
Food For Profit
Chesapeake College, Wye Mills
Do you . . .

- make a specialty food item that friends and family often request?
- have additional produce from your garden that could be made into a value-added food product?
- envision marketing your family recipes?
- desire to generate more household income?
- dream of owning a food business?

If so, Food for Profit will help you put all the pieces together for your food business! More information or to register contact sdill@umd.edu or call 410-822-1244.

Thank you for your encouragement, support and assistance. If you have ideas, suggestions or comments, please feel free to give anyone of us a call. We welcome your feedback and opinions.

HAVE A SAFE and PROFITABLE HARVEST

Sincerely,

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DECEMBER 2013

December 3 - Ag Leasing Workshop, Chesapeake College
Check upcoming Agline issues for more information!

December 4 - Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference to be held at the Loews Hotel, 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD sponsored by the Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy.