Calendar of Events
Mark Your Calendars --- Plan To Participate
♦ May 1st & 8th - SMRFM Horticultural Auctions
♦ May 6th - Farm Labor Meeting, DFRC

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- Extension Program Assessment
The Greater Annapolis Farm Labor Provision Project

May 6, 2002

Attention! All Farmers! Members of the Annapolis Latino Community wish to work on your farm! Annapolis area farmers, an answer to your farm labor needs may be at hand. Mark in your calendars May 6, 2002, 7:30 p.m. for this very important chance to be involved in The Greater Annapolis Farm Labor Provision Project. This labor project kick-off meeting will unfold the details envisioned by Tony Evans, Maryland Department of Agriculture Marketing Division; Barbara Samorajczyk, Anne Arundel County Councilman, Sixth District; and Robert Morales, Esquire and Retired Judge who is currently the Hispanic Community Liaison for the Annapolis City Police Department. Judge Morales has already fulfilled the successful linking together of Annapolis Latino community members seeking farm employment with three area farmers. This farm to farm- laborer matching opportunity can become the essential missing element of your farm business expansion. The meeting will be conducted at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC). If you unable to attend this important meeting, then please become involved by mailing in the completed Farm Labor Needs Assessment Survey. For full details and meeting registration information contact Dave Myers at 410 222 6759 -- See the enclosed flier and survey.

Southern Maryland Regional Farmers
Market Needs Your Support!

By Bob Chase

The SMRFM Board of Directors has been very busy this winter trying to make improvements for the upcoming auction season. Some SMRFM highlights include: the First Annual Horticultural Auctions on May 1st & May 8th, to consecutive Wednesdays prior to Mother's Day. Please plan to attend as a buyer, or if you are a grower please call 301-503-8282 or 410-798-1580 to consign your plants as soon as possible. Another change is a reduction in the auction commission rate from 12% down to 10%. Also, as of February 1, 2002 the Market Manager, Dave Rada is no longer with us. The Board of Directors has taken over day-to-day operations in order to provide you with a better marketing experience. We're looking into accepting applications for a new market manager sometime in the near future.

If there are any questions about the market feel free to contact Charles Dunn, President at 310-503-8272 or Robert Chase, Vice President at 410-798-1580.

We'd like to thank you for your past support of the market and are looking forward to a prosperous 2002.

Sincerely,

SMRFM Board Members
Charles Dunn, President
Robert Chase, Vice President
Russel Burch, Treasurer
Russel Shlagel, Member
Barbara Austin, Member

Ex-Officio Members
Dave Myers, Secretary/MCE
Stephan Tubene, MCE
James Duffy, MDA
Robert Halman, MDA
Christine Bergmark, TCC

Maryland Vegetable Growers Report

On behalf of the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association, I wish to announce that the MVGA Membership Renewal for 2002 is currently underway until July 1, 2002. All members in good standing are eligible to participate in the Section 18 and 24c Special Use Labels Waiver and Indemnification Program. A letter will go out shortly to the membership explaining the full program details for this year's production season. So, if you are not a member than give MVGA a call right away, and join this vital state vegetable organization.

For more information concerning MVGA organizational matters, or to make comment, please contact Guy Moore, MVGA President at 410 442-1427, or Dave Myers, MVGA Secretary/Treasurer at 410 222-6759

SMSFC – Cooperative Update & Newsletter

Under Mr. Dan Gragan's leadership, the Southern Maryland Small Farm Cooperative has increased its membership and secured strategic farmers' markets in Washington, DC area. Now the coop publishes a quarterly newsletter. In the spring 2002 SMFSC newsletter the following was reported to the coop members:

- Coop wins award! SMFC received The Good Farmers of the Year award from the Community Harvest in Washington, DC. SMSFC was instrumental in the successful start of the Columbia Heights market.
- Currently the coop operates by transporting and selling a member's produce at two DC markets (Anacostia and Columbia Heights) for a 25% commission fee.
- Last years products included: tomatoes, corn, hot and sweet peppers, berries, peaches, beans, herbs, melons, pumpkins, various squash, potatoes, romaine lettuce, greens, eggs, baked goods, and cut flowers.
- Items needed in 2002 to expand the product line or that were in short supply include: broccoli, cauliflower, Varieties of lettuce and greens, oriental vegetables, onions, honey, and culinary herbs.
- SMSFC says! “Together we can make farming a business. Individually we struggle. 2002 holds much promise. All are invited to join!”

Join the Southern Maryland Small Farm Cooperative by calling Mr. Dan Gragan at 202-654-9208 and/or Stephan Tubene, David Myers at 410-222-6759.
Orchard Multi-Fruit Cover Spray Program

Many local orchards are composed of multi-fruit combinations producing for fresh market apples, peaches, pears, plums, nectarines, and cherries. Aggressive fruit tree spray programs are required to achieve high quality fruit. These multi-fruit orchards create many spray management challenges for the achievement of good pest control in accordance to label guidelines. Therefore, the following multi-fruit orchard spray program for the control of major tree fruit pests and diseases may offer some assistance:

(Labeled as noted in 2002 for All Tree Fruit - Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Nectarines, and Cherries.)

FUNGICIDES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNGICIDES</th>
<th>* RATE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benlate® 50W</td>
<td>8.0 ozs</td>
<td><em>(Not for Pears, or Plums)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captan® 50W</td>
<td>2.0 lbs</td>
<td><em>(Not for Pears, or Plums)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dormant Oil</td>
<td>4.0 gal</td>
<td><strong>Apply Temp 35-85° F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kocide® DF</td>
<td>2.0 lbs</td>
<td>Dormant Spray Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova® 40W</td>
<td>4.0 ozs</td>
<td>For Peach Rusty Spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova® 40W</td>
<td>4.0 ozs</td>
<td>(For Scales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lannate® DF</td>
<td>4.0 ozs</td>
<td>For Peach Rusty Spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrimycin® 17 W</td>
<td>24.0 ozs</td>
<td>Fireblight Control</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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INSECTICIDES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSECTICIDES</th>
<th>* RATE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guthion® 50W</td>
<td>16.0 ozs</td>
<td>Codling &amp; Fruit Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imidan® 70W</td>
<td>2.0 lbs</td>
<td>Plum Curculio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lannate® 90SP</td>
<td>12.0 ozs</td>
<td>Codling &amp; Fruit Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorsban® 4E</td>
<td>1.5 qts</td>
<td>Dormant Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Apple Thinning Agent)*

**Fungicides and Insecticides**

*Important Note: The calendar spray dates given are an average estimate for Anne Arundel and Prince George's County Orchards, and may vary by location in Southern Maryland. Be sure to adjust your spray schedule application dates accordingly. The above recommendations very closely reflect the current spray program utilized at the Upper Marlboro Research Farm for it's research orchard.*
West Nile Update

Don’t let your guard down! Be sure to protect yourself and livestock with an implemented mosquito control program around the farm and barn areas. Use mosquito repellents containing DEET before engaging in activities in mosquito prone areas, and use premise and barn insecticide sprays to reduce mosquito numbers associated with livestock quarters, especially for horses. Also, drain all standing water.

In Maryland last year the following West Nile detections were reported:

- Total birds tested positive: 454
  - Baltimore City – 215
  - Baltimore County – 89
  - Prince George’s County – 74
  - Montgomery County – 49
  - Howard County – 13
  - Harford County – 5
  - Anne Arundel County – 3
  - Carroll County – 2
  - Frederick County – 2
  - Charles County – 1
  - Cecil county – 1

The West Nile Virus is expected to continue to its spread from North to South along the Atlantic seaboard. Last year in Maryland eighteen mosquito pools tested positive or the West Nile Virus. There were five confirmed cases in horses with one fatality (euthanized). There were six confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus. There were five confirmed cases in horses with one fatality (euthanized). There were six confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus. There were five confirmed cases in horses with one fatality (euthanized). There were six confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus. There were five confirmed cases in horses with one fatality (euthanized). There were six confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus.

Water Testing Labs

Has the drought affected the quality of your farms well water? Maybe you believe that a noticeable quality change has occurred with your irrigation and/or drinking water supply. After, conducting a comprehensive water-testing services search on the web, I found a local Maryland company that seems to offer the most comprehensive testing available. The Community Environmental Laboratories (CEL), Inc. located in Aberdeen, Maryland offers customized water testing services. The company has a complete well water-testing package that costs $84.00 (including shipping and handling fees), and tests for the following water quality parameters:

- Total Coliform Bacteria
- Fecal Coliform Bacteria
- Nitrate and Nitrite Nitrogen
- Turbidity and pH
- Iron, Lead, and Copper
- Free and Total Chlorine

CEL, Inc. will also do a complete customized service testing only the parameters requested based upon an individual test fee schedule plus $9.00 shipping and handling. All of the company’s services may be easily accessed on the web at www.watertestinglabs.com/ or by calling 410 575-6176.

Farm Chemical Update

The following is the 2002 list of Maryland’s special pesticide 24c and Section 18 labels granted or pending as indicated:

1. **Section 18 Approval – Metolachlor (Dual Magnum by Syngenta) on Tomatoes**, expires July 31, 2002 for the control of eastern black nightshade and yellow nutsedge. A single application of Dual Magnum® may be made pre-transplant to tomatoes or pre-emergence to weeds between rows of plastic by ground sprayer at a rate of 0.5 to 1.0 pints/acre on coarse soils if the organic matter is less than 3% or 1.3 to 1.6 pints/acre on fine soils, not to exceed 1.6 pints/acre/year.

2. **Section 18 Approval – Terbacil (Sinbar 80 WP by Dupont) on Watermelons**, expires June 25, 2002 for the control of weeds. A maximum of one preemergence ground application of Terbacil may be applied at a rate of 2.0 to 4.0 ounces/acre/year. A 70-day pre-harvest interval is required.

3. **Section 18 Approval - Fomesafen (Reflex 2 LC by Syngenta) on Snap Beans**, expires September 15, 2002 for the control of broadleaf weeds. A maximum of one post-emergence application of fomesafen may be applied at a rate of 1.0 to 1.25 pints/acre/year. A 30-day pre-harvest interval is required.

4. **Section 18 Approval – Azoxystrobin (Quadriss F by Syngenta) on Strawberries, expires Pending** for the control of strawberry anthracnose. Azoxystrobin may be applied using ground equipment at a rate of 6.2 to 12.4 ounces/acre. Do not more than 4.6 pints/acre/crop.

5. **Section 24c Approval – S-Metolachlor (Dual Magnum® by Syngenta) on Cabbage** for the control of weeds including: eastern black nightshade and yellow nutsedge. A single application of Dual Magnum® may be made pre-transplant or post transplant to cabbage within 48 hours of transplanting by ground sprayer at a rate of 0.5 to 1.33 pints/acre according to soil type. Direct seeded cabbage may also be sprayed by ground sprayer at a rate of 0.5 to 1.33 pints/acre according to soil type with postemergence to tight-headed cabbage, after cabbage has 3-4 leaves.

6. **Section 24c Approval – S-Metolachlor (Dual Magnum® by Syngenta) on Transplanted Bell Peppers** for the control of weeds including: eastern black nightshade and yellow nutsedge. A single application of Dual Magnum® may be made as a preemergence surface application prior to transplanting or post transplant as a basally directed spray after the bell peppers by ground sprayer at a rate of 0.66 to 1.33 pints/acre according to soil type.

7. **Section 18 Approval – Halosulfuron (Sandel® by Gowan) on Cucumbers Indemnification Required 2002** for the control of yellow nutsedge and other broadleaf weeds. A maximum of two applications may be made per crop with a required 30 day PHI. Apply Sandel® to direct seeded cucumbers preemergence prior to cracking, or post emergence after crop has reached the 1-2 true leaf stage, but not later than the 3-5 true leaf stage as a broadcast spray at 0.66 to 1.0 ounce/acre rate and with a non-ionic surfactant at 32 ounces/100gallon rate.

8. **Section 18 Approval – Dimethomorph (Acrobat 50 WP® by BASF Corporation) on squash (summer, winter, and pumpkins), cantaloupe, watermelons, and cucumbers, expires September 30, 2002** for the control of Phytophora blight. Apply Acrobat 50 WP on cucurbits at a maximum rate of 6.4 ounces/acre, a maximum of 5 times a season. A 4-day PHI is required.

9. **Section 18 Approval – Metolachlor (Dual Magnum by Syngenta) on Spinach, expires April 30, 2002** for the control weeds including yellow nutsedge. A single preemergence application of Dual Magnum® per crop may be made by ground sprayer at a rate of 0.5 to 0.66 pints/acre during the growing season.

Agronomy Update

Dying Orchardgrass

By Galen Dively

Reports are coming in from all over the state describing yellowed or brown patches in orchardgrass, often circular in shape and quite extensive throughout fields. Upon examination, plants are severely stunted and actually appear to be dead above ground but the root systems and crowns are still alive in most cases. So far, three causal agents have been identified including white grubs, winter grain mites, and greenbugs.
In Anne Arundel County several fields have been discovered with high numbers of white grubs, mainly Japanese beetle, and some wireworms in the root zone beneath affected plants with roots heavily pruned back. Grubs are common insects in orchardgrass, as well as other perennial pasture or hay fields, which have been in production for several years or more. These fields are usually able to tolerate or compensate for root feeding under normal weather conditions. However, the mild dry fall and winter have stressed orchardgrass and thus exacerbated the impact of the root injury. Furthermore, mild temperatures and lack of frozen soil have probably allowed grubs to remain higher in the soil profile and thus have probably been feeding throughout the winter. Normally they migrate deeper in the soil to escape freezing temperatures and remain inactive until spring. It is also suspected that dry soil conditions may have favored grub survival by reducing the incidence of fungal pathogens and other diseases that normally take their toll on the overwintering stages.

Other affected orchardgrass fields reported in central Maryland have few grubs associated with the damaged areas and no evidence of root pruning. Many of these fields are infested with winter grain mites, which is a sporadic pest of wheat, turfgrass, and forage grass, particularly in the western U.S. Interestingly, this same mite was reported in a number of wheat fields in eastern Virginia back in early February, and the injury symptoms were similar to the circular dead areas that are now showing up in orchardgrass. The scientific name of this mite is Penthaleus major. It is larger and moves around much faster than spider mites. They are 1/32- to 1/16-inch long, have 8 legs (6 in the first stage), and a dark bluish black body with red orange legs and a reddish patch on their upper side. Like other mites, they use their piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on the sap of their host plants. They feed primarily at night and hide around the base of the plant during the day. Thus, they can easily be overlooked when scouting fields during the day. Active feeding on the leaves causes yellowing leaf tips to turn brown, and stunted plants take on a silvery-gray appearance. Damage resulting from a heavy infestation is similar to winterkill. In the northeast and mid-Atlantic area, these mites seldom cause sufficient damage to be of concern. However, the unusual weather conditions during the past fall and winter have apparently favored their survival and development.

Several fields in Central Maryland and South Central Pennsylvania are also showing similar circular dying patches or whole field areas of tillers that appear dead above ground but the root systems and crowns are still alive. More than half of the samples were infested with greenbug or had signs of earlier aphid activity. The numbers found were definitely high enough to kill the leaves, especially on moisture-stressed plants. However, the patches of dead tillers that we now see were probably the result of greenbug feeding back in the fall. Unlike other aphids, greenbug can have a major impact on the host plant because of the toxic saliva that is injected into the leaf as the aphid feeds. Considering the above normal greenbug populations that were widely found on small grains last fall, this pest could very well be the causal agent explaining the poor stands of dying orchardgrass. The fact that greenbugs are present at this time means that a portion of the population has successfully overwintered, and this could lead to major problems this spring on forage grasses and wheat, especially if the weather stays cool and prevents aphid predators from building up.

Other causal factors, such as plant diseases, have not been ruled out, and it may turn out that a combination of pest organisms and plant conditions are responsible for the orchardgrass problems. In any case, it is important to check damaged areas in affected fields to try to link the injury to a particular pest or pests. If grubs, winter grain mites, or greenbugs are the culprits, there are unfortunately few options available to effectively manage these pests. Only Sevin and Malathion (both of which have several formulations) are registered for orchardgrass, but these chemicals have poor efficacy against grubs and furthermore cannot be applied in any effective way to control insects in the soil. Malathion (25% WP) at the 1 lb. per acre is recommended in some western states to control winter grain mites in wheat, so this may be the only product that can be used to control mites on orchardgrass. However, before chemical control is used, keep in mind that the recent rains may help to alleviate plant stress and allow the damaged areas to green-up. Also, each orchardgrass field needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, because it appears that there is no one causal factor involved. And it may not be wise to apply chemical controls against a pest that has not been directly linked to the injury symptoms, or determined that it will cause further damage if not controlled.

Maryland’s No-Till Chronology

Pioneers of the No-Till Revolution

Every farm community has someone like Harry M. Young Jr, a man from Herndon, Kentucky known as “Mr. No-Till”. Harry started no-tilling in 1961 with as you might imagine a lot of obstacles to prevent success, especially from the “nay-sayers”.

Inspired by the Visionaries

In 1943 Edward H. Faulkner a County Extension Agent wrote his book, a treatise entitled “Plowman’s Folly” in which he challenged agricultural scientists to disprove his statement or accept it that, “No one has ever advanced a scientific reason for plowing.” His insights gave rise to the reduced tillage era.

Mr. Faulkner lived through the depression and dust bowl days of the 1920’s and 1930’s, and I am sure that after those life-changing events, he watched with great satisfaction the formation of the Soil Conservation Service in 1935.

No-Till: The Early Years

During the 1950’s and into the 1960’ the plow loses some ground to the chisel plow, disk plows, heavy offset disks, and culti-harrows.
At the same time early field research was being conducted with chemical seedbed preparation and no-till planting techniques in Maryland, Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio and Kentucky.

The Chemical Plow Development

- 1940 2,4-D developed by Dr. Bill Templeman, at PPL Company, Jelalot’s Hill Lab. Used in 1945 for dandelion control on the White House lawn.
- 1954 Paraquat discovered by ICI researchers. First used in 1959.
- 1956 Geigy Corporation introduces Aatrex and Princep.
- 1969 Monsanto launches Lasso.
- 1970 Glyphosate Roundup’s active ingredient discovered by Monsanto researcher Dr. John Franz. Roundup is introduced in 1974.
- No-Till Planters Arrive in Maryland
  - In 1966 Allis Chalmers introduced the fluted coulter and the first no-till corn planter.
  - In 1969 an early No-Till pioneer who lived in Anne Arundel County, Mr. Bill Tidings, Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy Dairy purchases an Allis Chalmers no-till planter. The USNAD Cropmaster Mr. George soon has to retire, being unable to adapt to the new no-till technique.
  - In the Early 1970’s just like countless others across the nation following in the success reveled by the early no-till pioneers Orval Brennenman USNAD Cropmaster commits to the no-till cropping system. With the herbicides that were the backbone of the no-till weed control corn program: Paraquat, Aatrex, Lasso, and 2,4-D a dream of planting directly into cover-crops becomes reality.
  - No-Till Pride Emerges: Farming Ugly
    - Through the 1980’s Farmers attend no-till meetings and conferences in record numbers.
    - By the 1990’s No-Till mainstreams and becomes the predominant planting system throughout the country.
    - U.S. Farmers are modeled worldwide.
    - IPM and prescriptive pest control tactics advance

Modern No-Till Machinery Era

- Early 1980’s Kinze/John Deere Max Emerge Planters Reign
- Late 1980’s Yetter Row Cleaners and Zone Tillage Tools
- Early 1990’s No-Till Drills Perfected
- Over the No-Till Horizon with Genetic Technology

Agricultural and Demographic Changes in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Implications for Ethnic and Specialty Produce authored by Stephan Tubene, Agricultural Economist, and Coordinator of the Small Farm Institute.

I also have available another Fact Sheet # 454 entitled “Growing Pumpkins” by Bob Rouse, Charles McClurg, and Alan MacNab, Regional Fruit and Vegetable Specialist, Extension Vegetable Specialist, and Extension Plant Pathologist, respectively. This fact sheet is invaluable for planting pumpkins with a very up to date variety recommendation section.

The 2001 Maryland Soybean Variety Test Results are now available on the department of Natural Resource Sciences website: www.nrsl.edu/extension/crops or give me a call for a copy.

On-Farm Sprayer Calibration Methods

Method #1

By Calculation: (See 2001 T-Jet Catalog pgs. 14-15)

\[
\text{GPM} = \frac{\text{GPA} \times \text{MPH} \times W}{5,940}
\]

\[
\text{GPA} = \frac{5,940 \times \text{GPM}}{\text{MPH} \times W}
\]

Method #2

Pre-Application: In-Road Test

- Measure and flag a course of 102 feet.
- Drive tractor the length of the course at anticipated application speed and record the time in seconds. Be sure to note tractor rpm and gear selection.
- With water in spray tank only, turn on sprayer, and set the tractor at the application RPM. Collect from any nozzle the number of ounces for the number of seconds recorded for the course length.
- Ounces collected directly corresponds to the GPA as follows:
  1. For 40 inch nozzle spacing
     - 1.0 X ounces = GPA
  2. For 30 inch nozzle spacing
     - 1.33 X ounces = GPA
  3. For 20 inch nozzle spacing
     - 2.0 X ounces = GPA

Method #3

Pre-Application: In Field Trial Application

- Accurately Measure and Mark a 1-acre area in field.
- Fill sprayer with water and record the level to the nearest gallon in tank.
- Spray Field at the noted application tractor RPM, PSI, and gear selection.
- Measure number of gallons required to spray the 1-acre = GPA.

Note: When chemicals and fertilizers are added to the spray solution the specific density increases. The increase is also reflected as a pressure increase. Make a note of the higher pressure; however do not adjust the pressure downward after calibrating. Typically the intended volume will remain the same at the higher pressure.
Alfalfa Cutting Schedule

This is the year to cut your alfalfa early and short 2-3” to crown. Make plans to cut your established alfalfa fields a week earlier than normal this spring. The mild winter should make it possible to harvest your alfalfa six times this year. By cutting the first cutting early, in the bud stage, and close to the crown you will benefit in following three major ways: 1) stay ahead of weevil damage; 2) conserve moisture for the second and subsequent cuttings; and 3) allow for six cuttings instead of five. The following cut schedule for your alfalfa is based on 18 years of intensive alfalfa production in Anne Arundel County.

**Alfalfa Cut Schedule 2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cutting</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>April 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>June 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>July 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>August 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>October 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The normal cutting dates would be about 7-10 days later than given above, and generally without the sixth-cutting option.

Be sure to fertilize after the first and fourth cutting with a split application of the total amount fertilizer recommended by your nutrient management plan and add 1.0 lb/acre of boron for each application. Also use that sweep net and IPM to keep an eye on the leafhopper levels. In the above six cutting regimen expect significant leafhopper levels after the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> cuttings, especially during dry spells.

New Farmers Market Needs Farmers

Tony Evans from the Maryland Department of Agriculture wishes to invite farmers to participate in two new marketing opportunities in Annapolis. There will be a one-day a week market at the downtown Arundel Center near the parking garage conveyance to the main building entrance. There is ample room for several market vendors to set up a nice display area. Also at the Market House at the downtown dock there is currently an open stall in this inside market for a produce vendor. The market house will give preference to a farmer who wishes to occupy that stall. If you are interested in joining either market contact Tony Evans at 410 841-5770.

Local Food Distributor Seeks Specialty Items

A food distributor who services area restaurants is looking for local sources of edible flowers, herbs, and specialty tomatoes (such as pear, currant, and heirloom tomatoes). If you produce these items or are willing to, then give Jane Storrs at the Maryland Department of Agriculture a call at 410 841-5770. Ms. Storrs is the National Marketing Administrator for MDA, and is also very interested in helping you market upscale and specialty products to regional restaurant and specialty markets. Give her a call today and let her know your production interests.

MDA Update

**MDA 2001 Pesticide Container Recycling Collection**

There are two relatively close sites for Anne Arundel and Prince George's County farmers to dispose of their empty and rinsed pesticide jugs. Central and Southern Maryland farmers may drop-off their rinsed pesticide containers for recycling at the Beltsville, USDA Research Center, Building 302, Visitor Center on Powder Mill Road, on June 27, 2002; July 26, 2002; August 30, 2002; and September 10, 2002.

There will also be a collection site at the Lothian Southern States located at 6272 Southern Maryland Boulevard on June 19, 2002; July 18, 29002; August 20, 2002; and September 24, 2002. The containers will be received from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for all dates listed.

Additional information on the required rinsing of the pesticide containers, and the recycling program can be obtained by calling the MDA Pesticide Regulation Section Office at 410 841-5710.

SCD Update: MACS & EQIP

By Joseph Haamid

**NRCS Open Sign-up for EQIP - Conservation Funding For Maryland Farmers**

Recently, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for fiscal year 2002. EQIP provides up to 75 percent cost sharing to install conservation practices that enhance water quality.

Cost-sharing is eligible for practices such as manure management facilities, spring developments and waterways. Incentive payments can be made for up to three years for such management practices as nutrient management, cover crop, and conservation tillage and prescribed grazing.

Cost-sharing funds and/or incentive payments will be awarded to applicants whose contracts offer the best environmental benefit for the least cost. Sign up ends April 19th. Contact the following for more information: Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District 410-222-7822; Prince George's Soil Conservation District 301-574-5162, ext. 3 or visit the USDA,NRCS website at http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.htm

Cost-Sharing Available for New Conservation Practice

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program is a USDA voluntary conservation program for agricultural operators. The program provides cost sharing for the following practices:
• **Livestock Feeding and Waste Storage Facility**—A roofed structure, built on a concrete slab, which provides a feeding area and shelter, usually during winter months, for small livestock herds.

• **Ag-Chemical Handling Facility**—A permanent structure that typically contains a sealed concrete pad, a collection sump, pump, water supply tank(s) for the storage of rinse water, other hardware and safety devices.

**Temporary In-field Animal Waste Storage**—An in-field storage area that typically includes the construction of an impervious pad, diversion of all surface water, movable or permanent sides, and a tarp cover.

Signup period runs from March 15, 2002 through April 19, 2002. Interested persons should contact their local Soil Conservation District.

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**Nutrient Management Update**

*By Krista Wilson*

Many producers are asking, “What is the status of Nutrient Management planning in Maryland to date?” Since February 28, 2002 in Anne Arundel County, approximately 126 producers with 11,368 Acres have turned in Nutrient Management Plans, and about 76 producers with approximately 4,419 Acres have filed “Justification for Plan Submission Delay" forms with MDA. In Prince George’s County, approximately 76 producers with about 7,964 Acres have turned in Nutrient Management Plans, and approximately 47 producers with about 3,462 Acres have filed “Delay” forms with MDA. Overall, MDA estimates that about 43% of Maryland producers have yet to file anything with the Department. MDA approximates that there is about 604,073 Acres that have not been put under a Nutrient Management Plan.

There are many agencies that can help producers with obtaining Nutrient Management Plans. Maryland Cooperative Extension may be your first choice. There is an Extension Nutrient Management Advisor (who develops plans for free except for the cost of soil samples) for each county. If the Extension Nutrient Management Advisor has a backlog, it is recommended that the producer obtain assistance from a licensed and certified Private Nutrient Management Consultant. Cost-Share Assistance is available to help producers cover the cost of having to hire a private consultant through your county Soil Conservation District. An application must be filled out to qualify. Please call if you have any questions or concerns about the Nutrient Management Planning process. We are glad to help in any way we can.

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**Help Your Extension Agent**

Please help your extension Agent! Take the time to complete the enclosed Extension Program Assessment. This program assessment will be useful in documenting past and current program successes and weaknesses. This information will be used for future program improvement. Your input is vital to this process for the development of meaningful Extension programs that educate and solve problems.

**Thanks for Partnering**

Thanks for partnering with the Maryland Cooperative Extension, and supporting our programs. I also hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please call or write the office for the removal of your name from the mailer.

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**Enjoy the Spring!**

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