



FALL 2016



Greetings,

This has been an unusual year for most farmers. In general the spring started off with a very dry April with a later frost event followed by a very wet and cool May. Strawberry harvest was plagued by poor fruit set and fruit disease issues. The rains in May also resulted in two planting seasons for most folks- an early planting in late April and a later planting in May and beyond. In most areas, scattered rains and lower than normal temperatures continued through early July. For vegetable farmers, this resulted in a delayed first harvest of tomatoes, watermelon and cantaloupes. Late July and August turned dry, resulting in a difficult pollination and grain fill period for corn, and stressful pod set and fill season for many full season soybeans. Rains returned in late September and October, too late to help most summer crops. Double crop soybeans may out yield full season beans in many areas.

Of course, when it comes to summer rains in Southern Maryland, a few miles or a few weeks can make a big difference in yield. For example, the National Weather Service collects data from two sites in St. Mary's County- one in Mechanicsville and the other at Patuxent River. Rainfall totals on September 1st vary greatly between the two sites. The Patuxent River site accumulated 18.21 inches rainfall while the Mechanicsville site accumulated 31.37 inches. The normal accumulation as of September 1 is approximately 31 inches. Those of you farming in Mechanicsville also know that many areas experienced 3 weeks of hot, dry and windy conditions during August which really hurt corn and bean yields.

We hope to see everyone at the winter meetings this year. There are a host of fall and winter conferences available this year. Some of the traditional meetings include the Crops Conference to be held November 30th, the Hay and Pasture Conference on January 11th and the Fruit and Vegetable Conference on February 8th.

Hope you have a safe, productive and bountiful fall.

--Ben Beale



November 8, 2016

Optional Review Session for Pesticide Exam
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD

November 15, 2016

Pesticide Exam
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD

November 11 & 12, 2016

13th Annual Small Farm Conference
UMD-Eastern Shore

November 15-17, 2016

Maryland Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School
Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City MD

November 16, 2016

Pesticide Applicator Recertification,
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD

November 30, 2016

Southern Maryland Crops Conference
Baden Volunteer Fire Department, Brandywine MD

December 9, 2016

Loveville Produce Auction Annual Meeting
Dove Point Lane, Leonardtown MD

December 13, 2016

Post-Harvest Grain Marketing Workshop
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD

January 11, 2017

Southern MD Hay & Pasture Conference
Baden Volunteer Fire Department, Brandywine MD

February 8, 2017

Southern MD Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting
St Mary's County Location TBD



Private Pesticide Applicator's Course and Exam

November 8, 2016 - Review Session

November 15, 2016 - Exam

Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Anyone who is interested in acquiring their private pesticide applicator's license should plan to attend our next scheduled workshop to be held on November 8th. The optional workshop will help prepare you to take the exam on November 15th. Please call the office at 301-475-4484 to register and obtain the necessary study materials. The training class will be held at the St. Mary's Agriculture Services Center in Leonardtown, MD from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The actual exam will be held at the same time; same place.



Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

November 15-17, 2016

Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City MD

The **Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School** will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City on **November 15-17th**. 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. This is the premiere event for advanced agronomy training in the region.

Visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/2016-crop-management-school/event-summary-bb...> (link is external) to complete your registration online and make your session selections. Questions about registration or payment should be

addressed to Conference Services: Attn. Gail Knapp, 104 John M. Clayton Hall, Newark, DE 19716, email G_Knapp@facilities.udel.edu (link sends e-mail) or call Gail at 302-831-2998



Pesticide Recertification Training

November 16, 2016

Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

On **November 16, 2016** a **Pesticide Recertification Training class** will be held at the St. Mary's Ag Service Center in Leonardtown. The Recertification class will be held from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Please call to register at 301-475-4484.



Southern Maryland Crops Conference

November 30, 2016

Baden Volunteer Fire Department

Brandywine MD

4:00 PM – 8:30 PM

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 **Wednesday, November 30th, from 4:00PM to 8:30 PM** at the Baden Volunteer Fire Department in Waldorf, MD.

Attendance at this conference will satisfy the requirement for the Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher. Please call the Charles County Extension Office at 301-934-5403 to register. Make plans now to attend.



**Loveville Produce Auction
Annual Meeting
December 9, 2016
Loveville, MD
9:00 AM**

The Loveville Produce Auction invites all interested farmers and buyers to attend the annual meeting on December 9, 2016 starting at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at 25120 Dove Point Road. Take Rt. 247 (Loveville Road) to Parsons Mill Rd. Dove Point Lane is 1/2 mile on left. More information will be forthcoming.



**Post-Harvest Grain Marketing
Workshop
December 13, 2016
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown, MD
8:30 AM- 12:30 PM**

Did you know that grain marketing continues after harvest? How do you decide whether to store grain and what marketing tools are available to get the best price after harvest? With the *Tool Time for Post-Harvest Marketers* program developed by Ed Ussett at the University of Minnesota, farmers will use two different post-harvest marketing plans to illustrate the pros and cons of pricing tools and how to use them. A corn plan illustrates tools used to sell the carry: forward contracts, selling futures contracts, hedge-to-arrive contracts, and buying put options. A soybean plan illustrates four more tools: selling at harvest, holding unpriced grain, selling at harvest and re-owning with call options, and price windows. You are

invited to put these tools to the test in a fast-paced and realistic marketing game. Please call the office at 301-475-4484 to register.



**Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture
Conference
January 11, 2017
Baden Fire Department, Brandywine, MD
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Hay & Forage Conference on **January 11th**, at the **Baden Firehouse Hall in Brandywine, 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. Speakers include:

Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky will lead a session on forage selection and adaptability.

David Wert, President and Reporter, Market News will demonstrate NIR forage analysis.

Robert Shoemaker, President Elect, American Forage and Grassland Council will provide an update on the organizations current activities.

Dr. Les Vough, will lead a session understanding forage analysis and making sense of the numbers.

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.

Pesticide recertification and nutrient voucher credits available. Register by calling the St. Mary's County Extension office at 301-475-4484.



Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting

**February 8, 2017
St. Mary's Co- Location TBD**

Make plans to attend the **Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting on February 8, 2017**, in St. Mary's 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.



13th Annual Small Farm Conference

**November 11, 2016 - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
November 12, 2016 - 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
UMD- Eastern Shore**

Save the Date
Sustaining Small Farms 360 Degrees
13th Annual Small Farm Conference
Friday, November 11th & Saturday, November 12th, 2016
For more information: (410)-651-6070/6210 or mlhoward@umes.edu

As November rolls in, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Small Farm Program gears up for their annual Small Farm Conference. This event has successfully provided outreach and training to 600+ participants (beginning, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged farmers and landowners and others) since the conference first initiated in 2003. This event alone has been recognized as one of the premier agricultural events on the Eastern Shore, attracting on average about 150-175 attendees each year where people travel from all over the state of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and along the Delmarva Peninsula to attend. The overall objective of the conference is to provide a venue where participants can come together to network and learn about new opportunities and strategies that promote farm profitability and sustainability. A variety of speakers and well-planned workshops are set to address innovative concepts concerning alternative agriculture, farm business and marketing, and beginning farmers. Workshop topics for the alternative agriculture track include the production of HOPS, ginger and turmeric, and getting into the mushroom business. Bridging the gap between growers and buyers, fine-tuning a food entrepreneurship game plan and direct marketing are a part of the farm business and marketing track. Farm site selection and soil suitability, choosing what to produce, and budgeting and financing options for new farmers are sessions reserved for the beginning farmer track.

To register online for the 13th annual Small Farm Conference, visit umessfc2016.eventbrite.com by Monday, November 7. Save money with the Early Bird Special by registering on or before Thursday, October 20. For more information, contact Berran Rogers at 410-651-6693 or Michele Howard (mlhoward@umes.edu) at 410-651-6070. More information about the conference can be found at www.umes.edu/sans or www.umessmallfarm.com.



Food for Profit Class

November 15, 2016

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Upper Marlboro, MD

Have you ever been told that your favorite homemade bread, or salsa, is “good enough to sell?” Do you have additional fruit or vegetables from your farm or home garden that you would like to make into a commercial product? Food for Profit is a one-day workshop designed to help you work through the maze of local and state regulations, food safety issues, and business management concepts that all must be considered in setting up a commercial food business.

The course will be held at the Prince George’s Soil Conservation District, 5301 Race Track Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This session of Penn State Extension’s popular course has been specifically adapted to Maryland’s food production regulations, food entrepreneurial resources, and marketing opportunities.

Food for Profit will take you step-by-step through the entrepreneurial process. It will provide you with the information and skills to assess if your idea will be something that will sell at a profit. Conducting a feasibility study (to see if yours is a good business idea), performing marketing research, and beginning to draft a business plan are a few of the concrete tools taught by certified instructors and business experts. By attending this class, you can learn how to evaluate the opportunities on paper before you look for funding or take action (saving money and time).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Food for Profit will meet from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm., on November 15, 2016 at the Prince George’s Soil Conservation District, 5301 Race Track Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The tuition cost of

\$45 per person which includes all materials and lunch.

Registration is through the University of Maryland Extension Eventbrite on-line system at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/food-for-profit-umdextension-prince-georges-county-tickets-28343303584> or by calling 301.868.8780.

For further information about workshop content, contact Kim Rush Lynch, Agriculture Marketing Specialist with University of Maryland Extension, Prince George’s County at kimrush@umd.edu, 301-868.8780. Pre-payment and registration are required for this workshop.



New Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

Effect on Sheep and Goats

**Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist
From Wild and Woolly Newsletter, Volume 15
Issue 2 - Spring 2016**

Starting in December 2016, veterinary prescriptions (Rx) will be required for antibiotics (which are important to human medicine) which are included in the feed or added to the drinking water of livestock. In order to get a prescription, a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) must exist. In other words, the veterinarian must visit and be familiar with the farm. Records will need to be maintained for two years.

The only antibiotic that is currently FDA-approved for inclusion in sheep feeds is aureomycin (chlorotetracycline). It is approved to feed to ewes to prevent abortions caused by vibrio or chlamydia. According to knowledgeable sheep veterinarians, the current labeled dosage is insufficient to prevent abortions. As a result, a higher dose is usually fed. However, the new regulations will not allow the extra-label use of any of the affected drugs.

Extra-label includes using a drug at a dosage that is different from the label. Unless the label is changed, aureomycin will need to be fed at the current labeled dosage. Aureomycin is not currently labeled for goats, so it cannot be fed to goats (to prevent abortions or for any other reason) once the new regulations take effect.

Aureomycin is also approved to feed to lambs (not goats) to improve growth and feed efficiency. FDA will no longer allow this practice. In order for these products to be fed, the labels will need to be changed from growth promotion to disease prevention. The American Sheep Industry Association's Producer, Education & Research (PERC) Council recently approved funds for research and education efforts associated with developing new label claims for feeding antimicrobials to sheep.

The new VFD will also change how some antibiotics are marketed. Certain over-the-counter (OTC) drugs administered through drinking water will be transitioned to prescription (Rx) status. Nothing will change how these drugs are regulated, but producers will need to get a veterinary prescription (and have a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship) in order to use them. Sulfa drugs (e.g. Di-Methox™, Sulmet™) are commonly used to treat coccidiosis in sheep and goats. They will be affected by the new VFD. They will no longer be available OTC. A prescription will be required for their continued use.



Veterinary Feed Directive – A Brief Rundown (for Cattle Producers)

From: Matthew Deist – University of Tennessee Extension Agent

Many cattle producers, especially Advanced Master Beef Producer participants, have at least heard of the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). If

you haven't then here's a brief rundown: As of **January 1, 2017** all antimicrobials that are considered by the FDA to be important for human medicine will no longer be able to be used for growth promotion and feed efficiency, and will require a veterinary feed directive (VFD) for use as treatment, prevention or control of a disease.

Why is this happening? Some of the antimicrobials that we use to increase growth and feed efficiency are also used in human medicine, and are considered by the FDA to be medically important. The continued use of antimicrobials whether for humans, pets, or livestock could result in some degree of resistance. That being said, to take a proactive approach to preventing antimicrobial resistance in humans, the FDA is implementing a number of regulatory changes. One of which is the removal of growth promotion and feed efficiency claims from the labels of antimicrobials that are considered by the FDA to be medically important. Under the newly defined regulations, antimicrobials used in livestock production that are considered medically important will only be approved and labeled for use in the treatment, control or prevention of disease. Using them for growth promotion and/or feed efficiency will be **illegal**.

Medicated feeds can only be fed to animals for their intended use as specified on the medicated feed label. The same is true for antimicrobials that are applied to drinking water. To be clear, any use of a drug in a way other than what is specified on the label is considered "off-label" and can only be adjusted by a licensed veterinarian. Although not a new regulation, drugs that are administered to animals through medicated feeds (in contrast to some other methods of administration) can **never** be used off-label. This means that medicated feeds can only be fed for uses and at levels that have been previously approved by the FDA. These uses are always described on the label and it is **unlawful** for even a veterinarian to recommend or

prescribe medicated feeds for off-label use. When used to treat, control or prevent disease these FDA deemed “medically important” antimicrobials will no longer be available OTC (over the counter). Their use will require a VFD, which can only be issued by a licensed veterinarian with whom the producer has a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR).

Medically important antimicrobials that **will** be affected by these changes include all drugs that are classified as cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, glycopeptides, macrolides, penicillins, quinolones, sulfas and tetracyclines, as well as a few others that have yet to be specified. **Updates can be found on the FDA’s website under the “Veterinary Feed Directive”.**

Here are a few examples of products that will no longer be available for use for growth promotion and/or feed efficiency as of January 1, 2017 and some effects they may have on your operation:

- **Chlortetracycline (commonly referred to as CTC) (Aureomycin)** will no longer be labeled for use for increased rate of weight gain and improved feed efficiency. This means that free-choice mineral supplements medicated with CTC (commonly marketed for cattle grazing fescue) will no longer be available for this use. Any use of CTC in feed, regardless of form (free-choice feed, top-dressed, or in a total-mixed-ration), or in water, will require a VFD. For example, Aureomycin will no longer be available OTC, and its use for the control of bacterial pneumonia in incoming stocker cattle will require a VFD. CTC will continue to be available for use to control anaplasmosis and treat bacterial enteritis; however, this use will require a VFD.

- **Oxytetracycline (Terramycin)** will no longer be labeled for use for increased rate of weight gain and improved feed efficiency. This means that milk replacers medicated with oxytetracycline, alone or in combination with

another drug (e.g. Neomycin), will no longer be available for this use. Any use of oxytetracycline in feed or water, regardless of form, will require a VFD.

- **Tylosin (Tylan)** will no longer be available OTC for use to reduce the incidence of liver abscesses. However it will be available for this use by obtaining a VFD. For example, feed lot rations medicated with Tylan alone or in combination with another drug (even if the other drug is still available OTC (e.g., in combination with Rumensin), will require a VFD.

- **Virginiamycin (V-max)** will no longer be available OTC for use to reduce the incidence of liver abscesses. However it will be available for this use by obtaining a VFD. For example, feedlot rations medicated with V-Max alone or in combination with another drug (even if the other drug is still available OTC (e.g., in combination with Rumensin or Bovatec), will require a VFD.

Antimicrobials that are not considered medically important and that have been previously available OTC **will not** be transitioning to VFD status. Here are few examples of products that will continue to be available OTC for use for growth promotion and feed efficiency: **Bovatec (lasalocid), Cattlyst (laidlomycin propionate), Flavomycin/Gainpro (bambermycin), Rumensin (monensin).**



Changes to Worker Protection Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced increased protections for the nation's two million agricultural workers and their families. Each year, thousands of potentially preventable pesticide exposure incidents are reported that lead to sick days, lost wages and medical bills but with changes to the

Agricultural Worker Protection Standard the risk of injury or illness resulting from contact with pesticides on farms and in forests, nurseries and greenhouses can be reduced. The revisions to the Worker Protection Standard cover many different areas. The major revisions include:

- Annual mandatory training to inform farmworkers on the required protections. This increases the likelihood that protections will be followed. Currently, training is only once every 5 years.
- Expanded training includes instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.
- First-time ever minimum age requirement: Children under 18 are prohibited from handling pesticides.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides. The signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- New no-entry application-exclusion zones up to 100 feet surrounding pesticide application equipment will protect workers and others from exposure to pesticide overspray.
- Requirement to provide more than one way for farmworkers and their representatives to gain access to pesticide application information and safety data sheets - centrally-posted, or by requesting records.
- Mandatory record-keeping to improve states' ability to follow up on pesticide violations and enforce compliance. Records of application-specific pesticide information, as well as farmworker training, must be kept for two years.
- Anti-retaliation provisions are comparable to Department of Labor's (DOL).
- Changes in personal protective equipment will be consistent with DOL's standards for ensuring respirators are effective, including fit test, medical evaluation and training.
- Specific amounts of water to be used for routine washing, emergency eye flushing

and other decontamination, including eye wash systems for handlers at pesticide mixing/loading sites.

- Continue the exemption for farm owners and their immediate families with an expanded definition of immediate family.

Learn more about the updates standard on EPA's website at <http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard>

A chart comparing the new regulation to existing regulations is available here;

<http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/comparison-chart-wps.pdf>



Considerations for Small Grain Weed Control

Mark VanGessel, DE Extension Weed Specialist
mjv@udel.edu

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Volume 24, Issue 27 – September 23, 2016

For no-till small grain fields, a non-selective herbicide needs to be used prior to planting. If grasses or perennial weeds are present, glyphosate is a better choice than paraquat. Fields worked with a vertical tillage implement for residue management often need a non-selective herbicide since these implements are not very effective tools for weed control.

There are few effective herbicides labeled for preemergence applications. Sharpen is labeled for wheat and barley but we have limited data in the region. Valor or Afforia can be used with the burndown application, but there must be a 7-day period between application and planting wheat. We have seen some wheat stunting and injury on coarse-textured soils, particularly if there is rainfall shortly after planting. Plant wheat at least

1-inch deep, otherwise risk of injury is increased. Neither product is appropriate for fields planted by “spinning the seeds” on the soil surface and shallow incorporation with a disk or turbo-till. Valor and Afforia are not labeled for barley.

Axiom, Anthem Flex and Zidua can be used after wheat emergence, typically spike stage. These products are only labeled for winter wheat, not barley. They do not provide control of emerged weeds but can have utility in situations requiring residual control shortly after planting. They all have good activity on annual ryegrass, but they may not provide full-season control. In limited trials, Anthem Flex and Zidua have provided good control of annual bluegrass. The labels of all three products do not allow spinning the seeds onto the soil surface and shallow incorporation. Seeds need to be planted with a drill and refer to the labels for precautions on seeding depth.

Products that provide postemergence control include: Glory, Harmony, Harmony Extra, Huskie, Starane Ultra, Osprey, PowerFlex, Axial XL, or 2,4-D. Other labeled herbicides with a limited fit include Finesse, Maverick and Prowl H2O.

Control of annual ryegrass has been good with Osprey, PowerFlex, or Axial XL. However, ALS-resistant ryegrass has been identified in Delaware and these populations will not be controlled by Osprey or PowerFlex. Furthermore, Finesse will not control these populations. In situations where ALS resistance is suspected, use of Axiom or Zidua shortly after planting, followed Axial XL is the best program.

ALS-resistant common chickweed has been confirmed in Delaware. These biotypes are not controlled with Harmony Extra, Osprey, PowerFlex or Finesse. UD Weed Research Program has had good control with Glory. There is a 24-c label for Glory in Delaware (in other states, check before applying). Applications in the early spring have provided better crop safety

than fall application. Be sure to read the label for application rates (which change with application timing). Some wheat and barley varieties are sensitive to Glory, so be careful to use on varieties with known crop safety. The other option for common chickweed control is Starane Ultra which has shown fair to good control, but often not killing common chickweed, but providing good suppression. Starane Ultra can be used either in the fall or spring.

Jagged chickweed control was evaluated last year in UD trials, and Glory and Huskie provided good postemergence control.

Henbit control with Harmony Extra has been inconsistent in our trials and many reports from the industry have confirmed our observations. Starane Ultra, Glory or Huskie have all provided good to excellent henbit control.



Rural Legacy Funding for Land Preservation in St. Mary’s County

The Southern Maryland Resource, Conservation and Development Board and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust have been awarded \$1,130,367 from the Maryland Rural Legacy Program for agriculture land preservation in St. Mary’s County. These funds will be used to leverage an additional \$1.9 million in local government funding and also used to match the Navy’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program which has over \$15M to put toward land preservation to protect NAS Patuxent River from development encroachment.

“These grants provide a cost-effective way to permanently conserve culturally, ecologically and historically important parcels of land in our state,” said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton. “Protecting and preserving these important and irreplaceable

tracts of land helps us retain our agricultural and rural character. Established in 1997, the Rural Legacy Program is designed to preserve large tracts of productive and valuable agricultural and forested lands that contain exceptional features by working with willing property owners in locally-designated rural areas situated in every county. St. Mary's County has two Rural Legacy Areas: Mattapany and Huntersville. Between the two areas, 22,651 acres of land have been permanently preserved.

For more information about agriculture land preservation, contact the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board at 301.475.8427 x6 or the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust at 410-535-0042.



Announcing the FY17 Mathias Ag Program

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is pleased to announce the launch of the FY2017 Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the agriculture sector.

MEA will provide grants up to \$150,000 on a competitive basis to farms/businesses in the agricultural sector. Eligible projects include energy efficiency measures and renewable energy measures when done in conjunction with energy efficiency. For the further information, the program application and other documentation, please visit the 2017 Mathias Ag Program webpage.

Applications are due Thursday, December 15, 2016. Grantees will be notified once the review process has been completed. Successful candidates must complete their approved projects by April 1, 2018.

If you have any questions about the program not answered in the application materials, please contact EnSave, a MEA subcontractor, at 800-732-1399.



Nutrient Management Update Fall 2016

Now is the perfect time to update your Nutrient Management Plan for the next cropping season! It is important to note that fall seeded crop recommendations must be included in your plan. These include fields that are enrolled in the Maryland Cover Crop Program. If you are making a decision about applying Nitrogen in the fall for Wheat or Barley, we can help! A fall nitrate test can be conducted following crop harvest to determine how much Nitrate is left over from the previous crop. This test, performed here at our office, can give you the information you need to determine whether or not you should apply Nitrogen in the fall on your small grain. Samples for the fall nitrate test should be taken at an 8" depth and dried quickly. Please call for more information and to schedule your fall nitrate test.

Below is an abbreviated list of important items that will need to be addressed in order to update your plan for the next cropping season:

- **Soil tests** (less than three years old)
 - Pastures must be sampled as well, even if no nutrients are applied.
- **Manure samples** (less than 1 year old)
 - Required every year that manure is spread
- **Livestock information**
 - Type of animals, average weight, confinement periods, and amount of bedding material.

- **Field histories & Intended Crop Rotation**
-Multiple cropping scenarios can be planned for!
- **Yield Goals**
-Should be developed based on prior yield records
- **Farm Maps**
-Note any changes, bring maps of new farming properties

Most farm operations should have an updated plan completed every year. If you are ready to have your plan updated, please give me a call at 301-475-4480 to schedule an appointment.

I look forward to working with you!

Nicole Fennelly,
Nutrient Management Advisor



On the Lighter Side...

Shaving Ball

A weathered, old farmer walked into a barbershop one day. He told the barber, “I can't get all these whiskers off anymore, because my face is so wrinkled from years in the sun.” The barber gets a wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and told the old farmer, “put this inside your cheek to spread out the skin.” When he's finished, the old farmer tells the barber, “That was the cleanest shave I've had in years. But he wanted to know, “What would have happened if I had accidentally swallowed that little ball?” The barber replied, “Everything comes out in the end. You would have brought it back in a few days like everyone else has.”

All the best for a wonderful Fall Season!

Benjamin E. Beale, Extension Educator
UME – St. Mary's County
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS