

Farm Notes

May 2012

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KEEPING CURRENT

There are times when we receive information about events/changes/updates/etc. that we feel are pertinent to the Agriculture Community in Carroll County. Normally we try to include these in the next issue of *Farm Notes*. However, with increasing frequency, we are receiving information that would be too late for the next issue of *Farm Notes*. With that in mind, we have been using our web site at www.carroll.umd.edu (<http://www.facebook.com/umecarroll> and <http://www.twitter.com/umecarroll>) to share this information immediately. We know there are some in Carroll County who do not communicate through the use of the Internet for various reasons. Currently *Farm Notes* will continue to be published on a regular basis and offered in hard copy as well as electronic form.

Source: UMECC

2012 DAIRY CATTLE FIELD DAYS

The 2012 dairy cattle field day dates and entry forms have been assembled and are now posted on the UMD Dairy Extension webpage (<http://dairy.umd.edu/>). Please feel free to distribute this link to anyone who might be interested.

Source: Kiera A Finucane, Coordinator of Dairy-Beef Extension Activities,
Department of Animal & Avian Sciences

www.ruraltax.org/

This website provides farmers and ranchers, other agricultural producers and Extension educators with a source for agriculturally related income and self-employment tax information that is both current and easy to understand. Tax issues are important for agricultural operations because income

and self-employment taxes are a major cost and also because more and more USDA programs are being linked to a producer's federal income tax return.

<http://www.ruraltax.org/>

Source: Utah State University Cooperative Extension and  Risk management Agency

USDA ANNOUNCES MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM PAYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY PRODUCTION

U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the February payment rate for the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. The February MILC payment rate is \$0.3895043 per hundredweight. This is the first time there has been a payment for MILC since April 2010.

MILC payments are triggered when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight, after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized MILC through Sept. 30, 2012. Producers must meet the Average Adjusted Gross Income requirement and provide marketing data to the FSA County Office in order to qualify. New dairy producers can apply for program benefits anytime through Sept. 30, 2012, at local FSA offices.

Additional information about the MILC program can be found at

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/milc2011.pdf, or by visiting a local FSA Service Center.

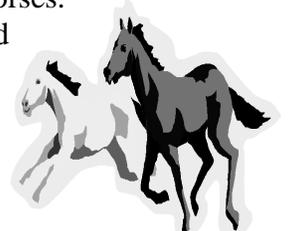
Source: USDA

HORSE OWNERS URGED TO VACCINATE HORSES NOW AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges horse owners to vaccinate their horses against potentially fatal mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus (WNV), which continues to impact both animal and human populations in the state. Horse owners who have vaccinated their horses against eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), western equine encephalitis (WEE), and Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) still need to get their horses vaccinated for West Nile, as these are different viruses and those vaccinations do not provide cross protection.

“Preventing a disease is always less expensive and traumatic than treating it, so we urge horse owners to be proactive now that the weather is warming up and vaccinate their horses,” said Maryland State Veterinarian Guy Hohenhaus. “Your veterinarian is the best source of information and advice for your horse and its health. We also remind veterinarians across the state that they must report any cases of equine arboviruses to MDA.”

West Nile Virus is a serious and, at times, deadly disease that affects humans and horses. Because animals and humans both contract West Nile Virus from the bite of an infected mosquito, MDA works closely with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene every year to monitor WNV activity in equines. West Nile is not transmitted from horse to person; or from horse to horse. Dogs and cats are generally not affected by West Nile Virus. Veterinarians should use standard infection control precautions when caring for any animal suspected to have WNV or any other viral disease.



In 2003, there were 234 cases of equine West Nile Virus reported in Maryland; however, that number has decreased sharply with only eight equine cases reported between 2004 and 2011. State officials urge horse owners to remain vigilant and to vaccinate their horses to keep that number low. State veterinarians also encourage horse owners to vaccinate their horses against rabies and EEE.

Information about arboviral and other infectious diseases in equines can be obtained from the Animal Health section of the MDA website at www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/diseases/reportable.php. General information on WNV and other arboviruses is available on the Maryland West Nile Virus web page at <http://ideha.dhmh.md.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/west-nile.aspx>.

Source: MDA

MARYLAND FOOD BANK “FARM TO FOOD BANK” PROGRAM

With spring comes rejuvenation, a new sense of life. Trees and flowers are in bloom, pollen is flowing through the air, and farmers are plowing and sowing their fields. In a few months those fields will produce a healthy crop. The Maryland Food Bank “Farm to Food Bank” program is looking to recruit a new crop of farmers and individuals who would like to help feed food insecure individuals across the state of Maryland.

Are you a farmer or individual who has left edible produce out in the field to go to waste? Have you found yourself with extra produce that has been harvested but does not meet grade for a customer or had a customer back out at the last minute? Do you find yourself having given away all you can give away and still have extra on-hand? If so, the Maryland Food Bank “Farm to Food Bank” program offers a solution.

The “Farm to Food Bank” program may be just what you have been looking for. They know that supplies are expensive and labor is in short supply. Therefore, upon request, they will supply you with pallets, bins, boxes, trailer, and /or labor. The Maryland Food Bank has partnered with the Maryland Department of Corrections as well as the Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network to glean fields. They will come directly to you to pick up the product. And, if desired, the donation and incurred costs can be written off as a deduction on your taxes!

The Maryland Food Bank is a non-profit organization with offices in Baltimore, Salisbury, and Hagerstown. Regardless of location, they can get to you. All they need is your permission. Will you help us and join the network of partners to support the “Farm to Food Bank” program? If so, please contact Amy Cawley at (443) 735-0757 or George Langenfelder at (410) 926-7886.

Source: Amy Cawley, Food Solicitor, Maryland Food Bank - Eastern Shore, 28500 Owens Branch Road, Salisbury, MD 21803

WHAT’S WRONG WITH MY NEW FORAGE SEEDING?

I’ve been receiving reports from across Pennsylvania about how bad some new forages seedings look. What I’ve seen are some very thin stands, not clear if the seedlings emerged and then died or if they still haven’t germinated, and sick looking seedlings. These situations shouldn’t come as a big surprise since many forages were planted early and are now experiencing this strange weather.

If your new seedlings emerged and plant death has thinned the stand, then a quick plant assessment is needed to decide if it is worth keeping the stand or replanting. The minimum number of alfalfa seedlings is 15 per square foot. While there isn’t a minimum threshold for grasses my best guess is that there should be at least 25 seedlings per square foot. Fewer seedlings and the stand will likely never reach the field’s full production potential and replanting should be given serious consideration.

If your seedlings are looking sick, then it is nothing that a little rain and higher night temperatures won’t improve. I suspect that new seedlings are getting nipped with cold temperatures at night and then losing water

during windy days faster than their small root system can absorb water. Keep a close eye on these fields to make sure a sufficiently thick stand remains to justify not replanting.

Source: Dr. Marvin Hall, Forage Management Specialist, PNST Extension

AGRICULTURE APPS FOR YOUR MOBILE DEVICES

These days it seems that everyone is coming out with apps for smartphones and tablets. Just recently, CropLife published an [article](#) listing its top 10 mobile apps for agriculture. Following is information about some of these apps that you might want to explore for your operation. The rank given by CropLife is indicated in parentheses.

Farm Record Apps

Many of the apps are for keeping farm records. These include Optimizer 2.0 (2), iCropTrak (4), Farm Manager (5), and MyTraps.com (honorable mention). They all take slightly different approaches to handling the information. For example, Optimizer 2.0 is web based and has a free version and a subscription version. With the subscription version, someone will input all of your information for you. Both versions will send you text messages about the status of your crop. On the other hand you have iCropTrak, Farm Manager, and MyTraps.com. These all require you to input your information.

Nutrient Management Apps

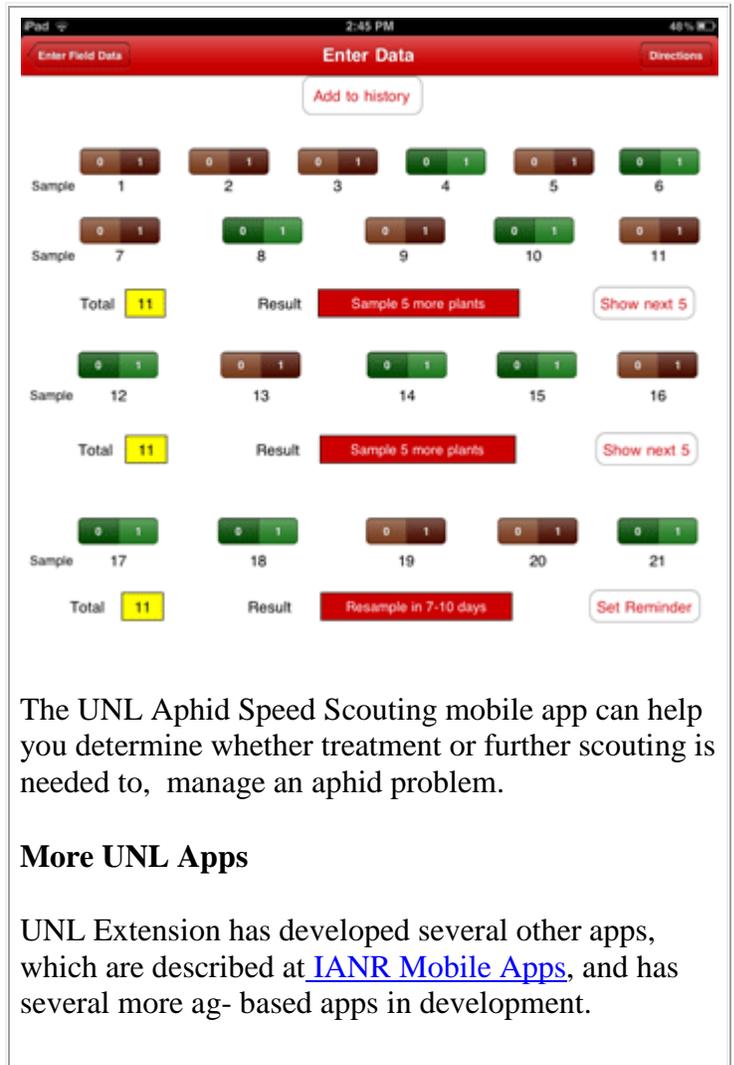
Both Nutrient Removal (6) and Precision Earth (7) aid nutrient management. Nutrient Removal gives you a ballpark idea of which nutrients a crop will remove and how much of each nutrient will be removed. Precision Earth keeps track of soil sampling records and requires a GPS chip in your mobile device for it to work properly.

Corn Apps

Two of the apps are strictly for use with corn. At the start of the season, the Corn Planting Calculator (8) is a convenient way to calculate how much seed you will need and the cost per acre for that seed. For those who like to plan the end to the growing season there is YieldCheck (3). By using YieldCheck you can sample 1/1,000th of an acre to estimate your corn yield.

Insect Management App

Aphid Speed Scout is from UNL Extension. CropLife gave it the #1 spot on its list. This app is designed for scouting soybean fields for soybean aphids. Speed scouting is one method for determining whether soybean aphids have reached the treatment threshold of 250 aphids per plant. It relies on the number of "infested" plants



The UNL Aphid Speed Scouting mobile app can help you determine whether treatment or further scouting is needed to, manage an aphid problem.

More UNL Apps

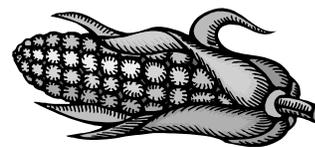
UNL Extension has developed several other apps, which are described at [IANR Mobile Apps](#), and has several more ag- based apps in development.

rather than estimating the number of aphids on each plant. Plants are considered "infested" if there are 40 or more aphids on the plant. The app can store your scouting history and add reminders to your calendar for treatment or scouting the field again. One of the best parts about this app is that once you download it, you will NOT need Internet access to operate it in the field.

Source: Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

CHILLING INJURY POSSIBLE ON RECENTLY PLANTED CORN

Soil conditions last week were ideal for corn planting and planters started rolling in earnest in many areas of the state. Cold rain and snow during the early part of this week, though, has set us up for the potential on "imbibitional chilling injury" on some of these recently planted fields.



When seed corn kernels expand due to the imbibition of cold water, it causes disruption of some of the cellular membranes in the seed and can result in kernels that fail to germinate, or seedlings with thickened coleoptiles, discolored roots and disrupted root and coleoptile growth. These membranes contain lipids or fats and are subject to damage when temperatures are cold as the seed is expanding.

Chilling injury can also impact stands that have germinated but not emerged causing the death of the seminal root system and corkscrewed seedlings. This can occur when soil temperatures drop below 50 degrees for an extended period following planting.

Each year we get reports of windows in the planting season when the replants are most common due to this phenomenon and last week could be one for this year. It is impossible to predict the extent of the damage and it will likely be a function of seed vigor, temperature, precipitation and the length of the cold period. If chilling injury occurs, stands in some fields will be reduced and emergence will be variable with some seedlings showing injury symptoms and reduced vigor. Often the stand is not a complete loss and there may only be a partial stand reduction resulting in sometimes difficult replant decisions.

We should be monitoring these fields during the next three weeks for emergence issues and then making decisions based on our observations. On the bright side, many fields are planted at higher populations now that can tolerate some stand loss and also it is early in the planting season so that any replants can occur in a timely basis if necessary.

Source: Greg Roth, Grain Crop Management, PNST Extension

FOOD SAFETY QUESTIONS

Consumers with food safety questions can "Ask Karen," the e FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov or via smartphone at m.askkaren.gov. "Ask Karen" live chat services are available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET. The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

Source: USDA/FSIS

SPRING 2012 ISSUE OF WILD & WOOLLY

The Spring 2012 issue of Wild & Woolly has been posted to the web at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/Spring2012.html>. A PDF version of the newsletter is also available for downloading.

Wild & Woolly is a quarterly newsletter for sheep and goat producers and anyone else interested in small ruminant production. It is published by the Western Maryland Research & Education Center.

Source: Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, sschoen@umd.edu

EVALUATING YOUR ESTATE PLAN: ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEYS: FINDING ONE WHO CAN WORK FOR YOU

Law is a multifaceted and complicated field that is in a constant state of change. New regulations and statutes are continually enacted by state and federal authorities. Every decision released by a court or administrative body represents a new interpretation of legal concepts. It is not possible for any one attorney to be an expert in every field of law.

Attorneys in private practice may choose to limit their practice to certain areas of the law. In smaller communities many attorneys find it necessary to engage in “general practice” to serve a wide range of clients. However, an attorney may also have a particular interest in specific fields of law, such as estate planning, probate and trust administration. Finding an attorney to handle estate planning needs may take a little time and effort. This publication is intended to provide you with some guidelines.

You may already have a relationship with an attorney for other personal or business matters. Start by talking with that attorney about estate planning. Ask the attorney some of the questions found in this publication. If that attorney is not comfortable handling your estate planning needs, ask for recommendations.

1. Seek Recommendations: Think about how you would locate any other professional you might need, such as a plumber or electrician, a medical professional or a tax advisor. While it is possible to look on the internet or in the yellow pages, we often seek the recommendations of others. In particular, we ask people we respect, which might include family members, friends or other professionals with whom we are acquainted. Ask others, “Have you had a will or trust prepared? Who did that work for you? Would you recommend that person to others?” Start to assemble a list of the names that you receive and prepare to make some initial contacts.

2. Contact and Schedule Initial Meetings: Select two or three of the attorney names that you obtain and telephone those law offices. Explain that you are interested in having some estate planning done and that you would like to schedule an initial meeting with “Lawyer Jones” who has been recommended to you. Ask what the fee will be for such an initial meeting.

3. Come to the Meeting Prepared: Come to the meeting prepared to explain your circumstances and what kind of work you may need done. Bring along your most recent net worth statement and a completed Estate Planning Questionnaire (See AgDM File C4-57, Evaluating Your Estate Plan – Estate Planning Questionnaire - <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c4-57.pdf>). It is also possible that the law firm may have an estate planning questionnaire. You should also have a prepared list of questions to ask the attorney.

4. Questions for the Attorney: During this initial meeting, you should have some questions prepared to ask the attorney. These questions are intended to assist you in getting to know the attorney and that individual’s background in estate planning. Possible questions to include are listed below.

5. Evaluate and Select: Based on the recommendations you obtain, it may be worthwhile to meet with two or three attorneys. This process and the answers to questions such as those listed below will help you to evaluate the attorneys with whom you meet. Perhaps most importantly, having a conversation based on questions like these will help you to determine whether you will be comfortable working in a close and confidential relationship with the attorney. You should not feel awkward or uncomfortable about having such a conversation with the attorney. The estate planning process involves personal decisions about valuable lifetime assets. Invest the time and effort necessary to find the right legal professional for your needs and circumstances.

Questions for Attorney

1. How many years have you been practicing law?
2. In what areas of the law do you spend the most time in your practice?
3. Do you participate in continuing legal education in the field of estate planning?
4. How do you keep up with changes in estate planning law?
5. Why do you like estate planning? What do you find interesting about it?
6. Are there other staff members in the office who would be working on my file, and if so, can I meet them?
7. Can you give me an estimate of how many estate plans you have drafted in the past year (or two years, five years)?
8. If my estate plan includes a trust, will you assist in transferring assets into the trust? Is that included in the fees or are there additional fees?
9. Will my estate plan include preparation of powers of attorney and health care directives?
10. Can you give me an estimate of your fees – for drafting a simple will, a will with testamentary trusts, or establishing a living trust?
11. Can you give me an estimate of how long the estate planning process will take? How many meetings? How many weeks or months?
12. What is your opinion of how often an estate plan should be reviewed?
13. Can you provide me with the names of any other clients as references? (Note: An attorney has a duty of complete confidentiality to clients, and an attorney must have permission from the client to give out a name as a reference.)

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not provide legal advice. Any information provided is intended to be educational and is not intended to substitute for legal advice from a competent professional retained by an individual or organization for that purpose.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2010-49200-06200.

Source: Melissa O'Rourke, farm and business management specialist, 712-737-4230, morourke@iastate.edu

TIPS ON HOW TO PREVENT BUTTERCUP GROWTH



Dr. J.D.Green of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture has been studying the management of buttercups in pastures. Buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.) tend to thrive in fields with poor stands of desirable forages. In fact, many fields that have heavy buttercup populations are fields that have been heavily grazed by livestock during the fall through the early spring months.

Buttercups are short-lived perennials or winter annuals that produce shiny yellow petals in the early spring. There are four different species of buttercups: bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and small-flower buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*). Although these plants may have somewhat similar flower heads, each of these buttercup species differs somewhat in their leaf characteristics.

Most buttercups emerge each year from seed during the fall or early winter months. Therefore, pasture management practices that promote growth of desirable plants during these months is one of the best methods to fight the growth of this plant. Livestock allowed to overgraze fields during the fall and winter months are one of the main contributors to buttercups' growth.

Mowing fields or clipping plants close to the ground in the early spring before buttercup plants can produce flowers may help reduce the amount of new seed produced, but mowing alone will not totally eliminate seed production. New buttercup seeds are produced during the time petals are showy. This is one reason buttercups can survive year to year and new plants emerge each year. Therefore, waiting until after flowers appear can be too late to implement control tactics.

If chemical control options are desired, most herbicides registered for use on grass pastures that contain 2,4-D, dicamba+2,4-D (eg. WeedMaster), triclopyr (eg. Crossbow, PastureGard), or metsulfuron (eg. Ally, Cimarron) will effectively control this plant. However, legumes such as clovers interseeded with grass pastures can be severely injured or killed by these herbicide products. For optimum results apply a herbicide in the early spring (February - March) before flowers are observed, when buttercup plants are still small and actively growing. For best herbicide activity wait until daytime air temperatures is greater than 55 F for two to three consecutive days. Consult the herbicide label for further information on grazing restrictions or other possible limitations.

For fields heavily infested with buttercup a variety of control tactics may be needed. Use a herbicide to help reduce the population of buttercup plants plus use good pasture management techniques to thicken the stand of desirable forages.

Source: Dr. Jonathan D. Green, University of Kentucky, Extension Professor, Weed Science

D Farmdoc

<http://www.farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/>

The goal of the farmdoc Project has not changed since its inception in 1999— to provide crop and livestock producers in the U.S. Corn Belt with round-the-clock access to integrated information and expertise to better manage their farm businesses. While the goal has remained constant, the technology available to meet that goal has undergone enormous changes during the last dozen years. Smart phones, iPads, blogs, and social networks are now commonplace but scarcely imagined just a few years ago.

We created the new farmdoc daily site with an eye towards not only the technology people are increasingly using to access information but also the desired form of the information. Information needs to be easily accessible across a variety of platforms (desktops, laptops, and mobile devices) and in a condensed format that fits the needs of busy people with hectic schedules and more than a little “information overload.”

The new site uses blog technology, but it is not a blog in the conventional sense of the term. We think a daily newspaper is a better analogy, and hence, the name farmdoc daily. Our plan is to post one new item each day at the site, drawn from the following categories:

- 1) Original subject matter posts,
- 2) Weekly outlook newsletters and farm management newsletters,
- 3) Summaries of research reports, and
- 4) Announcements of new tools, tool updates, and data.

Original subject matter posts will focus on what we call “Corn Belt farm economics,” with an emphasis on management, marketing, finance, policy, law, and taxation issues. This new site will allow the farmdoc team to respond much more quickly and flexibly to these issues as they arise. Weekly outlook and farm management newsletters will be identical to those already posted at the farmdoc website. Posting the newsletters to the new farmdoc daily site will widen the availability of these resources substantially, especially for mobile device users. Likewise, research reports and decision tools available at the farmdoc website will be highlighted.

There are three other significant advances with this new site. The first is that feedback can be submitted to each post, allowing users to suggest comments that will provide other users with additional perspectives. Please see our section on commenting policy for complete details. The second is that posts can be automatically received by signing up as an email or RSS subscriber. The third is that posts can be shared with Facebook users.

We are excited about the opening of this new chapter in the history of the farmdoc Project. Thanks for taking a look and we hope you visit farmdoc daily often.

Source: Scott Irwin, farmdoc Team Leader

FIELD CROP NEWS

Field Crop News is a weekly newsletter produced by the Penn State Crop Management Extension Group - <http://extension.psu.edu/cmeg> that provides Agronomic crop management information to producers, extension agents and the agri-business community during the production season. A new issue is posted weekly on Tuesday. Each issue contains articles pertaining to production, pest management, and precision agriculture. Upcoming field days and events, agent reports, and degree day accumulations can also be found.

Source: Penn State Crop Management Extension Group

MARYLAND STATE CLIMATOLOGIST OFFICE

The Maryland State Climatologist Office is a public service entity that has affiliations with the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science at the University of Maryland, College Park. It is the home of the Acting Maryland State Climatologist, Konstantin Vinnikov, and the Assistant Maryland State Climatologist, Will Chong. The Maryland State Climatologist Office provides climate data and related information to the State of Maryland. Please contact them with your data request information and/or any questions you may have.

<http://metosrv2.umd.edu/~climate/index.html>

<http://metosrv2.umd.edu/~climate/special%20data/agriculture.htm>

The Office of the State Climatologist is the state repository for climate information. They provide climatic data to Maryland state businesses, agencies, students, researchers, and citizens. They maintain links with many cooperative observers in the state, the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), National Weather Service Offices, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and many other sources of weather and climate information. For climate data, please contact us and submit a data request.

The Mission

The functions of the State Climatologist and its office include:

- Act as a liaison between Maryland weather users and the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- Maintain a data bank of climatological, hydrological, and meteorological information
- Supply data in a useful form to users
- Refer requests for complex data or information by the user to the appropriate person, agency, or consulting firm
- Maintain contact with users of climatic and hydrological data to ascertain their needs for data and analysis

- Study the climate of Maryland, climate change, and perform extensive research in these areas

The Maryland State Climatologist Office is located in and maintained by the University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science.

Source: University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science

ORGANIC FARM OPERATIONS JUMP 240 PERCENT IN TEN YEARS

Organic farms have increased by 240 percent since 2002, according to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Based on an updated list of certified organic operations, there are about 17,600 organic farms and processing facilities in the United States. That is a 240 percent increase since 2002 when the National Organic Program began its oversight of industry. To date, there are 28,779 certified organic operators across 133 countries. Learn more and view the attached fact sheet.

Source: USDA

WANTED – UPDATE AND NEW PRODUCERS

It is time to update the [Maryland Niche Meats and Poultry Producers' Directory](#) to keep the publication current. **Please complete the form** found at <http://carroll.umd.edu/ag/files/DirForm.pdf> **and email or mail it back to me**, if you would like to continue your listing or to be added in the revised publication.

This directory is to help buyers, consumers, market masters, and other producers, or anyone looking for the freshest, best quality farm-raised meats available from Maryland producers.

The Maryland Niche Meats and Poultry Producers goals include:

- Developing a searchable, geographic product database to facilitate product searches by consumers, restaurants, and institutional buyers - this effort will supplement, not replace the “Maryland’s Best” directory or other on-line listings.
- Providing information and resources for product development, regulatory issues, and collaborative marketing efforts.
- Offering training and economic analysis to determine “best fit” business structures and the profit potential of niche meat markets in the mid-Atlantic region.

Your information may be shared with farmers’ markets, institutional sales, restaurants, etc.

Saving and Printing Directions

To use the fillable features you will need Adobe Reader 8 or above. You can get the free version from Adobe at: <http://www.adobe.com/go/reader>

Sending form via e-mail: Fill out the fillable form, click the save button at the bottom of the page. In dialog box, choose the location you would like to save your document; click save; attach the saved document from your chosen folder to your email message to gsmyers@umd.edu.

Printing form to mail: Fill out the fillable form; click the print button at the bottom of the page. In dialog box, choose your printer and print document. If you are unable to use the fillable features, you can print out the form to

fill out manually. Mail the filled out form to: Ginger S. Myers, WMREC, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756.

Source: Ginger S. Myers, Marketing Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, Director, Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center

WHEAT GROWTH STAGE AND FOLIAR FUNGICIDE APPLICATIONS

Cool conditions over the last few weeks have slowed the wheat down considerably, however, the development of the crop is still about a week or two ahead of what is considered to be normal in Ohio at this time of year. Current growth stages range from Feekes 6, jointing, to Feekes 8, flag leaf emergence. However, the difference between these growth stages cannot be determined just by looking at the height of the crop from the road, since relatively low temperatures and dry conditions may have prevented some varieties from reaching the height that is expected when the crop is between at Feekes GS 6 and 8. Remember, short-looking wheat does not mean that the crop is not developing and advancing through the different growth stages. Feekes 8 marks the beginning of the period during which we recommend that fields be scouted to determine which disease is present and at what level. Septoria blotch is usually one of the first to show up, and it already has been reported in some fields. This disease is favored by cool (50–68F), rainy conditions, and although it usually develops early in the season, it really does not cause yield loss unless it reaches and damages the flag leaf before grain fill is complete. Like many other foliar diseases such as Stagonospora, Septoria reduces grain fill and the size of the grain. It usually does not affect the number of spikelets per spike, an important yield component that is defined very early in the development of the plant (before Feekes 6). As a result, a foliar fungicide application at green-up or jointing is less likely to be as beneficial for Septoria and Stagonospora control as an application made at or after flag leaf emergence. An early application will certainly control Septoria and powdery mildew, another disease that usually shows up early under cool conditions, but the residual effects of the fungicide will not adequately protect the flag leaf. If the weather conditions continue to be rainy and favorable for foliar disease development, spores will continue to be produced or blown in from other areas, and new infections will occur, even after early applications have been made. In addition, frequent rainfall may also reduce the residual effects of the early fungicide applications, making them even less effective against mid- and late-season foliar disease development. Results from previous studies have shown that the greatest benefits from foliar fungicide applications were obtained when applications were made between Feekes 8 and 10. This is largely because most of our major foliar diseases usually develop and reach the flag leaf after Feekes 8–9.



There are several different fungicides available for use on wheat. If powdery mildew is the target disease then Tilt or PropiMax should be applied. Tilt, PropiMax, Quadris, Quilt, Stratego, and Headline have good efficacy against Stagonospora leaf blotch, other leaf blotch diseases and leaf rust. Obtain current pricing of fungicides to determine the most economical control option. Use 20 gal water/A with ground equipment and 5 gal water/A if applying by airplane. Using less water will lower effectiveness. Check labels for application timing restrictions. Refer to the table below for a more complete list of fungicides, rates, efficacy, and pre-harvest intervals. For information more on wheat foliar fungicide, including rates, efficacy, and pre-harvest intervals, visit the following website: http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ohiofieldcropdisease/images/NCERA_184_Wheat_fungicide_table_2012.pdf

(This article originally appeared in the Ohio State C.O.R.N. newsletter, but it is very appropriate for our conditions. Much of our wheat is in the GS 6–9 stage and are at or approaching the time for a fungicide— Greg Roth)

Source: Greg Roth, Grain Crop Management, PNST Extension

APPROVAL OF PESTICIDE FOR SPECIAL LOCAL NEED (SLN 24C), OF INTEREST TO CORN GROWERS

24(c) Special Local Need Registration SLN MD-12-0001 (For Distribution and Use Only Within the State of Maryland)

Avipel[®] Hopper Box (dry) Corn Seed Treatment for the protection of Field and Sweet Corn Seed against consumption by Black Birds.

See the UME Carroll County web site for more information – www.carroll.umd.edu .

Source: Sudeep A. Mathew, UME Extension Educator - Agriculture & Natural Resources, Dorchester County

DRY WEATHER AND SALT INJURY

With the very dry weather we are having, there is a concern with salt injury from manure or fertilizer. I have heard one report so far of a new alfalfa seeding made 3 days after a dairy manure application that was pretty much wiped out. The cause was likely high salts and ammonia. The common symptoms of salt injury are poor germination, or if germination occurs, the plants are severely wilted even in moist soil. This is often accompanied by leaf tip burning. Ammonia injury is primary poor germination and/or roots burned off of the seedlings. The same farm that had the failure mentioned above had another seeding made on the same day but without the manure application and it looks fine. Research done has shown that following manure application, salts can quickly increase to levels that can reduce germination and/or cause seedling injury. Experience has shown that ½ to 1 inch of rain is enough to quickly dilute the salts to a safe level. The recommendation is that for recent surface applications of manure, planting should be delayed until we get some significant rain to avoid potential salt injury. Also, at normal rates of manure application, if the manure is mixed with the soil by tillage, this should dilute the effect enough that the risk of injury should be much less.

Another related problem is increased potential for salt injury from starter fertilizer in dry conditions. The general recommendation for corn starter to avoid salt injury is that the rate of N + K₂O should not exceed 70 lb/A in starter placed approximately 2 inches from the seed. For starter fertilizer placed directly with the seed, the rate of N + K₂O should not exceed 10 lb/A.

Example: 150 lb/Acre of 8–32–16 starter applied 2 inches beside and 2 inches below the seed:

$150 \times 0.08 = 12 \text{ lb N} + 150 \times 0.16 = 24 \text{ lb K}_2\text{O} = 36 \text{ lb N} + \text{K}_2\text{O} / \text{A} \rightarrow$ Safe rate for this placement

Also, DAP and especially urea should always be used with caution in a starter because both can release harmful amounts of ammonia. If there is significant urea or DAP in the starter, it should always be kept 2 inches from the seed. Every year I hear of farmers applying 30–60 lb N/A as urea in the starter and getting away with it, but in dry conditions this is a much riskier practice. When planting in dry conditions when there is no rain soon after planting the risk from salt and/or ammonia injury is much greater. The bottom line is **if** the guidelines here are followed the risk of injury should be small even in dry weather, but it is critical in dry weather that these guidelines are followed to be safe.

Source: Doug Beegle, Soil Fertility, PNST Extension

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE 2012-13 CORN MARKETING YEAR

December 2012 corn futures reached a high of \$6.735 on August, 31, 2011, declined to a low of \$5.23 on March 30, 2012, and are currently trading near \$5.40. The steady decline in prices over the past few months reflects, in part, expectations for a large 2012 U.S. corn crop and some re-building of inventories during the year ahead.

Prospects for a large increase in corn acreage support expectations for more abundant stocks next year, but opinions about the magnitude of the build-up vary considerably. Since the end of the 2012-13 marketing year is 16 months away, uncertainty will abound for several more months. Expectations for the 2012-13 marketing year begin with the likely size of the 2012 crop. Producers have reported intentions to plant 95.864 million acres of corn, 3.943 million more than planted in 2011, pointing to acreage harvested for grain of about 88.8 million acres. That would be nearly 4.8 million more than harvested last year. Producers will be resurveyed in June to identify actual planted acreage and likely acreage for harvest. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some acreage intended for corn will be planted to soybeans due to the shift in price relationships following the March survey. On the other hand, an early start to corn planting and the potential that total crop acreage will exceed intentions supports ideas that corn acreage could still reach intentions. The deviation from March intentions should be small, with a projection of 88 million acres harvested for grain used here.

Yield expectations for 2012 also vary considerably, reflecting differences of opinion about the magnitude of the trend yield for 2012, the likely impact of early planting, and likely summer weather conditions. The long term trend for the U.S. average yield in 2012 is between 160 and 161 bushels. Prospects for a smaller than average portion of the 2012 crop to be planted after optimum dates for maximum yield potential add about two bushels to the average yield expectation. That impact can be thought of as more or less permanent. That is, whatever the average yield turns out to be, it might be about two bushels higher than if an average amount of the crop had been planted late. In the end, summer weather will be the largest determinant of the average yield. A yield expectation of about 162.5 bushels seems most reasonable at this time, pointing to a crop of 14.3 billion bushels.

Consumption of U.S. corn during the year ahead is also subject to a lot of uncertainty due to the unknowns surrounding a wide array of factors that include crop production in the rest of the world, U.S. biofuels policy, and domestic and world economic conditions. The starting point in making consumption projections is the expected level of use during the current year. As pointed out last week, however, the likely level of consumption this year is not yet settled. For ethanol, the rapidly approaching blend wall for E10 and the delays in implementing E15 suggest a plateauing of corn use in that category near the 5 billion bushels expected for this year. The USDA projects feed and residual use of corn during the current year at a modest 4.6 billion bushels. While use during the first half of the year suggests consumption could exceed the projection, declining cattle numbers, increased wheat feeding, and more new crop corn feeding point to a slowing of use during the last half of the year. Some modest expansion in livestock production other than beef, less wheat feeding next summer, a lack of increase in distillers grain production, some new crop corn feeding in August, and lower corn prices support prospects for more corn feeding next year. Feed and residual use might be near 5 billion bushels.

U.S. corn exports during the current year are projected at a relatively low level of 1.7 billion bushels, reflecting in part competition from the large world grain crop of last year. Prospects for less competition from Argentina and perhaps from the Black Sea region next year, along with larger imports by China, point to a rebound in exports to near the long term average of 1.9 billion bushels. With food, seed and industrial use (excluding ethanol) near 1.425 billion bushels, total consumption next year might be near 13.325 billion bushels. With beginning stocks of 800 million bushels and imports of 15 million, stocks at the end of the 2012-13 marketing year would be near 1.79 billion bushels. Stocks at that level would represent a stocks-to-use ratio of 13.4

percent. Under this scenario, the 2012-13 marketing year average price would be expected to be in the \$4.50 to \$5.00 range.

The USDA's May 10 WASDE report will contain a forecast of the 2012-13 supply and demand balance for corn. A larger production estimate than used here will likely be reflected in that forecast as March acreage intentions, and probably a higher yield forecast, will be used.

Source: Darrel Good, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois

FORAGE SORGHUM: OPPORTUNITY FOR LOW COST FORAGE

The dry and hot spring has me worried about another drought and our need to produce lots of forage for the fall. I know it's the height of the corn planting season but we might consider adding some forage sorghum to our portfolio as a double crop after first cutting hay or small grain silages, especially on average or below average soils or where corn can't be double cropped. Last year we planted our forage sorghum trials no-till on June 2nd and 3rd and harvested on October 11 with yields ranging from 14.7 to 20.0 tons/acre (35% DM) depending on the height and maturity of the entries. With the BMR lines achieved 30 hr NDFD levels of 54 to 58%. This yield was more than some of our corn trials yielded under the drought conditions and when you add the yield of the first crop in a double crop scenario, it could be a good program for less than ideal acres. Sorghum is also a lot cheaper to grow...this Missouri budget compared corn and grain sorghum and showed about \$195/acre lower costs than for corn <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mgt/budget/crop12.pdf> and would be roughly comparable for forage sorghum and corn silage.

Forage sorghum genotypes vary from Brachytic Dwarf BMR lines, to medium height conventional and BMR lines to tall high yielding biomass energy lines. They can also be cut at the boot stage in August if a summer forage seeding is desired. For farms where spreading the workload is an issue, these are planted following the corn planting rush and are harvested at the end of the chopping season, and provide some opportunity for an early summer manure application. The dwarf lines are very lodging resistant and leafy. Sorghums seem to have a good fit as a low cost supplement to a corn silage based ration, and with the BMR trait, the fiber digestibility is improved over conventional sorghums.

Despite their potential, they do require some management to optimize yields, with timely planting, weed control and some attention to basic soil fertility. Often this crop gets neglected and yield suffers as a result, so don't shortchange this crop on management if you give it a try.

Source: Greg Roth, Grain Crop Management, PNST Extension

PRODUCTION WEBSITES TO BOOKMARK

"The web" is where many of us go to get up-to-date information. At times it can be frustrating trying to find the site or information you need. Below are some great farm production websites that you may find helpful if you have not already visited or bookmarked.

Production

- www.extension.umd.edu Extension Website, publications, events
- www.mdvegetables.umd.edu Vegetable production website
- www.mdcrops.umd.edu Field Crop production website, including variety trials, agronomy news
- www.mdgrainmarketing.umd.edu Crop budgets, market information, leases, custom rates



Pesticide Recommendations

- **Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Maryland EB 236** – <http://www.mdvegetables.umd.edu/files/Maryland%20complete%20book%202012.pdf>
- **Also available in a new very interactive format at the Delaware Extension site at:**
 - <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/vegprogram/publications.htm#vegrecs>
- **Commercial Field Crop Recommendations EB 237**
 - <http://extension.umd.edu/publications/EB237online/>
- **Commercial Tree Fruit**
 - <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-419/456-419.html>

Pesticide Labels

- <http://www.cdms.net/> Crop Data Management Systems CDMS
- www.greenbook.net Pesticide Labels and Information
- www.kellysolutions.com/md/ Pesticide Registration Database

Source: By Shannon Dill, UME Extension Educator, Talbot County

REMEMBER TO MANAGE GLYPHOSATE RESISTANT HORSEWEED (MARESTAIL) BEFORE SOYBEANS EMERGE

Last year was a milestone for glyphosate-resistant horseweed or marestalk success in Pennsylvania. It has become fairly common and widespread throughout the Southeast part of the state and continues to move west. It is very important **NOT** to rely on POST control in soybean where options are few, so you want to kill it before soybeans emerge. We have been emphasizing the importance of burndown programs in no-till this winter talking about including 2,4-DLVE and/or products like Sharpen, Optill, and Verdict, or using Liberty Link soybeans where you can come back with Liberty herbicide as a rescue. Dr. Mark Loux at Ohio State posted an article earlier this year in OSU's Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN). His bottom line advice is that there is no one easy approach to marestalk management that consistently optimizes both burndown and residual control. For the complete article go to <http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2012/2012-03/#4> and manage marestalk now.

Source: Bill Curran and Dwight Lingenfelter, Penn State Weed Science, Extension

RURAL WEALTH CREATION

Promoting rural wealth creation is a high priority of USDA and other organizations. They define "wealth" and "wealth creation", explain why wealth creation is important, discuss recent efforts to promote rural wealth creation and past research on this topic, and introduce a conceptual framework and the theme articles.

<http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/rural-wealth-creation/theme-overview-rural-wealth-creation>

Source: Choices Magazine, The Magazine of Food, Farm, and Resource Issues - <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine>

SCOUTING EMERGENCE PROBLEMS IN CORN

Most corn growers have been patient this spring and avoided planting too early. Now corn planting is starting and soon we will be evaluating our corn stands. Timely scouting for corn emergence problems is an essential part of a top corn management program. Early diagnosis of problem fields can lead to timely replanting decisions and management changes that can avoid future problems. Corn should begin emerging after about 100

to 150 GDDs have accumulated following planting, so plan scouting accordingly. Here's a list of a few common problems you might see this year.

1. No seed present. This may be due to planter malfunction, bird or rodent damage. Birds have been an increasing problem in some areas.
2. Coleoptile unfurled underground. Could be due to premature exposure to light in cloddy soil, planting too deep, compaction, soil crusting, extended exposure to acetanilide herbicides under cool wet conditions, or may be due to extended cool wet conditions alone.
3. Seed with poorly developed or twisted radicle or coleoptile. Coleoptile tips may appear brown or yellow. This could be chilling injury or seed with low vigor. It could be an issue on very early planted fields: see photo of March 27 planted corn at Rock Springs showing yellowing coleoptile and lateral growth after 2.5 weeks.
4. Seed swelled but not sprouted. Often poor seed-to-soil contact or shallow planting where the seed swelled then dried out. This could be a particular problem this year in dry, tilled seedbeds if corn is planted less than 1.5 inches deep.
5. Skips associated with discolored and malformed seedlings. This may be caused by herbicide or insect damage. Note depth of planting and herbicides applied compared with injury symptoms such as twisted roots, club roots, or purple plants. Look for wireworm or garden symphylans feeding on roots or seeds.
6. Seeds hollowed out. Seed corn maggot or wireworm. Look for evidence of the pest to confirm. Seed corn maggot flies are very prevalent this year and most damage should be controlled with typical seed treatments.

Note the patterns of poor emergence. At times they are associated with a particular row, spray width, hybrid, field or residue that may provide some additional clues to the cause. Often two or more stress factors interact to reduce emergence where the crop would have emerged fine if only one stress factor was present. Also, note the population and the variability of the seed spacing. This information is valuable to assess planter performance.

Source: Greg Roth, Grain Crop Management, PNST Extension

THE PENNSYLVANIA PEST INFORMATION PLATFORM FOR EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

<http://pa-pipe.zedxinc.com/>

The Pennsylvania Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PA PIPE) has been developed as a collaborative effort between Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences faculty, the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture and [ZedX, Inc.](#) to provide an early warning system for key pests affecting agriculture and forestry in Pennsylvania.

The models developed utilize weather data, combined with local observations from researchers, local growers, and specialists, which are then processed with algorithm's intended to predict important events in crop, insect, and disease development cycles. The result is a spatial view of the development and significance of diseases, insects, weeds, and crop conditions for the entire Pennsylvania region.

The system is not intended for use when making important economic management decisions, but to help target the timing and need for monitoring of key insects, diseases, and crops in the area.

If you need further interpretation contact the Penn State Academic Department (i.e. Entomology, Plant Pathology, or Crops and Soils Science).

PA-PIPE Models



[Crop Models](#)



[Insect Models](#)



[Disease Models](#)



[Weather Models](#)



[Weed Models](#)

Source: Pennsylvania Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PA PIPE)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 9 **2012 Strawberry Twilight Meeting**-6 to 8 pm, Wye Research & Education Center, Farm Operation Complex, 211 Farm Lane, Queenstown, MD Contact: mnewell@umd.edu or 410-827-7388
- May 19 **Wills Fair 4-H Show**-Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD
- May 24 **Tricks To Managing Horse Farmette Pastures**-6 to 8 pm, UMD Equine Rotational Grazing Demo Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD Contact: jenreyn@umd.edu
- June 3 **Guernsey Show**- Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD
- June 21 **Nutrition & Health Of The Pastured Horse**-6 to 8 pm, UMD Equine Rotational Grazing Demo Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD Contact: jenreyn@umd.edu
- July 7 **Ayrshire Show**-Frederick, MD
- July 7 **Holstein Show**-Hagerstown, MD
- July 16 **Holstein Show**-Central, MD (evening)
- July 16 **Holstein Show**-Queen Anne's 4-H Park, MD
- July 17 **Holstein Show**-Deep Creek, MD (evening)

- July 19 **Au Natural! Non-Chemical Weed Control**-6 to 8 pm, UMD Equine Rotational Grazing Demo Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD Contact: jenreyn@umd.edu
- July 19 **Holstein Show**-Frederick, MD (evening)
- July 21 **Jersey Show**-Frederick, MD
- August 3 & 4 **Brown Swiss Show**-Frederick, MD
- August 30 **Ayrshire Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 30 **Holstein Futurity**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 30 **Jersey Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 30 **Milking Shorthorn Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 30 **Red & White Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 31 **Brown Swiss Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 31 **Holstein Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- August 31 **Guernsey Show**-MD State Fair, Timonium, MD
- September 8 **2012 Horse Pasture Management Seminar**-9 to 3 pm, UMD Equine Rotational Grazing Demo Site, 4241 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD Contact: jenreyn@umd.edu

Visit our web site at <http://carroll.umd.edu> For more event listings visit <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/AGNRCalendar/>

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