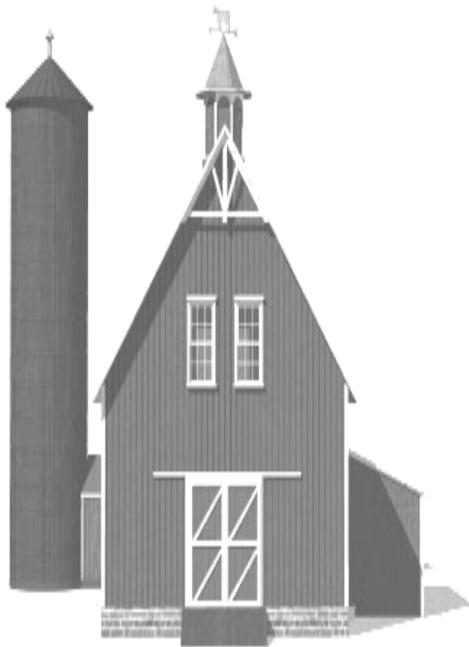


Farm Notes

April 2013

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2013-2014 AGRONOMY GUIDE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Here's information on how to obtain the PSU Agronomy Guide online, both in HTML version, and now available in PDF format.

The 2013-2014 Penn State Agronomy Guide is a comprehensive publication on crop and soil management and pest management for farms of all sizes. It is designed for easy reading and quick reference.

In Part 1: Crop and Soil Management, the chapters on specific crops include information about:

- Varieties
- Nutritional Requirements
- Establishment
- Harvesting
- Special Considerations

In Part 2: Pest Management, the chapters on pest control for specific crops include sections on:

- Weeds
- Insects
- Diseases

We are in the process of updating the online Agronomy Guide. In the meantime, for the most recent edition, download the free PDF version or purchase a hard copy:

- 2013-2014 Agronomy Guide PDF <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/PDFs/agrs026.pdf>
- **Purchase Hard Copy for \$20:** http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/orders_CAS.asp to order (publication no. AGRS-026).
- The agronomy-guide website <http://extension.psu.edu/agronomy-guide> currently contains the 2011-2012 Agronomy Guide.

Source: Andrew Frankenfield, Agricultural Educator, PNST Extension

USEFUL WEBSITE

<http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/>

CURRENT ESTATE LAW

There have been questions raised regarding how to plan an estate with the new law enacted as a part of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA). There has been a lot of coverage on the income tax aspects of the new law, but not much has been written on the estate tax aspects.



Federal Exemption Amount

The estate provisions in ATRA are as good as or even better than we could have anticipated. First, the law was made permanent (or as good as permanent is possible in Washington.) There will be no more getting to the end of the year and not knowing what the law will be the next year. We now have a \$5 million federal exemption amount that is indexed for inflation. It is \$5.25 million for deaths in 2013. However, Congress did increase the top tax rate from 35% to 40%, but that only applies after you exceed the exemption amount. Remember, for a married couple, each person has the \$5.25 million exemption so the couple can have a \$10.5 million estate without being subject to federal estate tax if both die in 2013.

The provision allowing unlimited gifts to a spouse has been retained. Consequently, if one spouse has a federal estate of \$8 million and the other of \$2 million, the spouse with the higher estate could transfer property valued at \$3 million to the other spouse. This would leave both with a \$5 million estate. However, a genuine transfer is required.

Portability

The new law retains the portability feature. This means that if the first to die has an estate of less than \$5.25 million, the unused exemption amount can be transferred to the surviving spouse. Assume Harry and Sally, husband and wife, have estates of \$3 million and \$4 million respectively. If Harry dies in 2013, he will only use \$3 million of his federal exemption leaving \$2.25 million unused. Assuming Harry's executor files a federal estate tax return, they can elect to pass the unused \$2.25 million exemption to Sally, who now has a \$6.25 million exemption available at her death.

While it might not seem important to make the portability election in small estates, you never know what can happen in the future. Maybe the surviving spouse will inherit property or win the lottery and have a huge estate at death. Adding the deceased spouse's unused exemption could save thousands of dollars of estate tax.

Lifetime Gift

Another part of the new law makes the unification of the gift tax and the federal exemption amount permanent. In 2012, taxpayers could make gifts totaling \$5.12 million during their lifetime, but the federal exemption amount was reduced by the same amount at death. Before the new law was passed, there was concern that if the federal exemption amount dropped back to \$1 million, the IRS could "claw-back" the gift to \$1 million. This is no longer a concern. Gifting makes economic sense because all future appreciation of the gifted asset is with the Donee and is not in the Donor's estate.

For example, Charles owns 11,000 acres of prime Illinois farm land. In January 2012, he gifted 500 acres valued at \$10,000 per acre to his three children and used \$5 million of his federal exemption. Charles dies in 2014 when land in his area is valued at \$15,000 per acre. Because of Charles's gifts, the \$5,000 per acre increase is recognized by his children saving the estate the tax on \$2.5 million at a 40% rate, or \$1 million. Not everyone has estates this large, but with the rapid increase in farm land, many land owners are learning they could have a substantial estate tax at the time of their death.

The disadvantage to a gift is that the Donee's basis in the gift is the same as the basis when the asset was held by the Donor. For example, in the prior example with Charles, he only paid \$600 per acre when he purchased the land years ago. Therefore, if his three children sell the land upon receiving it as a gift, they will have a \$4.7 million gain ((\$10,000 price per acre - \$600 basis) × 500 acres) to recognize.

Annual Gift Limitation

The annual gift tax exclusion continues to be in effect. This means you can make gifts totaling up to \$14,000 in 2013 to as many individuals as you want without reducing the federal exemption amount. Any excess gifts do reduce the exemption amount. Both husband and wife can make a \$14,000 gift. A spouse can join in a gift even though they do not have an asset to gift. For example, Tom and Helen were recently married. Tom has large cash accounts while Helen has only a limited amount of cash. Tom and Helen can each gift \$14,000 to Tom's son even though Helen is gifting Tom's money. Helen must acknowledge that she will not make a gift to Tom's son with her money.

Basis

The new law continues to allow a step-up in the basis of the deceased's assets to the fair market value at the date of death. This means an heir can sell an inherited asset without a huge tax liability. In the example with Charles, if the three children inherited the land in 2012, it would have a stepped-up basis of \$5 million. Therefore, a \$5 million sale would not result in any capital gains tax. If it were a gift, the \$4.7 million gain would be a long-term capital gain taxed at 20%, resulting in \$940,000 of capital gains tax.

Farm-Use Valuation

IRC §2032A has also been retained. The reduction limit remains at \$1 million. To qualify for the deduction the following requirements must be met.

1. The decedent must have been a U.S. citizen at the time of death.
2. The farm land must be located in the U.S.
3. At the time of death, the farm land must be used for farming by the decedent or a member of their family.

4. The value of the gross estate must be composed of at least 50% qualified real or personal property that is used for farming by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family.
5. At least 25% of the gross estate must consist of land being used for farming on the date of death.
6. The farm land must be inherited by a qualified heir.
7. For a total of five of the last eight years ending on the date of death or disability:
 - a. The real property was owned by and used for farming by the decedent or a member of the family, and
 - b. The decedent or a member of the family materially participated in the operation of the farm.
8. The executor must elect special-use valuation by submitting a written agreement signed by each person having an interest in the land covered by the election consenting to the recapture provisions.

The savings from the use of §2032A must be recaptured when the land ceases to be farmed or is sold to a nonqualifying relative within ten years from the date of death of the decedent.

Extended Time to Pay

The estate tax is due within nine months of the date of death. However, there is a special provision for farmers and small businesses allowing for installment payments. For the first five years, the estate can pay interest only. For the next ten years, the estate must make equal payments on the tax owed. Because the last interest payment and the first installment payment coincide, the overall delay is 14 years. To be eligible for the extended time period, 35% of the estate must be composed of a farm or closely held business. The benefit is only available for the farm or business portion of the assets.

Summary

This is an abbreviated summary of the estate tax provisions. Before making any decision regarding your estate, you should seek advice of a qualified accountant or attorney.



Source: Gary Hoff, Tax School and Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois

LEASE REQUIREMENTS

In the March 2013 issue of Farm Notes we ran an article on Lease Requirements. The source for that article was listed as UME. However, that is incorrect. The correct source for that article is Ms. Sara Meagher BhaduriHauck, Faculty Extension Assistant, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Harford County. We apologize for listing the incorrect source.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Here are some practical tips when looking to manage pastures this spring. As pastures start to green-up, walk the pastures and make observations. The survivability of pasture plants depends on many factors. What is your soil type? What is the slope of the pasture (hot westerly or southerly slopes)? How much rest did the pasture get between rotations? How much rain did pastures get through the growing season? How much weed competition is in the paddock?

Frost Seeding

The first opportunity to renovate pastures will be to frost seed as we continue to have warmer days but freezing nights. Frost seeding is accomplished best when the soil “honeycombs”. The freezing and thawing action of the soil works the seed into the soil. Legumes, especially clovers, have the highest success rate when frost seeding. Some folks like to frost seed grasses. It generally is not recommended, as it fails most of the time. I would like to suggest that it’s all relative to the amount of ground that you need to frost seed. If you are insistent on frost seeding grasses, my question to you would be, “How much are you willing to spend on seed?” One acre is not a big risk, but be cautious about frost seeding 100 acres with grasses.

Getting Ready for Seeding

Maybe there is some older seed that you think should be used for seeding this spring. Be cautious about its viability. Do a “rag doll” test to check its germination. Put 10 seeds in a moist paper towel and put it in a warm spot (like the top of the fridge). Keep the towel moist and wait to see how many seeds have germinated. Do this with several “rag dolls”. Bump up your seeding rate accordingly. There is little sense in using seed that will not germinate!

If you do make a seed purchase, do your homework and check seeding rates to make prudent purchases. Seeding rates should be increased when your equipment is less than ideal. Check rates by using the Penn State Agronomy Guide (see page 106, Table 1.8-5).

Staging Rotations

As the pastures come out of dormancy think about the staging of animals in the rotation. The spring will bring on an exponential growth spurt of grass by mid-spring. In the first rotation, managers can move animals quickly through pastures and if possible, designate certain fields for hay to keep up with the “spring flush”. Daily monitoring of pastures will be needed to keep ahead of the fluctuations in pasture growth during the coming months.

Spring Oats for Dry Matter Production

Where there are field rotation opportunities, plant spring oats for early grazing. This helps to “extend” the existing cool-season pastures by providing more dry matter on the farm. Plant oats at 2-3 bushels per acres and graze when the plant is vegetative. The same paddock could be used to plant a warm season annual (i.e. sorghum sudangrass) in late spring when the soils are warmer and be rotated again for a permanent pasture seeding in late summer/early fall, which is the optimum time for seeding permanent pastures.

Source: Mena Hautau, Educator, Field Crop Systems, PNST Extension



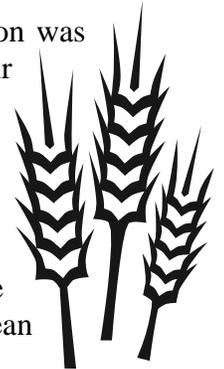
EFFECT OF CEREAL COVER CROP SPECIES ON FULL SEASON SOYBEAN PERFORMANCE

Does choice of cereal cover crop species affect full season soybean? Does cereal cover crop kill date matter? These are questions that soybean farmers are asking as Maryland cover crop acreage continues to increase.

To address these questions, three years of research was conducted by planting three cereal species (barley, wheat, and rye) as cover crops at the Wye Research and Education Center (fall 2009 and 2010) and Central Maryland R&E Center-Beltsville (fall 2010 and 2011). A no cover crop treatment (only fall-winter weed growth) also was included. Three (Wye) and two (Beltsville) cover crop spring kill dates that supported varying amounts of cover crop biomass production were used. The kill dates at Wye are defined as 1) extra early kill for only the rye and the no cover treatments (mid-late March during the two study years); and at both Wye and Beltsville 2) early kill date for all treatments (ranged from 13 April to 23 April); and 3) late kill date for all treatments (ranged from 2 May to 16 May). Soybean varieties Asgrow brand 3539RR2 (mid MG 3) and Asgrow brand 4630RR2 (mid-MG 4) were planted into all cover crop treatments between 2 and 3 weeks after the last kill date. Soybean harvest dates were considered normal ranging from 17 October to 3 November during the three years.

Approximately three weeks post-planting, stand emergence was assessed to see if the cover crop species or kill date treatments impacted stand establishment. Over the three year period, no emergence differences were observed indicating that neither choice of cereal cover crop nor spring kill date had a detrimental effect on soybean germination and emergence. The most important criterion when planting full season soybean into a cereal cover crop is attainment of good seed-soil contact.

Starting approximately mid-June each year, a weekly measurement of growth stage progression was done by randomly selecting 5 plants in each plot, determining the growth stage according to Fehr and Caviness (1971), and averaging the growth stage. The primary growth differences observed were associated with the two varieties. Both varieties progressed through vegetative growth similarly. The onset of reproductive growth always was observed for the earlier of the two varieties, as expected. The weekly readings continued until early-mid September. Occasionally, only very minor differences in growth stage progression for the soybeans were observed for either the cover crop species or the kill date treatments. These differences were inconsistent across the assessment dates and are considered to have no influence on soybean growth and performance.



Soybean yield (72 bu/acre average) was excellent during the three years. The most consistent yield difference observed was associated with variety, however there was no consistent trend favoring one over the other. At Wye, the MG 3 variety produced better than the 6 MG 4 variety during 2009-2010 and the opposite occurred during 2010-2011. During 2010-2011 at Beltsville, the MG 4 variety was best and during 2011-2012, there was no yield difference between the two.

Response of soybean yield performance to cover crop species and kill date varied by location. During the two years at the Wye, a cover crop species \times (by) kill date interaction was observed. For the March kill date (extra early), soybeans planted into the no cover crop treatment produced 10% (2009-2010) and 4% (2010-2011) better than soybeans following rye.

For the 2010 April kill date (early), soybeans planted following any of the three cover crop species produced the same (62 bu/acre) but soybeans following the no cover treatment yielded nearly 10% more (68 bu/acre). In 2011, the April kill date produced no yield differences (~67.5 bu/acre average) among the four cover treatments.

For the two years the study was conducted at Beltsville, there was no cover crop species × kill date interaction during 2010-2011 but in 2011-2012 this interaction was significant. At Beltsville in 2010-2011, soybeans planted where cover crops were killed during April produced over 6% greater than soybeans following the May kill date. However during this study year, there were no differences in soybean yield associated with any of the cover crop treatments.

During 2011-2012, soybeans following either barley or wheat cover crop produced the same for the two kill dates. However, soybeans that followed either rye or the no cover crop treatment, produced approximately 12% greater following the May kill date.

Based on three years of data collected in this study, answers to the two primary questions about soybean performance following cereal cover crops are:

1. Does choice of cereal cover crop species affect the performance of full season soybean?

The performance of full season soybean following a cereal cover crop cannot be predicted by the cereal species grown. Differences may occur but they will be associated with location and kill date.

2. Does cereal cover crop kill date influence soybean performance?

The optimum kill date for cereal cover crops followed by full season soybean is difficult to predict. Factors that can affect soybean performance for any particular kill date are location, year, weather, and variety.

Source: Dr. Robert Kratochvil, Extension Specialist – Grain and Oil Crops, University of Maryland, Email: rkratoch@umd.edu

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS CLAIMS - DEADLINE EXTENDED

USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before May 1, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: claims@hwfr.org

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

Source: USDA

PALMER AMARANTH GETTING A FOOTHOLD IN MICHIGAN – CAN WE EXPECT THE SAME THING IN PENNSYLVANIA?

As we move into the growing season, pay close attention to any abnormal pigweed species, because Palmer amaranth may be closer than you think.

We have been hearing a lot this winter about the Palmer amaranth or pigweed problems to our South in the Cotton Belt. We'll its much closer to home than that. Our colleagues on the Eastern shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia have been fighting this weed for a few years now and there is no reason not to expect that we will have it in PA at some point. A key as we move into the growing season this year is to scout and pay attention to any abnormal looking pigweed species or situations where control with the herbicide was not as expected. The situation in Michigan is an interesting one and should be very close to home for a dairy state like Pennsylvania. The following article was written by Christy Sprague from Michigan State University and may be too close to home.

One year ago in the Michigan Soybean News we introduced glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth as a potential new weed threat to Michigan soybean producers. At that time, this invasive weed was confirmed in localized fields in St. Joseph and southern Kalamazoo Counties and on a field's edge in Shiawassee County. Through greenhouse testing we confirmed that these Palmer amaranth populations had high levels of resistance to both glyphosate (Roundup) and ALS-inhibiting herbicides. However, this season I received several calls reporting Palmer amaranth in Michigan counties where it had not been observed in the past. Through field visits, submitted samples, and identifying photos we have confirmed Palmer amaranth's presence in nine Michigan counties: St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Cass, Barry, Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, Gratiot, and Livingston (Figure 1). The number of fields and how severe Palmer amaranth infestations are in these fields varies by county. For example, St. Joseph County has the greatest number of fields where Palmer amaranth has been identified. Populations in these fields range from a just few to over 300,000 Palmer amaranth plants per acre. In other counties, like Gratiot in one field only a few Palmer amaranth plants were found along a headland of a corn field. The problem is that those few plants can rapidly multiply to several hundred plants in just a year's time and on average the increased cost to manage this weed has been reported to range from \$30 to \$50 more per acre in many Southern states.

How is glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth getting into Michigan?

Since Palmer amaranth is not native to Michigan we have speculated that the glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth populations found in Michigan have been established by seed brought in from an outside source. What is this source? While we may never know the direct source, when examining the field histories of the first reports of Palmer amaranth in some of these areas, one thing that stands out is that in many cases manure had been applied to these fields within a year or two of the growers noticing the plants. *This along with some other observations, have led me to speculate that the Palmer amaranth seed may have been brought in with cotton seed that is often fed to dairy cattle.* This may not be a surprise when you consider the millions of acres that are infested with glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth in the southern United States, where a majority of the cotton is produced. While this may help establish the origins of some of these initial reports in new areas of the state, once Palmer amaranth establishes itself it is extremely difficult to control and seed can be moved from field to field with equipment and by other means.

Palmer amaranth's "Superweed" characteristics

There are several characteristics that have helped Palmer amaranth earn the title of "Superweed" in many popular press forums. An extended emergence pattern, rapid growth rate, and resistance to several herbicide families make this weed extremely difficult to manage. In Michigan we have tracked Palmer amaranth seedling

emergence from mid-May through mid-August, with even a few seedlings emerging in early September. Since Palmer amaranth can emerge later in the growing season, herbicides that are applied at or prior to planting often do not have enough residual activity to control this weed. Additionally, postemergence herbicides, many of which have little or no residual activity, can also miss these late emerging plants. Palmer amaranth's rapid growth rate also makes timing postemergence herbicide applications extremely difficult. This season in our research plots Palmer amaranth grew from 3- to 7-inches in less than five days. Palmer amaranth is extremely difficult to control with herbicides once it is greater than 3-inches tall. Herbicide resistance is the number one reason why Palmer amaranth has become such a challenge to control. Many of the Palmer amaranth populations that we have tested in Michigan have multiple resistances to both glyphosate and the ALS-inhibiting herbicides. While we haven't been able to test all the populations found in Michigan, we are assuming most of these populations are both glyphosate and ALS-resistant. This leaves a very few herbicide options available for control, especially in soybean.

Scouting for Palmer amaranth in 2013:

It is essential for all growers to scout for changes in weed populations in their fields. In areas where Palmer amaranth has not been confirmed, scouting efforts should be targeted in Roundup Ready fields that have been spread with manure in the past couple of years. If initial glyphosate applications are not controlling pigweed, it may be Palmer amaranth. It is important to get confirmation of this early to allow for potential management with herbicides or hand-weeding prior to seed production. *Remember* one female Palmer amaranth plant can produce an average of 400,000 seeds. In many cases if Palmer amaranth is identified early in its first year of establishment there may only be a few plants scattered throughout the field. Early identification and removal of this weed before it produces seed and spreads throughout the field is extremely important.

To help with the identification of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth, we have developed a fact sheet "*Palmer amaranth in Michigan: Keys to Identification*". This fact sheet can be found on our <http://www.msuweeds.com/>

Source: William Curran, Professor of Weed Science, PNST Extension

SMARTPHONES, TABLETS, AND APPS FOR THE AGRONOMIST

Do you use a smartphone or tablet in your job? Learn about some helpful apps to make your life as an agronomist easier.

The incredible power and storage on today's smartphones and tablets are making them an essential part of any agronomist's toolbox. In many cases they are replacing many items in the toolbox. Multiple reference materials can be loaded on a tablet and replace many of the hard copies of materials many carried in notebooks or boxes in their trucks. Tablets and smartphones have great cameras that can take and transmit problem images and videos and post or send them to others, dispensing the need to carry a camera in many cases. And now, numerous apps are being developed that can provide support in the field to help develop solutions on the go.

Here's a list of a few apps that recently came up in the discussion we had at the Professional Crop Producer Conference. All of these can be found with the app search engines on your phone or tablet:

- **Soil Web:** This app uses GPS to determine the soil series at your location and provides characteristics from an NRCS database.



- Growing Degree Days: This app allows you to determine the number of growing degree days accumulated at a particular location and compares that to a previous year.
- Weed ID Guide: This app from the University of Missouri helps to ID many weeds and provides pictures and Latin names- good for non-weed scientists.
- Farmer Apps Online: A group of apps that help with common calculations such as trucking costs, amount of grain in a bin, and silage moisture determinations.
- Pioneer Mobile: A fairly compressive app with product info, calculators and research information on crop production.
- Tee Jet Spray Select: An app from Tee Jet that provides sprayer tip recommendations based volume, speed, density of material and nozzle spacing.
- Farm Pad: A farm record keeping app that facilitates scouting and data collection from a number of farms and fields.
- Connected Farm: An app from Trimble that uses your phones' GPS for mapping and scouting fields.
- Calibrate My Sprayer: This app from Clemson helps make sprayer calibration easy by doing the calculations for you.

These are just a sampling of what's out there in this rapidly developing area. Take time now do some searching and to outfit yourself with the apps you'll need for next season.

Source: Greg Roth, Professor of Agronomy, PNST Extension

UPDATED 2013 IFARM CROP INSURANCE TOOLS NOW AVAILABLE

All 2013 crop insurance itools have been updated and are now available in the [crop insurance](#) section of *farmdoc* – **includes Maryland**. These include:

2013 iFarm Crop Insurance Payment Simulator

An online tool giving premiums, estimated payments, frequency of payments and risk measures for corn and soybeans in Midwest counties.

View 2013 iFarm Payment Simulator-

http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/cropins/toolbox/Common_Files/cropinstoolsmain_2013.asp?num=3

2013 iFarm Crop Insurance Premium Calculator

An online tool giving premiums for corn and soybeans in Midwest Counties. For each county and crop, premiums can be received for three pre-set Actual Production History (APH) yield levels. Those individuals wishing more specific quotes should use the *FAST* 2013 Crop Insurance Decision Tool below.

View 2013 iFarm Premium Calculator-

http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/cropins/toolbox/Common_Files/cropinstools_calc_2013g_v1.asp?num=3

2013 FAST Crop Insurance Decision Tool

A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet includes tools that give premiums for specific crop insurance parameters. The spreadsheet also includes tools that give historical county yields, payments under differing yields and price, and comparisons of historical payments.

Note that there are two versions of the tool based on the version of Microsoft Excel on your computer: one version is for Excel 2003 and the other for Excel 2007 and later versions. Most will find the Excel and later versions will be the proper program.

Download 2013 FAST Crop Insurance Decision Tool (for Microsoft Excel 2003)-

http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/pubs/FASTtool_special_cropins2013_Fall.asp

Download 2013 FAST Crop Insurance Decision Tool (for Microsoft Excel 2007 and later)-

http://farmdoc.illinois.edu/pubs/FASTtool_special_cropins2013_Spring_2007.asp

Source: Farmdoc, University of Illinois

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 19 **Live On-Line Session Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification**-4 to 6 pm, Call the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-6759 to register

April 28 **Ecosystems Services Symposium**-9 to 3 pm, Wye Research and Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD, Call Jean Hopkins - (410) 827-8056 to register

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

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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call: 410-386-2760 or 1-888-326-9645.

If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in a program please contact the Carroll County Extension Office at 410-386-2760, Fax: 410-876-0132, two weeks prior to the program.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by University of Maryland Extension is implied.

2007 Census Publications

Ranking of Market Value of Ag Products Sold

Maryland

Item	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank by Sales	Percent of Total Sales
Total sales	12,834	1,835,090	(X)	100
Poultry and eggs	1,833	903,531	1	49.2
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	3,501	307,944	2	16.8
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	691	208,692	3	11.4
Milk and other dairy products from cows	676	192,426	4	10.5
Cattle and calves	2,947	58,293	5	3.2
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	940	56,394	6	3.1
Other crops and hay	2,850	33,115	7	1.8
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	813	31,815	8	1.7
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	608	19,393	9	1.1
Hogs and pigs	454	(D)	10	(D)
Aquaculture	48	4,023	11	0.2
Other animals and other animal products	452	3,920	12	0.2
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	180	2,398	13	0.1
Tobacco	69	1,367	14	0.1
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-
Sheep, goats, and their products *	1,137	(D)	(D)	(D)

*Rank cannot be disclosed. Position in table does not indicate rank.



DECLARATORY RULING – 1-2010

Keeping of Domestic Animals as Pets

This interpretation applies to properties which do not qualify for Agricultural uses.

In all zoning districts, while there is no specific provision, it is reasonable to include the keeping of certain domestic animals as pets as an accessory use, “customarily incidental to any principal permitted use.”

In making this interpretation, it is important to determine what is “customary” in a particular zone or a particular neighborhood. For example, in a neighborhood of one acre or larger lots, one (1) goat, sheep, pot-bellied pig or similar sized animal may be equivalent to keeping a large dog, and the Code would allow as many as three (3) dogs. On lots of three (3) acres or larger in the Agricultural district, you may have as many goats, sheep, cows, or horses as you want. It would seem to be reasonable then to allow one (1) goat, sheep, pot-bellied pig, or similar sized animal on a lot of one (1) acre or larger, and up to three (3) goats, sheep or similar size animal on a lot of two (2) acres or more in a zone which does not qualify for Agricultural uses.

As to smaller animals, e.g. rabbits, chickens, ducks, or similar sized animals, the general practice is to allow up to six (6) rabbits, chickens, ducks, or similar sized animals, on lots of less than three (3) acres. The Code allows you to have up to three (3) dogs as personal pets, in any zone, and if six chickens are equal to one (1) goat or dog, then on lots less than one (1) acre, you may have up to six (6) chickens, rabbits, ducks, or similar sized animals. On lots of less than two (2) acres, you may have up to twelve (12) chickens, rabbits, ducks, or similar sized animals. On lots of less than three (3) acres, a maximum of eighteen (18) chickens, rabbits, ducks, or similar sized animals would be appropriate. On any lot greater than one (1) acre, a building permit would be needed for any structure housing animals, and the location would have to be in the rear yard of the lot and meet setbacks of seventy-five (75) feet from all property lines.

In a neighborhood of lots smaller than one acre, regardless of zone, the aforementioned large pets goats, sheep, pot bellied pigs, or other similar sized animals would be less appropriate and not allowed on lots smaller than one (1) acre.

With respect to smaller animals on lots less than one (1) acre, e.g. rabbits, chickens, ducks, or similar sized animals, the general practice has been to allow up to six (6), and limiting the size of the shelter to approximately the size of a large dog house. Given the limit in size, these structures would not be regulated as to location and would not require building permits.

It should be noted that the foregoing serves only as a guideline and that individual cases may result in different recommendations.

Jay C. Voight
Zoning Administrator
July 1, 2010