Horticultural Crops Twilight Meeting

On Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756 a horticultural crops meeting will be held.

This educational meeting is intended to provide producers the opportunity to get a firsthand look at several of the ongoing projects at the University of Maryland’s research facility in Keedysville. For more information and to register, please see the attached flyer.

Source: Bryan R. Butler, Sr., UME

Barn Quilts are Coming to Carroll County!

Carroll County Public Library, the Office of Recreation & Parks, the Office of Tourism and the Carroll County Arts Council are working together to develop a “Barn Quilt Celebration” this year.

The project, which is modeled after similar successful projects in Garrett County, MD. and elsewhere, provides an opportunity for local farms to offer the use of their barns as a location to display an attractive quilt design that is easily accessible to the public. These designs will be painted on 8” x 8” panels made of Dibond and given to property owners so that they may be permanently attached to a barn or similar structure. These panels would then be displayed on the barn for at least two years and become property of the landowner.

We envision that these barns will become tourist destinations that will feature some of Carroll County’s scenic vistas that are well known to our residents and hopefully attract more visitors to Carroll County.

For 2013, we have established a goal of 12 locations to be featured in this effort.
Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-386-2103 or jdegitz@ccg.carr.org if you have questions or need additional information.

Source: Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator, Recreation and Parks, Carroll County Government

AG MARKETING NEWS UPDATE

A new “Ag Marketing News Update - June 2013: “Direct Marketing Do’s and Don’ts — the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” has been posted to the web: http://www.extension.umd.edu/learn/direct-marketing-do%E2%80%99s-and-don%E2%80%99ts-%E2%80%94-good-bad-and-ugly

If you have any questions or comments about this article or have clients or colleagues that would value receiving it as well, please contact Ginger Myers at gsmyers@umd.edu or sbarnes6@umd.edu

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

COVER CROP SIGN-UP BEGINS JUNE 24

Sign-up for MDA’s 2013-2014 Cover Crop Program runs June 24 through July 15 at soil conservation district offices statewide. Don’t miss this once a year opportunity to apply for attractive grants to help offset the cost of planting small grains on your fields this fall to conserve nutrients, reduce soil erosion and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Maryland’s revised nutrient management regulations require cover crops to be planted when organic nutrient sources are applied to fields in fall.

Approximately $20 million has been allocated for this year’s program. Farmers may choose from two planting options. Traditional cover crops receive a base rate of $45/acre and up to $55/ acre in add-on incentives for using highly valued planting practices. Harvested cover crops qualify for $25/ acre with a bonus payment of $10/ acre if rye is used as the cover crop. There are no enrollment caps and certain restrictions apply. Studies have shown that cover crops improve soil health, reduce weeds and pests and encourage beneficial insects. The Cover Crop Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund. Applicants must be in good standing with MACS and in compliance with the Nutrient Management Program. Contact the Carroll Soil Conservation District for details of this year’s program at 410-848-6696 Ext. 3.

Source: MDA

CROP INSURANCE INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

The Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency are co-sponsoring a Crop Insurance Industry Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. For more information and registration, please see the attached flyer.

Source: Paul Goeringer, Research Associate, Center for Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland Extension
CROPS TWILIGHT BARBECUE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL CMREC UPPER MARLBORO FARM

You are invited to attend a Field Crops Research Twilight, Barbecue and Ice Cream Social at the Central Maryland Research & Education Center, 2005 Largo Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD on Thursday, August 8, 2013 from 4:30 to 9 pm.

A barbecue dinner will be served at 4:30 pm followed by homemade ice cream prior to the evening tour. University of Maryland Extension Educators and Specialists will showcase their field crop, vegetable and fruit research plots. The twilight tour highlights will include: Vegetable integrated pest management and reduced risk control methods; Field crops research updates; Meadow orchard concept and Fruit research update for apples, peentos, blueberries and beach plums; and a vineyard research update for wine grapes.

Barbecue Begins at 4:30  
Ice Cream Served at 5:15  
Crops Twilight at 6:00  

Please arrive on-time as the tour will start promptly at 6:00 pm. This event is free. However, a reserved meal ticket is required.

If you need special assistance to participate, please contact the Anne Arundel County Extension office at 410-222-3906 by August 5, 2013.

For full meeting details, and registration information contact any of the Southern Maryland Extension offices. For more information contact David Myers at the Anne Arundel County Extension office at 410-222-3906.

Source: Dave Myers, Ag Extension Agent, UME

TWILIGHT GOAT TOUR SHOWCASING PASTURE VS. PEN STUDY

There will be a Twilight Goat Tour on Thursday, August 1, 5:30 p.m. to dark, at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville. In addition to wagon tours of the facility and research program, there will be an opportunity to taste recipes prepared with goat meat. The recipes will be prepared by a local chef.

To make sure we have enough meat, pre-registration is required for the event. A small donation is requested to help cover the cost of the meat. You can pre-register by calling the Center (Pam Thomas) at 301-432-2767 x315. You may also pre-register by sending an e-mail to Pam at pthomas@umd.edu. The pre-registration deadline is July 26.

The Western Maryland Research & Education is the location of the Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test. This year, there are 81 bucks (mostly Kiko) on test. The tour will also showcase the Center’s pen vs. pasture study, a three-year project in which the performance and carcass characteristics of pen-fed and pasture-raised goats are being compared.

Source: Susan Schoenian, Sheep and Goat Specialist, UME
PASTURE WALK AND GRAZING FIELD DAY

Where: Holterholm Farms
5827 Holter Road
Jefferson, MD

When: Saturday
August 17, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

See the attached flyer for more information and a registration form.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT GOES ON THE ROAD!

In an effort to reach even more horse owners, this fall we are coming to a location near you! Join us at one of our featured locations to learn skills that will enable you to produce productive pastures, reduce feed costs, and protect the environment. After our morning seminar presentations, we will also have an afternoon of hands-on skill practice and tours of our hosting farms. Special thanks to the folks at Sagamore Farm and Hassler's Dressage for hosting our visits!

We are pleased to be able to offer two methods of registration this year! Download the attached form and mail in with your payment, or register online by clicking the link below and pay by credit card.

September 7, 2013 - Baltimore County
http://umepasturesseminarbalt.eventbrite.com/

September 21, 2013 - Cecil County
http://umepasturesseminarcecil.eventbrite.com/

Registrations are due August 31, 2013 so don't delay!
For more information please see the attached flyer.

CONSERVATION GRANTS FOR MANAGEMENT-INTENSIVE GRAZING

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced that, beginning July 1, conservation grants will be available to farmers who want to establish pasture for a management intensive grazing (MIG) system for their livestock. The newly-funded practice involves planting quality forage species suitable for establishing a management intensive grazing system or renovating and converting a pasture previously used for continuous grazing. Sometimes referred to as rotational grazing, a management intensive grazing system divides pastures into several areas called paddocks. Livestock are not allowed to graze plants below a specific height. Allowing paddocks to rest and recover until the next grazing rotation improves vegetative cover, protects the soil from erosion, distributes manure more evenly in pastures, and protects water quality. Beginning July 1, conservation grants covering up to 87.5 percent of the cost to establish a pasture to be used within a MIG system will be available to farms through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share (MACS) program. The maximum allowable rate for this practice is $50,000 per farm. To apply for the grants and to receive free technical assistance in designing your system, contact the Carroll Soil Conservation District 410-848-8200 ext. 3.

Source: MDA
CORN SILAGE AFTER JULY 1?

Now that we have turned the calendar to July, consider some alternatives when planting corn for silage.

This article was adapted by Andrew Frankenfield, Penn State Extension for Pennsylvania from Thomas Kilcer’s ADVANCED AG SYSTEM June 2013 Crop Soil News.

Depending on the remainder of the growing season and your location in the state, their will likely be little grain produced on corn silage planted on corn after July 1st. Grain that is produced will be wet, potentially setting marginal rations up for bouts of acidosis, feet problems, low production, and abuse of nutritionists. There is a potential window if you harvest before a killing frost, when sugars are high. A homolactic bacteria could rapidly ferment it for proper ensiling. You are harvesting nearly all stover. The digestibility of that forage becomes critical. At this point, the best switch is to high forage yielding Brown Mid Rib Sudan-sorghum. It will give you the same or more yield/acre than corn but because it is mowed and dried, you can control wetness. More importantly, harvested correctly, it will give you more milk/acre and more digestible forage than any other crop. Research at Miner Institute found that cows will milk on BMR Sudan-sorghum the same as good corn silage, and produce higher rumen pH and higher components. Click here for further research and farm information (Note: BMR is NOT an option for planting and forgetting it. It will grow 3 inches a DAY and quickly get too tall for manageable harvest.) Most farmers mow when the tallest leaf is at 3 feet tall. It is best mowed with intermeshing rollers (tine conditioners are useless) and wide swathed. It is critical that it is round bale wrapped or ensiled the same day you mow it (see October 2012 newsletter). The crop is very high in sugars which we found allows rapid fermentation even at higher moisture levels. Conversely, mowing and leaving it overnight will produce a tremendous amount of butyric and clostridia while removing much of the energy that your grew the crop for. If you are a crop manager that can stay on top of things, then planting BMR sorghum-Sudan would work.

What about BMR Sorghum? Most BMR sorghum is longer season than we have left. For southern areas (south of the Mason Dixon line) there is an 83 day BMR sorghum. It is critical that it be drilled at less than 8 lbs of seed/acre to reduce the potential for lodging. Feed quality is excellent, and because of a special gene, the dry matter at direct cut can be great for fermentation.

EGG GRADING AND EGG SAFETY

MDA’s Food Quality Assurance Program conducts a variety of inspections, audits, registrations and certifications of agricultural commodities and facilities to provide consumers with safe, high quality food products while maintaining fair trade practices and enhancing product marketability for the agricultural industry. This AgBrief focuses on the program’s work with egg safety and egg quality.

The Maryland Egg Law
The Maryland Egg Law requires all eggs sold in the state to meet standards for safety, quality, labeling and weight. Everyone selling eggs, even small backyard producers, must comply with it. The law is designed to ensure that Maryland consumers have wholesome, high quality eggs. MDA is responsible for enforcing this law.

Quality standards require that eggs labeled as Grade AA or A must be fresh with no bloodspots and the shells must be clean and uncracked. Maryland law prohibits the sale of ungraded, cracked, dirty and/or old eggs.
For a synopsis of the Maryland Egg Law, see:
To read the complete standards for shell eggs, see:

**Enforcement of the Maryland Egg Law**
MDA inspects small egg producers, large egg producers, wholesale, food service and retail outlets to ensure eggs sold in the state originate from a registered packer and meet the standards established for quality, size, refrigeration, microbial and physical contamination, labeling and record keeping. MDA removes eggs from sale that do not comply with established standards and issues violation notices to offenders. Repeated or severe violations of the Maryland Egg Law can result in civil penalties, registration revocation and/or criminal prosecution.

During FY 2012, MDA found that 86.48% of all eggs inspected were in compliance, up from 83.9% the year before.

All wholesalers and egg packers selling eggs in Maryland must register with MDA annually, and all packers must document that the flocks producing their eggs are at low risk of Salmonella enteritidis (SE) by originating from a hatchery participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan, participating in an approved Egg Quality Assurance Plan or testing by MDA. All registered and approved packers are listed on the MDA website.

This inspection and registration system also allows MDA to trace where an egg came from in the event of an egg related food borne illness.

For more information about the program, see:
http://mda.maryland.gov/foodfeedquality/Pages/egg_inspection.aspx

**Maryland Egg Quality Assurance Program**
The Maryland Egg Quality Assurance Program is a voluntary program for producers and processors who agree to implement specific management and monitoring practices that have successfully prevented Salmonella enteritidis (SE) contamination of table eggs. Basic prevention practices include specific ways to conduct rodent control, clean and disinfect between flocks, monitor pullet and layer houses and to ensure proper on-farm handling of eggs. Premise testing is conducted throughout the process to verify practices are effective. Participation in this program is required to use the Maryland’s Best seal on the cartons.

MDA provides oversight, technical advice and compliance inspections for the program. For more information about the program, see: http://mda.maryland.gov/foodfeedquality/Pages/egg_quality_assurance.aspx

**MDA Grading Services**
Grading Services evaluate commodities to determine whether they live up to official standards. MDA grades eggs, poultry, meat, fruit, vegetables and grain for producers and processors.
MDA’s Egg Grading Service grades and certifies the quality, size, weight, as well as the production and processing practices of eggs at egg packing plants in Maryland. MDA egg graders are trained and licensed by both MDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to certify eggs according to both state and/or federal standards. Eggs that are packed in Maryland bearing the USDA shield are washed, graded and packed under the continuous supervision of a MDA grader. MDA’s USDA licensed graders monitor for compliance with quality and weight standards, sanitation of the packing facility, wash water temperatures and cooler temperatures. Consumers who purchase poultry and eggs identified with the USDA grade shield can be assured of the quality of the product they are purchasing. During FY 2012, MDA certified the grade of 27.9 million dozens of shell eggs and 229.3 million pounds of poultry.

For more information about MDA Grading Services, see ::http://mda.maryland.gov/foodfeedquality/Pages/grading.aspx
GUIDANCE ON HANDLING POOR QUALITY SMALL GRAINS

In light of concerns expressed by farmers about what action they should take to ensure they maintain crop insurance coverage should the recent wet weather cause poor quality on small grains, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Association (MGPA) approached the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to get advice for Maryland farmers. Below is the advice MGPA received. Although not an official RMA document, this information comes as guidance and has been reviewed by RMA.

If you have poor quality grain, in order to protect your rights under your crop insurance policy, it is imperative that you always report any damage in the required timeframes and seek advice from your insurance company (through your insurance agent) before proceeding with harvesting or destruction of the damaged crop. Failure to do so may jeopardize your claim. Crop insurance policies require that farmers notify their company within 72 hours of noticing a loss. It is important that farmers be proactive in checking their fields to determine if there is any damage to the crop before harvest.

Quality adjustments are available for loss in value for conditions such as low test weight, damaged kernels, and shrunken or broken kernels. Discounts made for crop insurance loss purposes may not be the same as those seen at the elevator. For example, quality discounts begin when the test weight is less than 51 pounds, defects are above 15 percent or grade is U.S. No. 5 or worse. RMA discount factors for wheat are constructed by compiling and using loan discount data from the Farm Service Agency and national average loan rates for the past 10 years. These discount factors remain uniform between the Actual Production History and Revenue Plans of insurance throughout all counties in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Quality adjustments are based on samples obtained by the adjuster or other disinterested parties authorized by the insurance provider such as an elevator employee (per 2013 Loss Adjust Manual (LAM) Par. 96 B for grading/analyzing, page 265 and Par.102, K, page 306 for mycotoxins). Harvested and delivered production samples taken from each conveyance and then blended may be accepted under certain conditions. It is very important that producers work with their insurance provider if they believe they have quality losses.

Summary: If you have poor quality grain, contact your insurance agent before harvesting, and while evidence still intact in the field, file notice of damage and request an inspection by a loss adjuster. As you complete harvesting any units with damaged grain or low production, notice of loss must again to be filed promptly by unit with the insurance agent.

If you must harvest and deliver grain to an elevator before the damage is evaluated by an adjuster, ask your agent to obtain authority from the insurance company for the elevator to take a representative sample from each load.

The following process should be followed when your insurance company has agreed to allow the elevator to pull representative samples. When you arrive at the elevator, you will need to let the elevator know whether samples for quality determinations should be taken for non-mycotoxins, mycotoxins, or both.

1. The elevator should take a representative sample from each load and label it with your name, load number, name of farm and field number/name so that the insurance unit of origin can be determined from which the grain was harvested. This sample should be in addition to the quality determinations that the elevator makes for the purchase or storage of the grain.

2. The elevator should maintain the sample until an adjuster makes arrangements to pick up the sample(s) to make further determinations necessary to adjust your loss. Note: the sample(s) must stay in the possession of the elevator until they are picked up by the adjuster.

Source: MGPA/RMA
HAIL DAMAGE TO CORN, SOYBEANS AND SMALL GRAINS

With summer thunderstorms comes the possibility of hail. Here are some tips for assessing damage to field crops.

Recently, various locations around the state reported hail damage in some crops. Hail damage to corn and soybean at early vegetative stages is often minimal. This is because the growing point for corn is still near the soil level and protected inside the plant. Also the lower leaves help to establish the plant but it is the ear leaf and higher leaves which nourish the developing ear and establish most of the yield. Studies we have conducted have shown that even with 100% defoliation at the V7 stage, impacts on yield were negligible. Soybeans have many lateral buds which will quickly put forth new shoots and branches. Minor to moderate damage this early in the season rarely causes significant yield loss in soybean. With early hail damage, remember to wait a few days or so before making an assessment — often you will find significant recovery is underway when you make your assessment.

Hail damage to small grains is another story. Here, yield losses can be severe under the worst conditions as developing shoots are broken off or grain is shelled from the heads. Damage can be variable; though, and may look worse than it really is. If the crop is insured, the first step is to contact a crop insurance adjuster. If not insured, then different harvesting and replanting options must be considered:

- harvest for grain (light damage)
- harvest for forage
- harvest for straw (heavy damage)

I would estimate yield loss based on the kernels on the soil. About 14 kernels/square foot is equal to 1 bushel per acre for barley. Losses may appear heavier than they really are. I would examine heads and estimate intact grain in heads as well. Assessing the impact broken heads in wheat is more difficult. This Nebraska article suggests counting the broken heads per foot of row and multiplying by about a bushel per acre for each broken head.

Source: Greg Roth, Professor of Agronomy and Jeffrey S Graybill, Agronomy Extension Educator, PNST Extension

KUDZU BUG

We want to report that our lab has found the invasive insect known as the kudzu bug in Anne Arundel, Calvert, and Prince George's Counties on kudzu vines. Another person has also reported the insect on kudzu vines in Charles County to the SEED network online (http://apps.bugwood.org/seedn.html). We also collected egg masses from Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties. This insect is a serious pest of soybeans where it has been introduced in southern states. We have not yet started scouting soybean plants for the insect, since most of the fields we have planted are still in the early stages of growth, but we expect to begin sampling soybeans next week (July 8, 2013). To help keep everyone informed of our searches, we have launched a website, www.MDkudzubug.org to help disseminate information on the insect as it is collected.

Source: Alan W. Leslie, Ph.D. Candidate, Entomology, University of Maryland

MARYLAND'S LAWN FERTILIZER LAW

Maryland's new lawn fertilizer law is designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay from excess nutrients entering its waters from a variety of urban sources, including golf courses, parks, recreation areas, athletic fields, businesses
and hundreds of thousands of suburban and urban lawns. Nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, are key ingredients in lawn fertilizer. When it rains, excess nutrients can wash off the land and into the streams and rivers that feed the Chesapeake Bay. Once in our waterways, excess fertilizers fuel the growth of algae blooms that block sunlight from reaching Bay grasses, rob the water of oxygen and threaten underwater life. Lawn fertilizer now accounts for approximately 44 percent of the fertilizer sold in Maryland. While certain restrictions on fertilizer use have been in place for farmers since 2001, additional stakeholder involvement is needed if Maryland is to meet new nutrient reduction goals outlined in its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to restore the Bay. Maryland’s new lawn fertilizer law affects fertilizer manufacturers and distributors, lawn care professionals and homeowners.

Fertilizer Manufacturers and Distributors
New phased-in restrictions affect all lawn fertilizer products sold and distributed in Maryland. The changes are aimed at helping lawn care professionals and homeowners maintain healthy lawns without applying unnecessary amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus. Specifically, the law:

- Requires lawn fertilizer products sold in Maryland to include label directions to ensure that no more than 0.9 pounds of total nitrogen is applied per 1,000 square feet; at least 20 percent of this nitrogen must be in a slow release form. The maximum amount of water soluble nitrogen in lawn fertilizer products applied per 1,000 square feet is capped at 0.7 pounds. **Effective October 1, 2013**
- Prohibits lawn fertilizer products from containing phosphorus with certain exceptions for specially labeled starter fertilizer and organic fertilizer products. **Effective October 1, 2013**
- Prohibits labeling lawn fertilizer as a de-icer. **Effective October 1, 2013**
- Requires lawn fertilizer products to contain the following statement:
  Do not apply near water, storm drains or drainage ditches. Do not apply if heavy rain is expected. Apply this product only to your lawn and sweep any product that lands on the driveway, sidewalk, or street, back onto your lawn.

Enforcement Authority and More Information: Maryland Department of Agriculture, **State Chemist Section**, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-841-2721.

Lawn Care Professionals
**Beginning October 1, 2013**, all lawn care professionals must be certified in order to apply fertilizer in Maryland. The rules apply to professionals for hire as well as individuals responsible for turf management at golf courses, public parks, airports, athletic fields, businesses, cemeteries and other non-agricultural properties.

**Training**
University of Maryland Extension (UME) is developing a training manual to prepare individuals to take the certification exam. Training classes will be available fall 2012.

**Certification**
Individuals and companies hired to apply fertilizers must be certified by MDA or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified. MDA will offer fertilizer applicator certification exams beginning fall 2012 and will publish a list of certified professional fertilizer applicators on its website.

**Licensing**
 Licenses will be required for all businesses engaged in commercial fertilizer applications. Each business will be required to employ at least one certified fertilizer applicator. Licenses to qualifying firms will be available beginning fall 2012.
Fertilizer Application Restrictions

- Lawn care professionals are prohibited from applying lawn fertilizer to impervious surfaces or frozen ground.
- No fertilizer applications within 15 feet of waterways. This setback is reduced to 10 feet if a drop spreader, rotary spreader with deflector or targeted spray liquid is used to apply the fertilizer.
- No lawn fertilizer may be applied between December 1 and March 1. Between November 15 and December 1 only water soluble nitrogen (no slow release) may be applied to lawns at a maximum rate of ½ pound per 1,000 square feet.
- Professionals must apply fertilizer using University of Maryland recommendations.
- Soil tests must be taken for each new customer and once every three years thereafter.
- A single application may not exceed 0.9 pounds total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet and 0.7 pounds of soluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, except when using enhanced efficiency fertilizer.
- Professional applicators may continue to apply natural organic or organic products containing phosphorus, but beginning October 1, 2013, each application may not exceed 0.25 pounds of phosphorus per 1,000 square feet with an annual maximum of 0.5 pounds of phosphorus per 1,000 square feet. These products may not be applied when soils test at "optimum to excessive" for phosphorus levels.
- Enhanced efficiency controlled release products may be applied at no more than 2.5 pounds per year, with a maximum monthly release rate of 0.7 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Penalties

Violators are subject to civil penalties of up to $1,000 for the first violation and $2,000 for each subsequent violation. Enforcement Authority and More Information: Maryland Department of Agriculture, Nutrient Management Program, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-841-5959.

Homeowners and Other Residential Users

Beginning October 1, 2013, homeowners and do-it-yourselfers will be required to follow University of Maryland recommendations when fertilizing lawns. Mandatory restrictions, similar to those imposed for lawn care professionals, apply:
- Homeowners must follow University of Maryland fertilizer recommendations when applying nitrogen to lawns.
- A single application may not exceed 0.9 pounds total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet and 0.7 pounds of soluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- Homeowners are prohibited from applying fertilizer to sidewalks, driveways or other impervious surfaces. Any product that lands on these surfaces must be swept back onto lawns.
- No fertilizer applications within 15 feet of waterways. This setback is reduced to 10 feet if a drop spreader, rotary spreader with deflector or targeted spray liquid is used to apply fertilizer.
- No lawn fertilizer may be applied between November 15 and March 1 and when the ground is frozen.
- Fertilizers may not be used to de-ice walkways and driveways.
- Do not fertilize if heavy rain is predicted.
- Phosphorus may only be applied to lawns when indicated by soil test results or when the homeowner is establishing, patching or renovating a lawn.

Penalties

A county, municipality or MDA may enforce these requirements for homeowners. This law pre-empts any existing local ordinances. Enforcement Authority and More Information: Maryland Department of Agriculture, Nutrient Management Program, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-841-5959.

Source: MDA
Nomination for the Carroll County local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee began on Monday, June 17.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate. For this year’s election, we are seeking nominees from LAA2 (Hampstead, Manchester, Silver Run areas). Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in LAA2 this November.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others, and organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2013. Elections will take place this fall.

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by December 2. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office on January 1, 2014.

NOTE: FSA news releases and media advisories are available on the Web at www.fsa.usda.gov.

MID-ATLANTIC PRECISION AG EQUIPMENT DAY

August 7, 2013
Caroline County 4-H Park
Denton, MD

Practical and informative advice will be given on precision seeding, economics and practical implementation of planter section control, modifying equipment for variable rate application, variable rate irrigation, and much more. Come learn from some of the top, nationally-recognized speakers in agriculture equipment and machinery engineering. The event is free to attend, and lunch will be available for purchase. Advanced registration is recommended. For more details and to register, call 410-228-8800 or 410-758-0166; https://www.enst.umd.edu/news/events/third-annual-mid-atlantic-precision-ag-equipment-day

ON PASTURE

In 2012, a group of people sat down at the annual meeting of the Northeast Pasture Consortium and talked about what their travels and reading have told them over the years. They concluded that while most people read many of the available magazines and newsletters and attend lots of conferences, there were folks who wanted...
something more. So this group decided to put together an online publication that would provide access to the latest research and farmer/rancher experience written in plain English and focused on turning ideas into farm and ranch ready practices.

Thus came to be On Pasture, a weekly electronic publication devoted to translating research and experience into practical grazing practices. For those not familiar with it, I would encourage you to take a look at this week’s issue, maybe even go to the Web page and look at some of the archived articles, and then sign up to receive it if you find the information that it contains useful. You can subscribe at http://onpasture.com/subscribe-2/.

Source: Lester R. Vough, Forage Crops Extension Specialist Emeritus, UM Research Greenhouse Complex

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 21   WMREC Horticultural Crops Twilight Meeting -5 to 7:30 pm, Western MD Research & Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Rd, Keedysville MD, Contact: 410-386-2760 or mabbott@umd.edu

August 17   Pleasure Walk & Grazing Field Day -10 to 2 pm, Holterholm Farms, 5827 Holter Road, Jefferson, MD, Contact: 301-600-3576 or smarouli@umd.edu

September 7  Pasture Management Seminar For Horse Owners -8:30 to 3 pm, Baltimore County Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD, Contact: http://umepastureseminarbalt.eventbrite.com

September 21  Pasture Management Seminar For Horse Owners -8:30 to 3 pm, Hassler Dressage At Riveredge, 1455 Cayots Corner Road, Chesapeake City, MD Contact: http://umepastureseminarcecil.eventbrite.com

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

Yours for better farming from your Carroll County Agriculture Extension Educators,

Michael R. Bell               Bryan R. Butler, Sr.               Steve Allgeier
Extension Agent               Extension Agent               Extension Educator
Agriculture & Natural Resources Commercial Horticulture/ Home Horticulture/
bbell@umd.edu               Mid-MD Tree Fruit               Master Gardener Coordinator
bbutlers@umd.edu               hortman@umd.edu

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.
This educational meeting is intended to provide producers the opportunity to get a firsthand look at several of the ongoing projects at the University of Maryland’s research facility in Keedysville.

**Highlights include:**

- Updates from University of Maryland Extension and Penn State University researchers and specialists – Bryan Butler, Dave Myers, Kate Everts, Chris Walsh, Jerry Brust and Kari Peter
- The latest on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and Spotted Wing Drosophila on Vegetables and Fruit
- Update on disease control in vegetable crops
- Tour of ongoing projects including:
  - Pumpkin IPM Spray Trials
  - New NC 140 cg rootstock trial trellis planting with Cripp’s Pink and Brookfield Gala on G.202 rootstock budded directly from tissue culture, G.202, G.935 and G.41 rootstocks all budded from stool bed plants
  - Apple seedling evaluations
  - BMSB spray trials using Surround®
  - Mobile and stationery high tunnels

Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided. Registration is not required, but will help us to plan for handouts and refreshments.

**Please RSVP to 410-386-2760/888-326-9645 or e-mail mabbott@umd.edu**

Questions? Contact Bryan Butler at bbutlers@umd.edu or 888-326-9645
Farmer’s Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.8* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Retail</th>
<th>Farmer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacon</td>
<td>1 Pound</td>
<td>$5.69</td>
<td>$0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Sirloin Steak</td>
<td>1 Pound</td>
<td>$5.49</td>
<td>$1.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>1 Pound</td>
<td>$2.69</td>
<td>$0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Carrots</td>
<td>5 Pounds</td>
<td>$4.39</td>
<td>$1.53***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer</td>
<td>6-Pack Cans</td>
<td>$6.49</td>
<td>$0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal</td>
<td>18 Ounce Box</td>
<td>$5.49</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>1 Pound</td>
<td>$2.99</td>
<td>$0.58***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>1 Dozen</td>
<td>$2.89</td>
<td>$0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>5 Pounds</td>
<td>$3.49</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boneless Ham</td>
<td>Price per Pound</td>
<td>$3.99</td>
<td>$0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>1 Head (2 Pounds)</td>
<td>$2.79</td>
<td>$1.03***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>1 Gallon, Fat Free</td>
<td>$4.19</td>
<td>$1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato Chips</td>
<td>Lays Classic, 10.5 oz</td>
<td>$4.79</td>
<td>$0.23**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Potatoes</td>
<td>Russet, 5 Pounds</td>
<td>$4.99</td>
<td>$0.47**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda</td>
<td>Two Liter Bottle</td>
<td>$1.49</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farmer’s share derived from USDA, NASS “Agricultural Prices,” 2013.
Retail based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted.
*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service
**Reflects April 2013 prices.
***April 2013 prices.

www.nfu.org
July 3, 2013
Pasture Management 101 Seminars for Horse Owners

Don't miss this opportunity to learn skills that will enable you to produce productive pastures, reduce feed costs, and protect the environment!

All events held rain or shine!

Locations
9/07/13—Baltimore County Extension Office/Sagamore Farm
1114 Shawan Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

9/21/13—Hassler Dressage at Riveredge
1455 Cayots Corner Road
Chesapeake City, Maryland 21915

Sponsored by:

Pasture Management 101 Seminars for Horse Owners

Events for 2013

Sept. 7, 2013
Baltimore County

Sept. 21, 2013
Cecil County
We are excited to bring our Pasture Management 101 Seminar to a location near you!

Each day will begin with classroom instruction from our pasture experts and will include hands-on practice in management techniques and a farm visit! With the same program being offered at multiple locations, you are able to choose the date and location that suits you.

September 7, 2013
Baltimore County Seminar
Hosted by our friends at the Baltimore County Extension office, we will see the experimental pasture plots there and visit Sagamore Farm to see their pasture management in action!

September 21, 2013
Cecil County Seminar
Hosted by Hassler's Dressage at Riveredge, our day will include a tour of the Hassler Dressage facilities.

Time: 8:30 am—3:00 pm
Cost: $35 per person includes all materials and lunch

Join us at one of our featured locations to learn about a variety of pasture-related topics including:
- Year-round approach to pasture management
- Weed control methods
- Mud and erosion control measures
- Best suited grass species for horse pastures
- Pasture renovation
- Where and how to apply for money for pasture improvements
- Rotational grazing

This unique opportunity will prepare you with knowledge, skills, and resources you need to make your own managed grazing project a success.

Online Registration Available!
We are pleased to be able to offer an online registration option and accept credit card payment! Registrations must be received by August 31, 2012.

*Additional fee will be charged for processing credit cards for online registrations

Baltimore County Seminar
Online Registration:
http://umepastureseminarbalt.eventbrite.com

Cecil County Seminar
Online Registration:
http://umepastureseminarcecil.eventbrite.com

Make checks payable to University of Maryland.

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail

Phone

Do you require a vegetarian meal?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Please mail completed registration form and payment to:

Jennifer Reynolds
3101 Animal Sciences Center
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Registration and payment for the Pasture Management Seminar must be received by August 31, 2013. Please leave all dogs at home!

For more details, please visit our website:
www.anse.umd.edu/ERG

It is the policy of University of Maryland Extension that no person shall be subject to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status or disability.
**REGISTRATION FORM**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 30, 2013.**

**THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE SEE** [http://agresearch.umd.edu/canrp/](http://agresearch.umd.edu/canrp/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>First name for name badge</th>
<th>Affiliation for name badge</th>
<th>Snail-mail address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>E-mail address</th>
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</table>

require vegetarian meal?  __ YES  __ NO

Please return the registration form via email, fax or snail mail to:  
Liesl Koch  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
2200 Symons Hall  
College Park, MD  20742-5535  
or fax to 301-314-9091    E-mail: LKoch@arec.umd.edu
Pasture Walk and Grazing Field Day

Holterholm Farms
5827 Holter Road
Jefferson, MD

Saturday
August 17, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Participants will have an opportunity to learn from Ron’s 18 years of grazing experience, to attend mini-seminars on the following topics: Cow health - What to look for in the grazing cow; Genetics and reproduction for pasture-based systems; All creatures great and small - How microbes, worms, and beetles of the soil affect the cow; Comparison of cutting equipment on plant recovery; Managing cows organically without organic feed supplements; Pasture plant identification; Promising new grass species/varieties for hay and pasture production; Pasture poultry - Which came first, the chicken or the cow? plus more. There will be something to learn for everyone, regardless of what animal species you raise.

Directions
Holterholm Farms is located at 5827 Holter Road. From Frederick go west on Route 340. Take the Lander Road exit and turn right to go to the only traffic light in Jefferson. Go straight across at the light onto Holter Road. Go 2 miles to farm on the right. From Middletown, go south on Route 17 to immediate left onto Franklin Street (this becomes Holter Road). Go 3 miles to farm on the left. Watch for Pasture Walk signs.

If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in the class please contact us at 301-600-3576, TTY 301-600-1672. Equal access programs/equal opportunity employers.

Registration Form – No guaranteed lunch unless you registered.
There is no registration fee for this event, but to allow for an accurate count for lunch, participants are requested to register. Registration deadline is August 5, 2013. To register, or for more information, contact the University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County Office by phone at 301-600-3576, fax at 301-600-1588, email at smarouli@umd.edu or complete and mail in this registration form to: Stanley W. Fultz, University of Maryland Extension, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702.

Name: _____________________________________________ No. Attending: _________________
Address: ___________________________________________ City: _______________ State______ Zip:__________
Telephone: ______________________ Email Address ___________________________________________

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.