

Farm Notes

September 2013

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**AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURIAL
 BUSINESS PLAN COURSE**

What is this course?

This 3-evening course taught by University of Maryland Extension Faculty is for the agricultural entrepreneur who is thinking about starting an agricultural based venture, needing to expand a current business, or considering an opportunity to diversify. The course is designed to enhance entrepreneurial skills and assist in the development of a business plan. It will help those individuals who are searching for innovative ideas and enhanced marketing opportunities in the area of agriculture. Attendees will have networking opportunities and one-on-one consultation time with instructors. A business planning book will step you through the process of developing the business plan.

When is this course?

6:30 to 9:00 pm on November 7, 14, and 21, 2013.

Where is the course?

Carroll County Office, University of Maryland Extension
 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157

What is the cost?

\$25 for up to two people from the same family/business. Business partners or couples are encouraged to attend together.

How do I register?

Registration deadline is **November 4, 2013**. Make checks payable to Carroll County EAC. Mail payment with your name, address, and phone number to: Carroll County Office, University of Maryland Extension, November AEBP, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157

For inquiries or more information call 410-386-2760.

Source: UME

BECOME A MARYLAND CERTIFIED PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR

If you have allowed your Private Pesticide Applicator Certification to expire or are a new applicant, then you are invited to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training and Examination. It's a three step process:

Step 1: Register for the training by calling 410-386-2760 at least one week before training date. Stop by the Carroll County Extension Office (or any University of Maryland Extension office) to pick up a copy of the **new Maryland Pesticide Applicator Core Manual**. Read the manual and go over the review questions at the end of each chapter and practice exam.

Step 2: Private Applicator Certification Training will be conducted at the Carroll County Extension Office (Rooms K, A, & B) from **10 am – Noon on November 13, 2013**.

Step 3: Private Pesticide Applicator Exam will be given at the Carroll County Extension Office (Library) from **10 am – Noon on November 20, 2013**.

OR

Step 2: Private Applicator Certification Training will be conducted at the Carroll County Extension Office (Rooms K, A & B) from **10:00 am – Noon on February 5, 2014**.

Step 3: Private Pesticide Applicator Exam will be given at the Carroll County Extension Office (Library) from **10:00 am – Noon on February 12, 2014**.



PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION

If your Maryland Pesticide License will expire on December 31, 2013 it is time to attend recertification training. To facilitate RECERTIFICATION your Carroll County Extension office will have two separate RECERTIFICATION opportunities for you to attend - Rooms K, A, and B. They will be **November 20, 2013, 10am - Noon**, and **February 12, 2014, 10am – Noon**. Preregistration one week in advance is required. Call (410-386-2760) in early to reserve your space as seating is limited and goes quickly. **Be sure to bring your Pesticide License Number with you.**

A third opportunity for Pesticide Recertification is being offered on **December 5, 2013, 8:30am-3:30pm** at the Carroll/Baltimore Field Crops Day at Friendly Farms, Upperco, Maryland. More information on this meeting will follow in future issues of "Farm Notes".

REPORT: 96 PERCENT OF FARMS ARE FAMILY OWNED

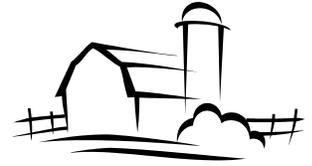
A report released this month by the USDA Economic Research Service shows that 96 percent of U.S. farms with crop production are family owned. The report, *Farm Size and the Organization of U.S. Crop Farming*, stated that businesses owned and operated by family groups continue to dominate agricultural production, providing 87 percent of the value of crop production. Family farm is defined as one in which the principal operator, and people related to the principal operator by blood or marriage, own more than half of the farm business. The report also highlights the change in cropland and farms, indicating that mid-size crop farms have declined while farm numbers at the extremes (large and small) are growing.

Source: USDA/FSA

BEGINNING FARMER ON-LINE COURSES

Online Courses For Aspiring, New, & Experienced Farmers

“The expertise and resources presented and available in the course are awesome and arm me with the information needed to make better decisions”



- Interactive 5- to 7-week courses connect you to the information and people you need to start a successful farm business or diversify your farm
- Led by experienced educators and farmers
- Take a single course or start at the beginning and work your way through the courses in order
- While most courses can be taken by people anywhere in the world, check the course description to confirm whether your course is targeted to those farming (or planning to farm) in the Northeastern US

Go to <http://nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/> for more information.

Source: Cornell University

ARE CRP PAYMENTS SUBJECT TO SE TAX?

Farmers receiving payments from the **Conservation Reserve Program** (CRP) have frequently been unsure how to categorize these payments for self-employment (SE) tax purposes. Generally, income that the farmer receives from a farming trade or business constitutes SE income which is subject to SE tax (currently 15.3%). In order for an activity to be considered a trade or business, the farmer must be actively involved in the operation on a regular, continuous basis with a view to earning income or profit. However, one form of income specifically exempt from SE tax is rental income. Rental income represents income that comes from a passive investment instead of an active business. Passive investment income isn't considered income from a trade or business in which the farmer is actively involved. Passive income therefore does not trigger SE tax. The fact that the CRP rules refer to CRP payments as "rent" has caused considerable confusion on how self-employment (SE) tax applies to those CRP payments, especially since the CRP contracts place substantial obligations on the farmer that require active participation. Along with farmers, courts have also struggled with the issue of how to classify CRP payments for SE tax purposes.

The Tax Court Decides

Frederick and Ruth Wuebker owned farmland that was considered highly erodible. After farming that land for about 20 years, they enrolled their land in the CRP and focused on their poultry operation. During the first year of the CRP contract, they were required to seed their CRP land and used their farming equipment to do so. Under the CRP contract, the Wuebkers had several obligations, including the implementation of a conservation plan, establishment of vegetative cover, and to control weeds and pests on the land. The Wuebkers received a notice from the IRS regarding their CRP payments for 1992 and 1993. While the Wuebkers reported their CRP payments as rental income, the IRS took the position that the rent payments were, in fact, SE income, subject to SE tax. The Wuebkers challenged the IRS position in Tax Court. The Tax Court heard the case in June, 1998¹ and agreed with the Wuebkers, indicating that the CRP contract did not require the Wuebkers to produce any agricultural or horticultural commodities on the CRP land. Therefore, the Tax Court reasoned, the CRP rental payments were not connected to any active farming trade or business. The Wuebkers also noted that the CRP contract called the payments "rent" and the Tax Court agreed that the CRP payments fell under the rental income exemption from SE tax.

The IRS Appeals

However, the IRS appealed the Tax Court decision and the appeal was heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in March, 2000.²

In deciding whether the CRP payments received by the Wuebkers constituted rent, the Sixth Circuit court noted that rent was defined as payment made for use or occupancy of property. Under the CRP program, the government does not obtain use or occupancy in exchange for the CRP "rent" payments. The government only obtains the right to inspect the property to ensure the Wuebkers are fulfilling their obligations under the contract. The court noted that throughout the duration of the CRP contract, the Wuebkers continued to maintain control and free access to their land. While the Wuebkers argued that the CRP payments were not connected to any farming activity and that their obligations under the CRP contract were minimal enough that they did not constitute engaging in a farming trade or business. However, the court noted that the Wuebkers were engaged in a farming business before and during the duration of the CRP contract and their CRP contractual obligations were significant obligations that were farming activities (including weed control, seeding and tilling) that required use of their farming equipment. The court also noted that the SE tax exemption for rental income should be narrowly interpreted and concluded that the Wuebker's CRP payments constituted SE income and were therefore subject to SE tax because the payments were received in connection with their farming business activity.

The IRS Position

After Wuebker and other cases³ on this point, the IRS took the position that the conservation and land maintenance obligations that are part of a CRP contract will constitute a farming trade or business that will make the CRP payments SE income.⁴ In addition, the IRS issued a notice taking the position that CRP rental payments are not payments for the right to use or occupy land. Therefore, the payments, even though referred to as "rent" under the CRP rules, are not rent for SE tax purposes. Instead, the IRS indicated that CRP payments are to compensate the farmer for conducting activities to meet the CRP contract's obligations. This compensation is considered SE income subject to SE tax.⁵

Recent Case Revisits the Question...Again

In June 2013, the Tax Court once again addressed this issue in *Rollin J. and Maureen B. Morehouse v. Comm'r*.⁶ Mr. Morehouse had acreage in South Dakota enrolled in the CRP. He was not an active farmer, but rented out the tillable land and hired a retired farmer to assist with fulfilling the land conservation and maintenance obligations under his CRP contracts. He gradually expanded the amount of acreage under the CRP program. Mr. Morehouse argued that his activities under the CRP contracts were minimal and did not rise to the level of having a farming trade or business. He contended that the CRP payments had no connection to a farming trade or business and did not constitute SE income. However, the Tax Court, aware of being overruled by the Sixth Circuit in the earlier *Wuebker* case, noted that Mr. Morehouse was actively engaged as a CRP participant. He completed the annual certifications under the contracts, personally purchased materials and delivered them to the retired farmer that he hired to assist with the contract obligations, paid the retired farmer, rented out the tillable portions of the property, visited the property several times each year and expanded the amount of property enrolled in the CRP because this was more profitable than leasing the property for farming. The Tax Court noted that by signing the CRP contracts, Mr. Morehouse made himself obligated to fulfill substantial contractual obligations. In fulfilling those obligations, Mr. Morehouse's activity was regular and continuous enough to constitute a trade or business. These significant activities were not reflective of the property being held as a passive investment. Mr. Morehouse's CRP payments are therefore classified as SE income and are subject to SE tax.

Conclusion

Once a farmer becomes obligated to conserve and maintain land under a CRP contract, the farmer's activities necessary to fulfill those obligations will likely be considered legally significant enough to constitute a trade or business. The CRP payments will therefore be classified as SE income and the farmer must report those payments as such and pay SE tax on those payments. The fact that the CRP contract refers to the payments as "rent" is immaterial. Farmers that receive CRP payments should consult their tax advisor on the proper reporting of these payments.

*Note. The Tax Code provides a specific exception, however, for farmers with CRP payments who also receive social security retirement or disability payments. For these farmers, CRP payments **are exempt** from SE tax.¹*

Source: Marc Lovell, Tax School and Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois

GRANT FUNDS FREE NATIONWIDE ACCESS TO DAIRYLAND INITIATIVE FOR FARMERS

The Dairyland Initiative (<http://thedairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu/>), a UW School of Veterinary Medicine outreach program that works with farmers to optimize cow comfort, health, and milk production, has received a \$50,000 grant from the Dean Foods Foundation to make its web-based resources available at no cost to dairy farmers across the country.

The Dairyland Initiative delivers building plan assessments and other valuable information based on the latest dairy animal research and years of collective field experience in dairy housing. For example, its experts work closely with farmers to plan new construction and remodels of dairy barns, which includes:

- updating old tie stall or stanchion barns with mattresses and sawdust bedding to safer tie stall designs and sand bedding;
- modifying freestalls for improved comfort; and
- planning entire dairy housing facilities for calves through adult cows.

Changes like these help reduce injury, disease, and lameness, often leading to an increase in milk production.

Dairy farmers can take advantage of The Dairyland Initiative's services through consultations, workshops, and web-based tools. Previously, Wisconsin farmers could access the website for free while those outside of the state paid a nominal fee. The grant will help make the website available at no cost to farmers and University Extension programs nationwide for two years.

Source: Rebecca Brotzman, 608-262-6800, rbrotzman@wisc.edu; Nigel Cook, 608-265-4981, nbcook@facstaff.wisc.edu; Ken Nordlund, 608-263-6811, nordlund@wisc.edu

"BRANCHING OUT" IS MARYLAND'S QUARTERLY FOREST STEWARDSHIP EDUCATOR



For more than twenty years, the University of Maryland Extension Woodland Steward Education program's quarterly newsletter "Branching Out" has helped Maryland's woodland owners, whether large or small, to stay informed about ways to manage their land responsibly.

The newsletter brings together the latest news about a wide variety of stewardship topics. Recent issues have included tips for identifying and controlling invasive species, how to select a consulting forester, how to thin your woodland, managing woodland wildlife, and advances in woodstove and wood energy technology. Each newsletter includes information about tours and

conferences and educational workshops offered through the University Extension program and its partners.

The newsletter is available online, free of charge. Visit the Woodland Stewardship Education's website at <http://extension.umd.edu/publication-series/branching-out> and click the "Branching Out" link for the most recent issue or for selected back issues, or sign up for e-mail notifications about new issues by clicking the "Subscribe here" link. For more information, contact newsletter editor Andrew Kling via email at akling1@umd.edu or by phone at 301-432-2767, ext. 307.

Source: Andrew Kling via email at akling1@umd.edu

AGRIBUSINESS BREAKFAST 2013-2014

Held at Baughers Restaurant in Westminster, MD. Come enjoy the speakers. Everybody is welcome. No dues, no membership required. Attendees pay cost of own breakfast. MUST call 410-386-2760 to register.

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| Sept 5 | "Sheep Shearing Adventures in New Zealand"
Emily Chamelin |
| Oct 3 | "Trash or Treasure, Should I Throw it Away"
Lindy McNulty |
| Nov 7 | "Fracking and Agriculture"
Drew Cobb, Mid Atlantic Petroleum Council |
| Dec 5 | "Transition to the County Law Enforcement Agency and Agriculture"
Col. Phil Kasten, CC Sheriff's Office |
| Jan 2 | "What's Coming in Annapolis?"
Delegate Susan Krebs |
| Feb 6 | "DNR and Crop Damage"
Paul Perditto, Dept. of Natural Resources |
| Mar 6 | "What's New for Farmland Preservation?"
Ralph Robertson |
| Apr 3 | "A New Look for 4-H in Carroll County"
Kim Dixon |
| May 1 | "Growing Hops and Brewing Beer in Carroll County"
Henry Ruhlman, Ruhlman Brewery LLC |
| June 5 | "Celebrate Dairy Month"
Diane Flickinger |

No breakfast in July and August.

CAUTION: BEWARE OF POISONING POTENTIAL FROM ERGOT FUNGUS MYCOTOXINS IN MATURE GRASS HAY AND PASTURE

Mature grass hay and pasture may contain significant amounts of ergot from wet humid conditions during grass flowering. Ergot is a fungus that infects blossoms of grasses, notably rye and some other cereals but hosts also include our cool season forage grasses (orchardgrass, tall fescue, timothy, etc.) and weed grass species like quackgrass, wild rye, and others. Ergot is well known as a disease of rye. Ergot is readily recognized in grass that has headed out. When the grass heads are nearly mature, it appears as a hard, black to purple, horn-shaped mass protruding from the heads in place of the grain kernel. These telltale structures are two to several times larger than the grass seed and contain the ergot fungal spores. Ergot varies in abundance from year to year. The wet, humid, and hot conditions during flowering favored the development of the disease this year and the severely delayed harvest in many areas is compounding the problem.

Animals get ergot either in the grain fed them or by grazing on infected grass. Obtained in either way, ergot may cause acute poisoning if a large enough quantity is eaten at one time. In large doses, the toxin produces acute symptoms such as muscle trembling/contraction, loss of coordination, convulsions, and eventually delirium and death. Also, because the effect of ergot is cumulative, poisoning may develop slowly if lesser quantities are eaten regularly. General symptoms include lack of appetite, dullness, abdominal pain, and subnormal temperatures. The toxin results in the contraction of the small blood vessels and subsequently affects the extremities including hooves, tail, and ears which become gangrenous in severe cases. Locally, one Erie County producer became suspect last week after several of his cattle exhibited lameness. Upon inspection of both his mature hay and pasture, he found that quackgrass, orchardgrass, and timothy all contained the ergot bodies in the seed heads to varying degrees. The specific type of ergot fungus and the amount present influence the toxicity. Some reports show as little as a few ounces of ergot kernels daily for 11 days can produce characteristic lameness in cattle. However, some experiments have shown that a small amount of ergot is not injurious to dairy cattle that are amply provided with a balanced ration.

The only treatment for ergot poisoning is to remove the contaminated feeds or remove animals from contaminated pastures. Contact your veterinarian about supplemental therapies if advanced symptoms are present. Pastures should be mowed and let set for two weeks before grazing. Badly contaminated hay should be destroyed.



Much of this information came from the 2007 “Ergot Alert!” from the University of Vermont. www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/wp-content/uploads/ergotalert.pdf. For additional information Iowa State University has an “Ergot Poisoning in Cattle” factsheet from their Veterinary experts. Both these online resources include images of the ergot on heads of grass.

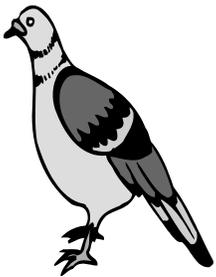
Source: Joel Hunter, Educator, Email: jmh7@psu.edu, PNST Extension

PIGEON FEVER/ DRYLAND DISTEMPER – EQUINE

Pigeon Fever is the common term for an infection caused by the bacterial organism *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* (also referred to as Dryland Distemper). *C. pseudotuberculosis* bacteria tend to localize and form abscesses in the pectoral region and ventral abdomen of the horse. It is common misconception that the condition is related to pigeons. It was named because the abscesses cause swelling and give the horse’s chest a “pigeon-breast” appearance. Ruminants-such as sheep, goats, and cattle-can also become infected with these

bacteria, although cross-species transmission is rare and usually only occurs between horses and cattle because they can carry the same strain.

Pigeon fever cases used to be found primarily in California, although within the last several years veterinarians have diagnosed cases in many areas of the United States. The organisms tend to live and multiply in dry soil and manure. Hot, dry weather is the most common environment where the organism is found, and most pigeon fever cases appear in late summer/early fall (the author first diagnosed a case in August, and her number of cases has increased exponentially since that time). Horses contract this disease through open wounds or fly bites, and sometimes through their mucous membranes. Some horses have developed lung abscesses after inhaling a concentration of bacterial organisms. A horse's immune system competence can dictate whether he contracts pigeon fever.



The first sign owners usually notice is swelling of the chest or abdomen. The horse might have a fever (temperature greater than 101.5 F), but he usually exhibits a normal attitude and appetite. An affected animal might be sore at the walk, usually after swelling and abscess of his chest and abdomen have occurred. Some develop more severe infections where they acquire multiple abscesses and become systemically ill (inappetent, febrile, and lethargic). A small percentage of horses can develop internal abscesses, which are more serious. The infection can spread to the horse's legs, causing a syndrome called ulcerative lymphangitis, which can be difficult to treat.

A veterinarian can reach a definitive diagnosis through bacterial culture, although clinical signs can be quite diagnostic. If the horse is systemically ill, it is helpful to run blood work to be sure he doesn't have overwhelming systemic infection and to monitor internal organ function. If the horses develop internal abscesses, their disease is more serious and carries a guarded prognosis.

Treating pigeon fever consists mainly of surgically opening the abscesses to allow drainage. The abscesses can be lanced as soon as they are mature. Applying warm compresses to abscesses can help bring them to a head. Your veterinarian can also ultrasound the abscesses and find the best place to drain them. The abscesses should be cleaned and flushed daily with dilute Betadine solution. The use of systemic antibiotics is controversial. Many clinicians believe that antibiotics will delay the maturation of developing abscesses and might facilitate internal abscessation. As long as the horse appears healthy and has a normal attitude and appetite, this author prefers to withhold antibiotic therapy. If the abscesses are deep and causing pain and discomfort to the horse, Banamine (flunixin meglumine) can be administered.

As in the case of all infectious disease outbreaks, our goal is to limit the number of horses affected. Affected horses should be isolated because drainage from their abscesses contains a high amount of bacteria that will contaminate the environment. Flies are a major vector and can spread the bacteria, so spray affected and unaffected horses (especially ones with open wounds) with fly repellent if it is still fly season. A good feed-through fly control product is a good option. People can carry the bacteria on their shoes, hands, etc., so be sure to maintain good hygiene after handling your sick horse. Bedding, water buckets, and any other materials that come in contact with pus should be disinfected/disposed of and not shared with other horses.

Source: Jessie Evans, DVM, AAEP Forum article courtesy of [The Horse](#) magazine, an AAEP Media Partner.

TRAILERING HORSES: BEYOND THE BASICS

University of Maryland Extension will be hosting a seminar entitled "Trailer Horses: Beyond the Basics" on September 10, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at the Harford County Extension Office in Forest Hill. Topics covered will include: correctly matching a horse trailer with a properly sized vehicle, Department of Transportation regulations that may affect horse haulers and how to comply with them, maintenance for trailers and tow vehicles, and considerations and care during extended transport. Registration is requested by September 6 by calling the office (410-638-3255) or e-mailing Sara (sbh@umd.edu) and is \$5 per person. There is an online advertisement here: <http://extension.umd.edu/news/events/tue-2013-09-10-1800-trailer-horses-beyond-basics>

Source: Sara Meagher BhaduriHauck, Faculty Extension Assistant, Harford County

MANURE PIT SAFETY

PNST has developed two demonstrations that address hazards and ventilation of confined space manure storages. The first video is for storages with a solid cover over the storage and is approximately 24 minutes long. The second video is for storages with a partial or a fully slotted floor. This video has three parts and is approximately 27 minutes. The first part is for when there is a low level of gas in the manure storage before ventilating, while the second part is for when there is a high level of gas in the manure storage before ventilating. The third part is to show the effect of using an outside source of fresh air to ventilate manure storages. We highly recommend viewing all three parts of this video.

Right click and "save link as" to download for educational use. The videos may also be viewed online by double clicking. <http://www.manurepitsafety.psu.edu/edvideos.html>

The "Introduction" video is for those users who are unfamiliar with manure storages.

Source: PNST Extension, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Agricultural Health and Safety Program

BOX ELDER TREE SEEDS LINKED TO SEASONAL PASTURE MYOPATHY IN HORSES

For decades, hundreds of horses in North America and northern Europe have died from a pasture-associated muscle disease whose cause, prevention, and treatment have remained elusive. Even with early diagnosis, the fatality rate for this disease, known as Seasonal Pasture Myopathy (SPM) in North America and Atypical Myopathy (AM) in Europe, is between 75 and 95%. Breakthrough research from the University of Minnesota has now identified seeds from the box elder tree, and possibly other Acer species trees, as the cause of SPM in North America and likely Europe.

For more information on this topic go to: <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/health/seasonal-pasture-myopathy-cause-identified/>

Source: Anna Renier, DVM, University of Minnesota, DVM, PhD, University of Minnesota Extension

CEREAL COVER CROP SEEDING RATES - WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE?

Maryland's Cover Crop Program is viewed as the most successful water quality improvement initiative in the Chesapeake Bay region. Low seed germination was widespread in 2008 as a result of the severe Fusarium outbreak in the region. Low seed germination is again an issue for 2013 as a result of sporadic Fusarium outbreaks in some areas and some pre-harvest sprouting caused by the rainy harvest experienced this year. The

Program's recommended seeding rates for cereals are: rye (112 lb or 2 bu/acre); wheat (120 lb or 2 bu/acre) and barley (120 lb or 2 ½ bu/acre). The question that many are asking is: How do I attain an acceptable stand when the germination of my seed lot is below the standard of 80%?

University of Maryland Extension recommends that farmers planting cereals for commodity production use a seeds/ft² approach which allows compensation for seed lot size variation. The Maryland Cover Crop Program mandates volume rates (2 bu/a for rye and wheat; 2.5 bu/a for barley) when any of these species are planted as a cover crop. A two-year study that was funded by MGPUB compared cover crop performance of these three species when planted at volume and three seeds/ft² treatments. The results of that research are the basis for the following cover crop seeding rate recommendations for the cereal species. Examples of seeding rates for low germination seed lots for the three cereal species are provided in the recommendations below.

Summary of Research Findings

- Two years of research indicated that the seeding rates for cereal species used as cover crops can be less than the volume rates described by the current Maryland Cover Crop Program regulations.
- This research indicated that seeding rates for the cover crop program should be defined as seeds/ft² because this method accounts for the variations in seed size that can occur among species and for different seed lots within a species.
- Regardless of species planted, when a seeds/ft² method is used, it is important to know both the seed size and germination of the seed lot to be used.
- Planting cereal cover crops at a seeds/ft² rate should result in cost-savings because a lesser amount of seed would be required. An exception would occur when seed size for the species used is exceptionally large.
- Amount of N uptake that will occur will vary by amount of residual N present at a location.
- Amount of N uptake will generally be greater for earlier planted cereal cover crops than for later planted cereal cover crops.

Recommendations

- The following seeding rate recommendations require that cereal cover crops be planted using a tillage practice that incorporates the seed into the soil, i.e. planting with a grain drill or broadcasting seed followed by incorporation with either a vertical tillage implement or a disk. The goal is to establish as uniform a stand as possible.
- Rye cover crop should be planted at 30 - 35 viable (adjusted for seed lot germination) seeds/ft². Example: a rye seed lot with 85% germination would require 35 - 41 seeds/ft² be planted. Low germination example: a rye seed lot with 75% germination would require 40–47 seeds/ft² be planted.
- Wheat cover crop should be planted at 20 - 25 viable seeds/ft². Example: a wheat seed lot with 90% germination would require 22-28 seeds/ft² be planted. Low germination example: a wheat seed lot with 70% germination would require 29–36 seeds/ft² be planted.
- Barley cover crop should be planted at 24 - 30 viable seeds/ft². Example: a barley seed lot with 90% germination would require 27 - 33 seeds/ft² be planted. Low germination example: a barley seed lot with 75% germination would require 32-40 seeds/ft² be planted.

Source: Dr. Bob Kratochvil, UME

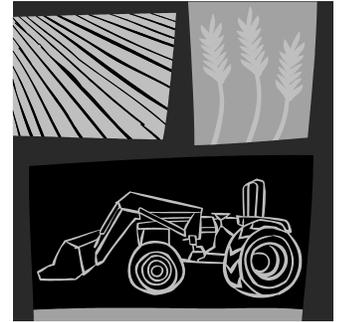
SHOWCASING MD FARMING

If you haven't already seen or heard about it, beginning this fall Maryland Public Television & Maryland Department of Agriculture will be showcasing MD Farming in a 13 part series. Below is the YouTube promotion video for the series. All 13 segments of the series will air on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and then be repeated on MPT2 as follows:

- Thursdays at 11:30 p.m.
- Sundays at 6:00 a.m.
- Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

The program will run for thirteen weeks, rest for thirteen weeks, repeat for thirteen weeks, rest for thirteen weeks and then possibly have a premiere for season 2 in November 2014. Check it out!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mxM_tCuFtw&feature=youtu.be



Source: UME/MDA

SOYBEAN APHIDS FOUND IN PA

It has been a few years since we have had significant populations of aphids in soybeans, but here are a few reminders since we have been finding them in our soybean sentinel plots.

As we have mentioned in our Sentinel Soybean reports, soybean aphids can be found in Pennsylvania soybean fields, but for the most part their numbers remain low. It has been a few years since we had significant populations of aphids in soybeans, so here I provide a few reminders. Despite the generally low numbers, we have heard of fields where aphid numbers per plant are approaching the economic threshold, but these fields appear to be pretty spotty. I encourage folks to scout their soybean fields for aphids rather than assuming they have them. Recall that the economic threshold is 250 aphids per plant, so treating before populations reach this level is unlikely to be profitable. Recall also that lady beetle adults and larvae are voracious aphid predators whose numbers will increase in response to growing aphid populations. Therefore, if you see lots of aphids around but you also see many lady beetles active, it is probably worth giving the lady beetles time to exert control. Lastly, remember soybean aphid is not economically significant past R6 stage beans, and many of our soybeans are approaching or beyond R6 already, so keep the growth stage in mind when scouting your soybeans.

Source; John Tooker, PNST Extension Specialist, Email: tooker@psu.edu, Phone: 814-865-708

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DISEASES HIT FORAGE GRASSES HARD

The weather conditions over the last few weeks have created the “perfect fungal storm” which has overpowered and killed grass in windrows and areas with especially thick forage.

Farmers in southeast PA, eastern Maryland and Delaware are reporting severe disease infestations in their forage grasses. Some say they will need to replant the hardest infected areas. The consistent pattern between infected fields is heavy yields with possible lodging and harvesting just before the week of very hot weather in July.

Speculation is that forage growth was greater than usual because of the wet and cool weather in late June and early July. The rain delayed harvest so that the forage began to lodge creating a perfect condition under the forage mat for fungal growth. As soon as the rains let up, the forage was mowed, but the ideal conditions for fungal growth remained under the windrows. The week of very hot temperatures exacerbated the ideal fungal growth conditions.

All of these conditions resulted in a “perfect fungal storm” where the fungal population was so large that it overpowered and killed the grass. Not only did this happen under windrows, but also in areas with especially thick forage.

Since it is unlikely that the environmental conditions will repeat again this summer, now would be a good time to reseed dead areas in fields.

Source: Marvin Hall, Professor of Forage Management, PNST Extension, Email: mhh2@psu.edu, Phone: 814-863-1019

DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 4 **Crop Insurance Industry Workshop**-9 to 3 pm, Loews Hotel, Annapolis, MD, Contact: lkoch@arec.umd.edu
- September 5 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Sheep Shearing Adventures in New Zealand by Emily Chamelin , 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- 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>
- October 3 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Trash or Treasure, Should I Throw It Away? by Lindy McNulty, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- October 5 **The College In Your Backyard, College Of Agriculture & Natural Resources Open House**- 10 to 3 pm, Central MD Research & Education Center, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD, Contact: <http://agmr.umd.edu/openhouse> or 301-596-9330
- October 8 **Bermudagrass For High Animal Use Areas Training**-9 to 4 pm, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, Contact: 301-504-8743 or email rjay.ugiasky@md.usda.gov
- October 10 **Bermudagrass For High Animal Use Areas Training**-9 to 4 pm, University Of MD Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD, Contact: 301-504-8743 or email rjay.ugiasky@md.usda.gov

- November 7, 14, 21 **Agricultural Entrepreneurial Business Plan Course**-6:30 to 9 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386-2760
- November 7 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Fracking and Agriculture by Drew Cobb, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- November 13 **Private Applicator Certification Training**-10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386-2760 to register.
- November 20 **Private Applicator Certification Exam**-10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386-2760 to register.
- November 20 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification**-10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD Contact: 410-386 2760 to register.
- December 5 **Carroll/Baltimore Field Crops Day**- 8:30 to 3:30 PM, Friendly Farms, Upperco, MD, Will count towards Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification. More information to follow in future Farm Notes issues.
- December 5 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Transition To the County Law Enforcement Agency and Agriculture by Col. Phil Kasten, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- January 2 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-What's Coming In Annapolis? by Delegate Susan Krebs, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- February 5 **Private Applicator Certification Training**-10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386-2760 to register.
- February 6 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-DNR and Crop Damage by Paul Perditto, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- February 12 **Private Applicator Certification Exam**-10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386-2760 to register.
- February 12 **Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification**-10 to Noon, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386 2760 to register.
- March 6 **Agribusiness Breakfast**- What's New for Farmland Preservation by Ralph Robertson, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- April 3 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-A New Look For 4-H In Carroll County by Kim Dixon, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.

- May 1 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Growing Hops and Brewing Beer In Carroll County by Henry Ruhlman,, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.
- June 5 **Agribusiness Breakfast**-Celebrate Dairy Month by Diane Flickinger, 8 am, Baughers Restaurant, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760 to attend.

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,

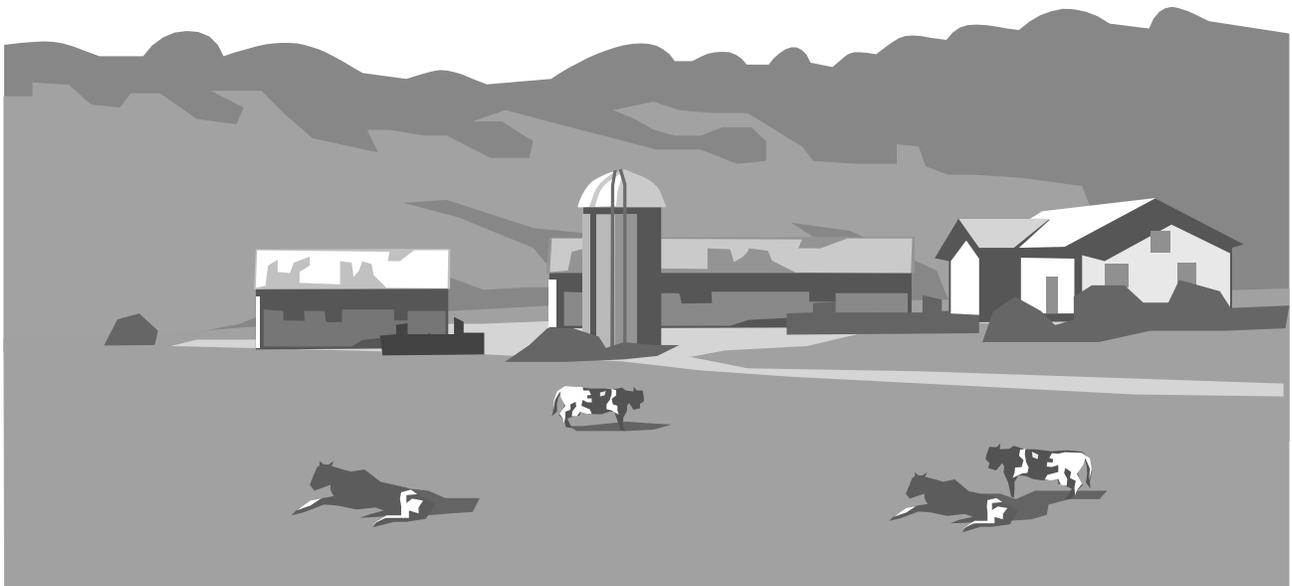
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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call: 410-386-2760 or 1-888-326-9645.
If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in a program please contact the Carroll County Extension Office at 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.



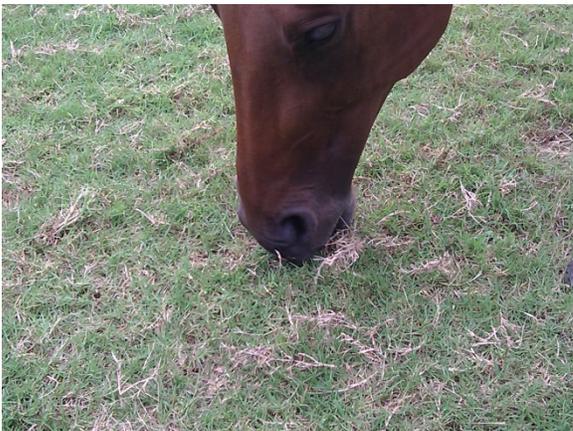
Bermudagrass for High Animal Use Areas Training

2 locations and dates to choose from:

- ✧ Howard County Fairgrounds; October 8, 2013
 - ✧ University of Maryland Eastern Shore; October 10, 2013
- 9:00pm- 4:00pm (light rain or shine, lunch on your own)



Maintaining vegetation on high use areas not only provides forage, but protects the soil, recycles nutrients and reduces sediment and nutrient runoff. Bermudagrass is a sustainable and aesthetically pleasing alternative to un-vegetated or hardened high use areas for livestock.



TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Indoor Session

- Why Bermudagrass?
 - Durability
 - Palatability and Nutrition
- Variety Selection
- Establishment
 - Soil and Fertility
 - Seed vs. Sprigs
 - Equipment and soil preparation
 - Weed ID and Control
- Management and Use
 - When and how much to graze
 - Interseeding cool-season species

Outdoor Session

- Tour of established plantings



To RSVP contact R.Jay Ugiansky by Sept. 27
Norman A. Berg National Plant Materials Center
Phone: 301-504-8743 **Email:** rjay.ugiansky@md.usda.gov

Howard County Fairgrounds is located at 2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, MD 21794. <http://howardcountyfair.com>
UMES is located in Princess Anne, MD 21853. <https://www.umes.edu>

Please notify by Sept. 27 if you require special accommodation to participate in the meeting.

This course will provide 4.5 CEU's for Certified Conservation Planners.