

Farm Notes

May 2014

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**2014 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY TWILIGHT TOUR
 AT THE WYE**

Please join us for the 2014 Annual Strawberry Twilight Tour at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Our program will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM, rain or shine, at the Farm Operations Complex. We'll have both University of Maryland and USDA specialists discussing several topics. For more information contact Michael Newell, Horticulture Crops Program Manager, 410-827-7388 or mnewell@umd.edu.

Source: Michael Newell, Horticulture Crops Program Manager, 410-827-7388 or mnewell@umd.edu.

**VCE'S PEST MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR
 FIELD CROPS 2014**

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-016/456-016.html>

Source: UME

**COMMERCIAL 2014 VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
 RECOMMENDATIONS MARYLAND EB 236**

On-Line at <http://extension.umd.edu/news/2014-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations-maryland>

Also available in a new very interactive format at the Delaware Extension site at:

<http://extension.udel.edu/ag/vegetable-fruit-resources/commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations>

Source: UME

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.



Happy Birthday! The 100th Anniversary of Smith-Lever Act and University of Maryland Extension.

On May 8, 1914 the Cooperative Extension system was officially created. The Smith-Lever Act established a system of cooperative extension services, connected to the land-grant universities, in order to inform people about agriculture, 4-H, public policy/government and many other related subject. The Smith-Lever Act, also known as the Agriculture Extension Act, stated that “work shall consist of the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practice demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture.” Congress wanted the land-grant institutions in the United States to work together, share research and education, and relay the information to the communities

each college served. For 100 years, the Smith-Lever Act has stimulated innovative research systems and vital educational programs for youth and adults through progressive information delivery systems that improved lives and shaped a nation.

Today, the University of Maryland Extension is proud to deliver research-based information in agriculture, natural resources, food safety and nutrition, economic and community development, and 4-H youth development.

Source: UME

2013 BAY MODEL PROGRESS RUN: AGRICULTURAL REDUCTIONS IN NITROGEN, PHOSPHORUS AND SEDIMENT LOADING

The results of the 2013 Bay Model progress run have been released by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the results look excellent for Maryland agriculture.

Thanks to the efforts of farmers Maryland agriculture has surpassed its 2017 interim goal for sediment reduction and even achieved the 2025 target!

The results for nitrogen and phosphorous loading are amazing as well. Maryland agriculture has achieved 99.6% of the 2017 goal for phosphorous reduction and 95.6% of the goal for nitrogen.

Source: Dr. Bob Kratochvil, Extension Agronomist, UME

2014 SCHEDULE, RULES, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUMMER DAIRY FIELD DAYS

Please go to: <http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/> for current information.

Source: Gail Yeiser, Secretary/Treasurer, Maryland Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA)

CALIBRATING YOUR GRAIN DRILL

High quality and often expensive seed can be planted at lower populations if you have the correct equipment for the task. A well maintained and calibrated drill can improve your stands, and increase yields while lowering your seed costs.

The seeding chart on your grain drill is a good start to determine seeding rate but may be significantly off target due to variations in seed size within species as well as wear and tear of the drill. So it makes sense to check seeding rate. You can unhook some seedtubes and tie a small bag or cup to them and run a certain distance with the drill. The chart below helps you to calibrate the drill. The measures make sure that you collect seed for 100th of an acre so that you can just multiply the weight of the collected seed by 100 to get the seeding rate in lbs/A. By using 100th of an acre you avoid large errors due to starting and stopping the drill.

Distance to drive to collect seed for 100th of an acre

| Row Spacing | Number of openers used to collect seed | |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| | 3 openers | 5 openers |
| 7.5" | 230 feet | 140 feet |
| 5.5" | 317 feet | 190 feet |

Another way is to weigh out seed for, say, two to five acres (depending on desired seeding rate) and put it in the drill. Then you drill an acre or four (less than what you put in the drill to avoid running low on seed in part of the drill). You use the acre meter on your drill to know how many acres you planted. You can then vacuum out the seed that is left with a shop vac and weigh how much seed was left in the drill. The seed you drilled is the difference between the weight of the seed you put in the drill and the seed that is left over. Divide this by the area drilled to get the seeding rate.

Source: Sjoerd Duiker, Associate Professor of Soil Management and Applied Soil Physics, Email: sduiker@psu.edu, Phone: 814-863-7637

INTRODUCTION TO FARRIERY SEMINAR

Introduction to Farriery Seminar

Saturday, May 24, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

2929 Level Road, Churchville MD 21028



Through a combination of lecture and demonstration, casual horse enthusiasts and professionals alike will gain a better understanding of hoof care and management. The morning session will consist of lectures covering anatomy and physiology of the hoof, how hoof health and function is affected by conformation, skills associated with trimming the balanced foot, and when shoes are necessary. The afternoon session will provide a demonstration of the trimming and shoeing process on live horses with ample time for questions. Instruction for the day will be provided by Chris Diehl, Certified Journeyman Farrier, and the afternoon session will be hosted at nearby Bay Meadow Farm. Anyone is welcome to register; no experience is necessary. Registration is \$40 per person and includes all program materials, morning refreshments, and lunch. This seminar is limited to 30 seats on a first-come, first-served basis; the deadline to register is May 19. Participants may register online at www.harfordfarrierseminar.eventbrite.com (additional processing fees apply) or by calling the Harford County Extension Office at 410-638-3255 and paying by check. If you require special assistance to attend this program, please contact the Harford County Extension Office by May 10. For more details about the program, contact Sara BhaduriHauck at the Harford County Extension Office at 410-638-3255 or sbh@umd.edu.

Source: Sara BhaduriHauck, FEA, UME

MDCROPS

The breach of personal information that occurred for the University of Maryland a couple months ago has made a casualty of the mdcrops website. You can no longer reach information located on this site by going to mdcrops. The easiest way to access this information now is to visit the Plant Science and Landscape Architecture site at www.psla.umd.edu

At the PSLA website, click on the Extension heading. Choose MD Crops from the drop down menu.

Source: Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

NEW FACT SHEETS – CHANGES FOR CROP INSURANCE

Crop Insurance Eligibility and Maryland's Cover Crop Program Risk Management Agency (RMA) adopted NRCS's rules for cover crop termination. Those producers with cover crops will need to make sure they stay in compliance with NRCS's rules to stay eligible for the crop insurance program and can insure the commodity crop. That factsheet is available here: <https://extension.umd.edu/learn/crop-insurance-eligibility-and-marylands-cover-crop-program>

Organic producers or producers considering the switch to organic, RMA made some changes for the 2014 crop year and forward to how crop insurance works for organic crops. That fact sheet is available here:

<https://extension.umd.edu/learn/2014-changes-organic-crop-insurance>

Source: RMA

NEW GRAPE AND SMALL FRUIT EXTENSION PATHOLOGIST AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Dr. Cassandra Swett has accepted the position of Grape/Small Fruit Extension Pathologist at the University of Maryland. Her primary responsibility is for Extension and research in grape and small fruit pathology and disease management in support of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit Consortium which supports the industries in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. She will be located in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland. Dr. Swett's starting date was May 1, 2014.



Source: UME

SPRING 2014 ISSUE OF WILD & WOOLLY

The Spring 2014 issue of Wild & Woolly has been posted to the web at

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/Spring2014.html>.

You can download a PDF (printer-friendly) version of the newsletter at

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/PDF/Spring2014.pdf>.

In between issues of the newsletter, be sure to visit the Shepherd's Notebook blog at <http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com> or visit the UME Small Ruminant Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MDSmallRuminant>.

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

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS AND POPULATION ASSESSMENT

This is a great time to review key goals in stand assessment. With planting season upon us it is best to have some idea of the goals this spring. If weather remains cool at night chilling injury to seed corn is at risk and we already have reports of slugs and other pests so keep an eye on any early planted fields. Here are some things to think about with stands and making stand decisions. The 2 inch soil map still indicates below average soil temperatures in the 40 degree range. Check your location at the [PA PIPE](#) website. This useful site assists in plant timing. Some key points to consider when planting corn and soybeans.

1. Soybean population drop from a planter or drill should be in the 150,000 ppa to achieve a final stand of 120,000ppa at harvest and corn is 28-34,000 ppa or higher depending on hybrid. This represents final stands that are even and uniform indicating same day germination and subsequent emergence. Now that we have an idea of the goal one can ensure that the planting operation achieves the goal. Compensations for seed drop will need to include primarily germination differences and planting conditions Planter, tillage, pests, weather; take control of the items you can control. With No Till I commonly add 20% to the seed drop from the goal. For instance if desire 30,000 final stand one would drop 36,000 to achieve the desired goal. On seed depth I do not like to see soybeans planted too deep 1.25 inch is ideal (unless specified on herbicide label) and with corn I do not like to see more than 1.5 inch in depth and that is the depth of soil over top of the seed, just setting the planter is not enough inspection of the seed trench to determine depth is preferred.
2. Once you begin to see germination one will need to determine the population in the field. To determine populations you must first know the width of planting. 6", 7", 8" for small grains 7", 15" or 30" for beans and 15" or 30" for corn.
 - i. Now to determine population you simply convert the row width from inches to feet by dividing by 12."
 - ii. Then divide the square feet per acre (43,560) by the foot of row. This gives you linear feet
 - iii. Then, take the number of plants you find per foot in the field and multiply by that number to get the ppa.
 - iv. Let's take corn for an example. Thirty-inch rows divided by 12 is 2.5 feet. 43,560 square feet in an acre divided by 2.5 gives us 17,424 linear feet. Now if you get 1 plant in a foot you have 17,424 plants per acre. If you get 2 then you have 34,848. To simplify this you could now take 17,424 and divide by 1,000 to get the number of feet you need to represent 1/1000th of an acre. In this case it would be 17.4 feet. So you could go to the field measure 17.4 feet count the plants multiply by 1,000 and you will have your plants per acre. Do this in several places and you could find the average of the field.
3. Assess the plant evenness in the field. In fact Penn State research suggests that within row unevenness robs 12% of yield while between rows only rob 5% according to his research. At this time one can also assess the stand deviation. For each inch of deviation University research suggests a 2.5-5 bu/inch loss. This is more critical as populations are increased. Most No Till Corn Club participants that shoot for over 300 bu/acre of corn record stand deviations of below 2. A survey of Pa growers by county agents showed an average deviation of 4 so there is some room for improvement.
4. Know the key planting times and relation to yield. This will come into play as stands are deemed inadequate and a replant is in question. We know that planting April 25th for corn is 100%, the 19th of May is 90% and the 29th of May is 80% a full 20 % loss just by delaying the planting date by three weeks. Knowing this allows us to say, "well if I want to replant today May 29th I will lose 20% of my yield and if I don't replant I will only lose 12% so it probably will not pay."

5. What will the loss in population do to pests? Weeds will invade anywhere light is allowed through to the soil. For this reason weeds can over run poor stands and this is one critical issue when considering replants.
6. Review any pesticides applied and re-crop restrictions.
7. Check with dealer to determine policy for replant support.

Source: Delbert Voight, PNST Extension, Email: dgv1@psu.edu, Phone: 717-270-4391

USDA ANNOUNCES THE EXTENSION OF THE MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT PROGRAM FOR 2014



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia recently announced the extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. The extended MILC protects dairy farmers enrolled in the program against income loss through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP), established by the 2014 Farm Bill, is operational.

Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30, 2013, are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 marketings is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

Since MILC payments are limited to a maximum amount of milk production each fiscal year, dairy operations may select a production start month other than October 2013 (the start of fiscal year 2014). Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between April 14, 2014, and May 30, 2014.

Source: USDA/FSA

USDA OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP DATE FOR FARMER AND RANCHER DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced recently that farmers and ranchers can sign-up for disaster assistance programs, reestablished and strengthened by the 2014 Farm Bill, beginning Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Quick implementation of the programs has been a top priority for USDA.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Enrollment also begins on April 15 for producers with losses covered by the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible livestock includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, bison, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on publicly managed land. An eligible livestock producer must own, cash lease, or be a contract grower of eligible livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as D2, D3, or D4.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees have worked exceptionally hard over the past two months to ensure eligible farmers and ranchers would be able to enroll to receive disaster relief on April 15.

Source: USDA/FSA

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 21 **2014 Strawberry Twilight Tour At The Wye**-6 to 8 pm, Wye Research & Education Center, Queenstown, MD, Contact: 410-827-7388 or mnewell@umd.edu
- 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.
- August 6 **2014 Mid-Atlantic Precision Ag Equipment Day**- Wye Research & Education Center, 124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD
- October 23 **100th Anniversary Of Smith-Lever Act Extension Open House**-4 to 7 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Ag Center, Westminster, MD, Contact: 410-386 2760
- February 28 **2015 Maryland Dairy Convention**- FSK Mall Holiday Inn, Frederick, MD

Visit our web site at <http://extension.umd.edu/carroll-county>

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
Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
mbell@umd.edu

Bryan R. Butler, Sr.
Extension Agent
Commercial Horticulture/
Mid-MD Tree Fruit
bbutlers@umd.edu

Steve Allgeier
Extension Educator
Home Horticulture/
Master Gardener Coordinator
hortman@umd.edu

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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.

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