



FARM NOTES

Mid-Winter 2016

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2015 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORTING FORMS MAILED TO FARMERS: AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2015 Annual Implementation Reporting Forms and instructions have been mailed to about 5,500 Maryland farmers who are regulated under the Nutrient Management Program. These farmers are required to manage their farms using nutrient management plans and submit annual reporting forms to the department by March 1, 2016, describing nutrient applications made during calendar year 2015. The forms are also available on the [department's website](#).

New this year, farmers will be asked to provide information on organic materials that have been transported in and out of Maryland. In addition, the section on innovative management practices has been expanded.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should submit **one** combined Reporting Form along with a manure analysis to the Nutrient Management Program.

Farmers should follow these guidelines when completing their Annual Implementation Reporting Forms:

- Use the pre-filled reporting form that was mailed. Additional reporting forms and instructions may be downloaded at mda.maryland.gov.

- Do not leave spaces blank. If nutrients were not applied, write “none applied” or place a zero in the box.
- If the information requested does not apply to your operation, write N/A in the box.
- Use the pre-printed envelope to mail the report by the March 1 deadline.
- Failure to submit the reporting form may result in fines and/or loss of eligibility to receive cost-share funds.

“Nutrient management reporting forms verify that farmers are working to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus from entering local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “I urge all Maryland farmers to complete and mail their reporting forms to the department by the March 1 deadline so that we can fully account for everything that agriculture is doing to protect the Bay from excess nutrients.”

For more information, farmers should contact their [regional nutrient management office](#).

Source: MDA

MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION’S (MEA) MATHIAS AG ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

MEA will provide grants on a competitive basis to farms/businesses in the agricultural sector. Eligible projects include energy efficiency measures and renewable energy measures when done in conjunction with energy efficiency. EnSave is providing technical assistance for applicants which entails answering questions and providing energy savings calculations for proposed projects. For details including the application, program information and other documentation, please visit the 2016 [Mathias Ag Program webpage](#) or contact EnSave at 800-732-1399.

Please note, the application deadline date is January 20, which is rapidly approaching.

Source: MEA

HIGH PATH AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) – ALSO KNOWN AS “BIRD FLU” – IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MARYLAND BY THIS SPRING AT THE LATEST

The Maryland Department of Agriculture hosted a conference call briefing on Thursday, January 7, about high path avian influenza. The department provided an overview of how information will be disseminated during an outbreak in Maryland, and provide an overview of the disease, how it spreads, and an update on preparedness efforts. The call was intended to provide background information and reduce confusion and misunderstanding in the event of an actual high path avian influenza outbreak in Maryland. For more information, or to listen or watch a recording of the Secretaries’ presentation visit: www.mda.maryland.gov/avianflu



Source: MDA

**MANAGING YOUR DAIRY THROUGH FINANCIAL FLUCTUATIONS
CARROLL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

March 8, 2016, 10:30am-2:00 pm

You are in competition with other dairy farms locally, nationally, and internationally. This competitive market drives the economic return to the average farmer to breakeven. This means that top dairy farmers are profitable, average dairy farmers just barely get along, and bottom dairy farmers lose money and will go out of business. Your farm success and survival depends on your continuous improvement to stay in the front of the pack. If you don't constantly improve, then you will just barely get along or go out of business. You have to improve your management faster than other farmers improve their management to stay in business. Maintaining your status quo will lead to failure. This three hour workshop consists of two seminars that will help you improve your management through financially analyzing your past and planning for your future.

Analyzing your past

This seminar will show you how to use your financial records or tax statements to analyze your income and expenses and identify strengths and weaknesses in your dairy farm. Using simple worksheets, you will learn how to calculate your individual expenses on a per cwt and per cow basis to compare to dairy industry averages to see how you stack up against the competition and where you need to focus your management.

Planning for your future

Are you considering a farm expansion or replacement of dairy buildings? Maybe the next generation is going to take over the farm. Perhaps you want to transition into different production methods. If you are going to make a major transition in your dairy farm or need to borrow money for new facilities and equipment, you need to understand the financial implications of these changes. This seminar will show you how to use simple worksheets to do financial projections for changes in your dairy farm. You will be able to determine the changes in profitability and whether or not you will be able to cash flow these changes.

Schedule

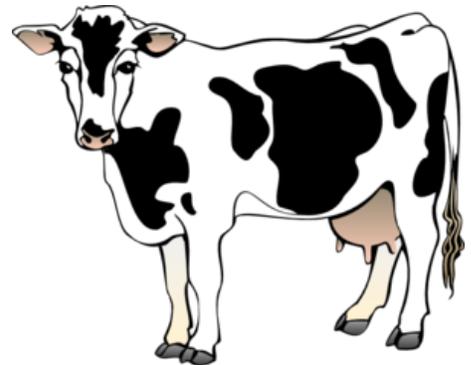
11:00 Analyzing your past

12:00 Lunch provided

12:30 A lenders perspective

1:00 Planning for your future

2:00 Adjourn



The seminar will be presented by Dale Johnson, Farm Management Specialist, University of Maryland Extension at the Carroll County Extension Office on March 8, 2016 at 10:30 am-2:00 pm. Please call to register at 410-386-2760.

Maryland Grain Marketing Workshops

University of Maryland Extension presents Grain Marketing Workshops



Winning the Game:

Launch Your Pre-Harvest Marketing Plan

Do you have a marketing plan or know when to pull the trigger?

This workshop focuses on practicing marketing skills. During the session you will review an actual marketing plan and learn how crop insurance, target dates and target prices can help you more consistently secure a good average crop price. A market simulation game in this workshop demonstrates how a marketing plan can work and how to react to real-life market fluctuations.

If special assistance is required please notify the contact 5 days prior to the meeting.

Registration Fee: \$10 (Includes Morning Refreshments, Lunch and Materials)
Pre-registration is required 3 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Pre-Harvest Marketing Workshops:

January 26th – New Market Fire Hall, Contact Doug Tregoning, 301 590-2809, dwt@umd.edu

February 2nd – Washington County Extension Office, Contact Jeff Semler, 301-791-1304, jsemler@umd.edu

February 9th – Upperco, Friendly Farms, Contact Dave Martin, 410-887-8090, dmarti@umd.edu

March 1st – Carroll County Extension Office, Contact Bryan Butler, 410-386-2760, bbutlers@umd.edu

All workshops will start at 10:00am and end around 2:00pm

Other Grain Marketing Activities:

January 29th - Grain Marketing Breakfast Update – Chesapeake College and Somerset County Extension Office

Grain Marketing Clubs – Queen Anne’s County, Montgomery County

Information, Crop Budgets and Custom Rates – www.extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing

For more information visit: www.extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing

Sponsored By: Maryland Crop Insurance Education Program, Maryland Soybean Board



USDA REMOVES FARM PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO MANAGERS NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FARMING

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provide by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

"The federal farm safety-net programs are designed to protect against unanticipated changes in the marketplace for those who actively share in the risk of that farming operation," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To ensure that help goes to those who genuinely need it, such as America's farm families, the Farm Bill authorized USDA to close a loophole and limit payments from those not involved on a daily basis in nonfamily farm management."

Since 1987, the broad definition of "actively engaged" resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measureable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

This announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill. To learn more about Farm Service Agency, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.



Source: USDA

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2016

The Maryland Nutrient Management Certification Exam will be offered Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the Maryland Department of Agriculture (50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Md.). Individuals who provide nutrient recommendations, professionals who provide technical assistance or are engaged in the development of waste management systems, nursery personnel, and farmers interested in developing nutrient management plans for other farmers are encouraged to take the exam. The cost is \$50; however, government employees and farmers who have previously taken the exam are exempt from the certification fee. To register, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture at (410) 841-5959, or visit mda.maryland.gov (click on Nutrient Management and follow the links to “training classes”).

Source: MDA

2015 ANNUAL REPORTS PUBLISHED

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has published its 2015 annual reports for the Nutrient Management Program and the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program. The reports highlight agriculture’s activities and accomplishments in helping Maryland implement its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. The reports are available on-line at mda.maryland.gov.

Source: MDA

MDA REMINDS CITIZENS NOT TO USE FERTILIZER AS A DE-ICER

Now that winter is finally here, the Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds citizens that Maryland’s Lawn Fertilizer Law prohibits using fertilizer products to de-ice frozen surfaces. When temperatures rise and it rains, fertilizer can easily wash into nearby storm drains and streams that empty into the Chesapeake Bay. Once in our waterways, excess fertilizer contributes to the growth of algae blooms that block sunlight from reaching Bay grasses, rob the water of oxygen and threaten underwater life. The University of Maryland recommends using sand and kitty litter as possible substitutes. For more information, visit <http://extension.umd.edu/learn/melting-ice-safely-fs707>

Source: MDA

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 5 | Carroll County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting- 10 to 2pm, Burns Hall, 706 Agriculture Center, Westminster MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760. |
| February 25 | Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification- 6 to 8 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760. |

- March 1 **MD Grain Marketing Workshop**-10 to 2pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760.
- March 1 **Nutrient Management Voucher Training**-6 to 8 pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760.
- March 3 **Agribusiness Breakfast-Everything Eggs: Production, Marketing and the Avian Flu**-Evan Fogarty, Plant Manager, Sauder's Eggs, Hampstead, MD, 8 to 9am, Baugher's Restaurant, Westminster MD, Must call 410-386-2760 or email mabbott@umd.edu to register.
- March 8 **Managing Your Dairy Through Financial Fluctuations**- 10:30 to 2pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760
- March 10 **2016 Farm Trucking Forum**-9 to 11:30pm, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD, Must call to register at 410-386-2760
- March 15 **Central Maryland GAP Training**, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157, Must register at <http://gap16.eventbrite.com>, for questions email bbutlers@umd.edu
- April 7 **Agribusiness Breakfast-Agriculture Initiatives at the University**-Dr. Craig Beyrouthy, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, 8 to 9am, Baugher's Restaurant, Westminster MD, Must call 410-386-2760 or email mabbott@umd.edu to register.
- May 5 **Agribusiness Breakfast-This Year's Legislative Wrap-Up**-State Senator Justin D. Ready, 8 to 9am, Baugher's Restaurant, Westminster MD, Must call 410-386-2760 or email mabbott@umd.edu to register.
- June 2 **Agribusiness Breakfast-Dairy and Your Diet**-Ann Dicke, Faculty Extension Assistant for 4-H Youth Development, University of Maryland Extension – Carroll County, 8 to 9am, Baugher's Restaurant, Westminster MD, Must call 410-386-2760 or email mabbott@umd.edu to register.

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
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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.