

New Seed Treatment Guide Available

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The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and CropLife America (CLA), two industry leaders in agricultural seed, products, services, and plant science solutions, announced today the release of The Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship, an industry-wide initiative to promote the safe handling and management of treated seed.

Endorsed by the National Corn Growers Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation and the American Soybean Association, The Guide provides farmers and seed companies with critical information and up-to-date guidelines for managing treated seed effectively to further minimize the risk of exposure to non-target organisms.

The Guide contains recommendations for such processes as:

- Planting of Treated Seed
- Safe Use of Seed Treatment Product
- Safe Handling and Transport of Seed
- Selection of Treatment Product
- Treated Seed Labeling
- Storage of Treated Seed

The Seed Treatment Stewardship Guide is available online and in PDF format at www.seed-treatment-guide.com.



Sensitive Crop Locator Launched to Help Pesticide Applicators Avoid Drift

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 26, 2013) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has launched a new online mapping application, called a “Sensitive Crop Locator,” where pesticide applicators can see locations of crops sensitive to pesticide damage so they can take extra precautions to prevent drift, especially from herbicides, when spraying on nearby properties. Crops sensitive to pesticide damage include grapes, tomatoes, organic farms, tobacco, livestock, nurseries, and vegetables, among others. The map is accessed from the MDA website (www.mda.maryland.gov) under “Hot Topics.”

“We are fortunate in Maryland to have a diverse agricultural sector,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “The Sensitive Crop Locator is one of the tools we’ve developed to help strengthen that diversity. I urge all pesticide applicators to reference the Locator Map before spraying pesticides near agricultural lands.”

Information in the statewide map is voluntarily provided by the grower of the sensitive crops. The map includes the name and address of the grower; the type of crop/commodity produced; contact information; and the specific location where each crop is grown.

The website gives applicators the ability to pull up maps and aerial photographs to search for, locate and identify any sensitive/specialty crops in areas where they will be making pesticide applications. The mapping system also has the capability to measure distances and areas.

The database is designed for individuals involved in commercial production. It does not include homeowners who may be growing a sensitive/specialty crop on their own property for their use. Although designed for applicators, it is available to anyone online.

Commercial growers who want their crop and/or commodity listed can submit an application to MDA for each field to be listed on the website. For more information or to obtain an application, contact MDA's Pesticide Regulation Section at: 410-841-5710; or by fax at: 410-841-2765.

Applications are available at: http://www.mda.maryland.gov/Documents/Sensitive_Crop_Locator_Application.pdf

Instructions for completing it are at: http://www.mda.maryland.gov/Documents/Sensitive_Crop_Locator_Instructions.pdf

MDA Announces New Specialty Crop Grant Program; Application Deadline is May 20

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 11, 2013) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced a competitive grant program to fund projects that solely enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops. The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program was established by the 2008 Farm Bill. The grant application deadline is May 20.

MDA will administer grant funds of about \$390,000. Of this amount, food safety, marketing with Maryland's Best, and efficiency of distribution systems will be awarded grants for projects with a minimum level of \$15,000. MDA intends to fund projects that can produce the highest degree of measurable benefits to Maryland specialty crop producers in relation to each dollar spent. Projects need to have support from specialty crop producers. New this year, grants will be reimbursement grants.

Specialty crops are defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. See a comprehensive list of eligible specialty crops online.

MDA is seeking applications from eligible non-profit organizations, government entities, for-profit and organizations for projects that aim to promote or enhance the production of and access to Maryland specialty crops. Applicants must reside or their business or educational affiliation must be in Maryland.

Electronic grant applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 20. Paper applications must be postmarked by May 20.

For questions about the grant application, contact Karen Fedor at Karen.fedor@maryland.gov or 410-841-5773.



Photo by Edwin Remsberg

Cooperative Extension Small Farms Program: High Tunnel Mixed Vegetable Production Workshop

This workshop is geared towards persons interested in high tunnel production in Delaware and season extension in general. The workshop will cover topics such as:

- Starting sweet potato slips in a tunnel to transplant outside
- Demonstration of grafting tomatoes for better yields and disease resistance
- Comparison of five different high tunnels now at the Smyrna Outreach and Research Center, including three that were recently constructed
- Other options for crops in high tunnels
- How to improve results of vegetable production
- Season Extension Strategies

Date: May, 21st 2013 Space is limited; please RSVP by 5-10-13

Time: 5:00pm -8:00pm

Location: Smyrna Outreach and Research Center
(884 Smyrna Leipsic Road Smyrna, DE 19702)

To register & if you have any questions or special needs, please contact Dr. Rose Ogutu at (302) 857-6397 or rogutu@desu.edu, or Jasmine Porter at 302-857-758 or jporter@desu.edu

32nd Annual Maryland 4-H Golf Tournament In honor of Marlin K. Hoff Monday, June 3rd, 2013 Oakmont Green, Hampstead MD

Registration: 11am •• **Tee-off:** 1pm •• **Dinner & Prizes:** 6pm

Cost: \$125 per person. This includes entry into all events, 18 holes of golf, riding cart, lunch, dinner and a chance to win various prizes!

To register visit: www.mymaryland4hfoundation.com or call (301) 314-7835

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2013

April 30, 2013

Grain Marketing Meeting, 6:30 a.m.,
Sudlersville United Methodist Church Sudlersville, MD

May 2013

May 4 & 5, 2013

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD
See www.sheepandwool.org

May 7, 2013

Poultry and Rabbit Processing Certification Training
Eastern Shore Hospital Center, 5262 Woods Rd. Cambridge, MD
For more information contact Sherry Weygant at 410-841-5769 or sherry.veygant@maryland.gov

May 11, 2013

Eastern Shore Spring Show
Queen Anne's 4H Park, Centreville, MD

May 14, 2013

Grain Marketing Meeting, 6:30 a.m.,
Sudlersville United Methodist Church Sudlersville, MD

May 13-17, 2013

Responsible Horse Ownership Week Webinar Series
Please join us for the 2013 University of Maryland webinar series for Responsible Horse Ownership Week. These on-line seminars will be held at noon on each day and recorded for future viewing.

May 17, 2013

NRCS Signup deadline for current year funding for CBWI and EQIP Initiatives - Seasonal High Tunnel, Energy and Organic
Contact your local NRCS office

May 20, 2013 through June 14, 2013

CRP General Signup Contact your local FSA office

May 28, 2013

Grain Marketing Meeting, 6:30 a.m.,
Sudlersville United Methodist Church Sudlersville, MD

May 29, 2013

2013 Strawberry Twilight Meeting
Location: Wye Research & Educ. Ctr., Queenstown, MD
Time: 6:00-8:00 PM
Contact: (410) 827-7388 or mnewell@umd.edu

May 30, 2013

Wheat Field Day, hosted by Eddie Mercer Agri-Service
Speakers from UMD, MDA and Syngenta
7801 Biggs Ford Rd. Frederick, MD
For more information contact Shelly at 301-663-4678

June 2013

June 17 & 18, 2013

Fundamentals of Nutrient Management
MDA- Annapolis, Maryland

June 21 & 22, 2013

64th Delmarva Chicken Festival
Byrd Park Snow Hill, Maryland

June 24, 2013

MDA Cover Crop Signup Starts

Fairs

July 18-21, 2013- Kent County Fair

July 19-27, 2013- Cecil County Fair

August 12-17, 2013- Queen Anne's County Fair

August 23-September 2, 2013- Maryland State Fair

Local Farmers Markets

Cecil County-

Main Street Northeast, MD every Friday 2-6 p.m. starting May 10, 2013
www.cecilbusiness.org- contact Joanne Richart-Young at 410-996-6292 or jrichart@ccgov.org

Kent County--

Fountain Park, Downtown Chestertown, MD every Saturday 8a.m. until 1 p.m.
www.chestertownfarmersmarket.net

Railroad Ave. Millington, MD every Saturday 9-noon starting June 1 thru Aug 31
info@millingtonhardware.com

Queen Anne's County-

Lawyers Row, Centreville, MD every Wed. 3-7 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. starting April 27, 2013
[www. http://cmdfarmersmarket.com](http://www.cmdfarmersmarket.com)

830 Romancoke Rd. Stevensville, MD Thursdays 3:30-6:30 p.m.
www.kentislandfarmersmarket.com

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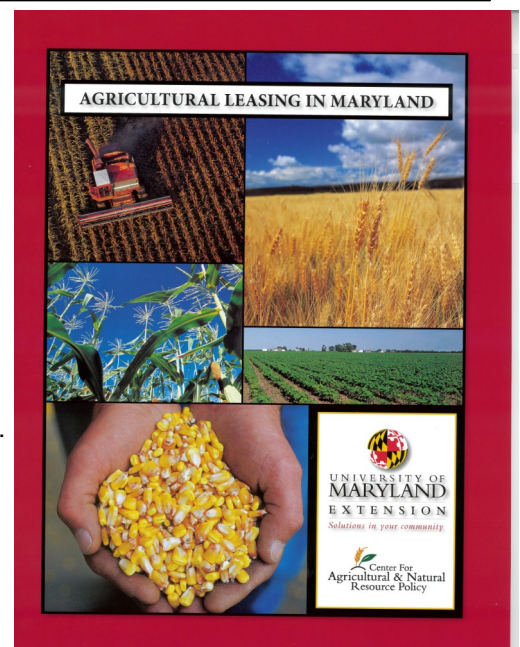
Cecil County ~ Doris Behnke at 410.996.5280 or dbehnke@umd.edu

Kent County ~ Jay Douthit at 410.778.1661 or jdouthit@umd.edu

Queen Anne's County ~ Jennifer Rhodes at 410.758.0166 or jrhodes@umd.edu

Agricultural Leasing in Maryland

According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Survey (NASS), agricultural producers lease over 42 percent of all agricultural land in Maryland or 865,692 acres in 2007 (Ag Census 2007). A new 42 page booklet had been published by The University of Maryland dealing specifically with agricultural leases in Maryland. Included in the booklet is an overview of what is considered a legal lease, different types of leases, renewal and termination of leases, and other considerations. For example, while typical leases are oral, written leases provide a better understanding between the landowner and tenant. Also included in the booklet are various sample leases. The booklet is available in local UME offices. An electronic copy can be accessed through the UME Grain Marketing website's new address:
<http://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing>



***In the interest of conserving our environmental resources, we would like to send our monthly newsletter via email. If you are able to receive our email electronically, please contact your county office and share your email address.
Thank you for helping to preserve our environment.***