Maryland Beef Producers Series III has been Announced!

The Maryland Beef Producers Series is back once again! This year the series will focus on pasture development and management. This one day workshop will cover various aspects of good pasture development and management in both a classroom style and hands-on outdoor environment. Participants are encouraged to bring fresh plants (weeds, forages, etc) that they need help identifying, as well as forage and soil analysis reports that they need help interpreting.

Topics to be covered include: soil fertility, setting up a pasture system, common forages, weeds and weed management, extending the grazing season - using annuals and cover crops, matching forages with animal nutrition, and cost-share programs that may be available.

This workshop is open to the first 30 registrations. **Registration cost is $35**; includes lunch and all educational resources. You may register on [Eventbrite](#) or by mail. Applications are available [here](#). Please mail check to: University of Maryland, Attn: Rachel Slattery, 3101 Animal Sciences Center, College Park, MD 20742.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Maryland</td>
<td>Friday, April 3, 2020 8:45am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Washington County Ext Office 7303 Sharpsburg Pike Boonsboro, MD 21713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Maryland</td>
<td>Friday, April 17, 2020 8:45am-3:30pm</td>
<td>St. Mary’s County Ext Office 26737 Radio Station Way Leonardtown, MD 20650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Shore</td>
<td>Friday, May 1, 2020 8:45am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Wye Angus 2016 Carmichael Rd Queenstown, MD 21658</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Maryland</td>
<td>Friday, May 15, 2020 8:45am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Harford County Ext Office 3525 Conowingo Rd Street, MD 21154</td>
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</table>

For more information contact Rachel Slattery at rslatt@umd.edu or 301-405-1392.
2020 Commercial Vegetable Recommendations

The 2020 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendation Guide is now available from our website. You can also purchase a hard copy through Penn State ($25). If you do not have internet access and would like a particular section of the guide, call the Extension office and we can print it for you.

This vegetable production guide is intended for the commercial vegetable grower who has to make numerous managerial decisions. Although the proper choices of variety, pesticides, equipment, irrigation, fertilizer, and cultural practices are the individual vegetable grower’s responsibility, it is intended that these recommendations will facilitate decision-making. Recommended planting dates will vary across the six-state region. Local weather conditions, grower experience, and variety may facilitate successful harvest on crops planted outside the planting dates listed in this guide. This can be evaluated in consultation with the local agents and state specialists.

Reminder: Sign Up for ARC of PLC by March 16th

Jim Eichhorst, State Executive Director in Maryland, USDA Farm Service Agency

The clock is ticking... March 16th is the last day to make what is likely one of the most important business decisions you will make for your farming operation this year.

If you have not already visited your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office to make your election for either the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program and to sign your annual enrollment contract, you should call and make your appointment now.

Many of you are gearing up to head to the field for spring planting, but I cannot stress enough the importance of not letting this deadline get lost in the hectic day-to-day obligations of farm life. If you fail to enroll for 2019 ARC or PLC, you will be ineligible to receive a payment for the 2019 crop year. ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms. These programs cover 20 commodities produced in the U.S. FSA anticipates more than 1.7 million producers will enroll in ARC or PLC – that’s a lot of producers to assist in a short period of time.

Want to maximize your time visiting with FSA? Inquire about deadlines and options for also enrolling in 2020 ARC or PLC and updating PLC payment yields. Our staff will help you make the most out of your visit or set you up with a future appointment to help check FSA programs off your lengthy “to do” list.

If you’re still unsure about the choice of ARC or PLC, we offer online decision tools to help you determine the best program election for your farming operation. To access these tools, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Call FSA today for an appointment.

To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator. We know that time is money... so make the time to avoid losing the money.
Integrated Weed Management Workshop

When: Monday, March 23, 2020
Time: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Where: Frederick Co. Extension Office
330 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD 21703
Cost: FREE

This workshop is for farmers interested in learning how to use integrated weed management (IWM) techniques to control troublesome weeds in their fields.

Education regarding weed identification and integrated management strategies continues to be critically important to enable early intervention and effective management options. With many problematic herbicide resistant weeds now found throughout the region it is essential that farmers learn the key techniques to control current resistant weeds and prevent future issues.

Lunch will be provided. Pesticide (commercial and private) and CCA continuing education credits will be offered.

Please Register by calling the Frederick County Extension Office at 301-600-3576.
Federal Estate Tax and Gift Tax Limits Announced for 2020
Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland

In November 2019, the IRS announced the revised federal estate tax and gift tax limits for 2020. The federal estate tax limit rises from $11.4 million in 2019 to $11.58 million in 2020. The federal gift tax limit will remain at $15,000 in 2020. In Maryland, state estate tax limits will stay at $5 million.

Federal Estate Taxes

For 2020, the federal estate tax limit increases to $11.58 million for an individual and $23.16 million for a couple. A deceased person owes federal estate taxes on a taxable estate. The taxable estate is the gross estate minus allowable expenses and deductions. For more information see, Lynch, Goeringer, and Musser, Estate Planning for Maryland Farm Families: Updated for 2014 (FS-972, 2014).

For example, a farm couple has a taxable estate of $24 million and passes away in 2020. The couple’s heirs would be able to exempt up to $23.16 million from federal estate taxes and only owe federal estate taxes on $840,000. Since the federal estate tax rate is 40 percent, the heirs would owe $336,000 in federal estate taxes.

One last note on federal estate taxes: a surviving spouse has an unlimited marital deduction, and the surviving spouse can include the predeceasing spouse’s unused federal estate tax limit in their federal estate tax limit. This concept is known as portability, and more on it is here.

Federal Gift Tax Limit

Federal tax law allows each taxpayer to gift up to $15,000 to one individual without incurring federal gift taxes. The federal gift tax limit remains at $15,000 in 2020. This exemption is tied to inflation, but can only increase to the nearest $1,000 amount.

Maryland Estate Tax Limit

In 2018, Maryland’s state estate tax exemption was set at $5 million and will remain at $5 million until changed by the General Assembly. For a couple in Maryland, the state estate tax exemption would be $10 million. In 2018, the General Assembly allowed for portability of unused Maryland estate tax exemption, similar to federal portability. The maximum tax rate is 16 percent, and the Maryland inheritance tax remains unchanged.

In 2012, the state of Maryland created a unique program for qualifying agricultural property which exempts up to the first $5 million of qualified agricultural property from Maryland estate taxes. The agricultural property must remain in agriculture for the next ten years to be eligible. To learn more about this program, see Lynch, Goeringer, and Musser.

How Does This Impact You?

Benjamin Franklin once wrote, “In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” With that in mind, farm families concerned about hitting the top federal estate tax exemption or the state estate tax exemption need to begin working on a farm succession and estate plan to limit potential estate taxes down the road. Working with a tax advisor early on can help limit your taxes and devise a tax plan to keep the farm in operation for future generations. Failure to properly plan can force surviving family members to sell family assets to pay taxes on the inheritance. Along with a tax advisor, consider working with additional team members, such as an attorney and financial planner, to begin developing the family’s farm succession plan.

For those who need to develop estate tax plans, you might want to discuss with your farm succession team members if the increases in the estate tax limits impact your plan. Although this change may not affect your succession plan, it might allow you an opportunity to discuss other changes in the farming operation over the past year.
**Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference 2020**

**When:** April 7-8, 2020  
**Where:** Delta Hotels- Hunt Valley  
245 Shawan Rd.  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031  
**Cost:** $20-$150 before March 15th  

The Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference represents the formal collaboration between land grant institutions and industries in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey. Our commitment is to provide up-to-date application science for the animal feeding industry.

**New for 2020**, a Sheep and Goat session will join our Companion Animal, Poultry, and Equine program on April 8th. We are proud to bring programs that are unique to our region. Our committees have worked hard to put together a stellar group of presenters and topics for each breakout session. The Maryland Veterinary Medical Board has approved 6 continuing education credits to vet and vet tech attendees.

Registration includes admission to all of the sessions, the social hour on April 7th, and a group luncheon on April 8th. A one day registration option is available for April 8th.

Register Online at [http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/mid-atlantic-nutrition-conference](http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/mid-atlantic-nutrition-conference)

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**Equine Groom Course**

**April 6-10, 2020 • 8:30 am– 3:30 pm**

University of Maryland Extension with Baltimore County 4-H is offering a program that will educate, train and prepare youth for college/career options in the equine industry. The course is open to youth aged 14-18 and capped at a class capacity of 12 individuals.

All courses in the program will be led by University of Maryland Extension faculty, as well as industry experts. Baltimore County has a growing horse industry and has a need for qualified persons to fill related careers. The goal of the course is to equip youth with the skills necessary to groom and maintain horses.

The course will run 8:30 am- 3:30pm from **April 6-10, 2020**. Each session will be have a hands-on lecture in the morning and a farm visit each afternoon.

Youth that complete ALL sessions of the course will earn a certificate of completion. Registration:$15 non-refundable upon acceptance. Register at [https://equinegroom2020.eventbrite.com](https://equinegroom2020.eventbrite.com) or call (410) 887-8090.

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**Baltimore County Weed Control Program**

As a service to the County residents, the Baltimore County Weed Control Program, in cooperation with Baltimore County Soil Conservation District and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, operates a weed control program to assist farmers, developers, landowners, and local agencies to control noxious weeds and other invasive species.

Noxious weeds threaten the productive land of farmers and can cause unsightly and unwanted problems on private and public lands. Currently, The Agriculture Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland declares thistles, johnsongrass, and shattercane to be the State’s noxious weeds.

The Baltimore County Weed Control Program can provide spot spraying with approved herbicides on a fee-for service basis. Landowners or managers who fail to control noxious weeds can be prosecuted by the State’s Attorney with fines not to exceed $1,000.

For more information and hourly rates call **The Baltimore County Weed Control Program at 443-895-9455**.

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**Basic GAP Workshop Offered**

**March 17,2020 • 8:00 am– 4:00 pm.**

**Baltimore County Ag Center**  
114 Shawan Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030  

Maryland Department of Agriculture will be hold another Basic Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training in Baltimore County on March 17th.

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone who is interested in developing a good safety plan to increase operational efficiency, you are looking to learn more about how microbes live and interact with farm environments, or you have a potential buyer that requires GAP certification.

**Cost:** $20  

Register Online [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-basic-gap-basic-good-agricultural-practices-training-31720-tickets-83227103507](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-basic-gap-basic-good-agricultural-practices-training-31720-tickets-83227103507)

For more information on these certification programs, contact Deanna Baldwin with the Maryland Department of Agriculture at Deanna.baldwin@maryland.gov or 410-841-5769.
DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee/Registration Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Dicamba Certification. 10am-11am. FREE. Cockeysville, MD. Call 410-887-8090</td>
<td>Cockeysville, MD</td>
<td>Call 410-887-8090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Paraquat Training. 11:30am-12:30pm. FREE. Cockeysville, MD. Call 410-887-8090</td>
<td>Cockeysville, MD</td>
<td>Call 410-887-8090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 8</td>
<td>Future Harvest Lamming Workshop. 10am-1pm. $20-$40. New Windsor, MD.</td>
<td>New Windsor, MD</td>
<td>Register <a href="#">Eventbrite</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>New Pesticide Private Applicator Training. 9am-11am. Street, MD. Exam on March 18. Call 410-638-3255</td>
<td>Street, MD</td>
<td>Call 410-638-3255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>Pesticide Private Applicator Recertification. 1pm-3pm. Street, MD.</td>
<td>Street, MD</td>
<td>Call 410-638-3255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>Basic GAP Workshop. 8am-4pm. $20. Cockeysville, MD. Call 410-841-5769</td>
<td>Cockeysville, MD</td>
<td>Call 410-841-5769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>Integrated Weed Management Workshop. 8am-1pm. FREE. Frederick, MD. Call 301-600-3576.</td>
<td>Frederick, MD</td>
<td>Call 301-600-3576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>Farmers Markets Workshop. 9am-2:30pm. $35. Cockeysville, MD. Call 301-432-2767 ext.338.</td>
<td>Cockeysville, MD</td>
<td>Call 301-432-2767 ext.338</td>
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