Greetings!

I hope you are finding creative ways to stay cool and safe during this crazy time. As we continue down the road to recovery from the many closures due to the coronavirus, we need to remain vigilant and try not to make the process happen too quickly.

The Extension Office has been closed since March. We are working towards getting back into the office a few days a week. We will be available by appointment only as soon as we can meet the University requirements for returning to the office. Remember that we are all still here for you. Our office phone number is forwarded to a burner phone, and everyone in our office is still available by email.

Stay Safe and Happy Farming!

Sincerely,

Doris Behnke
Senior Agent Associate
Agriculture/Horticulture
Master Gardener Coordinator
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DEPARTMENT ISSUES ADVISORY REGARDING UNSOLICITED PACKAGES OF SEEDS FROM CHINA

(July 28, 2020) The Maryland Department of Agriculture is aware that people across the country, including in Maryland, have received unsolicited packages of seeds from China in recent days. MDA is working closely with its partners at USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to monitor this situation.

If you live in Maryland and have received a package of seeds that you did not order, please report them immediately to the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Plant Protection and Weed Management program at ppwm.mda@maryland.gov or 410-841-5920.

Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until MDA or USDA APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant any seeds from unknown origins.

More information on this investigation is available from USDA APHIS.
With the summer coming to a close it’s time to start thinking about fall manure/organic nutrient applications. The Maryland Department of Agriculture defines the time period of fall as September 10th to December 15th. Fall manure/organic nutrient applications must follow a few key differences than those applications that occur in the spring or summer.

- The maximum rate of manure/organic nutrients that can be applied is a rate that provides 50lbs/PAN/ac.
- If manure/organic nutrients are applied to any fields, a fall-seeded crop must be planted. A person making a fall application of a manure/organic nutrient to fallow cropland must plant a cover crop as soon as possible after application. The cover crop planting must occur no later than November 15th.

Just like spring and summer applications, these applications MUST be accounted for in an operations nutrient management plan. To write the plan a manure/organic nutrient analysis is needed for each distinct manure/organic type or manure/organic mixture to be spread.

An analysis is required when:
- A >20 animal unit (1 animal unit = 1,000 lbs) operation spreads manure generated within the operation.
- A >25 acre operation spreads imported manure/organic nutrients.

If operations lie beneath these thresholds then manure/organic nutrient testing may not be needed. Contact your nutrient management consultant for clarification on this. Whether or not testing is required the source (name and address of the operation) of imported manure must be provided. If you plan to spread manure/organic nutrients on your operation this fall and they are not already accounted for in your plan, contact your nutrient management consultant ASAP to have an addendum written.

For the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s full nutrient application requirements please visit:  

For additional information on all manure/organic nutrient sampling and testing, please visit:  
https://extension.umd.edu/learn/3-manure-sampling-and-testing

Jenna Talbot  
Nutrient Management Advisor for Cecil and Kent Counties  
Email: jtalbot@umd.edu
A free, online series entitled “Investing in Your Farm’s Future” will begin on Thursday, August 6 and will run for four consecutive Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30PM. Topics include “Retirement Planning” (August 6), “Health Insurance in Later Years” (August 13), “Business Planning and Communications” (August 20), and “Legal Topics, Planning Tools and Finding the Right Team” (August 27).

The series is free but registration is required. You may register for any or all of the sessions offered. To register, visit https://go.umd.edu/5Qv. This series is a collaborative effort between University of Maryland Extension, College of AGNR, Maryland Department of Agriculture, University of Delaware Extension and UMD Agriculture Law Education Initiative.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED MARYLAND HEMP FARMING PROGRAM

July 28, 2020 /Sarah Everhart

(excerpt) Changes in Maryland’s hemp growing program are on the horizon - the Maryland Department of Agriculture recently announced proposed regulations to establish a licensing program for agricultural hemp production. This post will provide background on the current hemp farming legal framework and provide an overview of the proposed Maryland hemp farming regulations, which are scheduled to become effective on November 1, 2020. This post was created with research and writing assistance from the Russell Brinsfield summer interns, Harry Huntley (University of Maryland, College of Ag and Natural Resources, 2020) and Elizabeth Johnson (University of Maryland Francis K. Carey School of Law, 2022).

To read the complete post, click here.

For more information about hemp production, contact Dr. Andrew Ristvey, University of Maryland Extension, Senior Agent, at aristvey@umd.edu or Dr. Nicole Fiorellino, University of Maryland, Assistant Professor & Extension Agronomy Specialist, at nfiorell@umd.edu.
MASTERING MARKETING
Agritourism Operations and Liability Concerns this Fall Season

With so many concerns for the Fall agritourism season, here is an informative podcast that helps outline how to mediate some of the risks of hosting events this Fall season. While Marylanders must follow Governor Hogan’s mandates about group gatherings, staying informed about how vendors in other states are addressing Covid-19 protocols for group gatherings can help make more informed decisions as the Fall season approaches.

Link to podcast: [http://agnetwest.com/developing-a-waiver-of-liability-for-on-farm-tours-and-other-activities/](http://agnetwest.com/developing-a-waiver-of-liability-for-on-farm-tours-and-other-activities/)

The University of Maryland Agricultural Law Education Initiative has an excellent library of articles. These articles address the legal concerns of Agritourism enterprises and their liability risk.

Link to library: [http://umaglaw.org/publications-library/](http://umaglaw.org/publications-library/)

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Episode 714 Aired: 06/16/20

[https://www.pbs.org/video/episode-714-7j8m7d/](https://www.pbs.org/video/episode-714-7j8m7d/)

In this special episode, we take a look at how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting agriculture. We begin by speaking to Jason Scott of Walnut Hill Farms, Jenny Rhodes of Deerfield Farm, and Katie Dotterer-Pyle of Cow Comfort Inn Dairy about the pandemic’s impact on their grain, poultry, and dairy operations. Next, we travel to Graul’s Market in Cape St. Claire, Maryland to see how local farms supply produce that keeps grocery store shelves full and visit Godfrey’s Farm to learn how farmers keep our food safe. Then, on The Local Buy, Al Spoler visits Waverly Farmers Market in Baltimore to learn how markets are adapting to new social distancing rules so they can still provide healthy, farm fresh food. Al also talks to David and Emily Hochheimer from Black Rock Orchard and Tony Brusco of South Mountain Creamery about how their businesses have changed.

Have a plant or pest question? University of Maryland Extension’s experts have answers!

Questions are answered by Home and Garden Information Center’s Certified Professional Horticulturists.

“... We work to grow awareness and understanding of agriculture through education.”