Dear Cecil County Ag Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. I wish you all the best of luck with your family business as our Governor continues to lift the restrictions that have been put on all of us in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Continue to check our website and our Facebook page for various types of information and resources to help improve our community.

Sincerely,

Doris Behnke
Senior Agent Associate
Agriculture/Horticulture
Master Gardener Coordinator
dbehnke@umd.edu
410.996.8135

But good news—you can still have access to the 2020 Strawberry Booklet to see the latest research!

You can also view the 2020 Strawberry Booklet on our website: go.umd.edu/wrec.
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Knowing that nutrients in manure are being applied at the rate you expect is an important part of nutrient management. Equipment that is not applying at the rate you think it is can also be costly.

Calibrating equipment will give you peace of mind that you know exactly what you have applied. Equipment should be recalibrated when equipment settings, ground speed, or consistency of a nutrient product varies from the original calibration.

Should you ever have an implementation review by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) documentation of equipment calibration must be made available. This documentation must include any of the necessary calculations to demonstrate that the nutrient rate was determined. There are two common methods for calibrating manure application equipment: the weight-area method and the load-area method.

The weight-area method is appropriate when dealing with heavier solid and semi solid manure. It involves spreading manure on a collection surface of known dimensions, weighing the manure on the collection surface, and calculating the application rate. The application rate is then converted to a per-acre basis.

The load-area method is appropriate for liquid and solid manures and poultry litter. It involves spreading several loads of manure on a field, measuring the area, and then calculating the manure application rate for that area. The application rate is then converted to a per-acre basis.

The University of Maryland Extension has several helpful documents on just how to use these methods for calibrating your equipment. These also include worksheets for calculating your results.

Please visit the links below for further information. If you have any additional questions about manure spreader calibration, about the documents below or for assistance with calibration, contact your county nutrient management advisor.

For calibrating your equipment using the weight-area method:

For calibrating your equipment using the load-area method (with Drive-on Scales):

For calibrating your equipment using the load-area method (with estimation of density and load weight):

For calibrating a liquid manure spreader using the load-area method:
**Online Private Applicator Recertification Course Available**

University of Maryland Extension has an online private applicator recertification course for those that did not get a chance to attend a renewal course during their license cycle. The instructions, video, and form can be found by clicking this link: [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/Asynchronous%20On-Line%20PAT%20Recertification%20Course%20&%20Attendance%20Form%202020%20Myers.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/Asynchronous%20On-Line%20PAT%20Recertification%20Course%20&%20Attendance%20Form%202020%20Myers.pdf)

If you have any questions, contact R. David Myers, Principal Agriculture Agent in Anne Arundel County, myersrd@umd.edu | 410 222-3906.

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**Earn Nutrient Management Continuing Education Credits Online**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Program reminds farmers and certified nutrient management consultants that it offers several educational programs online that qualify for nutrient management continuing education credits.

Please visit the website, [https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/asynchronous.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/asynchronous.aspx) for a list of courses.

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As tick season is starting to ramp up, now would be a great time for producers to check over their cattle for ticks.

With that in mind, we’ve developed a handy guide to help producers know where and how to look.

If you have any questions about ticks, or tick populations in Maryland, please contact Dr. Megan Fritz via email at: mfritz13@umd.edu.
The agricultural community has had to quickly adapt to the legal and other impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The ALEI team has been working to develop resources to help address some of these issues. Information about contracts, labor, insurance, and other information is now available on the ALEI website at http://umaglaw.org/legal-resources/covid-19-resources/.

This page will be updated regularly as more resources are created to address this evolving situation.

USDA has recently announced a new program to provide assistance to growers and livestock producers who ace price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. The new Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will begin to signup on May 26 and close on August 28th. See https://www.farmers.gov/cfap from USDA.

CFAP will provide support to eligible livestock, wool, dairy, non-specialty crop, and specialty crop producers. The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the University of Maryland Extension has developed resources to assist growers to better understand CFAP. The following resources have been developed:

Beef Producers Infographic from UME is available here.

Dairy and Beef Producers: Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP): What Dairy and Beef Producers Need to Know, Sarah B. Potts, University of Maryland Extension, 2020.

Dairy Producers Infographic from UME is available here.

General overview: New Coronavirus Food Assistance Program May Provide Relief to Maryland Growers Due to COVID-19 Losses, Paul Goeringer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2020.

Make sure you schedule an appointment with your county FSA office or fill out the online application before the end of the signup period.