Greetings!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well! As we manage our everyday lives wearing masks, and worrying about what we touched or who is getting too close to us, we forget how lucky we are. Count your blessings every day!

If you need assistance from our Extension Office, reach out, 410-996-5280; we will do our best to help you in any way that we can!

Also, take your aggressions out on that Invasive Spotted Lanternfly! This can give you real satisfaction knowing that there is one less invasive insect alive. **KILL ALL of THEM!!!**

**See it, Kill it, Report It!** Call MDA to report a sighting, 410.841.5920.

Sincerely,

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

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**Spotted Lanternfly Management for Residents**

A guide that reviews the identification, life cycle, current distribution, and techniques for managing spotted lanternfly on your property.

[https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly](https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly)

**KEY PLANT HOSTS OF SLF THROUGHOUT THE GROWING SEASON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Adults</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rose (cultivated, multiflora, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grape (wild and cultivated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree-of-heavens</td>
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<td>Black Walnut, butternut</td>
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<td>River Birch</td>
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<td>Willow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver maple</td>
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**Subscribe** to our new Cecil County Extension E-Newsletter. This newsletter contains current information on all of our program areas.
The Fall Soil Nitrate Test (FSNT) is a tool for producers to use when determining whether additional nitrogen application is needed for their fall wheat and barley grain. MDA regulations that became effective in October 2012 require farmers that plant wheat and barley for grain production test for soil nitrate concentration before they may apply nitrogen in the fall. Soil samples for the FSNT should be taken prior to planting the fall crop. These samples may be analyzed at your UMD extension office or one of the commercial soil testing labs.

**How to collect a soil sample for the FSNT:**

1) Collect 15 – 20 soil cores at a depth of 8 inches across each field or management unit. Collecting the samples within 2 weeks of the intended planting date is recommended.
2) Put all of the soil cores in a clean plastic bucket and mix thoroughly.
3) Collect a sub-sample (approximately 1 cup) by scooping soil from several different locations in the bucket.
4) Spread soil in a thin layer on clean plastic or paper and allow to dry. Use of a fan is acceptable to help with drying but never use a microwave or conventional oven to dry soil.
5) Place soil in a soil test bag or a plastic bag, labeling the bag with field name and grower information.
6) Send or deliver the sample to your chosen testing location.

If you would like to have your sample analyzed by the UMD extension offices in Cecil, Kent or Queen Anne’s counties please contact Jenna Talbot.

**Additional information about the FSNT and further information on sample collection can be found here:** [https://go.umd.edu/5ES](https://go.umd.edu/5ES)

Jenna Talbot
Nutrient Management Advisor for Cecil and Kent Counties
Email: jtalbot@umd.edu

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The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is accepting applications for the Farming for Healthy Soil Program. This three-year program begins this fall and provides financial assistance to farmers for implementing soil health practices on their farm.

The [application form](https://extension.umd.edu/news/soil-health-grant-available-farmers) should be submitted to Kevin Antoszewski, MDA Healthy Soils Program Coordinator, at kevin.antoszewski@maryland.gov. For questions, contact Kevin (email is preferred, but a voicemail can be left at 410-841-5866) or Kelly Nichols, University of Maryland Extension Ag Agent, at 301-600-3577 or kellyn@umd.edu.

This year, the Cecil County Harvest Dinner is going virtual!

We are working with several restaurants across the county to create a county-wide, multi-day event.

We are partnering with local restaurants that would like to participate in our virtual Harvest Celebration taking place September 21-24, 2020, (Maryland Restaurant Week).

These restaurants will commit to purchasing local products from our farmers here in Cecil County and add locally sourced meals to their menus.

We encourage county residents to order take-out and support local restaurants and our local farmers.

For more information, visit foodiececil.com, @cecilcountyag, or contact Maureen O'Shea, Ag Coordinator, Cecil County Office of Economic Development, MOShea@ccgov.org (410) 996-8469

Breakfast with the Food Safety Group
Weekdays 7:00 am - 10:00 am!

We are offering virtual office hours from 7:00 - 10:00 am.

Carol Allen can be reached at 301-405-7543 on Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings.

Angela Ferelli can be reached at 301-405-8922 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Call in with your questions about food safety for fresh produce! Keep track of what is happening in produce safety, find cool resources and view the newsletter at Food Safety Group Website, https://psla.umd.edu/extension/produce-safety
Are you interested in installing solar photovoltaics (PV) on your farm?

If so, you'll want to join this weekly free webinar series, designed for farmers, landowners, and agricultural service providers across the state, to address some of the opportunities and challenges associated with on-farm solar PV. The information and resources provided here can help you to sustainably implement solar PV on your farm.

For more information and to register, visit

https://extension.umd.edu/events/wed-2020-09-30-1300-marylands-solar-market

and


New USDA Survey to Measure Areas for Improvement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at farmers.gov/survey.

This survey is part of the President’s Management Agenda. It requires High Impact Service Provider agencies across the federal government, including FSA and NRCS, to conduct annual surveys to measure and respond to areas needing improvement.

The survey consists of 20 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated. The survey will be open for at least six weeks and will be closed once USDA receives a 30% response rate.

Learn more and take the survey at www.farmers.gov/survey.

NASS Releases Delaware and Maryland Cash Rental Rate Averages for 2020

Paul Goeringer, August 13, 2020

(excerpt) USDA’s National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) updated data on cash rent paid by farmers in 2020. NASS collects this data from 240,000 farms across the United States annually through the Cash Rent Survey - data used by other agencies throughout USDA. The survey results give us an idea of what other tenants in the area may be paying per acre for farmland.

NASS will release county cash rental rates later in August for 2020. For last year’s average cash rents, see (https://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing/lease-agreements). For more information on farmland leasing, see the “Lease Agreements” section of UME’s Grain Marketing website.

To read the complete blog, as well as other blogs, visit https://www.agrisk.umd.edu/

Data on cash rental rates is also available online through Quick Stats, NASS’s agricultural statistics database at: www.quickstats.nass.usda.gov/

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