

# Lower Eastern Shore Agriculture Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF  
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EXTENSION



AGNR - Agriculture and Natural Resources

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## Welcome Aboard

**Maegan Perdue** has accepted the position of Agent Associate – Agriculture with the University of Maryland Extension in Worcester County. She began her new position on February 19, 2018. She served as a nutrient management advisor in Somerset County for 10 years. During that time, she also served as the interim nutrient management advisor for Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Maegan grew up on a poultry farm in Wicomico County where she also raised livestock. She was involved in 4-H as a youth and received her Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture in 2006. She has been a 4-H volunteer since 2008 and many of her club members have competed in the Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon. Maegan's focus areas will be livestock and pasture. Her office is located in Worcester County, but she will serve the lower shore cluster. Feel free to contact her with any agriculture questions or program needs you have.

**Manish Poudel** joined the University of Maryland Extension - lower shore cluster as an agriculture extension agent with a focus on commercial fruits and vegetables. He is located in the Wicomico Office and will be serving the region.

Prior to joining the University of Maryland Extension, Manish was working as a certified crop advisor in South Florida. He was responsible for production and management of large scale vegetable and fruit crops for multiple clients. He was also involved in research and development functions of large scale contract research projects. Manish also worked as a researcher for the University of California in Riverside with major responsibilities in developing and implementing research studies for integrated management of Asian citrus psyllid in southern CA. Manish graduated with a M.S degree in Entomology from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (2013). He plans to work together with growers in the lower eastern shore sharing ideas on commercial production of fruits and vegetables, integrated pest management and sustainable agriculture.

## **FSNE Farm to School**

### **Making Connections From the Farm to School**

“Farm to School” describes efforts to create connections between students and their families, the food they eat, and the farmers that grow it. When children experience where food comes from, they develop positive relationships with fresh healthy foods. Engaging parents and caregivers in farm to school activities better equips them to look for affordable local food options in their community.

A successful farm to school program encompasses the cafeteria, classroom, and the community. In the classrooms, children learn where their food comes from, and in many classrooms in Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset, students are tasting locally grown foods through the Maryland SNAP-Ed program (FSNE). During lessons, students receive nutrition education and sample foods and recipes featuring local ingredients.

There are many benefits to eating locally grown foods, including increasing access to tasty and affordable healthy foods for families. Farmer visits to the classroom, field trips to farmers’ markets, and partnering with local farms to create healthy fundraisers build connections between schools, farmers, and the community. These activity can help students and their families develop skills and knowledge to eat a variety of healthy foods, including fruits and vegetables, on a limited budget.

FSNE provides nutrition education complementing farm to school, helps create school gardens and growing spaces, promotes local foods on the cafeteria line, and supports activities that connect families to local food resources in the community. Community connections make these efforts successful. If you are farmer that is able to share your talents and knowledge by visiting a classroom, please contact Lynn Matava (Wicomico) at 410-749-6141 or Erin Morgan (Worcester and Somerset) at 410-632-1972. Classroom visits are eligible for compensation.

### **Nutrient Management Advisor Interim Coverage for Wicomico and Somerset Counties**

As many of you have already heard, Maegan Perdue has accepted another position with the University of Maryland Extension. Currently, we are seeking nutrient management advisors for Somerset and Wicomico counties. During this time, advisors from other counties will be providing interim coverage. Craig Yohn will be covering Wicomico County. He will be in that office on Thursdays. If you need a nutrient management plan update, please call the Wicomico County Extension Office at 410-749-6141 to schedule an appointment. Jose Prieto-Figueroa will be covering Somerset County. He will be in that office on Tuesdays. If you need a nutrient management plan update, please call the Somerset County Extension Office at 410-651-1350 to schedule an appointment.

For many farmers, the current weather has not been favorable for taking soil samples. Soil samples are good for three years. If you need soil samples for your 2018 nutrient management plan update, please get them as soon as possible. As always, please air dry them prior to putting them in the paper soil bags and label them clearly with your name, the farm name and field number. In many cases, you can reference the maps in the 2017 plan as a guide. If you have any questions regarding soil sampling, please contact your nutrient management advisor prior to collecting the samples. Soil sampling supplies are available at each county office.

## Nutrient Management Advisor Positions for Wicomico & Somerset Counties

Nutrient management advisors needed for Wicomico and Somerset county offices of University of Maryland Extension. Qualified individuals will develop nutrient management plans for agricultural producers to balance nutrient inputs with crop requirements, thus enhancing production potential, improving farm profitability, reducing excess nutrient inputs into the Chesapeake Bay and enabling producers to comply with the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998.

Applicant should have BS degree in an agricultural, environmental or natural resource science; be able to provide personal transportation and a valid drivers license; and possess knowledge of agricultural production practices and cropping systems. Preference will be given to certified nutrient management consultants. This is a contractual position which includes health benefits and a retirement subsidy.

Applications must be submitted online at <https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/57782>, position numbers are 123714 (Somerset) and 123259 (Wicomico). The best consideration date is 03/30/2018. The University of Maryland, College Park is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

### Live On-Line Session Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification

If you would like the opportunity to learn from home, yet still be engaged, then be sure to enroll in this **Live-On-Line Private Pesticide Recertification Training**, scheduled for **4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 13, 2018**.

The session will focus on pesticide use and related topics for all field crops, fruits and vegetables. This WebEx recertification session will be live via the internet directly from the University of Maryland. WebEx is a student interactive system that will document your attendance. To participate in a live WebEx session a high speed cable or satellite internet connection is required.

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification credit will be awarded for full 2-hour session participation. Registration by April 11th is required in order to receive WebEx login instructions. Register on-line for this event at: <http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county> or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906.

### 2018 Maryland Crop Insurance Deadlines

Mark your calendars now with important, upcoming deadlines to sign up for crop insurance on various crops in Maryland.



February 15: Green Peas

March 15: Corn, Soybeans,  
Grain Sorghum, Lima Beans,

Snap Beans, Sweet Corn, Tomatoes and machine harvested pickling Cucumbers.

March 15 is also the deadline for early fiscal filers to sign up for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection or to make changes to existing policies on most spring-planted crops. Farmers who plant later in the fiscal year (after August 1) will have until November 15 to purchase Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.

This is a great time of the year to become better informed and familiar with how crop insurance and new Farm Service Agency programs can be utilized to construct effective risk management. Information on various policies and deadlines is available at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov).

## Beginners' Hops Clinic

By: Future Harvest—CASA

**Wed, February 28, 2018 (12:00 PM – 4:00 PM)**

Are you an aspiring hops grower? Learn how to select a hopyard site, predict your labor needs, and navigate common fungal disease and pest pitfalls during this introductory clinic. Grower presentations and a brief tour of Brookeville Beer Farm's (BBF) hopyard from 12-2 pm precede a pizza and beer tasting at 2 pm. Must be 21 to participate in the beer tasting.

Are you a grower interested in supplying products for BBF's future brews? Join BBF Co-owner Phil Muth at 3 pm to discuss pre-sale opportunities. Pre-sale networking is free and open to the public. Please pre-register for the pre-sale.

**Where:  
Brookeville Beer Farm  
20315 Georgia Avenue,  
Brookeville, MD 20833**



### Agenda Overview:

- 11:30 am: Sign in and registration
- 12:00 pm: Introductions
- 12:15 - 2:00 pm: Hops growing presentations and brief tour of BBF's hopyard
- 2:00 pm: BBF pizza and beer tasting (Must be 21 to participate in the beer tasting)
- 3:00 pm: Clinic ends; BBF Co-owner Phil Muth hosts grower pre-sale networking

## On Farm Commercial Poultry Growers Field Day

**Wednesday, March 28, 2018**

**9:30 am to 3:00 pm**

**Rob Haskins Farm, 971 Cloverfield Lane,  
Harrington, DE 19952**



The Universities of Maryland and Delaware Extension, in conjunction with Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., will be hosting an on-the-farm field day for commercial poultry growers on March 28, 2018. There will be educational opportunities as well as vendors on hand to talk with growers.

This workshop is open to all. For more information, call or email James Fisher, [fisher@dpickicken.com](mailto:fisher@dpickicken.com), 302-856-9037X105, Lisa Collins [lcollins@udel.edu](mailto:lcollins@udel.edu), 302-856-2585 or Sheila Oscar at 410-742-1178.

## UME Lower Eastern Shore Agriculture Contacts

### Ginny Rosenkranz

Principal Agent Associate  
Commercial Horticulture  
Wicomico Office, 410-749-6141

### Manish Poudel

Agent - Agriculture  
Fruits and Vegetables  
Wicomico Office, 410-749-6141

### Jon Moyle, Poultry Specialist

Lower Eastern Shore Research  
Center (LESREC)  
Wicomico County, 410-742-1178

### Maegan Perdue

Associate Agent  
Pasture and Livestock  
Worcester Office, 410-632-1972



## 4-H Activities

### Worcester County 4-H Livestock Club Meeting

The Worcester County 4-H Livestock Club meets at 7 pm the second Friday of the month at the Worcester County Extension Office at [305 Bank St, Snow Hill](#). The March 9th, April 13th and May 11th meetings will focus on preparing 4-H members to show livestock at the County Fairs. Any questions may be directed to the Worcester County Office at [410-632-1972](#).

**Wicomico County 4-H Program** is looking for families interested in joining or volunteering for the 4-H program. Youth can be 5-18 years old to join. We currently have the following clubs for your interest: Mardela Olympians, Fruitland Community Center, Salisbury based clubs are Shotgun, Archery, Kindred Spirit. We are always looking for volunteers or to start a new club in your area. For more information please contact Amy Rhodes at 410-749-6141 or [arhodes1@umd.edu](mailto:arhodes1@umd.edu).

### Westside Primary First Grade

The Wicomico County 4-H Program and University of Maryland Extension have conducted 4-H School Enrichment Programs this fall in the first grade at Westside Primary School. 4-H School Enrichment programs provide students with hands-on experiential science based programs, which supplement the first grade science curriculum.



This year, first grade students began their year with a team building STEM activity. October featured the lesson “What’s a Tree to Me?” Youth learned that trees are an important renewable resource and we use many products and eat food that are made by trees. In addition, they conducted a science experiment where they proved their hypothesis of how old a slice of a tree was by counting the rings of the tree. Finally, we learned about the importance of the Native American Culture and the historical production of corn (maize). First grade students were able to experience what life may have been like by harvesting the maize off of the cob by hand.

What is 4-H? 4-H is the nation’s largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering six million young people in the U. S. in partnership with 110 universities. 4-H life changing programs are research-backed and available through 4-H clubs, camps, afterschool and school enrichment programs in every county and parish in the U.S. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation’s Extension System and USDA. The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Equal Access Program.

## UMD Researchers Find Gene That May Greatly Increase Strawberry Production

UMD researchers have identified and isolated a gene that is directly linked to the strawberry production process. With the ability to turn this gene on and off to produce runners (a long horizontal stem ideal for producing young strawberry plants for sale) or flowers (ideal to produce fruit) and a greater understanding of how to control this process, this work has the potential to greatly increase strawberry productivity.



Strawberries are a \$3 billion per year agricultural industry in the United States alone. However, the demand has only been growing over the years. There is infinite potential to enhance this industry further by understanding the mechanisms behind breeding and production of strawberry plants. Julie Caruana under the direction of Dr. Zhongchi Liu, Affiliate Professor with the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics, has come significantly closer to this level of understanding by finding this gene and honing the ability to produce runners. “We know at least one gene that is definitely involved, and going forward, we can determine what other genes are involved and how they interact,” said Caruana.

There are many environmental factors that affect flowering and runner behavior. These include temperature and day length, which is why strawberries typically produce runners in the summer months and flower in the fall, winter, and spring months. Controlling this trait and understanding the process, genetically and environmentally, is very important to the strawberry industry. “When you are trying to fruit strawberry plants, turning off runner production would really help the growers,” explains Mike Newell, Senior Faculty Specialist and Horticultural Crops Program Manager at the Wye Research and Education Center, who works with strawberry growers. “Depending on the strawberry production system used, runner production may or may not be desirable, and they may have to be manually removed. Nurseries on the other hand would love runners so they can sell more tips to growers. Controlling this would certainly help growers and nurseries from different sides.”

This work not only has the potential to improve strawberry production with currently popular varieties and growing methods, but could increase yields even more with the popularization of different varieties that are less viable at the moment due to runner behavior. “Most strawberry plants in use today are known as June bearers, or plants that only produce berries once per year,” explained Dr. Liu. “Since strawberry plants are only kept for two years due to significant production drop off with age, farmers only get two harvests from a typical June bearer. Ever-bearers on the other hand can produce multiple harvests each year, increasing overall strawberry yield. But they are relatively unpopular at the moment for farmers and at nurseries because they are poor runner makers - it is difficult to propagate ever bearers. If we can find a way to induce runner production in ever-bearers, the market for these strawberry plants could open up, increasing strawberry yield and having major impacts on production.”

The discovery was published in [Molecular Plant](#).

## Field Crops and Pasture IPM Workshop



Thursday, March 13, 2018  
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Anne Arundel County UME  
97 Dairy Lane, Gambrills MD 21054

This workshop will explore advanced concepts of pasture and field crop production in the Southern Maryland region from establishment to harvest, including animal utilization. Topics will include: Crop selection; integrated crop management; soil fertility; weed control; insect control; and disease control for soybeans, corn, wheat, barley and hay crops.

**Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification** will be awarded for full class participation. To register for this event contact the Anne Arundel County Extension Office at 410-222-3906 or register online at <http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county>

### The Spotted Lanternfly, an Invasive Pest on the Move in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. Moving Closer to Maryland!

- In Pennsylvania, spotted lanternfly has spread into 13 counties.
- A press release issued from the Delaware Department of Agriculture dated November 20, 2017 confirmed the finding of spotted lanternfly in New Castle County, Delaware.
- Spotted lanternfly was reported and confirmed in Frederick County, Virginia as of January 10, 2018.



The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that attacks grapes, apples, stone fruits, pines, and other species. This non-native invasive pest was first detected in the United States in 2014 in Berks County, Pennsylvania but is spreading to other counties in the state. Maryland residents should be on the lookout.

Adults lay eggs on multiple flat surfaces including the outsides and undersides of vehicles which allows them to spread. Egg masses will hatch in the spring. Both nymphs and adults of spotted lanternfly cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and leaves. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant, and eventually contribute to the plant's death.

**If you see this insect in Maryland, take a photo of it and report it to the Maryland Department of Agriculture Plant Protection Program at 410-841-5920 or [DontBug.MD@maryland.gov](mailto:DontBug.MD@maryland.gov) as soon as possible.**

#### **Additional Resources:**

[dda.delaware.gov/pdfs/DDA\\_Spotted-Lantern-Fly\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://dda.delaware.gov/pdfs/DDA_Spotted-Lantern-Fly_FactSheet.pdf)

[The Spotted Lanternfly, Penn State Entomology](#)

[Spotted Lanternfly: What to Look For - Photo Gallery](#)

[Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#)

[Additional Information from Penn State Entomology](#)

[Journal of Integrated Pest Management: A New Invasive Pest in the US Seeing Spots - Dr. Mike Raupp 'Bug of the Week'](#)



## Other Events:

### Private Pesticide Applicator Training

**When:** March 5, 2018 (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm)

**Where:** Wicomico County Extension Office

**Address:** 28647 Old Quantico Rd.  
Salisbury, MD 21801

### Private Pesticide Applicator Test

**When:** March 12, 2018 (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm)

**Where:** Wicomico County Extension Office

**Address:** 28647 Old Quantico Rd.  
Salisbury, MD 21801

### Chesapeake Green 2018

#### AN ANNUAL HORTICULTURE SYMPOSIUM

A premiere two day industry-wide education and pesticide recertification conference

February 20 and 21

Maritime Institute Linthicum Heights, MD

### Green Matters Symposium:

#### Restoring & Renewing Our Urban Landscapes

Silver Spring Civic Building

1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Friday, February 23, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Cut Flower Short Course

March 6, 7, and 8, 2018

Gary J. Arthur Community Center  
(2400 MD-97, Cooksville, MD)

and

Country Springs Nursery  
(15870 Frederick RD, Woodbine, MD)

Sponsored by:

University of Maryland Extension

### Tomato Grafting Workshop

**When:** Saturday, March 10, 2018

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Where:** University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Agricultural Research Building

Princess Anne, MD 21853

#### For more informaion contact:

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

410-651-6693/6070 or via email:

Errol Mattox - [eamattox@umes.edu](mailto:eamattox@umes.edu)

Or visit

[www.umessmallfarm.com](http://www.umessmallfarm.com)

**Somerset Ext. Office: 30730 Park Drive, Princess Anne, MD 21853 ~ 410-651-1350 ~ Fax 410-651-0806**

**Wicomico Ext. Office: P.O. Box 1836, Salisbury, MD 21802 ~ 410-749-6141 ~ Fax 410-548-5126**

**Worcester Ext. Office: P.O.Box 219, Snow Hill, MD 21863 ~ 410-632-1972 ~ Fax 410-632-3023**

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