Greetings,

Another season is wrapping up. Cool crisp mornings welcome each new day as we center activities on harvest and fall clean-up. Squirrels are once again busy dropping nuts from the tree tops in preparation for the winter ahead. This summer has been marked by cooler temperatures and spotty rain fall. For the most part, corn yields are better than expected. Soybean harvest is just starting. Unfortunately prices have been lower than past years for both grain and vegetable crops. Livestock producers are finally catching a break with higher cattle and pig prices coupled with lower feed prices.

As the season winds down, it is a good time to make a few notes about successes or failures. Weed control in field crops can be especially important. If you are having trouble with marestail control in soybeans, this may be the time to evaluate some early strategies for next year. Growers should also be aware that glyphosate (Round-Up) resistant palmer amaranth is now starting to show up in Southern MD. Palmer amaranth can be hard to control and is very aggressive so plan now for control next season.

Producers enrolled in federal Farm Bill programs will have important decisions to make this winter. There are numerous online tools available to evaluate the new Farm Bill options, and additional workshops will be held this fall.

We hope to see everyone at the winter meetings this year. The Crops Conference will be held December 3rd, the Hay and Pasture Conference on January 14th and the Fruit and Vegetable Conference on February 4th.

Hope you have a safe, productive and bountiful fall.

--Ben Beale
Private Pesticide Applicator's Course and Exam

October 15, 2014- Review Session  
November 5, 2014- Exam  
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Need a Private Applicator Pesticide License?

Anyone who is interested in acquiring their private pesticide applicator’s license should plan to attend our next scheduled workshop to be held on October 15. The optional workshop will help prepare you to take the exam on November 5. Please call the office at 301-475-4484 to register and obtain the necessary study materials. The training class will be held at the St. Mary’s Agriculture Services Center in Leonardtown, MD from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The actual exam will be held at the same time; same place.

Nutrient Voucher Training and Pesticide Recertification Training

October 29, 2014  
Ag Service Center, Leonardtown MD  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Nutrient Voucher)  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM (Pesticide Recert)

On October 29, 2014 a Pesticide Recertification Training class will be held at the St. Mary’s Ag Service Center in Leonardtown. The Recertification class will be held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Please call to register at 301-475-4484.

St. Mary’s Extension Office will also host a Nutrient Voucher Training the same evening from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This class will provide the required credits for Nutrient Voucher holders. If your Nutrient Voucher expires this year, you may consider attending this update class.

Maryland Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

November 18 – 20, 2014  
Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City MD

The Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School will be held at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City on November 18-20. Individuals seeking advanced training in soil and water, soil fertility, crop production and pest management will have an opportunity at hands on, intensive sessions that also provide continuing education units (CEU's) for the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA)Program. This is the premiere event for advanced agronomy training in the region. You may also register on line at: https://www.psia.umd.edu/extension/md-crops

Southern Maryland Crops Conference

December 3, 2014  
Baden Volunteer Fire Department  
Brandywine MD  
4:00 PM – 8:30 PM

The Southern Maryland Agents would like to invite everyone to join with our University specialists to have your questions answered about crop production and pest control at the Southern MD Crops Conference on Wednesday, December 3rd, from 4:00 to 8:30 PM at the Baden Volunteer Fire Department in Brandywine, MD.

Attendance at this conference will satisfy the requirement for the Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Management Voucher. Please call the Charles County Extension Office at 301-934-5403 to register. Make plans now to attend.
Loveville Produce Auction
Annual Meeting

December 12, 2014
Loveville, MD
9:00 AM

The Loveville Produce Auction invites all interested farmers and buyers to attend the annual meeting on December 12, 2014 starting at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at 25120 Dove Point Road. Take Rt. 247 (Loveville Road) to Parsons Mill Rd. Dove Point Lane is ½ mile on left. More information will be forthcoming.

http://www.psla.umd.edu/extension/maryland-forages-program or through local county Extension and NRCS/Soil Conservation District offices in MD.

Pesticide recertification and nutrient voucher credits available. Register by calling the St. Mary’s County Extension office at 301-475-4484.

Southern Maryland
Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting

February 4, 2015
Clements, MD
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Production Meeting on February 4, 2015, in St. Mary’s County. This meeting will provide Private Applicator Recertification & Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification. Speakers will provide IPM updates and present on a broad range of production topics.

Also meeting sponsors will showcase their products and services, and state vegetable organization leaders will be present to recruit and answer your questions. Please attend and make this meeting the best ever. Register by calling the St. Mary’s County Extension office at 301-475-4484.

Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference

January 14, 2015
Baden Fire Department, Brandywine, MD
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Make plans to attend the Southern Maryland Hay & Forage Conference on January 14, at the Baden Firehouse Hall in Brandywine, MD.

Topics will be presented covering all aspects of hay and pasture production. The programs will address key issues and concerns facing hay and pasture producers.

The conferences also features displays and exhibits by numerous agribusinesses. Attendees will be able to obtain information on seed, fertilizer, equipment, fencing, etc. needed for hay and pasture production and management.

More detailed program information on the Southern Maryland Conference will soon be available on the Web at:
11th Annual Small Farm Conference

November 7, 2014 - 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
November 8, 2014 - 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
UMD- Eastern Shore

Conference highlights include a new and beginning farmers track, home food preservation course, a USDA Partners and Farm Bill Update Meeting, and sessions on soil health, aquaculture systems, direct marketing opportunities, growing fresh market potatoes, and appropriately scaled farming equipment. Dr. Cindy Ayers-Elliott, touted as the CEO investment banker who traded in her high heels for work boots, is the keynote speaker for this year’s event. Bringing to the conference a refreshing twist, she promises to give real to life experiences surrounding her transition, her goats and organic vegetables, and her mission to take care of the earth. Registration is $30 per person or $50 per couple.

All registrations must be received no later than Monday, November 3. For more information or to register online, visit www.umes.edu/1890-mce

Farm Bill Decision Making Tools Now Available Online

On Sept. 25, 2014, USDA announced the release of two online tools to aid producers in the choice between Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). Both programs are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net programs in the 2014 Farm Bill legislation. Both programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. Producers will have through early spring of 2015 to select which program works best for their businesses.

The online tools were developed by the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University. Both online tools will assist producers in making the base reallocation decision, updating payment yields and choosing between ARC and PLC. “This is not going to be a simple decision,” said Howard Leathers, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland; “Producers will need to make sure they have records from previous years in order for either tool to work.” The tools are available at either https://usda.afpc.tamu.edu (Texas A&M’s) or http://farmbilltoolbox.farmdoc.illinois.edu/ (University of Illinois).

Farm Service Agency and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics are planning on hosting meetings in November to assist Maryland farmers in understanding the final rules, signup deadlines, and allow participants the opportunity to use the online tools. Those dates and locations will be announced in the coming weeks.

Farm Bill Page

A webpage has been developed to house information that is related to the implementation of the 2014 farm bill. Currently it just has the presentations from the farm bill meetings posted but new resources will be added as they become available. Producers and anyone else interested can view it at:

http://www.arec.umd.edu/extension/crop-insurance/2014-farm-bill

Considerations for Small Grain Weed Control

Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist
University of Delaware

For no-till fields, a non-selective herbicide needs to be used prior to planting. If grasses or perennial weeds are present, glyphosate is a better choice than paraquat. Fields worked with a vertical tillage implement for residue management, still need a non-
selective herbicide. These implements are not weed control tools.

There are few effective herbicides labeled for preemergence applications. Sharpen is labeled for wheat and bar-ley but we have limited data in the region. Valor can be used at 1 to 2 oz with the burndown application, but there must be a 7-day period between application and planting wheat. Valor is not labeled for barley.

Axiom and Zidua can be used at wheat emergence (Axiom at the spike stage and Zidua when sprout is at least 0.5 inches). Both Axiom and Zidua are only labeled for winter wheat, not barley. Neither provides control of emerged weeds but can have utility in situations of needing limited residual control shortly after planting. UD Research Program has over three years of experience with Axiom and it provides broad-spectrum control including annual ryegrass. Zidua has provided annual ryegrass in limited trials. Neither product will provide full-season control.

Products that provide postemergence control include: Glory, Harmony, Harmony Extra, Huskie, Starane Ultra, Osprey, PowerFlex, Axial XL, or 2,4-D. Other labeled herbicides with a limited fit include Finesse, Maverick and Prowl H2O.

Control of annual ryegrass has been good with Osprey, PowerFlex, or Axial XL. However, ALS-resistant ryegrass has been identified in Delaware and these populations will not be controlled by Osprey or PowerFlex. Furthermore, Finesse will not control these populations. In situations where ALS resistance is suspected, use of Axiom or Zidua shortly after planting, followed Axial XL is the best postemergence option.

ALS-resistant common chickweed has been confirmed in Delaware. These biotypes are not controlled with Har-mony Extra, Osprey, PowerFlex or Finesse. Currently, UD Research Program has had good control with Glory. There is a 24-c label for Glory in Delaware (in other states, check before applying). Glory is a metribuzin product from MANA. Application needs to be made after wheat or barley are at the 2-leaf stage. Be sure to read the label for application rates (which change with application timing). Some wheat and barley varieties are sensitive to Glory, so be careful to use on varieties with known crop safety. Starane Ultra has shown some activity, but often not killing common chickweed, but providing good suppression. Starane Ultra can be used either in the fall or spring. Jagged chickweed control was evaluated last year in UD trials, and Glory and Huskie provided good postemergence control.

Control of cereal rye in wheat or barley is difficult. In fields where the rye cover crop or the wind-breaks pro-duced seeds in the spring, work the soil at least 14 days prior to seeding. The tillage will stimulate the rye seeds to germinate and then kill the rye plants with additional tillage or with glyphosate at planting. While we have not tried vertical tillage, I suspect it would not cause enough rye seeds to germinate. There are no herbicides to control cereal rye in a winter wheat or barley crop.

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**Nutrient Management Update**

**Fall 2014**

Now is the perfect time to update your Nutrient Management Plan for the next cropping season! It is important to note that fall seeded crop recommendations must be included in your plan. These include fields that are enrolled in the Maryland Cover Crop Program. If you are making a decision about applying Nitrogen in the fall for Wheat or Barley, we can help! A fall nitrate test can be conducted following crop harvest to determine how much Nitrate is left over from the previous crop. This test, performed here at our office, can give you the information you need to determine whether or not you should apply Nitrogen in the fall on your small grain. Samples for the fall nitrate test should be taken at a 8” depth and dried quickly. Please call for more information and to schedule your fall nitrate test.

Below is an abbreviated list of important items that will need to be addressed in order to update your plan for the next cropping season:

1. **Soil tests** must be less than three years old.
   - Fields with differing crop or nutrient application histories, as well as differing soil types should be sampled separately.
   - Pastures should be sampled as well, even if no nutrients are applied.
2. **Manure samples** should be analyzed every year.
   - Collected manure that will be spread onto crop or pasture land must be analyzed before spreading.
3. **Animal information** should be documented and updated.
   - Type of animals, average weight, confinement periods, and bedding material.
4. **Field histories** should be documented.
   - Multiple cropping scenarios can be planned for. A plan can be developed that covers many
different crops that you may want to plant in each field!
- Manure/Sludge, as well as Legume histories should be documented.

5. **Yield Goals** for every crop should be developed based on prior yield records.
- If you are unsure, or have no realistic yield goals developed, we can help!

Most farm operations should have an updated plan completed every year. If you are ready to have your plan updated, please give us a call at (301)-934-5403 to schedule an appointment.

We have soil probes, soil bags, and a wealth of information that you are more than welcome to take advantage of. We look forward to working with you!

**On the Lighter Side...**

All the best for a wonderful Fall Season!

Benjamin E. Beale, Extension Educator
UME – St. Mary’s County
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Francis Warring, Nutrient Mgmt. Consultant
UME – Charles & St. Mary’s County
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Luke Gustafson, Home Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator
UME – Charles County
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Elizabeth Solis-McGarry
Administrative Assistant
UME – Charles County

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