NRCS Announcing Grants to Help Farmers Adapt to Drought

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the availability of up to $5 million in grants to evaluate and demonstrate agricultural practices that help farmers and ranchers adapt to drought. NRCS is taking applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to help producers build resiliency into their production systems so they can adapt to climatic extremes, such as the historic drought impacting the nation.

NRCS is offering the grants to partnering entities to evaluate innovative, field-based conservation technologies and approaches. These technologies and/or approaches should lead to improvements such as enhancing the water-holding capacity in soils and installing drought-tolerant grazing systems, which will help farms and ranches become more resilient to drought.

“Severe drought conditions across the U.S. have greatly impacted the livelihood of our farmers and ranchers,” said NRCS Chief Dave White. “Conservation Innovation Grants allow us to generate and deploy as soon as possible cutting-edge ideas that help farmers and ranchers run sustainable and profitable operations.”

Grant applications are due October 15, 2012. Private individuals, Tribes, local and state governments and non-governmental organizations can apply. Funds will be awarded through a competitive grants process for projects lasting for one to three years. Apply electronically at www.grants.gov/ or contact the NRCS National CIG office at (703) 235-8065.

Talbot County Corn Club and Soybean Improvement Awards

Samples are being taken now for the 61st Annual Talbot County Corn Club and the 42nd Annual Soybean Improvement awards. It is great to continue this Talbot County Tradition. If you would like to submit a sample and did not get the yield packet please call the Extension Office at 410-822-1244. The awards will be held in January 2013.

The club would again like to thank the participants, sponsors and unit leaders that make this event possible.
Nutrient Management Time

**NOW** is the time to start planning for the 2013 crop year. If new soil samples need to be taken, the best time is right after crop harvest. Plans can be written using soil samples up to three years old if nutrient application takes place prior to the three year date. Manure samples must be taken yearly.

Farmers need to have fertility recommendations in hand prior to any nutrient application. The sooner you can get Sherman your plan information the sooner he can get your plan updated and keep you in compliance.

If you plan on applying any nutrients this fall to small grains which will not be enrolled in the Cover Crop Program you need to contact Sherman as soon as possible.

To schedule an appointment please call 410-822-1244.

### MDA Offering Free Grain & Forage Testing to MD Farmers

The Maryland Department of Agriculture’s State Chemist Section is offering free grain and forage testing through the University Maryland Extension Offices to drought impacted Maryland farmers for nitrate and prussic acid in forage and for aflatoxin in corn grain. Prussic acid poisoning is mostly associated with sudan, sorghum and related grass species. A sample information sheet that describes how to obtain a grain or forage sample along with how much and how to store the sample can be found on MDA website; log onto www.mda.maryland.gov/pdf/silage_sampling.pdf. Farmers can bring their samples to their nearest UME office so that UME can assist them with paperwork and make sure the samples and paperwork are properly prepared.

With reports of drought like conditions coming in from farmers, MDA is encouraging all farmers that use fertilizers containing nitrate on their corn and sudan-sorgham grasses, or who are concerned that the corn grain may have mold to work closely with their county extension agents before feeding it to their animals. These compounds, which can sicken or be deadly to livestock and affect pregnancies, are often present in dry weather conditions.

For more information about testing or questions about sampling contact your county agent or Ken McManus, MDA Laboratory manager, at 410-841-2721.

### Wheat and Barley Variety Trial results available at:

www.mdcrops.umd.edu/wheat/index.cfm

### UPCOMING EASTERN SHORE AG PROGRAMS FALL 2012

**September 17 - November 5**
Farming: Pencil to Plow, Salisbury
Mondays 6-9 p.m., 317 Lemmon Hill Lane, Salisbury
Farming: Pencil to Plow is an eight (8) week course designed for aspiring small farmers and those producers interested in diversifying their operation. Information will be presented by experts in the agriculture field, including University of Maryland Extension educators along with local agencies, who will cover topics
key to enhancing successful farming. Registration deadline is September 7th. For registration information, contact Joe Giordano by phone 410-758-0166, email tjgiordano_2000@yahoo.com or check the website at www.agnr.umd.edu/worcester

**September 19**
Aronia Twilight Tour, Marydel, 3 - 7 pm
You are invited to attend the annual Aronia Twilight Tour to be held on September 19, 2012, hosted by Gerry Godfrey at Fair Spring Nursery in Marydel, MD, from 3-7 PM. A light meal will be available. Contact Debby Dant 410-827-8056 X115, ddant@umd.edu if you plan to attend or need more information. For directions: www.FairSpring.Nursery.com

**September 26**
Roland E. Powell Convention Center 4001 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842 Early registration rates prior to Sept. 10th

http://www.kent.umd.edu/Agriculture/index.cfm

**OCTOBER 2012**

**October 1**
LEAD Maryland Applications due. See www.leadmaryland.org

**October 6**
AGNR Open House 10:00 am. to 3:00 p.m
Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Clarksville Facility at 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD

**NOVEMBER 2012**

November 2nd & 3rd 2012 Small Farm Conference – University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne MD

Don’t forget to have fun at the **Harvest Hoedown at Pickering Creek** on Sunday, October 14th

**Harvest Festival at the Talbot County Ag Center** will be held on Sunday, October 21st!! This year the Festival will feature corn shucking and corn shelling demonstrations, a steam engine and modern day combine on display, a blacksmith, petting zoo, straw maze, fun with wetlands, bee keeper demonstration, master gardeners on site to answer questions, carnival games, cake wheel, live music by the Oil City Ramblers, hayrides, corn hole contest, local vendors and crafters, pit beef, hamburgers, hotdogs, homemade French fries and apple dumplings.

Hope to See You There!

Sincerely,

Shannon Dill
AGNR Educator
sdill@umd.edu

Pam Chollet
Administrative Assistant
pchollet@umd.edu

Sherman Councell
Nutrient Management Advisor
wcouncel@umd.edu

University of Maryland Extension – Talbot 28577 Mary’s Court, Suite 1 Easton, MD 21601 (410) 822-1244
Late Summer to Early Fall

- Perform a soil test in preparation for lawn renovation projects.
- Core aerate and overseed if needed
- Consider planting groundcovers in areas where grass does not grow well such as heavy shade or sunny slopes. Tall fescue is the recommended all-purpose grass species for Maryland for sun and partial sun locations. Avoid seed mixtures that contain perennial ryegrass or annual ryegrass.
- Selectively treat difficult to control weeds such as ground ivy, a.k.a. creeping Charlie, with a liquid broadleaf weed herbicide. September to early October is a good time for controlling difficult weeds because plants will move foods from the leaves along with the herbicide down to their root system.
- Apply lime according to soil test results. Fall application is best because winter snow and rain, combined with the freezing and thawing of soil, help to incorporate the lime into the soil.
- Fertilize according to the fertilizer schedule in Table 1.

Late Fall

- Rake and remove fallen leaves or use a mulching mower to chop leaves up and let them decompose on your lawn. Bagged leaves can be composted or used in ornamental or vegetable beds as a winter mulch.
- Mow your lawn ½ - 1 inch shorter than the usual height to discourage matted grass and snow mold.
- The last lawn fertilizer application should be made no later than November 15th, as stated in the Fertilizer Use Act of 2011.

For more information about Turfgrass Maintenance for Maryland Lawns, visit http://www.hgifac.umd.edu/content/timelytips.cfm#

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grass Type</th>
<th>Date of Application</th>
<th>Pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tall fescue</td>
<td>September/October</td>
<td>0.9 - 1.8 lbs a year- 0.9 lb. in September and 0.9 lb. in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky bluegrass</td>
<td>September/October</td>
<td>0.9 - 1.8 lbs a year- 0.9 lb. in September and 0.9 lbs. in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine fescue</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>0.9 lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If clippings are left on the lawn you may only need one application per year regardless of your lawn’s age.
- Healthy lawns established longer than twelve years may only need one application per year.
- **No fertilizer can be applied between November 15 and March 1.**