

University of Maryland Extension Resources for Horse Owners

Maryland’s horse industry adds \$1.3 billion to the economy, according to the American Horse Council 2018 economic impact study. Maryland is home to over 100,000 horses and ranks number 1 in terms of horses per square mile.

University of Maryland Extension is designed to help guide and provide resources for Maryland’s horse enthusiasts.

University of Maryland Extension (UME) is a non-formal education system within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR). UME is broken down to four program areas; 4-H and Youth Development, Agriculture and Food Systems, Environment & Natural Resources, and Family and Consumer Sciences. All programs offered within Extension are based on research and data generated at land grant Universities and all programs are open to the general public.

Maryland Extension has offices in all twenty-three counties and Baltimore City along with four educational research centers located throughout the state of Maryland. UME is staffed with equine educators and specialists in several counties in Maryland. To find the list and contacts of educators and specialists, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/horses>.

Resources Available

UME offers a multitude of equine-related programs, online recordings, webinars, and publications that are offered either for free or for a small fee to the public.

► Pasture Management

Managing your pastures properly will lead to high-quality, productive forages for your horses. UME



Photo Credit: Jane Thery, MD Horse Council

offers programs throughout the year to address different management strategies for pastures like rotational grazing, weed control, renovating poor performing pasture, and more.

For more information on upcoming pasture management seminars, visit the Maryland Forages Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MarylandForages>

► Soil Sampling

While University of Maryland does not have a soil testing lab on campus, Extension faculty can help guide you on proper soil sampling procedures, provide a list of recommended soil testing labs in the Mid-Atlantic region, and loan soil probes to farm owners from county offices. Find your county office at <https://extension.umd.edu/locations>.

▶ **Forage/Hay Sampling**

Proper forage and hay sampling is important and sometimes essential for horses with special dietary needs. Extension faculty can assist owners with proper sampling and may offer the use of a forage probe for sampling hay on the farm.

▶ **Nutrient Management Planning**

In accordance with Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations, farm operators that own/manage eight or more animal units (1,000 lbs = 1 animal unit) and/or gross \$2,500 from the operation must develop and follow a Maryland Nutrient Management Plan. Nutrient Management plans can help equine operations increase soil fertility with proper fertilization records and reduce excess nutrient run off into nearby watersheds. UME offers plan writing as a free service in all 23 counties. Check out the Nutrient Management website, <https://extension.umd.edu/anmp>, for your county Nutrient Management advisor's contact information.

▶ **Equine Seminars and Webinars**

UME educators and specialists frequently host equine seminars and webinars for horse owners and farm operators. Topics vary from equine nutrition, health, and business management. Follow our [social media page \(https://www.facebook.com/Equine-Studies-at-the-University-of-Maryland-105729806176354\)](https://www.facebook.com/Equine-Studies-at-the-University-of-Maryland-105729806176354) to learn about upcoming events.

▶ **Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference**

UME co-hosts this premier educational event that focuses on animal nutrition. Local, national, and international nutritionists share new, innovative, and practical research being conducted by universities, industry, and government institutions. This conference focuses on equine, poultry, sheep and goat, and companion animal nutrition. To learn more about the MANC conference, visit <https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/mid-atlantic-nutrition-conference>

▶ **Recorded Webinars**

Many of our seminars and webinars are archived and located on our UME Maryland Horses webpage (<https://www.youtube.com/user/UMDHorseExtension>).

Recorded webinars feature topics on horse ownership and care, pasture management, and equine nutrition and health.

▶ **Maryland Horse YouTube Channel**

UME has a large selection of short videos related to equine care and horse farm management. Visit our University of Maryland Horse Extension YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/UMDHorseExtension>) to watch the latest videos from our Extension faculty.

▶ **Written Publications**

Our UME Maryland Horses webpage houses a repository of publications on various topics written by University of Maryland faculty and other land-grant universities. Publication topics include manure management, nutrition, trailering, equine business management, and equine leasing agreements. Publications can be found on the UME Maryland Horses webpage (<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/animal-science/horses/horse-resources>).

▶ **Equine Rotational Grazing Demo Site**

The Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration Farm is part of the Central Maryland Research and Educational Center in Clarksville, Maryland. The 5.5-acre site was developed to educate equine farm operators how to better manage their pastures. The area includes a sacrifice lot, two vegetative heavy use areas, and four rotational grazing pastures. To visit the rotational grazing demo site, contact Dr. Amy Burk at amyburk@umd.edu.



Photo Credit: Edwin Remsberg

Additional Resources by UME Partners

▶ Local Soil Conservation Districts

Local Soil Conservation Districts can help with implementing best management practices for equine operations. Examples of best practices could be heavy use areas, stream crossings, watering systems, roof runoff structures, and manure storage structures. Some operations may qualify for cost–share assistance. Contact your local district office (https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/technical_assistance.aspx) to obtain more information.

▶ eXtension Horses

eXtension Horses is a national online learning platform for all equine enthusiasts. This website houses a large variety of online courses, podcasts and infographics from university extension faculty across the nation. Visit <https://horses.extension.org/> to learn more.

ERIKA
CROWL
ecrowel@umd.edu

This publication, *University of Maryland Extension Resources for Horse Owners* (EBR-51) is a part of a collection produced by the University of Maryland Extension within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The information presented has met UME peer-review standards, including internal and external technical review. For help accessing this or any UME publication contact: itaccessibility@umd.edu

For more information on this and other topics, visit the University of Maryland Extension website at extension.umd.edu

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.