

# Ag Notes

## Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION  
October 2019

University of  
Maryland Extension

Harford County  
Agricultural Center

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M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county  
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## Hello, Harford County!



I hope everyone is having a safe harvest and a great start to the fall! You may or may not have heard that a small population of spotted lanternfly has been confirmed in Harford County, and Maryland Department of Agriculture has begun treatments in an attempt to contain the insect. More information can be seen [here](#). Below is a short article on the spotted lanternfly.



Figure 1. Adult spotted lanternfly life stages. Image: L. Barringer, PA Dept. of Agriculture.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF. Figure 1) is native to Asia and was first discovered in the United States in Berks County, PA in 2014. Despite quarantine efforts in Pennsylvania, it has spread to Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland. This insect has the potential to become both a nuisance pest and an agricultural pest.

Spotted lanternflies are true bugs (belonging to the family Hemiptera), meaning that they have piercing-sucking mouthparts (similar to a hollow needle) in which they use to feed, sucking sugars and carbohydrates from the xylem and phloem of plants. Heavy feeding by these insects can weaken the plant and cause it to become susceptible to winter injury and other pests. Spotted lanternfly will feed on a wide range of plants, but prefer tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*); another invasive species native to Asia (Figure 2). Hosts that are of concern for



Figure 2. Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)  
Image: Richard Webb, Bugwood.org.

agriculture include grapes, hops, apples, stone fruits, and several ornamentals. You may want to consider eradicating tree-of-heaven from your property, then scout and manage for SLF if infestations occur. However, be sure you properly identify tree-of-heaven; there are other trees that look similar, including sumac and black walnut. Kill individual SLFs as you see them and report them to MDA. Adults can swarm in large numbers, so a more practical approach may be needed if large swarms occur. Several insecticides will kill adults and immatures, but since this is a new pest, there are no products labelled specifically for use against spotted lanternfly. Neem oil and insecticidal soaps can be effective, especially on immature stages. Adult SLFs can fly and move in to previously treated areas, so repeated control measures may need to be taken throughout the season.

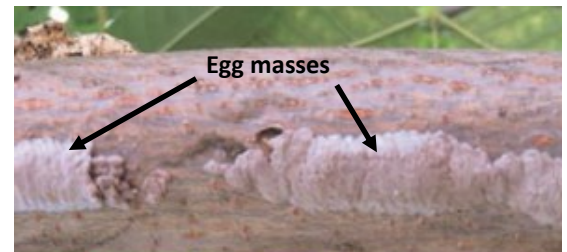


Figure 3. Spotted lanternfly egg masses on tree-of-heaven. Image: L. Barringer, PA Dept. of Agriculture.

Spotted lanternfly goes through several immature stages (called instars). During



instars 1-3 (occurring from late April—mid July) SLF are small, wingless, black insects with white spots. During the 4th instar (July—September), they are about ½” long, wingless, and develop bright orange patches in addition to the black and white pattern. The adult stage occurs mid-to-late summer into the first frost and are large (1” long) with wings. The forewing is grey with black spots and gray tips; the hind wings have patches of red and black separated by a white

band (Figure 1). In fall, adults mate and females lay 2 eggs. Egg masses are deposited onto hard surfaces such as trees stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, and other structures (Figure 3). Scout for these egg masses and destroy them by smearing them with a hard object (credit card, pocket knife, etc.).

For more information concerning SLF management, contact the University of Maryland Extension. Until next time, -Andy

## Market Facilitation Program Signup

*USDA press release, abridged*

Signup is open for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. **The sign-up period runs through December 6.**

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

### Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer’s total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. View [payment rates by county](#) (table below).

### Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

### Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

### More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person’s or legal entity’s average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on [farmers.gov/mfp](http://farmers.gov/mfp), including payment information and a program application.

**Market Facilitation Program Payment Rates By County (Dollars/Acre)**

Allegany	\$37	Cecil	\$56	Howard	\$50	St. Mary's	\$49
Anne Arundel	\$49	Charles	\$49	Kent	\$59	Talbot	\$58
Baltimore	\$48	Dorchester	\$65	Montgomery	\$56	Washington	\$46
Calvert	\$35	Frederick	\$48	Prince George's	\$40	Wicomico	\$45
Caroline	\$51	Garrett	\$38	Queen Anne's	\$56	Worcester	\$53
Carroll	\$51	Harford	\$52	Somerset	\$55		



## Food For Profit Workshop

*October 17*

9—4:30 p.m.

Baltimore County  
Extension Office

Have you ever been told that your favorite homemade bread, or salsa, is “good enough to sell?” Do you have additional fruit or vegetables from your farm or home garden that you would like to make into a commercial product?

*Food for Profit* is a one-day workshop designed to help you work through the maze of local and state regulations, food safety issues, and business management concepts that all must be considered in setting up a commercial food business. The course will be held at the Baltimore County Office Extension Office, 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### How can food for profit help me?

*Food for Profit* will take you step-by-step through the entrepreneurial process. It will provide you with the information and skills to assess if your idea will be something that will sell at a profit. Conducting a feasibility study (to see if yours is a good business idea), performing marketing research, and beginning to draft a business plan are

a few of the concrete tools taught by certified instructors and business experts. By attending this class, you can learn how to evaluate the opportunities on paper before you look for funding or take action (saving money and time).

### Registration

**Deadline: Thursday, October 10.** Registration for Food for Profit, is \$55.00 (includes all materials and lunch). **To pay by credit card:** use the [online form](#). **To register by check go to:** [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/events/ffp\\_mailinregistrationdocx.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/events/ffp_mailinregistrationdocx.pdf). *Mail in registration must be postmarked on or before October 10, 2019.* Mail your check payable to “University of Maryland” along with registration form to:

University of Maryland Extension-Baltimore  
County Office  
c/o Jean Bosley  
1114 Shawn Road  
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

For more information, contact Dr. Shauna Henley at (410) 887-8090, or [shenley@umd.edu](mailto:shenley@umd.edu), or visit the [website](#).

## Ag & Environmental Law Conference

*November 14*

8—3:00 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Annapolis

Hosted by the  
Agriculture Law  
Education Initiative  
(ALEI), the Agriculture &  
Environmental

Conference will bring agricultural, environmental, and legal professionals together to discuss timely and relevant legal issues that farmers face on a daily basis. Topics at the November 14 conference include: land use and liability for urban farmers; developing issues in agricultural and environmental law; diversifying uses on farms with conservation easements; local and state roles in siting approval of solar energy facilities; and maintaining neighbor relations when legal issues arise. Nutrient Management Continuing Learning Education Credits are available for those attending!

This year’s conference will feature a panel on the emerging opportunities for farmers and aquaculture

growers in ecosystem trading markets. The panel will feature experts in water, air, and soil quality trading systems to explain the current state of these opportunities and how producers can prepare themselves to participate.

The conference is geared toward members of the agriculture community, including farmers, agricultural and environmental attorneys, regulators, agriculture professionals, environmental associations, and elected officials. Students may attend for free if they bring a valid student identification card.

The conference will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 8 am – 3 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Annapolis, 173 Jennifer Rd, Annapolis, MD 21401. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

For more information or to register, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/aleiconf2019registration>.

## Does Hemp Qualify For Right-To-Farm Law?

Paul Goeringer, Extension Legal Specialist  
University of Maryland

*The article is not a substitute for legal advice.*

The 2018 Farm Bill allows for more growers to grow industrial hemp. A farmer looking to add industrial hemp on fields creates the possibility of conflicts between neighboring landowners. The neighbors may not understand that industrial hemp is now legal to grow or other concerns. Industrial hemp is now a legal commodity and growers would potentially fall under Maryland's right-to-farm (RTF) law. Industrial hemp growers would be eligible for the nuisance defense in the RTF law.

### Right-to-Farm Law Overview

RTF laws generally provide a qualifying agricultural operation a defense to a nuisance action brought by a neighbor. To fall under the RTF law, the farm must have been in operation for at least one year. This requirement does not mean growing hemp for one year but established for at least one year before claiming the defense. Maryland requires that the operation complies with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations and that the operation not be conducted negligently. The operation must be an "agricultural operation" involved in either on-farm production, harvesting, or marketing of an agricultural product grown, raised, or cultivated by the grower, or be involved in the processing of an agricultural product (§ 5-403(a)(2)).

The law does not define an "agricultural product" in the state's right-to-farm law, and the Maryland Court of Appeals has not addressed this issue. When interpreting "agricultural product" for the first time, a Maryland court

would begin with the ordinary, everyday meaning of the language in the statute (Jackson, 2015). Definitions found online typically define agricultural product broadly to include most products grown on a farm for commercial purposes. Hemp seems to fit comfortably within that broad definition, but we would need a court to answer this question definitively.

### Hemp and the Right-to-Farm Law

Assuming hemp does fit within the state's RTF law, what does this mean for someone growing hemp in Maryland? The RTF law would provide a defense to a nuisance claim that could be brought by a neighboring landowner. The hemp grower would be able to prevent claims of nuisance brought by a neighbor, as long as the grower is meeting the other requirements in the right-to-farm law.

For example, Stacy is producing hemp legally and her neighbor, Charlie, learns Stacy is growing hemp. If Stacy produces the hemp in line with any potential permits, federal, state, or local laws and meets the other requirements in the right-to-farm law. Stacy should be able to use the RTF defense against Charlie's potential nuisance claim.

### Conclusion

As we see more growers in the state start looking at industrial hemp as a new commodity to grow, we may see potential conflicts. Maryland's right-to-farm law may provide a defense to nuisance claims brought by neighbors. To learn more about how Maryland's RTF law operates, see (<https://go.umd.edu/RTFMD>).

## Pesticide Training Dates

Training for private pesticide applicators will be given through the Harford County Extension Office on October 8 and 15. Optional training class for new applicators will be from **9-11 a.m.** on **October 8**, with exam on **October 15, 9-11 a.m.** Cost for the new certification class will be **\$7**, which includes your own copy of the Maryland Pesticide Core Manual to use as a study guide for the exam.

Recertification training will be offered on **October 15** from **1-3 p.m.** Credits will satisfy Maryland continuing education credits (CEUs) necessary to renew your private applicator license. There is no cost for this class, but please register ahead of time. **Please bring your applicator certification number with you to the meeting.**

Please call the Harford County Extension Office to register (410) 638-3255, or e-mail [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu). For a list of additional training dates, call the extension office, or visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture [website](#). As a reminder, recertification credits will also be offered at our Extension winter meetings (such as the Winter Agronomy Meeting).

**October 8 & 15**

Harford County  
Extension Office



## Winter Wheat Seeding Rates

Jarrod Miller, Extension Agronomist  
University of Delaware

Six different seeding rates for winter wheat were tested at the Carvel Research Center (Georgetown, DE) over the past two seasons (2017-18 and 2018-19). Seeds were drilled at 0.9, 1.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.0, and 2.4 million seeds per acre each fall and harvested the following summer. Averaged over the two seasons, yields ranged from 77-89 bushels per acre, with some differences between seeding rates (Table 1).

Compared with the lowest seeding rates, yield increases were observed at 1.5 to 2.0 million seeds per acre. Within that range though (1.5–2.0 million), yields were not found to be statistically different. This means you could expect similar yields if planting wheat between 1.5 to 2 million seeds per acre. Planting at 2.2 million seeds reduced yield back to 83 bushels per acre, which was not found to be different from planting at 1.2 million seeds per acre.

These results support the general recommendation of planting winter wheat at a range of 1.5 to 2 million seeds per acre. Anywhere above or below this range may cause yield losses. Management, soil type, and weather could certainly shift these results, and may not be the same across the state. Soils in Georgetown are sandy with low moisture and nutrient holding capacity, and these results may fit those soil types the best.

**Table 1.** Yields from the different seeding rates

Seeding Rate (seeds/acre)	Yield* (bushels/acre)
900,000	78 b
1,200,000	77 b
1,500,000	83 ab
1,800,000	86 a
2,000,000	89 a
2,200,000	83 ab

\*Yields followed by the same letter are not significantly different from each other ( $\alpha=0.1$ ).

## Soybean Pod & Bean Diseases

Alyssa Koehler, Extension Field Crops Pathologist  
University of Delaware

Overall, there has been little disease pressure in soybeans this year. The wet conditions of last fall led to quite a few late season soybean pod and seed quality issues in 2018. With the continued dry weather in the forecast, it is unlikely that pod and seed diseases will be an issue this season. Just in case there is a sudden change in the forecast, we will discuss a few of the common pod and seed issues.

### Purple Seed Stain (pictured below)

As the name implies, symptoms of this disease include seeds with a pink to dark purple discoloration. Caused by the fungal pathogen *Cercospora kikuchii*, infection can affect seed quality and appearance, but does not typically decrease yields.



A Koehler, University of Delaware

### Phomopsis Seed Decay (pictured right)

Caused by the fungus *Diaporthe longicolla*, infected seed is shriveled, cracked, and often has a chalky to white appearance. Emergence and seedling blight issues are common when planting infected seeds. Fungicide seed treatments are generally effective against Phomopsis seed infection, but it is still best to plant seed with a low occurrence of Phomopsis seed decay to ensure optimal stands.



A Koehler, University of Delaware

### Anthraxnose (not shown)

Anthraxnose in soybean is caused by the fungal pathogen *Colletotrichum*. Symptoms can be present on the stems, leaves, or pods. Pods that become infected often have reduced or no seed formation and the pod may be filled with fungal mycelium. Seed that does form is usually shriveled, moldy, and discolored.

## Changes to MD Nutrient Management Regulations

Patricia Hoopes, Nutrient Management Advisor  
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

Fines for not having a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or filing your Annual Implementation Report (AIR) are increasing, along with other changes to the Nutrient Management Law. The following are tips to consider.

**Soil and Manure analyses for Nutrient Management Planning:** Always check the expiration date of the soil sample analyses, manure sample analyses, and the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). All must be current.

**Soil sample analyses** are good for three years and then must be replaced. If you are not clear on the sampling process, we are here to help. Brochures detailing how to take a soil sample are available at the office or online at [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/images/programs/anmp/Soil\\_Samp\\_Producer.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/images/programs/anmp/Soil_Samp_Producer.pdf).

**Manure sample analyses** are good for one year; we have a brochure detailing manure sampling, too. Brochures are available at your local Extension office or online at <https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/programs/anmp/NM-6.pdf>.

**Nutrient Management Plans** should always be kept up-to-date. NMP beginning and end dates are usually on the binder front and in the cover letter. If you do not have a current plan, please call your advisor today.

**Imported manure?** Advisors are now required to give the ID of the farm where the manure was generated. If you are receiving manure from a broker, we still must have the farm ID information and can no longer only give the broker contact information. This information may change every time you import manure, so please ask your broker.

**MDA Operator number:** (Maryland Department of Agriculture) MDA gives every producer a number,

which is located at the top left side of the AIR reporting form. This number must now be used in our plan writing software, NuManPro. It will save a considerable amount of time on the administrative level, and aids in keeping your information confidential. A copy of your AIR is needed in your Nutrient Management Advisor's office.

AIR's for 2018 were due March 1, 2019. If you have not filed, please do so today. If you have misplaced your form, one can be downloaded at [https://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Pages/air.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/air.aspx).

**Manure spreader calibration:** A current calibration of your manure spreader is needed to develop a Nutrient Management Plan. This is critical as it is proof to MDA of the rate of application of the manure, which affects nutrient recommendations.

Extension offices have documents that explain how to accurately calibrate your manure spreader, and nutrient management advisors can help you if time permits. Calibration information can also be found online at <https://extension.umd.edu/learn/11-following>.

**Nutrient Applicator Voucher:** Everyone that spreads manure and/or fertilizer must have a current Nutrient Applicator Voucher. Please supply a copy of your Voucher to your Nutrient Management Advisor. If you do not have a Voucher, Extension offices generally offer trainings several times throughout the year at designated Nutrient Management Training classes or as part of larger programs, such as winter crop production meetings. If you believe you should have a current Nutrient Applicator Voucher but have not received it, call Michael Webster at (410) 841-5957 to inquire.

Hopefully this will answer some questions, but feel free to call or e-mail Tricia Hoopes with additional questions (410-638-3255; phoop@umd.edu).





## UMES Small Farm Conference

*November 1-2*

UMES, Princess Anne, MD  
11868 College Backbone Rd

As November rolls in, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's (UMES) Small Farm Program gears up

for their annual Small Farm Conference. This event has successfully provided outreach and training to 600+ participants (beginning, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged farmers and landowners and others) since the conference first initiated in 2003. This event alone has been recognized as one of the premier agricultural events on the Eastern Shore, attracting on average 150-175 attendees each year where people travel from all over the state of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and along the Delmarva Peninsula to attend. The overall objective of the conference is to provide a venue where participants can come together to network and learn about new opportunities and strategies that promote small farm profitability and sustainability.

Due to increased participation and interest in select agricultural topics over the past five years, the Small

Farm Conference moved from a one-day event to a two-day educational conference. Day 1 of the conference features up to three or four comprehensive, half-day workshops that encompass classroom instruction along with a hands-on activity or a field demonstration component. Topics can range from Specialty and Ethnic Crop Production to Direct Marketing and Home Food Preservation.

On Day 2, participants have the opportunity to select two out of the six different seminars offered under the following educational tracks: Alternative Agriculture, Farm Business and Marketing, and New & Beginning Farmer. In addition, participants have the opportunity to network and visit with agricultural vendors and exhibitors including USDA agencies, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, agricultural businesses and various non-profit organizations that support agriculture.

For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/events/fri-2019-11-01-0900-16th-annual-small-farm-conference> or call (410) 651-6693.

*General Interest*

## AGNR Cornerstone Event

JOIN US FOR AGNR'S 2019  
CORNERSTONE EVENT



Please join the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) for a celebration and examination of research in ensuring a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay. Featuring a keynote from Dr. Rita Colwell, 11th Director of the National Science Foundation, recipient of the National Medal of Science, and Distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland, this day-long event will provide opportunities to build partnerships and foster innovation. Speakers, presenters, and contributors from across the university and other prominent land-grant institutions will be featured. Per the college's strategic initiatives, this AGNR Cornerstone Event will highlight and enhance collaborative efforts to protect and preserve one of our nation's most treasured natural resources. Schedule and free registration can be found online at: [go.umd.edu/chesbay](http://go.umd.edu/chesbay).

*October 29*

University of Maryland  
College Park

*Great resources are just a click away!*

*Andrew Kness*

Andrew Kness  
Extension Agent,  
Agriculture and  
Natural Resources



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## Dates to remember

- 4 Oct.** [Beef Producers Short-Course. Series II: Reproduction.](#) 8:30-3:30pm. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. \$50. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-1392 by **September 30**.
- 8 Oct.** Private Applicator Training For New Applicators. 9-11am. Harford County Extension Office, Street. \$7. Exam on **Oct. 15, 9-11am**. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or e-mail [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).
- 9 Oct.** [Women in Ag Webinar: This Understanding Your Credit & Credit Scores.](#) 12pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 15 Oct.** Private Applicator Recertification Training . 1-3pm. Harford County Extension Office, Street. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255 or e-mail [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu).
- 17 Oct.** [Food For Profit.](#) 9-4:30pm. Baltimore County Extension Office, Cockeysville. \$55. Register [online](#) or see page 3.
- 19 Oct.** [Small Ruminant Pasture, Grazing, and Browsing Conference.](#) 9-4pm. Western MD Research & Education Center, Keedysville. \$35. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767.
- 23 Oct.** [Women in Ag Webinar: This Yes, It's Really Time For Twitter. Really.](#) 12pm. Free. Register [online](#).
- 5 Nov.** [MACS Cover Crop Program](#) cost share planting cutoff date. Fall certification deadline is **Nov. 13**. Contact your local Soil Conservation District for more information.
- 19-21 Nov.** [Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School.](#) Princess Royal Hotel, Ocean City, MD. \$285-\$355. Register [online](#).

# October 2019