

# Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

 **October 2022**

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](http://Extension.umd.edu/harford-county)

[facebook.com/HarfordAg](https://facebook.com/HarfordAg)

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pesticide Training	2
Dairy Workshops	2
Nitrogen Fertilizer Prices	3
Small Farm Conference	3
Cold Storage Grants	4
Crop School	4
Ag Law Conference	5
Grants For Small-Acre Cover Crops	6
Farm Stress Management Workshops	7

## Hello, Harford County!

I am happy to report that I, along with my 20 fellow LEAD Maryland classmates, have all made it back from our international study trip to Spain! Wherever I travel I find it interesting to check out the local agriculture; for our LEAD trip to Spain, this was the purpose of our entire trip. Spain's climate, landscape, and agriculture is much different than I had pictured in my mind.

During our ten day trip we toured various regions of Southern Spain, which is a dry, Mediterranean climate. On a normal year they receive less than half of the amount of rain that we do in Maryland, and they experience no humidity. This combination makes for excellent growing conditions for most crops and results in very minimal pest pressure. In my conversations with the farmers we visited with, they expressed to me that they hardly ever have to deal with major pest problems, like diseases or insects, because it's so dry. Coming from Maryland's farming climate I still can't wrap my head around this!

Most all crops in Southern Spain are grown under irrigation. Spain has some 67 million olive trees, the vast majority of which are drip irrigated. Citrus and wine grapes are two more crops that are grown on significant acreage, along with "the sea of plastic," which is an area in Almeria Spain covered in plastic, white-washed greenhouses (about 80,000 acres worth).

The greenhouses and field crops in Spain all require irrigation, and Spain is facing a serious water problem. We visited Spain in the middle of what some describe as the

worst drought they have had in 1200 years; they haven't had any measurable rain since April, and rainfall has been infrequent for some years prior. As a result, their rivers, reservoirs, and aquifers that they rely on for irrigation are dangerously low. During our travels we passed several large rivers, many of which were flowing less than what I would describe as a creek.

Many crop yields have suffered in Spain because of the lack of water. Olive harvest typically starts about the first or second week in October, and when we visited the olive farms the trees had a very, very light crop with very small olives. They expect one of the worsts harvests in memory. Meanwhile, I've been back in Maryland for five days now and I have yet to see the sunshine through the rain.

Another interesting aspect of Spain's agriculture is the size of the farms. Spain has a lot of farmland that is highly concentrated and when you look out on the landscape you see miles and miles of uniform crops, olives for example (and even the greenhouses of Almeria). You might think that these fields are owned by a few farms in the area, but in fact, they are made up of dozens and dozens of small farms. It was quite common for farms to be between 2-30 hectares (5-75 acres). Scattered about the landscape are some larger farms; for example, we visited a vineyard that cultivated 2,000 acres of grapes (pictured below).

I'd like to thank LEAD Maryland for the trip of a lifetime and an amazing leadership development program. For anyone interested in the LEAD Maryland program, I'd be happy to talk to you!

Until next time,  
-Andy



We are holding training in October for individuals needing pesticide training. Applicators that already have a license and need continuing education credits may attend the two-hour training at the Harford County Extension Office on **October 25 from 1-3 p.m.** Be sure to bring your certification number to get credit. This training is free of charge, but please register ahead of time.

For individuals that need to take the exam to acquire their private applicator pesticide license, an exam will be held at the Harford County Extension Office on **October 25 from 9-11 a.m.** Be sure to bring your drivers license for identification. An **optional** training session to prepare for the exam will be held on **October 18 from 9-11 a.m.** at the Harford County

Extension Office. Copies of the Private Applicator Core Manual will be available for purchase for \$10. Checks can be made out to "HC EAC."

To register for the exam, new applicator training, or recertification training, please email [akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu) or call the Extension Office at (410) 638-3255.

As a reminder, private applicator credits (as well as nutrient management voucher training) will also be offered at our regional crop production meetings this fall, such as Northern MD Field Crops Day, Harford County Mid-Winter Agronomy Meeting, and the Central MD Vegetable Growers Day.

**October 18 & 25**

Harford County  
Extension Office

## Dairy Workshops

*Sarah Potts, Dairy and Beef Extension Specialist  
University of Maryland Extension*

Dairy producers are invited to join us for our Dairy Animal Care workshop series. Each event in this series will feature animal care topics, such as Beef Quality Assurance, calf management, non-ambulatory animal management, and euthanasia. Speakers will include extension personnel and local veterinarians. Each program will begin at 10:30 am and conclude at 1:45 pm. Lunch will be provided.

This event will take place at various locations throughout the State of Maryland. The Cecil County workshop will take place on Monday, **October 31st** at Long Green Farms in Rising Sun, MD. The Garrett County workshop will take place on Tuesday, **November 8th** at Swartzentruber's Dairy Farm in Oakland, MD. The Washington County workshop will take place in Smithsburg, MD in **March, 2023**.

While the event is FREE, pre-registration is required for planning purposes. To register, please visit [go.umd.edu/dairy-workshops-2022](http://go.umd.edu/dairy-workshops-2022) or contact Sarah Potts (301-432-2767 or [sbpotts@umd.edu](mailto:sbpotts@umd.edu)).

## DAIRY ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOPS

### Topics:

- Beef Quality Assurance
- Calf Management
- Non-ambulatory Animals
- Considerations for Euthanasia

### Dates & Locations:

- Rising Sun, MD - October 31st
- Oakland, MD - November 8th
- Smithsburg, MD - March 2023

### Registration & Details:

The program is FREE, but registration is required. To register, visit: [go.umd.edu/dairy-workshops-2022](http://go.umd.edu/dairy-workshops-2022)

Program will run from 10:30 am to 1:45 pm. Lunch will be provided.



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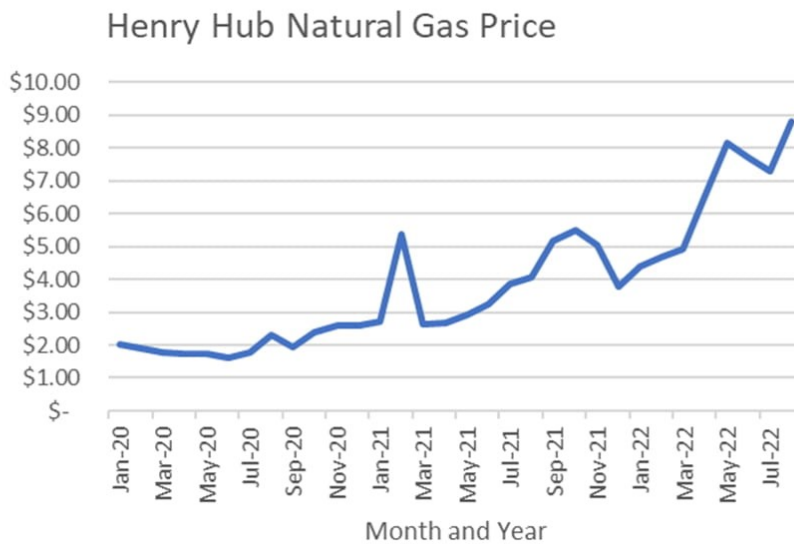
Questions?  
Contact Sarah Potts  
[sbpotts@umd.edu](mailto:sbpotts@umd.edu) or 301-432-2767

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Keep An Eye On Nitrogen Fertilizer Prices

Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist  
University of Delaware

Fertilizer expenses, particularly nitrogen fertilizers, were substantially higher this growing season than in years past. Many different factors were in play such as shortages, logistical problems, and COVID-19. One of the most significant factors that contributed to this growing season's nitrogen fertilizer price increase was the price of natural gas. Natural gas is a key input for urea and ammonia fertilizers. The price of natural gas has steadily risen over the past year, with a rapid increase occurring after the Russian-Ukrainian War commenced. Below is a graph that shows the Henry Hub spot price for natural gas in dollars per million btu (mmbtu).



Source: US Energy Information Administration

Russia is a major natural gas supplier to Europe and has cut supplies to Europe. Today, natural gas is trading at \$7.29 / mmbtu after falling from a high of \$8.81 / mmbtu in August. The last time the price of natural gas was greater than \$7.00 / mmbtu was in September 2008. Although the natural gas market is volatile, there is much uncertainty in Europe right now as the winter months are fast approaching. The price of natural gas price over the coming months could give some insight into

where nitrogen fertilizer will be in the spring. As producers think about nitrogen fertilizer usage for 2023, it should be noted that some price increases are already occurring. These nitrogen price increases can be attributed not only to natural gas, but also tariffs, logistical issues, and even the high price of corn. Expect volatility going into 2023.

## UMES Small Farm Conference

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is hosting it's 19th annual Small Farm Conference. The main objective of this two-day event is to equip farmers and landowners in Maryland and along the Delmarva Peninsula with tools and strategies to increase farm profitability and promote farm sustainability. Simultaneously, UMES Extension utilized this event to build, revise, and expand program and outreach activities to appeal to and address individual as well as community needs, emerging problems, and concerns of target groups focusing on limited-resource, new and beginning, and the underserved farmers.

*November 4-5*

*University of Maryland  
Eastern Shore  
Princess Anne, MD*

Program information and registration can be found at <https://wwwcp.umes.edu/extension/small-farms-program/conference/>.



## Grants For Cold Storage

4

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)



The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) is offering a new Maryland Producer Cold Storage Grant Program to assist farmers and watermen with purchasing cold storage

equipment needed for their operations during the fall of 2022. Matching grants of up to \$1,000 are now available.

Having access to adequate cold storage facilities is frequently cited as a need, especially by smaller farm operations, so hopefully the availability of these grant funds will incentivize cold storage equipment purchases by food producing enterprises. MARBIDCO will match up to 50% of the cost of the project purchase, with a maximum grant award amount being \$1,000.

Eligible applicants include farmers and watermen with at least \$1,000 in agricultural or seafood product sales annually. The applications may come from sole proprietorships, partnerships, cooperatives, and LLCs. Agricultural products may include produce,

livestock, shellfish, or horticultural products that are grown on the applicant's farm. Seafood products include finfish and shellfish products that are harvested in Maryland.

The grant funds and matching funds must be used to purchase and install cold storage equipment. Eligible tangible equipment that may be purchased include large coolers, ice machines, on-boat or on-dock cold storage, reach-in refrigerator/freezer, walk-in refrigerator/freezer, on-truck cold storage (does not include costs related to purchase a truck), third-party costs related to installation of a cold storage unit.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and the deadline is **October 31, 2022** (electronic submissions are encouraged). The minimum grant amount is \$200 and the maximum \$1,000.

Application forms are available on MARBIDCO's website: [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org).

For more information, please call Sierra Criste at (410) 267-6807 or send application forms electronically to [scriste@marbidco.org](mailto:scriste@marbidco.org) or mail to: MARBIDCO, Cold Storage Grant Program, c/o Sierra Criste, 1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21, Annapolis, MD 21403

## 2022 Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

[Registration is now open for the Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School](#), which will be held in-person at the Princess Royale in Ocean City, MD from November 15 – 17, 2022. The school offers a 2 ½ day format with a variety of breakout sessions. Emphasis is placed on new and advanced information with group discussion and interaction encouraged. Individuals needing training in soil and water, nutrient management, crop management, and pest management can create their own schedule by choosing from 5 program options offered each hour.

New this year for CCAs: we are offering specialty CCA certification credits in sustainability and precision agriculture. Specialty credits count toward recertification for the associated specialty certification or can be applied toward your overall CCA recertification credit requirements (for individuals not holding a specialty certification). We also anticipate offering state nutrient management credits for DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV and state pesticide credits for DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, and WV.

Online registration will close at 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, November 7, 2022. Registration Fees are \$325 by October 15, and \$375 from October 16 through November 7. We look forward to seeing you there.

Registration and program details are online at: <https://go.umd.edu/crop22registration>.

*November 15-17*

*Princess Royale Hotel  
Ocean City, MD*

## 2022 Ag Law Conference

Do you have trouble keeping up to date with agricultural and environmental laws? The Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference (AELC), hosted by the Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI), is a unique event that brings together stakeholders from Maryland's agricultural, conservation, and legal fields. Whether you are curious about the upcoming Farm Bill or want to learn more about the growth of the hemp industry, ALEI is bringing together the experts to discuss these topics and more at this year's conference. The conference will be held on October 28th from 8AM-3PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, MD and both in-person and livestream attendance options are available. Continuing nutrient management education credit is available and [registration](#) is free for students!

The AELC is an opportunity for networking, educational growth, and discussing the intricacies of environmental law and agriculture. The conference will begin with a look at how Maryland's new Partition of Property Act helps families with complex title issues preserve their families' real property so that it can be passed to the next generation. The law impacts both urban and rural families and helps owners of heirs' property better protect and manage the land they own.

The next panel will feature scientific and policy experts to discuss the growth of the hemp industry. The last two Farm Bills have opened the door for hemp production in the U.S. However, this relatively new industry is still evolving, and this discussion will center around what we have learned and what still needs to be done to foster hemp production. This work is supported by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Another of the morning panels will focus on a new environmental justice (EJ) screening process for permits from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Starting this fall, MDE permit applicants will need to include an EJ score from a new tool in permit applications. This panel will include a demonstration of the EJ tool and legal analysis of how this program will impact Maryland. The final morning panel will cover an overview of the year's most significant agricultural and environmental law issues and an indication of what we can expect in 2023.

The afternoon sessions will kick off with a panel of agricultural policy experts to answer questions and discuss the social and economic implications of the 2023 Farm Bill. The panel discussion will revolve around: Farm Production and Conservation; Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs; Rural Development; and Food and Nutrition Security.

The final session will be about Maryland's Food Waste Law and planned implementation. This panel will also discuss impacts on existing efforts by local governments to promote food waste reductions and administer community programs. The discussion will touch on ways agricultural producers may participate and benefit from food recovery and waste diversion systems.

[Registration](#) for the AELC is open and the ALEI conference is a great investment to learn more about current issues impacting agriculture and the environment. Anyone with questions or in need of more information may contact ALEI Program Coordinator Ryan Zimmerman at [rzimmer7@umd.edu](mailto:rzimmer7@umd.edu) or (301-405-1271).

# Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference

# 2022

**Friday, October 28** | 7:30 AM - 3 PM  
Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel

**KEYNOTE:** Farm Bill Panel

Learn about what's coming down the pipeline during the 2023 Farm Bill panel discussion.

*2 Nutrient Management Credits Available*

In person and virtual registrations are available.



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**AGRICULTURE LAW  
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

**For pricing, information, and registration:**  
[go.umd.edu/aleiconfreg2022](http://go.umd.edu/aleiconfreg2022)

Maryland Department of Agriculture [press release](#)

Governor Larry Hogan announced the launch of a Small Acreage Cover Crop Program to support small farm producers and urban agriculture. The pilot program is operated by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and aimed at helping historically underserved farmers and communities build healthy soils, increase yields, sequester carbon, and improve local water quality. Financial assistance for this program is capped at \$1,000 per grower, per year.

“The incredible character, work ethic, and resilience of our farmers has been an inspiration to me and to all Marylanders,” said Governor Hogan. “Grant programs like these demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that all our farmers continue to be good stewards of the land and that agriculture remains our state’s number one industry.”

Maryland’s Small Acreage Cover Crop Program is the first in a series of statewide financial assistance programs to be introduced by MDA’s new Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program. It will provide needed financial and technical assistance to support small-scale farms located in urban, peri-urban, rural, and suburban areas. The goal of the program is to increase community access to healthy foods by helping farmers adopt environmentally sound practices.

Small-scale producers who may not qualify for traditional cover crop programs are encouraged to apply for these grants. Program highlights include:

- Urban agricultural growers and small farmers who plant five or fewer acres of a cover crop may apply for cover crop grants.

- Eligible species to be planted include cover crop seed mixes or single cereal grains.
- Cover crops may be planted in open plots, raised beds, or a high tunnel following the harvest of a production crop (vegetables, herbs, flowers, sorghum, soybeans, hemp, millet, or tobacco).
- Growers should plant fall cover crops following seed company recommendations, but later than November 30, 2022.
- Growers will be reimbursed based on paid receipts with a maximum payment of up to \$1,000 per growing season.

“Interest in small-scale and urban agriculture is on the rise, both nationally and here in Maryland,” said MDA Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “In recent years, the department has seen a high demand for fresh, safe, locally grown food in communities statewide. Our Small Acreage Cover Crop Program will provide needed state funds to help urban and smaller producers improve and protect the natural resources that support fresh, healthy food.”

The Small Acreage Cover Crop Program is funded by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and managed by MDA’s Conservation Grants Program. Growers who want to apply for these grants should contact Bill Tharpe, Program Administrator for the Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program, at [bill.tharpe@maryland.gov](mailto:bill.tharpe@maryland.gov) or (410) 841-5869.

For additional information, please visit the [website](#).



# Farm Stress Management Workshops

This workshop is designed for Agriculture Service Providers to equip them with the skills and knowledge to support farms and farm families in times of distress. The University of Maryland Extension Farm Stress Management Team will train service providers to identify signs of distress, develop skills to communicate with those experiencing stress, and provide resources both locally and nationally. Financial and regulatory topics will also be discussed as they are often contributors to stress on the farm.

Upcoming Trainings (All hosted from 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM):

- **Monday, October 31, 2022 - Baltimore County**

Baltimore County Agricultural Center  
1114 Shawan Rd. Suite 2,  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

- **Thursday, November 3, 2022- Anne Arundel County**

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Rooms 112 & 114  
Annapolis, MD 21401

- **Monday, November 7, 2022- Virtual**

Zoom Link will be sent upon Eventbrite Registration

For more information contact Ryan Salsman, Farm Stress Program Coordinator, University of Maryland Extension (240-623-6731, rsalsman@umd.edu).

To register visit <https://fstraining524.eventbrite.com>.

The program is open to all. If you need special accommodations please contact the organizers two weeks prior to the event. For more information on the Farm Stress Management Education Project visit [www.go.umd.edu/farmfamily](http://www.go.umd.edu/farmfamily).

*This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under sub award number ENE20-160-34268.*



Save the Date

2022 Northern Maryland Field Crops Day

December 1, 2022

Friendly Farms Restaurant

Details and registration information to come!

*Great resources are just a click away!*

*Andrew Kness*

Andrew Kness  
Senior Extension Agent,  
Agriculture and  
Food Systems



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Back-issues can be found at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/harford-county/agriculture-and-nutrient-management>



[akness@umd.edu](mailto:akness@umd.edu)



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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact your local University of Maryland Extension Office.

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## Dates to remember

- 08 Oct.** Urban Ag Farmer Field School. 10 AM-2 PM. Farm Alliance of Baltimore Teaching Farm, Baltimore, MD. Free. Register online or call (410) 856-1850.
- 11 Oct.** Beef Webinar Series: Utilizing Crop Residue as Forage. 7:30-8:30 PM. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#).
- 12 Oct.** Women in Ag Webinar: Ag Leases. 12 noon. Online via Zoom. Free. Register [online](#).
- 18 Oct.** Optional Training Session for pesticide exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension office. Core Manual \$10. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.
- 20-21 Oct.** Advanced Grazing Workshop. Western MD Research and Education Center, Keedysville. \$100-\$150. Register [online](#) or call (301) 432-2767 x339.
- 25 Oct.** Private Applicator Pesticide Exam. 9-11 AM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.
- 25 Oct.** Private Applicator Pesticide Recertification Training. 1-3 PM. Harford County Extension office. Free. Register by calling (410) 638-3255.
- 28 Oct.** Ag Law Conference. 8-3 PM. Crowne Plaza, Annapolis. \$50. Register [online](#) or call (301) 405-3541.
- 04-05 Nov.** UMES Small Farm Conference. 9-3:30 PM. Princess Anne, MD. \$35/day. Register [online](#) or call (410) 621-5450.

# October 2022