

UNIVERSITY OF
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Garrett County Ag Newsletter



December 2025

2026 Western Maryland Forage Conference



Save the Date!

2026 MARYLAND-DELAWARE FORAGE CONFERENCES



Join us at the upcoming Western Maryland Forage Conference for an informative day on forage and livestock management.

University of Maryland Extension and the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council invite forage producers, grazers, livestock owners, and associated industry personnel to attend the upcoming Western Maryland Forage Conference at the Grantsville VFD 178 Springs Rd. Grantsville, MD 21536 from on January 21, 2026 starting at 9:00 am through 3:30 pm.

Topics for the conference will include:

- Native Warm-Season Grasses: A "New" Tool for Forage Production?
- Establishing Native Grasses: Can You Do This at Home?
- More topics coming soon!

Morning refreshments will be available, and lunch is included in the price of the ticket. Doors will open at 8:30 am, and the meeting will start at 9 am.

Participants will be able to earn nutrient management certification credits and private and commercial pesticide applicator credits (amounts will be updated once credits are approved). Registration is required to attend.

The cost is \$25 if registered by January 13th or \$30 for late registration and at the door. Credit card registration can be made at: <https://go.umd.edu/wmdforage>. or contact the Garrett County Extension Office for cash/check registration at 301-334-6960. Checks will need to be made payable to Maryland-Delaware Forage Council.

Attendees also have the option to renew or become a member of the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council with the purchase of a ticket to the forage conference (and receive a \$5 discount off the cost of membership!).

Estate & Succession Planning Workshop

Maryland farm families contemplating estate planning are invited to a ***free, in-person training on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Garrett County University of Maryland Extension Office***. The workshop will cover how to begin the process and make it less overwhelming, health insurance options, and succession-planning tools to consider when starting. Lunch will be provided.

Register here: <https://go.umd.edu/GCWorkshop>

Estate and Succession Planning Workshop

January 13, 10AM – 2:30 PM

UME - Garrett County Office
1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A
Oakland, MD

Why Attend?

Farm families must answer important questions as they balance day-to-day operations with the **weight of ensuring a secure future** for the next generation.

Using practical estate and succession planning tools can **relieve uncertainty and give you greater peace of mind.**

You will leave knowing

- What makes an effective estate plan
- How to communicate about difficult topics with your family
- A range of health insurance options for farmers

Brief Agenda

10 AM – 11 AM	Health Insurance Options for Farmers
11 AM – 12 PM	Communication skills
Lunch Provided	
12:30 PM – 2 PM	Defining an effective succession plan

Register Today!

<https://go.umd.edu/GCWorkshop>

Registration fee: Free

Direct questions to Paul Goeringer

lgoering@umd.edu



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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 legal protected class.

This work is supported by the Northeast Extension Risk Management project award no. 2024-70027-42540, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Pesticide Private Applicator Exam Review



The Garrett Office of University of Maryland Extension will be holding a private applicator test review on January 26th from 6-9pm at the Oakland office. The review will cover the information that is on the MDA Private Applicator Exam. Individuals that wish to have a private applicator license will also need to take the

exam with MDA. MDA has two options for the exam, it can be taken in person or online. A date will be set later in the winter for the exam to be taken live in Garrett County and information will be provided on how to take the exam on-line. The private applicator license is required for farmers who apply restricted use pesticides on property that they farm. The license does not cover spraying for hire for other farmers or businesses. The training session is free. Materials are available in print (for a fee) and online.

For more information or to sign up, contact the extension office at 301-334-6960.

Winter Ban ON Spreading Manure Begins December 16, 2025



The **Maryland Department of Agriculture** is reminding farmers that the winter ban on spreading manure, food processing residuals (FPRs), and other nutrient sources on cropland begins on **December 16, 2025**. Farmers can resume spreading these materials on **March 1, 2026**, as long as they follow their nutrient management plan recommendations and ensure that fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen. Read the entire article below.

MDA Winter Ban On Spreading Manure Press Release

Do You Need A Nutrient Management Plan?



Nutrient management planning for the 2026 growing season is upon us. This fall, all producers who requested a 2025 nutrient management plan should have received a letter and subsequent data collection information outlining what is needed for their 2026 plan update. Please complete the required information and return it to Andrea as quickly as possible. Any other producer in need of a plan who has not already contacted our office should call 301-334-6960 or email auphold@umd.edu as soon as possible. If soil and/or manure samples are needed for your plan update, please

take advantage of any break in the winter weather to obtain those samples instead of waiting until spring. Sampling materials are available at the extension office for you to send the samples yourself. Let us know if we can answer any questions and we look forward to working with you.

USDA Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage of native and improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover or acreage planted specifically for grazing. Grazing losses must occur on land physically located in a county experiencing a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Garrett County producers are eligible for a payment in 2025 due to the dry weather throughout the summer.



Please call the FSA office in Oakland at 301-501-5857 for more information and to sign up for the program.

2026 Annie's Project Class



Annie was a woman who grew up in a small town in Northern Illinois. Her goal was to marry a farmer and she did. Annie spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her farm husband. Together they did great things, but it wasn't easy. This is Annie's Project – to take her experiences and share it with women involved in agriculture.

Objectives

Annie's project is designed to empower women in agriculture to manage information and learn about agriculture in a relaxed local network. The target audience is women with a passion for agriculture. Annie's Project is a six-week online experience designed especially for women to help them develop their management and decision-making skills. Annie's Project will help develop an understanding, interpretation, and opportunities in agriculture

Wednesdays starting - February 18 - March , 2026 (NO CLASS Feb 25)

MidShore Maryland (In-person)

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: University of Maryland Extension-Queen Anne's County, 505 Railroad Avenue, Suite 4, Centreville, MD 21617

Virtual Option

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Online (through Zoom)

Note: reading and project assignments outside of class time about 1 hour per week.

Annie's Project is approved for USDA FSA Borrower training. This includes classroom time and a workbook that will need to be completed. There is an additional \$100 charge for the FSA portion. More information about this is located at <https://go.umd.edu/anniesprojectfsa>.

The cost is \$50 for the series and includes a portfolio, access to an online learning platform and access to all presentations and worksheets, access to financial and legal advice, and support from a variety of community partners.

To register, visit <https://2026anniesproject.eventbrite.com>. For more information on the curriculum

and program logistics, please contact Shannon Dill at sdill@umd.edu or Jenny Rhodes jrhodes@umd.edu or visit the website at <https://go.umd.edu/anniesproject>



2026 Annie's Project Agenda.pdf

Download

198.9 KB

Fruit Tree and Bush Fundraiser



Garrett Soil Conservation District is selling 5' to 7' bareroot fruit trees and fruit bushes again this year to raise funds for outreach. Trees starting at \$21, bushes \$10. Trees and bushes are customized to Garrett County's unique growing conditions. Many heirlooms. Also Persimmon and Paw-Paw seedlings. For more information please go to <https://garrettsoilconservation.org>.

Statewide Agriculture Newsletters



Newsletters from UME offer informative, researched-based information that the reader can put into practice. Informative articles include crop production, disease information, animal science, and upcoming programs. Take a closer look at the newsletters listed below.

The **Agronomy News** is a statewide newsletter for farmers, consultants, researchers, and educators interested in grain and row crop forage production systems. This newsletter is published once a month during the growing season and will include topics pertinent to agronomic crop production. Subscribers will receive an email with the latest edition.

[Agronomy News](#)

The **Fruit & Vegetable News** is a timely publication for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry available electronically from April through October. Published by the University of Maryland Extension Agriculture and Food Systems team.

[Vegetable & Fruit News](#)

For more than 30 years, **Branching Out** has kept Maryland woodland owners and managers informed about ways to develop and enhance their natural areas, how to identify and control invasive plants and insects, and about news and regional online and in person events.

[Branching Out](#)

Maryland Forage Focus



The University of Maryland Forage Extension Program offers a wealth of resources and educational opportunities designed to support those involved in forage production and management. By signing up for monthly updates, you can stay informed about upcoming programming, workshops, and events that can enhance your knowledge and skills in this field. Additionally, you'll gain

access to a variety of useful resources, including research findings, best practices, and expert advice tailored to the needs of forage producers. To ensure you don't miss out on these valuable insights and opportunities, visit the provided link to subscribe and receive the latest information directly in your inbox. Sign up at this [link](#) to start receiving these resources.

Update AG Client Contact Information

Please [click here](#) to update your contact information and to stay updated on everything agriculture-related in Garrett County and the tri-state area.

CONTACT US



UME Garrett County Agriculture & Food System

William Lantz, Principal Agent
Agriculture & Food System

wlantz@umd.edu

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Except for Observed Holidays



[Faculty/Staff Directory](#)



Agriculture & Food Systems

Email: rcvetnic@umd.edu

Website: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county>

Location: 1916 Maryland Hwy., Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

Phone: 301-334-6960

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm excluding holidays

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4HGarrettCoMD>

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Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters