



Agriculture & Food Systems

February 2026

Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting



University of Maryland will hold the Western Maryland Agronomy Meeting March 11th at the Pleasant Valley Community Building starting from 9 am to noon. Hayden Schug Agriculture and Food Systems Educator in Charles County will present topics on Scouting Basics and IPM Planning for Field Crops and Making Sense of Efficacy Trials. A full agenda can be found [HERE](#).

Registration is required by contacting the Extension Office at 301-334-6960. Registration deadline is March 7, 2026. Lite refreshments will be provided.

Pesticide Recertification Credits will be offered for WV and MD.

Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Online Course

Maryland
Beginning Farmer
Success Online
Course



Register at:
<https://go.umd.edu/BFSC2026>

Topics covered will include

- business planning
- marketing
- crop production
- livestock husbandry
- soil health
- integrated pest management
- food safety
- regulations and certifications
- acquiring land and zoning

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Neil Little at 301 226-7415 or at nglittle@umd.edu

Event Details:

02/10/26 - 04/14/26

7:00pm - 8:30pm

ONLINE:
campus.extension.org

Course syllabus:
<https://bit.ly/4SM44bHj>

Course registration is \$60 plus Eventbrite fees. Two people from the same farm/family may attend the course under one registration.

This course is designed for people in Maryland who are considering or in the beginning stages of starting a farm as a business.

This 10-week course will be offered in an online format.

- The class will meet on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 pm, from **February 10 through April 14, 2026**, online.
- Students will complete at-your-own pace homework on the course website on campus.extension.org

Topics covered will include

- business planning
- marketing
- crop production
- livestock husbandry
- soil health
- integrated pest management
- food safety
- regulations and certifications
- acquiring land and zoning
- specialty crops
- organic production
- urban agriculture

More detail about what will be covered can be found in the course syllabus: <https://bit.ly/45M4bHj>

Course registration is \$60 plus eventbrite fees. Two people from the same farm/family may attend the course under one registration.

Learn more and register here: <https://go.umd.edu/BFSC2026>



Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Online Course Details

Download
1.2 MB

Regional Grazing Conference Planned for February 18



The Mountains-to-Bay Grazing Alliance is pleased to present the Regional Grazing Conference. Scheduled for February 18, 2026 at the Washington County AG Education Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD. Lunch will be provided. There will be a registration fee of \$25.00.

Featured speaker, Allen Williams, is a 6th-generation family farmer and founding partner of Understanding Ag, LLC, and Regenified, LLC. He has consulted with thousands of farmers and ranchers in the U.S. and 45+ other countries, on operations ranging from a few acres to over 2 million acres.

For more details and to register click [HERE](#).

If you need special accommodation, please contact the Washington County Agricultural Education Center by February 6, at 301-791-1304.

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.

Extension For Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) for 2025

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has extended the deadline for farmers to submit Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) for 2025 nutrient applications to April 1, 2026. Read the full press release below.



Department Extends Deadline for Farmers to File Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs)

news.maryland.gov

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. Registration deadline is March 1, 2026

Dairy Margin Coverage Program



The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) reauthorized the Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC) program for calendar years 2026 through 2031 and also outlines several important changes, including establishing new production history.

The DMC program is a voluntary program that provides dairy operations with risk management coverage that will pay producers when the difference (the margin) between the national price of milk and the average cost of feed falls below a certain level

selected by the program participants.

This program runs through February 26, 2026. For additional information contact the FSA office at 301-501-5857. Additional information can be found at the link below.

The USDA logo is displayed within a rounded rectangular box. It consists of the letters "USDA" in a blue, sans-serif font above a small green and white graphic element.

Dairy Margin Coverage Program | Farm Service Agency

Official websites use .gov A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States.

🔗 fsa.usda.gov

Freedom AG & Energy AG Expo

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Our mission is to provide our customers with high-quality products and the essential knowledge they need, all at reasonable prices. We invite you to join us for our Annual Agriculture Expo. These events will give our customers the chance to engage with vendors directly and take advantage of exclusive event-only specials. Enjoy giveaways and light refreshments while you're here!

Event Date

 March 17th 4 PM - 7 PM

Southern Garrett County Rescue-
200 Baltimore Ave.
Oakland, MD 21550

Please **RSVP** by calling the
store at (301) 334-3121
by March 6th.

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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](#)



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>

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. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the event at 301-334-6960.



Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

