

Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

 **April 2025**

University of
Maryland Extension

Harford County
Agricultural Center

Suite 600
3525 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154
(410) 638-3255

M—F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Extension.umd.edu/harford-county
facebook.com/HarfordAg

Andrew Kness
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Hello, Harford County!

By now everyone should be up-to-date with their necessary certifications, such as pesticide licensing and nutrient management vouchers, for the upcoming growing season. If you still need credits, one last option for pesticide and nutrient management credits is our self-paced online training modules. You can access them at <https://umeagfs.teachable.com/>.

Another option for private applicator pesticide credits is our Pesticide Workbook, which is a paper-based training with a series of quiz questions. To request a Workbook, call the Extension office at the number listed to the left or email akness@umd.edu. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out and contact me.

Spring is a very busy and hectic time on the farm; remember to stay safe while working! Wishing you a happy Easter and a great start to the 2025 planting season!

Until next time,
-Andy

On-Farm Research Trials

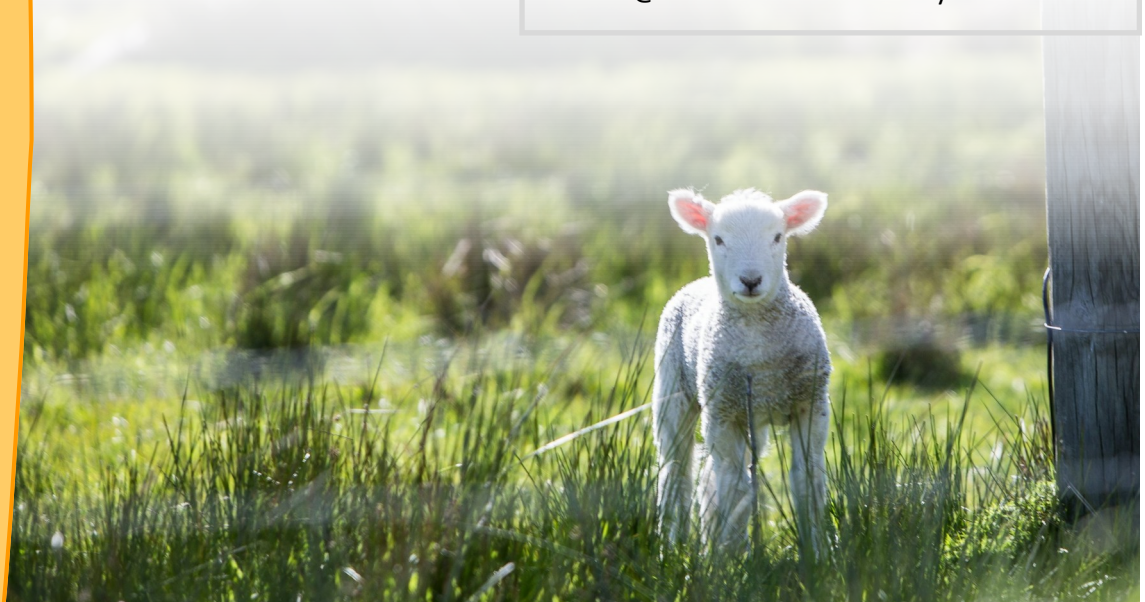
We are looking for farmers to partner for on-farm research trials. The different trials are listed below. Full protocols can be found online at <https://psla.umd.edu/extension/md-crops/>.

- Nitrogen Rate – the study evaluates corn yield response to a sidedress rates from different nitrogen models.
- Biological Product Evaluation – the study examines the impact of biological fertilizer enhancement products on corn yield.

The University of Maryland has been funded by check-off dollars to benefit the future of Maryland grain production, by doing on-farm research. Dr. Nicole Fiorellino and Gene Hahn, the On-Farms Trials Coordinator, will be working directly with you to provide hands-on assistance throughout the entirety of the trial.

Compensation is available to participating growers who complete the protocols on their farms.

Findings will be aggregated with no identifying information or location and shared for other farmers to see and learn more. Contact Dr. Fiorellino directly at (443) 446-4275 or at nfiorello@umd.edu to enroll today!



Sweet Corn Variety Trials

Emmalea Ernest, Fruit & Vegetable Extension Specialist
University of Delaware

In 2024 I tested 18 white sweet corn varieties from the supersweet isolation group for yield and ear quality traits. Trials were planted on two dates, April 17 and May 23 at UD's research farm in Georgetown, Delaware. Most of the varieties in the trial were newer, but two varieties that are currently recommended based on past trial performance were included as checks: Nicole and Xtra-Tender 378A.

Six varieties were high yielding for both planting dates: White Lightning, Endurance, 7401 IMP, Xtra-Tender 378A, Seabright and Nicole (Table 1). Additionally, Platinum and XTH 3674 were high yielding in the April 17 planted trial and Guardian was high yielding in the May 23 planted trial.

There were nine varieties that were not among the top yielding varieties in either trial: Silver Thunder, Xtra-Tender 3473, Summer Sweet Multisweet 2001MR, Leadoff, XTH 3380, Resolve Xtra-Tender, Glacial, Xtra-Tender 3572, and Freedom.

In addition to good yields, White Lightning, Nicole and Guardian had good tip cover and good tip fill. 7401 IMP and Xtra-Tender 378A had poor tip fill – especially in the April planted trial.

Based on the 2024 trials, I plan to add the following white supersweet isolation group varieties to those already listed in the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Recommendations: Endurance, XTH 3674, Seabright, 7401 IMP, Platinum, White Lightning, and Guardian.

Table 1. Yield from 2024 White Sweet Corn Trials.

	Yield in Dozen Ears/Acre	
	April 17 Trial	May 23 Trial
White Lightning	1,367 ab	1,476 a
Endurance	1,368 ab	1,307 abc
7401 IMP	1,355 ab	1,283 abc
Xtra-Tender 378A (check)	1,428 a	1,210 bcd
Seabright	1,271 abcd	1,343 ab
Nicole (check)	1,198 abcd	1,307 abc
Guardian	1,174 bcd	1,295 abc
Platinum	1,307 abc	1,137 bcde
XTH 3674	1,210 abcd	1,125 bcde
Freedom	1,065 cde	1,126 bcde
Xtra-tender 3572	1,053 de	1,137 bcde
Leadoff	787 fg	1,210 bcd
Resolve Xtra-Tender	847 ef	1,077 cdef
Glacial	654 fgh	1,004 def
Xtra Tender 3473	533 h	980 def
XTH 3380	569 gh	883 f
Silver Thunder	472 hi	956 ef
Summer Sweet Multisweet 2001MR	254 i	157 g
C.V.	17.54	14.58
p-value	<0.0001	<0.0001
LSD	247.71	230.07

*Varieties connected by the same letter are not significantly different from each other.

Table 2. Relative Maturity for Recommended Varieties from the 2024 Sweet Corn Trials.

	Days to Harvest			
	Reported	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial Average
Nicole	72	82	62	72.0
Endurance	73	82	63	72.5
XTH 3674	74	82	63	72.5
Seabright	77	83	67	75.0
7401 IMP	75	83	68	75.5
Platinum	80	83	68	75.5
White Lightning	77	83	71	77.0
Xtra-Tender 378A	78	85	71	78.0
Guardian	80	89	68	78.5

2025 Commercial Vegetable Production Guide

The 2025 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations is now available. This comprehensive guide provides recommendations on variety selection, site preparation, weed management, and pest management for all major vegetable crops grown in the mid-Atlantic. Recommendations are generated through research from mid-Atlantic land-grant Extension services. The guide is available for free online <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/mid-atlantic-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations-eb-236/> or contact the Extension office for a hard copy.

Evaluating Wheat Stands

Andrew Kness, Senior Agriculture Agent
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County

We have had a record-setting dry fall and winter, making for poor wheat germination and tillering in some fields, especially those planted later in the fall. As wheat begins to green up and as we approach planting season, it may be a good idea to consider evaluating your wheat stands to help you determine if you should keep the crop for grain vs. a cover crop, consider alternate uses, or terminate it to replant a different crop.

In order to accurately determine wheat stand you will need a yard stick (or any three-foot long stick) and a calculator. Place the stick along a row and count the number of plants in that three-foot section. Record this number and repeat this several times at random locations across the field that are representative of the field as a whole. I would recommend doing this at 10-15 locations to get an accurate average. Take your average and multiply it by four. Divide this number by your row width (in inches). The equation looks like this:

Alternatively, if your wheat is broadcast or flown on, you can calculate the number of plants per square foot by counting the number of plants in a 1 ft. x 1 ft. square or any other standardized form of measurement as long as you're consistent (for example, you could use a hula hoop; just calculate it's area).

To achieve maximum yield potential, stands should be at least 22 plants/sq. ft. You may want to consider alternatives for stands fewer than 12-14 plants per square foot. Furthermore, plants should have 2-3 tillers per plant to achieve maximum yield potential.

Plants/sq. ft.	Yield Potential (%)
30-35	100
22-28	100
18-21	90-95
15-18	75-80
12-14	60-70

**Information from
the Penn State
Agronomy Guide*

$$\text{Plants per square foot} = \frac{(\text{Average number of plants per 3 ft of row}) \times 4}{\text{Row Width}}$$

Example:

Plants/ 3 ft. of row: $(48+41+38+36+28+51+42+39+48+43+18+29+56+49+45)/15 = 40.7$

$$\frac{40.7 \times 4}{7} = 23.6 \text{ plants per square foot}$$

IPM Monthly Webinar

Learn effective integrated pest management (IPM) techniques to enhance your farming practices and improve crop yields. This webinar will be monthly on the third Thursday of every month from 12-1:00 p.m. Topics include:

- Whitefly and thrips management
- Palmer amaranth and pigweed update
- Managing corn earworm
- Neo-p in strawberries

- Cover crops for weed management
- And much more!

For details and registration go to <https://go.umd.edu/ipmwebinar> or call Hayden Schug at (301) 226-7502.



Pre-Plant Control of Italian Ryegrass

Kurt Vollmer, Weed Management Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

Italian ryegrass has been giving us trouble the past couple of years. I've had several reports of ryegrass control failures following glyphosate applications. In 2023, seeds from 49 ryegrass populations from Maryland and Delaware were screened for glyphosate-resistance by Dr. Caio Brunharo's lab at Penn State. Out of 40 populations screened, all were controlled by glyphosate at 2 lb. ae/A.

This indicates that recent troubles controlling ryegrass may be due to application issues rather than glyphosate-resistance. This species can be particularly tricky to manage this time of the year, so it's important to remember:

- Cold weather affects glyphosate uptake and translocation. Applications should be made when the temperature is greater than 55°F and consistently remain above 45°F for 3 to 5 days to be effective.
- Higher rates will be needed to control ryegrass compared to other species (1.25 to 1.5 lb. ae a/A).

- Plants should be less than 6" but no more than 8" tall at the time of application.
- Other components in the tank can also affect glyphosate performance.

Include a spray grade ammonium sulfate (8.5lb. to 17lb. /100 gal) in the tank to abate water quality issues. UAN and high rates of triazine herbicides (>0.25 lb. ai/A), such as atrazine, that are included in the tank can also reduce glyphosate absorption and translocation.

If glyphosate alone fails, try tank mixing or alternative herbicides. Last year at the Lower Eastern Shore REC, 98% ryegrass control was achieved with glyphosate (1.25 lb. ae/A) + clethodim (0.121 lb. /A) + nonionic surfactant (0.25%v/v) + AMS (8.5lb./100 gal) or sequential applications of paraquat (1 lb/A) + crop oil (1%v/v) + AMS (8.5lb./100 gal) made 14 days apart (Figure 1). In trials conducted in Pennsylvania, glyphosate + 0.02 lb. rimsulfuron/A also controlled ryegrass greater than 95%. Always consult the label for important information such as tank mixing and plant back intervals before applying any pesticide.



Figure 1. Italian ryegrass response 22 days after application to a) non-treated, b) glyphosate + clethodim, c) paraquat fb paraquat plots. Images: K. Vollmer, University of Maryland.



BOI to be Limited to Foreign Companies

Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Law Legal Specialist
University of Maryland, Agriculture Law Education Initiative

Reposted from the [Ag Risk Management Blog](#). This article is not a substitution for legal advice.

Those keeping track of Beneficial Ownership Interest (BOI) reporting may have noticed a back and forth between federal courts in enjoining the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issued a stay in its early decision, allowing reporting to continue on February 18, 2025. This decision is in the Smith v. U.S. Department of the Treasury, No. 6:24-CV-336-JDK, 2025 WL 41924 (E.D. Tex. Jan. 7, 2025). On February 19, 2025, FinCEN issued [guidance](#) that most reporting will be due by March 21, 2025.

On February 27, FinCEN issued additional [guidance](#) that by March 21, 2025, they would be issuing an interim rule that extends that deadline. At the same time, the Department of Treasury will work to reduce the regulatory burden imposed by the Corporate Transparency Act and focus on reporting that is highly useful to crucial national security, intelligence, and law enforcement activities. To follow up on the guidance issued on February 27, the Department of Treasury

issued additional [guidance](#) on March 2, 2025, stating that the Treasury would suspend penalties against all domestic citizens and reporting companies and would narrow the scope to foreign reporting companies only.

The Corporate Transparency Act was created intending to prevent money laundering, illicit financial transactions, and financial terrorism. As a part of the law, FinCEN was created in the Department of the Treasury to create a national database of business entities and owners of those business entities that are not subject to regular public disclosure laws. This database required beneficial owners of businesses to disclose certain information. As mentioned earlier, the Department of Treasury is working to issue interim rules that limit the impact of reporting to only foreign-owned companies. To understand more about the type of entities that would have to report, you can look at this helpful [publication](#) by my colleagues at the Ohio State University. If you have read this far and are confused by all the changes over time, so is your author, but stay tuned; I'm sure this will not be the end of our story.

Participate in UMD-TAPS Research

University of Maryland [press release](#)

Researchers at the University of Maryland are inviting growers across the state to participate in their University of Maryland – Testing Ag Performance Solutions (UMD-TAPS) program this year. The program is supported by the Maryland Soybean Board and will run throughout the summer.

Piloted at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the TAPS program provides farmers with a zero-risk opportunity to advance their agricultural management skills and knowledge. It serves as a growing season contest and research framework, designed to uncover how producers' management decisions drive crop yields, farm profitability, and input-use efficiency.

Growers must make decisions about variety selection, fertility, pest management, and irrigation and their management decisions will be executed in small plots at the Wye Research and Education Center. Decisions made by all participants will be executed in one field, in a true head-to-head competition. The goal is to identify which suite of management decisions will become the most profitable, efficient, and highest yielding.

Researchers at the Maryland Agricultural Experimentation Station (MAES)



WYE Research and Education Center will lead the program and gather data on each plot to share with farmers.

When the season ends, growers will participate in an awards dinner where they will gain access to valuable data sets to help them enhance their agricultural operations.

The irrigated corn competition is limited to 20 teams and the irrigated soybean competition is limited to 15 teams. Due to limited availability, researchers urge teams to sign up as soon as possible.

Interested applicants can sign up at bit.ly/UMDTAPS25. For any questions, please reach out to Dr. Nicole Fiorellino at nfiorell@umd.edu.

Amanda Grev, Forage and Pasture Management Specialist
University of Maryland Extension

As things are greening up this spring, you may notice a few weeds popping up around your fields. Now is the time to scout your pastures and hayfields in search of winter annual and biennial weeds. When it comes to weed control, timing of herbicide application critical and it is important to spray when weeds are most susceptible to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Winter annuals typically germinate in the fall, overwinter, and complete their reproductive cycle in the spring or early summer. Common winter annual species include chickweed, purple deadnettle, field pennycress, henbit, horseweed/marestail, shepherd's purse, and mustards. Annuals are best controlled during the seedling and early vegetative stage when they are young and actively growing. Herbicide applications will be more effective if made at this stage while they are still susceptible and will prevent them from flowering and producing seed. At this time of year, winter annuals are growing rapidly and will soon begin to flower and set seed; getting on top of these species now before they mature is ideal and will give you the most control. Once the winter annuals in your fields have moved beyond a vegetative stage, an herbicide application may offer some control but you may also want to take note of any problem areas and target them later this year with a late fall application.

Biennials live for two growing seasons, with the first year consisting of only vegetative growth as a seedling and rosette and the second year consisting of vegetative growth and also reproductive growth in the form of an elongated flower stalk. Common biennial species include burdock, bull thistle, musk thistle, and wild carrot. These weeds are best controlled during the seedling and rosette stage (the smaller the better), and should be treated now while they are smaller and more susceptible and before they begin to bolt.

A number of herbicides are available for control of broadleaf weeds; selection should be based on the type of forage and the weed species present. The most common herbicides used for control of broadleaf weeds in grass hay or pasture are the plant growth regulator herbicides, which includes products containing 2,4-D, dicamba, triclopyr, fluroxypyr, or a mix of these. These products are safe if applied to grass forages at the labeled rates but can kill or injure desirable broadleaf forages (i.e. clover) in grass-legume mixed pastures.

If weedy annual grasses such as crabgrass, foxtail, pani-

cum, and Japanese stiltgrass are problematic, pendimethalin (Prowl H2O) has a supplemental label that allows for its use on established perennial pastures or hayfields grown for grazing, green chop, silage, or hay production. This product may be applied to perennial grass stands or alfalfa-grass mixed stands. Prowl H2O may be applied as a single application in the early spring, or for more complete control, it can be split with the first application in early spring and the second application after first cutting. Split applications provide better control than a single, early season application. Keep in mind, pendimethalin is a pre-emergent herbicide, so it will only control weeds if applied prior to germination; this product will not control established perennials like roughstalk bluegrass. Japanese stiltgrass is usually the first species to germinate, and can germinate as soon as soil temperatures reach about 50°F. If soil temperatures in your area are already above 50°F it is likely that stiltgrass and crabgrass have already germinated, but a split application of Prowl H2O now and after first cutting can still help control foxtail. There are currently no herbicides labeled to control emerged weedy grasses in grass stands or alfalfa/grass mixes.

Note that if forages were recently seeded and are not yet established many of these herbicides can cause crop injury. Most herbicide labels for cool-season perennial grasses state that the grasses should be well established with at least 4-5 inches of growth, although some labels are more restrictive than this. In addition, some of these herbicides have haying or grazing restrictions following application. Always read and follow the guidelines listed on the product label for proper rates, timing, residual effects, and any grazing or harvest restrictions following application.

Lastly, remember that while herbicides can be a useful tool for weed management in pastures and hayfields, they are not the only option for weed control. A program that integrates several different control strategies is generally more successful than relying on a single method. For maximum results, include practices such as selecting adapted species and maintaining optimum soil fertility, timely mowing or clipping to suppress weed seed production, and biological practices such as utilizing livestock for controlled grazing or browsing. And remember that weeds are opportunistic; the ultimate strategy and number one form of weed control is competition with a healthy, dense stand of desirable forage species.

Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarships

The **Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarship** is available to applicants whose families are members of Harford County Farm Bureau. The applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time accredited 2 or 4 year college, university, or technical school, and the applicant's chosen curriculum must be in an approved program in agriculture or an agriculturally related field.

The **Harford County 4-H Memorial Scholarship** is available to graduating high school seniors who have been a member of Harford County 4-H for a minimum of 2 years. The applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time accredited 2 or 4-year college, university, or technical school. It is not necessary for the applicant's chosen curriculum to be agriculturally related. This scholarship was established to memorialize several Harford County 4-H members who lost their lives at a young age because of accidents or health issues. Funds

for this scholarship come from donations and from the sale of 4-H livestock projects which are sold at the Harford County Farm Fair.

There is one scholarship application form, which can be used for either or both scholarships. To obtain an electronic copy, please contact the Farm Bureau office at harfordfb@gmail.com or call Alice Archer at (443) 417-3505.

The completed application and all requested information should be sent to: Harford County Farm Bureau, 3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 200, Street, MD 21154-1900. **Applications must be postmarked by or delivered to the Farm Bureau office at the Harford County Agricultural Center by Wednesday, May 28, 2025.**



For Students

Farm Succession Survey

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is partnering with Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture on the Northeast Farm Progression Survey. The purpose of the survey is to study the topic of farm progression planning and better understand the challenges that farmers are facing today. The information will then be used to help deliver and develop resources needed to navigate the process. The survey is targeted to farm owners,

operators, family members of owners/operators, farm managers and farm workers. The survey is also open to the other states within the Northeast Region. The link to the survey can be found here:

pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_agyxK32aFHuM78G



Ag Land Preservation

BRFA? POS Funding? Transfer Tax? There's been lots of questions and conversations in recent weeks regarding the State Budget and its impact on Agricultural Land Preservation Programs. As of the writing of this update, the State Budget is still being discussed and there are no final decisions regarding future funding levels for State Programs. But there is GOOD NEWS! The State Budget has No Impact on Harford County's Ag Preservation Program. This program is funded solely by

a local transfer tax that is dedicated to our Ag Preservation Program. That means we are still full steam ahead with the County Program despite the questions around the State Budget. **The County has funding available and is accepting applications for the County Ag Preservation Program through May 1.**

If you are interested in discussing your preservation options, please contact the Ag Preservation Program at (410) 638-3235.

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>

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Ag Business

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Ag Notes

Harford County Newsletter

Dates to remember

- 01, 15, 29 Apr.** Backyard Gardening Webinar Series. 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#) or call (301) 226-7718.
- 17 Apr.** Monthly IPM Webinar: Whitefly and Thrips Control. 12 noon. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 228-8800.
- 29 Apr.** [Maryland Day](#). 10-4 PM. University of Maryland, College Park.



**2025
EARTH DAY GROUPS**

**EARTH
DAY
CELEBRATION**

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

11 A.M. - 3 P.M.
POPLAR GROVE PARK
3519 Conowingo Road, Street

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN!

- Compost bin and rain barrel raffle
- FREE mulch & compost: bring your own bag
- Master Gardeners projects
- Pollinator garden activities
- Agricultural & Environmental groups

Pit beef/ham available for purchase provided by, and proceeds to benefit, Darlington/Dublin VFW Post 10146

**JOIN US
RAIN OR SHINE**

Harford County Office of Recycling
410-638-3417
wdoring@menv.com
Bob Cassilly, County Executive

2025
EARTH DAY GROUPS

Ladew Gardens
Harford Bird Club
Harford Land Trust
Molly Hill Farm
Maryland DNR
Harford Soil Conservation
HC Office of Recycling
HC Noxious Weed Program
HC Adopt-a-Road Program
HC Litter Control Program
C.A.T. Club of Havre de Grace
PaL Garden
Harford County Forestry Board
Eden Mill Nature Center
Susquehanna Bee Keepers
Un. MD Master Gardeners
Master Gardener Bay Wise
Harford County 4-H Camp
Anita C. Light Estuary
4-H Stockyards (live animals)
University of Maryland Extension
Friends of the HCPL Darlington Branch
Mason Dixon Community Services
Mason Dixon Country
Susquehannock Wildlife Society

*Join Us
Special Day*

April 2025