

For Immediate Release

Date: 01/01/2026

Farm O Gram

No livestock sale on 12/22/2025

AG Happenings

Farm Estate Planning

Maryland farm families contemplating estate planning are invited to a free, in-person training on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, beginning at 10:00 until 2:30 pm, 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. Registration is required. Register here: <https://go.umd.edu/GCWorkshop>.

2026 Western Maryland Forage Conference

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!).

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.

Winter Ban on Spreading Manure Begins December 16th

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, if they follow their nutrient management plan recommendations and ensure that fields are not saturated, snow-covered, or hard-frozen. Read the entire article below.

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.