

AG NOTES

University of Maryland Extension | Harford County

Hello Harford County!

It was great seeing and catching up with so many of you last week at the Harford County Farm Fair. The 39th annual Harford County Farm Fair was a huge success and quite possibly the best weather we have experienced for fair week in recent memory.

I would like to congratulate all of our 4-H and FFA youth on their achievements and hard work throughout the year to make the farm fair a success. I would also like to thank their parents as well as 4-H volunteers and the fair board for their dedication, hard work, and countless hours they put into the fair. I hope you all can enjoy some time off or a vacation now that fair week is behind us!

I would also be remiss if I also did not thank our community; both the general public for supporting the fair and taking interest in Harford County agriculture, as well as our local businesses for supporting the livestock auction. Over 270 lots went through the auction on Saturday bringing a record sale of over \$950,000. Each year I am amazed by the level of support our community shows our 4-H and FFA youth; we thank you!

As county fair ends, it is not the end of the show and fair season for many of our youth; with the Maryland State Fair

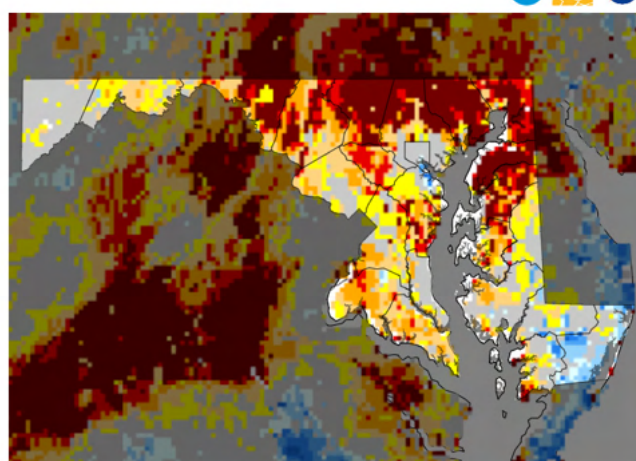
lurking around the corner in August/September, projects will be prepped and hauled to the Timonium Fairgrounds for the "11 best days of summer."

On another note; we are fortunate to have received some much-needed rain this week. Depending on where you are in the county, rainfall totals were from 0.5-1.0+ inches. We are still under a drought condition and our soils are still dry (as seen in the map below). Hopefully some more rain is in the forecast.

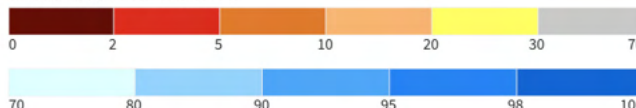
Until next time,

-Andy

NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 07/28/26

Drought.gov

Inside This Issue

Agritourism Conference	2
Dairy Runway Program	2
What Is Cyclosporiasis?	3
Supreme Court Roundup Ruling	4
Agronomic Crops Field Day	4
Soil Conservation District Supervisor Opening	5
Cover Crop Showcase	5
Planting Date Impacts on Double-Crop Soybean	6
Upcoming Pasture Walks	7

Harford County Agricultural Center
3525 Conowingo Rd., Suite 600
Street, MD 21154
M - F 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
extension.umd.edu

Andrew Kness
Senior Agriculture Agent
(410) 638-3255
akness@umd.edu

Maryland Agritourism Conference

University of Maryland Eastern Shore [press release](#)



The University of Maryland Eastern Shore Extension will host its second Maryland Agritourism Conference **November 15-17, 2026**, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina in Cambridge, Maryland. The three-day conference promotes real-world strategies to boost [agritourism](#) as a profitable, value-added opportunity. This year's theme is "Boosting Agritourism Strategies to Improve the Profitability of Family Farms."

Educational sessions (including hands-on workshops) and expert panels are planned, in addition to networking and time to visit exhibitors and vendors.

This event is perfect for agritourism operators (including farmers, ranchers, wineries, breweries and agribusinesses), tourism professionals and service providers, as well as academia, government and non-governmental agencies.

Take advantage of our early-bird pricing until **August 31**, and confirm your seat at the conference.

- Early bird: \$200 per person (sales end Aug. 31)
- General Admission: \$250 per person (sales end Nov. 1)
- Off-site Tour: \$75 per person (limited seats available)

Advanced purchase required. No walk-ups will be accepted.

For block hotel accommodations at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina, visit <https://www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/CHE-SA/G-UME6>. A limited number of rooms are available at conference group pricing, which ends October 16.

Full schedule, registration, and additional information is available at <https://www.wcp.umes.edu/extension/community/agritourism-conference/>.

Dairy Runway Program

Dairy Innovation Program [press release](#)



Elevate your *udderly* brilliant dairy products from idea to prototype

Have an idea for a value-added dairy product? [Dairy Runway](#) is now accepting applications for its free entrepreneurship program that helps early-stage food innovators develop, test, and refine new dairy products.

Open to food and beverage entrepreneurs across the Northeast using cow, goat, or sheep milk produced in the region, the program combines virtual coursework, business coaching, and hands-on product development with Cornell specialists.

Want the inside scoop? Join an upcoming virtual information session:

- [Thursday, August 13, 9 - 10 a.m. ET](#)
- [Thursday, September 10, 9 - 10 a.m. ET](#)

Apply by September 16!

Based on the National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps model, the Dairy Runway program addresses the biggest reason for new product failure: lack of product fit with market demand. Through Dairy Runway, food entrepreneurs with early-stage ideas for value-added dairy products participate in a FREE, virtual Cornell-hosted entrepreneurship course that introduces them to the business model canvas and customer discovery process. Program participants are led through a process to determine if their product ideas are desirable, feasible, and viable. Graduates are equipped with the skills needed to develop a workable business plan for a scalable product and are positioned to apply for grants and next-level accelerator programs.

To learn more, visit <https://dairyinnovation.org/dairy-runway-program/>



What Is Cyclosporiasis?

Carol Allen, Agent Associate in Food Safety
University of Maryland, College Park

Cyclosporiasis continues to be in the news with cases in Michigan and Ohio rising dramatically in the past week. As of July 13, 2026 there have been 1,645 cases reported in 34 states, of these 141 cases required hospitalization (Fig. 1). There have been no reported deaths. An additional 440 cases were in people who were traveling outside the United States during the 14 days before they got sick. In the Mid-Atlantic, neither Maryland or Virginia are seeing the rapid increase in cases of Cyclosporiasis. Virginia reports a total of 10 cases for the year and Maryland reports 32 cases, again for the year.

Travelers outside of the US are at the greatest risk of exposure to these parasites by drinking contaminated water and eating contaminated food. Within the US, a typical year may see hundreds to thousands of cases nationwide, with healthcare providers seeing the peak in domestic cases between May 1 and August 3.

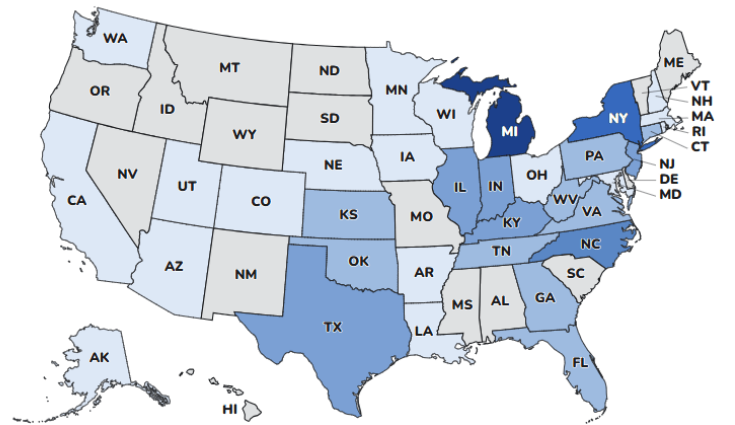
We typically see food borne illness outbreaks that are caused by bacteria. Cyclosporiasis is caused by a number of species of a microscopic parasite in the genus *Cyclospora*. The nature of the parasite makes trace back difficult as the life stage that is most often found in feces is an oocyst. That "resting" stage, or unsporulated oocyst, needs about two weeks in a favorable environment to produce infective sporulated oocysts. That lag time is what makes traceback difficult.

It is characterized by a watery, explosive diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms. It is often unreported in healthy individuals. If untreated, Cyclosporiasis can persist with periods of remission and recurrence.

At this time no link has been found tracing back to a common source. Clusters of cases are currently undergoing traceback efforts by the FDA. The CDC has initiated surveillance of the disease (<https://www.cdc.gov/cyclosporiasis/outbreaks/07-26/index.html>).

While Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Produce Safety Rule (PSR) training focuses primarily on bacterial pathogens, *Cyclospora* presents us with different problems. It is an intestinal protozoan that survives in the environment as oocytes, which are difficult to assay. *Cyclospora* is also resistant to standard sanitizers and can survive on fresh produce to cause food borne illness in humans. Historically it has been found in basil, berries, peas, cilantro, lettuces, and other fresh produce.

Cyclospora has been of minor concern in countries with trained workers and good sanitation procedures. In those countries Cyclosporiasis outbreaks have usually been



Number of Cases



Figure 1. Map of confirmed Cyclosporiasis cases in the United States since May 1, 2026. Image from cdc.gov.

traced to high-risk raw produce imported from areas with poor public sanitation programs.

Cyclosporiasis is not passed from human to human directly, but is spread via the fecal/oral route. Contaminated water, often surface water, contacting produce near or at harvest or contacting contaminated soil is thought to be the typical route.

Worker training in basic health and hygiene will be an important part in preventing outbreaks (Fig. 2). Emphasis should be placed on not using field areas for defecation and the importance of hand washing after using the toilet and before handling produce. As travelers can carry the parasite, worker health and hygiene training should be initiated immediately when new workers start on the farm.

At the farm level for both workers and visitors make sure to have a plan in place to clean and maintain portable toilets. Keep them away from the growing environment where contamination of produce can occur, including all sources of water. Use a reputable third-party company for cleaning, sanitation and disposal of human waste into an adequate sewage system or through other adequate means. Have a plan for monitoring and managing leakages or spills of human waste.

The presence of *Cyclospora cayetanensis* in Mid-Atlantic waters has been of increasing concern since first documented in 2018. Dr. Kalmia Kniel at the University of Delaware has been looking at the prevalence of the pathogen in Delaware waters and the possible efficacy of Zero Valent Iron filtration in removing and inactivating the protozoa in irrigation water. Read more about the project [here](#).

The U.S. Supreme Court and Glyphosate: Understanding Durnell v. Monsanto

Paul Goeringer, Agriculture Law Legal Specialist | lgoering@umd.edu
University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative

Reposted from the Ag Risk Management Blog. This article is not a substitute for legal advice.

As many of you may have seen in the press lately, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling in *Durnell v. Monsanto*. This case involved a jury verdict in a Missouri state court that found in favor of Mr. Durnell in claims that Monsanto failed to warn him that using Roundup could cause cancer. In this case, Mr. Durnell had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma after using the herbicide in his yard for years. Monsanto, as you might expect, appealed this decision and those appeals worked their way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In its decision, the Supreme Court ruled in a 7-2 decision that federal law preempts state law requirements to warn consumers of cancer risks.

Justice Kavanaugh wrote the majority opinion for the 7 justices. In that opinion, he focuses in on 7 U.S.C. § 136v(b) of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* (FIFRA). This section requires pesticide labels to be uniform with those approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This prohibits states from adding additional requirements to the label, such as warnings about health effects. The majority points out that the EPA has repeatedly re-evaluated glyphosate and concluded that it is not likely to cause cancer. Because of this finding, the EPA has never required a cancer warning on the Roundup label. For these reasons, any state law requirements that would force Monsanto to warn beyond what EPA has approved in the label are preempted under federal law.

I'm going to skip over Justice Thomas's concurrence in this column, but I want to turn to the dissent filed by Justice Jackson, with Justice Gorsuch joining her. Although not often on the same side, they did agree on this dissent. In their dissent, they disagreed with the majority's decision on the minor label modifications allowed under the regulations implementing FIFRA. These regulations allow pesticide manufacturers to request minor label modifications that would pose no potential

harm to the environment. In their view, adding a cancer warning is a minor modification. In the dissent, they point to six instances in which pesticide manufacturers had requested these for state-specific cancer warnings, including one example of another company owned by Bayer, the parent company of Monsanto.

What does this mean for you? Well, this does help provide some clarity to the ongoing debate happening in a number of states about adding cancer warnings to glyphosate products (such as Roundup). The majority opinion in this case shuts the door and preempts any of those requirements. As we see more and more litigation over the chemicals used in agriculture, this may place limits on the types of warnings that can be provided.

Agronomic Crops Field Day

**Highlighting checkoff
sponsored research**

AUGUST 18, 2026

**Wye Research and
Education Center**

211 Farm Lane,
Queenstown, Maryland
21658



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES

MAES MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION



Soil Conservation District Supervisor To Be Appointed

Maryland State Soil Conservation Committee

The Harford Soil Conservation District (SCD) is seeking individuals with knowledge and sincere interest in proper land use and conservation of natural resources to be considered for appointment to its Board of Supervisors. Supervisors must be residents of Harford County and are expected to attend monthly meetings of the Board. Interested individuals are strongly encouraged to attend a Board meeting prior to applying. Contact the Harford SCD office for meeting details (410-638-4828).

The appointment is a five-year term to expire on October 17, 2031 and is made by the Maryland State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC). More information (including Facts Supervisors Should Know) and the application form can be downloaded at the website below:

https://mda.maryland.gov/about_mda/Pages/md-soil-conservation-committee.aspx

Completed forms may be emailed to loretta.collins@maryland.gov (preferred) or mailed to: State Soil Conservation Committee, c/o Loretta Collins, Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 306, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

COVER CROP Showcase

RESEARCH • DEMONSTRATIONS • PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

KINGS GRANT FARM

7029 Quakerneck Rd.
Chestertown, MD

**FREE EVENT
LUNCH INCLUDED**

Pesticide & Nutrient
Management Credits
Available

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ Interactive **drone** and cover crop related **equipment** demonstrations
- ✓ Tour strip trials showcasing **14 species** of summer cover crop
- ✓ Interactive **soil pit** demonstration
- ✓ Learn about cover crop **planning** and **management** and **pest management** in cover crops
- ✓ Learn latest results from Maryland “**planting green**” research trials



**REGISTER
TODAY!**



**go.umd.edu/
covercropshowcase**



or call
410-651-1350

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

FUTURE HARVEST
Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

**MILLION ACRE
CHALLENGE**

Planting Date Impacts on Double Crop Soybeans

Nicole Fiorellino, Extension Agronomist | nfiorell@umd.edu
University of Maryland, College Park

Recent research performed in Maryland and Delaware (Miller et al., 2025) demonstrated unclear benefits of early planting of full season soybeans. There are many factors besides planting date that occur throughout the growing season that can impact yield, so it is not expected to see a strong relationship between planting and crop yield, in general. In the Southeastern US, early planting of full season soybeans typically extends the vegetative growth period of soybeans, which means more nodes per plant which equals more pods per plant which equals more seeds per plant and higher yield. In the Southern region, there is less risk of early season weather volatility and pest pressure compared to the Mid-Atlantic region - so fewer occurrences of problems throughout the season that are likely to decrease yield. Our early season weather volatility in the Mid-Atlantic is likely why Jarrod Miller and I were unable to demonstrate consistent yield increase with early planting of full season soybeans in our research. However, as some parts of the state are still working through wheat harvest and double crop soybean planting, I want to highlight regionally collaborative research carried out by my predecessor, Dr. Bob Kratochvil, that demonstrates the clear benefits of early planting of double crop soybeans, or rather, the penalties of delaying double crop soybean planting.

This article, published in 2020, includes multiple site years of data from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina evaluating double crop soybean yield impacts of planting date, from early June through the end of July. Figure 2 in the publication (and reprinted here) shows a clear decrease in relative yield as planting date is pushed later into June and July for all the locations of the study. For the Maryland data, the R^2 is 0.81, meaning that planting date explains 81% of the variability in relative yield across planting dates. Research in other areas of the country have indicated that planting date of double crop soybeans is an important factor in determining yield - likely due to the shortened growing

season when soybeans are grown in double crop systems. To maximize the success of your double crop systems, focus on timely harvest of small grains and timely planting of double crop soybeans.

A direct quote from the paper: "In Maryland, soybean yield was decreased 1.7% per day of delay (for a total of 56%) in planting from 15 June to 18 July regardless of soybean maturity group. In Delaware, planting date affected soybean yield from the first day of planting under both rainfed and irrigated conditions and there was a total 80% yield loss from 15 June to 30 July planting under rainfed conditions and 55% yield loss from 15 June to 25 July planting under irrigated conditions."

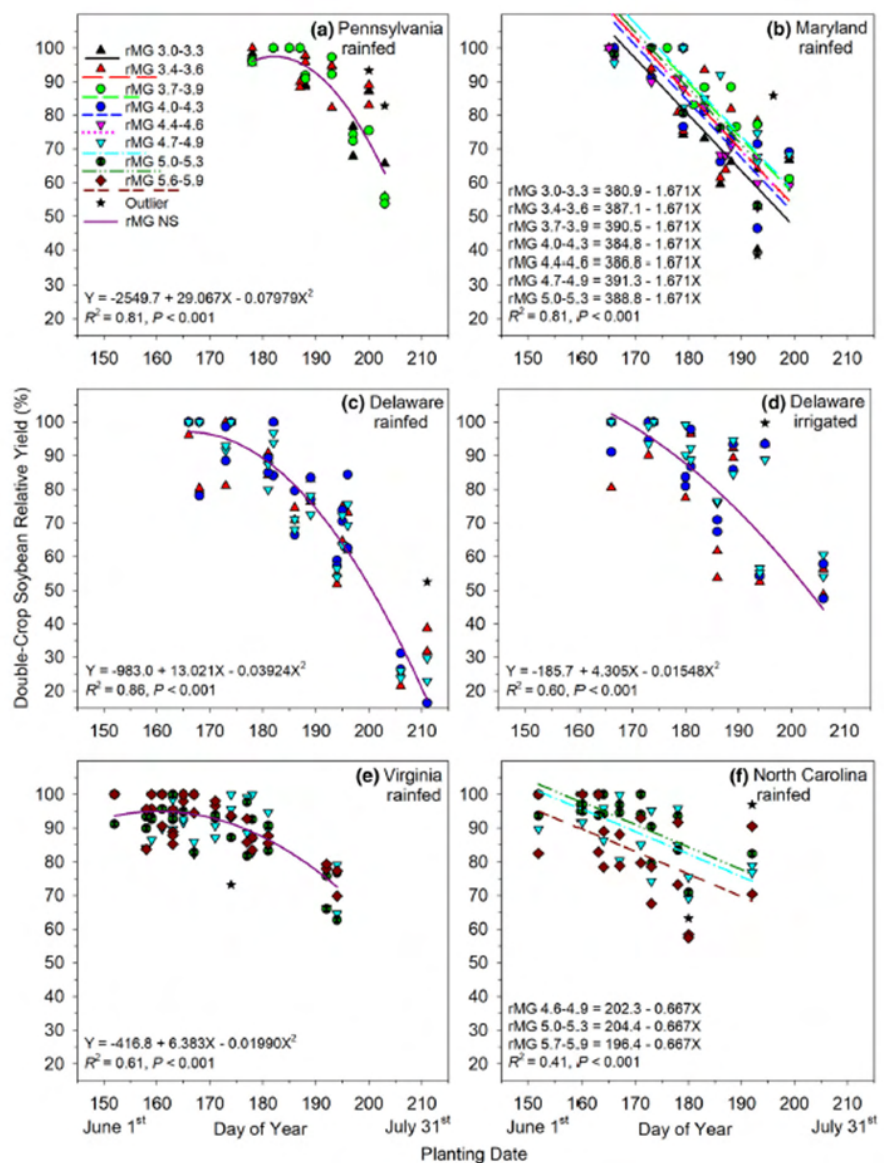


Figure 1. Relative yield of double crop soybeans by planting date (in Julian days) for six locations on the East Coast of the US. Each location used a unique combination of maturity group (rMG) and planting date. Overall, a yield decrease was observed with later planting. From Parvej et al., 2020.

Upcoming Summer Pasture Walks

Amanda Grev, Forage & Pasture Management Extension Specialist | agrev@umd.edu
University of Maryland Extension

University of Maryland Extension and its affiliates invite grazers, livestock owners, and associated industry personnel to attend some upcoming educational field days this summer! These field-based events will cover a range of topics and will be held at various locations across the state, both on producer farms and at UMD research centers.

August 6, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location: Plow and Stars Farm in Poolesville, MD

Description: Join University of Maryland Extension, Future Harvest, and the Million Acre Challenge for an educational pasture walk at Plow and Stars Farm. The farm raises grass-fed lamb and poultry with a focus on diversified grazing and soil health practices. Participants will have an opportunity to see and discuss several aspects of the operation, including multi-species grazing, virtual fencing, crop to pasture conversion, and silvopasture. The event will also feature a demonstration of the Maryland Soil Health Card to assess physical and biological indicators of soil health and monitor the outcomes of soil management practices.

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/pwaugust>

August 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location: The Mill of Salisbury in Salisbury, MD

Description: Join University of Maryland Extension for our first ever Pasture Diagnostic Clinic! If you have weed problems, fertility questions, problem areas, layout concerns, or other pasture issues, you can submit photos or short videos and we will work through your concerns together. You do not need to submit materials in order to attend, all are welcome to come and learn.

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/pastureclinic>

September 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location: Grazy Days Family Farm in Union Bridge, MD

Description: Join University of Maryland Extension and MDA for an educational pasture walk at Grazy Days Farm. Grazy Days Family Farm raises 100% grass-fed lamb and local chestnuts. Topics of discussion will include grazing management for grass-fed lamb production, establishment of trees for silvopasture, and diversifying with tree crop production. The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Agroforestry Specialist will also be on hand to answer questions related to technical and funding assistance available for agroforestry practice implementation.

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/pwseptember>

Participants are welcome to join for one or more events. Registration is free but required, please visit the specific link for each individual event or call (301) 432-2767 to register. All pasture walks will be outdoors, please dress accordingly. For more information on upcoming forage events visit <https://go.umd.edu/forageevents>. If you need accommodations please contact Amanda Grev (agrev@umd.edu; 301-226-7575).

Small Grain Variety Trials

Vijay Twari, Associate Professor, Dept. of Plant Science
University of Maryland, College Park

Data from the 2026 University of Maryland small grain variety trials is now available by clicking [here](#) or the link below. If you would like a paper copy, please contact our office at (410) 638-3255.

For additional information on how to interpret variety trial data, please see this [Fact Sheet](#).

[2026 Small Grain Variety Trials](#)





AG NOTES

University of Maryland Extension | Harford County

Dates to remember

04 Aug. Field Crops Research Twilight Tour. 4-9 PM. Central MD Research & Education Center, Upper Marlboro, MD. Free. Register [online](#) or call (301) 226-7472.

06 Aug. Pasture Walk at Plow & Stars Farm. 5-8 PM. Poolesville, MD. Free. Register [online](#) or call (301) 266-7575.

08 Aug. Small Orchard Pruning & Maintenance Seminar. 10 AM. Baltimore County Agricultural Center, Cockeysville, MD. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 887-8090.

18 Aug. Agronomic Crops Field Day. Wye Research & Education Center, Queenstown, MD.

19 Aug. Cover Crop Showcase. 9-1 PM. King's Grant Farm, Chestertown, MD. Free. Register [online](#) or call (410) 651-1350.

Maryland State Fair. Aug. 27-30, Sept. 3-7, and Sept. 10-13.