

NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

By: *Howie Feaga, President Howard County Farm Bureau*

Summer is always a busy time. We are all in high gear, now that the rain has let up. This spring was the wettest we have had in quite some time. I am not going to be long because I know you are all busy and reading my message is not on your list of things to do. I am going to let you all read the letter that your Board of Directors sent to Councilperson Mary Kay Sigaty and Councilman Greg Fox to help them with the decision to withdraw CB-21, better known as the Mulch and Compost Bill. We were hoping to get the whole issue behind us, but maybe another time.

Well I hope you are all safe and being careful as you get your summer work done. So, as I always say, "Keep your plow in the ground, we're all pulling for you".

Your President, *Howie Feaga*

Mulch and Compost Bill Letter

June 1, 2018

Councilman Sigaty and Councilman Fox,

On behalf of the Howard County Farm Bureau, we are asking that at this time, you withdraw CB-21, 2018 (ZRA183). Maryland at a state level, is looking at how to manage each county's needs, for the proper use of Wood Waste, Compost and Food Waste. This bill CB-21 with amendments is not good for us. So, at this time we are willing to take a loss of a battle, for a war that has just begun. We had looked forward to getting this bill and the whole issue of Mulch and Compost behind us. Unfortunately, there are those that seem to be obsessed with not getting this issue taken care of, for reasons way beyond the realm of reality. We have heard facts as well as false statements and

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for some reason a small portion of the county seems to be afraid of the truth and has added lies and unproven statements to a story that is long from coming to an end. The lack of compromise and the shameful accusations are just a form of Bullying, that is sadly become the tools certain groups are using to manipulate others that cannot make up their own minds.

For those of us in agriculture, we all know that we do very little the way it was done a generation ago. Homeowners should never be allowed to dictate a farmer's ability to make a living on their own land. This issue has made it evident that we have many more battles to endure. Most of us know that if you refuse to adapt to modern technology you are quickly left behind. Each generation of every Community needs to embrace technology and combine that with the old, to be able to survive in a world that is spinning faster every day. Every farmer gets on their knees every night and prays that they can make a living with what God has given us, we also pray that we are not the generation that loses the land, that those before us struggled to keep and make better. It's also hard enough to keep the next generation on the farms. What has been done to agriculture in this county has made the next generation of our families, want no parts of farming, and that is an unrepairable travesty.

No matter how small or how large an operation is, it must use all the resources available to it, to make the puzzle pieces align and complete a picture, that will then change in a lifetime or the time of a season or even as little as the next day. Change is inevitable and change for the better is the ultimate goal. So, to those so inclined to stop progress, please embrace life and stop trying to manipulate a world you know nothing about, a world that has got to change if we are going to keep everyone moving forward, in this progressive county, Howard County, our lifetime home, and the home of many more generations to come. We hope!

Sincerely, ***Howie Feaga***

Howie Feaga, President of the Ho. Co. Farm Bureau

Maryland Department of Agriculture's Cover Crop Cost- Share Program

By: ***Kristal McCormick***

Sign-up for Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) 2018-19 Cover Crop Cost-Share Program. It is currently underway and runs through July 17th.

“As they grow, cover crops take up unused plant nutrients remaining in the soil from the preceding summer crop. Once established, they work all winter to protect fields against erosion caused by wind, rain, snow and ice. In addition to their water quality benefits, cover crops improve soil health and water retention, sequester carbon, increase organic matter in the soil, reduce weeds and pests and provide habitat for beneficial insects. Cover crops may even help farm fields recover more quickly from drought and extreme rainfall events. Studies have shown that planting cover crops in the fall can increase yields of cash crops like corn and soybeans after only a few years.”

Maryland's Cover Crop Program provides grants to farmers who plant small grains such as wheat, rye or barley, brassicas, and forage radish on their fields following the fall harvest. To help create diversity, eligible cover crop species may be mixed with radish and legumes including clover, Austrian winter peas and hairy vetch.”

Contact the Howard Soil Conservation District, 410.313.0680 or kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov, with any questions or to arrange a time to come in to sign-up for the program.

Howard Soil Conservation District's Cooperator Dinner

By: *Kristal McCormick*

Howard Soil Conservation District's (HSCD) Cooperators Dinner is a time for folks to come together, to catch up with old friends and make new ones. During the HSCD Cooperators Dinner a farmer is recognized for their outstanding conservation work.

This year's Cooperator Dinner will be held on Thursday, September 13th at Colmont Farm.

To find out more visit the HSCD website, www.howardscd.org, or call the office, 410.313.0680.

We look forward to seeing you there.

House Farm Bill Passage a Win for Farmers

Source: *American Farm Bureau Federation*

WASHINGTON, June 21, 2018 – The following statement regarding House passage of the 2018 Farm Bill may be attributed to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

“Passage of the House farm bill today is a big win for America’s farmers and ranchers. Our grassroots Farm Bureau members clearly made their voices heard. By approving the 2018 Farm Bill today, members of the House recognized the serious economic challenges facing farmers and ranchers across the country.

“As crafted by Chairman Conaway, this bill recognizes what is working well, but it also makes much-needed improvements in risk management and crop insurance programs at a time when farm-income levels have slumped to decade lows. This would not have been possible had it not been for Speaker Ryan making the farm bill a congressional priority, and for all the hard work invested in the

process by Chairman Conaway and other members of the House Agriculture Committee.

“We look forward to continuing our work with Senate Agriculture Committee leaders Roberts and Stabenow as they move forward. The Senate bill also addresses the challenges our farmers and ranchers are facing today. We will also continue to focus our attention on other areas important to farmers, such as finding a solution for the very serious ag labor shortage, increasing market opportunities through trade and cutting the burdens of regulations that have piled up during previous administrations.”



University Receives Grant to Support Maryland Farmers with Farm Transition Planning

Source: *University of Maryland Extension*

Published on: May 15, 2018



New grant will help Maryland farmers better understand business planning and the basics of farm succession planning.

Image Credit: Edwin Remsburg

College Park, MD – USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Northeast Risk Management Education Center recently awarded a grant of over \$42,000 to University of Maryland College Park’s Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to fund estate and transition planning resources for Maryland family farmers.

These funds will support a variety of resources to help Maryland farmers better understand business planning and the basics of farm succession planning. According to Kelly Nuckolls Winslow, Project Director, “This grant will fund webinars, in-person presentations, and publications for farmers to read on their own time. Sometimes individuals can’t make a workshop or a webinar, so we’re providing multiple ways for farmers to get this important information.”

The grant will fund two farm succession workshops at two locations along Maryland’s eastern shore, including speakers from the University of Maryland Extension, the Agriculture Law Education Initiative, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Nationwide Insurance, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition to these workshops, Winslow and Extension Legal Specialist Paul Goeringer, a co-project director, will partner with Mid Atlantic Women in Agriculture to provide interactive educational resources for the pre-conference for the popular annual Women in Agriculture Conference.

The grant will also support four classes on farm succession planning for Annie’s Project participants. Annie’s Project is a national program designed to empower women in agriculture. In Maryland, Mid Atlantic Women in Agriculture has sponsored Annie’s Project since 2008. Each class will be provided in one of four regions across the state.

Other projects supported by the grant include a series of webinars within the Women in Agriculture Wednesday Webinar Series which will be available on the University of Maryland Extension Farm Succession Planning page, and three new publications to help family farmers understand the laws and strategies to begin the farm transition planning process.

Goeringer has provided many workshops on the topic of farm succession planning. “This is not a topic many families want to discuss, what happens to the farm when dad and mom pass away? Although a difficult topic, having it before it is too late can provide the family with the ability to carry the farm on to the next generation. These workshops and webinars will help current owners

and successors understand how to start the process and begin developing a succession plan to continue the farm on to future generations.”

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) provides legal education resources to Maryland family farmers to help them successfully navigate the laws which impact their operations.

ALEI is a collaboration of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB); the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); and the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

ALEI is an initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State, a collaboration between the state of Maryland’s two most powerful public research institutions: UMB and UMCP. It leverages the sizable strengths and complementary missions of both institutions to strengthen Maryland’s innovation economy, advance interdisciplinary research, create opportunities for students, and solve important problems for the people of Maryland and the nation.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2015-49200-24225.

Now We Have Invasive Ticks?

By: Peter Coffey, Agriculture Extension Educator University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County

Unfortunately, it’s true! There’s a newly introduced invasive species, and this time it’s a tick. *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, the Asian longhorned tick, has been captured several times at US border quarantine sites, but it wasn’t until last fall that a population was detected living in the United States. A sheep in Hunterdon County, New Jersey was found to be infested with hundreds of ticks of various life stages. The farmer contacted the county

Health Department, and they identified the tick, and treated the sheep with multiple permethrin baths. They hoped the cold winter would kill any escaped ticks, but in April this year they announced that some had survived the winter. Additionally, in May, a calf on a beef farm in Albemarle County, Virginia, and two separate farms in Hardy County, West Virginia were found to be infested with the same species. At this time, no known link exists between these farms or how widespread the populations might be.

This species of tick can reproduce without mating, so only a single female tick is needed to start a new population. At this point, there's no reason to think this species is in Maryland, but it's important to be on the lookout. This tick is notable for occurring in very large numbers often on a single animal and has been reported to sicken or kill calves and sheep, and to decrease the milk production of dairy cows.

This species feeds on a wide range of mammals and birds, including wild animals, livestock, and humans, and transmits several diseases. In cattle, this species can transmit a bacterial disease called Theileriosis, which causes anemia, fever, swollen lymph nodes, and death. Humans cannot get Theileriosis. However, this species can also transmit the viral disease SFTS, which can be deadly to humans.

Neither of these diseases have been observed in the United States, but there are plenty of other diseases already transmitted by our native ticks, so remember to protect yourself from ticks this summer! If you're visiting or buying animals from affected areas, you should double check that you're not bringing any ticks home with you. If you do find any ticks behaving oddly, or in very large numbers, please bring them in to get identified at your local Extension Office, or the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Freeze them or drop them in rubbing alcohol to kill them.

If you're spraying for corn earworm, then check out our new website for monitoring populations at www.mdmothmap.com. There you'll find up-to-date catch counts for pheromone traps in Baltimore, Carroll, and Harford Counties. Just click on a red pin and you'll see the most recent 5-day total. These 5-day totals are used to calculate your recommended spray interval, which you can see by clicking "Spray

Rate" in the top right corner. This website also works on mobile devices. If you have any questions or problems with the website, please contact Peter Coffey at the Carroll County Extension office at (410) 386-2760. You can also still see moth counts on Twitter @mdmothcount.

What Can I Do to Manage Head Scab Next Year in 2019?

By: ***Andrew Kness, Agriculture Extension Educator, University of Maryland***



Fusarium Head blight of Wheat
Photo Dr. Gary Bergstrom, Cornell University

If you grew wheat this year, chances are you don't have to look too hard to find head scab/ Fusarium head blight (FHB). The excessive rainfall, humidity, and warm temperatures that we had around wheat flowering provided the perfect habitat for *Fusarium graminearum*, the causal agent of FHB, to thrive. If you have FHB, you have few options to manage it at this point in the season as you read in Bob's article above; but what can you do in 2019 to better your odds (besides hope for little rain during flowering)?

To understand your options you need to understand the lifecycle and biology of *F. graminearum*. The pathogen survives on residue, particularly that of wheat, barley, and corn and will persist through the winter on this material. During periods of wet, humid, and warm temperatures in the spring, the fungus will produce spores. If wheat or barley is growing in the field, the spores are splashed up onto the heads via rain or irrigation, or carried by the wind. If the wheat or barley is flowering, the spore can germinate and infect the plant through the flower; it cannot get into the plant any other way. This is why we recommend fungicide application at

flowering. Once the pathogen infects the wheat, it grows within the spikelet, bleaching it in the process (Figure 1) and infects the developing grain, causing shriveled, light weight, discolored kernels called tombstones. Infected grain may contain deoxynivalenol (DON) vomitoxin. FHB not only reduces yield, but has the potential to contaminate your grain with DON.

With that in mind, here are some tips for managing FHB in 2019: Know your variety! If you plan to grow and market quality grain, then you need to know your varieties. Unlike barley, wheat does have some resistance to FHB, although it is not complete resistance. Some varieties are more resistant than others, so my suggestion is to grow a variety that has the best resistance and yield potential. Consult with your seed rep and utilize the data from our wheat variety trials. A collaborative project between the University of Maryland and University of Delaware screens wheat varieties for resistance to FHB. The data can be found here, or call your Extension Office for a copy.

Use a fungicide at flowering. Unless we have an exceptionally dry spring, you'll likely need a fungicide application to protect against FHB. Use the Scab Risk Assessment Tool to help assess your risk. Time your application at the start of flowering (Feekes 10.5.1) and up to 5 days thereafter. Triazole fungicides work best, particularly Caramba (metconazole), Proline (prothioconazole), and Prosaro (prothioconazole + tebuconazole). Do not use strobilurin fungicides! See my article in the April issue for more information on fungicide strategies.

New for the 2019 growing season will be a new product from Syngenta, called Miravis Ace (adepidyn). This will be a new mode of action fungicide (SDHI) to be used on FHB, and should help us with managing resistance by rotating it with the Triazoles. Preliminary University testing shows that Miravis Ace does well against FHB; however, claims of a wider application window seems questionable at this point, so application timing will still be critical.

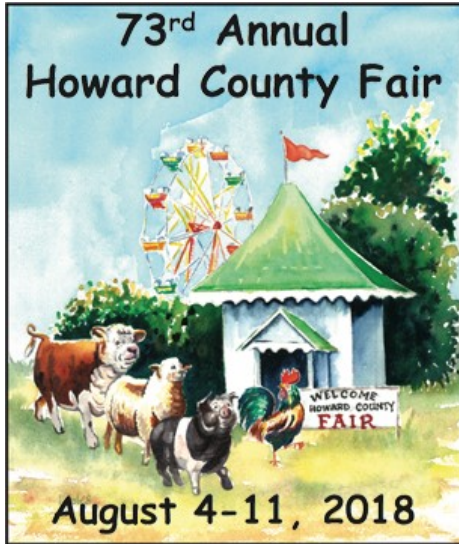
Select your best fields. Since *F. graminearum* can survive on small grain and corn residue, planting wheat or barley behind soybeans is better than following corn. *F. graminearum* doesn't survive well

on soybean residue. If you are following corn, consider a light tillage pass with a vertical till tool to size residue. This will accelerate residue decomposition, killing some of the surviving *F. graminearum*.

It is important to utilize as many management strategies as possible for FHB. Host resistance can only provide about 50% FHB suppression in wheat (and 0% in barley), and fungicides can only provide 50% suppression at best. Growers must use a combination of variety selection, fungicides, and cultural practices to achieve a high quality wheat or barley crop.

Announcements

❖ Don't miss the 73rd Annual Howard County Fair!!



➤ Junior Showmanship



The time has come to get geared up and ready for the 2018 Junior Showmanship Show with Howard County Farm Bureau! Time to get our future agricultural leaders working with animals.

The show will take place at Howard County Fair, in the show pavilion on **Saturday, August 4th**, at **12:00pm** (noon)!

WHOOP WHOOP!

Junior Showman is open to ALL children between the ages of 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. The Junior Showman will be showing dairy calves, market lambs, market goats & market swine. 8 & 9 year old's that are current 4-H'ers can not show a species that they are signed up for in 4-H.

Please share and tell your family and friends about this awesome program. The youth do not have to have a agricultural back ground! Our soul purpose is to get more children involved in ag and let them handle the animals in a fun-competitive manor!

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or email!

Rhonda Patrick Winkler
Howard County Farm Bureau
Steel Fire Farm
Home: 410-489-9369
Cell: 443-277-0349
Email: steelfirefarm@yahoo.com

➤ HCFB Contests

**Miss Howard County Farm Bureau
Little Miss Howard County Farm Bureau
Howard County Future Farmer**



2017 Winners

***Sponsored by the Howard County Farm Bureau
Women's Leadership Committee***

Contests held **Sunday, August 5th** at the Fair and the contestants will ride in the opening day parade.

Miss Ho Co Farm Bureau stage portion of contest held **3:00 pm** in the **Show Pavilion**

Future Ho Co Farmer and Little Miss Ho Co Farm Bureau presented during intermission of Miss Contest in Show Pavilion

Calendar of Events

2018

JUL 19 BUY LOCAL COOKOUT

Place Government House, Annapolis, MD

*Contact Karen Fedor:

karen.fedor@maryland.gov or

410-841-5773.

AUG 4 73RD ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

<http://howardcountyfair.org/>

Dates Aug 4th – 11th

AUG 4 JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SHOW

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

2210 Fairground Road,

West Friendship, MD 21794

Show Pavilion

Time 12:00 p.m.

AUG 5 HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU CONTESTS

Place Howard County Fairgrounds

2210 Fairground Road,

West Friendship, MD 21794

Show Pavilion

Time 3 p.m.

AUG 23 MARYLAND STATE FAIR

Place Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD

Dates Aug 23rd – Sep 3rd

SEP 13 HOWARD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S COOPERATOR DINNER

Place Colmont Farm

*Visit www.howardscd.org for more details

WISHING
EVERYONE A
SAFE SUMMER
AND
A
HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY!!!



[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, please contact the person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.