



Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SUMMER 2022



Secretary's Message

Earlier this year, we introduced changes to the Nutrient Management Program that will affect the way food processing wastes and residuals are managed. The changes are aimed at reducing odors and making sure that these materials are applied to fields based on their agronomic nutrient benefits. You can read about our proposed changes in this issue.

Also in this issue, you'll read about new, increased funding caps for 34 state-financed conservation practices. With up to 100% cost-share now available, there's never been a better time to improve your farm's natural resources.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our annual cover crop sign-up. Mail-in enrollment for our cover crop grants runs July 1 through July 18 at local soil conservation districts. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to build your soil and protect the Bay.

With best wishes for a safe, healthy, and productive planting season.

Joseph Bartenfelder
Joe Bartenfelder

New Rules for Food Processing Wastes and Residuals

The department has proposed regulatory changes that will affect how food processing wastes and residuals—including poultry processing waste, milk waste, and potato chip waste—are applied to agricultural land. The change is in response to numerous concerns expressed by neighbors and municipalities, including odor complaints and the need to utilize the nutrient content of the materials more efficiently after it is applied. The aim is to improve how these nutrient sources are managed to protect air and water quality. The department's *Nutrient Management Manual* will be updated once the proposed changes are approved later this summer. Here's the rundown on the changes:

- From November 1 through December 15, liquid food processing residuals must be injected directly into the soil, resulting in approximately 95 percent soil coverage.
- Before November 1, these materials will need to be either directly injected or incorporated to 95 percent soil coverage using deep tillage.
- A cereal grain or cover crop must be established on fields accepting the residuals if a crop is not present. Cover crops will follow the guidelines of Maryland's Cover Crop Program but are not eligible for cost-share assistance.



TIMELY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TIPS

from the University of Maryland Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

by Emileigh Lucas, M.S., C.C.A.

Start Planning Sidedress Applications

This year, split nitrogen applications are important for environmental and economic reasons. With fertilizer prices at record highs, splitting your nitrogen (N) fertilizer applications is a sound method to reduce losses.

PSNT for Corn Growers

The Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Test (PSNT) can help you determine how much nitrogen (N) is available in the soil prior to sidedressing. It is most useful in fields with a history of organic N applications and where legume forages or cover crops (e.g., clover or alfalfa) have been recently grown. The PSNT requires a soil sample that can be tested for free by your local University of Maryland Extension office or at a nominal cost by most soil testing labs. Depending on the results of the PSNT, you may be able to skip a nitrogen application on your corn crop. This will save time and resources and reduce environmental losses. Read the PSNT fact sheet at go.umd.edu/PSNT

Benefits of Sidedressing

In general, “spoon-feeding” nutrients to crops at the right time in the growing season is the best way to meet crop demand and reduce losses. Check your nutrient management plan to see recommended application splits for growing crops.

Calibrate Your Spreader

If you use organic nutrient sources (manure, biosolids, compost), calibrate your spreader. Calibration is the best way to determine if your spreader rate matches the nutrient application you want. Proper calibration and testing of the organic source will also save time, resources, and environmental losses. Be sure to calibrate your spreader the next time you apply manure. Several reliable methods are outlined at extension.umd.edu/resource/manure-spreaders-calibration. Contact your county Extension advisor for additional guidance and assistance.

Record Keeping Reminders

During this busy time of year, remember to keep track of nutrient applications for each field and keep your fertilizer receipts somewhere safe. If you prefer to use pen and paper, ask for a handy record keeping booklet at your local Extension office or email your request to erosso@umd.edu. Alternatively, you might want to develop a spreadsheet to keep track of nutrient applications. You will thank yourself later when it's time to fill out your AIR.



Maintain Good Yield Records

As you harvest small grains, keep your receipts from the grain elevator or records from your yield monitor handy. You can also calculate yield if you know a few details and the volume harvested. See the “Record Keeping” section of our website (go.umd.edu/plan-writing-tools) for helpful calculation sheets.



Stay Alert FOR BIRD FLU



Avian Flu made headlines this winter across a wide swath of the United States. Between February 23 and March 18, six farms on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore and Delaware were impacted by Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu (HPAI). The disease can be devastating to commercial and backyard flocks and is usually transmitted by migrating and wild birds. Last month, the disease killed more than 100 black vultures in Harford County. The bottom line is that Avian Flu is still out there. Follow these steps to help manage wildlife and keep Avian Flu off your farm:

- ✓ Keep mortality and compost piles covered at all times.
- ✓ Remove standing water adjacent to poultry houses.
- ✓ Prune or remove plants from banks of artificial water structures.
- ✓ Regularly check and repair damaged screens on windows and doors and holes in barn walls.
- ✓ Don't feed wildlife. Remove spilled or uneaten feed immediately and ensure feed storage units are secure and free of holes.
- ✓ Install decoys and scare devices and move them often so wildlife do not get used to them.

For more info and the latest updates, go to news.maryland.gov/mda/bird-flu-blog/

MACS Raises Funding Caps

Are you on the fence about installing a needed conservation practice? Here's some news that could make your project more affordable. MDA has raised the cost-share funding cap for 34 conservation practices financed through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS). Many of these practices can help you comply with your Nutrient Management Plan. These practices now qualify for up to \$75,000 in cost-share funding per project. Please contact your local soil conservation district to get your project started.

Qualified Practices

- Poultry Mortality Composting
- Conservation Cover
- Contour Farming
- Contour Orchard
- Critical Area Planting
- Sediment Basin
- Waste Treatment Lagoon
- Diversion
- Roofs and Covers
- Sediment Control Pond
- Windbreak Establishment
- Silvopasture
- Fencing
- Field Border
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Filter Strip
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Grassed Waterway
- Hedgerow Planting
- Lined Waterway or Outlet
- Pasture Management
- Roof Runoff Structure
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Spring Development
- Stream Crossing
- Strip Cropping, Contour
- Strip Cropping, Field
- Structure Water Control
- Terrace System
- Watering Facility
- Vegetated Treatment Area
- Water Well
- Wetland Restoration



New Fine Schedule Now in Effect

Farmers who missed the March 1 reporting deadline to submit their Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) can now be fined up to \$1,000 for late or missing reports. The new fine schedule was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2019 and is now in effect for Maryland farmers regulated by the Nutrient Management Program. *Please note: Paying a fine does not relinquish the obligation to submit an AIR.*

- 30 days late: \$250 fine
- 60 days late: \$500 fine
- 90 days late: \$1,000 fine

Hello & Welcome!

2022 Cover Crop Sign-Up: July 1-18

Meet Nick Miller, the new nutrient management specialist for Baltimore, Cecil, and Harford counties. Nick brings a wealth of farming experience to MDA. He has managed farms in Maryland and Virginia for 10 years and is the co-founder of Good Dog Farm in Baltimore County. An experienced ag educator, he has a Master of Science degree in Agronomy from the University of Florida with a concentration in Agroecology. Contact Nick at 410-991-3114 or nicholas.miller@maryland.gov



Mail-in registration for this year's cover crop sign-up runs **July 1 through July 18, 2022**, at local soil conservation district offices.

This is your chance to apply for grants to plant cover crops in your fields this fall to protect local water quality and boost your soil's health. If you participated in last year's cover crop program, check your mailbox for an application packet. Beginning July 1, you can download applications and instructions at mda.maryland.gov/conservation

New in 2022...

- The base rate for incorporated seed is now \$55/acre.
- The incentive payment to plant rye and mixed species has increased to \$15/acre.
- For more planting options and higher incentives, check out our new **Cover Crop Plus** option. This program is available to farmers who sign a 3-year cover crop commitment. Ask your local SCD about this option.

BEST PRACTICE

A watering trough provides a constant and plentiful supply of fresh, clean water for animals away from streams. Most farmers report that livestock prefer watering troughs to streams and springs. A well-placed watering trough can help you improve how you manage your pastures. MDA now offers up to 100% cost-share for this practice and will pay up to \$75,000 per project. Apply for this practice at your local soil conservation district.

Livestock Watering Facility





Urban Update

WHAT'S NEW...

The Urban Program has shifted its certification and license renewal deadlines. Professional Fertilizer Applicators (PFAs) and fertilizer business license holders now have until December 31, 2022 — instead of June 30, 2022 — to renew certifications and licenses. The move was made to help PFAs and businesses keep certificates and licenses up to date by changing the renewal deadline from peak season to off-season. Here's what you need to know:

- PFAs and fertilizer business license holders with valid certifications or licenses that expire June 30, 2022, will be granted extensions until **December 31, 2022**.
- Letters have been mailed to PFAs and license holders announcing this regulatory change to the deadline.
- Keep this letter with your certificate or license as proof that your credentials are valid and up to date.
- Renewal notices for Calendar Year 2023 will be mailed in November and are due to MDA by December 31, 2022.
- The 3 years for PFAs to obtain six continuing education credits will be extended to December 31, 2023.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Business license holders are required to file annual activity reports with the program by March 1.
- These reports summarize nutrients applied to lawns and turf during the previous calendar year.
- A report is required even if no nutrients were applied.
- A report is required if the company goes out of business during the time it was licensed.
- As of May 9, 2022, approximately 91% of license holders had submitted their reports.
- Warning letters have been issued to companies that have not filed their AFARs.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Maryland Nutrient Management Consultant Certification Exam

Date	August 5, 2022
Format	In Person
Locations	Annapolis
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to become certified to write nutrient management plans for farmers.
How to Register	Visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Nutrient Management Training" in the search box at the top of the page. Follow the link to the exam notice.

Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line

Dates	Our on-demand webinar library lets you earn continuing education credits anytime.
How to Access the Webinar Library	Visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Agricultural Nutrient Management Webinars" in the search box at the top of the page. Click the link to go to the webinar library. Don't forget to download the quiz for the webinar you plan to attend before you begin.

Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam

Dates/ Locations	August 3, 2022, Gaithersburg
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to become certified to apply fertilizer to lawns that they manage. Optional training sessions are available
How to Register	Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer . Check back often for new offerings.

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Education Classes

Dates	New two and six credit offerings are being planned and will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.
Format	To be determined.
Who Should Attend	Certified professional fertilizer applicators who want to renew their certifications.
How to Register	Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer . Check back often for new classes.





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Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Offices

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Alleghany, Garrett and Washington counties

P.O. Box 459
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Contact: Keith Potter, 410-279-3506 or
keith.potter@maryland.gov

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92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110
Frederick, MD 21702
Contact: Moana Himes, 410-353-4320 or
moana.himes@maryland.gov

Central and Southern Maryland

Anne Arundel, Howard and Montgomery counties

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Baltimore, Cecil and Harford counties

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Nutrient Management News

2022 SUMMER

What's Inside:

- New Rules for Food Processing Wastes and Residuals
- New License and Certification Renewal Dates for Urban Program
- Mail-in Cover Crop Registration Runs July 1 through July 18



Maryland Nutrient Management News is published by the Maryland Nutrient Management Program. It is designed to help farmers, consultants, and lawn care professionals comply with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. Comments and suggestions should be directed to the Maryland Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture. Email: ninfo.mda@maryland.gov

