



# Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SPRING 2025



## Letter from Secretary Atticks

The 2025 Maryland General Assembly is now in the history books. During the 90-day session, lawmakers worked to close a \$3.3 billion deficit while preserving essential services and advancing key environmental priorities, including *Governor Moore's Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act*. I'm thrilled that this legislation included the formation of MDA's new Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) program. You can learn more about LEEF and how to get involved at [bit.ly/MDA-LEEF](https://bit.ly/MDA-LEEF). We'll share additional information about this program in the coming months.

Importantly, I want farmers to know that although there will be budget cuts across all state agencies, conservation funding will remain available to eligible farmers.

If you need to update your nutrient management plan, please contact your county Extension office for free plan-writing assistance. If you want to hire a private consultant, you can find a list of certified plan writers at [bit.ly/NM-PlanWriter](https://bit.ly/NM-PlanWriter).

With declining commodity prices and rising input costs, sound nutrient management planning can help you reduce fertilizer costs, increase yields, and improve farm efficiency and production. I urge all farmers to update and follow your plans to get the most out of this important farm management tool.

If you need help with manure

*continued on page 5*

## Farmers Invited to the Table

A newly formed Agricultural Advisory Committee will give farmers a stronger voice in shaping the Chesapeake Bay Program's long-term cleanup strategy. This 14-member committee includes two representatives from each of the seven Bay jurisdictions, comprising farmers, urban growers, agribusiness leaders, and industry experts. They will work with the Bay Program's existing advisory committees and use their knowledge of farming and conservation practices to advise members on ways agriculture can contribute to a healthier Bay and watershed. Maryland's representatives are Amanda Cather, a Montgomery County farmer and Mid-Atlantic Deputy Director for American Farmland Trust, and Dr. Barb Glenn, a partner at Glenn Family Farm in Highland, Maryland, and the former CEO of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.





# Do You Own or Board Horses?

## ...if so, you may need a nutrient management plan.

Maryland horse farms with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight or at least \$2,500 in gross annual income are required to follow state-approved nutrient management plans. Gross income from selling or boarding horses and other horse-related and agricultural activities would count toward the \$2,500 threshold.

## If your operation requires a nutrient management plan...

- Contact your county University of Maryland Extension (UME) office for a list of certified consultants who can prepare a plan for you free of charge *or*
- Download a directory of certified nutrient management consultants for hire at [bit.ly/NM-PlanWriter](http://bit.ly/NM-PlanWriter).

## To protect water quality, the following protections are required:

- **Setbacks**
  - 35 ft. setback for sacrifice lots near streams.



- 10 ft. setback for nutrient applications adjacent to streams when directed application methods are used; only pasture and hay are allowed in the setback.

- 35 ft. setback for broadcast applications.

- Livestock must be excluded from setbacks; flash grazing permitted.

- **Livestock Exclusion**

- If you do not have stream protection measures in place, contact your soil conservation district to schedule a farm visit.

- Your local soil conservation district will help you to apply for cost-share grants to install these measures.

- **Winter Restrictions on Spreading Manure**

- Spreading manure is prohibited between **December 16 and March 1**.

- Contact your soil conservation district to apply for cost-share grants to construct storage facilities.

- Livestock manure deposited directly by animals is exempt.

**Learn more** about MDA cost-share funding to install a range of conservation practices including fencing, pasture management, waste storage/composting, stream protection practices and more. Visit [mda.maryland.gov/HOW](http://mda.maryland.gov/HOW) for details.

# Using Food Processing Residuals?

## YOU NEED A PERMIT

A permit from MDA is now required if you plan to transport, store, or spread food processing residuals (FPRs) on agricultural land in Maryland.

FPRs are generated during the production and processing of food products such as milk and poultry. New legislation, which took effect July 1, 2024, requires the department to oversee the transport, storage, and land application of FPRs on Maryland farms as a nutrient source. People who engage in these activities must first obtain a permit from the department. The new rules aim to ensure that FPRs are managed to protect air and water quality.

In recent years, Maryland has joined a growing list of states regulating FPRs by requiring direct injection or same-day deep incorporation of FPRs on all cropland. However, residents in several Maryland counties have asked for stronger regulations and new permit requirements, which are now in place.

If you are a Maryland farmer who uses FPRs, here's what you need to know and do:

- If you plan to transport, store, or land apply FPRs on Maryland farmland, you must first obtain an annual Food Processing Residuals Utilization Permit.
- A separate permit is required for each activity (transport, storage, or spreading).
- As a permit holder, you must post a bond to ensure compliance.
- Annual applications for transport and storage are due by **November 15** and will be issued by **January 1**.
- Annual applications for land application of FPRs are due by **January 15**. Permits will be issued by **March 1**, when land application of nutrient sources resumes.
- All FPRs must be applied to fields following Maryland's nutrient management regulations.
- Nutrient management staff will be making site and field inspections to ensure compliance.

The regulations are outlined in Title 20 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and have been published in the Maryland Nutrient Management Manual. To request a permit application, please contact: Dwight Dotterer, Phone: 410-841-5877 | Email: [dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov](mailto:dwight.dotterer@maryland.gov)

## Have You Filed Your AIR?

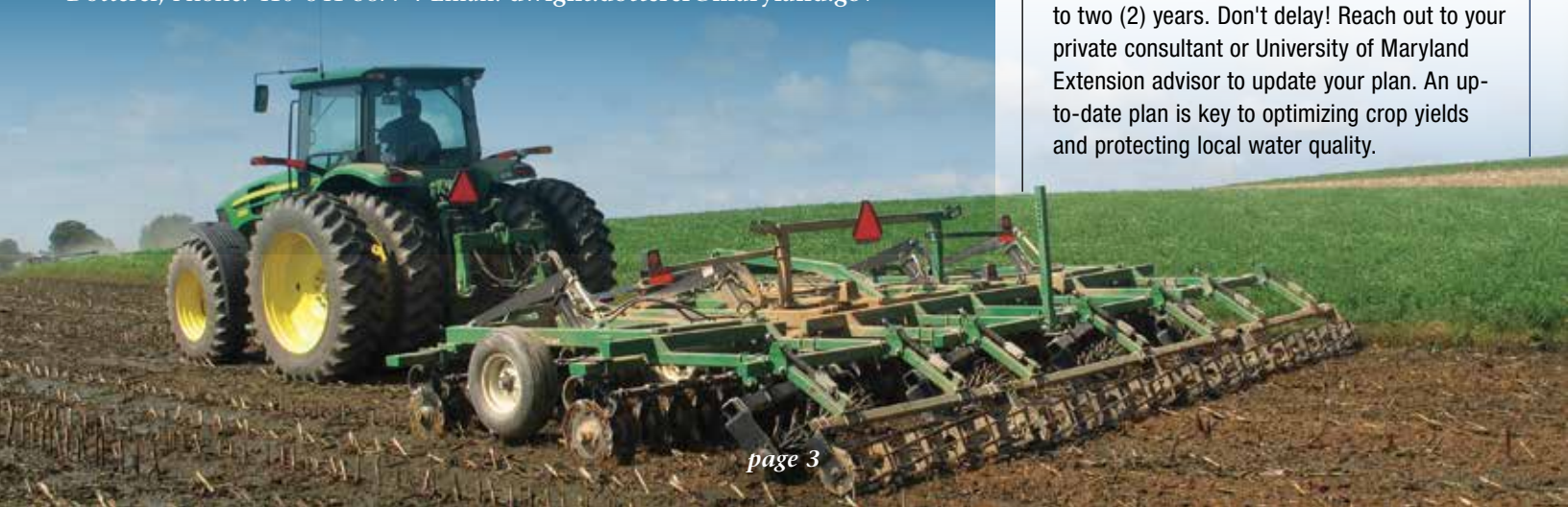


Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) for 2024 were due on March 1. If you missed the deadline, please submit your AIR as soon as possible. Warning letters will be sent in mid-April to all operators who have not yet submitted their AIRs. There are two ways to report:

- File your report electronically through Maryland One-stop. Go to [bit.ly/NMonestop](https://bit.ly/NMonestop). You'll need to register for an account or log in to your existing account to use this e-file option. Follow the instructions to complete your report.
- Submit a paper reporting form. These forms were mailed to all regulated farmers in January. You can also download them from the website at [bit.ly/NM-AIR](https://bit.ly/NM-AIR).

## Has Your Nutrient Management Plan Expired?

If your nutrient management plan has expired or is nearing expiration this spring, now is the time to act. Start by ensuring you have up-to-date soil samples—and, if applicable, manure samples. Soil samples are considered "current" if they're less than three (3) years old, while manure samples can remain valid for up to two (2) years. Don't delay! Reach out to your private consultant or University of Maryland Extension advisor to update your plan. An up-to-date plan is key to optimizing crop yields and protecting local water quality.



# Urban Update

## Business License Holders: Have You Filed Your Annual Fertilizer Reports?

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports (AFARs) for 2024 were due on **March 1**. If you haven't submitted your report yet, please do so immediately. E-filing is available through Maryland OneStop at [bit.ly/OneStop-2024-AFAR](https://bit.ly/OneStop-2024-AFAR) or you can download a paper form at [mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](https://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer).

*Remember, you still need to file the AFAR even if you did not fertilize any properties in 2024.*

## Continuing Education Opportunities

Professional fertilizer applicators (PFAs) are required to earn 6 continuing education credits within a 3-year cycle. Our current 3-year cycle began on **January 1, 2024** and ends on **December 30, 2026**. You will need to earn all 6 credits within this time-frame in order to renew your PFA certification. Please see the training calendar on Page 5 for upcoming recertification opportunities.

## Professional Fertilizer Applicator Exams

The Department's 2025 certification exam schedule is available at [mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](https://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer). The next exam is scheduled for **June 12** in Boonsboro, Maryland.

## You Don't Have to Spread Alone: How to Register Your Trained Employee

Fertilizer business license holders are required to employ a certified professional fertilizer applicator (PFA). However, companies can also have other employees apply fertilizer under the direct supervision of the PFA. These trained employees must be registered by the business. They must complete initial and annual training programs provided or approved by MDA. Each trained employee incurs a yearly registration fee of \$15, which can be paid at any time throughout the year. We offer training materials in both English and Spanish. Questions? Contact [saraha.butcher@maryland.gov](mailto:saraha.butcher@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5959.

## Meet our New Team Members

**Colin McAllister** is the new Nutrient Management Specialist for Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. A native of the Lower Eastern Shore, Colin has 17 years of experience with MDA's Office of Resource Conservation. Most recently, he worked as an Environmental Compliance Specialist for the Maryland Department of the Environment. During his career, Colin has helped Eastern Shore farmers with a range of conservation planning and regulatory issues. He holds degrees in Plant Sciences/Horticulture, Environmental Design, and Geography-GIS. You can reach Colin at [colin.mcallister2@maryland.gov](mailto:colin.mcallister2@maryland.gov)



**Matt Marker** is our new Nutrient Management Specialist for Western Maryland. A native of Frederick County, he

previously worked at Habitat Enhancers, identifying nutrient management concerns and suggesting conservation practices. More recently, he served as an agricultural inspector with MDA's Weights and Measures Program. An avid outdoorsman, Matt performs charitable work for Ducks Unlimited. You can reach Matt at [matthew.marker@maryland.gov](mailto:matthew.marker@maryland.gov)



**Shannon Rotella** is our new Training Coordinator. She served five years in the Marine Corps as a Company Training Chief for the 2nd Radio Battalion Bravo Company. She later worked as a training coordinator for US Cyber Command. Shannon holds a BS in Agricultural Science and Technology and an



MS in Plant Science from the University of Maryland. Her graduate research focused on integrated disease management for grape growers, and she also served as a teaching assistant for horticulture and crop sciences courses. Shannon aims to leverage her training and educational experience to enhance our training program. Her email address is [shannon.rotella@maryland.gov](mailto:shannon.rotella@maryland.gov)



Our former intern, **Nicole Nagy** has joined the Nutrient Management Program as a full-time data entry specialist for AIRs and CAFOs. A recent graduate from the University of Tennessee with a BS in Plant Sciences, Nicole has experience in soil science, plant physiology, and field and forages. She can be reached at [nicole.nagy@maryland.gov](mailto:nicole.nagy@maryland.gov)

# Training Calendar

## Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Fundamentals of Nutrient Management Training	
<b>Dates</b>	June 3 and 4, 2025
<b>Format</b>	In Person
<b>Location</b>	Annapolis
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Individuals who plan to take the Nutrient Management Consultant Exam in August
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/NMP_Training">bit.ly/NMP_Training</a>
Maryland Nutrient Management Consultant Certification Exam	
<b>Date</b>	August 1, 2025
<b>Format</b>	In Person
<b>Locations</b>	Annapolis, Keedysville, and Easton, MD
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Individuals who want to become certified to write nutrient management plans for farmers.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/NMP_Training">bit.ly/NMP_Training</a>
Agricultural Nutrient Management Update Training	
<b>Save the Date</b>	December 4, 2025
<b>Location</b>	To be determined.
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Farmers, consultants, and anyone who makes nutrient recommendations. Participants earn up to 6 CEUs.
<b>How to Register</b>	Check the website for updates: <a href="https://bit.ly/NMP_Training">bit.ly/NMP_Training</a>
Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line	
<b>Ongoing</b>	On-demand nutrient management training.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/NMWEBINARS">bit.ly/NMWEBINARS</a>

## Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam	
<b>Dates/Locations</b>	June 12, Boonsboro, MD August 13, Salisbury, MD December 3, Annapolis, MD
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Individuals who want to take the exam to become certified to apply fertilizer to lawns that they manage. An optional training session is available.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer">mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer</a>
Maryland Turfgrass Council Procrastinators Webinar	
<b>Date</b>	June 13, 2025
<b>Format</b>	Zoom
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Certified lawn care pros who need to renew their certifications. Earns 2 CEUs.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://mdturfgrass.org/events">mdturfgrass.org/events</a>
2025 Maryland Turfgrass Conference	
<b>Date</b>	December 16, 2025
<b>Location</b>	Turf Valley Resort
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Individuals in need of recertification credits.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://mdturfgrass.org/events">mdturfgrass.org/events</a>
Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line	
<b>Ongoing</b>	On demand turfgrass training.
<b>How to Access</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/NMP_Training">bit.ly/NMP_Training</a> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

## Apply Now for Manure Transport Grants

Farmers are encouraged to apply for MDA cost-share funding to help cover the cost of transporting all types of manure to crop fields with acceptable soil phosphorus levels. Grants are also available to offset the cost of injecting liquid manure into the soil to control nutrient runoff, reduce odors, and prevent ammonia nitrogen volatilization. Here are the rules:

- If you plan to transport manure this spring and summer, your project must be completed by **September 9, 2025**.
- Submit claims for payment to the department's Conservation Grants Office by **October 9, 2025**.
- When transporting poultry manure, please visit [mda.maryland.gov](https://mda.maryland.gov) to check for important Control Orders from the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture regarding safe handling, storage, and transport practices to mitigate the risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
- For more information on MDA's manure transport and injection grants, please visit [mda.maryland.gov/manure](https://mda.maryland.gov/manure).

## Secretary's Message

*continued from page 1*

management or have a water quality concern, please reach out to your local soil conservation district. Staff are ready to help you secure cost-share funding to protect the natural resources that support your farm and a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

As spring planting gets underway, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and productive season.

**Kevin Atticks, D.C.D.**  
*Maryland Agriculture Secretary*



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

## Nutrient Management Program

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
mda.maryland.gov

Wes Moore, *Governor*

Aruna Miller, *Lt. Governor*

Kevin M. Atticks, *Secretary*

Steven A. Connelly, *Deputy Secretary*

### Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Offices

Western Maryland

#### **Allegheny, Garrett, and Washington counties**

P.O. Box 459  
Hancock, MD 21750  
Contact: Ashby Ruddle, 410-279-3506 or  
ashby.ruddle@maryland.gov

#### **Carroll and Frederick counties**

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**

92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Contact: Kenny Favorite, 410-507-4811 or  
kenny.favorite@maryland.gov

#### **Baltimore and Harford counties**

P.O. Box 850  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
Contact: Emilee Smith, 443-223-0403 or  
emilee.smith@maryland.gov

#### **Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties**

P.O. Box 652  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
Contact: Weylin Anderson, 410-980-9479 or  
weylin.anderson@maryland.gov

#### **Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program**

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Contact: Sarah Butcher, 410-980-9084 or  
saraha.butcher@maryland.gov

Eastern Shore

#### **Cecil and Kent counties**

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Contact: Craig McSparran, 410-991-3114 or  
craigj.mcsparran@maryland.gov

#### **Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties**

P.O. Box 340  
Marydel, MD 21649  
Contact: Steve Szelestei, 410-353-5660 or  
steve.szelestei@maryland.gov

#### **Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties**

27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
Contact: Colin McAllister, 667-270-1465 or  
colin.mcallister2@maryland.gov

#### **Statewide Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations**

27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
Contact: Robin Culver, 410-507-4949 or  
robin.culver@maryland.gov

## Nutrient Management News

# 2025 SPRING

## What's Inside:

- Permit Requirements for Food Processing Residuals
- Nutrient Management for Horse Operations
- Expired Nutrient Management Plan?



**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: [nminfo.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:nminfo.mda@maryland.gov)

