



# Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SUMMER 2024

## New Rules On The Horizon For Food Processing Residuals

New legislation which took effect July 1, 2024 requires MDA to oversee the transportation, storage, and land application of food processing residuals (FPRs) used on Maryland farms. Persons engaging in any of these activities must first obtain a permit from MDA. Following discussions with the Nutrient Management Advisory Committee, MDA staff began work to develop regulations to implement the law.

In July, MDA submitted two Notices of Emergency Action to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR). This joint committee—made up of members from both the House and Senate— reviews regulations proposed for adoption by state agencies. The notices included:

1. An Emergency Action to adopt new regulations to create a permit program under a new chapter, COMAR 15.20.13 Food Processing Residuals Utilization Program; and
2. An Emergency Action to amend COMAR 15.20.07.02, which incorporates by reference the Maryland Nutrient Management Manual. The Action will add Supplement No. 10 to the Manual.

At press time, the Committee has not yet responded to our proposals. For updates, please visit MDA's website at [mda.maryland.gov/conservation](http://mda.maryland.gov/conservation). You can also get an update by attending the December 5 Nutrient Management Update Conference in Laurel.



## Letter from Secretary Atticks



In July, the Department submitted emergency regulations requiring farmers to obtain a permit to store and spread food processing residuals (FPRs) on agricultural fields. MDA developed the new regulations following the enactment of a law signed by Governor Wes Moore on May 9. The new rules are outlined in Title 20 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). They are now under review by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR).

Once the new regulations are approved, MDA will provide additional guidance and information to all regulated farmers on permit requirements for applying and storing FPRs. In addition, we will provide a more comprehensive update at the **December 5 Nutrient Management Update Conference** in Laurel.

In other news, I am pleased to report that we had a record cover crop signup this year and that aerial seeding has already begun. Planting fall cover crops becomes especially important during a dry year when summer crops cannot use all the nutrients available in the soil. I hope all farmers who signed up for our grants are able to get their cover crops in the ground as soon as possible to begin capturing and recycling unused nutrients for use by next year's spring crops.

With best wishes for a healthy and prosperous harvest.

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

# Meet Our Amazing Interns!

For more than a decade, the Nutrient Management Program has been providing on-the-job training to talented young people who share a deep commitment to agriculture and the conservation of our state's natural resources.

In this issue of *Maryland Nutrient Management News*, we are pleased to highlight our latest recruits.



## Nicole Nagy

### Internship Dates:

May 22 – August 16, 2024

**Duties:** Data entry for AIR and CAFO Reporting Forms

### What are your goals for this internship?

My main goal is to gain work experience and knowledge about Maryland agriculture.

### What motivated you to choose agriculture as a field of study and career?

I enjoy learning about plants and the techniques farmers use to achieve the best possible crops to harvest.

### What areas of agriculture interest you the most?

I'm interested in crop production and soil science.

### Education

I am a Senior at the University of Tennessee pursuing a bachelor's degree in plant science in December 2024. During the school year, I work with graduate students in a lab to identify plant pathogens in tomato and soybean plants.

### Future Plans

I hope to continue working for the state after graduation and to improve my understanding of the benefits of nutrient management.

### Personal Insights

I enjoy hiking with my family and being outside. I like to try new things. I'm always on the lookout for new coffee shops and plant shops where I can grab a new house plant.



## Hailey Pleasants

### Internship Dates:

June 2024 – May 2025

**Duties:** Data entry for AIR and CAFO Reporting Forms

### What are your goals for this internship?

I wanted to gain more agricultural experience in high school.

### What areas of agriculture interest you the most?

I am most interested in environmental and animal sciences.

### Education

I am entering my senior year at Linganore High School. I will continue this internship as one of my classes next year.

### Future Plans

I plan to attend Frederick Community College and become a State of Maryland FFA officer after I graduate high school. Hopefully, I can decide what area of Ag I want to pursue during this time. Then, I will transfer to a 4-year university. Most likely, I will study Ag Business or Animal Science.

### Fun Facts About Me

I grew up on a farm. I showed Miniature Herefords in 4-H and raised miniature goats. I used to do barrel racing. I attend almost every rodeo at the J Bar W Ranch; I'm an avid turquoise collector.

### Personal Achievements

Vice President of Student Government; President of Linganore FFA; 1st place team in Vet Science and Land Judging at states; top placements in Ag Communications, Public Speaking, and Land Judging.

**REGISTER NOW!**



## Nutrient Management Update Training

MDA's annual Agricultural Nutrient Management Update Training returns to the National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel on **December 5, 2024**. This is your opportunity to get a full update on new regulations and permitting requirements for Food Processing Residuals (FPRs), along with the latest scientific research, and more. The 2024 Update is a must-attend event for farmers, consultants, and anyone who makes nutrient management recommendations. Earns six continuing education credits. Register now at [bit.ly/NMP\\_Training](https://bit.ly/NMP_Training)



# Applying for Cost-Share?

## Don't Let Your Nutrient Management Plan Lapse

For many farmers, better farm management is the primary benefit of nutrient management planning. Keeping your nutrient management plan up to date ensures that it is protecting local water quality while improving farm efficiency and profitability. Most plans are written for one year. Check your plan's expiration date to make sure it is current. **Remember, a current nutrient management plan is required for all state cost-share grants, including our popular Cover Crop Grants.** Act now to get your plan updated for the 2025 planting season!



## Mid-Atlantic Crop School 2024:

### EARN UP TO 12 CREDITS!

Certified consultants and farmers can earn up to 12 continuing education credits by attending the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Crop School on November 19-21 at the Princess Royale in Ocean City. This two-and-a-half-day workshop offers continuing education credits in crop, pest, soil and water, and nutrient management. Registration opens in September so be sure to check the website for updates. Go to [bit.ly/MidAtlanticCropSchool](https://bit.ly/MidAtlanticCropSchool)



## Farmer Training & Certification

Do you want to become certified to prepare a nutrient management plan for the nursery, greenhouse, or controlled environment that you manage? Join us beginning **October 3rd** for a two-day training and certification program that will allow you to prepare and update your own nutrient management plan. Additionally, certified nutrient management consultants can earn 6 hours of continuing education credits by participating in this workshop. To register, go to [bit.ly/NMP\\_Training](https://bit.ly/NMP_Training)





# Urban Update



Hello  
& Welcome

**Sarah A. Butcher** is the new Nutrient Management Specialist for the Turfgrass Program. Sarah comes to us from the Maryland Department of the Environment, where she worked as a natural resources planner for eight years. She is a graduate of UMBC with a B.S. in Environmental Science. Sarah will work with lawn care professionals to ensure compliance with Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law for a cleaner, healthier Chesapeake Bay. You can reach out to Sarah at [saraha.butcher@maryland.gov](mailto:saraha.butcher@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5959.

## Fall Lawn Care Season is Here!

Late summer into early fall is a busy time for lawn care businesses and professionals. Most cool-season grasses, such as fescues and bluegrass, have recovered from the hot, dry summer and are actively growing. The cooler days and warm soil temperature are the ideal time to seed before the leaves fall. With proper moisture, most grass germinates within 10-14 days. Here's a quick refresher on fall turfgrass management.

## Fertilizing

- To prevent runoff, fertilizer should only be applied to lawns when the grass is actively growing.
- Fertilize cool-season grasses (fescues, bluegrass) in fall, based on soil test results.
- Do not exceed 0.9 pound total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet and 0.7 pound of soluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet for a single application.
- Keep fertilizer applications 10 to 15 feet from waterways.

## Reseeding

- Aerate and reseed in the fall to help promote strong, healthy lawns.
- We recommend turf-type tall fescue, with its thicker blade and deeper roots to help withstand Maryland summers. Typical overseeding rates are 3 to 5 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet.
- For shady areas that get filtered light 4 hours/day, we recommend a shady mix containing Creeping or Red fescue. The overseeding rate is 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- Please see the recommended cultivar list at [bit.ly/UMD-TurfgrassCultivars](https://bit.ly/UMD-TurfgrassCultivars)
- Soil testing should be performed now to determine if pH adjustments are needed.

- Our grass grows best with a soil pH of 6.0 - 7.0.
- A soil test is required to apply a seed fertilizer containing phosphorus.



## Fertilizer Blackout Dates

Fertilizer blackout dates authorized by Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law begin November 16 and end March 1. Lawns may not be fertilized with products containing nitrogen or phosphorus during the blackout dates, however:

- Lawn Care Professionals (*not homeowners*) may apply nitrogen to lawns between November 16 and December 1 at a maximum rate of 0.5 pound per 1,000 square feet, using either fast or slow-release nitrogen.
- Organic or natural organic turf fertilizer containing phosphorus may not be applied when soils test at "optimum" to "excessive" for phosphorus levels.
- Potassium and lime may still be applied to lawns during the blackout period.
- Fertilizer applications containing nitrogen and phosphorus may be resumed on March 1, as long as the ground is not frozen or heavy rain is not predicted.

## Questions?

Contact [timothy.zang@maryland.gov](mailto:timothy.zang@maryland.gov) or 410-991-3288



# Training Calendar

## Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Farmer/Operator Nutrient Management Certification for Nurseries, Greenhouses and Controlled Environments	
<b>Dates</b>	October 3, 2024 (Training) Exam approximately 5 weeks later
<b>Format/Locations</b>	In Person
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Growers who want to become certified to develop state-approved nutrient management plans for the nursery, greenhouse, or controlled environment that they manage; certified consultants can earn 6 CEUs by attending this workshop.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/Nursery-FTC">bit.ly/Nursery-FTC</a>
Mid-Atlantic Crop School 2024	
<b>Dates</b>	November 19-21, 2024
<b>Format/location</b>	In person, Princess Royale in Ocean City, MD
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Certified consultants and farmers can earn up to 12 CEUs.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/MidAtlanticCropSchool">bit.ly/MidAtlanticCropSchool</a>
Agricultural Nutrient Management Update Training	
<b>Date</b>	December 5, 2024
<b>Location</b>	National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Farmers, consultants, and anyone who makes nutrient management recommendations. Participants earn up to 6 CEUs
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/NMP_Training">bit.ly/NMP_Training</a>
Maryland Crop Production Meetings	
<b>Dates</b>	Multiple dates: Fall 2024-Winter 2025
<b>Format/Locations</b>	In-person and virtual meetings at locations statewide covering agronomy, forage, fruit and vegetable production, grain marketing, ornamental horticulture, and more.
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Farmers and consultants who want the latest research and data to make informed 2025 growing decisions for agricultural crops.
<b>Credits</b>	Qualifies for nutrient management voucher training and continuing education credits. Pesticide applicator and certified crop advisor credits are also offered.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://bit.ly/UME-WinterMeetings">bit.ly/UME-WinterMeetings</a> Check back often for updates.

Consultant Nutrient Management Exam	
<b>Date</b>	February 7, 2025
<b>Location</b>	Annapolis, 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>
Nutrient Management Voucher Training and Recertification	
<b>Dates</b>	February 27, 2025
<b>Format/Locations</b>	UME Washington County Office
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Non-certified farmers who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres of cropland are required to attend this free two-hour training once every three years. Check back for additional dates and locations.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://extension.umd.edu/resource/agricultural-nutrient-management-meetings">extension.umd.edu/resource/agricultural-nutrient-management-meetings</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>	December 3, 2024, 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 is available.
<b>Website</b>	Go to: <a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer">mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer</a> Check back often for new offerings.
Professional Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Education Classes	
<b>Dates</b>	New two and six credit offerings are being planned and will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.
<b>Format/Locations</b>	In person and Zoom
<b>Who Should Attend</b>	Certified professional fertilizer applicators who need to renew their certifications.
<b>How to Register</b>	Go to: <a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer">mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer</a> Check back often for new offerings.
Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line	
<b>Ongoing</b>	On demand turfgrass nutrient management 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.





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## Nutrient Management News


# 2024

SUMMER

### What's Inside:

- New Rules for Food Processing Residuals
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**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)



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