



Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SUMMER 2018

2018-2019 Cover Crop Sign-Up Announced

Sign-up for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2018-2019 Cover Crop Grant Program runs June 21 through July 17 at soil conservation district offices statewide. Cover crops help build healthy soils, control erosion, recycle unused plant nutrients and protect water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. They may even help farm fields recover more quickly from drought and extreme rainfall. Maryland's nutrient management regulations require farmers to plant cover crops to help protect water quality when organic nutrient sources are applied to fields in the fall.

Farmers can receive up to \$75/acre to plant traditional cover crops this fall. A variety of cover crop mixes containing up to three species are now eligible for grants. Farmers may harvest their cover crops for grain, but payment for this option is no longer offered.

Farmers should visit their local soil conservation district by July 17 to apply. You will need proof that your farm has a current nutrient management plan. A one page certification form may be downloaded from the department's web site at mda.maryland.gov. Type "Current Nutrient Management Plan Certification

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2018-2019 SIGN-UP AT A GLANCE

- Farmers can receive up to \$75/acre to plant traditional cover crops this fall
- The aerial seeding deadline is October 7
- Double crop soybeans may be planted aerially at a reduced reimbursement rate
- Farmers may harvest their cover crops for grain, but payment for this option is no longer offered

Important Reminder...

- Proof that the farm has a current nutrient management plan is required

Message From Secretary Bartenfelder



The unseasonably wet spring has caused concern for many farmers across our great state. The National Weather Service reported that more than eight inches of

rain fell in the greater Baltimore area in May—making it the third wettest May on record—while in Wicomico County, some farmers reported May rainfall in the double digits.

The wet spring can make it doubly difficult for farmers to manage crop nutrients. The department recommends that farmers who apply manure, poultry litter and other organic nutrient sources use a pre-side-dress soil nitrate test (PSNT) to determine if additional fertilizer is needed for corn crops.

Planting cover crops this fall is a great way to recycle or scavenge any nutrients that were not used by corn and other cash crops. This year's cover crop sign-up period runs from June 21 to July 17 at soil conservation districts statewide. To give farmers even more planting options, several new small grain/legume cover crop mixes were approved for payment this year. Please take advantage of this popular cost-share program to improve your soil and protect local streams and waterways from nutrient runoff. Stop into your local soil conservation district during the three week sign-up.

More than anything, the department seeks to work with farmers to help them apply crop nutrients effi-

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New Faces



Steve Szelestei has joined the department as the new nutrient management specialist for Caroline and Dorchester counties. Steve grew up on a grain

farm and has extensive experience in many areas of agriculture. Steve has served as a private nutrient management consultant in both Maryland and Delaware since 2003. He is a former vice president at Delmarva Agri Service, Inc., a firm that provides custom application services, field scouting and nutrient management planning. In addition, Steve is a Certified Crop Advisor and a member of the American Society of Agronomy. He holds a commercial pesticide license in Delaware where he lives with his wife and daughter. Steve is a member of the Hartly Volunteer Fire Company.



Kenny Favorite is the new nutrient management specialist for Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel counties. Kenny is no stranger to MDA. He has

worked in various capacities at the department for 29 years, serving as a conservation aide, technician, and planner for the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts. Kenny grew up in Thurmont, where he raised beef cattle and fruit on the family farm. Today, Kenny and his wife, Denise, own and operate the KenDen Alpaca Farm.



MDA Hosts Manure Injection Workshop

An unexpected spring snow did not deter more than 50 farmers, agricultural service providers, University of Maryland Extension experts and government officials from taking part in a manure injection workshop sponsored by MDA on April 17. Although weather and field conditions prevented the planned demonstration of manure injection equipment at the Delvin, Dale and Wayne Mast Farm in Grantsville, interest in the cutting edge technology was high.

Rising fertilizer costs require farmers to maximize the use of “free” nutrients available in manure. Incorporating manure into the soil is very effective in keeping these valuable nutrients in the field. The workshop offered farmers practical strategies for injecting manure into the soil while maintaining a no-tillage management system. Farmers also talked with custom applicators and learned about cost-share programs for manure injection and manure transport. A University of Maryland economist was on hand to provide insight into ways small scale dairy farmers can survive financial hardships.



Low-Cost Manure Injection Services

The Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts remind farmers that their state-of-the-art Veenhuis manure injection equipment is available through December 15 at little to no cost for operations in Washington, Frederick and Carroll counties. The equipment injects liquid manure below the soil surface to reduce the risk of nutrient runoff to nearby waterways and is compatible with no-till farming systems. Custom application is performed by Allegheny Ag, LLC. To arrange a custom application, contact Denny Remsburg at 301-695-2803. Washington County farmers should contact Jeff Semler, University of Maryland Extension, at 301-791-1304.

Fall Nutrient Application Rules

Now that summer is in full swing, it's not too soon to look ahead to Maryland's fall nutrient application dates which run from **September 10 through December 15**. Here are the rules:

- Farmers are required to plant cover crops on fallow fields where organic nutrient sources have been applied in the fall. The planting deadline is **November 15**. Organic nutrient sources may be applied between **November 16 and December 15** to cover crops and other vegetative cover that have been previously planted.
- A fall application of an organic nutrient source (not poultry litter) may be made to an existing crop, a crop to

be planted during the fall, or a crop to be planted the following spring before **June 1** following crop fertility recommendations provided in the *Maryland Nutrient Management Manual*. If imported organic sources are used, a Fall Soil Nitrate Test (FSNT) must be taken in advance to determine if additional nitrogen is warranted for a commodity small grain crop.

- Poultry litter may be applied in the fall for an existing crop or crop to be planted in the fall. If the crop to be planted will be harvested as a small grain crop for commodity purposes, a FSNT must be taken to determine if it is eligible to receive nitrogen.

- A fall application of a chemical fertilizer may be made to an existing crop or crop to be planted during this time period based on crop fertility recommendations provided in the *Maryland Nutrient Management Manual*.

- **REMEMBER...**nutrient applications are prohibited during the fall application period when the soil is saturated, when the ground is covered with snow greater than one inch, or when the ground is hard-frozen greater than two inches.

For more information, contact your regional MDA nutrient management specialist listed on the back of this newsletter or MDA's Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959.

PMT Implementation Timeline

Maryland's Phosphorus Management Tool regulations are being implemented in the following phases:

2015

Farm fields with an average P Fertility Index Value (FIV) of 500 or greater are banned from receiving additional P applications.

2018

In January of this year, farm fields with average P that is greater than 450 FIV began transitioning to the Phosphorus Management Tool. This group includes less than 100 operations.

2019

Farms with average P of 300-450 FIV will begin transitioning to the Phosphorus Management Tool in January 2019.

2020

Farms with average P of 150-299 FIV will begin transitioning to the Phosphorus Management Tool.

QUESTIONS?

Contact your nutrient management consultant or the nutrient management specialist serving your county.



Urban Update

Renewal Forms Mailed

Renewal forms for Professional Fertilizer Applicators (PFA), trained employees, and Fertilizer Business License holders were mailed in May. PFA renewal forms were mailed to home addresses, while business licenses and trained employee renewal forms were mailed to business addresses. Check the date on your certification card to make certain that it is current. Please email the program at nminfo.mda@maryland.gov if you have not received your renewal form.

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports for calendar year 2017 were due to the department by March 1. Most firms have submitted their reports, but some reports are still outstanding. If you have not submitted your report, please do so immediately. A report is required even if it shows no activity. Count each area once regardless of how many times it was fertilized. Be sure to keep a copy of your report.

News and Notes

- MDA will be contacting PFAs later this summer regarding regulatory changes to the urban fertilizer program.
- New certification exam schedules have been posted. Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer to register.
- Do your part to keep Maryland's waterways clean and healthy:
 - Keep fertilizer 10 to 15 feet from creeks, streams, lakes and other waterways
 - Do not apply fertilizer when heavy rain is expected
- Always follow Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law. Download a copy of the *Maryland Professional Lawn Care Manual* at mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer.
- Make certain your firm and its certified lawn care professionals are listed on our website. Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer and look for the list of *Certified Lawn Care Professionals* in the top right column.

Can You Pass Setbacks 101?

Setbacks have been required since 2014. Use this cheat sheet to help your farm stay in compliance.

- A minimum 10-ft. setback is required for all nutrient applications adjacent to surface waters and streams.
- A 35-ft. setback is required when broadcasting fertilizer.
- No crops may be grown on the first 10 ft. of the 35-ft. setback except pasture and hay. The remaining 25-ft. setback may have crops, but may only be fertilized using a direct application method.
- Pastures and hayfields require a 10-ft. setback.
- Nutrients may not be applied mechanically within the setback.
- Livestock are not allowed in the setback.
- Fencing is not always required. Contact your soil conservation district for alternative practices.
- Livestock sacrifice lots require a 35-ft. setback from surface waters.
- If nutrients are custom-applied, the farm operator must inform the applicator of the setback distance based on the method of application.
- Consultants and certified farmers must include setback information on nutrient management plans that they prepare.

NuMan 5.0 Under Development

University of Maryland Extension is updating its nutrient management software program to include multi-year rotations and other options allowed under Maryland's Phosphorus Management Tool regulations. The updated software will allow consultants to prepare nutrient management plans for farmers that address all transition phases for the Phosphorus Management Tool. NuMan Pro 5.0 is currently being field tested by University staff. It is scheduled for release later this year.



Training Calendar

Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Consultant Nutrient Management Exam	
Date	August 3, 2018
Location	Annapolis
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to take the exam to become certified to write nutrient management plans for farmers.
Agricultural Nutrient Management Update Training	
Save the Date	December 12, 2018
Location	National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel, MD
Who Should Attend	Farmers, consultants and anyone who makes nutrient management recommendations. Check the website for updates.
Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line	
Ongoing	Many educational programs qualify for Maryland Nutrient Management continuing education credits. Even if you can't attend a webinar session "live," you may be able to earn continuing education credits at a later date.
Register Online	Visit mda.maryland.gov and click on Nutrient Management in the "Quick Links" bar. Follow the link to training classes.

Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam	
Dates/Locations	July 12, 2018 – Derwood, MD
	August 2, 2018 – Boonsboro, MD
	October 16, 2018- Annapolis, MD
	December 11, 2018 – Salisbury, MD
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to take the exam to become certified to apply fertilizer to lawns that they manage. Optional training sessions are available.
Professional Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Education Offerings	
Dates	New exam dates and continuing education offerings are being planned and will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.
Locations	Statewide
Who Should Attend	Individuals who are currently certified by the department. The class satisfies the two-hour continuing education requirement for recertification.
Register Online	Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer . Check back often for new classes.

"Sign-Up for Grants" continued from page 1

Form" in the search engine. Download the "fillable" form to your computer or device before completing.

The Cover Crop Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. Applicants must be in good standing with MACS and in compliance with the Nutrient Management Program. For more information, talk to your soil conservation district or visit mda.maryland.gov and click on "Hot Topics."

"Secretary's Message" continued from page 1

ciently, manage manure resources, and maintain healthy, productive farms. I am pleased to report that the Nutrient Management Program has hired two new nutrient management specialists with extensive backgrounds in conservation and nutrient management planning. Both specialists are heavily involved in agriculture and know their way around the farm. You can read their full bios in this newsletter.

With best wishes for a healthy and profitable growing season,

Joe Bartenfelder
Maryland Agriculture Secretary

Did You Know?

- Maryland farmers may use Virginia's crop replacement values included in the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Growers Guide to obtain starter P and K recommendations for their vegetable crops. A link to the guide is available on the department's website under "Resources & Forms."
- When a poultry farm is purchased, the new owner/operator must submit a New Nutrient Management Plan Reporting Form to the department. The form can be downloaded at: mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/new_plan_reporting_form.pdf
- An updated list of private nutrient management consultants who can prepare nutrient management plans for farmers is now available on the department's website. Go to: mda.maryland.gov and type "nutrient management consultants" in the search box.
- Summer is the best time to shop around for a private nutrient management consultant. There are many benefits to hiring a private consultant. Many serve as crop advisors and fertilizer dealers who may already be familiar with your operation. In addition, most private consultants will take soil and manure samples for you.

QUESTIONS? Contact your nutrient management consultant or the MDA nutrient management specialist serving your county.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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mda.maryland.gov

Larry Hogan, *Governor*
Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
Joseph Bartenfelder, *Secretary*
Julianne A. Oberg, *Deputy Secretary*



Western Maryland

Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Offices

Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties
12407 Naves Cross Road, NE
Cumberland, MD 21502
Contact: Keith Potter, 301-777-1747, ext. 3507
or keith.potter@maryland.gov

Carroll and Frederick counties
92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110
Frederick, MD 21702
Contact: Moana Himes, 301-695-2803, ext. 8604
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, 301-695-2803, ext. 8605
or kenny.favorite@maryland.gov

Baltimore, Cecil and Harford counties
3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 500
Street, MD 21154
Contact: Darren Alles, 410-638-4828, ext. 5220
or darren.alles@maryland.gov

Calvert, Charles, Prince Georges and St. Mary's counties
26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Contact: Weylin Anderson, 301-475-8402, ext. 122
or weylin.anderson@maryland.gov

Eastern Shore

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28577 Mary's Court, Suite 4
Easton, MD 21601
Contact: Howard Callahan, 410-822-8126
or howard.callahan@maryland.gov

Caroline and Dorchester counties
28577 Mary's Court, Suite 4
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Contact: Steve Szelestei, 410-822-8120
or steve.szelestei@maryland.gov

Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties
27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2
Salisbury, MD 21801
Contact: Steven Dorsey, 410-677-0802, ext. 4
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What's Inside:

- Cover Crop Sign-Up Underway
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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 or call 410-841-5959.

