



Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WINTER 2019

Message from Secretary Bartenfelder



The 2018 planting season will go down in the record books as one of the wettest in our state's history. The cold, wet spring forced many farmers to delay planting. As spring progressed, erratic rainfall patterns drowned out fields, forcing many farmers to replant corn and beans. To make matters worse, the wet weather continued throughout the summer and into the fall.

Nitrogen loss is always a concern following heavy rains. In most instances, applying all of a crop's nitrogen needs prior to planting is not ideal, especially during the exceptionally wet spring that we experienced this year. Dividing a crop's total nitrogen application into two or more treatments helps growers improve nutrient efficiency, promotes better yields, and reduces nutrient losses to waterways.

Knowledge is the best defense against extreme weather. This winter, I encourage all farmers to attend one of our continuing education workshops to learn about new technologies and practices that can help you gain the upper hand when extreme weather strikes.

Some of the topics that you'll learn about include the benefits of variable rate

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Spread the Wealth

During the last fiscal year, poultry and livestock farmers transported a record 249,421 tons of manure away from fields with high soil phosphorus levels using \$1.02 million in state cost-share grants. Delmarva poultry companies provided an additional \$453,876 in matching funds to transport poultry litter. This is the fifth consecutive year of growth for the Manure Transport grant program.

In recent years, the program has introduced a 48-hour *Fast Track* grant approval program to move poultry litter out of nutrient sensitive areas and simplified its grants to move dairy and other non-poultry manures.

Farmers interested in using manure as a crop fertilizer and soil conditioner should check out the department's grants to haul manure at mda.maryland.gov/manure or visit their local soil conservation district for more information. Applications for *Fast Track* grants to move poultry litter are available on the web page.



Farmers have until **March 1, 2019** to submit their Annual Implementation Reporting Forms (AIRs) to the department. The forms outline nutrient applications made in calendar year 2018. Failure to submit an Annual Reporting Form may result in fines and loss of eligibility to receive cost-share funds. Forms will be mailed to farmers during the first week of January and posted on the website at: mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/air.aspx

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) with a discharge permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment submit **one** combined Annual Reporting Form along with a manure analysis to the Nutrient Management Program. When completing the form:

- ✓ Use the pre-filled form that you receive in the mail.
- ✓ Do not leave spaces blank. If nutrients were not applied, place a zero in the box.
- ✓ If the information requested does not apply, write N/A in the box.
- ✓ Use the pre-printed envelope to mail your report.
- ✓ Affix proper postage and mail by March 1.



WINTER MANAGEMENT RULES

Winter Nutrient Application Restrictions Begin December 16

The following nutrient application restrictions are in effect through February 28:

- Liquid manure generated on the farm must be stored in structures.
- Applying chemical fertilizers is prohibited with some exceptions for certain crops. Contact your regional nutrient management specialist or University of Maryland Extension advisor for guidance.
- Organic sources may be applied to fields beginning March 1 as long as fields are not saturated, snow covered or hard-frozen.
- Use of potash and liming materials is not restricted.
- Manure deposited directly by live-stock is not restricted.



- Smaller dairy operations with less than 50,000 lbs. of live animal weight are exempted from winter manure spreading restrictions until March 1, 2020.
- For more information, go to the Maryland Nutrient Management Manual at: mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/nm_manual.aspx



Emergency Winter Spreading

To help protect against nutrient losses to waterways, spreading manure in winter is prohibited in Maryland except when emergency exemptions have been issued by the department beforehand. The department is authorized to work with farmers to prevent overflows from storage structures in winter. In these instances, farmers must contact the Nutrient Management Program for authorization **before any spreading takes place**. The department will work with farmers to prevent overflows from storage structures and minimize impacts to water quality. Contact the Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959 if you have storage concerns.

Stockpile Guidelines

Temporary field stockpiling of poultry litter and other stackable organic nutrient sources with 60 percent or less moisture content is allowed **only** when all other storage options are unavailable. *Here are the rules:*

- Spread the stockpiled manure on fields the first spring following creation of the stockpile and no earlier than March 1, following the farm's nutrient management plan.
- Stack the stockpile at least 6 feet high with a peak to allow it to shed rainfall.
- Make certain that the stockpile area is:
 - At least 100 feet from any surface water and irrigation or treatment ditches, or 35 feet away if a vegetative buffer is in place
 - At least 150 feet from wells, springs, and wetlands
 - At least 300 feet from a well that is down gradient from the stockpile
 - At least 200 feet from any residence outside the operator's property
 - Outside flood-prone areas and areas prone to ponding
 - No farther than 150 feet from the top of a 3 percent slope that has no diversion installed
- After removing the stockpile, thoroughly scrape or clean the ground and restore the area to its original condition.
- Reseed the area with grass or a crop.



New Faces



Marcus Williams is the new urban nutrient management specialist serving Central and Western

Maryland. Marcus received his M.S. in Food Safety and Biosecurity from Virginia Tech in 2017 and his B.S. in plant and soil science from Virginia State University in 2009. He has worked as a volunteer green ranger for AmeriCorps in Knoxville, Tennessee and as a horticulture teacher in Baltimore. More recently, he worked for Virginia Cooperative Extension as an Agricultural and Natural Resource Agent. Prior to joining the Department, he worked in Maryland's emerging cannabis industry. Contact Marcus at 410-841-5973 or marcusj.williams@maryland.gov.



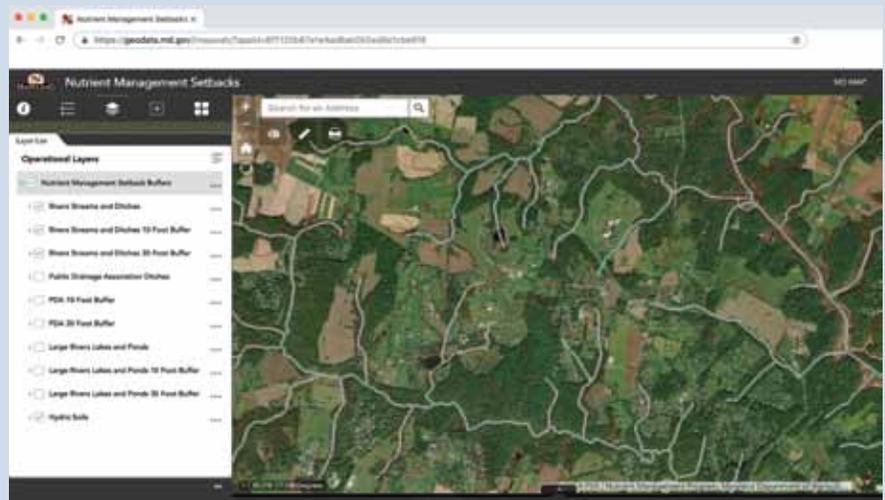
Whitney Harrison joins the department as a nutrient management specialist. She will be reviewing

nutrient management plans for farms located throughout the state to ensure that they comply with Maryland's regulations and are protecting water quality. Whitney is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree. She brings 10 years of state government experience in compliance, planning and resource conservation. Contact Whitney at 410-841-5949 or whitney.harrison2@maryland.gov.

New Setback Calculator

A new interactive nutrient management setback calculator is available on the website to help consultants and certified farmers identify required setback information when preparing nutrient management plans. To access the tool, go to mda.maryland.gov. Click on "Nutrient Management" in *Quick Links*, then click on "Agricultural Nutrient Management" and scroll down the right column to the first link under *Consultants*.

- Double click the link. Due to the large amount of data being accessed, it may take a few moments to load.
- Click on the third icon on the top left to access the layer list.
- Expand the layers by clicking the arrow next to the box labeled Nutrient Management Setback Buffers.
- Check or uncheck the default layers that you want.
- Click on the operational layer to see the legend.
- Type in the address and click the search button to see the results.



PMT Update

Most farmers in the high risk tier group for phosphorus loss had a smooth transition to the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) in 2018. The group includes 96 farmers managing 10,894 acres of land identified as having a high risk for phosphorus runoff based on soil test results. A second tier group of farmers with fields at medium risk for phosphorus runoff will begin using the PMT in 2019. The department is ready to help these farmers with cost-share to move manure and build manure storage structures. *Here is the PMT phase in schedule for all groups:*

2018: High risk group transition **underway** (average soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value greater than 450)

2019: Medium risk group begins transition (average soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value of 300-450)

2020: Low risk group begins transition (average soil phosphorus Fertility Index Value of 150-299)

2022: PMT is fully implemented by all tier groups

Urban Update

Submit Annual Fertilizer Application Reports by March 1

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports outlining total nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium applied to turf and compiled by county are due to the department by March 1. The forms will be mailed to all license holders in January. Additional forms will be posted to the website at: mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer

Continuing Education Requirements

Professional Fertilizer Applicators are required to complete two hours of continuing education each year as a condition for renewing their certifications. Register for classes at: mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer

Revised Regulations for Organic Fertilizer Products

Following legislative changes made to the Lawn Fertilizer Law during the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the program revised its regulations for organic fertilizer products to make them consistent with those for synthetic products. As a result, professional fertilizer applicators now have more choices in the products they can use. The revised regulations took effect October 1, 2018. The Professional Lawn Care Manual that is posted on the website has been updated to reflect these changes:

- Lawn care professionals may now apply up to 0.5 pound of soluble or insoluble nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. from November 15 through December 1. Previously, only soluble nitrogen was allowed during this time period.
- Organic fertilizer products no longer need to be “low phosphate.” The change allows these products to be applied according to University of Maryland recommendations and soil test results.

Contact Information

For questions about certification, re-certification, continuing education credits, or other concerns, please contact the urban nutrient management specialist serving your county:

- *Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Howard, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester*—**Judy McGowan**: 410-841-5955, judy.mcgowan@maryland.gov
- *Allegany, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery, and Washington*—**Marcus Williams**: 410-841-5973, marcusj.williams@maryland.gov



Plan Writing Help for Dairy Farmers

It's no secret that dairy farmers are working to adapt to a changing market and stubbornly low milk prices. The department recognizes the challenges faced by small, family-owned dairy farms and has directed University of Maryland advisors to give priority in writing nutrient management plans to dairy operations with under 300 animal units. This will help dairy operations remain in compliance and eligible for state cost-share programs. For a list of Extension advisors by county, go to: extension.umd.edu/anmp/about/ume-nutrient-management-advisors

Join us for a
Soil Health Workshop
now being planned.

Date TBA on
website.

"Secretary's Message" continued from page 1

nutrient application technology, manure injection, split nitrogen applications, and the use of nitrogen stabilizers to protect against nutrient losses.

A list of upcoming training classes can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

In this edition of the newsletter you can also brush up on winter spreading restrictions, rules for temporary stockpiles, and our new online setback calculator tool. Our urban partners can read up on our revised regulations regarding the use of organic fertilizer. Now is a good time for farmers and lawn care professionals to get your paperwork in order so that you can file your annual fertilizer reports with the department by March 1.

With best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year,

Joe Bartenfelder
Maryland Agriculture Secretary

Training Calendar

Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

Update Your Nutrient Management Plan Workshops

University of Maryland Extension Nutrient Management specialists will be available to help farm operators update their nutrient management plans for the upcoming cropping season.

Dates	January, February, and April 2019
Locations	Various
Who Should Attend	Farmers who are certified to prepare and update nutrient management plans for their own operations.
How to Register	Contact Paul Shipley, University of Maryland Extension, 301-405-2563 or prs@umd.edu

Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training and Recertification

Free voucher training and renewal courses are offered for farm operators who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres of cropland. The two-hour course is required once every three years. Classes are offered throughout fall and winter in most counties. (*Certified farmers are not required to attend voucher training.*) For the complete training schedule visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Nutrient Management Voucher Training" in the search box.

Farmer Training and Certification Workshops

Dates / Locations	January 22 and February 5 — Queen Anne's County
	January 28 and February 11 — Frederick County
	February 6, 13, 20 and 27 and March 6 — Howard County
	March 7, 8, 12, 14, 12, 21 and 28 — Baltimore City
Who Should Attend	Farmers who want to become certified to write nutrient management plans for their own operations. The Queen Anne's, Frederick, and Howard county programs are for producers with cropland and pastures who use commercial fertilizer and/or manure. The Baltimore City program is for intensive small-scale food production operations. All workshops include about 11 hours of classroom lecture and practice in writing plans.
How to Register	Visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Nutrient Management Training" in the search box.

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 might be able to earn continuing education credits at a later date.
How to Register	Visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Nutrient Management Webinars" in the search box.

Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam

Dates	New exam dates are being planned and will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.
Locations	Statewide
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to become certified to apply fertilizer to lawns that they manage.

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Education Classes

Dates / Locations	December 17, 2018 — Boonsboro, MD
	January 14, 2019 — Forest Hill, MD
	January 15, 2019 — Salisbury, MD
	January 16, March 19 and May 9, 2019 — Annapolis, MD
	February 15 and April 30, 2019 — Derwood, MD
	February 19, 2019 — Leonardtown, MD
Who Should Attend	Certified professional fertilizer applicators seeking to renew their certifications.
How to Register	Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer . Check back often for new offerings.

Meet the New Extension Coordinator



Dr. David E. Ruppert has joined the staff of the University of Maryland Extension as an assistant clinical professor and coordinator for the

Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, a position held for many years by Dr. Trish Steinhilber.

Dr. Ruppert is no stranger to soil science or the University. Born inside the Washington, D.C. beltway, he received his Ph.D in Soil Science from the University of Maryland in 2012. Dr. Ruppert doesn't mind getting his hands dirty and proudly points out that his initials spell "DERt." As part of his research, he spent many happy hours in the agricultural drainage ditches of a broiler farm in Somerset County, where he studied the soil's ability to retain and release phosphorus. Dr. Ruppert received his M.S. in physics from Dartmouth College and his B.S. in Physics from the University of Dallas.

For the past seven years, he has worked for the Texas A&M System conducting soils research and teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses in soil science. Prior to that, he served as an adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins University. He says that he is "thrilled" to be back in his home state of Maryland and plans to focus on making sure that Extension nutrient management advisors are well trained and supported. He looks forward to working with the Department to help producers improve their management of nutrients while making soil health and clean water a priority.



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Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
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Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Offices

Western Maryland

Allegheny, 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

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92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110
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Contact: Kenny Favorite, 301-695-2803, ext. 8605
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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 George's and St. Mary's counties
26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Contact: Weylin Anderson, 301-475-8402, ext. 6410
or weylin.anderson@maryland.gov

Eastern Shore

Caroline and Dorchester counties
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Contact: Steve Szelestei, 410-822-8120 or
steve.szelestei@maryland.gov

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

Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties
27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2
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steve.dorsey@maryland.gov

What's Inside:

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- Winter Restrictions in Effect
- Annual Implementation Reports Due March 1
- New Urban Rules for Organic Fertilizer Products
- New Faces

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.

