

The Grain Store



Summer 2010 Vol.14 No. 2

A Joint Publication of the Maryland Grain Producers Association and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board

Make the Watershed Implementation Plans Work for Your Farm

As plans for greater involvement of EPA in the Chesapeake Bay cleanup progress, your involvement in the development of the state's Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) over the next two years is imperative. The state of Maryland is required by federal law to prepare these plans to demonstrate how they can meet the total daily maximum load (TMDL) standards as required under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay represents the maximum amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment that can enter the waterway to ensure that they will meet water quality standards. These plans will allow EPA to monitor and enforce water quality compliance.

This will impact your farm.

(continued page 4)

Message from MGPA President Chip Bowling

This year I tried a couple of new crops for my farm, barley for ethanol and sorghum to discourage deer. I delivered my barley to Osage Bio Energy's new facility in Hopewell, VA. Construction has been delayed, but they hope to be running with their barley to ethanol plant by mid-August. Until they get barging capability established for delivery from the Eastern Shore, the most appropriate area in Maryland to expand barley production to meet their full demand will be Southern Maryland. I met with Bill Scruggs and Heather Scott from Osage recently and we are organizing a dinner meeting on July 26th, at Tommy Bowles place in Loveville to talk about barley contracts with Southern Maryland growers. It is a long haul to Hopewell, but if the price is right, and we can organize return transport, it may become a very important market for us.

I planted short season corn after the barley; this is my third year growing corn as a double crop but my first after barley. I see two advantages - the two week earlier planting following barley rather than wheat should help my corn yields, and even though at a reduced rate, I am still able to insure the corn crop. With all the deer damage we have that is very

important and the reason I am trying some sorghum this year. Although the jury is still out on the sorghum, so far it looks as if the deer are passing it by.

I am enjoying my new role on the National Corn Growers Association's Public Policy Action Team. It is probably more work than I expected with all the issues going on in Congress but I do see a need for our voice in Washington.

Ethanol legislation is at the forefront with our desire to see the Renewable Fuels Reinvestment Act (RFRA) pass (or similar legislation). The bill (HR4940) extends the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) of \$0.45 per gallon available to oil and gasoline refiners for each gallon of ethanol they blend through December 31, 2015, instead of expiring at the end of 2010. Together with the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), the tax incentives for ethanol provide the necessary public policy framework to enable our domestic renewable fuels industry to be successful.

(continued page 3)



Call For Action:

Contact your Congressman Today in Support of the Renewable Fuels Reinvestment Act

The Renewable Fuels Reinvestment Act (RFRA) was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and its passage is a top priority for the National Corn Growers Association and Maryland Grain Producers Association. The RFRA will ensure the continuation of vital programs that otherwise will expire at the end of this year, costing billions of dollars of economic production and increasing fuel costs to consumers. Failure to pass the RFRA will be devastating to rural communities:

- 112,000 U.S. jobs disappear if we do not act now. In a time of economic uncertainty, these job losses would be devastating.
- U.S. consumers would pay an additional \$5.4 billion at the pump each year. Our ag communities could not absorb such a blow.
- State and local governments would lose an additional \$2.7 billion in tax revenue.
- Constituents and farmers would see decreased investment in roads, rural water projects and other necessary projects.
- Corn-based ethanol provides a critical market for a quarter of today's 13 billion bushel corn production.

Contact your congressmen and senators today and urge them to support RFRA and work to ensure that corn-based ethanol is recognized as part of America's clean energy solution:

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D) 202-224-4654
Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D) 202-224-4524
Rep. Frank Kratovil (D-1) 202-225-5311
Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-2) 202-225-3061
Rep. John Sarbanes (D-3) 202-225-4016
Rep. Donna Edwards (D-4) 202-225-8699
Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-5) 202-225-4131
Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-6) 202-225-2721
Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-7) 202-225-4741
Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-8) 202-225-5341

GRAIN PRODUCERS

> > WANTED: A Few Good Women (or men) < <

Are you interested in getting more involved with the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program?

The two-year term for MGPA and MGPUB shared representatives in Region 1, 3, 5 and 6 are up for election and the current members are eligible for reappointment. We are seeking a new Board member to represent Region 4 - Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard counties. Volunteers are very welcome. Board members can serve three consecutive two-year terms.

For more information, call a board member at right, contact the MGPUB/MPGA office at 410-956-5771 or email LynneHoot@aol.com

MGPA & MGPUB BOARD

MGPA & MGPUB Regional Members

(Regional members serve on both boards)

Kevin Anderson (Region 1)	410-651-0022
Zeke Collins (1)	443-880-6097
Robert Garrett (2)	410-822-8920
Paul Spies (2)	410-708-5481
Tom Gannon (3)	410-758-2370
Marion Wilson (3)	410-758-1545
Lawrence Meeks (4)	410-848-2867
Vacant (4)	
Chip Bowling (5)	301-259-4397
Bubby Norris (5)	301-769-3870
Steve Ernst (6)	410-842-3926
Walter Gordon (6)	301-371-7605

MGPUB Officers

President - Walter Gordon
 Vice President - Robert Garrett
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 Secretary - Steve Ernst

MGPUB Non-Voting

Allen Davis - Ag Commission
 Charles Morris - Industry (Perdue)
 Bob Kratochvil - University of Maryland
 Mark Powell - Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

MGPUB Voting

Jamie Jamison - NCGA Director
 Phil Councill, Jr. - USGC Director
 Robert Hutchison - NBIC Director
 Charles Ott - NAWG Director
 Jason Scott - USW Director

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 Treasurer - Drew Stabler
 Secretary - Steve Ernst

MGPA At Large

Jeff Middleton
 Mike Nelson
 Charles Otto

MGPA Advisory

Patrick McMillan - MDA
 Ronald Mulford - UMD

Administration

Lynne Hoot - Executive Director
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 410-956-5771 (voice)
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www.marylandgrain.com

Maryland Grain Producers Association &
 Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
 53 Slama Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-1423

MEMBERSHIP FEE TRANSFER FOR MGPA

If you are a grain producer, you may request to use a portion of the assessment that you have paid into the checkoff program for membership to the Maryland Grain Producers Association, for both new or renewal membership, at a rate of \$50 for 1 year or \$125 for 3 years. MPGA will provide you information and educational materials from the state checkoff board (MGPUB) and national associations such as the National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, and the National Barley Growers Association. To initiate this transfer of funds, please complete the form below and return it to MGPUB. If you have requested a refund during the last year, your request must include a grain sales receipt for at least \$125 (\$50 for one year) on which a refund has not been requested. Non-producers can complete the application and enclose a check for \$125 (3 years) or \$50 (1 year). Please contact Lynne Hoot at 410-956-5771 or email lynnehoot@aol.com with questions.

MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS UTILIZATION BOARD

To use grain checkoff funds to become a member of the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA), complete the following. Please print or type.

Member's Name _____ Membership in (check one) Name _____
 Company _____

Farm/Co. Name _____ Farmer (Check if yes) _____

Spouse's Name _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Business Phone (_____) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Total Farm Acres _____ In Corn _____ Wheat _____ Barley _____ Oats _____ Milo _____ Canola _____

County _____

Do you wish to receive information from: National Corn Growers Association? Yes _____ No _____
 National Association of Wheat Growers? Yes _____ No _____

Email address _____

Referred by MGPA Member _____ (optional)

This is a partial refund form for grain checkoff to pay MGPA membership dues only.

3 years _____ 1 year _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Member Record No. _____

I hereby certify that I am a bona fide grain producer and that I contribute a minimum of \$125 to the checkoff program in a 3-year period (a minimum of \$50 for a 1-year membership).

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return the completed form to: MGPUB, 53 Slama Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-1423
 Forms without checks can be faxed to 410-956-0161

Message from MGPA President Chip Bowling

(continued from page 1)

Passage of RFRA will provide investors with the long-term stability needed to bring next generation technologies to commercialization. It will also allow current ethanol producers to invest with confidence in new efficiencies to further improve upon ethanol's economic and environmental benefits.

Overcoming the blend wall is the other important issue for ethanol. With current use restricted at 10%, and with existing capacity at 13.5 billion gallons and another 1.2 bgy under construction, we have cornered the 140 billion gallon per year gasoline market. The E15 provision currently under review by EPA is permissive and not mandated, but will open the door for expansion of ethanol and some possible new opportunities for second generation biofuels in Maryland. I

encourage you to make calls to Maryland's congressional members to gain their support for these two important issues.

The next Farm Bill, crop insurance, and Chesapeake Bay legislation are all on the agenda for the national Public Policy team, so your thoughts and guidance are welcomed on federal legislation.

It is hard to have a conversation with farmers without discussion on the Chesapeake Bay and the new role for EPA. I believe that involvement is the key to get the word out that Maryland farmers have already done a great deal to improve water quality. I encourage you to maximize your participation in the Maryland Cover Crop Program. It is clear that the state has put a lot of emphasis and funding into cover crops and it behooves us to accept the challenge with voluntary participation. This will help greatly as we strive for

flexibility for farmers in how we each do our part in the Bay cleanup effort.

Late Breaking News! On June 30, with Congressman Frank Kratovil's support, the members of the House Agriculture Committee passed HR4645 that will open trade to Cuba. This legislation is extremely important to agriculture. Please relay your appreciation to Congressman Kratovil for his support.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our 12th Annual Maryland Commodity Classic event on Thursday, July 22nd at Queen Anne's 4-H Park. We have a good program and as always, the opportunity to join your friends and colleagues from across the state. Remember, our members get a free ticket so if you haven't signed up already, fill out the form on page 2 and bring it with you for free entry. I look forward to seeing you there.

Vomitoxin Update

Last year, Maryland farmers experienced significant crop losses due to vomitoxin contamination. As grain harvest begins, the Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds grain dealers and farmers to be aware of handling and testing requirements to ensure appropriate crop insurance coverage for losses due to grain contamination.

Federal crop insurance covers losses from vomitoxin, aflatoxin and fumonisation depending upon severity. However, producers must follow detailed handling and testing requirements developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA). This harvest season, please keep in mind the points below.

In 2009, Maryland received federal crop disaster designation for ten counties due to vomitoxin contamination resulting from wet weather that occurred in May and June 2009. Persistent spring rain throughout most of the State caused significant contamination in wheat and barley harvest in the form of vomitoxin, which can make the crop unmarketable or unusable as feed. Farmers in the disaster designation areas experienced market value losses ranging from 30 to 55 percent.

Vomitoxin (deoxynivalenol toxin), may be produced in wheat and barley grain infected by the fungus, *Fusarium head blight* (FHB) or scab.

- As soon as vomitoxin, aflatoxin or fumonisation issue is discovered, insured farmers should immediately contact their crop insurance agent for instructions on grain handling so that they do not jeopardize their potential loss claim.
- The presence of the toxin must be due to insured causes.
- Grain with vomitoxin can be tested for crop insurance purposes in farm storage, other toxins have to be tested on the farm.

Seeking Southern Maryland Farmers for Barley Contracts

Looking for a ready market for your grain?

Learn about the opportunities to grow and sell barley for Osage Bio Energy for the production of ethanol.

Informational Dinner Meeting
July 26, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
Tommy Bowles Farm
Loveville, Maryland

To sign up or for more information
email LynneHoot@aol.com
or call the MGPA office
at 410-956-5771

Make the Watershed Implementation Plans

(continued from page 1)

When does all of this take place?

Between now and September 1st, the state, lead by the Department of the Environment, is required to take the load allocations provided by EPA from the Bay model (expected mid-July) and develop a statewide TMDL that meets the load reduction for the state broken out into five major watersheds. *This will be Maryland's Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan.* The states Phase I WIP will become part of a Baywide TMDL that will be published in the Federal Register by *December 31, 2010.*

The next step will be for Maryland to reallocate the statewide load into 52 separate WIPs allocated to the smaller sub-watersheds in the state. The sub-watersheds cross county lines and for the purpose of the WIPs, each county will be responsible for developing their portion of the watershed plan. As the 52 WIPs cross county lines, for each one there may be two or three counties doing a portion of the WIP making a total of 247 allocation components called co-segments. Each of these co-segments will have an agricultural load allocation. Although county-based, the WIPs are not a function of county government; it is a state driven project seeking ALL local input. The task of developing and implementing reductions options to meet the load allocation will be overwhelming. The Phase II WIPs will identify how these allocations are to be met. *All 52 Phase II plans must be complete by December 2011.*

What do I need to do?

Starting in October 2010, the Department of Agriculture will be calling on farmers across the state to become a voice for their future and to make suggestions as to how agriculture can meet the goals that have been allocated to agriculture under the TMDL process. The suggestions made during these discussions will become part of the Phase II WIP. *You need to be at the table to ensure that the plan is workable, achievable and measurable.* If we do not put a good plan together and we fail to meet the goals, EPA enforcement is possible.

What is agriculture being expected to do?

Maryland agriculture is credited with contributing approximately 40% of the nitrogen and 60% of the phosphorous sediment loads to the Bay and will be responsible for reducing these levels accordingly. Through your outstanding efforts, much of this work has already been done. The Best Management Practices that have been done in cooperation with the soil conservations districts and soil conservation and water quality plans are tracked in an agricultural database called "Conservation Tracker". This is your friend! This database now includes all BMPs installed and conservation districts have updated the information in this MDA database to accurately document the accomplishments of Maryland agriculture. This has significantly enhanced our ability to more accurately demonstrate agricultural progress efforts to date.

How do I get credit for the conservation work on my farm that I did without assistance?

In order to provide a greater accountability of how farmers are protecting the Bay and local water quality, there is another component to reporting that we believe will further demonstrate Maryland agriculture's accomplishments. That is the counting of the best management practices and nutrient efficiencies that each farmer has achieved without government assistance.

MDA is developing a system to allow farmers to report practices implemented without government aid so credit can be given towards meeting the TMDL goals. For practices that meet NRCS standards and specifications, the allocation for nutrient reduction will be easy, but for those that do not meet the standards (such as a 10' ditch buffer), EPA has agreed to bring scientists together to establish values for these BMPs. *This is an opportunity for the farm community to get full credit for their work accomplished to date and help reduce the expectations for further reduction.* MGPUB supports the collection of this data and has offered to help MDA as this process advances. The more accurate and complete the data on farm stewardship is in Conservation Tracker - the better for Maryland farmers.

Work for Your Farm

Websites References

www.baystat.maryland.gov
 www.mdnutrienttrading.org
 www.chesapeakebay.net
 www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl

Is Maryland agriculture showing positive results today?

A summarization of the current data from Conservation Tracker is shown on Maryland's Baystat website. To see how Maryland agriculture is progressing with its first two-year milestones, go to www.baystat.maryland.gov. *Maryland agriculture has made great strides in reaching these milestones.*

Is agriculture going to be responsible for all of the clean up?

The new acronym for the Bay cleanup is E3, Everything, Everywhere, by Everyone. Although the agricultural community is being asked to do more, the goal is to have all sources reduce inputs to the Bay. To date, sewage treatment plants have made 80% progress, agriculture 50% progress but the urban sector has gone backwards.

Since 1950, the number of residents has doubled. Experts predict that population will continue to rise, reaching 19 million in 2020. Impervious surfaces, such as roads and rooftops, increased by 41% compared to an 8% increase in population from 1990-2000. Low density, disconnected sprawl has been the predominant form of development in the Bay watershed for the past several decades. New development that is spread out, far from existing communities, schools, wastewater treatment facilities, shopping, and jobs, explains the disparity between the rate of population growth and the increase in impervious surfaces. The negative trend in nutrient and sediment pollution from stormwater is directly linked to the rise in population and land use patterns in the watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed encompasses 64,000 square miles, parts of six States and the District of Columbia. Currently, nearly 17 million people live in the watershed. Under E3, these 17 million people will also be required to make changes.

How do I know what is expected of my farming operation?

If you want to know how your farm measures up to the "new TMDL standard for your watershed", there is a new computer based tool that can help you assess your farming operation. The Maryland Nutrient Trading Tool (NT) was developed by MDA to assess if a farmer is eligible to trade nutrients. A key component to this is that he/she must meet a minimum conservation baseline before nutrient trading can take place. The base level established in the nutrient trading tool is either the local TMDL level if one has been established or the Tributary Strategy goals which were established several years ago.

As the new Chesapeake Bay TMDL is finalized, the assessment tools base level will be amended - however, it is expected that the new minimum level will be close to the Tributary Strategy reduction level - so assessing your farms conservation stewardship today will provide you with a good indication of your contribution to the Bay clean-up goals. The final touches are being added to Maryland's NT.

By mid-July, farmers will be able to set up an account and log on to <http://mdnutrienttrading.org>, map out their farm and identify their nutrient inputs, crop nutrient removal and existing conservation BMPs. The farm assessments can be done even if the farmer does not have an interest in trading as all information is kept confidential in a password protected file. Soil conservation district staff has been trained on how to use NT if help is needed getting started.

What should our message be?

As the alphabet soup of the Bay Clean Up continues to grow - with WIPs, TMDLs, NT, CWA, CAFOs, MAFOs, NPDES permits, CNMPs, E3 and more - farmers must stay involved and make sure that uninformed lay people who get their information from the public media don't push for mandated cover crops, reduced fertilizer application, banning land application of manure and other scary options that may seem like the right thing to do - and not focusing that a well-managed farm is the best land use for the Chesapeake.

Farmers must speak up for using a tool box of site specific BMPs and nutrient reduction programs such as manure incorporation, GreenSeeker™, GPS, cover crops, irrigation, improved plant genetics, and other variable options that each farmer can select to bring him/her up to the necessary level, rather than one-size-fits-all mandated practices.

DC Mall to Grow Wheat in September

The Wheat Foods Council is converting the Mall in downtown Washington, DC to a Maryland-grown wheat field on September 23-24, 2010. Complete with associated displays and exhibits, the project brings the "Farm to Fork" platform to life for policy makers, local school groups, and DC visitors. The two-day event will feature a wheat field, nutrition area, baking section with samplings and demonstrations by a master chef, an opportunity to experience milling, and a retail section.

In 2008, the Council set up a one quarter of an acre field in New York City's South Street Seaport. To create the field, nearly one half million wheat kernels were planted in 300 4-foot by 4-foot pallets. The interlocking pallets created the wheat field with a pedestrian path running through it. Nearly 8,000 people visited the field, consuming approximately 500 loaves of fresh-baked bread and thousands of cookies during the three-day event.

For the 2010 event, planners are working with Dr. Jose Costa, Dr. Bob Kratchovil, and a team from the University of Maryland to produce the pallets of wheat.

Many volunteers will be needed. If you are interested in helping with the project, please contact the MG PUB office at 410-956-5771 or email the Executive Director at lynnehoot@aol.com.



Research Backs Positive Image of Family Farm Agriculture

The Corn Farmers Coalition had focus group research conducted in Washington, DC in April 2010 to assess the general knowledge and impressions of the agricultural industry within the administrative and congressional community. Participants were opinion leaders who work in Congress and the federal government such that their work involves public policy.

General impressions varied from warm and positive feelings associated with family farmers (hard work, family values, amber waves of grain, and middle America) to perceptions of agriculture as a sophisticated industry, comprising huge agribusinesses engaged in massive production that have their downsides (environmental concerns, food safety, and animal welfare), but also that they are innovative and a big part of America's exports.

A critical and consistent point emphasized keeping messages forward-looking and not defensive. Opinion leaders want to

hear what corn farmers are doing to improve their efficiency moving forward, not how much more efficient they are today than they were 80, or even 20 years ago. Furthermore, adopting a defensive stance concedes one of corn farmers' most important competitive advantages - they are one of the few "feel good" groups of people left in this country. If the tone shifts negative, some of that old-fashioned charm and innocence will be lost.

Interest was highest for the following information, which became the basis for the Farm Coalition education campaign in June-August 2010.

Economy

Corn is a bright spot in America's economy. Directly and indirectly, corn provides 24 million American jobs. It supports a wide range of job-creating industries. Corn is one of the few American products with a trade surplus; America exported nearly \$9 billion worth of corn last year.

Innovation/Environment/Efficiency

While the U.S. corn harvest is growing, its impact on the environment is declining. Today, American farmers are producing 70% more corn per pound of fertilizer than they were 35 years ago because of improved equipment and management techniques. New hybrids of corn also utilize the fertilizer more efficiently, and are more drought- and pest-tolerant, reducing the need for irrigation and pesticides. According to the USDA, one acre of corn removes eight tons of harmful greenhouse gas from the air each growing season and produces enough oxygen for 131 people to breathe for an entire year.

National Pride

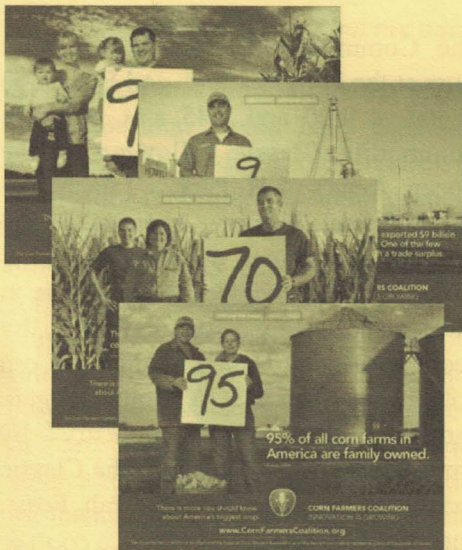
America's corn farmers are the most productive in the world, producing 20 percent more corn per acre than the second highest yielding nation. They are growing five times as much corn today as farmers did in the 1930s - and they are doing it on 20% less land.

Farm Family Images Take DC by Storm

The Corn Farmers Coalition education program is introducing a foundation of facts important to decision making, rather than directly influencing legislation and regulation. The program is aimed at policy-makers and opinion leaders who affect the fate of America's family corn farmers.

"Washington needs to know corn farmers are using some of the most advanced technologies on the planet to do more with less - to grow more corn using fewer resources every year," said Mark Lambert, director of the Corn Farmers Coalition. "American corn farmers, the majority of them small family businesses, are among the most productive in the world."

The educational campaign, which began in June, has blanketed Washington, DC with farm families and facts on billboards in subway stations downtown and at Reagan National Airport, advertisements in Capital Hill publications, radio, frequently used websites, Washington Nationals baseball programs, and includes TV and radio advertisements. These advertisements provide a clear message of the positive results that American farmers have achieved based on facts from USDA and EPA. The program, which puts a focus on family farmers telling their story, will continue until Congress recesses in August.



90 Family farmers grow 90% of America's corn. (USDA)

95 95% of all corn farms in America are family owned. (USDA)

9 America's corn farmers exported \$9 billion worth of corn last year; one of the few American products with a trade surplus. (USDA)

20 America's corn farmers are, by far, the most productive in the world, growing 20% more corn per acre than any other nation. (USDA)

70 Thanks to new, innovative fertilization methods, today's American corn farmers are producing 70% more corn per pound of fertilizer. (USDA)

8 An acre of corn removes eight tons of harmful greenhouse gas, more than that produced by your car annually. (EPA)

44 America's corn farmers have cut soil erosion 44% by using innovative conservation methods. (USDA)

66 America's corn farmers grow 66% of world corn exports. (USDA)

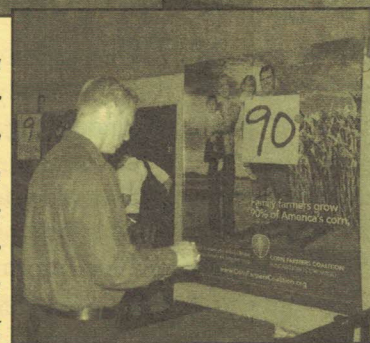
37 Energy used to grow a bushel of corn decreased 37% thanks to family farmers' use of technology. (USDA)

87 87% of America's corn crop is grown without irrigation. (USDA)



"I think agriculture has to be a more forceful advocate for agriculture. I was particularly impressed with what the corn growers are doing to make sure that folks around the country understand and appreciate what's behind farming by introducing them to real farmers. I think we have to speak with a single voice here. There are too few of us. The important role here is to have the rest of the country understand the significant contribution that all types of agriculture make."

*Tom Vilsak, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture*

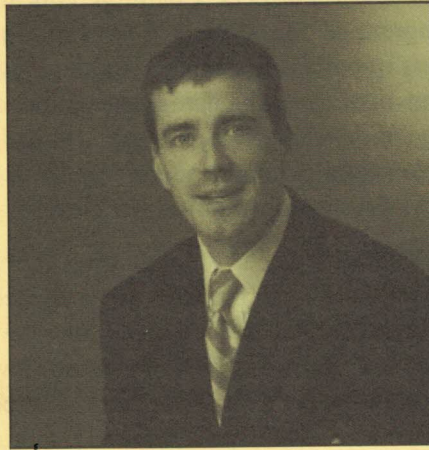


The Corn Farmers Coalition is an alliance of the National Corn Growers Association and 14 state corn associations, including Maryland, which educates policy-makers in Washington about how innovative farmers are growing more corn every year with fewer resources while protecting the environment.

Roberts featured as Keynote Speaker at Commodity Classic

The Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) and the Maryland Soybean Board (MSB) are pleased to announce Matt Roberts as the keynote speaker for the Twelfth Annual Maryland Commodity Classic, speaking on grains and energy markets.

Matt Roberts is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at The Ohio State University. Dr. Roberts is a nationally-renowned expert and speaker on the grain and energy markets. Roberts received a B.A. in Economics from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, and a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University. Prior to graduate school, Roberts worked as a commodity and energy derivatives broker in Vienna, Austria and as a market research consultant to the pharmaceutical industry in North Carolina. He has been with The Ohio State University since 2001.



*Matt Roberts of
The Ohio State University
to speak at the 12th Annual
Maryland Commodity Classic
Thursday, July 22, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Queen Anne's County*

The Commodity Classic begins with tours at the Wye Research and Education Center at 9:00 and 9:45 a.m. with the Commodity Classic following at the Queen Anne's 4-H Park. Lunch and informational displays open at 11:00 a.m. The business meeting begins at 1:00 p.m., and includes "Next Steps in Chesapeake Bay Restoration", by Secretary Buddy Hance, "National Corn Policy Issues" by NCGA's John Doggett, and "Argentina's Grain Industry" by Steve Moore, USB Director. The Classic concludes with the famed Crab Feast, Pork and Chicken Barbecue.

Entry prior to 2:30 p.m. is \$10, after 2:30 p.m. entry is \$20. There is no entry after 3:30 p.m. For ticket information, contact the MGPA office at 410-956-5771. MGPA members receive a free ticket; see membership information on page two to register by authorizing a transfer from your checkoff funds, and mail to the office or bring your form to the Classic.

Sorghum Checkoff Program Reports Strong Start

After years of declining sorghum acres and a "technology gap" between sorghum and other crops, the newly established Sorghum Checkoff is a producer-funded organization to energize the sorghum industry by providing new research, market development and promotion opportunities for producers. The Sorghum Checkoff was established in July of 2008 under the Commodity, Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996. Since then, the checkoff board of directors has worked diligently to create an organization with a single-minded focus on improving the profitability of the sorghum industry through research, promotion and information. The checkoff rate for grain sorghum is 0.6 percent of the net value and is collected at the first point of sale. The checkoff rate for forage sorghum is 0.35 percent of net value.

The program has funded more than \$1.25 million in research projects. Those projects include over-the-top weed and grass control technologies and optimal irrigation strategies, as well as research on sorghum germplasm, drought and cold tolerance traits. The Sorghum Checkoff has also created regional production handbooks for practical, hands-on production advice. This guide includes information regarding hybrid selection, efficient water and nitrogen use, and pest management.

The Sorghum Checkoff sponsored market development events in its first year of operation. They targeted research on the use of sorghum in ethanol and found that 30 percent of the U.S. sorghum production is used in ethanol. Scientists studied the best methods to overcome barriers to further use. In conjunction with the U.S. Grains Council, the Sorghum Checkoff sponsored multiple foreign buyer missions, some of which resulted in the international purchase of thousands of tons of American sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff is unified in its mission and will continue to bring new thinking and energy to the industry. Your input about the checkoff is very important. Sorghum Checkoff board members and staff are happy to answer your questions about the program.

For more information or to request a copy of a production guide, please visit www.sorghumcheckoff.com or call the Sorghum Checkoff office at 877-643-8727.



Agriculture Fairs Well through the 2010 General Assembly

Note: Bills introduced but not passed are included in this summary as it is likely similar bills will return a following year.

- ✓ **Fertilizer and Sludge:** MGPA opposed legislation that would have established a new field-by-field, application-by-application reporting system for pesticides and fertilizer use which did not pass. A bill to add a \$5 per ton surcharge to commercial fertilizer that was not low phosphorus was withdrawn. Had the timing of winter sludge application passed, MDA would have been required to prepare regulations for winter sludge application that are essentially the same as for manure; this has already been initiated by MDA and MDE and will move forward through the regulatory process. MGPA also opposed a bill lowering Phosphorus in lawn fertilizers - done in an effort to highlight that allowing the application of 145 lbs of Nitrogen per acre on lawns is a much greater issue.
- ✓ **Budget:** For the FY2011 budget, funding established by the Ag Stewardship Act of 2006 was maintained at \$400,000 for seven new soil conservation district employees and MARBIDCO at nearly \$3M. Maryland Agricultural Cost Share was finalized at \$10M with funding for cover crops at \$15M (\$9.5M from Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and \$5.6M from Bay Restoration Fund). The Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund received \$22.5M, which may make available grants for agriculture. Bond sales funding was approved for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program at \$18M, Rural Legacy at \$17M and Program Open Space at \$65M.
- ✓ **Bay Restoration Fund:** The Nitrogen Removal Technology bill requires MDE, in 2010 to 2012, to use Bay Restoration Funds to pay 100% of the cost difference between a conventional on-site sewage disposal (septic) system and one that utilizes best available technology for nitrogen removal for a homeowner required to replace a failing system in the Critical Area.
- ✓ **Marketing:** MDA was given the authority to establish a definition of “locally grown” with input from stakeholders. Local jurisdictions were prohibited from requiring a license for the sale of raw agricultural products in a farmer's market and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is required to establish a producer mobile farmer's market license. A county is authorized to establish a seasonal farmer's market producer sampling license for a producer to prepare and offer samples of a farm product at a farmer's market under guidelines prepared by DHMH. The Maryland Winery Modernization Act established a farmer's market permit and expanded the scope of a Class 4 license.
- ✓ **Quarantine:** Authority is granted to the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a farm quarantine and issue orders to control or restrict the use of farmland, crops, livestock, poultry, or a farm product existing on a farm that has been exposed to or contaminated by a radiological or chemical toxic material or agent or is infected or infested with a disease or pest.
- ✓ **Energy:** The timeframe for receiving net metering benefits in excess of use was extended. The percentage requirements of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards that must be purchased from Tier 1 solar energy sources annually between 2011 and 2020 were increased. Another energy bill alters the net energy metering program by changing credit accrual from excess generation from a kilowatt-hour basis to a dollar basis; the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program is to prepare a report on renewable energy policy recommendations on agricultural easements (with the MD Energy Administration) and a report on Marcellus Shale extraction on agricultural easements. Bills on biomass and biofuels to advance biofuels were promoted by the Chesapeake Bay Commission but did not pass.
- ✓ **Soil Conservation:** The Voluntary Agricultural Nutrient Credit Certification Program passed, enabling MDA to certify and register agricultural nutrient credits to support voluntary nutrient trading activities. The Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program was established within the Chesapeake Bay Trust to provide young adults with service opportunities and preserve the environment; annual funding of \$250,000 allotted until 2015 from the Environmental Trust Fund. DNR is permitted to enter into negotiations with non-profit organizations to provide grants to carry out conservation activities outside of the state procurement process.
- ✓ **Environment:** A Forest Product Operators license administered by DNR was established. The Future for Growth Task Force was replaced with a MD Sustainable Growth Commission staffed by the Department of Planning. The Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Program was altered and changed to the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program. The amount paid into the State Forest Conservation Fund was altered so projects inside a Priority Funding Area (PFA) pay less than if outside a PFA. No action was taken on bills calling for a 5¢ charge on plastic bags, nor to make the Bay a no-discharge area for boats.
- ✓ **Stormwater:** Several bills introduced would delay the implementation date of the Stormwater Management Improvement Act of 2007, however MDE worked with stakeholders to establish new regulations to provide developers with existing projects underway additional time to get their projects completed under current stormwater rules.
- ✓ **Wildlife:** Sunday bow hunting was expanded in Allegany, Garrett and Talbot Counties. A bill died to better combat deer problems in Southern MD and require DNR to evaluate ways to manage the deer population on public lands.

US Corn Shipment Unloads in China

For the first time in almost 15 years, a 2.2 million bushel shipload of U.S. No.2 yellow corn was unloaded in China at the Longkou Port in Shandong Province on June 22, 2010. Documents passed promptly through customs and cleared for discharge into the port warehouse by the Customs Inspection and Quarantine Service. The port operates five cranes discharging at the rate of about 700 metric tons (28,000 bushels) per hour with very little port congestion. Another vessel of U.S. corn is scheduled to discharge in July 2010.

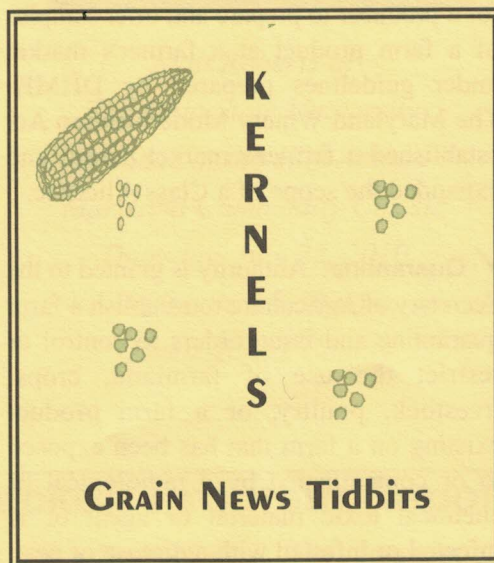
"Samples were being drawn on a regular basis. There were no negative comments or observations made of the corn. The quality was consistent with a No.2 U.S. FGIS grade and the corn was in good condition," said Dan Keefe, U.S. Grains Council marketing specialist. "The cooperation throughout the supply chain - from the U.S. supplier, to the vessel agent, to the port management, to the buyer, to the customs office, to the inspector and finally to the feed mills - appears to be very good. This is a very positive indication for future corn imports."

Deadline Approaching for Corn Yield Contest

Sign up by August 2 for the National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association, now in its 46th year. Growers can sign up online at www.cycnnga.com/forms/ContestRules.aspx or mail in the application form, post-marked no later than August 2, 2010. Winners receive national recognition in publications and at the 2011 Commodity Classic in Tampa, FL. More importantly, growers experience the challenge and satisfaction of learning production techniques that will enhance their corn yields. Grower participation also benefits the entire industry because NCGA utilizes the wealth of information from the contest to study production trends and statistically demonstrate the production efficiencies of corn growers and their dedication to soil and nutrient conservation.

Bowling Accepted in National Leadership Program

Chip Bowling, president of MGPA has been accepted into the inaugural class of the NCGA Advanced Leadership Program. This advanced leadership program sponsored by Syngenta, will provide Chip with additional leadership skills during two sessions, one September 7-11, 2010 in Minneapolis, MN and the other, February 15-19, 2011 in Washington, DC. Chip currently serves on the NCGA Public Policy Action Team.



Study Documents Greenhouse Gas Savings from Agriculture

Results from a May 2010 Stanford University study of the net effect on GHG emissions of historical agricultural intensification between 1961 and 2005 showed that while emissions from factors such as fertilizer production and application have increased, the net effect of higher yields has avoided emissions of up to 161 gigatons of carbon (GtC) since 1961. It estimated that each dollar invested in agricultural yields has resulted in 68 fewer kgC emissions relative to 1961 technology, avoiding 3.6 GtC per year. The analysis indicates that investment in yield improvements should be prominent among a portfolio of strategies to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, as it also supports the critical need for the expected 70% increase in food demand by 2050.

New Energy Balance for Corn Ethanol

A new report shows that ethanol plants have made a 23% increase in efficiency from 2005 to 2008 in turning energy into more energy. A USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey shows that dry grind ethanol plants that produce and sell dry distiller's grains and use conventional fossil fuel power for thermal energy and electricity produce nearly two times more energy in the form of ethanol delivered to customers than it uses for corn, processing, and transportation. The ratio is approximately 2.3 BTU of ethanol for 1 BTU of energy in inputs, when a more generous means of removing byproduct energy is employed. Just back in 2004, the ratio was only 1.76 BTUs for every 1 BTU of energy inputs. The report also shows that some dry mills that use 50 percent biomass power have an energy output of 2.8 BTUs for every 1 BTU of energy inputs.

"This study clearly demonstrates the technological advancements that have taken place in ethanol production in just a short period of time," said Growth Energy CEO Tom Buis. "The findings prove that ethanol production is becoming cleaner and more efficient at a time when oil production continues to become dirtier and more difficult to extract."

Sign Up for Agronomy News

University of Maryland Extension has initiated the writing and distribution of an electronic, biweekly agronomy newsletter. Each issue highlights production information about the agronomic crops produced in Maryland and the region. To receive this newsletter through email, please send an email to Rhonda Barnhart at rbarnhar@umd.edu, with a subject line of: Subscribe Agronomy News 2010. For a hard copy, please contact the local county extension office (see list at www.extension.umd.edu) to sign-up for the mailing list. The latest issue and previous issues published during 2010 are also available at www.mdcrops.umd.edu.

Making the Most of Your Investment *Walter Gordon, MGPUB President*

Each year as the New Year gets underway, the Funding Committee of the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUB), made up of the two grain boards and other interested supporters, come together for a three-day meeting to review all of the grant requests. Having read through a three-inch binder of proposals and reports, we gather for long days of listening, learning and discussion. On January 8, 2010, we emerged from the meeting having approved nearly 50 grants. With the strong grain season last year, the MGPUB was able to increase grants awarded by the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program to further improve the Maryland grain industry. It was a record year with over \$800,000 in grants given to organizations and research institutes to increase the profitability of Maryland grain production, expand the utilization of grain, and to improve public understanding of agriculture. We invite your input into your program. We have room for a few good minds at our January meeting in 2011. Let me know if you are interested and we will include you on our team - it is hard but rewarding work.

At several of the University of Maryland Extension winter meetings, farmers in attendance were asked to use the electronic survey equipment to provide input to our Board on how you thought checkoff funds

should be used. I really appreciate the feedback provided. From what you told us, developing new markets for grain is still the best function for our board. For production research, improved nutrient efficiency scored highest with weed control and pests and diseases coming in next. The biggest issue that farmers see as impacting their business is regulations and it was identified as an item that checkoff dollars should be used to address. One way we can assist in this endeavor is to fund research to make sure there is adequate science to determine how regulations should be structured. As an example, MGPUB is funding two cover crop projects this year to provide the science to MDA on seeding rates, stand establishment and on the allowable dates for the first spring fertilizer application. These projects were designed to address problems that farmers were having with existing program rules. While the science may not always show what we want to see, when necessary we must adapt as we have always expressed a belief that regulations should be science-based.

Work on small grains fall nutrient needs conducted by Dr. Bob Kratochvil shows that in most years the application of nitrogen does not yield a positive return on investment. However, knowing which

year is profitable and which is not is key. MGPUB funded research to establish a Fall Small Grains Nutrient Assessment Tool to enable farmers to improve their nutrient efficiency and profit.

Some of the checkoff funded research has shown that two good management practices don't always go well together, these being the use of poultry litter to retain water, improve organic matter and enhance yields, and no-till to save energy, reduce inputs and erosion. When used together there is a risk of greater nutrient loss - so we are providing research funds to investigate methods to minimize tillage while reducing runoff potential. Equipment under review, such as the Turbo Till, is showing promising results.

When it comes to changing or banning regulations, that's a job for the membership organization - the Maryland Grain Producers Association - and you should become a member to expand their influence on seeking regulatory change. Checkoff dollars cannot be used to lobby. We can use our funds for research, education and market development. There is a place for both organizations.

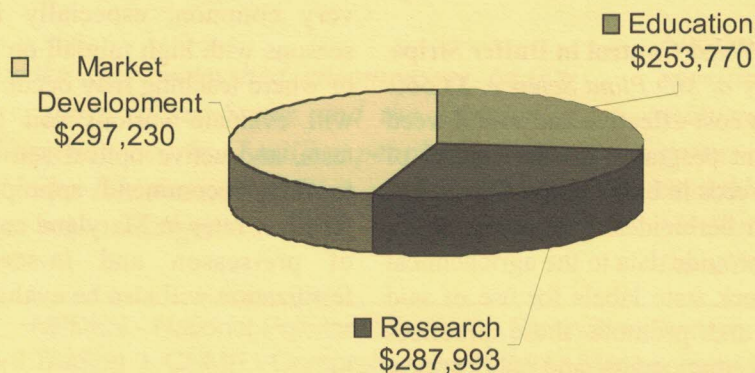
I invite you to join the MGPUB board at the 12th Annual Maryland Commodity Classic on Thursday, July 22 to see the results of Checkoff funded research, marketing and education projects. Farm practices on nitrogen and phosphorous fertilization, new crop rotation processes, using the small grains fall nitrate test, optimizing cover crops, and much more will be on display with staff to answer your questions. From the morning tours at the Wye Research and Education Center to the keynote address by Matt Roberts on grain and energy markets, you will gain a lot of information pertinent to your farm operation. Then enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow farmers and friends at the BBQ and crab feast.

Feel free to contact me or any of our checkoff board members to discuss issues pertaining to our checkoff program. We are your representatives and value your input.

✓ YOUR CHECKOFF DOLLARS AT WORK

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board awarded over \$800,000 in grants for the 2010 funding year, focusing on the specific needs and growing conditions as identified by Maryland grain farmers.

The Checkoff Program is administered by the Board of Directors, consisting of regional grain farmer representatives and advisory members from state agribusinesses, Maryland Department of Agriculture and University of Maryland.



✓ RESEARCH PROJECTS

Seeding Rates for Cereal Cover Crops

- *University of MD Plant Science, \$10,000*

This field study will evaluate a range of seeding rates for rye, wheat and barley to analyze seedling emergence, biomass production, and nitrogen uptake. Next, seeding rate and stand establishment recommendations will be established, with findings provided to MDA to develop more meaningful recommendations for the Maryland Cover Crop Program.

Wheat Spring Nitrogen: Application Dates

- *University of MD Plant Science, \$10,000*

To address concerns of growers that one date does not fit all, this research will investigate the performance of wheat that receives its first spring application of nitrogen across a range of dates during late winter to provide scientific research to MDA as they assess the need for changes to the Cover Crop Program March 1st statewide date.

Nitrogen and Phosphorous**Fertilization on Long-Term No-Tillage Rotation**

- *VA Polytech Institute, \$4,000*

A study was initiated in 2003 where a corn, wheat, and soybean rotation on a Bojac sandy loam is being evaluated. From this data, a long-term average of crop nutrient removal for the region, soil carbon sequestration, and nutrient stratification from poultry litter, and fertilizer applications will be derived.

Effect of Nitrogen Rate on Corn Hybrid Performance

- *University of MD, \$7,500*

To provide farmers with optimum nitrogen rates for raising crops as environmentally-friendly and economical as possible, this project evaluates available corn hybrids for their nitrogen use efficiency.

State Corn Hybrid Test: Inclusion of Benchmark Hybrids

- *University of MD Plant Science, \$5,000*

Farmers will receive unbiased information to make comparisons about popularly grown corn hybrids not ordinarily in the test and about newer hybrids through the annual State Corn Hybrid Variety Test.

Genetic Improvement and Testing of Small Grains for Maryland

- *University of MD Plant Science, \$25,000*

Ongoing local testing of small grain varieties through unbiased state trials provides information to help develop new varieties of winter wheat and barley with increased disease resistance, high yield, and high quality for Maryland growing conditions to lower costs of production and reduce potential sources of pollution.

No-Till and Minimum Till Wheat Studies

- *University of MD Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center, \$4,000*

Two detailed studies will be conducted for this research. Study one focuses on nitrogen sources available to growers. Wheat will follow both corn and soybeans. Emphasis will be on nitrogen sources and blends of nitrogen sources for N efficiency. In Study two, the previous MG PUB funded study on no-till and minimum till wheat will be revised to look at areas of management to improve production efficiency and wheat quality.

Control of Weedy Grasses in Small Grains

- *University of MD Plant Science, \$5,660*

In this multi-year project to develop cost-effective and sound weed management programs for the control of Italian ryegrass, annual bluegrass, rough-stalk bluegrass, brome grass and oatgrass in small grains, approaches include screening new herbicide candidates, examining new technologies such as utilizing Clearfield wheat, providing necessary data to the crop protection industry, seeking state labels for use of said products, and promoting these practices to farmers.

Perennial Weed Control in Buffer Strips

- *University of MD Plant Science, \$5,660*

To develop cost-effective and sound weed management programs for the control of perennial weeds in buffer strips, this project will screen herbicides, examine mowing practices, provide data to the agrichemical industry, seek state labels for use of said products, and promote these practices through meetings, tours, and publications.

Management and Control of Slugs in Problem Fields of No-Till and Minimum Tillage Corn

- *Ronald Mulford, \$5,000*

This project will study various control methods for the growing problem of slugs in areas of high pollution and damage in corn production.

Suppression of European Corn Borer and Corn Earworm Due to Bt Corn Use

- *University of MD Entomology, \$8,260*

European corn borer and corn earworm are major pests of Maryland grain and vegetables. This project will gather moth activity data to reduce the insecticide load on the environment through closer adherence to treatment thresholds based on field scouting and insect trap monitoring.

Doe Harvest Incentive Program

- *Maryland Farm Bureau, \$50,000*

Building on the first year pilot program, incentives will be provided to harvest doe deer and enhance the opportunities for their donation to food banks in Southern Maryland (*Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and Prince George's Counties*) and the Mid-Shore (*Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester Counties*), which are currently experiencing unacceptable levels of agricultural damage as a result of overpopulations of whitetail and sika deer. The Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program is a project partner providing an outlet for the venison and to verify harvested deer.

Sulfur Deficiency Detection and Correction in Corn Production

- *University of MD Environmental Science and Technology, \$23,216*

Recently sulfur deficiency has become very common, especially in growing seasons with high rainfall on sandy soils, or where leaching may occur. This study will evaluate various soil tests, tissue tests, and active optical sensors as tools to then recommend appropriate sulfur fertilizer rates in Maryland corn. The use of pre-season and in-season sulfur fertilization will also be evaluated.

✓ RESEARCH PROJECTS

Evaluation of Soil Pest Control and Nutrient Retention in No-till Corn -*University of MD Entomology, \$16,196*

Data collected on entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN), which can control outbreaks of soil insect pests, will allow the design of a framework to manage soils to promote retention and the long-term persistence of EPN and their biological control services. EPN populations will be surveyed and compared under tilled and no-till field conditions. Soil physical and abiotic properties will be measured and nutrient fluxes analyzed to form results.

Role of QoI Fungicides in Field Corn Production -*University of MD College Park, \$8,750*

Data collected will determine if there is a predictable role for QoI fungicides in field corn production. Specific objectives this year are determining if applications in field corn will improve yield, reduce stalk rot and lodging at different foliar disease pressures, and determine if QoI or other fungicides applications will affect net photosynthesis rates.

A Systems Approach to Evaluate Production Practices in Dry Land Corn -*University of MD Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center, \$5,000*

A series of studies will investigate if a limit exists for the response of modern corn hybrids to various inputs. Notill and reduced till, various planting dates, dry and liquid nitrogen sources, timing of nutrient applications, will all be evaluated to develop recommendations for the various management methods.

Using a Cereal-Legume Cover Crop Mixture to Increase Nutrient Cycling Organisms and Crop Production -*University of MD Entomology, \$13,145*

To improve cover crop efficiency, this study will determine the effects of cover crops on soil organisms involved in nutrient cycling; determine the contribution of cover crop to crop nitrogen content; determine the effect of cover crop on soil insect pests; and determine the effect of cover crop on corn productivity and grain yield.

Nitrogen Stabilizer Products: Wheat Performance Following Use with Corn*- University of MD Plant Science, \$10,000*

Nitrogen management practices will be investigated that, if successful, may allow for reduced amounts of nitrogen for both corn and wheat production. The response of wheat with and without fall nitrogen that follows corn that received preplant or side dress nitrogen that included nitrogen stabilizer products will be analyzed.

Wheat Disease Management Current Problem with Soil-Borne Viruses and Fungicide Effects on Vomitoxin -*University of MD Plant Science, \$9,500*

Study continues on this project to screen varieties for resistance to wheat spindle streak mosaic virus and soil-borne wheat mosaic virus, and to expand the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative uniform scab fungicide trial to include standard fungicide treatments targeted for diseases other than scab to determine if their use affects vomitoxin levels.

Falling Number Research -*University of MD Natural Resource Sciences, \$3,500*

The objective of this research is to screen currently grown soft red winter wheat cultivars for susceptibility to pre-harvest sprouting using the Falling Number test to provide information for planting choice of varieties of soft red winter wheat.

Strategies to Reduce Toxin Levels in Barley Grain, Feed and Food Products*-VA Polytechnic Institute Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science, \$12,464*

To reduce toxin levels in barley grain and feed and food products, barley cultivars having resistance to scab to minimize toxins and losses in grain yield and quality will be developed. Protocols will also be developed to manage, handle, store and process barley grain and distillers dried grains with solubles to reduce toxin levels in feed and food products.

Improvement and Development of Barley for Use in Fuel, Feed, and Food*- VA Polytechnic Institute Crop and Soil Environmental Science, \$10,000*

The project goal is to improve the end use value of barley to develop varieties having lower concentrations of fiber and phytic acid, and higher metabolizable energy. Hulled and hulless barley are being researched, using Thoroughbred and Price backcrossing, to increase yields of hulless to provide an improved barley for both growers and the Osage ethanol facility at Hopewell, Virginia.

Sweet Sorghum Grain and Biomass for Ethanol Variety Screening -*Salisbury University, \$8,142*

The second year of this project will expand on the knowledge gained last year that sweet sorghum can successfully be grown in Maryland, as several growing seasons will be necessary to confirm that sweet sorghum can yield well consistently with low nutrient inputs and without irrigation. Known as the "temperate-climate sugar cane", sweet sorghum has the potential to produce both first and second generation biofuels from different parts of the same plant. The stalks can then be pelletized and enriched to be sold as animal feed or as fuel.

Enhancing Maryland-Grown Wheat Consumption for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention -*University of MD Nutrition and Food Science, \$18,000*

This research continues to demonstrate the value-adding health factors in soft wheat based foods to promote their use in developing value-added foods for health promotion. Focus includes how baking conditions release food nutrient value. Recipes using soft wheat will be developed and promoted to home bakers and commercial bakeries.

Oyster Restoration Program -*Chesapeake Bay Program, \$10,000*

Oyster beds will be added to the Chesapeake Bay for study of filtration effects on water quality.

✓ EDUCATION PROJECTS

Agricultural Leadership Development Program - LEAD MD, \$30,000

LEAD Maryland's two-year program is designed to prepare emerging leaders by refining leadership skills, increasing understanding of the public policy process, and expanding networks and perspectives within, and outside of, production agriculture. Outcomes will be everything from having legislative representatives more responsible to the needs of Maryland farmers, to having stronger leadership serving our current agricultural and community organizations.

Enhancing the Education and Development of Maryland Youth - MD FFA Foundation, \$8,500

FFA high school students will develop vital life-skills by participating in leadership and career development events, or conducting a supervised agricultural experience project. This grant supports activities such as the agriscience fair at state convention, officer training, and student leadership workshops.

Maryland Envirothon - MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts, \$5,000

This natural resource education program trains high school students in forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and a current agriculture issue throughout the year to prepare for a final competition. Students train with professionals in the topic areas, introducing them to the many career opportunities in agriculture.

Growing with Grains - Allegany County Extension Advisory Council, \$1,500,

Kids Growing with Grains - Frederick County Extension Advisory Council, \$4,000

Children, teachers, and parents of students in Maryland learn about grain utilization in animal science, the importance of grain products for good nutrition, and grain production through hands-on activities. Students in Frederick County visit the Western Maryland Research and Education Center. Portable programs will be developed to bring the project into Allegany County classrooms, as well as to use at fairs and other events.

Maryland 4-H Livestock Round Up - University of MD Extension, \$2,000

Support for this youth event provides them with the opportunity to learn about the impacts grains and related products have on the livestock industry, agriculture, and the state of Maryland in a fun, camp-like atmosphere.

Close Encounters with Agriculture - Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Office, \$4,000

Students in 4th grade are offered hands-on learning at the Extension office farm park in areas of environment, nutrition and production agriculture. Teaching packets with additional learning activities are provided.

Tri-County Middle School Grains Education Program - Frederick County Extension, \$9,500

This train-the-teacher program will provide 40 middle school teachers the tools to give Family and Consumer Science students in Carroll, Frederick and Howard County public schools an opportunity to learn about the importance of whole grains in their diet and have a hands-on cooking experience preparing grain foods.

Can You Hear Me Now! - Caroline County Extension, \$2,241

Children and families will participate in numerous interactive displays at the county fair and community events focusing on grains and farm safety as they are raised to benefit both animals and people. 4-Her's and the extension educator will present hands-on programs both in the community and in the classrooms to share their love and appreciation of farming practices.

Really...All that comes from GRAINS!! - Queen Anne's County, \$1,529

Urban youth are being targeted with this project to add designated youth activities to the Queen Anne's County Fair. Interactive learning stations will make youth more aware of the importance of agriculture, specifically grain production. Stations will be a mix of static displays and stations manned by 4-H members to interact with the youth.

Maryland Ag Showcase / New School Grants / National AITC Conference - Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, \$10,000

Displays in the Maryland Ag Showcase will be updated to be current and fresh to audiences. Funding for additional grants will be made available to schools which have not had a science lab visit before at the school. Sponsorship was provided for the 2010 National AITC Conference in Baltimore for 400 educators nationwide.

National Agriculture Day - Agriculture Council of America, \$500

As part of the National Ag Day on March 20, organizers sent 50 high school students to Washington to carry the message of Ag Day to leaders, key influences, and the media. Ag Day materials and tools include a website, media and classroom resources, public service announcements, Ag Day Poster, Planning Guide and Fact Cards.

Wheat Promotion - Wheat Foods Council, \$35,000

Bringing an urban wheat field to the Washington mall complete with displays and exhibits will provide an experiential education opportunity, bringing the "Farm to Fork" platform to life. The two-day event will feature a wheat field, nutrition area, baking section with demonstrations and sampling, milling experience and retail/shelf section. Educators will receive curriculum. This will increase awareness about all things wheat, including farming, milling, baking, retail and nutrition, to U.S. policy makers and consumers in the Washington DC area.

Ethanol Performs - Bunny Burkett Racing Team, \$10,500

The Racing Team conducts "Ethanol Performs" promotions with the Dodge Avenger Funny Car driven by Ms. Bunny with fair displays, traveling billboard on trailer, promotional items, personal appearances, website, and print and TV media coverage. The racing team competes on the racing circuit garnering significant publicity as very few women compete in motor sports on a national level.

**MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS****Ethanol Issue Briefs - Clean Fuels Development Coalition, \$3,500**

Educational Issue Briefs promote ethanol as an alternative fuel, economic booster, and environmentally-friendly product. This grant will be used to update two issues in the series of *Issue Briefs*, energy security and the economic impacts of ethanol production.

Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program - MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts, \$20,000

The Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program provides a voluntary on-farm evaluation of stewardship activities including compliance with nutrient management regulations, the establishment of conservation best management practices, an evaluation of the farmer's status to participate in new environmental and trading programs, and a review of the current farming practices to assess any opportunities for improvement. The process provides meaningful data to farmers and enhances environmental protection efforts by recognizing natural resource conservation activities already in place, and demonstrating opportunities to expand beyond the existing levels of nutrient and sediment reduction and carbon sequestration. It creates a process with standards developed by the agricultural and environmental communities working together that both communities will acknowledge and respect.

Support Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board - Maryland Grain Producers Association, \$136,000

Prepare informational newsletters, conduct the Annual Commodity Classic to promote grain activities, administer a scholarship program awarding college students education grants, update and maintain the informational website (www.marylandgrain.com), promote expanded utilization of grain, and expand education efforts on grain and agriculture to include a public relations campaign on farmer-funded and installed best management practices (\$50,000 allotted to Market Development).

Corn - National Corn Growers Association, \$138,700

National Corn Growers Association's programs serve to help promote a positive image of corn, increase the use of corn, increase entrepreneurship for growers, open the doors of international trade, and protect the ability of Maryland producers to operate responsibly and effectively without undue regulation, and address other priorities identified by the grower-led Corn Board with Maryland's involvement (\$20,000 allotted for ag image building activities as seen and heard in the Washington DC metro area).

Wheat Policy - National Association of Wheat Growers, \$10,000

The National Association of Wheat Growers works on policy issues with congress and the Administration, including federal farm policy, tax provisions, trade, environmental regulations, disaster assistance, transportation and input price competitiveness, crop insurance enhancements, federal research investments, conservation program implementation, and biotechnology acceptance.

Grains - U.S. Grains Council, \$40,000

Creating demand for U.S. feed grains by encouraging development in emerging markets and identifying new opportunities in mature ones is the focus of the U.S. Grains Council. State checkoff funds are used to leverage federal market development and industry funds to expand overseas markets. 2010 priorities include trade policy, distillers dried grains, and biotechnology education.

E85 Marketing and Infrastructure Development - Sustainable Energy Strategies, Inc., \$47,475

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board received a \$469,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy towards a \$1 million project, with other partners providing the \$516,000 in matching support. SESI will implement the project, which involves working on E85 infrastructure development and increasing stations and E85 fuel usage in Maryland, Washington DC and Northern Virginia to advance the use of E85 as a form of alternative transportation fuel.

Barley - National Barley Growers Association, \$1,455

The National Barley Growers Association represents barley growers across the nation. Priorities include the Farm Bill, reforming crop insurance, pesticide registrations, conservation funding for working lands, competitive transportation system, and monitoring international trade agreements.

Wheat Marketing - U.S. Wheat Associates, \$29,600

U.S. Wheat Associates, the export market development organization funded by U.S. wheat growers, has a worldwide network of offices reaching wheat buyers in over 100 countries to market wheat. Crop quality and the advantages of using soft red winter wheat is promoted, and staff work to help remove trade barriers, open new wheat markets, and advocate for reasonable, scientific standards for agricultural biotechnology.

Call for Applications: 2011 Checkoff Grants**Grant Deadline is December 1, 2010**

For more information, email LynneHoot@aol.com
or call the MGPA office at 410-956-5771



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Inside this Issue

Make the Watershed Implementation Plans
 Work for Your Farm 1
 Call to Action 1
 Message from MGPA President Chip Bowling. 1
 MGPA/MGPUB Board & Membership 2
 Vomitoxin Update 3
 Seeking Southern Maryland Farmers for
 Barley Contracts 3
 Farm Images Take DC by Storm 6
 DC Mall to Grow Wheat in September 7
 Roberts featured as Keynote Speaker 7
 Sorghum Checkoff Program 8
 Agriculture Fairs Well through the 2010
 General Assembly 9
 KERNELS 10
 MGPUB Funding Report 11-15

www.marylandgrain.com



The Maryland Grain Producers Association and the Maryland Soybean Board invite you to see the latest in checkoff research, education and marketing, hear about current issues, and enjoy the company at the famous crab feast and barbecue!

AGENDA

9:00 and 9:45 a.m.

Wagon Tours

Wye Research & Education Center
See Research funded by Maryland Soybean Board and Maryland Grain Checkoff Programs

11:00 a.m.

Registration Opens

Queen Anne's 4-H Park
Visit Commercial Exhibits, Checkoff Exhibits & Agency Exhibits

Noon

Lunch Available, 4-H Club

1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting & Program

Matt Roberts, Keynote

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Crab Feast and Pork & Chicken BBQ

See more details on page 8

**Thursday,
 July 22, 2010**

**Queen Anne's
 4-H Park**

**Route 18 between
 Queenstown & Centreville**

TICKETS: \$10 prior to 2:30 p.m.; \$20 after 2:30 p.m. (no entry after 3:30 p.m.)

Complimentary tickets are provided to members of the Maryland Grain Producers Association - see page 2 for membership information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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