



Maryland



# Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## DON'T FORGET TO FILE YOUR ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Annual Implementation Reporting Forms were mailed to farmers in December. The reports summarize nutrient applications made during calendar year 2015 and are due to the department by **March 1, 2016**.

New this year, farmers will be asked to provide information on organic materials that have been transported in and out of Maryland. Additionally, the section on innovative management practices has been expanded.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should submit *one* combined Reporting Form along with a manure analysis to the Nutrient Management Program.

*Follow these guidelines when completing the report:*

- Use the pre-filled reporting form that was mailed to you. Additional reporting forms and instructions may be downloaded at [mda.maryland.gov](http://mda.maryland.gov).
- Do not leave spaces blank. If you did not apply nutrients, write "none applied" or place a zero in the box.
- If the information requested does not apply to your operation, write N/A in the box.
- Use the pre-printed envelope to mail your report by the March 1 deadline. Don't forget the stamp.
- Failure to submit your reporting form may result in fines and/or loss of eligibility to receive cost-share funds.



## MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY BARTENFELDER

I am pleased to welcome Hans Schmidt as our new assistant secretary for Resource Conservation. An experienced grain farmer, Hans knows his way around the farm. His expertise and accomplishments in resource conservation will be a tremendous asset to the department as we move forward with implementing programs that strengthen farms and protect our natural resources.

As part of our new phosphorus regulations, consultants and certified farmers are required to submit soil test data to the department. This information will be used to establish a state-wide inventory of soil phosphorus levels and will help us develop programs

*continued on page 5*



## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NO-COST MANURE INJECTION

The Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts have secured grant funding to make state-of-the-art manure injection equipment available to Maryland dairy farms this spring.

The new equipment injects liquid manure below the soil surface—in accordance with Maryland’s nutrient management regulations—to reduce the risk of nutrient runoff to nearby streams.

Farmers pay for surface application services provided by the project’s partner, Allegheny Ag, LLC. The additional cost of manure injection is covered by the grant. This unique opportunity is open to farmers in Washington, Frederick and Carroll counties for liquid manure injection only.

Arrange your spring custom application now. Contact Denny Remsberg at the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts at 301-695-2803.

## DEPARTMENT STILL ACCEPTING SOIL DATA INFO

Maryland’s Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) regulations require consultants and certified farmers to report soil phosphorus Fertility Index Values (FIVs) for each field in their nutrient management plan. The department will use the information to establish a statewide inventory of soil phosphorus levels and farmers will have information needed to establish the PMT tier governing implementation timelines. Reporting forms and instructions were mailed to consultants and certified farmers last summer and were due back to the department by September 30. *If you have not submitted your soil information, please do so immediately to avoid possible loss of your nutrient management certification and/or license.* Contact Bryan Harris, Implementation Coordinator, at 410-841-5951 or [bryan.harris@maryland.gov](mailto:bryan.harris@maryland.gov) for guidance.

## TOP FIVE WAYS TO COMPLY

### WITH MARYLAND’S NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- ▶ 1. Make sure your nutrient management plan is current. Most plans are written for one or three years. The expiration date is written on the plan.
- ▶ 2. Keep all fertilizer application records summarizing your activities for the previous calendar year.
- ▶ 3. Follow nutrient application setback requirements.
- ▶ 4. Do not apply chemical or organic nutrients before March 1.
- ▶ 5. Submit your Annual Implementation Report to the department by March 1.

### Cover Crop Planting Approaches 500,000 Acre Milestone

Maryland farmers planted a record 492,244 acres of cover crops on their fields last fall, surpassing the previous record of 475,560 acres planted in 2014.

# HANS SCHMIDT TO LEAD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



**H**ans Schmidt, a Queen Anne's County farmer, has been named Assistant Secretary of Resource Conservation. He replaces Royden Powell who retired after more than 20 years of service. Schmidt is the immediate past president of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and has served on the Maryland Soybean Board and State Soil Conservation Committee. Prior to his appointment, Schmidt operated his family's 2,100 acre farm with his brother. The farm was inducted into the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2008 and is certified by the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP). In 2010, Schmidt was a national finalist for the *Farm Journal's* Top Producer of the Year Award.

As Assistant Secretary, Schmidt will oversee the department's soil conservation and water quality programs, including the Nutrient Management Program.



# AGRICULTURAL ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

**Nutrient Management Plans**—As of June 30, 2015 over 99 percent of the state's 5,332 regulated farms had submitted their initial nutrient management plans as required by Maryland's Nutrient Management Regulations. The department is pursuing enforcement actions against 25 farmers for non-compliance. In Fiscal Year 2015, 16 farmers were fined \$5,600 for failure to file their initial nutrient management plans.

**Annual Implementation Reports**—In April 2015, the department issued warnings to 919 farmers who failed to file their Annual Implementation Reports by the March 1 deadline, followed by 395 notices of pending fines and 143 default notices. By June 30, 2015, 97.7 percent of regulated farmers managing about 1.3 million acres of land had submitted their reports. In Fiscal Year 2015, the department issued \$30,750 in fines against 123 farmers for late or missing reports.

**On-Farm Audits and Inspections**—In Fiscal Year 2015, the department conducted 890 on-farm audits, an increase of approximately 18 percent over last year. Of this figure, 772 farms were selected randomly for audits with 69 percent determined to be in full compliance. An additional 118 farmers were flagged for audits due to incomplete, irregular, or inaccurate information reported on their Annual Implementation Reports. The majority of the violations documented for both random and targeted audits involved expired or incomplete nutrient management plans. The department is actively pursuing full compliance for all operations. In Fiscal Year 2015, it issued \$32,950 in fines against 47 farmers who failed to take corrective actions by prescribed deadlines.



Jessica James



Moana Himes

## NEW FACES

**Jessica James** is the new nutrient management specialist for Howard and Montgomery counties. She earned her M.S. and B.S. from the Davis School of Agriculture at West Virginia University. She has previously worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a rangeland specialist and an environmental planner. Jessica grew up in Clarksville and is an avid horse person. Contact Jessica at 301-694-9290, ext. 137 or [jessica.james@maryland.gov](mailto:jessica.james@maryland.gov).

**Moana Himes** joins the department as the new nutrient management specialist for Frederick County. She earned her B.S. degree from Hood College and previously worked as a soil conservation technician and conservation planner at the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts. Contact Moana at 301-694-9290, ext. 136 or [moana.himes@maryland.gov](mailto:moana.himes@maryland.gov).

## URBAN UPDATE



### Annual Fertilizer Application Reports Due March 1

License holders are required to file an Annual Fertilizer Application Report with the department by March 1 of each year. The reports outlines total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium applied to turf by county. Reporting forms and instructions were mailed to all license holders in January. They also are available online at [mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer). Questions? Contact [judy.mcgowan@maryland.gov](mailto:judy.mcgowan@maryland.gov) or [kelly.lowe@maryland.gov](mailto:kelly.lowe@maryland.gov).

### Recertification Training

Professional Fertilizer Applicators are required to complete two hours of continuing education each year in order to renew their certificates. Recertification credits are now being offered through the department and the University of Maryland Extension. Recertification classes are updated as they are added. Go to [mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer) for the latest offerings.

### Enforcement

During Fiscal Year 2015, the program conducted 344 reviews of turf managers' fertilizer records to assess compliance with the law. Ten warnings were issued and all but one were resolved through follow-up inspections and education. Warnings were issued for no-shows at inspections, inadequate recordkeeping, and over-application of fertilizer products.

# TRAINING CALENDAR

## AGRICULTURAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Consultant Nutrient Management Exam

Date	February 17, 2016
Location	Annapolis
Who Should Attend	Individuals who want to become certified to write nutrient management plans for farmers.

### Nutrient Applicator Voucher Training and Recertification

The department and the University of Maryland Extension offer free voucher training and renewal courses to 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 in fall and winter. Register at your local Extension office.

Anne Arundel	February 11 and March 15, 2016—Call 410-222-3906
Baltimore	March 16, 2016—Call 410-887-8090
Caroline	February 17, 2016—Call 410-479-4030
Carroll	February 5 and March 1, 2016—Call 410-386-2760
Frederick	March 9, 2016—Call 301-600-1594
Harford	February 10, 2016—Call 410-638-3255
Queen Anne's	February 26, 2016—Call 410-758-0166
Talbot	March 1, 2016—Call 410-822-1244
Washington	February 25, 2016—Call 301-791-1304

### Farmer Certification Workshop

Dates	February 16 and February 23, 2016
Location	University of Maryland Extension—Washington County Office
Who Should Attend	Farmers who want to become certified to write nutrient management plans for their own operations. This program is for producers with cropland and pastures who use commercial fertilizer and/or manure. It includes about 11 hours of classroom lecture and practice in writing plans.

### 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

On the web	Visit <a href="http://mda.maryland.gov">mda.maryland.gov</a> and click on Nutrient Management in the Quick Links Bar. Follow the link to <i>Nutrient Management Training Program</i> .
------------	--

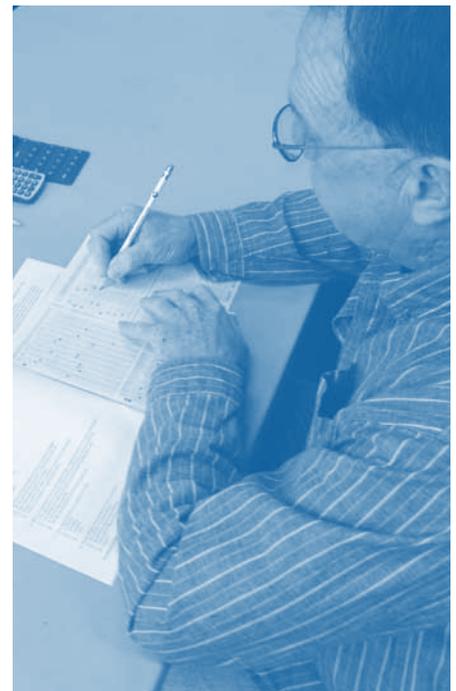
## TURFGRASS NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam and Continuing Education Classes

Dates	New exam dates and continuing education offerings are currently 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; certified individuals seeking to renew their certifications.

### How to Register

On the web	Visit <a href="http://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer">mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer</a> .
------------	--



*Secretary's Message cont. from page 1*

and incentives to assist with the transition to the Phosphorus Management Tool over the next several years. It will also allow us to gauge progress in protecting waterways from phosphorus runoff. If you have not already submitted this information to the Nutrient Management Program, please contact Bryan Harris, our implementation coordinator, for guidance. He can be reached at 410-841-5951 or [bryan.harris@maryland.gov](mailto:bryan.harris@maryland.gov).

Winter is a good time to gather fertilizer receipts, manure analyses, yield records and other data that you will need to complete your Annual Implementation Reports that are due to the department by March 1. We also offer several training classes in the winter for farmers who want to become certified to write nutrient management plans for their own operations. Please keep in mind that expired nutrient management plans account for more than half of all nutrient management violations. Take the time to make certain that your soil tests are current and your plan is up to date so that you are in compliance. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

*Joseph Bartenfelder*

Joe Bartenfelder  
Maryland Agriculture Secretary



**Maryland Department of Agriculture**  
**Office of Resource Conservation**  
**Nutrient Management Program**  
 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
 Annapolis, MD 21401  
 mda.maryland.gov



Larry Hogan, *Governor*  
 Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*  
 Joseph Bartenfelder, *Secretary*  
 James P. Eichhorst, *Deputy Secretary*

Western MD

**Maryland Department of Agriculture**  
**Nutrient Management Specialists**

**Allegheny, Garrett and Washington counties**

12407 Naves Cross Road, NE  
 Cumberland, MD 21502  
 Contact: Keith Potter, 301-777-1747, ext. 116 or  
 keith.potter@maryland.gov

**Frederick County**

92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110  
 Frederick, MD 21702  
 Contact: Moana Himes, 301-694-9290, ext. 136 or  
 moana.himes@maryland.gov

**Howard and Montgomery counties**

92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110  
 Frederick, MD 21702  
 Contact: Jessica James, 301-694-9290, ext. 137 or  
 jessica.james@maryland.gov

Central and Southern MD

**Baltimore, Cecil and Harford counties**

2205 Commerce Road, Suite C  
 Forest Hill, MD 21050  
 Contact: Darren Alles, 410-838-6181, ext. 118 or  
 darren.alles@maryland.gov

**Anne Arundel, Carroll and Prince George's counties**

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 201  
 Annapolis, MD 21401  
 Contact: (John) Adam Lyon 410-841-5949 or  
 adam.lyon@maryland.gov

**Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties**

26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B  
 Leonardtown, MD 20650  
 301-475-8402, ext.122  
 Contact: Weylin Anderson, 301-475-8402, ext.122  
 or weylin.anderson@maryland.gov

Eastern Shore

**Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties**

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

**Caroline and Dorchester counties**

28577 Mary's Court, Suite 4  
 Easton, MD 21601  
 410-822-8120  
 Contact: Dan Schwaninger, 410-822-8120 or  
 dan.schwanger@maryland.gov

**Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties**

27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2  
 Salisbury, MD 21801  
 410-677-0802, ext. 4  
 Contact: Steven Dorsey, 410-677-0802, ext. 4 or  
 steve.dorsey@maryland.gov

## Nutrient Management Notes

### ▶ HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please help us keep your contact information up-to-date. Call your regional nutrient management office with address, email or telephone changes as soon as possible.

### ▶ SUBSCRIBE TO MARYLAND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT NEWS ON-LINE

Save paper and be the first to know. Email [nminfo.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:nminfo.mda@maryland.gov) to receive email notification of the latest issue of Maryland Nutrient Management News. Give your full name and preferred email address.

**Maryland Nutrient Management News** is published by the Maryland Nutrient Management Program. It is designed to help farmers 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, 410-841-5959 or [nminfo.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:nminfo.mda@maryland.gov).

