

Maryland Grain Producers 2020 Annual Report



The Grain Store

Maryland Grain Producers Association



Keep Your Focus on the Field

The Maryland Grain Producers Association represents your interests in regulation and policy issues so that you can focus on raising the best crop you can.

Join today at
marylandgrain.org

President: Melvin Baile, Jr.
Vice President: Justin Brendel
Treasurer: Bobby Guy
Secretary: Charlie Cox



John Bruning | Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board President

Well, we made it through 2020! A year of trials, tribulation, and uncertainty. Through it all, Maryland's grain farmers were still farming. You all prepared your fields and planted grain in the spring at the height of the pandemic and did what you had to do to grow the grain that continues to provide food, fuel, and fiber for Americans and the world. For that, we thank you!

In 2020, the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPU) continued to work toward our mission of improving the bottom line of Maryland's grain farmers through research, market development, and education. Using your investment, MGPU was able to fund projects that improved public understanding of agriculture, seek to improve production through research, and helped to maintain trade relationships.

Maintaining trade relationships seemed more important than ever in 2020. We started out the year with low commodity prices and an uncertain future. Thanks to national organizations like NCGA, U.S. Wheat Associates, and the U.S. Grains Council, American grain farmers were able to finish out harvest 2020 in a relatively strong position. This demonstrates the importance of supporting these organizations and the relationships they have in Washington, DC, and throughout the world.

Under our research mission, MGPU has been working to fund projects that provide information to improve their production. We are very excited about the work at the University of Maryland working to develop new wheat and barley varieties better suited to Maryland conditions. Research is also ongoing to evaluate the efficacy of fungicide and pesticide products in hopes of ensuring farmers are seeing an economic return on the inputs they're using. Researchers at the University of Delaware continue to investigate critical nutrient levels to inform nutrient management recommendations to keep up with new technology.

Maryland farmers are likely the most highly regulated from an environmental standpoint. The pressure of farming in a relatively urbanized environment can be daunting but is made easier when the public understands what it is you're doing. Programs like MPT's *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, CommonGround, and MGPA's own efforts for public outreach and education are essential to the future of agriculture in Maryland.

Maryland Grain Producers remains committed to providing resources and services to growers that are well researched, unbiased, and informed by your board of directors. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to any of your representatives on our board. We look forward to what is hopefully a great 2021 and wish you all the best for spring planting.



The **Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board** implements the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program, collecting funds and providing grants focused on market development, research, and education for the collective benefit of Maryland farmers.

This year, 29 projects were funded, read about each one!

President: John Bruning
Treasurer: Allen Davis
Secretary: Charlie Cox

Market Development | Looking At The Future

United States Grains Council

Growing demand is critical to the profitability and success of U.S. agriculture. The U.S. Grains Council (USGC) works around the world and around the clock to build demand opportunities for U.S. corn, sorghum, barley, distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), and ethanol by showing up, promoting products, and building a network of customers.

Being nimble in addressing issues of the moment, identifying opportunities, and bringing together stakeholders with diverse perspectives are all part of the work to fulfill USGC's mission of developing markets, enabling trade, and improving lives. Though a full-time presence in 13 key markets, representatives in an additional 15 locations, and programs in more than 50 countries and the European Union, USGC is carrying out this work on your behalf.

In Maryland, exports of grain and grain products were valued at \$96 million, 41% of overall Maryland grain and co-products value in 2018. The economic "ripple effects" of these grain and grain products exports created \$165.4 million in economic output, \$92.1 million in gross state product, and 1,110 full-time equivalent jobs in the state economy.

As the dramatic impacts of COVID-19 hit grain markets and individual businesses, the Council's network of local staff and representatives paid off in knowledge of cultures, regulatory systems, and language. All Council staff, including those in the United States, worked hard on Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board's behalf to develop markets, enable trade, and improve lives.

2020 Funding \$81,900; 2021 Grant \$84,357 | www.grains.org

Sustainable Energy Strategies

Due largely to the continued support of MGPUB, Maryland currently has 54 Flex Fuel stations in operation, up 15 stations from 2019. Of these, 38 are open to the public and 16 are for private/government fleets. Twenty-two public stations now offer 88-regular and 37 offer E85. Each public station sells an estimated 800,000 gallons of ethanol annually. ***This means the 54 ethanol stations moved a conservatively estimated 32 million gallons of ethanol last year, up from 12.4 million in 2019. This equates to an estimated 12.5 million bushels of corn demand, up from 2.2 million bushels in 2019.*** (Note: These are unsubstantiated gallons based on historic volumes at E15/E85 stations.) The largest ethanol investor within Maryland remains Royal Farms. Carroll Fuels, Sheetz, and Rutters began offering Flex Fuels this past year.

This grant allowed Sustainable Energy Strategies, Inc. (SESI) to write and place articles in regional petroleum and agricultural trade publications to educate retailers and ag producers about the merits of mid and high ethanol blends and upcoming grant opportunities. SESI also attended and presented at more than eight meetings to share ethanol progress in the region and educate stakeholders about ethanol's low carbon benefits. Specifically, the SESI network with industry experts promotes Maryland's efforts during the Fuel Ethanol Workshop, Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Dealers Association events, and county meetings. SESI promoted the \$100 million in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Biofuels Infrastructure Incentive Program to key stakeholders in the region.

2020 Funding \$16,846; 2021 Grant \$18,279 | www.sesi-online.com

National Barley Growers Association

The National Barley Growers Association (NBSA) represents the interests of U.S. barley growers with regard to government relations at the federal level. Issues relevant to their work include Research, Domestic Farm Programs and Policy, Regulations, Grain Quality, Trade Policy, Farm Labor, Crop Insurance/Risk Management, Conservation, Transportation, Taxes, Energy, and Environmental Impact including Sustainability. Specific issues of focus this past year include the 2018 farm bill implementation, working to include barley acres in any 2020 Market Facilitation Program that was implemented, the inclusion of barley in the COVID-19 agricultural relief packages, quality loss payments for 2018 and 2019 barley production in the WHIP+ disaster legislation, annual agriculture appropriation bills, and free trade agreements. The NBSA's Board of Directors meets twice a year; typically late winter in Washington DC and then again in late June at various venues in or near the major barley producing states.

2020 Funding \$1,817; 2021 Grant \$1,661 | www.national-barley.com

National Corn Growers Association

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the Maryland Grain Producers are focused on increasing corn demand and keeping farmers in business. Building upon the momentum gained from renewed trade deals with Mexico, Canada, Korea, and Japan. NCGA is advocating new trade agreements that offer export growth opportunities. Currently, exports provide 33% of U.S. corn farmers' income.

Our top legislative priority is the Next Generation Fuels Act with the goal to remove barriers to higher blends of ethanol, growing the role of low carbon, and providing affordable and renewable corn ethanol in the fuel supply. A High Octane-Low Carbon fuel would lead to an estimated increase of 1.8 billion bushels of corn ground for ethanol.

NCGA helped sponsor the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattlemen's Education Series, reaching over 4,000 producers across 14 states to share research on the value provided by corn and corn-based feed ingredients. Plus, NCGA sustainability efforts help animal ag producers demonstrate improved environmental outcomes strengthening customer and consumer trust in animal production practices.

Finally, NCGA protected farmer interests by submitting comments on behalf of corn growers to maintain access to products like atrazine, glyphosate, metolachlor, and several neonicotinoids. NCGA has also worked closely with various partners to promote pollinator health.

2020 Funding \$200,000; 2021 Grant \$155,000 | www.ncga.com



Market Development Continued ...

United States Wheat Associates

In 2019/20 (June 1 to May 31), U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) used its grant from MGPUB and 16 other state wheat commissions to earn federal matching funds and continue demonstrating to overseas buyers the functional value and performance of flour from soft red winter (SRW) wheat.

SRW export demand was pressured by higher export prices relative to other origins and reduced functional quality. Total SRW sales of 90 million bushels were 26% less than in 2018/19. Average annual exports remain relatively flat even as total SRW production has declined.

USW sustained service and information to wheat buyers even as the pandemic restricted travel. Activities included: Increasing service in Brazil prior to the opening of a tariff-quota yielding a 24% increase in Brazil's SRW imports; breaking through to a miller in Ecuador who purchased SRW for the first time in 2019/20; helping a major miller in Mexico improve flour and end-use quality with imported SRW; demonstrating superior SRW performance to Nigeria's largest flour miller through SRC analysis training and including Maryland SRW producer Jason Scott in a virtual crop quality meeting with buyers from Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan Africa countries.

2020 Funding \$47,800; 2021 Grant \$43,800 | www.uswheat.org

National Association of Wheat Growers

The National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) past fiscal year was busy working on behalf of the state wheat associations on federal farm policy. Of particular note, NAWG was proactive work to ensure farmers of all classes of wheat would have access to COVID-19 assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and CFAP 2. The organization has also been at the forefront of important debates on issues including trade, agriculture appropriations, environmental regulations, tax reform, the regulatory framework for new breeding technologies, and many others. NAWG's efforts led to several key wheat research programs receiving funding increases in the FY 2020 agriculture appropriations bill and draft FY 2021 funding bills. Additionally, NAWG's staff worked proactively to advance the implementation of a new Quality Loss Option in crop insurance that starts with the year, and improvements to ARC and PLC, among others. NAWG was also successful in securing increased funding authorization for the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scan Initiative and fully appropriated funding for the program. NAWG's Foundation has also conducted several leadership training programs and continued its National Wheat Yield Contest. Due to COVID-19, the annual public and congressional farm tours at Eric Spates' farm in Maryland were disrupted. Additionally, NAWG has continued to work on the implementation of its new Strategic Plan, including working with its states to ramp up communications activities. These efforts will continue through the upcoming year.

2020 Funding \$13,000; 2021 Grant \$11,000 | www.wheatworld.org



Maryland Grain Producers Association

As the COVID-19 pandemic changed everyone's lives in 2020, Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) staff was committed to serve grain producers across the state. Despite the disruptions, grain farmers didn't skip a beat. Last spring, nutrients were applied and seed was planted. Producers were still able to harvest 430,000 acres of corn, 150,000 acres of wheat, and 21,000 acres of barley.

Our annual Commodity Classic was held online in July with nearly 200 attendees. National grain organizations provided updates and Drew Haines shared insight on producing the United States high-yielding non-irrigated no-till corn in 2019. MGPA staff continued to make an impression on consumers, producers, and more! The 2020 Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board's funded grants were spotlighted bi-weekly, over 320,700 individuals were reached through their three social media channels, and the annual scholarship was administrated providing four scholarships to deserving students seeking a career in agriculture.

Amidst the pandemic, Lindsay Thompson and Jenell Eck were able to attend and participate in promotional and education programs showcasing the importance of Maryland's Checkoff Program and connect with international grain buyers during the U.S. Grains Council's Virtual Tour featuring Maryland grain production. A campaign featuring local grain, farmers, and chicken was completed, in partnership with Delmarva Chicken Association and Maryland Farm Bureau. Lastly, their website was remodeled and a new display was created.

Checkoff dollars cannot be used for advocacy. Membership funds allow for membership benefits, legislative coverage, virtual tour outreach, and bi-weekly newsletters.

2020 Funding \$125,000; 2021 Grant \$125,000 | www.marylandgrain.com

2021 Grain Producers Scholarship

For students working towards a degree in an agriculture-related field, the Maryland Grain Producers is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2021 and 2022 school year.

The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board utilizes checkoff dollars to contribute to students continuing their education and give back to four farm families across our state.

Student Eligibility:

- Enrolled in or accepted to a 2-year or 4-year institution studying agriculture or a related field.
- The applicant or immediate family member must be involved in grain production and a member of the association.
- Members should not have received a checkoff refund in the past 12 months.
- Students should reside in Maryland but can attend school outside of the state.

Students are eligible to receive one of the four \$2,500 scholarships being offered. Scholarship applications are due **April 30th** and will be awarded during the annual Commodity Classic held Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Applications and more information can be found on our website, www.marylandgrain.com.



2021 Scholarship
Maryland Grain Producers | Due April 30th

2020 Recognition | Dr. Miller Award and Scholarship

Dr. James R. Miller Award

Jason Scott of Easton, Maryland was recognized for his outstanding service to Maryland's grain industry. Since 1998, a number of farmers, elected officials, as well as, research and agency representatives have been recognized for their accomplishments. Most notable, Jason Scott served as the first and only Chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates from Maryland in 2016 and continues to represent our producers today! Through his service, Jason has visited 20 countries to seek wheat utilization. Jason along with his family own and operate Walnut Hill Farms producing a variety of row crops.



Jason Scott receiving his Award from Executive Director, Lindsay Thompson

Scholarship Recipients



Currently attending the University of Northwestern Ohio, **Mitchell Debnam** is working toward a dual major in Agriculture Equipment Technology and Diesel Technician. Mitchell was raised in Kennedyville, MD on his family's multi-generational grain and swine operation. At a young age, Mitchell began helping his family with daily activities and was an active member of the Kent Clover Calf 4-H Club where he exhibited dairy and livestock at local, regional, and state shows. In 2018, Mitchell traveled as Maryland's representative to National 4-H Congress and was awarded Kent 4-H I Dare You Award. In 2019, Mitchell graduated from Kent County High School where he was involved in FFA and Baseball. After graduating as a diesel technician, Mitchell would like to return to the family farm after working full-time for a local dealership as an agriculture equipment technician to improve his skill and gain experience.

Scholarship Continued ...

From Centreville, MD **Jordan Wilmer** graduated from Queen Anne's County High School in 2017. During high school, Jordan was active as a Food Bank and Family Affair Farms Volunteer, Vacation Bible School Leader, Football Player, and FFA Member. Jordan is attending Penn-State World College working towards a degree in Agribusiness Management after two successful years at Chesapeake College graduating with an Associates of Applied Science in Agriculture with a production concentration. While attending college, Jordan has worked Full-Time as a Poultry House Manager for Black Dog Farms while helping Chestnut Manor Farms with crop production. He began an internship with them in 2016 learning about grain and poultry production. After college graduation, Jordan plans to raise broilers of his own with a grain production farm.



Raised on a grain and livestock farm in Centreville, MD, **Jennifer Gannon** works alongside her family while also working at Southern States and Talbot Extension part-time. Jennifer graduated from Chesapeake College with an associate's degree in allied health in the Spring of 2020. Attending the University of Maryland, Jennifer plans to work for a fertilizer or seed company after graduation while continuing to work on her family's operation. At Queen Anne's County High School, Jennifer was an active FFA member serving as the Chapter President and participating in a variety of competitions. Today, Jennifer serves as their Horse Judging Coach and has judged the regional Public Speaking contest. For 15 years, Jennifer was a member of the Pony Express 4-H Club and served a variety of office positions including Chapter President. She showed horses and sheep for her 4-H project.

Graduating from The Gunston School in 2018, Austin Nickerson of Worton, MD is attending the University of Delaware to major in Agriculture and Natural Resources. Austin was raised on a grain and hog farm where his mother, Kristen works full-time. He has been a part of the operation for as long as he can remember. Growing up, Austin was active in 4-H and later attended National 4-H Congress. In 2017, he was named National Tractor Operator Champion through Perdue University. Austin has spent time volunteering for the Kent County Fair and Still Pond Church. After graduating High School, Austin attended Chesapeake College before transferring to the University of Delaware. With his degree from Delaware, Austin would like to continue to grow his already established seedling tree planting business.



Education | Telling the Future Our Story

Maryland Farm & Harvest | Maryland Public Television

Agriculture is the state of Maryland's number one industry, yet few Marylanders have ever visited a farm. Even fewer of them understand how much work goes into growing the nation's food and fiber. To help showcase this important industry and the people behind it, Maryland Public Television (MPT) in partnership with MDA created ***Maryland Farm & Harvest***, a television show and multimedia series that puts a human face on farming.

Hosted by two-time Emmy Award-winning Host Joanne Clendening, *Maryland Farm & Harvest* continues to take viewers around the state to see and experience what it's like to run a 21st-century farm - from technological advanced and conservation challenges to age-old problems like bad weather and pests. Now in the eighth season, Farm & Harvest has produced and aired 104 episodes and visited 422 locations!

The series continues to be MPT's #1 rated regional show, attracting an audience of almost 11 million viewers! MPT earned 17 Emmy nominations in 2020, including five for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*; and was awarded 4 Emmy Awards for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*! This educational series continues to make major progress in connecting the general public with the agricultural industry and helps to foster a better understanding of the work farmers do.

Tune in Tuesday 7 PM, Thursday 11:30 PM, Sunday 6 AM, or Friday 7:30 PM on MPT2 HD.
Have a question or comment for the Maryland Farm & Harvest team? Write to them at farm@mpt.org.
2020 Funding \$100,000; 2021 Grant \$150,000 | www.mpt.org/programs/farm/

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Enhancing MD Youth | Maryland FFA Foundation

During the 2020 project year, the State FFA Officers and Staff have presented virtual workshops at the Maryland State Department of Education Career & Technical Student Organization Advisor and leadership training with FFA members. During the virtual National FFA Convention, three chapters were recognized with National Chapter awards with 15 members receiving their American FFA Degree. To conclude the year, a new chapter was chartered in Charles County.

The 2020 MGPUB Grant helped the Foundation provide valuable education and leadership experience to FFA students, with a reach of over 1,200 high school and middle school members. FFA students benefit greatly from these leadership events where they were presented with new thoughts, ideas, and formal leadership skill training.

2020 Funding \$13,000; 2021 Grant \$13,000 | www.mdffaoundation.org

Addressing Consumers MidAtlantic CommonGround

CommonGround is an educational initiative to create conversations about farming and food where farm women tell consumers about what they do on the farm. The idea is to make a connection between the common values and interests of farmers and consumers, with the target audience of consumers and influencers who are feeding their families, wanting healthy food for their children, caring about the environment, and where their food comes from. Over the last nine years, local farmer volunteers have made millions of positive impressions about farming through media interviews, local events, and social media efforts.

The CommonGround team of spokeswomen has a broad ag representation both nationally and locally. Volunteers participate in an orientation session and then the program provides volunteers opportunities to talk to consumers at health and food events, farmers markets, and sports events, focusing on non-ag events.

Following a strong fourth quarter of 2019 for dietician and nutrition professionals' activity, the spring of 2020 brought limitations on gatherings directing activities primarily to a virtual format. Farm volunteers did speaking engagements, spoke to visitors at farm markets, and were active in social media to help consumers build confidence in the food production system.

2020 Funding \$12,000; 2021 Grant \$12,000
www.findourcommonground.com

ARE YOU TIRED OF BREAKDOWNS DURING HARVEST?

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717-597-7563

Sukup



CommonGround's Virtual Cooking Class around a Farming Conversation, featuring Board Member, Jennie Schmidt

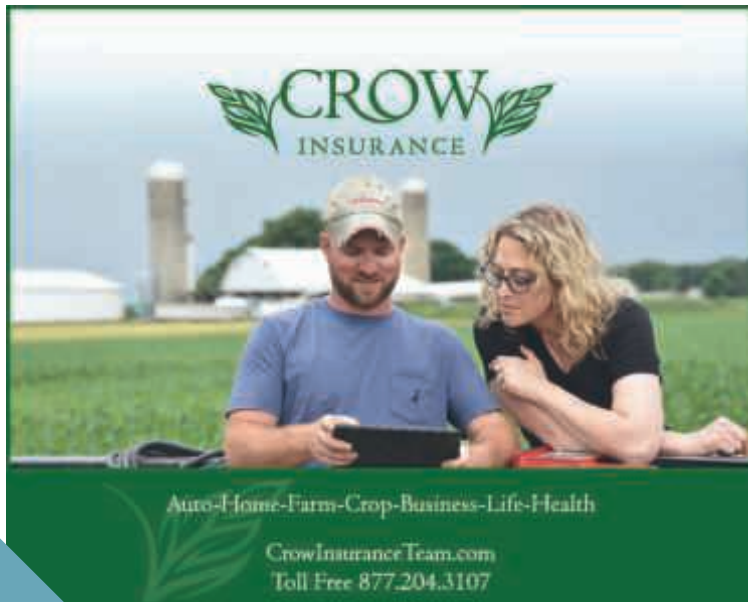
Education Continued ...

Maryland Envirothon Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

The Maryland Envirothon is a unique partnership between high school science teachers, Soil Conservation Districts, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Aquatics, Forestry and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the University of Maryland. The goal of the Envirothon is to increase student's environmental knowledge and understanding while motivating them to care for the environment by practicing stewardship in their homes, schools, and communities. The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board has been a long-time supporter of the Envirothon program. Although there was no State Envirothon competition in 2020 due to COVID, the MGPIB grant will be used for the 2021 "Virtual" State Envirothon, which will be open to all high school students in the state. Specifically, MGPIB grant funds will be used to provide scholarships to the top three teams (15 students). The Maryland Envirothon committee greatly appreciates the continued support of MGPIB.

2020 Funding \$5,000; 2021 Grant \$2,500

www.mdenvirothon.org



Educating Officials University of Maryland

Staff with the University of Maryland recently completed a second round of workshops for local officials interested in learning more about developing issues in agriculture facing Maryland producers.

The "What's That Smell?" Understanding Modern Agriculture and What Officials Need to Know Workshops were made possible through a grant from the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. In 2019, staff held the first round of these workshops on the Eastern Shore in collaboration with University of Maryland Extension partners. Workshop participants reported knowledge gains on specific agricultural topics as a result of attending; 54% of attendees increased their knowledge on tillage practices, while 39% of attendees reported learning more about mediation options in agricultural disputes.

Due to COVID-19, workshops for western Maryland were moved to an online format. Topics included water use, grain and forage production, poultry and livestock production, and basic legal issues. Showcasing the educational resources available on the extension and state agency websites was also a priority. State department agency representatives were also in attendance outlining what is regulated through each department.

The team is looking forward to continuing into the third year of the project with the plan to develop online learning modules for new hires in the county and state government while understanding the impact of agriculture in Maryland and practices utilized.

2020 Funding \$5,937; 2021 Grant \$7,253

AG-Venture Program | Carroll County Extension

The Ag-Venture Program is designed to target fourth-grade students to further their knowledge of Maryland agriculture with a focus on grain education through STEM concepts. Unfortunately, Ag-Venture was not able to be held in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, if they were able to hold the in-person program they would have seen a 20% increase in the number of schools and students attending. Plans to continue Ag-Venture are underway when the program can open back up to provide an in-person hands-on field trip experience.

When students are able to return to Ag-Venture, they will rotate through 35-minute stations consisting of Grain Production, Grain Nutrition, Livestock Production, and Watershed Management. Each student has a hands-on opportunity to make grain jars, plant seeds, and get up close to farm equipment and livestock while learning the benefits of crop farming through best management practices.

At the conclusion of the 2019 program, students and teachers provided feedback. Based on pre and post-test evaluations there was a significant increase in agriculture knowledge.

2020 Funding \$2,000 | www.extension.umd.edu/carroll-county

soybeanresearchinfo.com

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FFA Chapter Field Trip Queen Anne's County FFA

In 2019, the Queen Anne's County FFA applied for a grant of \$400 to cover costs associated with a field trip planned during the 2019 - 2020 school year. The chapter planned on going to Nagel Grain Elevator and UMD Wye Angus Research Facility, both in Wye Mills, MD. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic and school being transferred online, members were unable to attend the field trip. The chapter has been granted an extension with the plan to attend in the fall of 2021. The Queen Anne's County FFA Chapter is grateful for MGPUB's continued support and members are looking forward to attending the field trip this fall!

2020 Funding \$400 | www.qacffa.theaet.com

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Education Continued ...

Kids Growing with Grains | Washington County Extension

The Washington County 4-H Youth Development Program, a part of the University of Maryland Extension (UME), typically presents the Kids Growing with Grains program, as an in-person event. However, in 2020 this program has been converted to a fully online, virtual classroom. This program is made available to all schools in Washington County, reaching about 500 fourth graders annually.

The program is designed to meet the needs and interests of the schools, and offer hands-on, experiential learning through a variety of lessons. Lessons are presented by faculty and staff, volunteers, and 4-H/FFA youth. Participants learn about the health benefits of grain, the use of grain as feed in livestock production, and develop a connection between themselves and agriculture in their community.

2020 Funding \$1,000; 2021 Grant \$1,000 | www.extension.umd.edu/washington-county/

Close Encounters with Ag | Montgomery County Extension

Close Encounters with Agriculture was developed as a virtual program rather than a live field trip for the 2020 program. The virtual program consists of a series of videotapes based on the topics typically taught at the in-person field trip.

Corn and Corn Products is in a video format where students learn how corn grows in a typical growing season. A local cornfield is used to teach students about the corn plant and how corn grows and pollinates to make an ear. Corn uses and products are featured in the video as well.

Student activities and unit quizzes were developed for each topic to accompany the videos. At this time 10 schools have participated and will continue for the remainder of the school year.

2020 Funding \$6,000 | www.extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county

Kids Growing with Grains | Frederick County Extension

Kids Growing with Grains is a program designed to reach at-risk, underserved students at Title I elementary schools in Frederick County. Students learn about and explore grain production, utilization, and the importance of grain products in their diets. This program is typically delivered as an in-school field trip in the spring for 3rd graders, and an off-site field trip in the fall for 4th graders. In the spring of 2020, Extension Educators created video lessons to put together a virtual field trip and created student work pages. One hundred and sixty-six students participated in the virtual field trip. Teacher feedback indicated appreciation for providing this program in an alternative format, as well as positive reviews from their students. Currently, the virtual field trip is in the process of being updated to include additional video lessons, as well as being transferred to a more interactive format. This new version will be sent to teachers this spring!

2020 Funding \$2,500 | www.extension.umd.edu/frederick-county



LEAD Maryland LEAD MD Foundation

In early February 2020, LEAD Class XI had a very successful 4-day seminar in Annapolis. Fellows studied the structure and political process of state and local governments, how to shape public policy, the role of lobbyists and advocates, as well as committee and delegation work. Several Fellows shadowed their legislators during an independent study and several were called on to make formal reports during meetings of their county, city, or Eastern Shore legislative delegations. Lastly, all Fellows attended the annual Taste of Maryland Agriculture event.

There was only one additional day of in-person programming in 2020 following the COVID closures. Programming for the LEAD Class XI Fellows then moved to virtual presentations (primarily held through the Zoom platform), along with discussions and readings.

Plans are in place for Fellows to complete remaining studies when traveling is safe. Studies to be completed are in Washington DC, Baltimore City, on the Eastern Shore, and traveling abroad to Spain.

The LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. provides educational, training, and personal growth opportunities for program participants through a series of multi-day seminars. Fellows become more equipped and confident to solve problems, identify resources, educate the public, and influence public policy.

2020 Funding \$20,000; 2021 Grant \$15,000

www.leadmaryland.org



Mobile Ag Science Labs Queen Anne's County FFA

2020 in a nutshell: "Well, that didn't turn out as planned!" Despite closed schools and canceled events, the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF) continued in its mission to educate the public about the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. After seeing a record pace from September 2019 to March 2020 with bookings of its mobile science labs and showcases, MAEF had to redouble its efforts on other outreach strategies to continue to advance ag literacy. The result has been record-breaking outreach numbers, increased capacity through upgraded web resources, and improved agricultural literacy while supporting increased opportunities for ag education in our high schools and colleges, and developing the middle school teacher professional development course.

Find out more about how MAEF works to support agricultural education and agricultural literacy from K-12 to post-secondary level at

www.maefonline.com or email Suzanne Zilberfarb at szilberfarb@maefonline.com.

2020 Funding \$5,000; 2021 Grant \$5,000



Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation

MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures

MARBIDCO makes low-interest loans to young and beginning farmers and other rural businesses looking to purchase real estate or diversify their operations. Contact your local bank, farm credit office, or call us directly at (410) 267-6807 to learn more about our gap financing program (known as the "MRBIFF" program). MARBIDCO also finances the planting of vineyards and orchards, value added processing, oyster aquaculture ventures, and forestry projects.

Check out MARBIDCO today to see if one of our development programs can help you at: www.marbideo.org or call 410-267-6807.

MGPUB Financial Report

Income

Corn	\$955,428
Wheat	\$94,901
Barley	\$10,394
Oats	\$1,724
Sorghum	\$5,983
Interest/Other	\$10,804
Total	\$1,079,234

Expenses

Market Development	\$363,863
Education	\$298,179
Research	\$143,007
Program	\$69,956
Refunds	\$33,676
Administration	\$29,531
MGPA Membership	\$7,100
Other	\$6,529
Total	\$951,841

ALTA CPA Group, LLC, audited the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board and determined the accounts to be in order. A copy of the report is available by calling 443-262-8491.

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Trends in Soil Test Phosphorus

Dr. Amy Shober | University of Delaware

Field sites receiving long-term applications of manure or inorganic phosphorus (P) fertilizer at Georgetown, DE, and Chestertown, MD, were scheduled for manure application and corn planting in 2020. However, COVID restrictions required a shift to soybean with no manure. Yet, UD was able to take a deeper dive into the over 150,000 data points collected for these sites since 2000. Application of poultry litter at P-balanced rates since 2005 did not significantly increase soil test P when compared to concentrations in 2005. At both sites, applications of 1.9 and 2.3 ton/A of poultry litter (Georgetown and Chestertown, respectively), on average, to corn in a corn full-season soybean rotation resulted in P balance (P inputs = P removed in grain). Data also supported using poultry litter at a P deficit rate to allow growers to benefit from the organic matter, micronutrients, and early season nitrogen provided by poultry litter while drawing soil test P concentrations down. We plan to continue data analysis from these historic sites, including analysis of additional soil data and trends for soil test P with inorganic fertilizer application. Also with the plan to continue maintaining these plots in the future, which will allow UD to provide Maryland farmers with better information about the chemistry and fate of P in soils with a long-term history of manure or fertilizer applications.

2020 Funding \$6,205 | www.udel.edu

State Corn Test: Benchmark Hybrids

Dr. Nicole Fiorellino | University of Maryland

The performance of a statistically sound and unbiased field trial provides producers with an unbiased corn variety comparison to be used in selecting varieties as well as varieties that are new or experimental and may be lacking long-term performance data in the Mid-Atlantic region. A randomized complete block design, replicating and randomizing corn varieties across a field, is the only way to utilize statistical procedures to draw true performance conclusions. The conclusions presented as a result of statistical analysis provide producers to draw true performance conclusions and with the confidence that the results determined in the experiment are likely to be repeated under similar conditions. The goal of this project is to provide Maryland producers with an unbiased comparison of corn variety performance across the geographic and climatic regions of Maryland. This data aids producers in corn variety selection with the global goal of increasing producer profitability through increased yield.

2020 Funding \$6,500; 2021 Grant \$6,500

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Research Continued ...

Longterm Evaluation of High Phosphorus Soils

Dr. Nicole Fiorellino | University of Maryland

Many agricultural soils throughout Maryland, and the greater Delmarva Peninsula, have high concentrations of phosphorus (P) due to long-term history of manure applications at or exceeding rates designed to meet crop nitrogen needs. Unfortunately, in fields where only grains are harvested, researchers estimated that it will take decades to reduce P concentrations to a point where manure can again be used at P-based rates to fertilize grain crops. Therefore long-term drawdown rotation plots were maintained at the University of Maryland by maintaining corn, wheat, double-crop soybean, and cover crop rotation, and collecting grain and soil samples to monitor trends in soil test P, grain yield, and crop P uptake as influenced by various soil test P concentrations.

Soil samples were collected and evaluated throughout the lifetime of the project to gather a more complete picture of soil P dynamics under P drawdown scenarios. By determining the forms of P within a soil sample, researchers can better understand how to manage high P soils in the Mid-Atlantic region.

2020 Funding \$4,874; 2021 Grant \$12,500

Strategies to Increase Protein for Winter Wheat

Dr. Nicole Fiorellino | University of Maryland

As the price of wheat continues to decrease, this project has the potential to provide Maryland wheat growers with an economic benefit by producing a higher-value grain that can be sold for a premium price. The team at the University of Maryland selected three varieties of soft red winter wheat and subjected them to four nitrogen fertilization strategies in an attempt to economically increase grain protein content at two locations in Maryland. Two varieties were selected based on high protein content reported in the Virginia Cooperative Extension Small Grains Variety Trial results. The third variety was a soft red wheat variety commonly grown in Maryland. In 2019, it was not economically feasible to increase wheat protein content at either location without local grain buyers offering an unrealistically high premium for increased grain protein. In 2020, the low yields at both locations likely do not warrant the extra costs associated with increased grain protein content: either purchasing seed with the genetic potential for higher protein content or purchasing and applying additional N fertilizer.

2020 Funding \$7,273; 2021 Grant \$7,500



Observing Critical Nutrient Levels

Dr. Jarrod Miller | University of Delaware
Dr. Nicole Fiorellino | University of Maryland

A three-year survey of ear leaf tissue across Maryland and Delaware observed that most critical tissue nutrient values were adequate for determining yield-limiting factors. This study does suggest that a critical value of 0.24%r Mg and 10ppm B may be too high, while a critical value of at least 0.20%S should also be explored. Based on the results of these samples, N was often limited due to environmental conditions (both excessive rainfall and drought), while Zn was the most likely micronutrient lacking in corn tissue. Most tissue samples had adequate levels of P, K, Ca, Mn, and Cu, representing soils in the Ridge and Valley, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain soils.

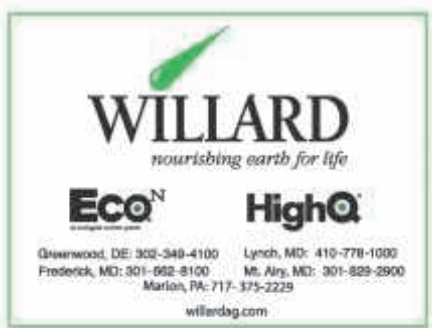
2020 Funding \$10,516



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www.farmers.gov



State Corn Test: Benchmark Hybrids

Ms. Alyssa Koehler | University of Delaware

Irrigation research in the Mid-Atlantic has historically focused on water application to improve yield and nutrient use efficiency. With significant portions of Maryland's central shore and over 20% of tillable land in Delaware under irrigation, this project sought to address preliminary questions to understand if it is feasible to apply fungicides through irrigation. Objectives included: **(1)** Quantify differences in foliar disease severity and stalk health in response to fungicide treatments applied through irrigation. **(2)** Investigate optimal timings of single and multisite fungicides applied through irrigation on a susceptible and resistant hybrid. **(3)** Collect preliminary data on the amount of fungicide making contact and remaining on leaf tissue throughout the canopy. **(4)** Disseminate research results to Mid-Atlantic irrigated farmers.

University of Delaware's Variable Rate Lateral Move irrigation system was used to test multiple treatments in randomized replicated research plots. Results have shown that fungicides applied through irrigation successfully reduced disease severity of grey leaf spot in both susceptible and resistant hybrids in 2019 and 2020. Yield differences were not statistically significant in either year, but numerical yield differences and highly significant disease severity ratings merit further investigation and optimization of fungicides applied through irrigation.

2020 Funding \$6,993

Research Continued ...

Managing Fusarium Head Blight in Small Grains

Dr. Nidhi Rawat | University of Maryland

Small grain farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region, and especially Maryland are affected by Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). For developing robust best management practices for controlling FHB and Deoxynivalenol (DON) in grains, the University of Maryland proposed a two-year project where Nidhi Rawat and her team can experiment with various combinations of genetic resistance and fungicide combination to control FHB and DON content. In 2020 experiments conducted in the artificially maintained high FHB pressure misted nursery conditions at Beltsville research facility of the UMD, and under normal conditions at Wye Research and Education Center showed that genetic resistance is critical to managing FHB. Anthesis/flowering is still the best stage to spray for controlling FHB even with the new chemistry. However, application at 50% head emergence still led to a lower but significant control of FHB severity and DON content. Similar results were also observed for barley, where the best stage of the application was heading, as anthers are not visible externally on barley heads. Similar experiments will be conducted in 2021 at the two locations.

2020 Funding \$15,000; 2021 Grant \$20,000



Improving Winter Wheat Cultivars

Dr. Vijay Tiwari | University of Maryland

Cultivar development is a continuous process. At the University of Maryland, researcher Vijay Tiwari continues to make new crosses and 100 new breeding populations were initiated using different parental combinations to increase yield and tolerance against biotic and abiotic stresses. Research is done by combining speed breeding protocol and double haploid populations, researchers are making quick progress in the germplasm development. Currently, the University is testing two MD lines in the regional uniform eastern and southern wheat evaluation trials. Seven advanced MD SRW wheat lines are being evaluated at five different locations in triplicated trials under the University of Maryland state test for their yield and agronomic performances. In the last state test (2020), MD131 was picked up in the top 10 lines (commercial and public varieties from different stakeholders) for their yield performance. A new set of 10 advanced MD lines are being tested in a regional Mason Dixon trial (multilocation-trials conducted by breeders in Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Maryland). Seed increases are underway for these lines in the field, which has multiple-QTL combined to provide resistance against several wheat diseases. The overall goal is to select the best performing lines and release them as the MD cultivars.

2020 Funding \$20,000; 2021 Grant \$20,000

Barley for Use in Feed, Malt, and Food

Dr. Nicholas Santantonio | VA Polytech Institute

The Virginia Tech Barley Breeding Program has been conducting barley research funded by commodity boards. The Breeding Program aims to develop high-yielding, disease-resistant barley cultivars adapted to the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern U.S. region and with qualities designed for malt, feed, and food. The growth of craft malting, brewing, and distilling industries in the Mid-Atlantic and Eastern U.S. has driven demand for locally grown malt barley varieties adapted to the east coast.

Virginia Tech is currently evaluating malting barley cultivars developed by collaborators in the U.S. and Europe while rapidly developing and testing malting barley experimental lines from the program. This cooperative project is working towards the development of high-value barley varieties by improving yield, quality, straw strength, grain plumpness, and disease resistance have been fruitful. Researchers are pleased to report the release of Virginia Tech's first two-rowed winter malt barley variety 'Avalon' (tested as VA16M-81 2R) and its first two-rowed winter hullness barley variety VA15H-73.

2020 Funding \$5,000; 2021 Grant \$5,000

Whole Grain and Pasture-Raised Lamb

Ms. Amanda Grev | University of Maryland Extension

Energy is often one of the most limiting nutrients in the diets of pastured livestock, especially for young, growing animals. The objective of this research project was to determine if energy supplementation in the form of whole barley would improve the health, growth, and carcass characteristics of pasture-raised lambs.

Seventy-nine Katahdin ram lambs were delivered on June 15, 2020. The lambs were sorted by age, weight, birth type, and fecal egg count and randomly allocated into two treatment groups; pasture and supplemented. The pasture lambs (n=40) had access to pasture only, while the supplemental lambs (n=39) had access to pasture and also received a daily supplement of whole barley at a rate of 1 pound per head per day. Lambs in both treatment groups were weighed, FAMACHA scored, and body condition scored biweekly. Fecal samples were collected to evaluate parasite loads. The lambs were weighed and assessed for a final time on September 25. Due to COVID-19, the lambs were unable to be processed to collect carcass data and samples for fatty acid analysis. Instead, the lambs were scanned via ultrasound on October 2 to determine backfat and loin depth.



Analysis of the results for this study is underway with data online. Moving forward, the research team plans to repeat this project with the second group of lambs in 2021.

2020 Funding \$9,646

<https://wmrecresearch.blogspot.com/>

Early Season Insect Pest Management in Corn

Dr. Kelly Hamby | University of Maryland

To improve the efficiency of at-planting insect management in field corn, an experiment compared (1) an untreated control, (2) Capture LFR (An in-furrow pyrethroid insecticide), and (3) Poncho 250 (Neonicotinoid insecticide coated on the seed) in a Bt and non-Bt hybrid. Fields were planted at three University of Maryland farms. The goal was to determine the individual efficacy of these frequently combined tactics (Bt traits, neonicotinoid seed treatment, and in-furrow pyrethroids) against Maryland's insect pest pressure because they are potentially redundant and insect pest pressure may not warrant treatment.

In the first year of this experiment, insecticide treatments did not improve yield in either the Bt or non-Bt hybrid, and completely untreated corn performed well. Pest pressure was low across the sites. While the treatments occasionally reduced pest damage to seedlings (for example, insecticides reduced caterpillar pests like armyworm and cutworm), damage was not yield-limiting. Poncho 250 was the most effective against soil insects; however, less than 1% of plants were damaged by soil pests in any treatment in both Bt and non-Bt fields. A better understanding of the contributions of each component of field corn insect management will allow producers to maximize profits and potentially reduce insecticide use. *2020 Funding \$15,000; 2021 Grant \$18,000*

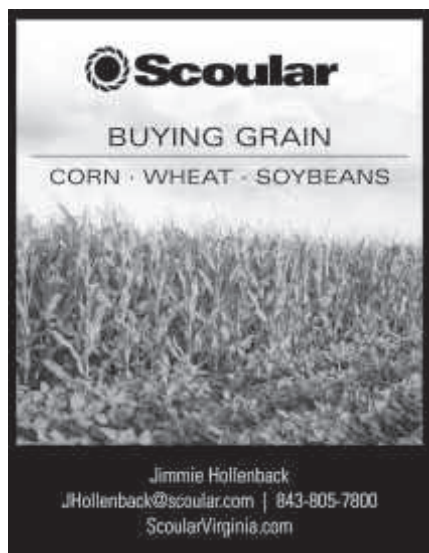


Evaluation of Scab Resistance, Yields & Disease

Dr. Vijay Tiwari | University of Maryland

The Small Grains Field Trial Program at the University of Maryland has a major emphasis to provide impartial, statewide evaluation of the commercial and public cultivars and experimental lines of winter wheat and barley available to Maryland growers. In addition to it, these evaluations assist the UMD and regional small grain breeding programs at various universities in the development of new varieties of winter wheat, grain barley, malting barley, and triticale with increased disease resistance, high yield, and high quality for Maryland. The program collaborates with Dr. Nidhi Rawat to evaluate scab resistance of the new and current winter wheat and barley varieties with increased disease resistance.

Overall, we provide data on high yield, high quality, disease resistance, and adaptability of the cultivars to the Maryland environment. During the growing year 2020, researchers tested 70 wheat and 10 barley commercial and public cultivars for the yield, agronomic performances, and diseases. A detailed agronomic report of the small grain trials was provided to the stakeholders and growers using the MD wheat webpage, as well as extension agents and direct contacts. For 2021, the University is testing 72 wheat and 20 barley cultivars, and a detailed report will be provided at the end of the growing season. *2020 Funding \$16,000; 2021 Grant \$16,000*



Triticale Cover Crop Potential

Dr. Vijay Tiwari | University of Maryland

Triticale provides profitable options as a cover crop in Maryland. Winter triticale is not as hard to control in rotations where volunteers are undesirable. To date, efforts to enhance triticale yields and cover crop utility for the northeastern USDA have been limited. Lack of knowledge and poor understanding about triticale germplasm adapted for Maryland and non-availability of publicly available triticale varieties present major barriers for increasing triticale acreage in this specific agro-climatic region. To start the breeding efforts for the triticale cultivars adapted to the Maryland environment, the University of Maryland started screening a large set of triticale germplasm in the field at two locations (Beltsville and Clarksville). Based on two years of data, a set of 20 triticale lines were selected as the top parental lines for developing breeding-germplasm. These lines were selected based on their performance for cover crop potentials and forage values. Ten breeding populations are already developed, and new crosses are underway. Through this proposal, staff will update the growers about the multipurpose role of triticale as a crop and will provide a platform for publicly available triticale seeds coming out of the Maryland small grain program.

2020 Funding \$10,000; 2021 Grant \$10,000

Developing Barley Cultivars

Dr. Vijay Tiwari | University of Maryland

This research aims to develop high-yielding winter barley varieties adapted to the Mid-Atlantic region with increasing resistance against Fusarium Head Blight and improved malting characteristics. Researchers at the University of Maryland are screening a large collection of barley germplasm available to use to identify a core set of parental lines. With the best, through screening results, the University has started new crosses to develop breeding germplasm. They also used a TILLING population of an adapted MD barley cultivar to identify useful mutant lines. A total of 24 useful showings higher yield, early flowering phenotype, short plant type, and scab tolerance were selected. These selected lines were backcrossed with the parental lines to clean up their background. The populations developed from these crosses were advanced in the greenhouse. These populations are now grown in the field and will be evaluated for various agronomic traits and seed increases under head-rows. A total of 5 lines showing early flowering phenotype and improved yield are being tested in the plots. Our long-term goal is to establish a continuous pipeline to release elite winter malting barley varieties that can be fall-planted as cover crops and harvested from grain in a dual cropping system with soybeans.

2020 Funding \$10,000; 2021 Grant \$10,000



New Grants | Providing New Opportunity

Research

University of Delaware | Effects of Increasing Corn Tissue Boron & Sulfur Concentrations on Nitrogen & Yield
2021 Grant \$8,000

University of Delaware | Survey of Plant Parasitic Nematodes in Mid-Atlantic Cornfields & Evaluation of Nematicide Seed Treatments
2021 Grant \$7,230

Education

Maryland Soybean Board | My Maryland Farmers
2021 Grant \$10,000

Owl Creek Consulting | Road Safety Campaign - Education for Slow Moving Vehicles
2021 Grant \$8,500

Market Development

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action
2021 Grant \$65,000

MAIZALL
2021 Grant \$10,000



Corn Yield Contest | 2020 Results

Conventional Non-Irrigated

Brenda Walsh | Hampstead | 265.1 bu/A
Brad Rill | Hampstead | 259.5 bu/A

No-Till Non-Irrigated

Drew Haines | Middletown | 324.2 bu/A
Harrison Rigdon | Jarrettsville | 320.7 bu/A

Strip, Min, Mulch, Ridge-Till, Non-Irrigated

John Rigdon | Jarrettsville | 324.0 bu/A
Chris Weaver | Finksburg | 266.8 bu/A

Conventional Irrigated

Duncan Smith | Keyser | 288.6 bu/A
Catherine Bostic | Church Hill | 272.9 bu/A

No-Till Irrigated

Grant Smith | Keyser | 296.6 bu/A
Bruce Bartz | Denton | 278.2 bu/A

Strip, Min, Mulch, Ridge-Till, Irrigated

Brian Tull | Seaford | 277.8 bu/A
Christopher Davis | Galena | 274.4 bu/A



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Association Membership

Under the guidelines established under the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program, a grain producer may request to have \$125 of the assessment that the producer has paid into the checkoff program, used to pay for a 3-year membership to the Maryland Grain Producers Association or \$50 for a 1-year membership.

To initiate this transfer of funds, a producer must complete the attached form and return it to MGPA. This payment method can be for both new members and renewals. Non-producers, or producers who fail to meet the above criteria, can complete the application and submit credit card information or enclose a check for \$125 (3 years) or \$50 (1 year).



Maryland Grain Producers Association

Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

County: _____ Farmer (Check if Yes): _____

☐ 3 Years ☐ 1 Year

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I hereby request a partial refund of my grain checkoff to pay MGPA membership dues. I 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 \$59 for a 1-year membership).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Farm/Co. Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Membership In (check one): Name ____ Company ____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Total Farm Acres: _____ Corn: _____ Wheat: _____

Barley: _____ Oats: _____ Milo: _____ Canola: _____

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If paying by credit card: Card Type: _____

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Card # _____

Security Code _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address (if different): _____

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