



The Harford Resource

A Publication of the Harford Soil Conservation District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

APRIL 1, 2020

3525 Conowingo Road
Suite 500
Street, MD 21154

(410) 638 - 4828
www.harfordscd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14

Board of Supervisors
Meeting - **CALL IN ONLY**

October 30

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Cooperator's Dinner
Havre de Grace
Community Center

If you would like to:

- Receive a digital version of this newsletter or
- Would like to submit an article or
- Have an idea for an article...

Please contact the Editor,
Leslie Zink, at
leslie.zink@maryland.gov

Changes to the Harford Soil Conservation District Office Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In order to limit potential exposure of our staff and the public to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Harford Soil Conservation District (District) has implemented the following practices and procedures until further notice:



1. The District office at the Harford County Agricultural Center will remain open, however, no public access is currently allowed to the building. Contact with the office staff by the public will only be available by **telephone** or **email**. Contact information for the District staff can be located at www.harfordscd.org.

2. All scheduled **Board of Supervisors** meetings will be conducted by conference call. These meetings are open to the public in accordance with the *Maryland Open Meetings Act*. The District can provide call in information for the meetings, if requested, by calling **(410) 638-4828**, or email leslie.zink@maryland.gov.

3. Site visits will be limited to emergency issues and complaints, only.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a rapidly evolving situation and we plan to keep you informed as things happen, however, these practices and procedures are subject to change at a moment's notice based on direction from the District's Federal, State, and County partners.

The District hopes that everyone does their part by practicing social distancing and limiting their exposure to others. **Please be safe and stay healthy!**

Changes to Spring Certification Procedure - 2019/2020 Cover Crop Program

Due to the current restrictions regarding public building closures and telecommuting requirements, the Harford Soil Conservation District (District) staff will only be available to help you self-certify via **telephone** or **email**. Please note the following items that we will require to assist you with your Spring certification:

1. FSA **Farm** and **Tract** number, and corresponding **Field** numbers.
2. Date and method of termination for each field.

Dates to Remember:

- March 1, 2020 ... Spring termination may begin.
- April 15, 2020 The District must be notified which cover crop acres are intended for the Delayed Termination Incentive – provide Farm/Tract and Field number(s).
- May 1, 2020 The acres intended for Delayed Termination may be terminated.
- June 3, 2020 Spring termination must be completed and reported to the District.



Meet Quintin Cornwell:

Harford Soil Conservation District's *New District Manager!*



Quintin Cornwell became the District Manager for Harford Soil Conservation District and started on February 10, 2020. He comes with over 32 years of experience working with farmers, engineers, developers, and foresters through Baltimore County Soil Conservation District by conducting conservation planning, erosion and sediment control plan reviews, as well as forest harvest application reviews.

Being guided by loving parents, Richard M. & M. Doris Cornwell, Quintin was raised on a farm in northern Baltimore County. His father wanted his boys, all six of them, to experience country life and the outdoors. Just like his brothers, he helped with the feeding and watering of the livestock and caring for their family dogs and cats. Quintin cherished his life on the farm.

Growing up, Quintin's parents faithfully had him and his brothers attend Sunday school and church. While attending Harford Christian School in Dublin, Maryland, he came to the saving faith in Jesus Christ.

By working for Wayne McGinnis and his father, Carrol McGinnis, Quintin gained valuable experience and a good work ethic carrying out multiple task at McGinnis' large farm operations. Wayne and Harriet McGinnis are remarkable individuals and family friends.

Today, Quintin and his wife, Christy, have four lovely children. One has completed college with an electrical and software degree and works for Textron Systems in Cockeysville, Maryland. Their twin boys attend Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Both are majoring in engineering. Their daughter is a senior in high school and loves theater, performing, and singing. All the Cornwell children were home schooled.

Quintin enjoys being with his family, serving his church, Mason Dixon Baptist Church, in New Freedom, PA., daily devotions and studying God's Holy Word, cutting firewood with his sons and brothers, helping his brother John with hay and straw, walking, watching college football, following the Baltimore Ravens, and enjoying all of God's creation.



Quintin can be reached by phone at **(410) 638 - 4828**, extension **5227**,
or by email at quintin.cornwell@maryland.gov.

Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas

By Dennis Kirkwood

Volunteers from across the State are beginning an effort to map the diversity of breeding birds in Maryland. This is the third time Maryland has initiated this effort, repeating the data every 20 years to look for long-term trends in native bird species. Harford County's effort is being coordinated through the Harford Bird Club, co-chaired by Dennis Kirkwood and Matt Hafner. Since farmland comprises approximately 50% of the habitat in Harford County, it makes sense to reach out to the farming community for their assistance in this project. Data will be collected from now through the nesting season of 2024. We are particularly interested in information on owls, hawks, eagles, and game birds like turkeys as many of these species have changed in abundance during the past two decades.

There are several ways for landowners and other interested citizens to get involved with this effort. Anyone with knowledge of nesting birds can report their sightings to the Atlas coordinators at harford@mdbirds.org giving the species, date, and location and we will take care of entering the data into the database. Secondly, you can invite a club volunteer to conduct a survey on your property in which case all results would be shared with you.

For more information about the atlas project visit the website at <https://ebird.org/atlasmdcc/about>. Using the map feature, you can see what was found nesting in your area during the prior atlas conducted from 2003-2008. Approximately 120 species were found throughout the County during that effort and we expect to have another thorough look at our County's diversity in this current project. Thank you in advance for any help you can offer in this volunteer effort.



Grazing Math



United States Department of Agriculture

by Brian Campbell, NRCS Grazing Specialist

There are helpful calculations available to help farmers design a new pasture system or avoid damaging existing pastures by not overstocking, overgrazing, or under-sizing. Grazing math can be used to answer questions like:

- How many animals can my pasture/paddock support?
- How many days will my pasture/paddock last?
- How many acres should my pasture/paddock be?

The calculations use some assumptions about (1) how much forage your livestock need to meet their daily dry-matter needs – based on the class of livestock; (2) how efficiently those animals can utilize the pasture – based on how intensively livestock are rotated through paddocks (i.e. pasture subdivisions); and (3) how much forage the pasture has available – based on pasture height and density:

| Daily Dry-Matter Intake as % of Body Weight | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Mature males: 2% | Lactating females: 4% |
| Growing stock: 3% | Dry females: 2% |
| Pastured poultry or pigs with supplemental feed: 1% | |

| Grazing Efficiency | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Continuous grazing: 30% | 6-10 days on paddock: 55% |
| 15-21 days on paddock: 45% | 2-5 days on paddock: 60% |
| 11-14 days on paddock: 50% | ½-1 days on paddock: 70% |

| Pounds of Forage Dry-Matter per Acre ¹ | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Average Pasture Height* | THIN Density | AVERAGE Density | THICK Density |
| 2" | 270 | 720 | 1,220 |
| 3" | 490 | 1,060 | 1,720 |
| 4" | 720 | 1,380 | 2,130 |
| 5" | 960 | 1,680 | 2,490 |
| 6" | 1,210 | 1,960 | 2,810 |
| 7" | 1,470 | 2,230 | 3,080 |
| 8" | 1,730 | 2,480 | 3,330 |
| 9" | 2,000 | 2,720 | 3,550 |
| 10" | 2,270 | 2,960 | 3,740 |
| 11" | 2,550 | 3,190 | 3,910 |
| 12" | 2,820 | 3,410 | 4,070 |
| 13" | 3,110 | 3,620 | 4,200 |
| 14" | 3,390 | 3,830 | 4,320 |

* Height of tallest leaf within 4½" of upright ruler

"**Thin**-density pastures are young stands (1 to 2 years since seeding), hay meadows used for aftermath grazing, and pastures without sod-forming grasses or white clover as an understory.

Average-density pastures are mixed-species stands including tall fescue, orchard grass, bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, white clover, and red clover.

Thick-density pastures are dense stands of tall fescue or tall fescue mixed with other grasses on fertile soil, closely rotationally grazed, with adequate but not excessive regrowth periods." ²

¹ Rayburn, E. (2019). *Accurately Measuring Available Forage Mass Using Ruler or Plate Meter Pasture Height*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Northeast Pasture Consortium, Grantville, PA.

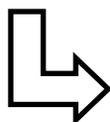
² Rayburn, E., & Lozier, J. (2016). *Estimating Pasture Forage Mass from Pasture Height*. West Virginia University.

Once you find the appropriate numbers for your situation, input them into the calculations below. Remember, when you enter percentages into a calculator, that they often need inputted as decimals – for example, 3% as 0.03. You will probably only need to use one of the calculations at a time because you will often only be changing one variable at a time: the number of animals on a pasture/paddock, the number of days your animals remain on a pasture/paddock, or the size of a pasture/paddock.

Our example calculations will assume the following scenario: five retired horses averaging 1,100 pounds graze a pasture of mixed cool-season forages; these horses are expected to meet their dry-matter needs on pasture alone (without supplemental feed) and are moved to a new paddock once a week.

How many animals can my pasture/paddock support?

$$\frac{(\text{Forage dry-matter pounds per acre}) \times (\text{Size in acres}) \times (\text{Grazing efficiency \%})}{(\text{Average animal weight}) \times (\text{Daily intake \%}) \times (\text{Days of grazing})}$$



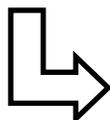
How many animals can my pasture/paddock support?

$$\frac{(1,680 \text{ pounds per acre}) \times (1.7 \text{ acres}) \times (55\% \text{ efficiency})}{(1,100 \text{ pounds}) \times (2\% \text{ intake}) \times (7 \text{ days on that paddock})} =$$

Pasture/paddock can support 10 horses during a 7-day grazing period

How many days will my pasture/paddock last?

$$\frac{(\text{Forage dry-matter pounds per acre}) \times (\text{Size in acres}) \times (\text{Grazing efficiency \%})}{(\text{Average animal weight}) \times (\text{Daily intake \%}) \times (\text{Number of animals})}$$



How many days will my pasture/paddock last?

$$\frac{(1,680 \text{ pounds per acre}) \times (1.7 \text{ acres}) \times (55\% \text{ efficiency})}{(1,100 \text{ pounds}) \times (2\% \text{ intake}) \times (5 \text{ horses})} =$$

Pasture/paddock would last these horses 14 days

How many acres should my pasture/paddock be?

$$\frac{(\text{Average animal weight}) \times (\text{Daily intake \%}) \times (\text{Number of animals}) \times (\text{Days of grazing})}{(\text{Forage dry-matter pounds per acre}) \times (\text{Grazing efficiency \%})}$$



How many acres should my pasture/paddock be?

$$\frac{(1,100 \text{ pounds}) \times (2\% \text{ intake}) \times (5 \text{ horses}) \times (7 \text{ days on that paddock})}{(1,680 \text{ pounds per acre}) \times (55\% \text{ efficiency})} =$$

Pasture/paddock should be 0.8 acres to support these horses for 7 days

If you would like assistance in improving your pasture management, please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 866-632-9992 (toll-free customer service), 800-877-8339 (local or federal relay), 866-377-8642 (relay voice users).

Student's Corner

Ham Sullivan was recently recognized by Dr. Terron Hillsman, Maryland State Conservationist for NRCS, for participating in the Maryland Student Conservation Leadership Council. Sullivan completed more than 40 hours of volunteer work with the Harford Soil Conservation District working in the office and in the field. The Maryland Student Conservation Leadership Council is designed to provide participants with a better understanding of job opportunities in agriculture, conservation and environmental sciences. - *The Next Generation, Supplement to The Delmarva Farmer*, 17 March 2020, p. 18



Hamilton (Ham) Sullivan (left) and Dr. Terron Hillsman (right) at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services office in Annapolis, Maryland.



2020 Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program

The [Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarship](#) is available to applicants whose families are members of Harford County Farm Bureau. The applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time accredited 2 or 4 year college, university, or technical school, and the applicant's chosen curriculum must be in an approved program in agriculture or an agriculturally related field. Previous applicants and scholarship recipients are welcome to reapply for subsequent scholarship awards.

The [Harford County 4-H Memorial Scholarship](#) is available to graduating high school seniors who have been a member of Harford County 4-H for a minimum of 2 years. The applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time accredited 2 or 4 year college, university, or technical school. It is not necessary for the applicant's chosen curriculum to be agriculturally related. This scholarship was established to memorialize several Harford County 4-H members who lost their lives at a young age because of accidents or health issues. Funds for this scholarship come from donations and from the sale of 4-H livestock projects which are sold at the Harford County Farm Fair.

There is one scholarship application form, which can be used for either or both scholarships. Eligible applicants should be provided with a copy of this scholarship program announcement and the application form, in either hard copy or electronically. To obtain an electronic copy, please contact the Farm Bureau office at harfordfb@gmail.com.

The completed application and all requested information should be sent to: Harford County Farm Bureau, 3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 200, Street, MD 21154-1900. **Applications must be postmarked by or delivered to the Farm Bureau office at the Harford County Agricultural Center by Thursday, May 28, 2020.**

All completed applications will be reviewed by Harford County Farm Bureau's Education/Scholarship Committee. The committee's recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval at their June 2020 meeting.

Recipients of Harford County Farm Bureau Scholarship awards will be notified in writing on/about June 15, 2020.

Recipients of Harford County 4-H Memorial Scholarship awards will be announced prior to the 4-H Livestock Auction at the Harford County Farm Fair on Saturday, August 1, 2020.

Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college, university, or technical school. The funds can be used during the Fall and/or Spring semesters immediately following the scholarship award.

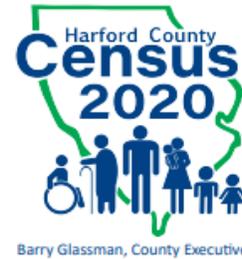
If there are any questions or further information is needed, please contact the Farm Bureau office.

2020 United States Census

Your count ensures:

- ▶ **Representation** - Equitable government representation as our population grows
- ▶ **Funding** - More federal funds for state and local programs, such as
 - Education
 - Healthcare
 - Housing
 - Senior care
 - Roads
 - Neighborhood improvements
 - Public transportation
 - Parks and recreation
 - Public safety
- ▶ **Information** - Better census data to help businesses decide where to build factories, offices and stores that lead to new jobs.

YOUR COMMUNITY IS COUNTING ON YOU!



FAQ's About the United States Census

What is the Census?

The first Census was conducted in 1790, as required by the Constitution of the United States in Article I, Section 2. The purpose is to determine the number of people living in each state in order to appropriately determine how the 435 House of Representatives seats are allocated to each state.

What Should You Expect?

Every household will be invited by mail to participate in the 2020 Census. Online submissions will be encouraged, but each household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

What's at Stake?

Every household's participation in the 2020 Census is important.

- Census numbers are used to allocate Congressional seats and to determine how approximately \$675 billion in federal funds are allocated.
- These dollars are used to support school, hospital, nursing home, and clinic construction; determine future transportation needs of local communities; forecast future housing needs, including affordable senior housing; design facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, and children; and to plan for future services.
- **Each person not counted in the 2020 Census represents an annual loss of \$1,825*** needed to support the services of our community.

**This figure is based on the 2020 Census.*

Dates to Remember:

March 12 - 20 Invitations to respond online will be mailed.

March 26 - April 3 ... Those who have not responded online will receive a reminder postcard.

April 1 Census Day – The date used by the Census Bureau to begin its count.

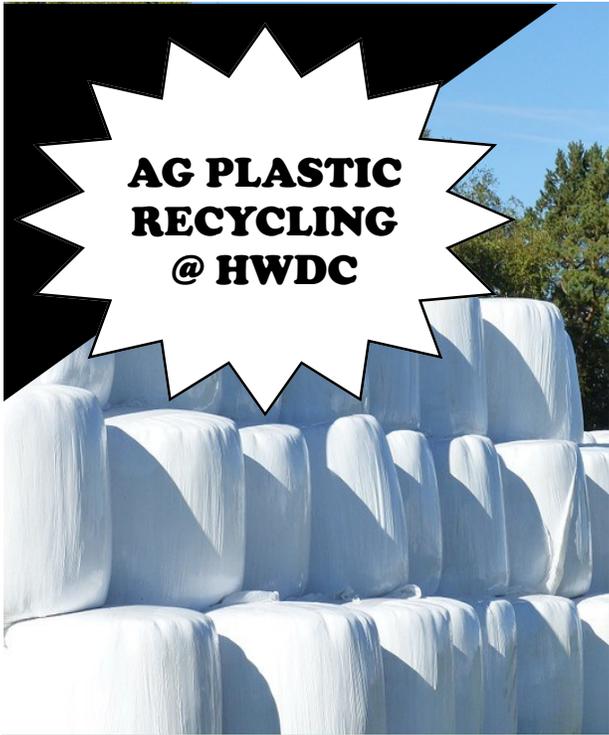
April 8 - 16 Those who have not responded will receive a reminder letter and paper questionnaire.

April 20 - 27 Final reminder postcard before Census enumerators follow up in person.



Harford Soil Conservation District
3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 500
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(410) 638 - 4868

Find Us on the Web at www.harfordscd.org



**AG PLASTIC
RECYCLING
@ HWDC**

**For more information
or to schedule a drop off
please call 410-638-3417**

All plastics should be as clean as possible and stored under cover to minimize moisture. Farms should separate plastics by type. All types of Ag Plastics are received in Super sacs that are provided by Office of Recycling.

Acceptable:

- Polypropylene Baler Twine (Please keep colors separated)
- White Super sacs (**NO #5 polypropylene)
- Colored or Dirty Super Sacs
- Feed Bags 100% LD #4 (**Woven bags NOT acceptable)
- Clear Stretch Wrap
- Clear Greenhouse Covers
- White Bale Wrap
- Clean and Bundled Drip Tape (Must be separated from field mulch)
- Stacked, Polystyrene Greenhouse Trays (Separated and stacked. Usually #5 or #6)

NOT Acceptable:

- Sweet Corn Cover/Clear
- Bale Netting Wrap
- Black Field Mulch
- Comingled Drip Tape (Please separate)
- Dairy Bio Gloves
- Dairy Medical Supplies