



WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Vegetable Crops

Vegetable Crop Insect Scouting - David Owens, Extension Entomologist, owensd@udel.edu

With warm weather in the forecast for this weekend, be sure to scout for striped cucumber beetle. Last year, I found my first striped cucumber beetle on May 14. In 2018 a couple of weeks of cool, wet May weather 'broke' during a weekend and beetles were numerous early the following week. Scouting for the early season influx is going to be especially important this year as transplants are much smaller than they were at this point last year. Once overwintering pioneer males find cucurbits and begin feeding, they release an aggregation pheromone that calls in males and females, resulting in large numbers quickly.

Continue scouting for spider mites, especially in greenhouses. If planting infested melons, keep a close eye on the interior of the field, not just field edges. Based upon the last couple of seasons' observations, a clean field will be infested from weedy margins and from woodline edges, especially those with pokeweed. Mites tend to appear in these areas between the 2nd and 4th week of June.

Be sure to scout for Colorado potato beetles this week. These beetles cannot fly below 80 °F, with the warm weather yesterday, today, and tomorrow, they may begin to appear in fields. Recent work by Tom Kuhar and Helene Doughty in Painter shows that residual efficacy starts to

decline somewhere between 30 and 40 days after planting.

The UD insect trapping network has been deployed. Trap counts will be uploaded here: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/sustainable-production/pest-management/insect-trapping/> by Tuesday and Friday mornings. When sweet corn is closer to silking, Thursday moth counts will be included in the Weekly Crop Update.

Freezing Temperatures, High Winds and Sandblasting Take Their Toll on Early Planted Vegetables - Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu

Over the last week we have had freezing temperatures in some locations, high winds, and wind-blown sand that have damaged early planted vegetables. Temperatures as low as 28 °F were recorded on May 10 and winds gusted to 40 mph on May 9. High winds continued through May 12 and on May 13 there was another night in the 30's

This combination has resulted in extensive damage in vegetable crops. Some symptoms are marginal leaf burn, leaf bleaching, leaf desiccation, leaf dropping, stem browning, and in some cases, plant losses. Symptoms are most severe on newly transplanted crops or transplants that have not yet rooted in well. In conventionally tilled field there was extensive sandblasting on our light soils with high winds.

Growers with damage should evaluate plants for the extent of damage and need for replanting. Wilted, snapped, broken, or severely “wind burnt” plants may need to be replaced. Growers should also consider applying protectant fungicides/bactericides to reduce infections by opportunistic disease organisms on damaged tissues.

Potatoes

Damage on potato will appear 1-3 days after the freeze event. The symptoms commonly will be black areas on leaves that dry out. Seed piece are well below ground and will not be damaged. If the apical meristem is killed, the growing point will move to an axillary bud(s) lower on the stem and growth will continue. The plants may be set back a few days depending on the severity of the damage,

Temperatures between 29-32 °F will cause minor injury, but temperatures below 28 °F may kill the plant to the ground.



Freeze damage in potatoes. Note the black and dried out areas on damaged leaves. Potatoes will grow out of this damage with little effect on yield.

Watermelons

Several hundred acres of watermelons were transplanted over the last 2 weeks on Delmarva. Freezing temperatures and high wind caused severe damage in some fields that will require selective replanting. Fields with strong rye windbreaks had the least damage. Wind-blown sand has “sandblasted” some fields. Symptoms of damage on watermelon will be dark brown to black areas on leaves that become papery. Plants with live growing points will recover; however, If the growing point was damaged, the plants would have to regrow from the buds at the cotyledon.



Watermelon plant with dead growing point. Buds at the cotyledon are intact. However, without any leaves, the plant may not have enough energy to regrow.



G Johnson, University of Delaware

Watermelon plant with live growing point and only one leaf damaged. This plant will regrow.



G Johnson, University of Delaware

Watermelon plant with minimal damage will continue to grow.



G Johnson, University of Delaware

Watermelon plant with dead leaves and damaged growing point but with live buds at the leaf axil and cotyledons. This plant is marginal on the potential for regrowth

Sweet Corn

Hundreds of acres of both processing and fresh market sweet corn have been planted. Growth has been slow and many fields have freeze and "sand blasting" damage. Effects on corn will depend on where the growing point is and if the growing point was damaged. At V-4, the growing point is just below the ground. By V-6, the growing point is above the ground. For most sweet corn, a light freeze will damage the leaves but the plants will continue to grow because the growing point is still alive. In a sand-blasted field, even though the growing point is still below the ground, the plant is cut off at the soil line. There are no leaves left and an open wound subject to disease entry. These fields may have to be replanted.



Sweet corn damaged by the freeze. These plants will regrow from the growing point.

Peas in Flower

Peas in flower can tolerate short periods below 32 °F (a few hours). However, several days in a row with night freezes will cause yield losses. The most common symptom of damage to peas is blanks where seeds are missing in the pod due to incomplete pollination. This has been observed in early varieties such as Jumpstart in the past.

Tomatoes

Throughout Delaware, freezing temperatures damaged or killed unprotected tomatoes. Tomatoes are a warm season vegetable that cannot tolerate any frost or freeze event. Damaged plants will have to be replaced.



Tomato plant killed by the recent freeze. This plant was covered but it did not provide adequate freeze protection.

Replant Decisions in Vegetables - Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; gjohn@udel.edu and Emmalea Ernest, Associate Scientist, Vegetable Crops emmalea@udel.edu

Heavy rains after planting, cold temperatures, wind damage, and sandblasting have caused stand reductions in some sweet corn plantings. When stands are reduced, vegetable growers must decide whether to replant.

Replanting should only be done if the profit potential will be greater with the new planting. Considerations will include:

- Extra costs for seed and chemicals, planting cost, and labor cost
- Yield effects of later planting
- Delayed harvest and potential effects on following rotations or double cropping
- Herbicide issues and weed management in the replanted crop

The yield potential of the replanted crop must be high enough to cover the extra costs

compared to keeping the crop plus at least 10% more profit potential.

Start with evaluating the yield potential of the crop with the reduced stand. There are often guides on how to evaluate reduced stands. Emmalea Ernest did a series of studies looking at yield reductions in processing sweet corn. She found the following:

“the varieties Overland and GSS 1453 were able to compensate for stand loss in terms of tonnage and, even more so, in terms of cut corn yield—even with population densities that were 40% of standard planting density. Of these two varieties, Overland had higher overall yields in the trials. SS Jubilee Plus also compensated well for reduced stand. Protégé compensated for stand loss up to 60% of standard population density but produced significantly lower yields in terms of cut corn and tonnage at 40% of standard population density. GSS 2259P did not compensate for stand loss effectively and probably should not be used for early supersweet plantings where risk of stand loss is high. GSS 2259P produced its highest yields in terms of tonnage and cut corn at 120% of the standard population density (27,900 plants/A) which suggests that it should be planted at a higher density to obtain maximum yield.” See <http://extension.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=5323> for more information

She also looked at gaps in stands and saw no differences in yield between evenly reduced stands and those with irregularly spaced gaps with lengths of up to 6.5 ft. Based on the results of these experiments, yield loss from stand reduction can be estimated based solely on plant population density, without consideration for unevenness in spacing if gap sizes are less than 6.5 ft.

Another important decision is delayed planting in following crops. Early crops can be double cropped after (such as early processing sweet corn followed by soybeans) and if replanted, this may eliminate double cropping potential or reduce double crop yields.

The following are replant considerations for different vegetable crops:

Processing sweet corn – for most varieties, replanting is not warranted unless stands drop below 50%.

Fresh market sweet corn – replanting is usually not economical but yield of marketable corn will be significantly reduced.

Lima beans – lima beans can compensate for stand reductions as much as 50%. Replanting is rarely recommended unless seed quality was very poor and remaining seedlings are of low vigor.

Snap beans – snap beans compensate for stand reductions of up to 50%. Replanting is not usually economical.

Pickles – cucumbers compensate for lower populations by increased branching and fruiting on branches. Yield reductions may be limited but once-over harvest scheduling is confounded by have more fruits of different ages on the plant. Replanting may be needed if stands are reduced by more than 35%.

Transplanted vegetables – replacement of dead, injured, or low vigor plants can be done up to a week after transplanting. Delays past that point will end up with too much light competition from older plants. After that point, consider replacing whole blocks, field sections, or row portions instead of individual plants.

Odd Cold Damage in a Potato Field – Jerry Brust, *IPM Vegetable Specialist, University of Maryland*; jbrust@umd.edu

An odd cold/frost event occurred in a potato field just this past weekend (May 9 and 10). On Saturday morning the grower noticed dark brown necrotic areas appearing on some of their potato plants (Fig. 1). Up-close some of the leaves with the necrotic areas appeared to have white fuzz on the underside of the leaf (Fig. 2), which could indicate late blight. What was especially worrisome is that this occurred on only one potato cultivar, all the other several cultivars in this same field had no necrotic areas on their foliage. Upon closer inspection the white material on the underside of the leaf in Figure 2 looks to be the plant's trichomes (hair-like

growths that serve to enclose still air and protect the plant against water loss and sudden fluctuations in atmospheric temperature, i.e., frosts) that appear especially white at this particular time, not sure if that was due to the contrast to the darkness of the damaged leaf area, the weather conditions or the angle of the photo and the position of the sun. I think everyone who saw the damaged potato leaves thought it was cold damage, but why only this one variety out of all of them? Normally if an abiotic event like a frost occurs in a field it affects much of the field in about the same way.

Just speculating here but when I looked up information about this particular variety I found that it had a 'medium' susceptibility to frost/cold damage, not sure what the other varieties had but this damaged variety may have just been slightly more susceptible to a light frost compared with the others in the field either through genetics or possibly by being at a slightly more vulnerable stage of growth (even by just a few days) compared with the others. It also could be due to where this one variety was positioned in the field (cultivars were planted within a group in the field). It may have happened to be in a microclimate that had temperatures slightly below (0.5-1.0 degree) what the rest of the field was exposed to. Unfortunately, by Sunday the question was kind of moot as the entire field was hit moderately hard by the cold from the night before and all cultivars suffered some damage (this is what is expected). But this and other occurrences over the last couple of weeks demonstrate how weather can affect our crops in ways that are unexpected and hard to figure out at times.



Figure 1. Potato plant with dark necrotic areas on leaves



Figure 2. Potato leaf with necrotic area and white 'fuzz' on underside of leaf

Command Label Change for Lima Beans -
Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist;
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FMC Corporation and Delaware Department of Agriculture collaborated on labeling Command 3ME for use on lima beans through the release of a 24(c) Special Local Need Label. The label is available online at <http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database>.

In the past, the Command 3ME label allowed use in lima beans, but this use was removed a couple of years ago. This new labeling essentially restores the previous use pattern. This labeling only applies to FMC's brand of Command.

Command 3ME can be applied at 4 to 6 fluid ounces immediately after seeding, with the lower rate recommended for coarse-textured soils. This low rate does not provide control of pigweed species or most broadleaf weeds (including Palmer amaranth), rather it provides early-season weed suppression that allows for improved control with cultivation. This label also allows for planting lima beans 60 days after application in a preceding crop. This allows use for Command use in peas and planting lima beans at least 60 days later.

Currently this is only labeled in Delaware, but registration is pending in other states. Check the previously mentioned website for available labels.

Fruit Crops

Plum Curculio is Active - *David Owens,*
Extension Entomologist, owensd@udel.edu

Plum curculio is active. Be on the lookout for crescent-moon shaped oviposition scars on fruit. While adults are active and fruit needs to be protected soon after petal fall and peach shuck split, cool weather has slowed them down a bit. Activity is increasing and going to increase further with warm weather in the forecast. Michigan State has a good article on effective insecticide options here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/plum_curculio_management_in_stone_and_pome_fruits. In addition to the organic options described,

organic producers and smaller plantings can be protected by bagging fruit. University of Kentucky has an excellent article on fruit bagging:
[https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2020/05/12/bagging-fruit-for-disease-and-insect-management/?utm_source=KY+Pest+News+List&utm_campaign=26775c4cc3-KPN_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bee884adb8-26775c4cc3-228242837&ct=t\(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN\)](https://kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com/2020/05/12/bagging-fruit-for-disease-and-insect-management/?utm_source=KY+Pest+News+List&utm_campaign=26775c4cc3-KPN_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bee884adb8-26775c4cc3-228242837&ct=t(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN)). Be sure to treat the fruit with a fungicide and insecticide (if at all possible) before bagging fruit.



G Johnson, University of Delaware

Plum Curculio damage on plums. Note the crescent shaped egg laying scar.



G Johnson, University of Delaware

Plum Curculio damage on plum fruits. Feeding injury consists of small round openings in the skin extending about 1/8 inch into the fruit.

Agronomic Crops

Agronomic Crop Insect Scouting - David Owens, Extension Entomologist, owensd@udel.edu

Continue scouting fields for slugs. With cold weather this past week, crops are just sitting in the ground and are prime fodder. Warmer weather this weekend will help, but beware rain and a few more cool days next week. If using shingles, I generally think of 3 slugs per foot as a population of concern, however, recent field visits combined with cold soil may make me revise that thinking. In sites that we are watching closely, slug egg counts increased last week which means that juveniles observed in the last couple of weeks are now maturing.

If you are seeing a large amount of stand loss in field corn, take a look at this 2016 article in the Weekly Crop Update for what to be considering: <https://sites.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=9254>. Dr. Bob Nielsen from Purdue also has an excellent article on yield, stand, stand loss and replanting: <https://extension.purdue.edu/jasper/article/24979>.

Early Season Moth Activity

Trap counts for the week (checked Tuesday and Wednesday) are as follows, with thanks from Cody Stubbs, Joanne Whalen, Emily Zobel, and Maegan Perdue. I expect counts will come up now that warmer night time temperatures are finally here.

Location	TAW/night	BCW/night
Willards, MD	2.4	4.3
Salisbury, MD	0.7	1.4
Laurel	0.4	3.0
Seaford	0.5	7.0
Harrington	0.2	3.3
Pearson's Corner	0.5	2.2
Sudlersville, MD	0	0.3
Smyrna	2.6	1.1

We started tracking degree days for black cutworm on April 14 in Seaford. That trap captured an average of 9.6 moths/night. It generally takes about 300 DD (base 50) before any eggs laid become larvae large enough to cut

plants. At the end of next week, we will be around 250 DD and will need to start scouting for cut plants. Willards had an average of 8/night the week of May 1, and Harrington last week had an average of 8.4. This does not mean that fields will have problems in these areas, nor does it mean that a prophylactic spray will be beneficial. Cutworms can be affected by seed treatment and by Bt trait, although both treatments are much less effective on cutworms than on other pests. Black cutworms will oviposit in weeds, including weeds not in ag fields. There are also species of cutworm that could impact crops, such as the dingy, bristled, and variegated cutworm. Soybeans are not immune either, in each of the last two years I had a call regarding cutworm damage to soybean stands in June.

Cooler May Temps and Crop Damage - Jarrod O. Miller, Extension Agronomist, jarrod@udel.edu

Our accumulation of growing degree days (GDD) was hampered by the weekend temperatures, with very little GDD accumulated since May 6th (Table 1). Any corn planted on April 15th in Dover has just reached the lower threshold for emergence (Figure 1), while New Castle County's progress was flattened by the weekend's low temps. We may finally have broken from this abnormally cool spring and would expect the normal 7-10 days to emergence for this time of year to begin.

We are still receiving reports of damage to small grains showing up due to the freeze from mid-April, but plots around Georgetown remain unaffected. The cold temperatures this weekend has damaged emerged corn, which has been reported in both Kent and Sussex counties. The growing point of corn should remain below the surface from emergence to V4

(<https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/GrowingPoints.html>). Any corn planted at the recommended depth should have been protected from our mild freezing temperatures. The emerged leaves may senesce and die, but the corn plant should continue to grow and make progress. We have observed some corn plants protected by standing cover crop to have less

damage from any frost in Sussex County; something else to consider when choosing the first fields to plant next year (Figure 2).

Table 1. Accumulated Growing Degree Days Based on Planting Date

Planting Date	New Castle	Kent	Sussex
15-Apr	75.9	100.7	123.3
22-Apr	75.9	94.0	116.0
29-Apr	73.6	89.9	98.2
6-May	4.0	12.8	17.5

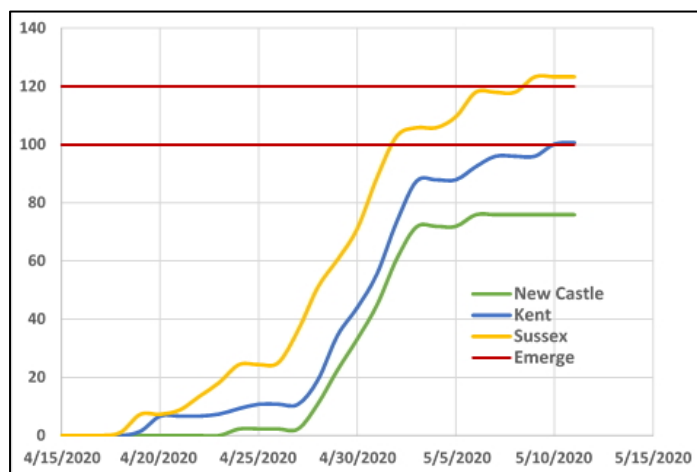


Figure 1. Accumulated growing degree days in each county since April 15th



Figure 2. Fully exposed corn had more visible damage than corn planted into standing rye.

Scouting Fields for Fusarium Head Blight -

Alyssa Koehler, *Extension Field Crops*

Pathologist; akoehler@udel.edu

Most wheat fields are at or shortly after anthesis. We had quite a few rain events during the flowering windows for barley and wheat, which kept us at high risk for Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). The recommended stage for fungicide application is when 50% of main tillers are flowering (yellow anthers visible) until 4-5 days after. Once wheat has flowered, symptoms of FHB are visible in 18-24 days, but cool weather can slow symptom development. Heads with FHB will have bleached florets or bleached sections of the head (Figure 1) and may have pink growth on spikelets. This year we will also have to sort out bleached florets that were from frost events prior to flowering (Figure 2). (Glume blotch may also be present, but typically has more of a grey appearance).



Figure 1. Symptoms of Fusarium Head Blight



Figure 2. Bleached florets from frost damage

You can follow these steps to assess the level of FHB present in your field.

1. For every 10 acres of field, randomly select one spot to survey.
2. Keeping your line of sight above the wheat heads, walk 40-50 yards and randomly pick 10-20 heads to look at on the plant or detach and place into a bag. (You don't want to be looking down and biasing the heads you select).
3. Once you have randomly collected the heads, rate the percent of each head with symptoms of FHB (bleaching or pink growth on spikelets).

4. After you have recorded values for each head, determine the average percent FHB severity by dividing the sum of disease severities by the total number of heads collected.

(Ex. You rate 10 heads with severity values: 0, 10, 30, 0, 0, 20, 10, 0, 0, 0. These add up to 70. 70/10 heads = 7% FHB severity)

Higher levels of FHB are typically associated with elevated levels of DON and possible issues with yield and test weight. In colder years like this, it is possible to have delayed or lower levels of symptoms and still have DON.

5. Repeat this assessment as needed to get an overall rating for the field. Fields with greater than 10% FHB severity are at higher risk for yield losses or elevated DON. Fields with elevated DON should be harvest as early as possible and you may want to consider increasing combine fan speeds and shutter openings to reduce the amount of scabby kernels harvested.

Discoloration in Corn Not Likely to be Herbicide Injury - Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu

A lot of emerged corn is growing slowly and looking very pale and with some striping. The stripes may be a wide stripe on each side of the midrib or could be multiple thin strips running the length of the leaf blade. The first thought is often herbicide injury, but this is not a symptom often observed from herbicide injury. From what I have observed, corn with these symptoms is often due to poor growing condition (cool, wet and not a lot of sunshine). It maybe some minor nutrient deficiency, but in the past, tissue tests have not always been very conclusive. Once we get some warm weather and sunshine, the corn resumes normal growth. It also may be that the root systems has expanded to the point it can uptake the lacking nutrients. If you suspect nutrient deficiency, check your soil tests and review what nutrients were in your starter. If you still are thinking its nutritional take a soil sample or tissue test to verify.

General

Guess the Pest! Week 6 Answer: Peach Leaf Curl - David Owens, Extension Entomologist, owensd@udel.edu

Congratulations to Jim Bennett for correctly identifying last week's challenge as peach leaf curl. Jim and others who correctly identified the problem on my peach tree will be entered into the end of season award. I also apologize for not updating the google form last week.



Someone once told me that peaches are born with a death wish. It seems like they get a special host of insect and disease problems, including peach leaf curl. This is a fungal infection of the bud. Cool weather allows the fungus to complete its life cycle and continue spreading on the leaves. Infected leaves will eventually drop off, resulting in partial defoliation. The time to treat was before bud break when rain washes overwintering spores from the bark onto the swelling buds. Warm weather, above 80, basically shuts down the fungus, which is probably why I did not see this on my peach trees last year. Interestingly, of my three trees, only one has this, although I will be treating all three next year. Penn State has an excellent fact sheet regarding this disease here: <https://extension.psu.edu/disease-of-the-month-peach-leaf-curl>. Alas, it has not been that warm, time for me to harshly thin my little tree.

Guess the Pest! Week 7 - David Owens, Extension Entomologist, owensd@udel.edu

What has fed upon this corn seedling? Click on the Guess the Pest logo to enter your name, email, and your answer. The winner and answer will be revealed next week.

Click on the Guess the Pest logo to enter your name, email, and your answer. The winner and answer will be revealed next week.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUPYLZnTRsol46hXmqgj8fvt5f8-JI0eEUHb3QJaNDLG_4kg/viewform?c=0&w=1



Managing Stress for Yourself and Those Around You - Maria Pippidis, Extension Educator Family & Consumer Sciences; pippidis@udel.edu and Jesse Kettermann, Family and Consumer Sciences Educator, University of Maryland; jketterm@umd.edu

It is a stressful time for many of us whether we are farmers, family members or those who support farms and their families. The stress has been extraordinary - so much uncertainty and juggling home life, farm life and trying to meet demands from our communities. University of Delaware and University of Maryland Cooperative Extensions have teamed up to offer two online programs within the next few weeks. One of them is sure to suit your needs. See the announcements section for more details about each program.

Weathering the Storm - Managing Farm Stress Effectively is designed for farmers, their family members and workers. This session will provide information about stress, how it affects your

body and ways to effectively manage it. This program is free and will be held on May 21 from 1-2 p.m. You can register [here](#).

Communicating with Farmers Under Stress is designed for those who work with or support farming operations. No matter how you interact with farming audiences, this program will be for you. In this session we'll focus on signs of stressors, how to communicate with farm audiences and lastly, how to recognize and respond when you suspect a farmer or farm family member might need help. This program is free and will be held on June 4 from 10am-12pm. You can register [here](#).

Managing your own stress has implications for your health - mentally and physically. Setting up systems, connecting with your support systems and asking help of others can reduce the burdens of the environment in which we live. Learning how to help others effectively and what resources are available in our community are also key. We are all in this together and together we can improve our outcomes in the future.

Talking with Your Family About Financial Difficulties - Maria Pippidis, Extension Educator Family & Consumer Sciences; pippidis@udel.edu

A drop in income, whether it's due to being laid off from a job, a drop in hours, or a decrease in income from a business enterprise is a scary and unsettling situation for both adults and children. It is important to talk through the situation with family members as quickly as possible-even though it may be hard to do.

Adults can easily feel overwhelmed by the added stress and sense of reduced financial security. It is important to remember that children sense the tension in the family and may feel less secure, but don't know what to do about it.

Parents may be less engaged with their children and more likely to become upset or angry over little things, due to higher levels of stress. Keeping the lines of communication open during times like these can help everyone feel more connected.

Family communication can also help older children and parents find ways to work together on managing the family finances. Even young children can be taught about wants and needs, and how family financial decisions are made.

Some tips for family money meetings:

- The most important thing to remember is to “leave blame at the door.”
- Recognize and respect each other’s different attitudes toward money and approach discussions in an organized way. Work to find common ground so you can all work in the same direction.
- Make sure it is a good time for each of you to talk. If one of you has had a bad day or received difficult news, you may want to reschedule the discussion.
- Set ground rules for the discussion. Make sure you both have an opportunity to be heard and listen to what your partner is saying. Avoid accusations and blame.
- Set and prioritize your goals together and stick to the plan unless something significant occurs and you need to alter it.
- Set aside time each month for a money meeting. Regular meetings will become easier to do and keep you on track.

You may need to meet more frequently during times of financial stress. Try to set goals that are obtainable and leave everyone something that will keep their spirits up. When planning about cutting back on spending, find alternatives for when you have to say “We can’t do that anymore.” For example, if you can’t afford to go to the movie theater or need to cancel some online viewing subscriptions, then plan to go to the library and borrow them or start a movie-lending group with friends. Finding free and inexpensive alternatives can keep family members from feeling the brunt of financial hardship.

Some financial decisions are harder to make. For example, you may wonder how you will afford to

buy food and pay your rent or mortgage. What will happen if you can’t pay your credit card bills right now?

You need to take action right away if you are asking these questions. Find out about any and all financial supports that are available. You can help keep your family healthy and happy by finding supports like energy assistance, health insurance, and other resources.

If you are worried about overwhelming debt, or unable to make mortgage payments, call your lenders to work on a payment plan before you get behind on payments. Be realistic about what you can afford. This means that you have done the math and know that you can meet your basic needs, while doing the best you can to meet your financial obligations to your creditors. Meeting with a reputable financial counselor might be helpful.

See www.debtadvice.org for National Foundation for Credit Counseling-accredited agencies. In Delaware there is the \$tand By Me program that offers financial coaching services that can be reached by going to <https://standbyme.org/>.

Announcements

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program will provide direct relief to producers who have suffered losses during the 2020 marketing year due to COVID-19.

This [recorded webinar](#) hosted by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) provides basic information on how producers can prepare for the upcoming signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This includes information on how to apply once signup opens and how to initiate contact with FSA. More information is available at farmers.gov/CFAP.

Weathering the Storm: A Farm Stress Workshop

Thursday, May 21, 2020 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Online

Purpose

Numerous factors cause stress for farmers and their families including financial problems, price and marketing uncertainties, farm transfer issues, production challenges and more. In addition, agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries. Farmers are at a high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries

It is important that we all learn how to manage our stress levels and to reduce the effects of unwanted stress. Too much stress can make you more accident prone, and it can affect your health. You can start by learning to identify common stressors, recognize the symptoms of stress and manage stress.

Objectives

- Learn stress triggers and identify signs of stress
- Learn strategies for managing your stress.
- Learn where find additional help for farmers in distress and how to help someone who is in need.

This program is free. For more information contact Maria Pippidis at pippidis@udel.edu. Registration required by May 19. You can register online [here](#).

Communicating with Farmers Under Stress

Thursday, June 4, 2020 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Online

Purpose

Numerous factors cause stress for farmers and their families including financial problems, price and marketing uncertainties, farm transfer issues, production challenges and more. Especially during this time.

You want to help, but maybe are not sure what to say or do. Or maybe you find yourself having to deliver difficult news to farmers. This workshop will help you recognize and respond when you suspect a farmer or farm family member might need help.

Objectives

- Build awareness around potentially stressful conditions affecting some farmers.
- Learn stress triggers, identify signs of stress and review helpful techniques for responding.
- Learn techniques for identifying, approaching and working with farmers who may not cope with stress effectively.
- Learn where to go for additional help.

This program is free. For more information contact Maria Pippidis at pippidis@udel.edu. Registration required by June 2. You can register online [here](#).

Webinar Preparing Small Farms for Current Market Demands, Use Alternative Marketing Strategies, Farmers Markets & Farmers Health During Covid-19 Health Crisis

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
Online

This webinar meeting is intended to provide information to small farmers (and extension agents working with small farmers) to use available resources to market their products, reach out consumers, and use alternative marketing strategies (potentials) to sustain and grow their businesses and use online business opportunities for farm sales during and after Covid-19 health crisis. We aim to provide glimpse of what small farmers can do and what is available to them and what strategies may work for their farms. Webinar also includes linking farm vitality and health with a focus on how the success of your farming operation depends on paying attention to one's own health, accessing/using the health care system and health insurance options. This webinar provides information and resources to minimize obstacles that block success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations targeting farmers and workers who are limited by a physical or cognitive disability, illness or injury that make it difficult to perform agricultural tasks. By sharing information and discussing solutions, we will extend ideas around the region. A brief updates

on farmers market protocols for Delaware will be provided by DDA. During the Q&A session, we will identify common problems most farmers are facing, what they are planning to do, why the plan works/or doesn't, how will they stay in business and grow, and how extension programs can assist the farmers to go through this difficult time.

Agenda

12:00–12:20 p.m.

Buy Local - Demand Potential in a Challenged Food System

Dr. Gordon Johnson, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist Fruits and Vegetables, Department of Plant & Soil Sciences, University of Delaware.

12:20-12:40 p.m.

Linking Farm Vitality & Health

Ms. Maria Pippidis, AFC FFC, County Director & Extension Educator, FCS, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

12:40-1:00 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness for Farm & Family

Ms. Inetta Fluharty, WV AgrAbility Program Specialist, West Virginia Extension Service, Farmers Health & Business

1:00-1:10 p.m.

Brief Update on the Farmers Market Protocol for Delaware

Ms. Kathy Jackson, Communications & Marketing Specialist II, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Market

1:10-1:30 PM

Questions & Answers

Please register at the following link & zoom link to webinar will be e-mailed to all registered attendees!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10xCfXREXfHA_KoklhGPAfZlAyqr4WuehH6LdHl9Vs68/edit

This webinar is organized by Delaware State University Cooperative Extension (contact Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay - gozbay@desu.edu) & sponsored by the Northeast Climate HUB.

Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of May 7 to May 13, 2020

Rainfall:

0.01 inch: May 7
 0.11 inch: May 8
 0.09 inch: May 9

Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 70°F on May 8 to 50°F on May 9.
 Lows ranged from 47°F on May 10 to 33°F on May 11.

Soil Temperature:

56.1°F average

Additional Delaware weather data is available at <http://www.deos.udel.edu/data/>

Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Associate Scientist - Vegetable Crops

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