

WEEKLY CROP UPDATE



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

Volume 30, Issue 29

October 21, 2022

Vegetable Crops

Vegetable Grower Cover Crop Survey -
Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit
Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu

To better direct our extension vegetable research and education programs we ask vegetable growers to complete a short survey on cover crop use.

Go to this link to complete the survey:
https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9pjOdTlaQA5RATI

Sustainable Plastic Mulches Newsletter from WSU - Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu and Emmalea Ernest, Scientist - Vegetable & Fruit Crops; emmalea@udel.edu

Growers using plastic mulch may be interested in the Sustainable Mulch Management Newsletter from Washington State University. This newsletter is issued twice a year and includes updates on research related to soil-biodegradable mulches. You can subscribe or view past issues at <https://smallfruits.wsu.edu/plastic-mulches/newsletter/>

Seed Saving and End of Season Sanitation for Pole Limas - Emmalea Ernest, Scientist - Vegetable & Fruit Crops; emmalea@udel.edu

Frost occurred in many locations over the last week and pole lima bean season is wrapping up. With that in mind I wanted to share some thoughts about seed saving and storage, as well as end of season clean-up.

Seed Saving

It can be challenging and expensive to obtain seed or transplants of desirable pole lima types, prompting many growers save their own seed. Lima beans are generally self-pollinated but can be cross pollinated by insects. If you are growing more than one type of lima bean or there are other lima beans growing nearby there is a possibility of outcrossing. Plants grown from seed of cross-pollinated flowers will not be true to type. If you notice atypical limas in your planting, do not collect seed from those plants or from adjacent plants if you want to maintain the characteristics of your original variety.

Save seed from pods that are visually free of disease (Fig. 1), and shell beans from the pods as soon you harvest them. I do not recommend allowing saved seed to remain in the pods to dry. Drying seed in the pod allows additional opportunity for the seed to become infected by fungi that can reduce germination or introduce disease into the following year's planting. Also avoid seeds that have been damaged by insect feeding; stink bug feeding injury is a frequent problem (Fig. 2). Seed can be saved from pods that have not fully dried down as long as the seeds are physiologically mature (Fig. 3). Such

seeds will need additional opportunity to dry before storage. Place seeds in a single layer on newspaper or paper towels until dry. Dry seed can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

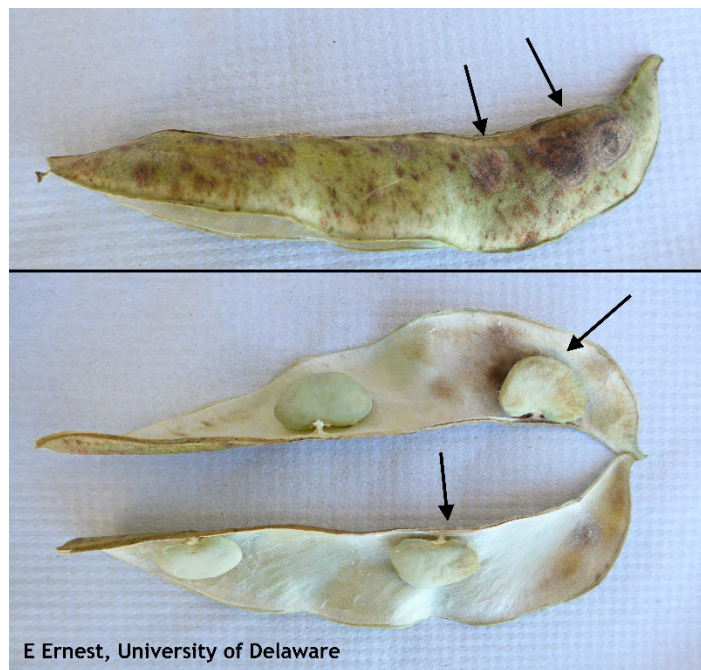


Figure 1. Pods with signs of disease (indicated by arrows on the top image) should be avoided because seeds are likely to be impacted as well (bottom image). Presence of disease may not be as obvious in dry seed.

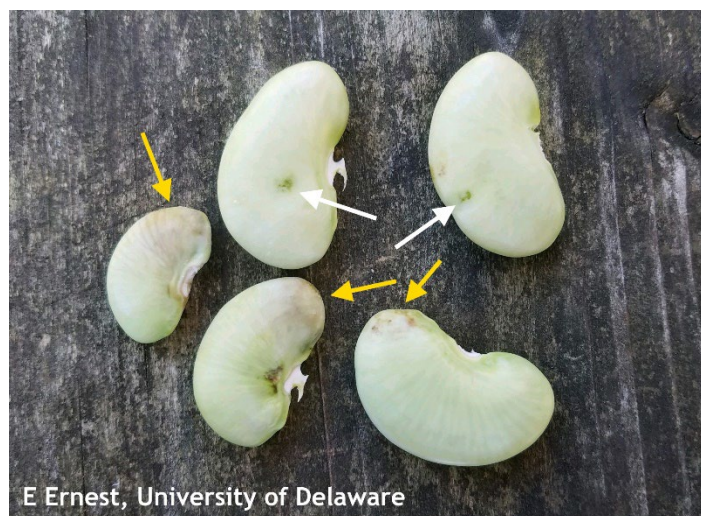


Figure 2. Seeds with stink bug feeding injury (white arrows) and signs of disease (yellow arrows) should not be saved for seed.

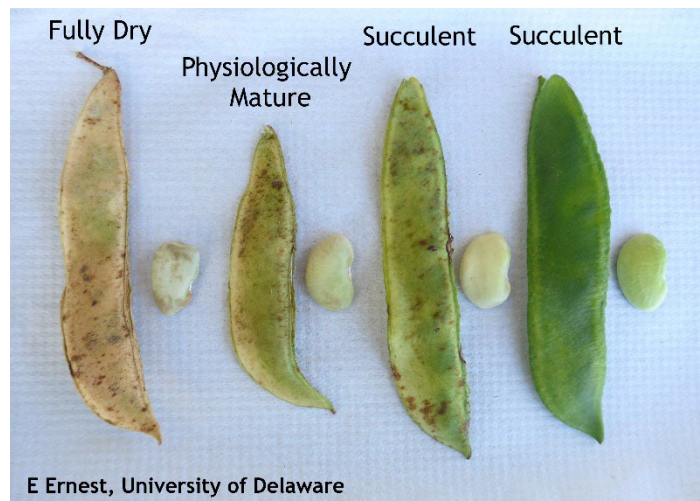


Figure 3. Physiologically mature pods have a papery, rather than succulent feel. Seed may not be fully dry but can dried after shelling. The pods pictured here are from a University of Delaware experimental variety which has subtle red seed coat pigmentation. The red coloration is not visible in succulent seed but becomes apparent as the seed matures.

End of Season Clean-Up

Vines should be removed from the trellis at the end of the season and disposed of away from the production area. Sanitation is important in pole limas since they are often planted in the same location for many years. Fungal diseases can overwinter on leaves and vines, causing early infection in the next year's crop.

It is also a good idea to dig up a few plants to [check roots for signs of galling from root knot nematode](#). This is especially true if you know you have areas with poor plant vigor and yield. If you notice galling symptoms, consider moving your production area or [other recommended RKN management practices](#).

Agronomic Crops

Monthly Grain Market Outlook - Nate Bruce,
Farm Business Management Specialist,
nsbruce@udel.edu

Written October 20, 2022

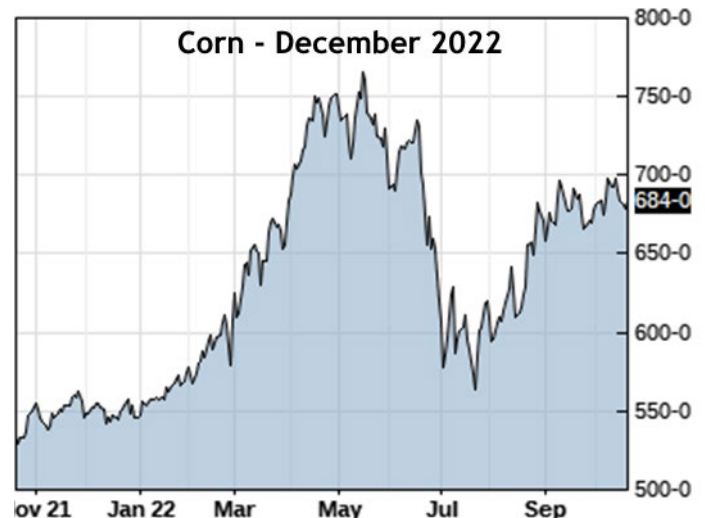
Corn prices have been on an upward trend over the course of the month but have consistently stalled at the \$7.00 / bushel price mark. Some Midwestern states are experiencing very slow corn harvests this year with moisture issues. Soybean prices dropped during October and broke support at the \$14.00 / bushel level. In the last week, prices have trended higher but have not approached close to the \$14.00 / bushel mark again. Causes for soybean price decreases are increased production estimates in South America and reduced demand for soybean oil. It is becoming evident that the high soybean prices that occurred in September followed the typical norm of historical highs during that month. Plaguing both soybean and corn prices are issues with the Mississippi River having historically low water levels right now. This is making it challenging for barges navigating the water way when export demand should begin picking up. Wheat prices were on the rise for most of October but have stalled in recent weeks. The price direction of wheat has been highly correlated by events occurring in the Ukraine-Russian War. Making marketing decisions is extremely challenging for wheat because price seems to be solely influenced by the events in the conflict.

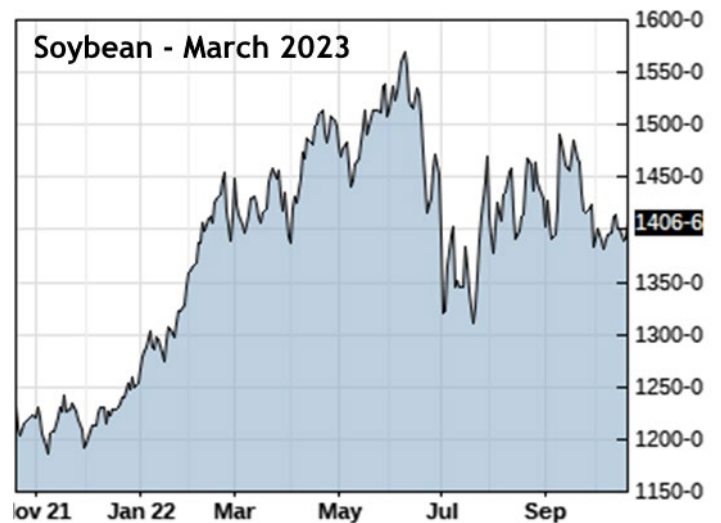
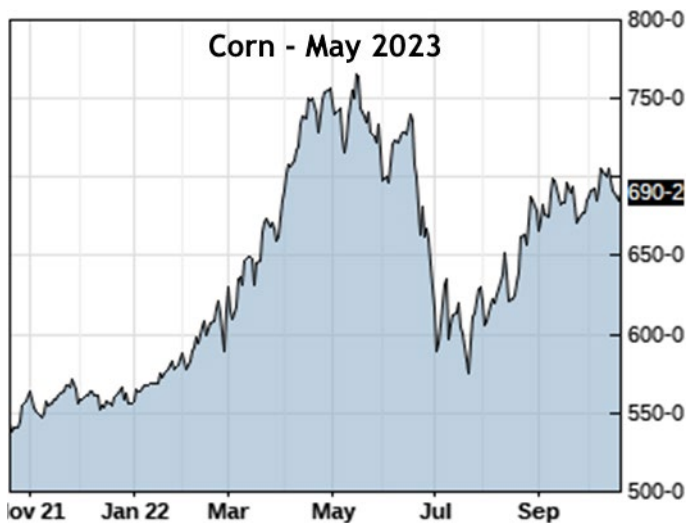
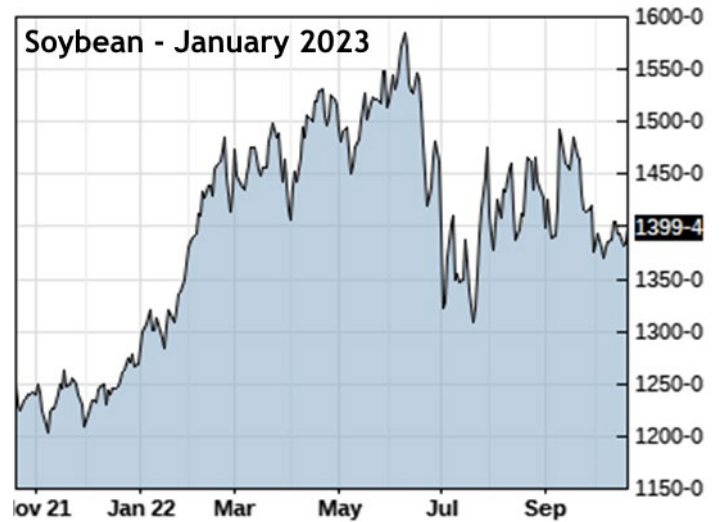
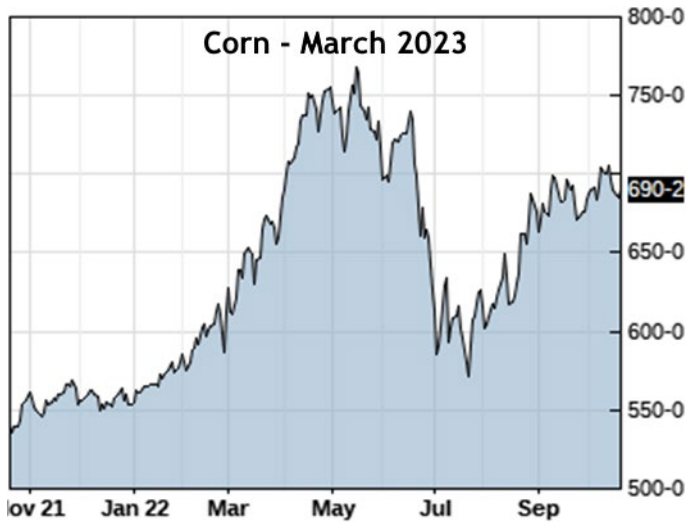
The October USDA World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE) estimated corn ending stocks at 1.172 billion bushels, down 4% from the September estimate of just under 1.219 billion bushels. The USDA WASDE estimated reduced supplies, greater feed and residual use, lower exports and corn used for ethanol. Soybean ending stocks remained the same as the September estimate at 200 million bushels. The USDA WASDE estimated reduced soybean total use from the September estimate with an increase in demand for soybean crushings but decreases in export and residual demand. Wheat ending stocks were projected at 576 million bushels, down 6% from the

September estimate of 610 million bushels. The USDA WASDE estimated reduced demand for wheat feed, domestic use, and exports. Wheat food and seed demand remained unchanged.

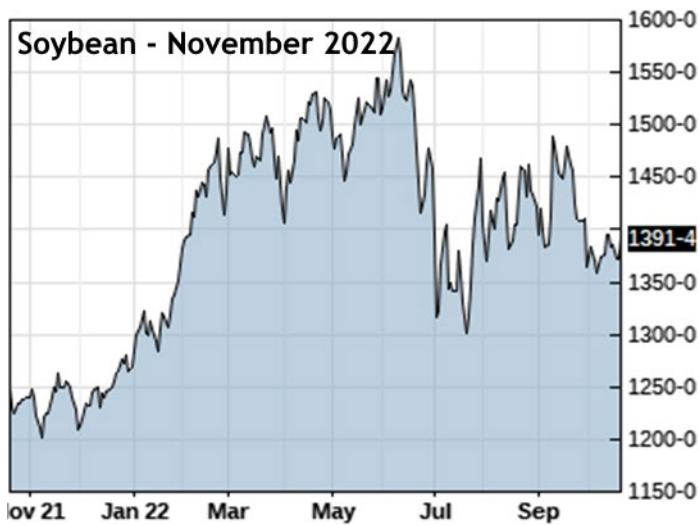
In international grain market news, Russia is currently supporting an extension of their grain export deal despite concerns about its implementation. If the deal is not renewed, Russian agricultural exports such as potash fertilizers could be hindered. Thus far, much of the Ukrainian grain that has made its way out of the country has not gone to poor developing countries as the original deal had intended. In South America, drought has hampered corn planting, particularly in Argentina, the world's third largest grain exporter. The Rosario grains exchange reported the slowest corn planting in six years. The Rosario exchange reported that early planted corn will only account for 10% of the total planted crop this season. Uncertainty about carryover is prevalent and now many other countries grain seasons are getting underway. Below are futures for corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Corn Futures

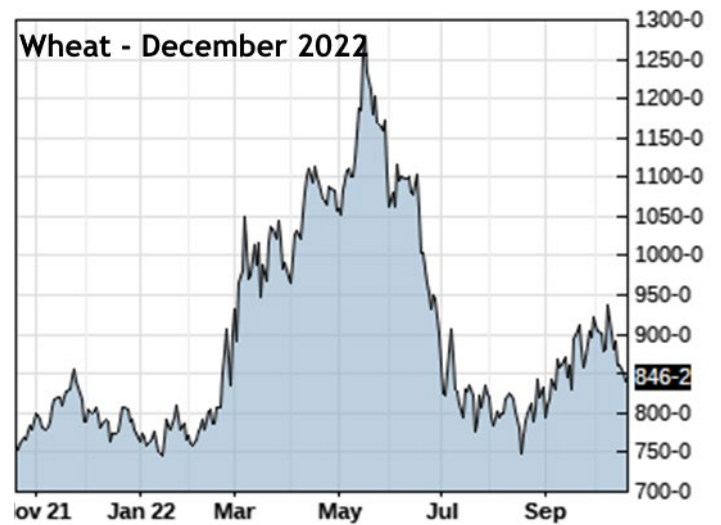


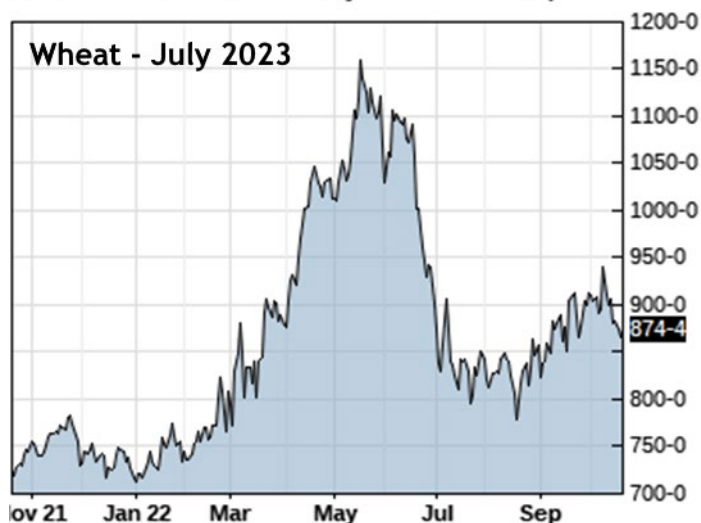
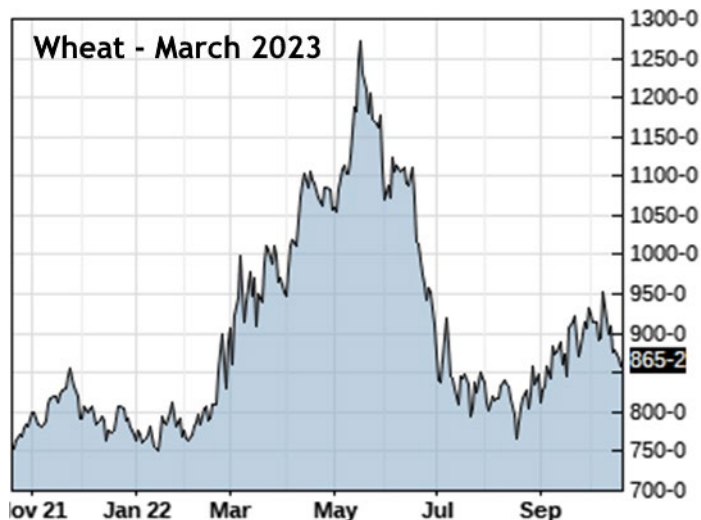


Soybean Futures



Wheat Futures





General

2023 Custom Rate Survey - Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist,
nsbruce@udel.edu

Extension services in Maryland and Delaware will be collecting custom survey rates this fall. We need your assistance in securing up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery rental rates, and hired labor costs in both states. Custom rates are used widely by farmers across the states, so we need the best information available.

Please respond even if you know only a few rates. We want information on actual rates, either what you PAID TO HIRE work or what you CHARGED TO PERFORM custom work. Custom Rates should include all ownership costs of

implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel and lube. Reported rates will be summarized in the Custom Rate Survey to show a range and averages for the states. NO individual names or rates will be published in the Custom Rate Survey.

The results will be available at local Extension Offices and will be available online at <https://extension.umd.edu/grainmarketing>. We hope this publication will be beneficial to you as a custom farm operator and thank you for your cooperation with this effort.

The survey can be completed online at: <https://go.umd.edu/customrate2023> or to get a blank survey call the Talbot County Extension office at 410-822-1244. Please complete the survey by December 31, 2022.

Farewell from Dan Severson, New Castle County Ag Agent - Karen Johnston, NCC Extension Director, krjohn@udel.edu

We want to share with you that Dan Severson has resigned from his position as the NCC Extension agent effective November 4, 2022. As he leaves, Dan would like to share these thoughts with all of you.

"It has always been a pleasure serving as your Ag agent. I have learned a great deal in my interactions with all of you.

I have accepted a position as Extension Agent, Assistant Professor, with Extension at Montana State University. I will serve Pondera County which is in north-central Montana part of the "Golden Triangle" due to its bountiful wheat harvest. Pondera is a "frontier county" that sits at the doorstep to the Rocky Mountains and southern portion of Glacier National Park.

I have always called you my farmers but most importantly, I will now call you my friends. If you are ever out my way, look me up."

Dan Severson

We wish Dan well in his new position in a new state and are glad to know he remains a part of the Extension family. UD Cooperative Extension

is moving forward to re-fill this position as soon as possible. The Search Committee seeks your feedback on current agricultural needs in New Castle County and the state, and to inform the development of the position description for the next Ag Agent. We would appreciate you taking a moment to share your thoughts. Please send your feedback to Karen Johnston, NCC Director at krjohn@udel.edu and/or Carrie Murphy, Search Committee Chair and Horticulture Agent, at cjmurphy@udel.edu or call 302-831-2506 by 11/11/22.

Announcements

Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School

November 15 – 17, 2022
Princess Royale in Ocean City, MD

Registration is now open for the Mid-Atlantic Crop the Princess Royale in Ocean City, MD from November 15 – 17, 2022. The school offers a 2 ½ day format with a variety of breakout sessions. Emphasis is placed on new and advanced information with group discussion and interaction encouraged. Individuals needing training in soil and water, nutrient management, crop management, and pest management can create their own schedule by choosing from 5 program options offered each hour.

New this year for CCAs: we are offering specialty CCA certification credits in sustainability and precision agriculture. Specialty credits count toward recertification for the associated specialty certification or can be applied toward your overall CCA recertification credit requirements (for individuals not holding a specialty certification). We also anticipate offering state nutrient management credits for DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV and state pesticide credits for DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, and WV.

Online registration will close at 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, November 7, 2022. Registration Fees are \$325 by October 15, and \$375 from October 16 through November 7. We look forward to seeing you there.

Registration and program details are online at:
<https://go.umd.edu/crop22registration>

Nematodes in Atlantic Soybean Production Webinar

Monday, December 5, 2022 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Online

Nematodes consistently rank as a top yield robber of soybeans. Please save the date to join us virtually on December 5 from 1:00-3:00 PM for the Nematode in Atlantic Soybean Production Webinar. This webinar will include results from Soybean Cyst Nematode seed treatment trials, Root-Knot Nematode on-farm trials, emerging management strategies, and feature a panel discussion on needs to improve nematode management in the region.

Registration information will be available in the Nov 18 WCU. Please email Alyssa Koehler akoehler@udel.edu with any questions.

Delaware Agriculture Week

Monday, January 9 – Thursday, January 12, 2023

Delaware Agriculture Week will be back at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington from January 9-12, 2023! Delaware “Ag Week” is an ongoing collaboration between University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State University Cooperative Extension and the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

Delaware Ag Week provides useful and timely information to the agricultural community and industry through educational meetings and events. In addition, it is a great time for networking and fellowship with old and new acquaintances.

The associated trade show will take place in the Dover Building from Monday afternoon, January 9 to Thursday January 12.

Delaware and Maryland pesticide and nutrient management credits and CCA credits will be available.

We are busy planning sessions and agendas, but please keep an eye on the Ag Week website for information and updates. <https://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/>

Tentative Ag Week Session Schedule

Monday, Jan. 9

Poultry
Beef
Fruit
Woodland

Tuesday, Jan. 10

General Vegetables
Fresh Market Vegetables
Hay and Pasture
Small Ruminant
Farmers Market Managers
Specialty Crop Block Grant

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Processing Vegetables
Pollinators
Nutrient Management
Risk Management
Small Flock Poultry
Small Farm Irrigation

Thursday, Jan. 12

Agronomy/Soybean
Urban Farm and Food

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

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension in accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension or bias against those not mentioned.