



# WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Volume 26, Issue 1

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## WCU Subscription Options for 2018: Mail, Fax, Email or Text

We hope that this first issue of Weekly Crop Update for 2018 will help you get your growing season off to a good start. The next WCU for 2018 will be issued on April 6. The WCU will then be posted on the web, and sent to mail and fax subscribers by 4:30 p.m. each Friday until September 28. The cost of mail or fax subscription is \$40. You can subscribe by returning the form at the back of this issue. The WCU is also available for free online as a printable PDF or blog format at:

<http://extension.udel.edu/weeklilycropupdate/> .

For those who access the newsletter via the internet we send a weekly email reminder which will let you know when the WCU has been posted online, provide a link directly to the current issue, and give you a taste of the headlines. If you would like to receive the email reminder please click on the "Sign Up For Our Emails" link on the WCU blog site. If you experience problems with the online WCU please contact me at [emmalea@udel.edu](mailto:emmalea@udel.edu) or (302)-856-7303.

I will also send out a text message each week when a new issue is posted. The message will be brief, and the text message distribution list will not be used for other announcements except those of an urgent nature (i.e. pest or disease alerts). If you would like to receive the text reminder please send your name, number and cell phone carrier to me at the above email address or send a message to 302-233-4719.

*Emmalea Ernest*

## Vegetable Crops

### Growing Spring Broccoli in Delaware - Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; [gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)

There is a demand for local, spring-harvested broccoli in our region. However, growing spring broccoli to commercial standards is a challenge due to heat effects during head formation which causes defects such as brown bead, uneven heads (knuckled), loose heads, and premature flowering. This renders heads unmarketable. Spring plantings also have shown limited head holding ability as temperatures reach into the 90s.

Temperature variability is the main challenge for spring broccoli. Broccoli is a cool season plant and is best adapted to areas with consistent temperatures during head development where days are warm, not hot, and nights are cool. On Delmarva, high temperatures during head initiation in the spring leads to abnormal floret development. Temperatures more than 88°F can cause damage to florets in sensitive varieties.

More heat tolerant varieties have been developed and were tested in 2017 spring trials. There were 22 varieties tested in two 2017 spring trials. Plants were transplanted to the field on April 3 for planting 1 and April 17 for planting 2. Plots were harvested from the May 31 to June 19 in planting 1 and June 8 to June 26 in planting 2. Plots were harvested as crown cuts. Target head size was 4+ inches in diameter and heads were cut 1 inch below the lowest floret attachment. Data collected included marketable

and cull head number and weight, crown diameter, crown height, head uniformity ratings, head evenness ratings, hollow stem incidence, and brown bead ratings. Descriptive characteristics included color and dome shape.



Uneven floret development and brown bead in a variety with most heads unmarketable.

In the April 3 planting, Eastern Crown had the highest marketable yield with 467 boxes per acre and 9 % cull. Luna also yielded over 400 boxes per acre (452). Yields of other varieties tested were below 400 boxes per acre in trial 1. In the April 17 planting, Millennium significantly out yielded all varieties with 641 boxes per acre and 0 percent culls. Other varieties yielding over 400 boxes per acre were Eastern Crown, and Emerald Crown (488 and 423 respectively). Gypsy and Iron Man had the most uniform marketable heads. Destiny, Eastern Crown, and Green Gold had the highest ratings for brown bead. Diplomat, Gypsy, and Imperial had significant hollow stem. Iron Man, Gypsy, Everest, Emerald Jewel, Emerald Crown, and Diplomat had the highest ratings for head evenness.

For a full report on the 2017 trial go to <http://extension.udel.edu/ag/vegetable-fruit-resources/vegetable-small-fruits-program/variety-trial-results/>

Broccoli trials are being repeated in 2018 with later planting dates to better assess varieties under heat stress.

**Broccoli marketable yields and cull percent, UD-REC, Georgetown, Spring 2017, April 17 planting (heat stressed).**

Variety	Marketable Yield		Cull %
	lbs/acre	boxes/acre	
Millennium	14735	641	0
Eastern Crown	11214	488	3
Emerald Crown	9732	423	9
Experimental Variety	9342	406	16
Gypsy	9033	393	7
Green Gold	8433	367	6
Experimental Variety	8324	362	10
Luna	8255	359	10
Green Magic	7745	337	10
Durapak 16	7574	329	9
Everest	6812	296	24
Emerald Star	6726	292	0
Imperial	6681	290	3
Lieutenant	6595	287	19
Diplomat	5530	240	6
Burney	5043	219	17
Experimental Variety	3778	164	41
Iron Man	3526	153	3
Destiny	3509	153	45
Emerald Jewel	2988	130	6
	<i>p 0.05</i>	<i>0.001</i>	
	<i>LSD</i>	<i>2219</i>	



Eastern Crown



Millennium

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**Spring Planted Cover Crops for Vegetable Rotations** -Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist; [gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)

One principle of managing for improved soil health is that you should always have a crop growing on the soil. This will maintain or add organic matter, provide benefits from the action of growing roots, and recycle nutrients.

Where fall cover crops were not planted due to late harvest, spring cover crops can be planted and provide soil health benefits where vegetables are not scheduled until late May or the month of June.

The most common grass family cover crop options for mid to late March or early April planting are spring oats, and annual ryegrass. Plant oats 90-120 lbs per acre and annual ryegrass at 20-30 lbs per acre.

Mustard family (Brassica) cover crop options for late March or early April planting include yellow mustards, white mustards, brown mustards and oriental mustards. Companies also offer blends of several mustard species. Mustards are generally planted at 10-20 lbs per acre. Rapeseed and canola are another mustard family option for spring planting at 5-12 lbs per acre. Forage radishes and oilseed radishes can also be spring planted at a rate of 4-10 lbs per acre. Arugula is an additional mustard family option planted at 4-7 lbs per acre.

In the legume family, field peas are another option for spring planting. One type of field pea is the winter pea which is often fall planted in our area but can be spring planted. It has smaller seed so the seeding rate is 30-60 lbs per acre. Canadian field peas are larger seeded and used as a spring cover crop planted alone at 120-140 lbs per acre. An often-forgotten spring seeded legume crop that can also be used is red clover. Red clover can be frost seeded into small grains, seeded alone, or mixed with spring oats or annual ryegrass. Seeding rates for pure stands would be 10-16 lbs per acre, for mixtures 6-10 lbs per acre.

Mixtures also can be used. Research has shown that you get the best soil health benefits from mixing three species from different plant families. Commonly a grass is mixed with a legume and with a mustard family crop. Examples would be spring oats, field peas, and forage radish; or annual ryegrass, red clover, and mustard. Reduce seeding rates of each component when using in mixtures. Companies often offer preblended mixture for these uses.

Many of the mustards have biofumigation potential. When allowed to grow to early flower stage and then incorporated into the soil, they release compounds that act as natural fumigants, reducing soil borne disease organisms. Some biofumigant mustard varieties include Pacific Gold, Idagold, and Kodiak. Biofumigant blends include Caliente and Mighty Mustard. Biofumigant rapeseed varieties include Dwarf Essex and Bonar.

To use as a biofumigant, mustards will be allowed to go to full growth (early flowering) and then are chopped with a flail chopper (cut fine) and incorporated with a tractor mounted rototiller or other tillage tool for complete incorporation. Chopping releases the biofumigant compounds in the plants. Ideally the area then should be rolled with a cultipacker or overhead irrigated to seal in the biofumugant.



Finely chopped biofumigant cover crop ready for incorporation. Chopping releases the biofumigant compounds in the plants.

When used as a biofumigant, mustards should be grown as a crop. You need to add 60-100 lbs of nitrogen per acre to produce the maximum biomass. Nitrogen is also required to produce spring oats and annual ryegrass at similar rates. When planting mixtures with peas, nitrogen rates should be reduced.

Several spring-planted cover crops have been used specifically to address nematode infested soils. This includes “Nemat” arugula and “Image” radish. Mustards such as Caliente 199 have been used to reduce Phytophthora infestations.



Spring planted cover crops shown including mustards, rapeseed, radishes, and arugula.

## Seedless Watermelon Trials 2017 -Gordon Johnson, *Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist*; [gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)

Each year the University of Delaware conducts seedless watermelon variety trials which helps to inform the industry on the performance of current and newly developed varieties under Delmarva growing conditions and helps growers choose the best varieties to match growing and marketing needs.

Growers should select varieties based on market needs, marketability, and productivity. This includes yield, maturity, longevity, size distribution, appearance (rind color, shape), flesh quality (color, sugars), flesh density, limited defects such as hollow heart susceptibility, plant vigor, and disease resistance (Fusarium, anthracnose), and field holding ability. Pollenizers should be matched to the seedless variety to provide early and extended pollen production, disease resistance, and appropriate vigor (too vigorous will compete with the seedless).

The 2017 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial included 33 varieties from 9 participating companies. The purpose of this trial was to evaluate seedless watermelon varieties for yield, quality and maturity. The trial was conducted at the Thurman Adams Research Farm, University of Delaware, Carvel Research Center.

Plants were transplanted to the field on May 17, 2017. Due to the late spring, plots were not harvested until August. Fruit were harvested three times. The first harvest was on August 2 and 3 at 77 days after transplanting (DAT), the second harvest was 95 DAT, and the final harvest was in early September at 115 DAT. The weight of each watermelon harvested was recorded individually. Five marketable watermelons from each plot were cut and evaluated for presence of hollow heart and soluble solids levels.

The highest yielding varieties in the trial in terms of marketable pounds per acre were: Crunchy Red, 9651, Turnpike, 9601, Bottle Rocket, Warrior, SV 0241 WA, Fascination, Red Amber, ORS 6278, Kingman and XWT 6009. This high yielding group ranged from 135,220 to 99,230 lbs per acre.

The highest yielding varieties in the trial in terms of fruit per acres were: Crunchy Red, Turnpike, SV 0241 WA, Warrior, Kingman, ORS 6151, and 9601 ranging from 7,836 to 6396 melons per acre.

All varieties produced more than 40% of their yield on the first harvest. The following varieties produced more than 60% of their yield on the first harvest: ORS 6253, SV 3105 WA, ORS 6278, Red Amber, WDL 2413, ORS 6260, Charismatic, ORS 6305, Road Trip Captivation, XWT 6008, ORS 6151, Fascination, Bottle Rocket, Summer Breeze, and 7197. Those varieties with extended harvest (50% or more harvested in the second and third harvest) were Secretariat, Turnpike, and 9601.

Varieties were also sorted according to average fruit in each of four weight classes: 60-count (9.0-13.5 lbs), 45 count (13.6-17.5 lbs), 36 count (17.6-21.4 lbs) and 30 count (>21.5 lbs). In general, fruit weights were above average in 2017. Large fruited varieties with average weights over 18 pounds were Bottle Rocket, Maxima, SV 3105 WA, ORS 6278, ORS 6305, Joy Ride, and Road Trip. Medium fruited varieties over 16 pounds included Red Amber, Captivation, Summer Breeze, WDL 2413, Crunchy Red, 7187, ORS 6260, 9601, XWT 6009, 7197, Fascination, Wolverine, Unbridled, Turnpike, Warrior, XWT 6008, SV 0241 WA, and Charismatic.

Those varieties with more that 35% of the melons harvested in the 45-count class included XWT 6008, ORS 6260, Kingman, 7197, ORS 6253, Charismatic, SV 0241 WA, and Secretariat.

Varieties with high percentage of small fruited melons (60-count) included ORS 7033 B, Secretariat, ORS 6151, 9651 and Kingman.

Varieties with high numbers of 36-count fruit were Captivation, 9601, Road Trip, Unbridled, Charismatic, and Wolverine. Bottle Rocket, SV 3105 WA, ORS 6305, ORS 6278, and Maxima produced over 30% in the 30-count class (very large melons).

Two small fruited “mini” melons, Mini Bee and ORS 7033 B were also tested. They had the highest number of fruits at 8,931 and 9,968 melons per acre respectively. Mini Bee produced over 80% of its melons in the personal or icebox

size class from 4 to 9 pounds. ORS 7033 B produced 41% of its melons in the small size class.

There were significant differences in soluble solids among the varieties which is a measure of sweetness. Road Trip, 9651, Turnpike, Unbridled, ORS 6260, Kingman, 7197, Embassy and Captivation had the highest soluble solids levels. All of the varieties had average soluble solids of over 10% with the exception of XWT 6009 and ORS 9033 B.

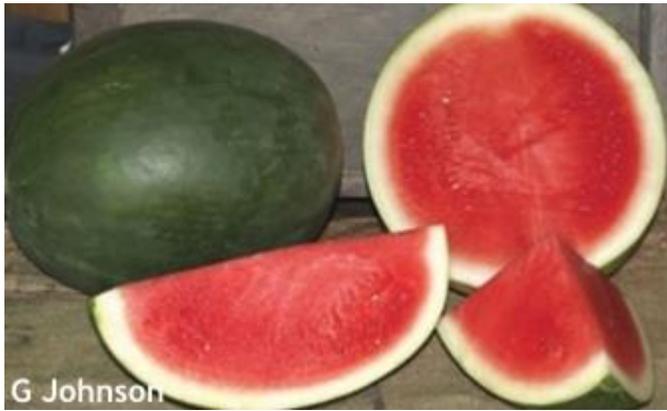
Hollow heart defects can render watermelons unsaleable. No hollow heart was observed in Mini Bee, Joy Ride, ORS 6260, ORS 6278, ORS 6305, ORS 6253 and Summer Breeze. Turnpike had high levels of hollow heart. Those additional varieties with one or more fruit with major or severe hollow heart (10% unsaleable) were SV 0241, and 9601.

Trials will also be conducted in 2018 and growers are invited to visit the trial during the season. Results from this year’s trial can be found on-line at:

<http://extension.udel.edu/ag/vegetable-fruit-resources/vegetable-small-fruits-program/>



Crunchy Red, an older variety that did very well in 2017



G Johnson  
9651 a high yielding dark rind type



G Johnson  
Turnpike did well in 2017



G Johnson  
Warrior, a lighter rind type with good interior color



E Ernest  
Fascination, current industry standard



G Johnson  
Red Amber, a new entry into the watermelon market

## Agronomic Crops

**Handy Bt Trait Table for Corn** - David Owens, Extension Entomologist, [owensd@udel.edu](mailto:owensd@udel.edu)

There are numerous artificial but extremely helpful traits in field corn. It can be a bit confusing though to keep track of all the traits, what they are used for, and the regulations involved in planting refugia for the insect traits. I can't stress the importance of the refuge requirement enough. Refuge is critical to ensure the durability of these traits and prevent insect resistance. One entomologist calls it "resistance insurance." Many seed companies are now

offering refuge-in-bag (RIB) products, meaning that a certain percentage of the seed is not genetically modified. There is some concern that resistance management is not as robust with RIB as with planting block refuges. Furthermore, it is possible that your supplier might not have a RIB, so check when you buy so that you can plan and plant accordingly. Helping all of us keep traits, names, targets, herbicide tolerances, and refuge requirements straight are Dr. Chris DiFonzo, Dr. Pat Porter, and Dr. Kelley Tilmon, who have a great table laying all the traits out. You can find it here

<https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2018/01/BtTraitTableJan2018.pdf>. Best of luck with your seed selection and planting!

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**Winter Grain Mite in Small Grains** - David Owens, *Extension Entomologist*, [owensd@udel.edu](mailto:owensd@udel.edu)

Winter grain mites are active in small grain fields. These mites prefer cool weather with temperatures of 40-60°F. They hide once the sun comes up, so you will need to look for them first thing in the morning or at dusk or on cloudy days, such as what we've been having lately. They can be present in a lot of fields, but only rarely cause issues – but if you have had issues with them in the past, now is a good time to be looking for them. Grain mites are worse on drought stressed, small plants, and more abundant in no-till fields following corn. More information can be found at our fact sheet: <http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/winter-grain-mite-management-in-small-grains-2/>

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**Complete Wheat Tiller Counts Now to Determine the Need for Spring Nitrogen** - Jarrod O. Miller, *Extension Agronomist*, [jarrod@udel.edu](mailto:jarrod@udel.edu) and Amy Shober, *Extension Nutrient Management and Environmental Quality Specialist*; [ashober@udel.edu](mailto:ashober@udel.edu)

Wheat is beginning to green up and is showing minimal freeze damage when compared to last year. There is still some time for wheat to develop more tillers before the first node emerges above ground. Now is a good time to go out and check for adequate tillering to

determine the need for early spring N applications. Timing nitrogen (N) applications this spring will be difficult due to the amount of rainfall we have received.

To complete a tiller count, lay a yard stick (3 feet long) on the ground and count the tillers along the length of the stick. Multiply the number of tillers by 4 and divide that number by your row width. This will give you tiller density in tillers/sq. ft. Repeat these counts in five locations in the field and average the values. If you see large variability across your wheat, it may be possible to identify regions in the field that are in greater need of N application.

Researchers at Virginia Tech determined that spring N application can be delayed until the first node is above the surface for wheat fields with more than 100 tillers/sq. ft. So if your fields show adequate tillering, we recommend holding off on spring N applications as the crop will not likely benefit from an application now and the potential for leaching is currently very high.

However, if the field has less than 50 tillers/sq. ft., at least half of the total spring N should be applied now so that the wheat crop can develop more tillers that will serve as future grain heads. Unfortunately, wet weather has probably kept most equipment out of the field, as it should. The compaction that would be caused by driving equipment on wet soils could cause issues throughout this and future growing seasons. However, it may be possible to fly on urea now, but try to wait for a drier period before you apply and keep N rates less than 30 lb/ac (20 to 30 lb/ac) to reduce leaching potential. The rest of the spring N can be applied later, when rapid growth begins. Plus, you get the potential yield benefits of the split application. Dr. Richard Taylor and Bob Unitaowski at the University of Delaware observed a 5 to 10% yield increase for winter wheat in research plots that received split spring N.

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**Spring Nitrogen on Pastures** - Jarrod O. Miller, Extension Agronomist, [jarrod@udel.edu](mailto:jarrod@udel.edu) and Amy Shober, Extension Nutrient Management and Environmental Quality Specialist; [ashober@udel.edu](mailto:ashober@udel.edu)

A spring application of nitrogen (N) will help promote pasture growth, particularly if you find yourself lacking in hay reserves. With cooler temperatures remaining, applications of granular or liquid fertilizers are recommended over manures, because soil microbes are needed to release N from manure; microbes prefer warmer temperatures.

As your pastures greenup with warmer weather, you may be anxious to let your animals out to graze. But be patient. Walk pastures and observe greenup and grass height prior to any fertilizer applications or releasing animals to graze. There are potential animal health issues associated with excessive spring growth due to N applications. For example, grass tetany often occurs in the spring, where exacerbated levels of K in forages may cause low Mg uptake. Also, make sure your grasses are at least 4 inches tall before grazing to ensure adequate growth during and after grazing.

## General

**NEW Guess the Pest Challenge for 2018** - Bill Cissel, Extension Agent - Integrated Pest Management; [bcissel@udel.edu](mailto:bcissel@udel.edu)

Test your pest management knowledge by clicking on the GUESS THE PEST logo and submitting your best guess. For the 2018 season, we will have an “end of season” raffle for a \$100 gift card. Each week, one lucky winner will also be selected for a prize and have their name entered not once but five times into the end of season raffle.

This week, one lucky participant will also win A Farmer’s Guide To Corn Diseases (\$29.95 value).

*You can’t win if you don’t play!*

## Guess the Pest Week #1



Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Ag, Bugwood.org

5522641



Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Ag, Bugwood.org

5537180

Guess the Pest! What is this insect?

**WFRP Can Provide Enhanced Income Protection for Grains/Processing Vegetables** - Laurie Wolinski, Extension Agent; [lgw@udel.edu](mailto:lgw@udel.edu); Don Clifton, Farmers First Services, [Decrophelp@gmail.com](mailto:Decrophelp@gmail.com)

Whole Farm Revenue Coverage (WFRP) was developed primarily as a means of providing income protection to producers of crops, dairy, and livestock for which individual yield and revenue protection policies were not available.

It is true that WFRP is gaining acceptance among Delaware producers of fresh produce and other non-insurable commodities. However, as WFRP is being more closely analyzed by Delaware farmers, it becoming more attractive as a possible enhancement to their current coverage choices for insurable crops. One of the reasons is the fact that the WFRP revenue coverage calculation for 2018 starts with a simple average of approved revenue for the years 2012-16.

The 2012 marketing year average price (MYA) for corn in Delaware is published by NASS as \$7.55 and \$14.40 for soybeans. For 2013, the MYA for corn was \$4.94 and \$12.40 for soybeans. Producers of processing vegetables will remember similarly higher contract prices in that time frame as well. Depending on yield, it is possible that a Delaware producer of grains and/or processing vegetables may have realized fifty percent higher gross income in 2012 as in 2016. With the five years 2012-2016 in the revenue data base, the WFRP coverage options may be very attractive. In addition, WFRP premiums tend to be considerably less expensive.

As with all crop insurance policies, WFRP can only be obtained from a crop insurance agent. The UD Extension/USDA Crop Insurance Education Partnership can provide producers detailed WFRP information and pre-calculations for their own farm as preparation for discussion with an agent. Contact Don Clifton at [Decrophelp@gmail.com](mailto:Decrophelp@gmail.com) or (302) 242-8806.

## Announcements

### Delaware Ag Safety Conference

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Ag Commodities Building  
Delaware State Fairgrounds  
Harrington, DE

This event is sponsored by Delaware Farm Bureau and other generous sponsors with the goal of promoting safety in agricultural settings. The main speaker, Dr. Kerry Richards, will be presenting on pesticide safety.

There is no charge and lunch is included.

*Registration is required. Register by calling (302) 697-3183 M-F, 8-4.*

### Food Safety Modernization Act - Produce Safety Rule: Delaware Produce Safety Alliance Growers Training

Thursday, March 22, 2018 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
UD Carvel Center,  
16483 County Seat Hwy, Georgetown, DE

Who should attend: Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires 'At least one supervisor from the farm must complete food safety training at least equivalent to the standardized curriculum recognized by the FDA'.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture will cover the cost of attending. Lunch and breaks will be provided

*You may register [on-line](#) now. You may also register by e-mailing the contacts below or calling UD Cooperative Extension's Georgetown Office at 302-856-7303 and asking for Karen Adams.*

*For more information please contact:  
Anna Wicks at [Anna.Wicks@state.de.us](mailto:Anna.Wicks@state.de.us)  
or  
Gordon Johnson at [gcjohn@udel.edu](mailto:gcjohn@udel.edu)*

### Organic Production Meeting: Grain, Dairy, Vegetables, & Poultry

Friday, March 9 8:30 am-2:30 pm  
Chesapeake College  
Eastern Shore Higher Education Center  
Wye Mills, MD

#### Topics Include:

- Panel Discussion - Next Generation of Organic Farmers - Dairy, Grain, Poultry, & Vegetables
- Panel Discussion - Latest Research from Local Scientists - Farmers research needs
- How Useful Are Biostimulents in Organic Vegetable Systems
- Can Living Mulches Be Deployed Into Conservation Tillage Systems to Support the Fight Against Weeds?
- Growing Organic Poultry
- Managing Nutrients in Organic Systems for Long-Term Sustainability
- Organics 101-What is the Certification Process and much more

- Effects of Cover Crops on Water and Nutrient Dynamics

[PDF of Detailed Agenda](#)

Cost of registration is \$10. Register online at:  
[www.organicproductionmtg.eventbrite.com](http://www.organicproductionmtg.eventbrite.com)

### On-Farm Poultry Growers' Field Day

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:30 a.m – 3:00 p.m.  
Hawkins Farm, 971 Clover Field Lane  
Harrington, DE 19952

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. is partnering with the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and University of Maryland Extension to host an on-farm Poultry Growers' Field Day. This event will offer practical workshops, beneficial to both beginning and experienced commercial chicken growers, on the following topics:

- Tunnel ventilation
- Farm safety
- Generator and housing maintenance
- Animal welfare
- Controller tips
- Radiant tube heating
- Water quality and water line sanitation
- Good neighbor practices and vegetative environmental buffers
- Biosecurity
- And more topics still to be announced

Vendors will also be present, and lunch will be provided. Most workshops and vendors will be located inside a newly constructed poultry house on fresh bedding. Growers are reminded to practice good biosecurity when traveling to and from the field day.

The workshop will take place at Rob Hawkins Farm, a new organic chicken farm near Harrington, Delaware. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with sessions to start at 10 a.m. There will be concurrent sessions held each hour on the hour, and the event will end at 3 p.m. Two nutrient management credits will be available.

*Pre-registration is required as space is limited to the first 300 registrants. To register online for the Poultry Growers' Field Day, visit [tinyurl.com/chixfieldday](http://tinyurl.com/chixfieldday). If you are not able to register online, call Lisa Collins at (302) 856-2585 to register by phone.*

### Wholesale Readiness Workshop

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Other Side Produce, Seaford, DE  
&  
Parkside High School, Salisbury, MD

Beginning at 3:00 PM, produce growers in all phases of business development are invited to start the experience with a one-hour tour of the facilities at Other Side Produce located at 9654 Brickyard Drive, Seaford, Delaware, 19973.

Following the Other Side tour, workshop attendees will travel (transportation not provided) to Parkside High School in Salisbury, MD where, beginning at 4:30 PM, you will further explore the unique standards for produce harvesting and post-harvest handling when selling into wholesale markets.

#### Presenters:

- Dallas Lister with Other Side Produce
- Ashley & Johnny Harrison, Terrapin Farms
- Lindsay Gilmour, Chesapeake Harvest Food Safety Educator
- Jerry Kelly & Parkside High School CTE Students

Meet new friends and get the resources you need to take your farm to the next level!

Light supper included with FREE registration.

Sponsored by Chesapeake Harvest,  
[www.chesapeakeharvest.com](http://www.chesapeakeharvest.com)

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-wholesale-readiness-workshop-and-catered-supper-tickets-42139402086?aff=efbeventtix>

### EPA WPS Update and Approved Train-The-Trainer Course

Friday, March 9, 2018 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
University of Delaware Paradee Center  
69 Transportation Cir, Dover, DE 19901

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Carvel Research and Education Center  
16483 County Seat Hwy, Georgetown, DE 19947

Trainers who provide WPS training must either be a certified applicator or complete an EPA approved Train-The-Trainer Course. A course that provides an

update on the WPS and also qualifies as an EPA approved Trainer-The-Trainer course will be offered by the University of Delaware Pesticide Safety Education Program (DE-PSEP). For additional details or to register for the program contact Kerry Richards via email at [kerryr@udel.edu](mailto:kerryr@udel.edu) or by calling (814) 880-0013.

A table which provides examples of what type of WPS training is required (Worker or Handler) can be found on-line at <http://pesticideresources.org/wps/hosted/training-table.pdf>

### Profiting from a Few Acre\$ Small Farms Conference

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
MLK Student Center  
Delaware State University  
Dover, DE

Fine-tuning your management strategies to build successful agricultural enterprises.

Keynote Speaker: Sheri Salatin, Polyface Farms, Swoope, VA

Topics include:

- Aquaculture
- Cover Crops
- Direct/Retail Marketing
- Disaster Prep in Ag
- Small Ruminants
  - Soil Health
- Specialty Poultry

*Register now by mail! \$25/participant, \$50/vendor*  
*Send check or money order to:*  
*Delaware State University Cooperative Extension*  
*c/o Ms. April Chen*  
*131 US Washington Bldg.*  
*Dover, DE 19901*

For more information and for assistance due to disabilities, contact:

Andy Wetherill, Conference Coordinator: (302) 857-6491; [awetherill@desu.edu](mailto:awetherill@desu.edu)

John Clendaniel, Ag & Natural Resources Program Leader: (302) 857-6425; [jclendaniel@desu.edu](mailto:jclendaniel@desu.edu)

Sponsored by Delaware State University Cooperative Extension

## Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of February 22 to February 28, 2018

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

### Rainfall:

0.11 inches: February 22  
0.02 inch: February 23  
0.01 inch: February 24  
0.06 inch: February 25

### Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 66°F on February 22 to 47°F on February 23.

Lows ranged from 47°F on February 24 to 30°F on February 27

### Soil Temperature:

50.3°F average

Additional Delaware weather data is available at [http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly\\_retrieval.html](http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly_retrieval.html) and <http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Weather.htm>

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

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*Weekly Vegetable and Agronomic Crops Newsletter*  
*April 6 through September 28, 2017*

<http://extension.udel.edu/weeklucropupdate/>

**Timely Production Topics**

**Current Ag Issues**

**Disease and Insect Outbreaks**

**Latest Weed, Insect and Disease Control Options**

**Pasture and Forage Management**

**Weather Summary**

**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Information provided by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Specialists and Agents.

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