

# UME Virtual Winter Agronomy Meetings Accepted by Local Farmers

Erika Crowl, Andrew Kness, Bryan Butler Sr., Jennifer Rhodes, Dave Myers, Sarah Hirsh, Shannon Dill, Dr. Nicole Fiorellino, Kelly Nichols, Jeff Semler, Dr. Kurt Vollmer, Paul Goeringer  
University of Maryland; ecrowl@umd.edu

## NEED & JUSTIFICATION

- University of Maryland Extension (UME) winter production meetings are traditional events held annually that occur around the state providing timely educational topics, new research findings and credit hours necessary for farmer certifications.
- The COVID- 19 pandemic forced all programming to be fully virtual for 2020-2021.

## METHODS

- The University of Maryland Extension held a total of five virtual agronomy meetings over the course of December 2020 to February 2021.
- The evaluation contained likert-type questions related to the participants perception of the value of the program to their agricultural operation. Questions related to the impact of COVID-19 on farming operations were also included. (Table 1)

## IMPACTS

- A total of 654 individuals attend the winter agronomy webinars and 248 evaluations were collected.
- When asked to rate their learning experience from attending the webinar meetings, 88% ranked their experience as either “satisfied” or “very satisfied”.
- Participants were also asked to rate their interest in continuing to participate in virtual winter crop production meetings in the future, The mean response was 8.26 with a standard deviation of 1.92 (n=255).

Please share how COVID-19 has impacted you or your farm's...	Overall Decrease	No Change	Overall Increase
Day to day activities	26%	56%	18%
Supply chain slowdowns and shortages	31%	32%	37%
Markets and farm prices	29%	31%	40%
The farm workforce (access to labor)	24%	68%	8%
Stress level and health	6%	29%	65%
Worker/personal safety and Personal Protective Equipment	5%	40%	54%

Table 1: Questions related to the impact of COVID-19 on farms



**Legal Update with Pesticides**  
Paul Goeringer, Extension Legal Specialist @aglawPaul

Example of Webinar Presentation