

**2023 Maryland FFA State Convention  
Workshop and Tour Descriptions**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:30 am- 12:30 pm**

**Option # 1A- UMD Insect Zoo, PLS 1171 (Max 30) 1 hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Todd Waters, UMD Department of Entomology, Ag Lab Technician Supervisor**

Students will tour the Department of Entomology's Insect Zoo, learning about the wide world of arthropods, and getting to see some up close, even holding them, if they dare!

**Option # 1B- Dream Big, ESJ 0215 (Max 150) 1 hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Jessica Herr, National FFA Secretary**

Sometimes our big dreams can seem too far-fetched. By utilizing the BIG method, we can chase our dreams and watch them become a reality.

**Option # 1C- UMD College of Ag Tour, ESJ Lobby (No limit) 1 hour/repeat**

**Presenters- UMD AGNR Affiliates**

A campus walking tour, Exploring the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, departments, facilities, and hidden jewels.

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**Option # 2A- Equine Science Workshop, UMD Campus Farm (Max 20) 2 hours**

**Presenter- Victoria Pearlman, MBA Assistant Director UMD Animal/Avian Sciences**

Get a tour of the campus equine facility, meet faculty, explore career opportunities. Gain hands-on experience with horses in safety and care, handling, and management practices.

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**Option # 2B- Virus Hunting, PLS 5112 (Max 10) 2 hours**

**Presenter- Dr. James Culver, UMD Plant Pathology/Nanotechnology**

In today's pandemic environment we have become all too familiar with the impact of viruses as harbingers of disease and death. But viruses are much more than bringers of plaque, they are an integral part of our environment, present in the air we breathe, the food we eat and in you. In this workshop students will explore methods for the detection and study of plant viruses, the diseases they cause and their use in biotechnology applications. (Participants will need prior knowledge in high level biology related sciences)

ANS- Animal Sciences; ATL- Atlantic; ESJ- Edward St. John; MMH- Marie Mount Hall; PHY- Physics;  
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**Tuesday, June 27, 2023 2:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Option # 3A- Be A Successful Advocate, ESJ 0215 (Max 50)      1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenters- Maryland Farm Bureau Staff & Young Farmers**

Learn how to advocate for agriculture, or your special interest, through Farm Bureau programming and resources. As the next generation of agriculturalists, it's important to stand up for and against policies that impact your state and your communities. This breakout session is designed to guide young people in developing skills to effectively communicate and advocate using tools such as Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Ranchers Competitive Events.

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**Option # 3B- Covers for Comfort, ESJ 1202 (Max 40)      1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenter- MD FFA Alumni & Supporters**

Be a part of the Maryland FFA Service Learning Project, Covers for Comfort, in making fleece blankets that will be distributed to hospitals across the state of Maryland to provide comfort for 500 children. This program was funded by a generous grant from the National FFA Association.

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**Option # 3C- Exploring the Science in Animal Science ANS 1144 (Max 40)**

**Presenter- Dr. Monica VonKlompberg**

**1 ½ hour/repeat**

**Learn about how Animal Scientists use research to advance agriculture and biomedical science while also exploring careers in these areas.**

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## 2023 Maryland FFA State Convention Workshop and Tour Descriptions

### Wednesday, June 28, 2023 10:30 am- 12:30 pm

**Option # 4A- UMD Insect Zoo, PLS 1171 (Max 30) 1 hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Todd Waters, UMD Department of Entomology, Ag Lab Technician Supervisor**

Students will tour the Department of Entomology's Insect Zoo, learning about the wide world of arthropods, and getting to see some up close, even holding them, if they dare!

**Option # 4B- Dream Big, ESJ 1224 (Max 150) 1 hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Jessica Herr, National FFA Secretary**

Sometimes our big dreams can seem too far-fetched. By utilizing the BIG method, we can chase our dreams and watch them become a reality.

**Option # 4C- UMD College of Ag Tour, ESJ Lobby (No limit) 1 hour/repeat**

**Presenters- UMD AGNR Affiliates**

A campus walking tour, Exploring the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, departments, facilities, and hidden jewels.

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**Option # 5A - Food Research/Lab Tour, MMH 3208 Lobby (Max 20) 2 Hours**

**Presenters- Dr. Diana Obanda, UMD Department of Nutrition & Food Sciences**

Tour a nutrition and food science research laboratory, where they develop ways to prevent metabolic disease using food or food components. A "Food is medicine" approach to wellness. Participants will discover the Nutrition and Food Science Programs within the university.

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**Option # 5B - Campus Arboretum Walking Tour, PLS Lobby (Max 20) 2 Hours**

**Presenter- Meg Smolinski, UMD Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Outreach Coord.**

Did you know that the entire College Park campus is a world class arboretum & botanic garden? Tour some of the highlights of the campus with ISA-certified arborist and outreach coordinator Meg Smolinski. The tour will start at the Plant Science Building, visit Frederick Douglass Square, Edward St. John Teaching & Learning Center and end at McKeldin Mall.

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**Option # 5C- Applied Electrical Wiring, ANS 0504 (Max 20) 2 Hours**

**Presenter- Thomas Mazzone, UMD Institute for Applied Agriculture**

This workshop is designed to give students an opportunity to gain Agricultural Mechanic skills with limited resources. Students will learn to construct and wire a basic table lamp with a built-in USB charging port. Students will make and take their lamp. Wear close-toed shoes.

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## 2023 Maryland FFA State Convention Workshop and Tour Descriptions

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Option # 6A- Thinking Globally to Support Others Locally ATL2400 (Max 90)**

**1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenters- Mckenzie Mahler & Jenna Sassaman, Penn State College of Ag.**

How can we as FFA members help others feel valued and seen? How can our FFA chapter meet the needs of a local community? And what are those needs? These may seem like daunting questions, but the Global Teach Ag Network will help you explore each of them! This workshop will use the Sustainable Development Goals and food security to highlight how to bridge gaps within your community, cross-cultures, and identify needs that your FFA chapter can assist with.

**Option # 6B- Covers for Comfort, ESJ 1202 (Max 40)**

**1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenter- MD FFA Alumni & Supporters**

Be a part of the Maryland FFA Service Learning Project, Covers for Comfort, in making fleece blankets that will be distributed to hospitals across the state of Maryland to provide comfort for 500 children. This program was funded by a generous grant from the National FFA Association.

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**Option # 6C- Data Driven Diagnostics PHY 4221 (Max 40)**

**1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Nicole Fierellino, PhD UMD Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Agronomy**

Big data is changing how we make decisions in agriculture, so sign up to see how Dr. Fiorellino digs up the data she needs from our soils. Learn how agricultural producers use various tests and observations to make production decisions.

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**Option #6D- Wildlife ID, PLS 2107 (Max 13)**

**1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Dr. Shannon Brown, PhD UMD CWB**

Stop, look, who goes there? Learn how to Identify wildlife by their tracks, scat and skulls.

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**Option #6E- Nutrient Management, PLS 2137 (Max 13)**

**1 ½ Hour/repeat**

**Presenter- Dr. David Ruppert, PhD UMD Faculty**

Nutrient management is NOT one-size-fits-all. Learn the math behind nutrient management planning decisions.

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**Open to advisors only**

**Option # 7A- Navigating Academic Pathways, PHY 0405 (Max 20)                    2 Hours**

**Presenters- Meredith Epstein & Becky Jones, UMD Institute of Applied Agriculture**

Learn strategies for assisting students in navigating alternative academic pathways after graduation. This session will cover post-graduation academic and career advising for non-traditional pathways; internships, apprenticeships, certifications, and certificate programs. We will discuss how to help students find safe and meaningful educational experiences outside of the traditional 4-year college/university classroom. Specific programs in the state of Maryland will be described.

**Option # 7B- Ag Mechanics with Limited Tools, ANS 0504 (Max 20)                    2 Hours**

**Presenter- Thomas Mazzone, UMD Institute for Applied Agriculture**

This workshop will focus on incorporating Agricultural Mechanics with limited tools and resources. Participants will make and take a bottle opener. Please wear closed toed shoes.

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**Wednesday, June 28, 2023 10:30 am- 12:30 pm**

**Open to advisors only**

**Option # 8A- CRISPR Solution Tour, PLS 5112 (Max 12)                                    2 Hours**

**Presenter- Dr. Yiping Qi, UMD Depart. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture**

A CRISPR Solution to Global Food and Nutrition Security Lab is developing cutting-edge genome engineering technologies to boost foundational and translational research in crops. In this talk, he will first introduce some of his research on developing CRISPR genome engineering tools for genome editing and transcriptional regulation in plants. Then, he will give his lab's examples of the past, current, and future studies that apply these CRISPR tools to address food and nutrition security.

**Option # 8B- Greenhouse Troubleshooting, UMD Greenhouses (Max 20)                    2 Hours**

**Presenter- Dr. Diana Cochran, UMD Depart. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture**

This workshop will cover the basics of greenhouse operation and troubleshooting tactics. The workshop will include greenhouse sensors and controls.

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**Attention: After Convention Opportunity, on your own  
Must be pre-registered with Maryland FFA**

**Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:00- 4:00 pm**

**Option # 9A- UMD Small grains and Plant Pathology (Limit?) 2 Hours**

**Presenters- Dr. Nidhi Rawat, Dr. Vijay Tiwari, UMD Depart. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture**

Do you want to learn more about the small grains research happening in Maryland? Do you want to talk with research scientists and current students studying how we are working to solve today's agricultural problems? Which plant pathogens are threatening current crops. How do we help plants adapt quickly with current weather stressors? After the convention wraps at noon, let's explore what happens at our research facilities on campus and at a nearby research farm facility with Drs. Rawat and Tiwari. Note: Research hinges on weather and lab processes.

**Location directions:** The address is 12000 Beaver Dam Road Laurel, MD 20708

**Option # 9A- USDA Strawberry Research (Limit 30-50) 2 Hours**

**Presenter- Dr. Kim Lewers, USDA-ARS Genetic Improvement of Fruits and Vegetables Lab**

Discover the history of the plant breeding program and its advancements in Maryland and the mid Atlantic region. Observe current low tunnel research, crop rotation at a research facility in comparison to normal field cultivation and the RTK systems used with precision Ag research equipment. Let's explore breeding practices focused on studying the inheritance of important traits, the evaluation of those traits during growth stages, harvest and at post harvest intervals. Are you ready to see how breeding studies could help us respond to climate change challenges and why. Sign up now to explore the horticultural plant breeding program at the Beltsville USDA-ARS site.

**Location directions:**

1st travel to 10300 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville 20705 and park alongside Circle drive next to Building #003. (At this location security will check all individuals for identification (youth, adults & bus drivers, etc. Students may use school IDs) Next Dr. Kim Lewers will lead the bus to the North Farm location to begin the tour.

Interested tour participants must provide full name per the listing on their drivers license or Student ID and a phone number in advance for security purposes.

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