

# VIRGINIA Beginning Farmer & Rancher COALITION PROGRAM



[www.vabeginningfarmer.org](http://www.vabeginningfarmer.org) Winter 2018

## Continued Collaboration Between VBFRC Partners

The VBFRC has just concluded the 3rd year of our USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) grant project. This funding helped us provide numerous farmer trainings, resources, and networking opportunities across Virginia. We are happy to be able to share that our partnerships are carrying on past the end of this grant project. This newsletter highlights just *some* of the continued collaborative work and programming that is happening between VBFRC partners across the Commonwealth!

Whole farm planning courses and workshops will continue to take place throughout Virginia, alongside our Beginning Farmer Webinar Series and online materials, including resources on our website, YouTube channel, and social media sites. There will also be many new opportunities available for Virginia's new farmers this year. For example, Virginia State University will be working with socially disadvantaged and military veteran farmers, funded by a new BFRDP grant; VBFRC partners are addressing the women in agriculture audience and the issues of farm safety and farm land access and tenure; and we hope to see more collaborations come to life this year. We hope you are as excited as we are to have such diverse opportunities available for new farmers/ranchers in Virginia!

## Join the conversation online!

### Beginning Farmer Webinar Series

Our beginning farmer webinar series is ongoing. These webinars showcase important start-up topics and resources for beginning farmers and ranchers. Past webinars have covered a wide variety of topics, including: whole farm planning, access to credit, enterprise analysis, and more. If you are interested in seeing a webinar offered on a specific topic, or would like to be a webinar speaker, let us know at [vabeginningfarmer@vt.edu](mailto:vabeginningfarmer@vt.edu)!

### Social Media from the VBFRC

- ◆ VBFRC Website: [vabeginningfarmer.org](http://vabeginningfarmer.org)
- ◆ Read our Blog: [news.cals.vt.edu/vabeginningfarmer/](http://news.cals.vt.edu/vabeginningfarmer/)
- ◆ Like VBFRC on Facebook: [facebook.com/VABeginningFarmer/](https://facebook.com/VABeginningFarmer/)
- ◆ VBFRC YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/user/VABeginningFarmers](https://youtube.com/user/VABeginningFarmers)
- ◆ VBFRC Instagram: [instagram.com/vabeginningfarmer/](https://instagram.com/vabeginningfarmer/)
- ◆ VBFRC Flickr: [flickr.com/photos/virginiabeginningfarmers](https://flickr.com/photos/virginiabeginningfarmers)

## Programming Spotlight: VSU Assisting Socially Disadvantaged and Military Veteran Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Virginia State University has received a BFRDP grant to work with socially disadvantaged and military veteran beginning farmers and ranchers in 54 counties across Virginia. In a continued partnership with VBFRC, VSU will be educating beginning farmers in whole farm planning workshops and connecting them with a farmer mentor.



VBFRC Partners met in both January and July of 2017 to share stories of progress in their organizations, discuss the future of agriculture and farming in Virginia, and hear from several Virginia beginning farmers on a panel. Our next statewide meeting will be in July 2018!

## Whole Farm Planning Courses and Workshops in 2018

We are proud to announce that several of our Coalition partners will be offering whole farm planning courses and workshops this year! These events provide participants with classroom instruction, farmer-to-farmer networking, and resources from our VBFRC *Whole Farm Planning* curriculum and Coalition service provider network. **For more details, please visit the [Whole Farm Planning](#) page of our website.**

### VSU Whole Farm Planning for Beginners Series

Virginia State University, Small Farm Outreach Program — *full day workshops across Virginia, Feb-April 2018*

### Certified Farm Seekers Program

VA Farm Bureau Young Farmers and the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services — *networking and resource intensive self-study available throughout 2018*

### Sharing Knowledge & Building Community: An educational series for beginning farmers and ranchers

Virginia Tech's Catawba Sustainability Center — *multi-week course including a day farm tour, Feb-Mar 2018*

### Whole Farm Planning in Southwest Virginia

Appalachian Sustainable Development and VCE— *topical workshops and mentoring ongoing throughout 2018*

### Northern Piedmont Beginning Farmer Program

VCE and Fauquier Education Farm — *multiple-week course, Jan-Mar 2018*

The Virginia Beginning Farmer & Rancher Coalition is a state-wide and coalition-based Extension program, housed in Virginia Tech's Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education. Funding is sponsored by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Award #2017-70011-26861, and the Southern Risk Management Education Center Grant #545015. For more information, contact Kim Niewolny, Program Director and Extension Specialist, at [niewolny@vt.edu](mailto:niewolny@vt.edu) or 540-231-5784.

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