

# Newsblast

August 1, 2025

Photo by Bolanle Adebayo

## *A Message from VBFRC*

As August rolls in with its golden sunsets and the first hints of harvest, we hope this message finds you soaking up the season's abundance. This month, we're excited to share a fresh batch of programs, workshops, and events designed to support your growth, on the land and in the community. We hope you find something inspiring to carry you into the next season.

*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 was sponsored by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Award #2023-49400-40885.*

## *Partner Highlight*

Are you a new farmer ready to take your operation to the next level? Consider applying for our second round of the **Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Certification Program!**

### **What You'll Gain:**

- Practical training in whole farm planning, agribusiness production, financial management, and marketing strategies
- A strong peer network and expert one-on-one support
- A certificate of completion

### **Eligibility**

- 2+ years of operating your own farm business
- Actively pursuing farming as a profession
- Within your first 10 years of farm operation
- Based in VA, NC, or MD Eastern Shore

Apply By: August 18, 2025 at 5 PM EST

Note: Green underlined text is a link

## Announcements

### October 2025 - October 2026: Virginia Beginning Farmer & Rancher Certification Program Application Now Open!

Are you a new farmer ready to take your operation to the next level? Consider applying for our second round of the Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Certification Program!

#### **What You'll Gain:**

- Practical training in whole farm planning, agribusiness production, financial management, and marketing strategies
- A strong peer network and expert one-on-one support
- Access to in-person and virtual programming and resources
- A certificate of completion

#### **Eligibility**

- 2+ years of operating your own farm business
- Actively pursuing farming as a profession
- Commitment to growing your farm business
- Within your first 10 years of farm operation
- Based in VA, NC, or MD Eastern Shore

#### **Key Dates**

- Applications Open: July 14, 2025
- Apply By: August 18, 2025 at 5 PM EST
- Selections Announced: September 22, 2025
- Program Begins: October 2025
- Kickoff Meeting: Oct 15, 2025, in Norfolk (prior to VSU Small Farmers Conference)

Program Fee: \$50 (scholarships available).

### Time to Apply for the 2025 Alliance Application!

This is to announce that the Summer 2025 application for the [Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture](#) grant is now open through August 15, 2025! The Alliance is a USDA grant, administered by Virginia Tech, and is available to producers who farm in qualifying counties in Virginia. If your farm is located in any of the red counties, please contact the [Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District](#). If your farm is located in any of the blue or green counties, please contact the [Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District](#). More information is available below and on our [website](#). The district is offering technical assistance with navigating the program, learning about the program's requirements, and assisting with the online application. Assistance on How to Apply: [Click Here for a Video of Step-by-Step on how to apply](#).

### Secretary Rollins Announces \$60.9 Million in Disaster Assistance for Farmers in Virginia

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced additional U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance to help producers in the Commonwealth of Virginia recover from Hurricane Helene. In this agreement, VDACS is receiving \$60.9 million in funding to administer a program covering infrastructure, timber, and plasticulture losses in addition to market losses and future economic losses. This funding is part of the \$30 billion disaster assistance relief effort authorized by the *American Relief Act, 2025*. USDA is working with 14 different states, including Virginia, to develop and implement block grants to address the unique disaster recovery needs for each state. USDA, Governor Glenn Youngkin's office in Virginia, and VDACS have finalized a grant agreement that will cover

qualifying losses not addressed by other USDA disaster programs. Producers should look for additional program information available through the VDACS. Visit the [2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page](#) to track the status of USDA disaster assistance. The page is updated regularly and accessible through [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

### **January 22-23, 2026: Future Harvest's 27th Annual Conference Call for Proposal (Silver Spring, MD)**

Call for Workshop Proposals! Future Harvest's 27th Annual Conference will be held on January 22–23, 2026, in Silver Spring, Maryland, with the theme "Pivot, Care, Grow: Farmers and Communities Building Together." The planning team is now accepting proposals for 75–90 minute workshops on topics including farm production, marketing, soil health, policy, community, and more. Submit your proposal by August 15, 2025, to share your knowledge and connect with a vibrant, diverse community of farmers and food system changemakers! Questions? Email [conference@futureharvest.org](mailto:conference@futureharvest.org) with the subject line CONFERENCE.

### **FARMpreneurs Strategic Sprint Application**

The FARMpreneurs Strategic Sprint is a week-long, off-the-farm workshop for community-based farmers to build bold goals, grow leadership skills, and connect with peers. If you know a producer who might be a good fit, keep this on your radar—over 100 farmers will participate in 2026. [Learn more here!](#) Applications are open! The application period ends August 31st for winter 2026 cohorts.

### **Recognizing Conservation Excellence in Soybean Farming**

The American Soybean Association's 2026 Conservation Legacy Award honors U.S. soybean farmers using innovative, profitable, and environmentally sound practices. If you know a producer who fits the bill, encourage them to apply and share their story. Last year's South Region winners pictured, Benjamin and Shannon Tignor Ellis are from Champlain, VA! Applications are due by Sunday, August 31, 2025. [Learn more here!](#)

### **Public Comment Period Open: Draft Revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement**

The Chesapeake Bay Program has released an updated draft of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. This revision builds on the original 2014 agreement and seeks input from the public. Your feedback is essential to help shape the future of water quality and conservation efforts across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. [More info here!](#) All are welcome to submit feedback from July 1 to September 1, 2025. It will only be accepted via email to [comments@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:comments@chesapeakebay.net). The public is encouraged to provide specific feedback that indicates the sections and pages of the *Watershed Agreement* to which your comments apply. Please visit our [Planning for 2025 and Beyond](#) website for a link to the draft revised *Watershed Agreement*, an FAQ with more information on submitting feedback, and specifics on what has been updated with these revisions.

### **Save the Date: A Gathering of Watershed Leaders**

It's never too early to start planning for an event that brings together passionate leaders from agriculture and conservation to explore innovative strategies for meeting water quality goals across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The event will be on December 8–10. This is your chance to be part of meaningful conversations and collaborative solutions that support both agriculture and clean water. [More info here!](#)

### **Regenerative Agritourism Study - Virginia Tech**

Dini, a Ph.D. student, is currently conducting research on regenerative agritourism, including designing and promoting agritourism experiences in a regenerative farm. A regenerative agritourism experience might include: Farm stays or tours where visitors learn about regenerative practices such as composting, cover crops, or rotational grazing, Hands-on activities that support soil and ecosystem health (like planting native species or helping with low-impact harvesting), Opportunities for visitors to

understand how their food is grown in a way that gives back more than it takes from the land. If you are open to it, I'd love to schedule a time to talk at your convenience. I am currently recruiting participants for an in-depth interview for regenerative farmers and visitors who participated in their agritourism experience. The interviews will last from 45 minutes to 1 hour and will be conducted and recorded via Zoom video/audio calls, based on your convenience. If you are interested in participating in this interview or have any questions, please kindly contact Dini at [dinih@vt.edu](mailto:dinih@vt.edu) or 540-230-8322. A brief description of the study and the consent form that you can review before confirming your participation will be sent to you.

### **Agricultural Producers for the Local Food Exchange System Supplier Database**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs is committed to increasing the availability of local foods in school meals. The help of Maryland producers and aggregators is required to make the dream a reality. An upcoming opportunity for local food procurement for school meals will soon be post on [eMMA](#), a Maryland's new online procurement platform used to connect the vendor community with contracting opportunities from state, county, and local government entities. Registered vendors will receive notices of bid opportunities, can submit bid responses online, and may obtain bid results online. Future Harvest farmers, be prepared for upcoming opportunities from MSDE by registering in the eMMA procurement system! When registering on eMMA, producers must select a Commodity Code that will alert the system to which solicitations they are interested in.

Those codes and instructions are:

- Select the Commodity Code: 70000000 - Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Contracting Services, as a preliminary (primary) code
- Select the Commodity Code: 50000000 – Food, Beverage, and Tobacco Products, as a secondary code

Additional Commodity Codes from the list in eMMA (e.g., fruits, vegetables, dairy products, beans, poultry products, etc.) can be added after completing the registration process.

## **Series**

### **Landowners' Legacy Planning Workshops**

Generation NEXT, a Program of the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, exists to help landowners and their families engage in legacy planning for their rural land. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the Program will offer three more learning opportunities in 2025.

- **Full Generation NEXT Workshop.** August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, evening plus full day, at Montpelier in Orange County. This standard full workshop offers presentations and the opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts as well as experienced fellow landowners. *Registration open at [Landowners Legacy Planning Workshops](#)*
- **Full Generation NEXT Workshop.** October 4, full day, in Farmville. This standard full workshop offers presentations and the opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts as well as experienced fellow landowners. More information will be available when registration opens in early August.
- **Mini Generation NEXT Workshop.** November 8, half day, in southeast Virginia. This half-day workshop will feature shorter presentations and provide opportunities to interact with experts in legal, financial, and conservation fields. More information will be available when registration opens in early September.

Learn more, download fliers and other resources, or register on the [Generation NEXT website](#). Contact Karen Snape, Extension Associate, at 540-231-6494 or [ksnape@vt.edu](mailto:ksnape@vt.edu) with any questions, including accessibility requests.

### **Agroforestry Trainings for Natural Resource Professionals: Registration Open (Multi-State)**

Are you a land manager or natural resource advisor looking to strengthen your agroforestry knowledge? This professional development series, led by Appalachian Sustainable Development and its partners, offers in-person and online training on the fundamentals of silvopasture, alley cropping, and forest farming. Ideal for those who provide technical assistance in forestry and land stewardship.

- August 14-15: Forest Farming Intensive (Syria, VA)
- Friday, September 26, 2025: Silvopasture Fundamentals (Carthage, TN)

### **Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Lunch Tours**

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program partners with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation to offer an annual series of Tree Farm Tours. These tours bring woodland owners together to visit an active Tree Farm, learn about the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation, and provide fellowship among those who care about healthy woods and active woodland management. You do not need to be a Tree Farmer to attend.

- August 22 - Dick Porterfield, King & Queen County
- September 4 - Raccoon Creek Pinelands, Sussex County – 2025 Tree Farm of the Year!
- September 15 – Demeter Tree Farm, Bland County – 2024 Tree Farm of the Year!
- September 19 - C. Furnace Lutheran Camp, Shenandoah County
- September 26 - Sowder Tree Farm, Montgomery County

### **Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours**

Join landowners, natural resource professionals, and other outdoor lovers for day-long tours that explore a variety of sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices. Tours visit private, public, and industry-owned lands. Past tours have visited seedling nurseries, timber harvesting operations, sawmills, pine plantations, cooperages, hardwood forests, arboretums, Christmas tree farms, elk habitat, fisheries, hunting plantations, and more.

- October 2, Henry County
- October 9, Wise County
- October 17, Frederick County
- October TBA, Virginia Beach

Agendas and registration available in August.

### **Building Resilience in Forage and Livestock Systems— Virtual Engagement Series**

The collaborative series focuses on practical strategies for enhancing the resilience of forage and livestock systems under extreme weather conditions. Experts will cover topics on livestock health and management, forage production, and share information on resources available through the USDA Southeast Climate Hub and Natural Resources Conservation Service. There will also be a roundtable discussion where producers and experts will share real-world insights. All online sessions are free and from noon to 1 pm ET. Pre-registration is required.

- Date TBA: Adapting Together: USDA and NRCS: Resources to Withstand Disturbance
- Date TBA: Building Resilience to Forage and Livestock Operations in the Southeast Roundtable

Please don't hesitate to contact Dr. da Silva ([Iseveri@clermson.edu](mailto:Iseveri@clermson.edu)) if you have any questions.

### **Generation NEXT Legacy Planning**

Discussions about what happens to family forestland when mom and dad die are difficult. A well thought out plan can help things go smoothly. In this series, experts will provide useful techniques to help you plan for the future of your land.

- Legacy Planning Workshop
  - August 15, 5:00 – 7:30 PM & August 16, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
  - [James Madison's Montpelier](#), Montpelier Station
  - Register [by mail](#)
  - Register [online](#)
- Legacy Planning Workshop
  - October 4
  - Farmville
  - Agenda and registration available in August
- Legacy Planning Workshop
  - November 8
  - Norfolk or Hampton Roads
  - Agenda and registration available in September.

## 4 the Soil Highlights



### **S5 - E15: Confidence and Knowledge through Mentorship with Dara Booher, Pt. II**

Building confidence and knowledge through mentorship is necessary for farmers to overcome fears and take bigger steps towards meeting their goals. Dara Booher wears many educational hats. Dara is the coordinator of the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council's farmer-mentor program and the facilitator of the Virginia Farmer Mentor Network, a collaboration of Virginia State University, the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council, the Virginia No-Till Alliance (VANTAGE), and Virginia Tech's Eastern Shore Agriculture Research and Education Center (AREC). In her work with youth and farmers, Dara recommends getting to know people and meeting them where they are, particularly for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and understanding people's goals, aspirations, and motivations.

### **S5 - E14: Youth Education and Soil Health with Dara Booher, Pt. I**

Soil and agriculture provide us with something every day. Dara Booher is an agricultural educator with Shenandoah County Public Schools and a farmer-mentor coordinator with the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council and the Virginia Soil Health Coalition. Dara loves talking to youth and others about soil and agriculture. In this episode, Dara shares her enthusiasm for youth education and soil health with Mary, Eric, and Jeff, along with many teaching and demonstration resources (e.g., Enviroscape, Soil Your



Undies, etc.) for immersive experiences and classroom fun. Dara recommends the [National Agriculture in the Classroom](#) teacher center for lesson plans and a full suite of educational resources. Additionally, Dara encourages farmers to visit the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council's [website](#) for farmer-to-farmer networking opportunities.

**[4 the Soil Blog](#)** Check out the latest 4 the Soil blog!

## August

### **August 2, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Plant Clinic with Extension Master Gardeners at the Farmers Market – 4 (King George, VA)**

If you're tackling challenging garden problems or simply curious about your plants, the Extension Master Gardeners are here to help. They'll be hosting a Plant Clinic at the King George Farmers Market on select Saturdays this summer: May 3, June 7, July 5, and August 2, from 8 AM to 12 PM.

### **Aug 02, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Garden Mastery Series: Fertilizer (Monterey, VA)**

Join the Village for Master Gardener Emeritus Pamm McDowell throughout 2025 for a series of educational workshops. In this workshop, Pamm will be teaching how to make natural, homemade fertilizers for your garden vegetables, flowers, and shrubs. She will show that many materials can provide vital nutrients to your garden — some are even free to make! She will also discuss different store-bought fertilizers. Please contact us if you require financial assistance to attend the event.

### **August 2, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM: Field Skills for Family Woodland Owners Field Trip (Appomattox, VA)**

This field trip will provide an opportunity to practice tree identification, measurement, and valuation, as well as take a tour to observe active forest management practices in action. Breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and transportation for the field tour are provided. Register [online](#). Free for current Online Woodland Options Students, please email [jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu) to register.

### **August 2, 9:30 AM- 4:00 PM: Coop Camp - Chicks & Chickens, Care & Harvesting (Foster, VA)**

Join a hands-on chicken-raising workshop! This full-day, on-farm workshop is perfect for anyone interested in raising chickens for eggs, meat, or both. Gain real-world knowledge and hands-on experience in a supportive, working farm environment. Tour highlights include farm tour and humane harvesting. Dress for outdoor farm activities. Space is limited—register early! For more information, contact Derrick Gooden at 804-586-5352 or [dgooden@vsu.edu](mailto:dgooden@vsu.edu).

### **August 05, 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM: Pesticide Collection Program (Chesapeake, VA)**

Open to all agricultural producers, pesticide dealers, pest control firms, golf courses and homeowners. You are responsible for the drop-off. Contact VDACS at (804) 371-6561 or your local ANR Extension agent for exceptions (unknown pesticide/amounts > 3,000lbs.) Pre-registration is recommended at: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov>. Paper registration forms are also available at your local extension office.

### **August 5, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM: Southside Sustainable Agriculture Tour (Charlotte Court House, VA)**

Join the guided tour of the Southside Produce Auction, featuring insights into planting, growing, and harvesting techniques used by Southside Virginia farmers. The event also features a live auction experience, accompanied by discussions on preparation, buying, selling, and networking strategies for achieving agricultural success. For more info, contact: Marilyn Estes at 804.481.0485 | [mestes@vsu.edu](mailto:mestes@vsu.edu)

### **August 5, 10:00 AM 2:00 PM: What is Heirs Property (Rapidan, VA)**

Heirs' property refers to family land that passes from one generation to the next through inheritance, often without a deed, will, or formal estate planning strategy. This workshop is designed to educate landowners and their heirs on the topic of heirs' property, covering estate planning, land transition,

access, and succession. It will provide tools, resources, and guidance to help families navigate land inheritance issues and enhance communication to maintain family land ownership. For more information, contact Roland Terrell at 804-892-4612 or [rterrell@vsu.edu](mailto:rterrell@vsu.edu).

**August 05, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Smart Money Management (Virtual)**

This seminar combines income, Expenses, Assets, and Liabilities management into a single two-hour session. It examines spending habits, explains net worth and cash flow, and offers better credit and debt management tools, while guiding you in creating a personalized spending plan.

**August 7, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM: Virginia Ag Expo (Locust Grove, VA)**

Don't miss Virginia's largest agricultural field day, showcasing the latest in research, equipment, and industry trends.

**August 8, 4:00 – 6:00 PM: Mobility Alliance Meeting + Social (Charlottesville, VA)**

Do you like to walk, bike, run, or paddle – or just move freely in fresh air? The [Piedmont Mobility Alliance](#) is a coalition focused on making it easier and safer to get outdoors. This informal gathering will provide an opportunity to learn, share, and collaborate, with a special emphasis on connectivity along the Rivanna River. All are welcome! There will be beer specials, plenty of non-alcoholic options, snacks, plus pizza and pretzels for purchase.

**Aug 9, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Basic Skills for Meeting Mushrooms: A Mushroom ID Class & Walk (Monterey, VA)**

Learn the basics of how to identify and forage mushrooms safely! This class is highly approachable, with an emphasis on developing skills of observation that will assist you in identifying all kinds of interesting, edible, medicinal, and poisonous mushrooms and fungi. Gathering is at our starting point, discuss a simple framework for observing and contextualizing important identifying information about mushrooms you encounter, then go for an ID walk and seek out different fungal friends who can help us practice our skills. Along the way, we will discuss the biology and ecology of fungi and how to connect that with observations. Throughout the class, there will be working together to ID any interesting finds and discuss further steps and techniques to refine that identification.

**August 9, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Bird Box Workshop (Charlottesville, VA)**

Join [Building Goodness Foundation](#) to learn how to build a nest box and do your part to boost bluebird conservation efforts in Virginia. Attendees will be building the boxes to support the Piedmont Environmental Council's work to regrow grassland bird populations. All participants will also get to take one box home. No construction experience is necessary, and all tools and materials will be provided. PEC will explain the importance of grassland birds and demonstrate how to take care of your new bird box. Spots are limited, so register today at <https://www.buildinggoodness.org/>.

**August 13, 9:30 - 11:30 AM: KuneKune Pigs (Petersburg, VA)**

A very docile, friendly-natured small breed of domesticated pig from New Zealand may be your missing link with introducing swine to your homestead. With their wide color range, hairy, rotund build, and a desire to turn the soil like an organic plow, the KuneKune (COO-nee COO-nee) naturally adds dung to the soil for fertility to support the next growing season. Charles Allen and Jean Howard of CA & J Farm in Foster, Virginia, will be on hand to discuss their experiences with KuneKune pigs, including lifespan, housing, and diet, as well as reflect on their experiences within their 5-acre off-grid homestead. Learn why this highly intelligent and extremely social livestock variety may be the addition to your small farm that you didn't know you needed. This workshop will include a brief classroom lecture followed by a live feeding and hands-on portion in a field within walking distance. Contact Ben Dukes for more info: (804) 731-7916 | [bdukes@vsu.edu](mailto:bdukes@vsu.edu).



**August 13, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: No Waste cooking (Chase City, VA)**

Learn how to minimize food waste by using every part of seasonal fruits, vegetables, and herbs. This workshop covers creative ways to repurpose scraps and peels, along with tips on composting, smart shopping, proper storage, and sustainable kitchen habits. Discover practical 'No Waste' practices that benefit your home, your wallet, and the planet. For more info, contact: Wanda Johnson at 434.632.9701 | [wjohnson@vsu.edu](mailto:wjohnson@vsu.edu)

**August 13, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Digital Roots: Computer Literacy for Farmers (Location to be decided)**

Digital Roots: Computer Literacy for Farmers is a hands-on workshop designed to equip farmers with essential entry-level digital skills. Ideal for farmers who need to gain computer skills and practical tools to improve efficiency, want to bridge the digital divide, access services, and grow a farm business in today's connected world. To build and support farm management and communication, participants will learn how to navigate computers, tablets, and/or smartphones, use email and digital mailing systems, search for reliable agricultural resources, and access USDA and agricultural support service tools online. This workshop also introduces the basics of AI, graphics, and word processing software, as well as record-keeping using Excel or Google Sheets. It explores how to market farm products effectively using social media. For more information, contact Tabitha Bugg at (804) 892-2997 or [tbugg@vsu.edu](mailto:tbugg@vsu.edu).

**August 13, 3:00- 5:00 PM: Irrigation Workshop (Nelson County, VA)**

Join Chandler and Timothy Oliver Jr. for an inspiring evening at Woodcot Farm for kick off a new community garden initiative! This hands-on tour and workshop will explore the key steps in establishing a thriving garden, including fencing techniques, no-dig methods, laying cardboard, spreading mushroom compost, and the importance of teamwork in sustainable agriculture. Participants will also learn about the installation of a simple irrigation system to ensure crops receive consistent water throughout the season. All produce grown through this project will be donated to local food banks—nourishing our neighbors and strengthening our community. Come ready to learn, connect, and grow something that matters. For more information, contact Michael Carter Sr at 804-481-1163 or [mcarter@vsu.edu](mailto:mcarter@vsu.edu).

**August 13, 5:00 -7:00 PM: Farm & Farm Equipment Safety (Unionville, VA)**

Farm machinery is dangerous. One-third of farm work fatalities involve farm machinery, ATVs, tractors, and other farm implements. Tractor overturns, roll-overs, power take-offs (PTO), run-overs, and implement entanglements are the most common causes of injury or death. Farm machinery should be operated by individuals who have received proper training. For more information, contact Michael Carter Sr at 804-481-1163 or [mcarter@vsu.edu](mailto:mcarter@vsu.edu).

**August 13, 6:30 -7:30 PM: Maximizing Tax Strategies & Grant Funding Opportunities (Virtual)**

Join Katherine LaBoy (BW Finance) and Michael Carter Jr. (Carter Farms & Africulture) for a virtual session focused on strengthening your farm's financial foundation. Topics will include tax planning by business entity type, grant eligibility and application tips, creating key financial statements, record keeping essentials (P&L, balance sheet), and strategies for accessing financing. This is ideal for farmers looking to plan, improve profitability, and position their operations for long-term success! For more info, contact: Roland Terrell at 804.892.4612 | [rterrell@vsu.edu](mailto:rterrell@vsu.edu)

**August 13, 7:00- 8:00 PM: Agricultural Finance, Tax, and Asset Protection (Virtual)**

Learn how to navigate farm taxes and protect your assets through the AgFTAP education program, supported by USDA-FSA. This workshop introduces valuable courses, resources, and a network of expert support available through the AgFTAP online portal. Gain practical skills to manage and grow a successful, resilient farm business. For more info, contact: Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 | [bdukes@vsu.edu](mailto:bdukes@vsu.edu)

**August 14, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Shenandoah Valley Young Farmers Coalition (Port Republic, VA)**

Connect with fellow young farmers (ages 20–40) for an evening of learning, sharing, and community. This event features a tour of Chappy Poff Farm's milk goats, meat birds, and fruit production, followed by a potluck meal. Open to all—young farmers especially encouraged to attend. Bring a dish and join us for a relaxed, informative gathering! For more information, please contact Marian Dalke at 540-232-6010 or [mdalke@vsu.edu](mailto:mdalke@vsu.edu).

**August 14, 6:30 - 7:30 PM: Profitable Roots: Solar Possibilities (Unionville, VA)**

Discover the fundamentals of solar energy and its benefits for your farming operation. Topics include solar panel installation, practical uses, regulations, incentive programs, and emerging innovations. Led by Michael Carter Jr. (Carter Farms & Africulture) and engineers from R.A.S.T.A Farms, this session will dispel common myths and highlight real opportunities for integrating solar power on the farm. For more info, contact: Michael Carter Sr. at 804.481.1163 | [mcarter@vsu.edu](mailto:mcarter@vsu.edu)

**August 14, 4:30-7 PM: 4-H Clover Connections: Rockingham County Fair**

Join fellow Virginia 4-H Alumni and Friends for an evening enjoying the Rockingham County Fair! Network with 4-Hers, their families, and friends of Virginia 4-H that are in and around the Shenandoah Valley area. The gathering is for a 4-H Clover Connection in the Grandstand area beginning at 4:30 pm. Guests will hear remarks from Associate Director, Youth Programs and State 4-H Leader Jeremy Johnson, as well as opportunities for connections with other Extension and 4-H leaders. Complimentary food and drinks will be provided. Your ticket does not include entry into the rodeo. If you are interested in learning more about the events taking place as a part of the Rockingham County Fair, please visit <https://www.rockinghamcountyfair.com/>

**August 14-15, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM: Forest Farming 201: Design Intensive, (Syria, VA)**

Are you ready to deepen your roots in the world of forest farming and empower landowners across Virginia? Join the 2-day immersive training tailored for those who guide and support land managers. This program is designed to equip you with the tools, insights, and confidence to advise on the stewardship and profitability of forest-based agricultural systems. Featuring: Classroom instruction with experts, presentations by forest farmers, hands-on activities, technical field exercises, and interactive design activities. Continuing education credits to include NRCS Planner Certification Contact Hours, SAF Continuing Forestry Education Credits, and DCR Conservation Planner Credits. Pre-requisite requirements include completion of the forest farming online module, attendance of a Forest Farming 101 Fundamentals course, or equivalent experience. The online module is free, and a coupon code will be provided upon registration. For more information, visit [asdevelop.org/ATFNRP](https://asdevelop.org/ATFNRP) or contact Katie Trozzo at [ketrozzo@vt.edu](mailto:ketrozzo@vt.edu). The event is free with lodging and meals included.

**August 15, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Intermediate Beekeeping and Integrated Pest Management (Petersburg, VA)**

Join the in-person educational event focused on managing two significant threats to honey bees in North America: the Varroa mite and the small hive beetle. Highlights include Lecture by Keith Tignor, Virginia State Apiarist (VDACS), pest life cycles, identification, sampling, and IPM strategies, live hive demonstration at VSU's beeyard, and hands-on instruction in pest inspection and control. Attendees must bring their protective gear (veil or bee jacket, gloves, and closed-toe shoes). Light refreshments provided (coffee, donuts, and snacks). For more info, contact: Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 | [bdukes@vsu.edu](mailto:bdukes@vsu.edu)

**August 15, 5:00 PM – August 16, 5:00 5P M: Generation NEXT Workshop: Landowner Legacy Planning**

Generation NEXT, a program of the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, exists to help landowners and their families engage in legacy planning for their rural land. This full workshop, which includes an evening portion on August 15, followed by a full-day session on August 16

at Montpelier in Orange County, offers presentations and the opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts, as well as experienced fellow landowners. PEC will serve as one of the presenters. More information will be available when registration opens in early June. Learn more, download fliers, or register on the [Generation NEXT website](#). Contact Karen Snape, Extension Associate, at 540-231-6494 or [ksnape@vt.edu](mailto:ksnape@vt.edu) with questions or requests, including accessibility requests.

**August 15, 7:30 PM: Virginia Cotton Growers Field Day & Tidewater AREC Peanut Tour Suffolk, VA).**

Check-in/Registration begins at 7:30 AM; tours start at 8:00 AM; lunch is served at noon. You will learn PGR Management, variety evaluation, integration of pest management and agronomic management, and more! Contact: Hunter Frame, Field Crops Agronomist [whframe@vt.edu](mailto:whframe@vt.edu)

**August 16, 9:00 AM - August 17, 3:00 PM: Pathways 2 Progress: Workforce Readiness (Petersburg, VA)**

Join an engaging professional development series designed to equip adults with the essential skills for career advancement. Participants will: Learn effective goal-setting strategies, develop key soft skills, including communication, teamwork, and professionalism, gain practical experience crafting polished résumés and compelling cover letters, create a video cover letter to stand out in today's job market, and receive a complimentary professional headshot. Don't miss this opportunity to build confidence and sharpen your career readiness! Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM each day. Open to the public | Limited to 30 participants. For more information, contact Novita Epps at 804-524-2312 or [Nepps@vsu.edu](mailto:Nepps@vsu.edu).

**August 19, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Small Farm Orientation (Virtual)**

Join Ben Dukes and Derrick Gooden from VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program, along with Dr. Nartea from the Integrated Marketing Program, for a two-hour introductory course on building a productive and profitable farm. Participants will receive a Small Farm Orientation Manual and practical guidance to kick-start their farming journey. Perfect for beginning farmers (0–5 Years of Experience). For more info, contact: Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 | [bdukes@vsu.edu](mailto:bdukes@vsu.edu)

**August 19, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: DC Urban Farmer Gathering: Financial and Technical Assistance Info Session (Washington, DC)**

Join East Capitol Urban Farm on August 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM to learn how to grow your urban farming business. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced farmer, this event will provide valuable insights and resources to help you succeed, including On-farm demonstrations led by Marla Holland, funding opportunities from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), resources available through the D.C. Office of Environment and Energy (DOEE), valuable information on farm insurance from Janet Fowler. Don't miss this chance to network with fellow farmers and industry experts. Snacks and drinks will be provided. See you there!

**August 20, 9:00 - 11:30 AM: Grazing and Pasture Management for Small Farmers (Ettrick, VA)**

Join an exciting workshop designed specifically for cattle and small ruminant farmers! Learn how to take your grazing and pasture management to the next level—boost herd health, increase weight gains, and improve profitability, all while building better soil and stronger forages. The event will cover everything from optimizing forage quality and understanding animal grazing behaviors to planning for drought and maximizing your winter grazing potential. Whether you're new to livestock or looking to sharpen your skills, this session is packed with practical strategies you can apply right away. Contact Tim Sexton for more info: (804) 524-1028 | [tsexton@vsu.edu](mailto:tsexton@vsu.edu)

**August 20, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Lunch & learn series: Biosecurity – Tips for Protecting Your Farm from Unwanted Visitors (Virtual)**

Presented by Dr. Chris Fletcher, VDACS Regional Veterinary Supervisor. Join an informative session on protecting your farm from disease threats. Topics include on-farm biosecurity practices, disease prevention strategies, and overviews of the Secure Wool Supply and Secure Beef Supply programs. Ideal

for livestock producers and anyone interested in safeguarding agricultural operations. For more information, contact Amanda Fletcher at 804-892-0108 or [afletcher@vsu.edu](mailto:afletcher@vsu.edu).

**August 22, 9:00 AM: Central Virginia Crops Expo (Brookneal, VA)**

Save the Date!! The Central Virginia Crops Expo will take place on August 22, 2025, at 1838 Hat Creek Road, Brookneal, VA 24528. More information will be shared soon.

**August 22, 9:00 – 4:00 AM: Greenhouse and Nursery Crop School (Bealeton, VA)**

Join the Greenhouse and Nursery Crop School on August 22, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Carver Center in Rapidan, VA. This event includes an afternoon tour of Piedmont Farm and Greenhouse in Bealeton, VA, and offers recertification credits for Virginia Private Pesticide Applicator Category 91. For questions or to register, contact Ashley Appling at [ashappling@vt.edu](mailto:ashappling@vt.edu) or 540-727-3435 Ext. 355.

**August 23, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Drip Irrigation: Efficient Water & Nutrient Delivery for Healthier Crops (Unionville, VA)**

Learn the fundamentals of drip irrigation, focusing on system design, installation, and maximizing efficiency in water and nutrient delivery directly to plant roots. Ideal for those involved in urban agriculture, vegetable, fruit & flower production, as well as sustainable farming practices, high tunnels & greenhouse systems. Gain practical knowledge to enhance crop performance and conserve resources. For more info, contact: Roland Terrell at 804.892.4612 | [rterrell@vsu.edu](mailto:rterrell@vsu.edu)

**August 23, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Small Tools & Equipment Demo at The Farm at Kelly Miller (Washington, DC)**

Join Farm Manager Autumn Herbert and Johnny's Seeds Territorial Representative Lauren Kendall Shane to learn all about small tools and equipment. They will conduct demonstrations of various tools, with plenty of time for questions and for you to try the tools yourself. This includes an intro to the BCS walk-behind tractor as well. This event is FREE. Lunch will be provided.

**August 25, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Intermediate Class: Cottage Law (Virtual)**

Learn about cottage food laws. This allows people to prepare food in their own homes or small kitchens (rather than commercial facilities) and sell it to the public. It encourages entrepreneurship for those who want to make food as a side business or hobby, such as baking, preserving, or making jams and jellies. This class is conducted virtually via Zoom.

**August 26, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Beginner Class: Composting (Virtual)**

This lesson will explain why we compost, how to compost, and the many benefits of using your compost in your garden. This is a virtual class and will be held through Zoom.

**August 26, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Increasing Your Value by Telling Your Story (Virtual and Unionville, VA)**

It's one thing every farming operation has, and that's a story. Michael Carter Jr. of Carter Farms and Africulture will take you on a creative storytelling journey to help you cultivate your story, perfect your elevator pitch, increase your market value, and stand out from the pack. This tailored workshop will work with each farming operation individually to customize and craft your farm story for greater interest, value, and profit. Your story should be your farm's best-selling commodity, and let us help you make that a reality. For more information, contact Michael Carter Sr at (804) 481-1163 or [mcarter@vsu.edu](mailto:mcarter@vsu.edu).

# September

## **September 4, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: Nature Journaling Workshop (Crozet, VA)**

Join the [Piedmont Environmental Council](#) and [Botanical Artist Lara Call Gastinger](#) at [Montfair Resort Farm](#) for a nature journaling workshop. PEC will lead participants out into the grasslands to discuss their importance as a habitat before they begin their journaling. There will be sketch of grassland species (including plants, birds, and insects) to get better acquainted with this unique ecosystem. Whether you're an experienced artist or a curious beginner, this workshop will give you the tools to see nature in a whole new way. This event is free and open to all, but space is limited; therefore, [registration is required](#). Learn more about the Piedmont Environmental Council's work with the Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative to bring back our grassland bird population at [vagrasslandbirds.org](#).

## **September 5- 6: Southeast Virginia: Beyond the Basics Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat (Charlottesville, VA)**

Advanced Woodland Owner Retreats are hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension and are geared towards landowners who have some experience with forest management. Advanced Retreats delve deeply into a specific forestry topic. They also provide opportunities for interaction with natural resource professionals from various agencies in Virginia, as well as with other landowners. A combination of classroom instruction, field trips, and hands-on activities is used. Agenda and registration available in July. Contact Jennifer Gagnon, [jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu), 540-231-6391, for more information.

## **September 6, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Homestead Mushroom Cultivation: Gardens, Lawns and Woodlots (Monterey, VA)**

Learn the ins and outs of incorporating mushrooms into a homestead landscape—practical advice for growing outdoors in multiple environments using widely available methods, materials, and species. The lesson will cover the basics of fungal biology and its application to cultivation, including the three most common outdoor growing practices, how to maintain your mushrooms from year to year, how to induce fruiting, and how to harvest them. The day will end with a discussion of what to do with the mushrooms you harvest, whether edible or not. Please contact us if you require financial assistance to attend the event.

## **Sep 6, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Yoga and Herbalism (Monterey, VA)**

Join us for a day of tending. The event begin with a welcome circle and orientation to the village/land, followed by a Yoga class with a grounding meditation, multilevel asana flow, and pranayama (breathing) practice. Before lunch, we'll have time for quiet, nature reflection with a guiding prompt. The event will provide a vegan lunch before delving into an herbal body-care making workshop, and conclude with an optional sauna. As our society moves forward at an ever-increasing pace, it becomes essential to create space and time to prioritize our wellness. Having the support of the community offers us permission to care for and return to ourselves.

## **September 9, 9:30 AM- 12:00 PM: South-Central Pumpkin Field Day (Kenbridge, VA)**

Attend South-Central Pumpkin Field Day at the Parrish Pumpkin Patch, 2571 Dundas RD. You can RSVP at the Charlotte Extension Office at (434) 542-5884 or the Lunenburg Office at (434) 696-5526.

## **September 9-10: Controlled Environment Agriculture Summit East 2025**

[The Controlled Environment Agriculture \(CEA\) Summit East](#) is returning to the IALR Conference Center in Danville, Virginia, on September 9-10, 2025, to cover a wide variety of topics related to greenhouse production, vertical farms, and indoor agriculture. Co-hosted by Virginia Tech and the [Institute for Advanced Learning and Research](#) (IALR) [Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center](#) in



partnership with [Indoor Ag-Con](#), this event brings together industry leaders, researchers, educators, and growers for two days. The conference schedule includes: Keynote presentations and research showcases, networking opportunities, and [tabletop exhibits](#), including CEA suppliers, a graduate student poster competition, and a guided tour of the CEA Innovation Center that includes additional educational content and research updates, in-depth 1.5-hour education sessions focused on CEA Skills, Business, and Workforce Development & Training. There is a [registration scholarship for Extension personnel](#).

#### **September 13, 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM: 2025 Stomp-Salute to the soil (Ruckersville, VA)**

Join the 2025 Stomp - Salute to the Soil in Greene County, hosted by Living Free Together, Cattle Run Farm, Virginia Career Works - Piedmont, and Minority Veteran Farmers of the Piedmont. This event honors the service and sacrifice of those who serve us, highlighting the healing power of nature and the transformative potential of farming. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, this community event is free for veterans and first responders, with a low fee for community members and their families. Enjoy country music, line dancing, crafts, a petting farm, and workshops in beekeeping, livestock and poultry raising, and gardening tips from master gardeners and generational farmers. Let's gather and celebrate the gifts that nature has to offer!

#### **September 18, 5:00 – 8:00 PM: Southwest VA Pumpkin Field Day (Laurel Fork, VA)**

Join us for the Southwest VA Pumpkin Field Day on September 18th from 5:00–8:00 PM in Laurel Fork, VA! Tour two pumpkin variety trials and a spacing trial, hear from VCE specialists, and enjoy dinner at Sky View Church in Fancy Gap. RSVP by September 11 to Ashley Edwards at [aledwards@vt.edu](mailto:aledwards@vt.edu) or 276-733-8738.

#### **September 19 – 21: Soil to Body: How Regenerative Agriculture Enhances Human Health (The Plains, VA)**

Join a one-of-a-kind immersive and eye-opening weekend that brings together farmers, food retailers and processors, health professionals, chefs, scientists, and healthy eaters to explore how regeneratively grown food nourishes our bodies, our land, and our communities. Hosted at the beautiful Kinloch Farm in The Plains, Virginia, this event is more than a workshop—it's a full-sensory journey into soil, flavor, and healing. Over three days, you'll enjoy field demonstrations, hands-on food and farming experiences, expert-led panels, and unforgettable meals crafted from nutrient-dense, regeneratively grown ingredients. Come hungry for knowledge—and leave with tools to grow, cook, and source food that heals.

#### **September 20, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Wood and Wildlife Conference**

Join the first-ever south-central Virginia/north central North Carolina landowner Woods & Wildlife Conference. Modeled after the ever-popular Woods & Wildlife Conferences in Culpeper and southwest Virginia, this one-day event will consist of concurrent sessions and a tour of the nearby Roseburg Forest Products mill.

#### **September 20, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Garden Mastery Series: Seed Saving (Monterey, VA)**

Join us here at The Village for Master Gardener Emeritus Pamm McDowell throughout 2025 for a series of educational workshops. In this workshop, Pamm teaches you how to save seeds for your future garden beds, as well as discussing the best way to harvest and store vegetable and flower seeds. Tickets are \$20.00 each; however, scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance. Please contact us if you require financial assistance to attend the event.

#### **September 25, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM: Agroforestry Farm Tour series: Silvopasture at Caney Fork Farm**

Join a tour of a working silvopasture system where sheep rotationally graze a mix of grass species. This system supports soil health, forage growth, and livestock while contributing to carbon sequestration. Participants will see tree plantings designed to benefit biodiversity, habitat, and forage. The site includes



hard and soft mast-producing trees that support wildlife and grazing animals. The majority of the trees are chestnuts, but many other species are also represented. Trees integrated into the pasture provide shade for sheep, improved soil carbon storage, and enhanced forage production. There will be discussions on the management of multi-species tree plantings and forage systems, focusing on their effects on soil fertility, pasture resilience, and productivity. This tour is for farmers, land managers, and researchers. Registration is required. Registration is coming soon!

**September 25, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM: Beginner Farm Finance and Conservation Seminar (Suffolk, VA)**

You are invited to a free event for beginning farmers to discover farm financing options and cost-share conservation opportunities. The event is hosted by the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry of the VA. Lunch is provided courtesy of the sponsor, Suffolk Economic Development. Email [jhillegass@suffolkva.us](mailto:jhillegass@suffolkva.us) with any questions.

**September 27, 4:30 PM: PEC Farm-to-Table Dinner and Virtual Auction**

Save the date for PEC's annual farm-to-table event and virtual auction. Event website: [pecva.org/woodside](http://pecva.org/woodside). More to come! *Questions? Contact Montana Lanier Ruffner at [mlanier@pecva.org](mailto:mlanier@pecva.org).*

**September 29, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Intermediate Class: Advanced Season Extension (Virtual)**

Learn about techniques used to extend the growing season for plants. This allows gardeners to grow crops for a longer period of time, either earlier in the spring or later into the fall. This class is conducted virtually via Zoom.

**September 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Beginner Class: Season Extension**

Learn about techniques used to extend the growing season for plants. This allows gardeners to grow crops for a longer period of time, either earlier in the spring or later into the fall. This is a virtual class and will be held through Zoom.

## October

**October 4, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Garden Mastery Series: Soil Health (Monterey, VA)**

Join The Village as they host Master Gardener Emeritus Pam McDowell throughout 2025 for a series of educational workshops. October is a great time to improve your soil health for next year's growth. In this workshop, Pam will discuss soil testing, soil amendments, and protecting soil from winter wind and precipitation. She will also go over why learning pH is so important to your soil and your garden. Please contact us if you are in need of financial support to attend the event.

**October 12, 4:00 – 7:00 PM: "Barn to Run" 4-Miler for Agriculture (Abingdon, VA)**

Join ASD to celebrate 30 years of growing a stronger Appalachia through agriculture! This family-friendly event will be held at The Meadows Sports Complex, 78 Cook Street, Abingdon, VA. Wear your best fruit or veggie costume or dress like your favorite farmer. The first 100 registrants are guaranteed an *utterly ravishing* event t-shirt! Wear your favorite fruit/veggie gear or farming coveralls! All proceeds support ASD programming for agriculture education, workforce development, resource management, and food access.

**October 20, 5:00 - 6:00 PM: Middlesex County Garden Series (Deltaville, Virginia)**

Join Frank Long, VCE Agriculture Extension Agent, for our Public Library Garden Series. October's topic is Let's Plant Something Wild- Specialty Crops. Free and Open to the Public. Location: Middlesex County Public Library- Deltaville Branch 35 Lovers Lane Deltaville, Virginia.

### **October 25, 4:00- 6:00 PM: Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration (Rockingham, VA)**

Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Soil Health Coalition, Virginia Tech Center for Food System and Community Transformation, and community partners will be hosting the first annual on-farm Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration to celebrate soil, farming, food, and community. The harvest celebration gathering will uplift the people and partnerships building a healthier food system from the soil up. This educational and celebratory evening will bring together farmers, food system leaders, educators, health professionals, and community members to enjoy a locally sourced farm-to-table dinner, share stories, highlight innovations in soil health, and cultivate joy and connection. The Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration will be held on the historic Sunny Slope Farm. The evening will blend good food, music, farmer storytelling, and interactive displays to honor the collective work of Virginia's soil health and farm-to-table champions. This harvest celebration will also raise visibility for the Virginia Soil Health Coalition and the 4 The Soil initiative — helping attendees see how their values, work, and plates are all rooted in healthy soil. If you would be interested in financially supporting or having an exhibit at the Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration, please reach out to co-chairs Eric Bendfeldt at [ebendfel@vt.edu](mailto:ebendfel@vt.edu) / 540.383.5393 or Mary Sketch Bryant at [msketch2@vt.edu](mailto:msketch2@vt.edu) / 919.402.7240 for information on financial support packages and exhibit opportunities.

### **October 27, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM: Well Water Testing (Northumberland, VA)**

Virginia Cooperative Extension will offer household water testing for Northumberland residents in October 2025. Registration and Pre-payment are due by October 28, 2025. Northumberland residents can pick up prepaid water sample kits on Tuesday, October 28, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Northumberland County Extension Office. The water samples will be collected by the homeowner on Wednesday, October 29, and delivered to the Northumberland County Extension Office between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on the same day. A limited number of testing kits are available - register early. Call 804-580-5694 for details. For information about the Virginia Household Water Quality Program: [www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu](http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu).

### **October 27, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Intermediate Class: Regenerative Agriculture (Virtual)**

Learn about regenerative agriculture, a farming and gardening approach focused on rebuilding and improving the health and biodiversity of the soil, ecosystem, and overall environment. This class is conducted virtually via Zoom.

### **October 28, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Beginner Class: Herbs and Wild Edibles (Virtual)**

This class provides a comprehensive list of garden and wild medicinal and edible herbs. This is a virtual class and will be held through Zoom.

### **October 28 – 29: 2025 Mid-Atlantic Ag & Resource Law Conference**

Join this fall for the Mid-Atlantic Ag & Resource Law Conference, taking place October 28–29, 2025, at the beautiful National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. If you are interested in learning more about heirs' property, land use, solar development, and other similar topics, register today to receive the early bird rate. If you have any questions, please email Jennifer Friedel, Associate Professor of Practice and Director of the VA Land Use-Value Assessment Program, at [jfriedel@vt.edu](mailto:jfriedel@vt.edu). Sponsorships are available! Details about the sponsorship opportunities are provided below. To learn more about the levels, please contact Jesse Richardson at [jesse.richardson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:jesse.richardson@mail.wvu.edu).

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*national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.*

*As July settles in with its warm days, buzzing fields, and bountiful promise, we hope this message finds you and your crops thriving. There are a number of workshops, programs, and opportunities we are excited to share with you. We hope you enjoy and find something meaningful to dig into!*