



Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

December 22, 2020

Photo by Erik Jan Leusink

A Message from VBFRC

Holiday Greetings! Thank you for tuning into our news blasts this year. We are wishing you warmth, comfort, health, and renewal in this season of quiet and stillness. Below you will find some offerings coming up in the new year.

If you are interested in a listed event, you can find more details by clicking the hotlink titles, or by visiting the Virginia Beginning Farmer & Rancher Coalition website ([Click here](#)). Not all events announced in this email are sponsored by the VBFRC, and not all events in Virginia may be included in this list.

Please share this flyer with your networks. If you would like your event added to our newsletter, website, and calendar, send an email with the event details to the coalition coordinator, Katie Trozzo, at ketrozzo@vt.edu

Partner Highlights

The 2021 Northern Piedmont Beginning Farmer program is open for registration for those who live within 50 miles of Warrenton, VA. This program is a multi-week whole farm planning course that has been taught since 2011. [Click here for more information.](#)

Interested in joining VSU's New and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program? The Virginia State Small Farm Outreach Program is offering orientation for small and beginning farmers in January and February. [Find more information here.](#)

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

Virginia Community Organizer Job Announcement

The Legal Aid Justice Center is hiring a community organizer for Southwest Virginia that works on behalf of farm and immigrant workers.

2021 Northern Piedmont Beginning Farmer Program

Jan 7th is the deadline for registration for the Northern Piedmont Beginning Farmer program, available for those who live within 50 miles of Warrenton, VA.

January

January 5: Beginning/Small Farmer Orientation

Registration is opening soon for this virtual event that orients small and beginning farmers in VSU's beginning farmer program.

January 6: Pastured Poultry Workshop

A virtual workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program on pastured poultry.

January 6: Virtual Shepard's Symposium

The annual Virginia Shepherd's Symposium will be held virtually via Zoom on January 6 & 7, 2021 from 7-9 PM each evening.

January 7: Virginia Farmers Market Conference

The Virginia Farmers Market Conference will be held January 7, 2021 ONLINE! This full day event will focus on current issues faced by farmers markets including marketing, conflict de-escalation, food safety, COVID-19, professionalism and racial equity. We will also include the annual meeting for VAFMA members.

January 11-April 2: On-line Woodland Options for Landowners

A twelve week self-paced online course that teaches the fundamentals of forest management. Upon completion of the program, you can have a draft forest management plan. Natural resource professionals serve as mentors and the class winds up with an optional end-of-the-semester hands-on field trip. Costs \$45 per family.

January 13: Reducing Production Risks through Organic Soil Health Practices for the South

Southern region organic producers face tremendous challenges from weeds, pests, diseases, increasing weather extremes, and rising production costs. This webinar explores the potential of soil restoration and improvement to reduce these risks, stabilize yields, and build resilience. We will focus on three key soil health issues: cover cropping for plant-available nutrients and moisture, reducing tillage intensity,

and frugal use of nutrient-bearing amendments. The webinar will be presented by Mark Schonbeck, and Emily Oakley of Three Springs Farm in Oklahoma will be online to answer questions.

January 14-16 Future Harvest CASA Conference

Future Harvest's annual winter conference is going online - which means attendees will be able to view every single session! Save the date: January 14 - 16, 2021.

January 18-22: Virtual Winter Forage Conference

The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) is pleased to announce our 2021 Winter Forage Conference: *Building Resilience in Grass-Based Farms*. This year's conference will be virtual, and will feature a combination of live online presentations, videos, and live Question and Answer sessions.

January 25: Estate Planning and Land Transition

A virtual workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

January 28: Farmers Market Preparedness Workshop

A three part series offered by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

January 29-31: Young Farmers of Virginia Convention

The Young Farmers of Virginia will hold their annual convention in Petersburg, VA in January 2021.

January 19-February 5: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) Annual Farming for the Future Conference

Our 2021 Conference features 90+ sessions, 100+ speakers, and marks 30 years of hosting this hallmark event that has served as a springboard for transformative food system change in the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond.

February

February 2: Organic Agriculture Workshops

A three part series offered by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 8: Beginner/Small Farm Orientation

A virtual meeting hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 8-11 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention has become the premier grower meeting in the Northeast, normally combining three days of six or more concurrent educational sessions with a large industry trade show and numerous networking opportunities - all designed to enable fruit, vegetable and berry growers as well as direct marketers to stay on the cutting edge of their industries. The 2021 virtual Convention will feature four days of three or more concurrent educational sessions.

February 9: Small Farmers Planting Row Crops

A virtual zoom meeting hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 9: Cooking for Crowds

Does your church or non-profit organization have food events for its members or sell food as a fundraising event? “Cooking for Crowds” is a workshop that will teach food safety and how your organization can ensure the safe handling of food. Learn how to handle food during cooking and serving and the food safety standards for temporary events. Members of non-profit organizations, churches, athletic associations and fire departments are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be held online, February 9th, from 6 to 8 pm, Free of charge!

February 10: Pastured Poultry Egg and Broiler Enterprise

An in person workshop hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 17: Soil Nutrient Management

An in person workshop hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 19-20: Woods and Wildlife Conference

Over 10 million acres of Virginia's woods are privately owned. The Woods & Wildlife Conferences provide information, tools, and personal contacts to help private woodland owners keep their woods, and the wildlife that live in them, healthy and productive.

February 22: Drone Demonstration Workshop

An in person workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 25: Small Ruminant Weaning for Success

An in person workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

A Winter Poem

Holly Tree

by Katie Trozzo and Joy Truskowski

A Holly tree, growing free
Being who I was meant to be
Rooted deep, standing strong
Giving fruit all winter long.

I stretch my arms
And touch the sky
I reach the heavens
My spirit flies

Snow and wind, I can resist
My waxen leaves and
Red berries persist

Join my voice, sing along
Our tapestry of nature's song