



# Newsblast

VIRGINIA  
Beginning Farmer & Rancher  
COALITION PROGRAM

July 16, 2020

Photo by Canva

## *A Message from VBFRC*

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We hope you, your families, and communities are well and as we enter into summer harvest season. Below you will find a number of webinar offerings in July and August.

If you are interested in an event listed below, 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](mailto:ketrozzo@vt.edu)

Wishing you well!

## *Partner Highlights*

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We are pleased to announce our new advisory group members, Eugene French Triplett and Jacob Giley! They received the most votes among Coalition partners in our recent election. You can read more about Eugene and Jacob on our website ([Click here](#)).

Note: Green underlined text is a link

## Announcements

### New VBFRC Advisory Group Members

We are pleased to announce our new advisory group members, Eugene French Triplett and Jacob Gilley! They received the most votes among Coalition partners in our recent election. You can read more about Eugene and Jacob on our website ([link in header](#)).

### VABF's Virginia Farmer Survey

Consider taking a moment to fill out the Virginia Association for Biological Farming's COVID-19 survey for Virginia Farmers so they can identify ways they may be best able to serve the farming community in our state.

## July Events

### July 17: VCE 15 Minutes in the Forest The Big Tree Program

A weekly series of 15-minute webinars by Virginia Cooperative Extension foresters on various topics. This week is the Big Tree Program.

### July 17: Assessing Farm Financial Health and Some Tips for Keeping Records Tight on Farm Businesses

Dr. Alex White is offering webinar hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension via zoom on Friday July 17th at 12:00 PM on "Assessing Farm Financial Health and Some Tips for Keeping Records Tight on Farm Businesses." Zoom information is available on the flyer linked in the header above.

### July 17: Virtual Farm to Table: Potatoes

Andean potatoes, often called Irish potatoes, are an easy to grow crop that is a good source of potassium and vitamins B6 and C. Learn more about potatoes, how to grow them, and how they get into your bag of Route 11 Potato Chips. In this session, you will also learn how to make cheese-stuffed twice baked potatoes.

### July 21: Farmers Selling Online: Using Lulus Local Food

For farmers needing additional support with online sales, VSU, VCE, and VAF are offering a webinar series to support you. The next webinar is focused on Lulus Local Food's Online Platform where they will walk through the application process, setting up a store, tracking inventory, downloading reports, and more. Free Registration.

### July 24: Virtual Farm to Table: Tomatoes

Tomatoes are important to consumers, gardeners and farmers in Virginia. They're easy to grow and can be eaten so many ways. In this session, you will learn how tomatoes are grown by farmers both in the field and in greenhouses during the colder months. We'll also discuss how gardeners can be successful with tomatoes along with some production tips. Once you've learned how tomatoes grow, we will show you how to make a delicious fresh salsa that's great for a snack or as a topping.

### July 29: Collaborative Thinking for Farm Resilience

At a time of great unrest and uncertainty, more than ever we need to think about and plan for resiliency in our local and regional food systems that also ensures long term community well-being. This includes shifting towards and expanding a collaborative mind set as farmers and farmer educators. This webinar will share collaborative marketing and distribution models and best practices for networking to realize collective action among farmers.

### July 30: USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Information Session

Join VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program for an inviting conversation with various agencies of USDA and their Coronavirus Food Assistance Programs. USDA officials from around the state will share the agencies programs and opportunities and will answer your questions concerning eligibility and participation. Presented by Michael Carter, Jr., Small Farm Resource Center Coordinator. Registration required. No cost.

## August Events

### August 1: Seed to Medicine Chest "Vinegars/Fire Ciders" and "Value Added Product Sales"

Appalachian Sustainable Development and HERBalachia are offering a webinar series focused on cultivating medicinal herbs and creating herbal products for your health and home. June 20<sup>th</sup> has a session on vinegars/fire ciders from 10am-12pm and value added product sales from 2-3pm.

### August 3 (to August 14): A Voice for Agriculture Virtual Conference

A Virtual Conference hosted by the Farm Credit Knowledge Center including 5 webinar sessions held between August 3 and August 14 for anyone involved in agriculture or who has an interest and passion for agriculture. Webinars titles include: "Going Up? Elevator Speeches and Other Tools for Agricultural Advocates," "Brandi Buzzard Frobose—Hard Work Worth Doing," "Telling your Farming/Agricultural Story," "Communicating and Connecting—A Legislators Perspective," "Challenging the Status Quo."

### August 4: Farm Transition Planning-Family Business Transition

The 11th in a year-long series offered by the Farm Credit Knowledge Center. New and continued participants are encouraged to register. This month's webinar, brought to you by Dr. Alex White of Virginia Tech, will discuss the following topics: What NOT to do in the transition planning process, common problems families face during the process, discussing expectations for the family and the business, and tips for family meetings.

### August 5-6: Building Community Capacity around Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

USDA's Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement, in collaboration with the Regional Rural Development Centers, is inviting you to join a multi-day virtual workshop designed for community organizers and planners that work on this important topic on a state or community level.

### August 6: Keyline Planning and Silvopasture with Porch View Farm

Join Keith Ohlinger of Porch View Farm and Michael Heller of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Clagett Farm for a 2-hour webinar on Keyline design, grazing, and silvopasture. No cost. Registration required.

### August 7: Virtual Farm to Table: Sweet Potatoes

We take you to the farm to see how sweet potatoes are planted and harvested on a large scale. Then we will show you how to plant sweet potatoes at home. Finally, we will show you how to prepare baked sweet potato fries and a special Virginia Tech themed sweet potato dish.

### August 21: Virtual Farm to Table: Wine and Lamb

Did you know that Virginia has a sheep population of more than 89,000? Did you know that Virginia is the 8th largest producer of wine in the country? Tune in to learn a little bit about raising sheep and the process of turning grapes into wine! We'll also demonstrate cooking with lamb and discuss appropriate wine pairings featuring popular Virginia-grown grape varieties.

### August 18, 25, Sept 1: QuickBooks for Agriculture: A 3-Part Series

Have you been considering using QuickBooks online for your operation but didn't know where to start? This 3-part series offered by the Farm Credit Knowledge Center will answer many questions about the use of the software for agriculture. Great for Beginners! No experience needed. Also good for those needing a refresher or to learn more about software capabilities. Registering for all three sessions is recommended. Space is limited.

## Recent Webinar Recordings

### Roots of the Soil: Land Succession Issues Among African American Farm Families (July 8)

This webinar offered by AgrAbility will focus on the unique challenges faced by African American farm families regarding the transfer of land from generation to generation.\* Program speakers will discuss the importance of and the power inherent in land ownership by African American farmers. They will provide historical perspectives highlighting the growth of African American farm ownership from Emancipation until the 1920s, as well as the subsequent land loss since that time and the reasons for the decline.

### Adding Value to Your Harvest for Year Round Income (July 7)

With shifts in the value chain due to COVID-19, many farmers are looking for ways to make their product shelf stable. This webinar will explore processes, experiences, resources, and support for farmers interested in determining the feasibility of making value added products from their farm. We will hear from Laurette Tucker, a rural business specialist at Rural Development, and Coley Jones, a managing member of Richlands Creamery, who has gone through the Value Added Producer Program to create value added products on her farm.

### Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (June 25)

On Thursday, June 25, Virginia Cooperative Extension hosted a webinar featuring 5 speakers from USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Richmond. The speakers provided an overview of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), information on eligibility and aid available for producers of various crops, and the importance of record keeping.



### Farm Financing Options for Historically Underserved and Beginning Farmers Through the USDA Farm Service Agency (Jun 25)

Are you curious about loans to beginning and historically underserved farmers? Learn what financing options are available through the Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Programs. Discussion will include types of loans, rates and terms, eligibility and feasibility requirements, and an opportunity for questions.

### Farmers Selling Online—Choosing a Platform (June 2)

Brought to you by Virginia Farmers Market Association and Virginia State University, this 90-minute webinar is for farmers who want to add an online store or online pre-ordering system to their operations. It provides practical details about 4 different platforms — Google Forms, Square, Lulus Local Food and Local Line via Virginia Market Maker. It also covers what to consider before choosing a platform. PowerPoint slides are available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yddbgtug>. The recording is available via the hotlinked title above.