



Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

June 1, 2021

Photo by Massimiliano Martini on Unsplash

A Message from VBFRC

Greetings! We hope this newsblast finds you, your farm, family, and community well as we enter Summer. This newsblast features a number of announcements, workshop series, and events coming up.

We send the newsblast out at the beginning of each month. If you would like your event added to our listserv, newsblast, and website, send an email with the event details to the coalition coordinator, Katie Trozzo, at ketrozzo@vt.edu

Partner Highlights

The Fauquier Education Farm is offering a number of in person workshops in June and July! Find out more information by clicking the links below.

[June 10: Drip Irrigation](#)

[June 15: Soil Health the Foundation of Farming Success](#)

[July 22: Cut Flowers, More Than Just a Pretty Face](#)

[August 17: Spring Potatoes and Fall Cabbage, A Rotation to Maximize Your Productivity](#)

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Training Series

VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program Workshop Series

SFOP provides outreach and learning opportunities to small farmers for production management, financial and risk management, marketing, USDA assistance programs and more. Check out their upcoming workshops!

Fauquier Education Farm's 2021 Workshop Series

The Fauquier Education Farm Workshop Series is a learning resource for farmers and home gardeners of all experience levels. You can pick and choose any workshops that may interest you with no expectation that you need to attend them all. These workshops are free and open to everyone. These will be held rain or shine and children are always welcome. Unless otherwise indicated, all workshops are held at the Fauquier Education Farm: 8428 Meetze Rd, Warrenton, Virginia.

Summer Online Woodland Options for Landowners

This 12-week, self-paced course will allow you to gain an introductory level understanding of basic forest management principles and techniques and to use this understanding to become better land stewards. It is intended for private forest landowners of any acreage; this course is not intended for forest landowners who have substantial experience working alone or with natural resource professionals in the management of their forests. Teachers, local leaders, and interested citizens are also welcome to join.

Virginia Sustainable Farms and Agribusiness Education

Running from January to April and including 20 webinars, this series developed by the Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics gets to the heart of what sustainability is and what it looks like for your farm and agribusiness.

June Events

June 3: Farm Pond Management 101 (Series continued on: June 10, 17, 24, and July 1, 8, 15)

A twelve week course via Zoom, Thursdays 10 am 12 pm. This is series of zoom programs that cover the management of small impoundments over a 12-week course. The one-hour plus lectures are designed to provide detailed information on various subject areas dealing with the small impoundments. At the end of the course, you will have gained significant knowledge of Fish Biology, Pond Ecology, Fisheries

June 10: Drip Irrigation at the Fauquier Education Farm

With modern drip irrigation systems it is easy to irrigate your garden. We'll show you how we have our system set up and discuss where to find the materials and how to use this system to increase your productivity.

June 10: Webinar on Regulatory Challenges Small Farmers Face

On June 10, Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund is hosting a free webinar on the challenges small farmers face.

June 10: Retirement Planning Considerations for Farmers and Agribusiness operators

Join us for a webinar on retirement planning considerations for farmers and agribusiness operators. Presented by Dr. Travis Mountain, Assistant Professor of Financial and Economic Well-Being, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech.

June 14: RVA Women in Food

The women on the RVA Women in Food panel will discuss their very different day to day responsibilities, the ups and downs of working in local food/drink, and what it's like to be a part of Richmond's food and beverage scene. Moderated by Stephanie Ganz, a freelance writer and recipe developer, the panel features four exciting women leaders.

June 14: Small Farm Orientation

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.

June 15: Soil Health the Foundation of Farming Success at the Fauquier Education Farm

Building long term soil health is the foundation of all crop growing success. We'll discuss everything from soil testing to cover crops and organic mulches. Your garden can either be the worst thing to happen to your soil, or you can take every opportunity to build your soil as you raise your crops. We'll show you what we are doing to enhance our soil health to maximize our production.

June 15: Flower Field Walk and Demonstration

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.

June 16: Marketing Your Farm Products (Promotion, Pricing, Packaging & Display)

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.

June 19: Bees and Mushrooms—Farm Field Day

Participants will celebrate the upcoming national Pollinator Week by learning how native bees and managed bees enhance crop production. A farm tour of The Old Virginia Farm's new endeavor of growing several varieties of forest mushrooms will display the importance of giving bees a feeding location, along with helping protect bees from viruses. Local honey will be available. Experienced beekeeper and mentor with Highlands Beekeeping Association, Maria Jenkins, will be sharing her expertise and suggestions for ways you can help protect our vital pollinator partners. Free pollinator garden seeds will be available for participants.

June 24: USDA Information Session

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.

June 30: Hispanic Field Day

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.

July Events

July 21: Pest Management for Bee Hives

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.

July 22: Cut Flowers, More Than Just a Pretty Face at the Fauquier Education Farm

Cut Flowers can be an excellent add on to any new farming enterprise. We'll showcase our cut flower demonstration and show you how to give your production a jumpstart. Fill your world with color with this highly marketable crop.

Fall Events

August 17: Spring Potatoes and Fall Cabbage, A Rotation to Maximize Your Productivity at the Fauquier Education Farm

Rotating your crops is a proven way to be more successful, but this rotation from spring potatoes to fall cabbage can allow you to plant two crops in the same space each year. We'll talk about the growing needs of each crop and why they work so well on the same ground. This is an easy opportunity to double your garden's yield.

August 27-28: Beginning Woodland Owner's Retreat (Southwest Virginia)

This retreat is hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, is geared towards landowners who are new to forest management, provides information on both hardwood and pine forest management, offers chances for interaction with natural resource professionals from various agencies in Virginia, as well as with other landowners, provides information on estate planning, management planning and certification, and provides hands-on experience with tree identification, forestry equipment, and more...

September 23-24: Beginning Woodland Owner's Retreat (Southeast Virginia)

This retreat is hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, is geared towards landowners who are new to forest management, provides information on both hardwood and pine forest management, offers chances for interaction with natural resource professionals from various agencies in Virginia, as well as with other landowners, provides information on estate planning, management planning and certification, and provides hands-on experience with tree identification, forestry equipment, and more...

October 22-23: Beginning Woodland Owner's Retreat (Central Virginia)

This retreat is hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, is geared towards landowners who are new to forest management, provides information on both hardwood and pine forest management, offers chances for interaction with natural resource professionals from various agencies in Virginia, as well as with other landowners, provides information on estate planning, management planning and certification, and provides hands-on experience with tree identification, forestry equipment, and more...

November 17: How to Winterize Bee Hives

Hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program. Registration opening soon.