



Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

February 15, 2021

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A Message from VBFRC

Late Winter Greetings! Wishing you inspiration and hope for the coming growing season as we inch closer to spring. This newsblast features a number of educational opportunities coming up in the next couple months.

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](#). 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 Northern Piedmont Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program is offering [An Introduction to Getting Your Hands Dirty](#). This is a 6 week course starting in March with 2 Saturday labs at the Fauquier Education Farm and one farm tour. This course is intended for serious gardeners and Beginning Farmers who want to sharpen their production skills by broadening their basic level knowledge of the tools and concepts of professional crop production.

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Training Series

An Introduction to Getting Your Hands Dirty in March and April

The Northern Piedmont Beginning Farmer Program (NPBFP) is pleased to offer, An Introduction To Getting Your Hands Dirty. This is a 6 week course with 2 Saturday labs at the Fauquier Education Farm and one farm tour. This course is intended for serious gardeners and Beginning Farmers who want to sharpen their production skills by broadening their basic level knowledge of the tools and concepts of professional crop production.

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.

VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program Winter 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!

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.

February

February 16: Injury Prevention for Farmers

Too often, farmers receive injury prevention recommendations while in the doctor's office after an accident already occurs. This webinar brings three medical professionals from agricultural communities together to discuss what steps farmers can take to prevent common on-farm injuries. Topics will include using farm equipment, protecting joints from impact injury, and identifying minor injury before it becomes a major injury.

February 16: Crop Insurance Webinar

During this webinar, sixth in our Virginia Sustainable Farms and Agribusiness series, Dr. John Bovay will share research-backed tips surrounding crop insurance. Registration is required.

February 17: Soil Nutrient Management

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

February 17: Growing Mushrooms on Logs

Tracy Porter, a VSU SFOP Farm Management Agent, will provide a lecture followed by a demonstration on how to grow mushrooms on logs. Topics include mushroom varieties, suitable tree species for logs, equipment and supplies, how to inoculate logs with sawdust or plugs, and suitable growing environments and techniques.

February 17: Exploring Food Policy from Local to Global to Support Healthy, Equitable, Resilient, and Sustainable Food Systems

This talk features: Dr. Vivica Kraak, Dept. of Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise & Fellow with the Center Food Systems and Community Transformation; Dr. George Davis, Depts. of Agricultural and Applied Economics & Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise; Dr. Kim Niewolny, Dept. of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education & Director of the Center Food Systems and Community Transformation

February 18: Feeding the Soil with Pam Dawling

In this workshop Pam will introduce ways to grow and maintain healthy soils: how to develop a permanent crop rotation in seven steps, and why your soil will benefit from this; how to choose appropriate cover crops; how to make compost and how to benefit from using organic mulches to feed the soil. This webinar will consist of Pam's presentation followed by a Live Q and A session. Participants will be able to submit questions throughout the webinar which will be answered by Pam at the end of the presentation.

February 18-19: Virtual Virginia Berry School

The two-day school will provide experienced and beginning Virginia berry growers with the latest research and information about starting a berry enterprise and production management of berry crops, including blueberries and blackberries.

February 18: Planning the Garden: Selecting and Starting Seeds, Beginning Vegetable Gardener Series

Learn how to choose and prepare an area suitable for your vegetable garden. This session will cover the importance and steps for testing the soil and making appropriate amendments before planting—including using compost as a soil amendment—and some tips for growing in raised beds. Although there is no fee, advance registration is required and space is limited. Registrants will receive information through their email on how to join the Zoom webinar.

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: Yoga for Farmers

A few simple techniques could help you use your body more efficiently and with less damaging stress on joints. With proper alignment and proprioceptor awareness, farming doesn't mean an achy body at the end of the day. This short session will cover morning rituals that will lubricate all the major joints, breathing techniques to incorporate in daily activities, simple guidelines for proper alignment in sitting, lifting, weeding, hand tool use, and a full body sun salutation that doesn't involve a mat and can be done anywhere and anytime during your day. The session will end with a few suggestions on proper sleeping alignment.

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.

March

March 2: Small Farm Poultry Production

A VSU hosted event. Registration opening soon.

March 16: Hispanic Field Day

A VSU hosted event. Registration opening soon.

March 18: Small Ruminant Weaning for Success

A VSU hosted event. Registration opening soon.

March 24: Laying Plastic and Using a Seed Planter

A VSU hosted event. Registration opening soon.

March 27: Small Engine Maintenance

A VSU hosted event. Registration opening soon.