



Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

July 30, 2020

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A Message from VBFRC

We hope you, your families, communities, farms, and gardens are well and as we enter August. Below you will find a number of webinar offerings in 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

Wishing you well!

Partner Highlights

The Fauquier Education Farm is offering an in person socially distanced cut flower workshop on August 6th from 6-8pm in Warrenton, Virginia. Masks are required. [Click here](#) for the brochure. [Click here](#) for more information on their events calendar webpage.

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

[Ag Officials Warn about Unsolicited Packages of Seeds Arriving in the Mail Possibly from China](#)

“Residents of Virginia and several other states have received unsolicited packages of plant seeds in the mail recently, and agriculture officials are warning people not to open them, plant them or toss them in the trash for fear they could be an invasive and harmful species.” Richmond Times-Dispatch. Click the link in the header to read more.

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. On August 1st they are offering a session on vinegars/fire ciders from 10am-12pm and a session on 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. Webinar 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: Seasonal Disease Management Strategies: Alternatives for Protecting Vegetables from Late Season Diseases](#)

As part of the 2020 Virtual Veggie Growers Meetings, Dr. Steve Rideout of Virginia Tech will be presenting this month on seasonal disease management strategies.

[August 5: Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center 2020 Field Day](#)

The Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center 2020 Field Day will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, this field day will be hosted virtually. With this format, participants will be able to watch presentations online showcasing the research projects taking place at the Center, while also being able to interact with the speakers. Prior to the event, register to attend this Zoom webinar at: <https://tinyurl.com/yajkc9bf>

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: Cut Flowers

The Fauquier Education Farm is hosting an in person socially distanced workshop on cut flowers. "Growing an abundance of flowers for cutting is a big goal for both home gardens as well as market farms. It is actually quite easy to be successful. Cut flowers have grown to be a very important crop for many small farmers of every scale. Our Cut Flower Demonstration is a model of how you could start as a commercial farmer. We'll talk about our varieties and how to keep them in production."

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

Collaborative Thinking for Farm Resilience [July 29]

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.

Farmers Selling Online: Using Lulus Local Food [July 21]

For farmers needing additional support with online sales, VSU, VCE, and VAF is hosting a webinar series to support you. The 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.

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.