



Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

July 3, 2020

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A Message from VBFRC

Happy Fourth of July! We hope you, your families, and communities are well and that you enjoy your weekend. 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

Wishing you well!

Partner Highlights

The Fauquier Education Farm is hosting a Regenerative Agriculture workshop onsite on July 8 the from 6 to 8 PM. They will showcase their use of cover crops and no till planting techniques, and discuss how this can improve long term soil health while supporting crop yields. This will be an outdoor workshop but they will require all participants to wear a face mask. See [the flyer](#) for more information.

Note: Green underlined text is a link

July Events

July 7: Adding Value to Your Harvest for Year Round Income

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.

July 8: Regenerative Agriculture at the Fauquier Education Farm

The Fauquier Education Farm is hosting a Regenerative Agriculture workshop onsite on July 8 the from 6 to 8 PM. They will showcase our use of cover crops and no till planting techniques, and discuss how this can improve long term soil health while supporting crop yields. This will be an outdoor workshop but they will require all participants to wear a face mask. See the flyer for more information.

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

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.

July 9: Weed Identification and Management

Do you have weeds you need identified? Are you interested in learning what types of weeds you have and how to manage them? Through the Farm Credit Knowledge Center, Matt Booher, ANR, Virginia Cooperative Extension, is providing a unique interactive webinar where he will personally identify your weeds and provide you with management recommendations.

July 10: VCE 15 Minutes in the Forest A Nature Walk

A weekly series of 15-minute webinars by Virginia Cooperative Extension foresters on various topics. This week is a nature walk.

July 11: Seed to Medicine Chest “Infused Oil & Salves” and “Post Harvest Handling”

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 20th has a session on infused oils and salves from 10am-12pm and post harvest handling from 2-3pm.

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: 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 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.

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 20th has a session on vinegars/fire ciders from 10am-12pm and value added product sales from 2-3pm.

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 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

[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.

[Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\) \(May 25\)](#)

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, find out who is eligible and how to sign up for these farmer assistance funds. All covered commodities are in this presentation. Section 1 (minute 1-6) are the basics of the program and requirements for signing up. Section 2 (minute 17-20) Dairy. Section 3 (minute 20-28, non-specialty crops, Barley, corn, soybeans, millet, sorghum, wool, oats, etc. Section 4 (minute 28-40) Livestock. The last section addresses Specialty crops and answers any questions.