



Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

July 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 this 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

We are excited to announce the following four award-ed VBFRC Mini-Grant projects that will take place over the next 12 months. Find more information about the projects on [our website](#).

Sharing and Demonstrating the Benefits of Vermicomposting on the Farm with Virginia New and Beginning Farmers *Minority and Veteran Farmers of the Piedmont and Botanical Bites & Provisions, LLC*

Independence Farmers Market Winter Workshop Enhancement Project *Grayson LandCare*

Beginning Farmer Track at the 22nd Annual Virginia Biological Farming Conference *Virginia Association for Biological Farming*

Educating Realtors on Agricultural Production and Conservation Opportunities to Develop New and Beginning Farmers *Madison Virginia Cooperative Extension*

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

4 the Soil Launched!

On June 23rd the 4 the Soil initiative launched, which is part of a grant project funded and supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Agua Fund. The project aims to increase implementation of core soil health principles, raise awareness on soil as a critical resource, and work to encourage people to pledge to follow the four soil health principles.

Beginning Farmer Program Coordinator Job Announcement

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association is hiring a beginning farmer program coordinator.

USDA Announces Grant for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

USDA announced the availability of up to \$4 million for grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects.

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.

July Events

July 1, 8, 15: Farm Pond Management 101

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 Management, Water Quality, Dam Structure Maintenance, and Farm Ponds' alternate use.

July 6: DCR Nutrient Management Training School (Part 1)

This is Part I of a two-part nutrient management training school. Part I is a lecture series by Virginia Tech professors on soil science, soil fertility and crop production. The training is open to anyone interested in learning about the development of agricultural nutrient management plans or how to become a certified plan writer. Fee is \$130 before June 23; \$150 after June 23.

July 6: Basics of Strawberry Production (In Person)

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

July 6: Women in Agriculture Network (Fostering Female Farmers)

First Tuesdays of the month the Women in Ag Network meets!

July 7: Hilling Sweet Potatoes

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

July 14: Small Sustainable Diversified Farm Tour (In Person)

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

July 15: Aquaponics

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

July 16: USDA/DCR/NRCS/FSA/RMA Information Session-Hispanic (In person)

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

July 19: Farmer's Market USDA SNAP and EBT

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

July 20: Organic Gardening 101

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

July 20: Charlotte County Farm Tour

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

July 20: Beginning Cutting Gardens

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

July 22: Veteran Bus Tour/Agricultural Marketing

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

July 23: Summer Pruning for Woody and Herbaceous Perennial Plants

Summer is the time to prune trees and shrubs that bloom in the spring and to help perennial flowering plants look their best. Extension Agent Kirsten Conrad will walk you through the how, when, and why to prune hedges, multi-stem shrubs, small trees, and large branches. EMG's-in-training Kathy Eiden and

Brandis O’Neal will be on hand to debut a short video on specialty pruning. With these best practices, your pruning results will be healthier and fuller growth, better flowers and fruit, and more attractive landscaping.

July 27: Northern Virginia Wholesale Growers on Cover Crops for Weed Management (In Person)

Veronica Yurchak, a graduate student from the University of Maryland, will come and share information on managing weeds with cover crops in the vegetable and small fruit field. We will also have a tour of the farm and time to ask questions from our hosts Liz and Ramesh.

July 27: Farmer/Farmland Match & Market Maker

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

July 27: Whole Farm Planning

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

July 29: Increasing Profits through Value Added Products

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

July 30: VSU College of Agriculture Field Day

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.

August Events

August 2: Jimmy Messick of Messick’s Farm Market on Managing Weeds in Asparagus and Other Vegetables

Jeff Derr, weed specialist from the Hampton Roads AREC, will cover weed management in the asparagus patch, always a challenge as a perennial crop. He will touch on conventional and non-conventional mentors for managing pesky weeds in a variety of vegetable crops. They will also have a short tour of Messick’s Farm Market fields.

August 9: Small Diversified Farm and Farmers Market Tour

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

August 9: Small Farm Orientation

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

August 10: QuickBooks Workshop

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

August 10: Rabbit Grazing with Soil Management

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

August 11: Introduction to QuickBooks

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

August 12: DCR Informational Session

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

August 13: On Farm GAP Audit

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

August 17: Mapping with Drones for Precision Agriculture

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

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 18: Fall Crop Production in High Tunnels

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

August 18: QuickBooks Training Workshop

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

August 19: Financial Planning

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

August 19: Aquaponics

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

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...

Fall Events

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.