

Newsblast

November 5, 2025

Photo by Roger Starnes

A Message from VBFRC

As November unfolds with crisp air and shorter days, the landscape quiets, inviting both gratitude and renewal. Farmers and growers turn their attention from the rush of harvest to the thoughtful work of planning and preparing for the seasons ahead. It's a time to pause, connect, and take stock of the year's lessons. This month, we're highlighting events and programs that offer a space to learn, share experiences, and build community. May these opportunities help you reflect on the past season and spark fresh ideas for the one to come.

The Virginia Beginning Farmer & Rancher Coalition is a state-wide and coalition-based Extension program, housed in Virginia Tech's Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education. Funding was sponsored by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Award #2023-49400-40885.

Partner Highlight

The Small Farm Outreach Program has been tasked with hosting focus group meetings across the state on behalf of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture. These discussions will help us evaluate and understand the current agricultural landscape in Virginia. Insights gathered will be synthesized into a report that will be developed into infographics. Your experience and perspective are invaluable, and your contributions will help guide meaningful improvements. Dinner will be provided, and participants will receive a small token of appreciation for their time and effort.

Meeting locations and registration links are listed below by location.

- [November 6: Norfolk Police Department, 901 Asbury Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23513](#)
- [November 13: Wytheville Community College 1000 E Main St, Wytheville, VA 24382](#)
- [November 18: Best Western, 791 Madison Rd, Culpepper, VA 22701](#)
- [November 20: VCE at Verona office, Government Center Lane, Verona, VA 24482](#)

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

Future Harvest, Choose Your Own Consultant is here!

Launched in 2021 and reopening in 2025, this program provides \$1,000 grants for farmers to work with the consultant of their choice. The goal of this program is to provide farmers with the opportunity to strengthen their business and address challenges with the support of in-depth, free-for-the-farmer consultations with experts. All farmers are invited to apply. While preference is given to farmers with over five years of experience, this program is also a good fit for farmers with less experience who are looking to establish new systems on their farms. We also give preference to Future Harvest members. Only one application per farm will be considered for review. Applicants are required to identify their top two priorities for working with a consultant of their choice – either from our list of consultants or one they have identified through their own research. Topics that farmers have previously requested include improved marketing plans and financial record-keeping systems, as well as creating nutrient management plans and enhancing soil fertility regimes.

Southern SARE Producer Grants: Due 12/5

Hello all, We are excited to share that Southern SARE has just announced its grant deadlines for 2026 grants. The Producer grant is specifically designed for farmers who conduct on-farm research for a period of 2 years, with a grant of \$20,000. The application is due 12/5/25. Learn more here: <https://southern.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/producer-grants/>

USDA Farm Recovery Block Grant Program to assist producers impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Virginia is the first state in the nation to launch the USDA Farm Recovery Block Grant Program to assist producers impacted by Hurricane Helene. This program provides direct aid to eligible producers and timber owners in 27 affected localities, comprising 21 counties and 6 independent cities. Those with verifiable agricultural losses are encouraged to apply online through the VDACS WebGrant Application. Award recipients can expect to receive grant funds later this year. The program is administered in partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension. For program details, eligibility criteria, required documentation, or general questions, please visit this [link](#), call (833) 469-5037, or email DisasterRecoveryGrants@vdacs.virginia.gov. Applications accepted through Nov 6th!!!

Good news for farmers, ranchers, researchers & educators in the Southern region! Apply for SARE Grant

Southern SARE has released new Calls for Proposals for its grant programs. Southern SARE funds several competitive grant programs, each targeting a specific audience. Each year, Southern SARE invites applicants to submit proposals for the various grant opportunities offered. SARE grants are open to farmers/ranchers, researchers, educators, graduate students, government agencies, community groups, non-profit organizations, NGOs, and agribusinesses.

A Guide to Selling Meat and Poultry Products in Virginia

Resources for small farmers/homesteaders who want to sell their chickens? This is for a small farmer who is trying to navigate all the necessary steps to sell her chickens, and she'd love a checklist or some guidance to ensure they are checking all the boxes.

Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative

The Virginia Grasslands Bird Initiative is pleased to announce the launch of an incentive program for landowners and farmers. Currently open to 16 counties, the program pays farmers \$35 to delay haying or to summer pasture stockpiling during the grassland bird nesting season. Applications are due Nov 30th.

Producer survey - Antimicrobial use and resistance on farms

You are invited to participate in an online survey about antimicrobial use and resistance in sheep and goat farming. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand current practices, knowledge, and perceptions related to antimicrobial use. All responses will remain confidential and secure. This survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete, and your input will contribute to the development of practical, sustainable solutions that improve animal health and combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Please click on the link below to complete the survey. <https://viriniatech.questionpro.com/SheepGoatProducerSurvey>

CattleCon 2026: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Annual Convention and Trade Show

Registration is now open for CattleCon 2026, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's annual convention and trade show—coming to downtown Nashville, Tennessee, for the first time! CattleCon is where the beef industry gathers for education, innovation, and connection. Attendees can explore the latest in cattle production, animal health, and marketing while networking with producers and industry partners from across the country. Cattle producers attending are also eligible for the Rancher Resilience Grant, which reimburses registration costs and up to three nights of hotel stay. Applications must be submitted within 30 days of the event (February 3–5) to qualify. Learn more about CattleCon 2026 [here!](#) Apply for the grant [here!](#)

Regenerate Mid-Atlantic Market Program: Build Healthy Soils with Aerial Seeded Cover Crops

The Conservation Innovation Fund's (CIF) Regenerative Mid-Atlantic Market Program is helping farmers adopt regenerative agriculture practices over the next five years—beginning with cover crops that improve long-term soil and water health. Through this program, Swift Aeroseed LLC, an aerial drone seeding company, provides precision seeding of diverse, multispecies cover crops using U.S.-made drones and software for maximum accuracy and performance. Even better—Swift Aeroseed's services and seeds are fully covered for five years through the program. Learn more [here!](#)

Check out the "Planning for Agriculture in Virginia Toolkit" created by American Farmland Trust by clicking this link!

The Planning for Agriculture in Virginia Toolkit helps local leaders, planners, and citizens support the future of agriculture—Virginia's leading private industry. It offers guidance through fact sheets, profiles, data, and supporting resources, as well as presentation slides. The toolkit explains why planning for agriculture matters and provides practical tools to protect farmland, strengthen farm viability, and promote conservation.

SHOT: Soil Health Opportunities and Tools

The SHOT Fund helps farmers and nonprofits access funding for long-term soil health and regenerative practices. It offers 0% interest loans, grants, and technical support for projects like cover crops, rotations, agroforestry, and silvopasture. Learn more [here!](#) *Check out our [resources page](#) and send resources that you want shared with the Coalition to Mary Sketch Bryant at mmsketch2@vt.edu*

Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

Join us for two days of workshops, lectures, farmer-to-farmer and caucus chats, delicious farm fresh meals, an all-star lineup of speakers, and lots of networking at our 27th annual conference. Registration is open with early-bird prices through December 14th. Early bird saves you \$25! Learn more about scholarships [here](#). Please note that if you are a conference speaker, sponsor, exhibitor, or participant in the 2025 Beginner Farm Training Program, you will receive a code to access your complimentary ticket.

Spirit Month at Denim and Pearls

Dates: November 1-30, 2025. Denim and Pearls is donating 10% of its sales to the Fauquier Education Farm during November. Stop by and enjoy a delicious meal that will support the mission of the Fauquier Education Farm! Address: 29 Main St, Warrenton, VA 20186.

The Woods in Your Backyard Online Course

Based on the guide of the same name, this course from the University of Maryland Extension provides strategies for small landowners (1-10 acres) to improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality.

- September 8 - November 17
- Online
- Register [online](#)

Join the Roanoke Region Food & Farm Trail

Interested in joining the Roanoke Foodshed Network's (RFN) Roanoke Regional Food & Farm Trail! As a Food & Farm Trail member, you will increase your exposure, broaden your network, connect directly with consumers, and be promoted every day of the year. About the trail: Founded by the Roanoke Foodshed Network, the Roanoke Regional Food & Farm Trail celebrates the vibrant farm and food culture of the region. The Roanoke Regional Food & Farm Trail serves as a comprehensive website and storytelling campaign connecting residents and visitors with farms, food businesses, and culinary experiences across the region. This campaign will unify and amplify the voices of our farm and food businesses, positioning them as key assets for economic growth, tourism, and community vitality. The [Roanoke Foodshed Network](#) cultivates community to address food systems change in the Roanoke region. The goals of this network have evolved over the course of a decade of conversations with farmers, planners, and community members. Through region-wide collaborative efforts, we work to cultivate a more resilient and accessible food system that produces health and abundance in the Roanoke region.

Generation Next workshop Registration

Registration is now open for the final Generation NEXT workshop of 2025, a morning mini-workshop scheduled for November 8 at the Hampton Roads AREC in Virginia Beach. (Looks like Norfolk on the map, but has a VaB address). We appreciate your help in getting the word out to forest and farm owners who would benefit from information on legacy planning. I have attached the updated news release and the registration flier. For more information, visit the [Generation Next website](#) and [the Program Registration page](#).

Series

Fall 2025 Ask an Agroforester Webinar Schedule(Virtual)

Ask an Agroforester returns this Fall with six dynamic episodes full of expertise, niche wisdom from the field, and interactive Q&A. [Register here](#) for the Fall webinars

- Nov. 5: Rethinking Herbs for Farm and Forest - Robin Suggs of Appalachian Sustainable Development'
- Nov. 11: Alley Cropping at Any Scale - Kaitie Adams of the Savanna Institute
- Nov. 17: All About Bareroot Trees - A Conversation with Farmers - Jenn Ripp of the Savanna Institute
- Nov. 20: Hickories as Keystones in the New Tree Economy - Zach Elfers of Future Forest Farm
- Nov. 24: Willow for Every Farm - Howard Peller and Sarah Lasswell
- Dec. 3: Grassroot Tree search - For Farmers, By Farmers - Sam Bonney and Russell Wallack.

Out of the Woods: Growing Income from Your Forest

Red Maple, Real Results: Yields, Flavor & Smarter Tapping Red maple isn't just a pretty canopy—it's a serious production opportunity. In this Out of the Woods webinar, Dr. Abby van den Berg breaks down what current research shows about red maple yields, syrup flavor profiles, and tapping guidelines. We'll cover site factors, timing, and trade-offs that producers actually face, then translate the findings into practical steps for woodwork and sugarhouse decisions. Whether you're expanding beyond sugar maple or pressure-testing your red maple strategy, come for clear takeaways and research-backed answers.

Time shows in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

- Nov 20, 2025 07:00 PM
- Dec 18, 2025 07:00 PM
- Jan 15, 2026 07:00 PM
- Feb 19, 2026 07:00 PM

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

The award-winning Fifteen Minutes in the Forest video series covers a wide range of topics and is broadcast on the 4th Friday of each month at 12:15 PM on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#).

- November 28: After the Storm: Disaster Response
- December 26-January 6: The Twelve Shorts of Christmas

Watch 150+ Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

The long-standing Blacksburg and Culpeper Conferences will be held in February.

- February 21
 - [Squires Student Center](#), Blacksburg
 - Agenda and registration in December
- February 28
 - [Daniel Technology Center](#), Germanna Community College, Culpeper. Agenda and registration in December.

Landowner Retreats

Beginning Retreats provide information on hardwood and pine forest management, legacy planning, management planning, and more. Beyond the Basics Retreats take a deep dive into a specific forest management topic. All Retreats combine classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities. Registration opens 10 weeks before events.

- Beyond the Basics Woodland Owner Retreat: Managing Your Forest for Timber Income
 - March 13-14
 - [Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
- Southwest Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - May 8-9
 - [Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center](#), Abingdon
- Southeast Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
 - September 11-12
 - [New Kent Conference Center](#), Providence Forge

Landowners' Legacy Planning Workshops

Generation NEXT, a Program of the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, exists to help landowners and their families engage in legacy planning for their rural land. Now in its 16th year, the Program will offer three more learning opportunities in 2025.

- **Mini Generation NEXT Workshop.** November 8, half day, in southeast Virginia. This half-day workshop will feature shorter presentations and provide opportunities for interaction with experts in the fields of law, finance, and conservation. Norfolk or Hampton Roads.

Learn more, download fliers and other resources, or register on the [Generation NEXT website](#). Contact Karen Snape, Extension Associate, at 540-231-6494 or ksnape@vt.edu with any questions, including accessibility requests.

VSU Small Farm Outreach Program-Focus Group Meeting for Virginia State University College

The Small Farm Outreach Program has been tasked with hosting focus group meetings across the state on behalf of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture. These discussions will help us evaluate and understand the current agricultural landscape in Virginia. Insights gathered will be synthesized into a report that will be developed into infographics. Your experience and perspective are invaluable, and your contributions will help guide meaningful improvements. Dinner will be provided, and participants will receive a small token of appreciation for their time

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4 the Soil Highlights



S5 - E22: Encouraging a Hospitable Habitat for Soil Microorganisms with Dr. Ashley Jernigan of Virginia Tech, Pt. II

Did you know soil microorganisms of all sizes and shapes need water, air, shelter, and care to function and thrive? Dr. Ashley Jernigan, assistant professor and director of Virginia Tech's Sustainable and Organic Vegetable Crops Production Lab, returns to talk with Jeff and Mary about what farmers and gardeners can do to encourage a hospitable habitat for soil microorganisms. As a soil ecologist, Ashley recommends keeping track of your soil's organic matter level and its aggregate stability, and comparing these soil health indicators to those of native biological systems. Soils, like people, need quality food in diverse and complex forms (compost, green manures, plant roots, etc.). Similarly, farmers and gardeners should avoid leaving the soil bare. Being gentle and reducing the intensity of tillage is also key to maintaining a comfortable environment for soil critters and not disrupting the structures and networks that soil organisms establish.

S5 - E21: Regenerating Worn-Out Soils with Dr. Ashley Jernigan of Virginia Tech, Pt. I

Does your garden soil fall apart in your hands? How do you regenerate and bring back life to worn-out soils? Dr. Ashley Jernigan, assistant professor and director of Virginia Tech's Sustainable and Organic Vegetable Crops Production Lab, advises Jeff and Mary to conduct their own test in their garden or crop field using a shovel. As someone who enjoyed digging soil pits as a seven-year-old, Ashley recommends sampling to a six-inch depth to get a sense of your soil's tilth and aggregate stability. If the soil lacks a good, varied, and crumbly structure, its organic matter content and aggregate stability may be low. Therefore, feed your soil and soil animals to nourish your plants, starting the biological journey and reviving life in the soil.

[4 the Soil Blog](#) Check out the latest 4 the Soil blog!

November

November 5, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Fireside Chat with an Extension Agent (Farmville, VA)

Join Prince Edward Cooperative Extension for an evening of connection and conversation with retired agricultural agents. Immerse yourself in the Extension experience, enjoy supper, and unwind at Three Roads Brewery, 312 W 3rd St, Farmville, VA. There is no cost to attend, and the food truck El Taco Loco will be on site for food purchase. To register, contact ANR Agent Erin Small at erins96@vt.edu or call 434-392-0300.

November 5-7, 6:30 AM - 6:30 PM: Beginning Farmer Bus Tour (Petersburg, VA)-

The Virginia State University Small Farm Outreach Program is pleased to announce an exciting and educational fall bus tour to sites in Washington, DC, Lancaster, PA, and Dover, DE. This tour is exclusively open to beginning farmers with less than 10 years of farming experience. An itinerary will be sent to registrants approximately 2 weeks before departure. It will include visits to an urban farm and a USDA site in Washington, DC, a working dairy farm and farmer's market near Lancaster, PA, and a student-led research farm at Delaware State University. The bus will depart from VSU Randolph Farm on November 5, 2025, at 6:30 a.m. sharp and return to the exact location by 6:30 p.m. on November 7, 2025, at the latest. The cost of the tour is \$100.00 per person (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) and will include two separate nights at 3-star accommodations (breakfast is included), and two meals (lunch on September 23; dinner on September 24). Payment is due by September 8, 2025. This immersive program is designed to equip you with the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance your experience as a beginning farmer. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with peers and deepen your understanding of several aspects of farming. For more information, contact Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu or Derrick Cladd at 804-892-4489 or dcladd@vsu.edu.

November 5: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Irrigation and Soil Moisture Management for Small Farmers (Ettrick, VA)

This is the perfect time for farmers and growers to learn about Irrigation Systems Technology and how to manage Soil Moisture for optimal plant growth, and improve plant and Soil Health. You will learn about the different types of Irrigation available, how they function, and the efficiency of irrigation systems. This will allow you to make decisions for next year's growing season. For more information, contact Timothy Sexton at 804.524.1028 or tsexton@vsu.edu.

November 5, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Preparing Your High Tunnel for Production (Dundas, VA)

Do you have a new high tunnel or are you preparing to start production in one? Join Walter and Bruce Thompson at Willowland Farm to learn the steps to preparing your high tunnel for the upcoming growing season. They will discuss the steps to setting up all the necessary accessories and proper soil preparations to ensure a successful growing season. For more information, contact Marilyn Estes at 804.481.0485 or mestes@vsu.edu.

November 5, 10:00 - 11:00 AM: The Science of Food Preservation (Virtual)

Discover the science and technology behind safe home food preservation. This presentation will cover boiling water bath canning, pressure canning, and dehydration methods. Learn how each method works to prevent spoilage and protect your health, while gaining practical skills to preserve your garden bounty or local harvest with confidence. For more information, please get in touch with Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu, or Garry Banks at 804-760-3615 or gbanks@vsu.edu.

November 5, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: The Agribusiness Way (Petersburg, VA)

The Tennie Agriculture Group specializes in tax and accounting for farmers, ranchers, and urban farmers. We understand the challenges of the agriculture industry and provide financial solutions to help producers achieve sustainability and profitability. Explore key topics, including: Understanding Tax Compliance for Agribusiness Operations, Schedule F, Choosing the Right Entity for Your Agribusiness, and Financial Literacy for Farmers, Ranchers, and Veterans. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804.720.6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

November 5, 2:00 - 3:00 PM: When It Rains It Pours: Knowledge Is Power (Grundy, VA)

This workshop presentation is designed to help improve management skills and well-being in the face of the devastating impacts associated with flash floods and river floods. It will review recent flood events in Buchanan County, VA, and surrounding locations, and examine climate trends observed across the Mountain Empire of the southern Appalachians. Flooding effects can vary from minor inconveniences to destructive property damage and loss of life. Anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can linger long after recovery is completed for small farmers, growers, residents, and their children (and also for livestock and pets). A flood can leave you feeling devastated and hopeless. For more information, contact Wayne Browning at 804.760.3932 or wbrowning@vsu.edu.

November 5, 4:30 - 6:30 PM: Shenandoah Valley Small Farm Resource Fair (Mount Jackson, VA)

The Small Farm Resource Fair will feature representatives from local contractors, financial institutions, food rescue organizations, and conservation groups, with the goal of networking with local farmers and educating them about key resources for their businesses. Attendees will also hear from local farmers about their operations and how they have worked with conservation partners to advance their farming goals. Staff from the CREW Center will provide a tour of their newly opened Commercial Kitchen, a vital resource for small producers in the area. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network with one another, further deepening relationships of support among farmers in the region. For more information, contact Marian Dalke at 540.232.6010 or mdalke@vt.edu.

November 6, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Understanding Conservation Plans Part 2: Federal vs. State Programs – NRCS, SWCD & What Works Best for Your Farm (Petersburg, VA)

Confused About the Differences Between EQIP, CSP, and State Cost-Share Programs? This workshop breaks it down! Learn how federal and state conservation programs compare — and how to choose or combine them based on your farm's needs. You'll Learn: NRCS vs. SWCD: Roles, responsibilities, and focus areas EQIP, CSP — what do they mean? Which program is best for: Cover Cropping; Water Quality Buffers; Riparian/Wetland Restoration; Nutrient Management; How to avoid duplication or non-compliance; What's stackable — and what's not Application timelines and funding differences; Documentation and inspection expectations; And How to Understand my Program Award (Conservation Plan, et al) Ideal for: New and beginning farmers; Landowners with conservation contracts; Anyone seeking clarity on state vs. federal offerings. For more information, contact Tabitha Bugg at 804.892.2997 or tbugg@vsu.edu.

November 6, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Identifying Weeds on Your Farm (Unionville, VA)

Weeds are simply plants growing where you don't want them to grow, but many of them are also edible for humans and livestock alike. This workshop will include a presentation of 20 common weeds via a slideshow presentation about weeds in Virginia landscapes, and you will learn how to identify some of them during a field walk. Some information will also be discussed regarding control and eradication. Attendees must wear closed-toe shoes and long pants to participate in the field walk portion, as we will be walking in possible wet or muddy areas with tall vegetative growth. This workshop will take place rain or shine. For more information, contact Roland Terrell at 804.892.4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

November 6, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Vermont Soils Subcommittee (Virtual)

Will host partner-oriented working groups to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to NRCS on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities that address soil health through financial assistance programs. For more information, contact us at chadd.cupit@usda.gov

November 6, 3:00 - 5:00 PM: Information and Techniques to help Small Farmers in their Farming Operations (Petersburg, VA)

This workshop will cover information about organizations and groups that offer resources to help farmers make their farms more sustainable. Presenters will cover programs available to help farmers with farm operation structure, financial opportunities, grant resources, and the people available to guide them through this process. For more information, contact Grace Summers at 804.712.0093 or gsummers@vsu.edu.

November 6, 6:00-8:00 PM: VSU Small Farm Outreach Program-Focus Group Meeting for Virginia State University College of Agriculture- South-East Virginia (Norfolk, VA)

The Small Farm Outreach Program has been tasked with hosting focus group meetings across the state on behalf of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture. These discussions will help us evaluate and understand the current agricultural landscape in Virginia. Insights gathered will be synthesized into a report that will be developed into infographics. Your experience and perspective are invaluable, and your contributions will help guide meaningful improvements. Dinner will be provided, and participants will receive a small token of appreciation for their time.

November 6, 6:30 - 8:30 PM: Profitable roots - Accounting for success (Virtual).

Good accounting is critical for the success of any operation. Join Michael Carter Jr. of Carter Farms and his guests to share about the basics of accounting for your business, answer any of your questions, and help you to avoid any pitfalls. The workshop will be engaging, using real-world and practical examples that you may have experienced or could face in the future. Let's grow while we talk numbers, while keeping our pencils sharp. For more information, contact Roland Terrell at 804.892.4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

November 7- 8, Cattle & Equipment WISE (Women Increasing Skills & Education) (Abingdon, VA)

The WISE Planning Committee is excited to be holding Cattle & Equipment WISE (Women Increasing Skills & Education) in Abingdon, VA, on Friday, November 7th, and Saturday, November 8th! Registration opens on Monday, September 22nd, at noon! Please share with all those you think may be interested! We do have scholarship funds this year.

November 7- 9, Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Day 1/3) (Shepherdstown, WV)

We are excited to announce the 20th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum scheduled for November 7-9, 2025. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's 20th Annual event is a watershed-wide gathering that reaches over 400 practitioners, inspiring local action toward clean water. The forum shares successful tools and techniques, offers lessons and learnings from on-the-ground work, builds capacities of local organizations, fosters partnerships, educates on new initiatives, and much more. Find out more and register: <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/event/chesapeake-watershed-forum/>

November 7, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Plant American Chestnuts (Independence, VA)

Are you interested in American Chestnuts? Help plant some trees with the American Chestnut Foundation and Clint Morse. Here are the details: Note, the area where we are growing is steep, and the footing is uneven. But it should be a fun time! November 7 @ 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, free! We will plant about 130 seedlings from the American Chestnut Foundation. These will be predominantly progeny from large surviving American chestnuts that may exhibit some elevated resistance, along with some susceptible American and Chinese individuals as controls. These seedlings will likely become infected with blight in approximately 5 years, and we will then observe the outcome. We will also plant the grafted trees Clint grew this year from superior Chestnuts. Please register here: <https://tacf.org/event/planting-in-independence-va/>

November 7, 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Timber Cruising for Woodland Owners

Hiring a professional forester is the best way to ensure an accurate accounting of your timber volume and value. And you need to understand where these numbers come from. This hands-on class will teach you how a timber cruise is conducted.

- November 7
- 10:30 – 4:00
- [Reynolds Homestead](#), Critz
- Agenda and registration available in September

Visit the [Blue Ridge PRISM](#) website for programs on nonnative invasives

November 8, 1:00 - 4:00 PM: Let's Get Ready to Plant (Foster, VA)

Let's plant fruit trees, berries, and garlic, among other things. Now is the time to start thinking about how to prepare for next year. This workshop will discuss how to prepare for the 2026 season. This is beneficial if you are already established or looking to establish a new site. For more information, contact Derrick Gooden at 804.586.5352 or dgooden@vsu.edu.

November 11–12, 1:00 – 5:00 PM: Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training (Virtual)

The Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training will be held remotely on November 11–12, 2025, from 1–5 pm EST each day. The training covers the FSMA Produce Safety Rule for growers, packers, and handlers of fresh produce. Participants must attend both sessions to receive a certificate.

November 12, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Winterizing Beehives (Petersburg, VA)

The workshop will also cover when and how to order honeybee nucs in preparation for the spring. Information from this program will help attendees mitigate hive loss over the winter. All participants should bring a bee suit to wear during the hive inspection part of this workshop. Wear light-colored clothing and avoid wearing open-toe shoes, as well as using perfume or cologne. Coffee and donuts will be provided. For more information, contact Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

November 12, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Virginia Greenhouse Growers Association Growers School (Petersburg, VA)

The workshop will empower you with knowledge to build your greenhouse success. Featuring expert lectures on root zone management, integrated pest management, and light management, a tour to VSU Randolph Farm, on-site pesticide testing, and review, amongst others. For more information, reach out to sunnie.vgga@gmail.com

November 12, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Web Soil Survey Basics (South Hill, VA)

Discover the benefits of utilizing the USDA's online Web Soil Survey program. WSS provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The soil survey is a detailed report on the soils of more than 95 percent of the nation's counties. It has maps with soil boundaries, photos, descriptions, and tables of soil properties and features. This will be a hands-on computer workshop. Using the Web Soil Survey program, we will look at each farmer's farm soil data. For more information, contact Tammy Holler at 804.895.9472 or tholler@vsu.edu.

November 12, 3:00- 4:00 PM: The Truth About Bees: who they really are, and who really needs saving (Virtual)

Many people say "Save the Bees" in support of honeybees, but few are aware that honeybees are not native to North America; they are not the only bees in the region, and honeybees don't really need saving. Do any bees need saving? What are the other kinds of bees? Entomologist Francis Mullan will answer these questions and unveil the truth about bees. Attendees may see the presentation in person at the Community College of Baltimore County, Essex campus, in room 135 of the Eustis Center for Health Professions. For more information, contact us at frmullan@gmail.com

November 12, 9:00 AM: Bingo Night at Licorice Pizza (Warrenton, VA)

Stop by Licorice Pizza for Game Night on Wednesday, November 12, for BINGO for a Cause benefitting the Fauquier Education Farm on Wednesday, November 12, 2025—address: 32 Main St, Warrenton, VA 20186.

November 12, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM: Beginning Farm Finance and Conservation Seminar (Abingdon, VA)

One of the top priorities of the Youngkin Administration is to grow the number of beginning farmers. With the current average age of a Virginia farmer being 59, new and beginning farmers are crucial to feeding a growing population. After conducting several surveys, it was determined that the top challenge facing beginning farmers is accessing capital. Our team reached out to numerous agricultural lenders and partners to develop a one-day learning seminar. This seminar was replicated four times across the Commonwealth, and the last one was recorded at Virginia State University. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to email us at agriculture.forestry@governor.virginia.gov

November 12, 4:00–6:00 PM: Farmer's Soil Health Supper & Listening Session (Leesburg, VA)

It's a relaxed, farmer-centered gathering that combines practical learning, good food, and great company. Here's what you can expect: Access to resources from Virginia Cooperative Extension, VABF, Loudoun Economic Development, and SARE on soil health practices and the economics of farming in Loudoun / Northern VA; Farmer-to-farmer listening sessions designed to spark collaboration and help solve real farm challenges; A locally sourced supper highlighting Loudoun producers — because farmers deserve a good meal, too. The goal is simple: That every attendee leaves with a full belly and at least two meaningful connections to strengthen their farm and our local community.

November 13, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Whole Farm Planning (Petersburg, VA)

Whole Farm Planning helps beginning farmers maintain or improve profitability while enhancing their sustainability. With Whole Farm Planning, beginning farmers define long-term and short-term goals to achieve a better quality of life at home and in the community. Learn from VSU Small Farm Outreach Agents as they review the Whole Farm Planning manual; Farm Credit representatives will provide instruction on how to develop a simple, one-page business plan. For more information, contact Derrick Cladd at 804.892.4489 or dcladd@vsu.edu.

November 13, 9:00 AM- November 15, 6:00 PM: Global Meet & Expo on Crop Science and Engineering (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Experience the essence of the Global Meet & Expo on Crop Science and Engineering, which will bring together a vibrant community of distinguished experts, visionary researchers, accomplished professionals, innovative scientists, dedicated scholars, influential delegates, forward-thinking business leaders, aspiring students, and key industrialists. With a rich history of driving progress, this conference stands as a pivotal forum for expanding knowledge, inspiring innovation, and tackling the pressing challenges within the field of Crop Science and Engineering. For more information, contact GMECROP at gmecrop@academynature.org

November 13, 1:00 - 2:00 PM: Risk Management for the Farm – Agrotourism (Virtual)

Farming comes with many risks. Safety is paramount on all farms. Adding agrotourism to your operation can lead to increased revenue. With that income comes additional risks. Mr. Curt Porterfield, Assistant Director of College Facilities and Safety for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, will present ideas and suggestions on how to mitigate those additional risks. For more information, contact Brent Noell at 804.892.0140 or bnoell@vsu.edu.

November 13, 2:00 – 6:00 pm: NC Medicinal Herb Grower and Buyer Event - 10 Year Celebration! (Mills River, NC)

Join medicinal herb farmers, buyers, and celebrate the season at the 10th Annual NC Medicinal Herb Grower Buyer Event in Mills River, NC! The not-to-miss event for medicinal herb growers wanting to connect with potential buyers! Buyer presentations and "most wanted" lists, conversations about contract growth, Opportunities for growers to share product samples of available herbs and planting stock, Resource tables for growers, Networking, and celebrating medicinal herbs grown in North Carolina and the region. Sponsorships and In-kind donations are welcome. For more information about the WNC Medicinal Herb Growers group:

<https://newcropsorganics.ces.ncsu.edu/herb/wnc-medicinal-herb-growers/>, don't hesitate to get in touch with mary_bulan@ncsu.edu with sponsorship questions. For general event or buyer questions, please get in touch with margaret_bloomquist@ncsu.edu.

November 13, 5:30 PM-8:00 PM: College of Agriculture Stakeholder Focus Groups – South West (Wytheville VA)

The Small Farm Outreach Program has been tasked with hosting focus group meetings across the state on behalf of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture. These discussions will help us evaluate and understand the current agricultural landscape in Virginia. Insights gathered will be synthesized into a report that will be developed into infographics. Your experience and perspective are invaluable, and your contributions will help guide meaningful improvements. For more information, contact Amanda "Mandy" Fletcher at afletcher@vsu.edu.

November 15, 12:00 - 1:30 PM: AFFC's Forest Farming Office Hours 2025 (Virtual)

Join the Appalachian Forest Farmer Coalition and NC State University Extension for Q&A, resources, and conversation about forest farming. All regions and experience levels are welcome. All Forest Farming Office Hours take place on ZOOM on designated Fridays from 12 noon to 1:30 pm EST.

November 14, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Introduction to Mushrooms (Part 2 of 3) (Courtland, VA)

This is Part 2 of a 3-part series on mushroom cultivation, where we delve into the intricacies of grain spawn and substrate preparation. This course offers participants the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning of essential techniques crucial for successful mushroom cultivation. You'll delve into different grain spawn options, such as rye, millet, wheat, and oats, each offering unique benefits for mycelium growth. Participants will gain practical experience in preparing and inoculating grain bags, which involves sterilization and monitoring mycelium colonization. Furthermore, you'll learn the "Bucket Tek" method, a technique that is particularly beneficial for oyster mushrooms. By the end of the course, you will have created your personal grow bucket, equipping you with the skills and confidence to continue your mushroom cultivation journey at home. For more information, contact Garry Banks at (804) 760-3615 or gbanks@vsu.edu.

November 14, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Tree Planting at Rappahannock County Park (Charlottesville, VA)

Together, we will plant approximately 150 native trees and shrubs to enhance the riparian buffer along the Rush River, a tributary of the Rappahannock River watershed. The location will be at Rappahannock County Park, 7 Park Lane, Washington, Virginia, United States.

November 14-16: Sustainable Agriculture Conference.

Celebrating the Sustainable Agriculture Conference's 40th anniversary in 2025! The 2025 conference, scheduled for November 14th-16th in Columbia, SC, will feature dozens of inspiring and practical workshops, networking meetups, an expansive trade show, a keynote panel, locally-sourced bites, pre-conference workshops and farm tours, and more. Whether you're seeking new production ideas and tips for your farm, advocacy and food system coalition-building strategies for your community, or business development guidance for your food business, the Sustainable Agriculture Conference is designed for you. *Don't miss this once-a-year, one-stop-shop event for the food and farming community of the Carolinas!*

November 15, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Garden cleanup workshop (Galax, VA)

Do you wonder how to best prepare the garden for winter to help protect pollinators and other wildlife? Join the Permaculture group for their monthly workday on November 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Learn by doing! Pitch in and see how they prepare the pollinator garden and food forest for the winter. All workdays are in the Permaculture garden at the Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 9441 Grayson Pkwy, Galax, VA. Permaculture workdays are typically held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 am to noon. The best way to learn anything is by doing. Lend a hand and learn about permaculture. Contact Cynthia Taylor for more information. Cynthia@graysonlandcare.org

November 17, 3:00 – 6:00 PM: Roanoke Foodshed Network and Partner November Farm Tour and Social (Roanoke, VA)

The Roanoke Foodshed Network and partners present the November farm tour and socials at the Little Red Feed Mill and Whispering Oaks Farm. The time is scheduled for Monday, November 17, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Tour begins at Little Red Hen: 449 Bower Ln, Rocky Mount, and ends at Whispering Oaks: 491 Back Run Ln, Rocky Mount.

November 17, 6:00 PM: Park County, Montana Local Working Group Meeting (Wilsall, MT)

The Park Conservation District and NRCS are hosting a meeting to gather input from local stakeholders and help prioritize natural resource concerns, guiding NRCS funding opportunities. The Park Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will host a Local Working Group meeting to gather input from local stakeholders on how NRCS can most effectively deliver conservation assistance in Park County. For more enquiries, reach Ashley at Ashley.Lowrey@mt.nacdn.net.

November 17–18, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Artificial Insemination Course (Jonesville, VA)

The Bovine Artificial Insemination Course will be held on November 17–18, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Ewing/Harrogate area. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ailee2025>. For details, please don't hesitate to contact the Lee County Extension at (276) 546-2057 or the Claiborne County Extension at (423) 626-3742.

November 17 - 18, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM: 2nd International Conference on Agriculture & Natural Resources (Rome, Italy)

We are pleased to invite you to the 2nd International Conference on Agriculture & Natural Resources (ICANR 2025), taking place on November 17-18, 2025, in Rome, Italy. This distinguished conference will bring together prominent experts from the agricultural, environmental, and natural resource sectors to explore the theme: The Agricultural Sector's Challenges in Safeguarding Natural Resources and the Environment for Future Generations. The conference will feature various sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities with leading experts, providing a productive and enriching experience for all attendees. It presents an excellent opportunity to address key challenges and explore solutions that ensure the sustainability of agriculture and natural resource management for future generations. For more details, please explore our Website:

<https://agriculture.inovineconferences.com/> or contact us at agriculture@inovineconferences.com

November 18, 9:00 - 11:00 AM: Small Farm Orientation (Virtual)

This two-hour Zoom course is for new farmers with zero to five years of experience operating a farm. Ben Dukes and Derrick Gooden, regional program assistants for the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program, and Dr. Nartea, extension specialist for the VSU Integrated Marketing Program, will guide attendees through the process of developing a productive and profitable farm. Participants will receive a Small Farm Orientation manual. For more information, contact Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

November 18, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Climatology of Virginia Farms and Landscapes (Jonesville, VA)

Virginia is a state with diverse landscapes and distinctive climatic zones, which present unique challenges to its residents. This workshop will help increase understanding of the intricate relationships between weather, climate, and the natural history of Virginia. Farmers, growers, and lovers of the natural world will gain a deeper appreciation of Virginia's rich environment, helping them make informed decisions for a sustainable future for themselves, their families, friends, and communities. An open question-and-answer session will be provided. Thanks and appreciation to Laura Young, DCR Southwest Land Steward, for hosting this event. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Wayne Browning at (804) 760-3932 or wbrowning@vsu.edu.

November 18, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM: College of Agriculture Stakeholder Focus Groups – Northern and Piedmont (Culpeper, VA)

The Small Farm Outreach Program has been tasked with hosting focus group meetings across the state on behalf of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture. These discussions will help us evaluate and understand the current agricultural landscape in Virginia. Insights gathered will be synthesized into a report that will be developed into infographics. Your experience and perspective are invaluable, and your contributions will help guide meaningful improvements. For more information, contact Roland Terrell at rterrell@vsu.edu.

November 19, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Basic Soil Science for Small Farmers (Ettrick, VA)

This is an excellent time to learn about soils and all of the things they do to support us in our daily lives. Learn why soils are different, the layers in the soil, and how they formed. You will learn about how soil breaks down and the importance of different-sized particles. Why do some soils contain a high amount of organic matter, while others do not? And things we can do to improve soil health and therefore Plant health. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Tim Sexton at (804) 524-1028 or tsexton@vsu.edu.

November 19, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: ASD Veteran Coalition Meeting (Bristol, VA)

Are you a military veteran? If so, we'd love to have you attend our ASD Veteran Coalition meeting tonight at 6 pm. These recur every 3rd Wednesday – why not be a regular? These meetings are generously hosted free of charge by [Michael Waltrip Brewing](#), located at 221 Moore St, Bristol, VA 24201. Meetings are held in the room upstairs. The goal is to strengthen the veteran farming community by fostering meaningful connections, sharing practical knowledge and resources, and identifying collaborative opportunities that support the success and sustainability of veteran-led agricultural operations.

November 20, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM: College of Agriculture Stakeholder Focus Groups - Western & Central Virginia (Verona, VA)

The Small Farm Outreach Program has been tasked with hosting focus group meetings across the state on behalf of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture. These discussions will help us evaluate and understand the current agricultural landscape in Virginia. Insights gathered will be synthesized into a report that will be developed into infographics. Your experience and perspective are invaluable, and your contributions will help guide meaningful improvements. For more information, contact Forrest Hobbs at fhobbs@vsu.edu.

November 21, 3:00 – 6:00 PM: Conservation Open House in Etlan (Etlan, VA)

The community is invited to a free, open house at Ducard Vineyards to mingle with fellow community members and conservation practitioners in the area, including the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative, and the [Shenandoah National Park Trust](#). We hope to meet Etlan landowners and managers and share the many resources and support that these organizations can offer. This is a casual, afternoon event. Show up as you are, with no registration required. Drinks and snacks will be available.

November 20, 6:30 - 8:00 PM: Profitable Roots- Trust in Wills, and Wills in Trust (Virtual)

Let's talk about what happens next to your farming operation, as you join Michael Carter Jr of Carter Farms and Africulture and guest speakers to discuss the ins and outs of heir property, trust formation, and wills to ensure your operation and land are preserved. Wills are complex to discuss, and they become even harder to talk about when we're not here, so let's start the conversation and planning process to be prepared for the inevitable. Profits aren't always centered on what you are growing, but rather on how you plan for and protect your assets for the future. Let's grow together and will ourselves to more profitable roots. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Roland Terrell at (804) 892-4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

November 22, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Unrealized Financial Tools in Raising Cattle (Lovingston, VA)

The Cattlemen program is just a few weeks away, and today we are featuring another one of our speakers. John Saunders will share his experience with rotational grazing. Here is some information about him: John is co-owner of Silver Creek Orchards in Tyro, Virginia, and has been growing cattle, apples, and wine grapes on their family farm since 1994. The beef cattle operation utilizes Angus and Angus crosses, as well as Hereford, Simmental, and Charolais. Silver Creek began using intensive grazing practices about 10 years ago and has fully adopted this approach over the past few years. The cattle are marketed under the name Tye River Cattle Company. John received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1989. You can [register here](#).

November 22, 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM: Nelson Cattlemen Program (Lovingston, VA)

Cattlemen's program in Nelson County on Saturday, November 22, 2025. Attached is the brochure, which provides details about the topics, field demonstrations, presenters, and other relevant information.

November 22, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM: Small Ruminants: Late Gestation Lambing/Kidding (Abingdon, VA)

Calling all beginning and experienced sheep/goat producers...Join this interactive session to gain valuable knowledge of best management practices for lambing/kidding. This workshop includes a hands-on demonstration with a birthing model. Additional topics include preventing lamb/kid loss, the importance of colostrum, strategies for troubleshooting when birthing complications occur, and diagnosing and treating newborn lamb/kid problems. Dinner will be provided; registration is required by November 19, 2025. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Amanda "Mandy" Fletcher at (804) 892-0108 or afletcher@vsu.edu.

November 22, 12:00 - 3:00 PM: 5th Annual Chestnut Roast: Growers Gathering (Frederick, MD)

Learn about Chestnut, black walnuts, shagbark, hickory & persimmons. Take home six high-quality trees. Learn how to identify and select good genetics. Community potluck- Bring your favorite homemade dish to share. Live Music Jam - Bring Your Own Instrument. Enjoy roasted chestnuts.

November 22, 11:00 AM- 1:30 PM: Winter Pea Cover Crop Variety Trials Fall Field Day (Milford, VA)

Join Rich Earth Farm to discuss the 2025-2026 Mid-Atlantic Winter Pea Variety Trials. Meet with trial participants to discuss variety performance and share experiences. Hear from one of the research leads to learn more about on-farm cover crop breeding efforts and the benefits of cover crops. Attendees are encouraged to dress for outdoor November weather and bring their own lawn chair!. Please RSVP here if you plan to attend: <https://tinyurl.com/WPFallFieldDay25> Please share widely! Hope to see you there.

November 24, 4:00 - 5:00 PM: The History and Impact of Bananas (Virtual)

Bananas are thought to have originated in Southeast Asia, specifically Papua New Guinea, around 10,000 years ago. A staple fruit enjoyed worldwide, bananas boast a rich history and significant impact, spanning from their ancient origins to their modern-day role in global food security and cultural symbolism, playing a crucial role in the diets of many, particularly in developing nations. There's a lot more to this popular yellow fruit that adorns and dominates the grocery produce section than the Cavendish variety. Join this presentation as Gabe Sachter-Smith of Hawai'i Banana Source introduces you to his decades-long research and passion for over 150 varieties of this fantastic herb. For more information, contact Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

November 24: A one-day organic conference (Norfolk, VA)

There will be a one-day organic conference with a dedicated track for growing organic seeds, provided by the great folks at [Ujamaa Farms](#) as part of the [Ira Wallace Seed School](#). Join us for the day to expand your knowledge of seed saving techniques and understand the importance of seed saving for our sustainability and resilience in these challenging times. More info to come!! Contact Brent Wills at Programs@VABF.org if you have any questions or would like to be added to the list for contact about the conference.

November 30, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Mushroom Cultivation 2 PM (Norfolk, VA)

Mushrooms are a small yet mighty culinary ingredient with numerous health benefits, ranging from cancer prevention to improved brain health. Jason Hess, owner/operator of The Tidewater Mushroom Company LLC, will introduce participants to common gourmet mushroom varieties and their uses. Participants will learn about the mushroom life cycle, nutrition facts, and statistics on superfoods, as well as the day-to-day operations of this unique indoor urban mushroom farm. Each participant will receive an inoculated grow bag to take home, following a tour of the farm that includes a Q&A session and an explanation of the lab, equipment, and growing mediums. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Ben Dukes at (804) 731-7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

November 30, 5:00 - 7:00 PM: Mushroom Cultivation 5 PM (Norfolk, VA)

Mushrooms are a small yet mighty culinary ingredient with numerous health benefits, ranging from cancer prevention to improved brain health. Jason Hess, owner/operator of The Tidewater Mushroom Company LLC, will introduce participants to common gourmet mushroom varieties and their uses. Participants will learn about the mushroom life cycle, nutrition facts, superfood statistics, and the day-to-day operation of this unique indoor urban mushroom farm. Each participant will receive an inoculated grow bag to take home, following a tour of the farm that includes a Q&A session and an explanation of the lab, equipment, and growing mediums. For more information, please contact Ben Dukes at (804) 731-7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

December

December 2, 5:30 - 7:30 PM: Start Smart: Building Your Agri-Business (Harrisonburg, VA)

Join the Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center for an evening session to jump-start your agri-business. This workshop is designed to help beginning farmers build and develop a business and marketing plan. Learn about the SBDC's advising resources and Financial Wellness Center. This workshop will be geared to agricultural producers to address the specific areas of concern and growth related to farm enterprises. For more information, please contact Marian Dalke at (540) 232-6010 or mdalke@vt.edu.

December 2, 6:00 - 8:30 PM: Starting an LLC workshop: a Beginners Guide for Virginia Farmers (Abingdon, VA)

This workshop provides an overview of the process of forming and managing a Limited Liability Company (LLC) in Virginia. Designed for aspiring, beginning, or experienced farmers, this workshop will equip you with the essential knowledge and practical steps to navigate the legal and administrative requirements of establishing an LLC in the Commonwealth. Tax benefits and considerations will also be discussed. For more information, please get in touch with Amanda "Mandy" Fletcher at (804) 892-0108 or afletcher@vsu.edu.

December 3, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Farm Tour - Epic Pastures Farm (Farmville, VA)

Join for a tour of Epic Pastures Farm with Bob and Maggie Allen. After relocating from Chicago, they have turned an underutilized property into a busy, thriving farming operation. They have started an orchard, built a greenhouse, and started producing vegetables. They have recently added sheep to their farming operation. Their plans include continuing to improve the quality of their land for future farm expansion. For more information, please get in touch with Marilyn Estes at (804) 481-0485 or mestes@vsu.edu.

December 4, 9:00 -11:30 AM: Aerial Imagery for Farmers (Rapidan, VA)

Learn how aerial imagery can revolutionize your farming practices! This workshop will cover practical techniques for using aerial imagery to detect diseases and pests early, make real-time decisions, and address skips and overlaps in planting, spraying, fertilizing, and liming. Discover how these methods can help you even out yields and tackle potential issues before they escalate, ensuring a more efficient and productive farming operation. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Roland Terrell at (804) 892-4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

December 4, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Farm Bookkeeping Basics webinar (Virtual)

Get your books ready for tax season! In this session, you will learn basic tips and strategies to help you clean up your books before the end of the year. Not sure where to start? This session will guide you in the right direction. Topics include: Initial books clean-up and digitization, Creating a budget & business plan, How to assess overall farm profitability, Got a question for our team? Send an email to hello@goodagriculture.com.

December 5, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Using Trees to Take Pigs & Poultry to New Heights (Kutztown, PA)

Join other experimental and insightful pig & poultry farmers at Rodale Institute for a full day of learning together about how to integrate pigs, poultry, and trees into our landscapes to create nutrient-dense foods, beautiful and functional farms, and humane ways of raising livestock.

- Listen as John Arbuckle of Singing Pastures rhapsodizes over alternative feeds to finish pigs.
- Tour Rodale Institute's organic pig operation.
- Dig the dirt from the panel of producers on tips that have made the most significant differences in their operations.
- Check out the techniques and genetics Trees For Graziers has incorporated into recent plantings.

Let's learn together how to elevate monogastric production to new heights by utilizing trees for shade, fodder, and crops rich in protein, energy, and micronutrients. Let's go beyond grass (and grain) into the world of tree crops for non-ruminants.

December 7, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Mushroom Cultivation 2 pm (Norfolk, VA)

Mushrooms are a small yet mighty culinary ingredient with numerous health benefits, ranging from cancer prevention to improved brain health. Jason Hess, owner/operator of The Tidewater Mushroom Company LLC, will introduce participants to common gourmet mushroom varieties and their uses. Participants will learn about the mushroom life cycle, nutrition facts, and statistics on superfoods, as well as the day-to-day operations of this unique indoor urban mushroom farm. Each participant will receive an inoculated grow bag to take home, following a tour of the farm that includes a Q&A session and an explanation of the lab, equipment, and growing mediums. For more information, please contact Ben Dukes at (804) 731-7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

December 7, 5:00 - 7:00 PM: Mushroom Cultivation 5 pm (Norfolk, VA)

Mushrooms are a small yet mighty culinary ingredient with numerous health benefits, ranging from cancer prevention to improved brain health. Jason Hess, owner/operator of The Tidewater Mushroom Company LLC, will introduce participants to common gourmet mushroom varieties and their uses. Participants will learn about the mushroom life cycle, nutrition facts, and statistics on superfoods, as well as the day-to-day operations of this unique indoor urban mushroom farm. Each participant will receive an inoculated grow bag to take home, following a tour of the farm that includes a Q&A session and an explanation of the lab, equipment, and growing mediums. For more information, please contact Ben Dukes at (804) 731-7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

December 8 - 10, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM: International Conference on Public Health and Health Care System (Paris, France)

This prestigious conference provides a premier platform for public health professionals, policymakers, researchers, and healthcare practitioners to engage in discussions on the latest advancements, share critical insights, and explore collaborative approaches to addressing complex health challenges. ICPHHCS-2025 will bring together a distinguished group of global experts in public health, health policy, and healthcare systems. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking keynote sessions, dynamic panel discussions, and hands-on workshops, all designed to foster collaboration, stimulate innovative thinking, and promote actionable solutions. For more information, contact us at contact@conplusmeeting.com.

December, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM: The Art and Science of Pressed Plant Vouchers (Asheville, NC)

This annual WNC Medicinal Herb Growers Voucher Workshop guides you in preparing plant vouchers for your medicinal herb business. Pressed plant vouchers are a vital record-keeping tool for commercial herb farmers, hobby growers, and home gardeners alike. Beautiful and functional, plant vouchers are often requested by herb buyers to ensure proper plant identification. In this workshop, you will learn how to mount and prepare vouchers to meet industry standards, or enjoy them as a work of art! The summer and early fall seasons are ideal for collecting and pressing plant material, including roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and seeds, to be used in creating vouchers. Bring your own pressed and dried plant material; all other materials will be provided. Questions? Contact Meghan Baker at meghan_baker@ncsu.edu

December 9, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Recordkeeping on your Computer or Smart Phone (Virtual)

Farming is a business, and good recordkeeping is essential for a successful farming operation. Using the tools you have, you can keep thorough records. These records will provide valuable information on which methods are most effective on your farm. They can help plan a realistic forecast for the coming year and may also be a requirement for lending institutions. Greg Carter will lead this workshop. He grew up on a small farm but worked in the corporate world. After retirement, Greg returned to his roots and started a small, diversified farming operation, utilizing the lessons he had learned in business. Now he shares this knowledge with other farmers! For more information, please get in touch with Michael Carter Sr. at (804) 481-1163 or mcarter@vsu.edu.

December 9, 6:30 - 8:00 PM: Planning for Opportunities & Grants in 2026 (Virtual)

Join us in looking for opportunities for your farming operation in 2026. Michael Carter Jr of Carter Farms and Africulture will share some different opportunities and options available for your farming operation in 2026. This is the time to start planning, as spring will be here before we know it; let's plan for our success next season. For more information, please get in touch with Michael Carter Sr. at (804) 814-2581 or mcarter@vsu.edu.

December 10, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Niche Crops for Small-Scale Farmers (Rapidan, VA)

Discover profitable niche crops perfect for small farms. Discover how to optimize returns through niche markets and sustainable farming practices. Niche crops are non-traditional crops that are in high demand due to their unique properties or characteristics. These crops are often grown on a small scale and can generate significant profits for farmers. This workshop will discuss niche crops for specific customers and dedicated buyers. For more information, please get in touch with Roland Terrell at (804) 892-4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

December 11, 3:00 - 5:00 PM: VSU SFOP and USDA Information Update (Buena Vista, VA)

The VSU Small Farm Outreach Program events and services will be highlighted at a booth as part of the Buena Vista Farmers Market. The marketing rules will be available to individuals considering being vendors at this market. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about various marketing practices and have their questions answered. For more information, please get in touch with Forrest Hobbs at (804) 892-5310 or fhobbs@vsu.edu.

December 12, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Introduction to Mushrooms (Part 3 of 3) (Courtland, VA)

This is Part 3 of a three-part series on mushroom cultivation. In this segment, we will learn what the crucial conditions must be for Mushrooms to fruit. Proper Humidity, CO₂, and Lighting are vital. Participants will learn to create mason jar grain spawn samples and receive guidance on transferring them to substrate. They will also build a small Mushroom Monotub fruiting chamber for cultivating at home. For more information, contact Garry Banks at (804) 760-3615 or gbanks@vsu.edu.

December 13, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: The Weather and Climatology of Winter in Virginia (Clintwood, VA)

Winter is a challenging time for residents of Virginia. This can be especially true for farmers, growers, livestock owners, and pet owners who often must deal directly with the wild, short-term fluctuations that this season brings. Regardless of how severe the conditions become, those whose livelihoods depend on working outdoors or traveling from point A to B must deal with whatever Mother Nature conjures up. From the Atlantic Ocean to the Cumberland Mountains, Virginia is characterized by diverse landscapes that each possess distinctly different winter concerns. The workshop will provide you with a much better understanding of winter, covering both short-term (weather) and long-term (climate) conditions and trends to help you plan and prepare in advance for any potential developments. An open question-and-answer session will invite attendees to ask anything of interest to them. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Wayne Browning at (804) 760-3932 or wbrowning@vsu.edu.

December 17, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Nutrient Management Workshop (Petersburg, VA)

Join as you learn to navigate the interpretation of soil test results and recommendations. Also, learn how to collect and prepare soil samples properly. Understanding the nutrients that are deficient and excessive in your soil will help you develop healthier soils and increase production. Please dress appropriately for the weather; we will be spending time outdoors. For more information, contact Tammy Holler at 804.895.9472 or tholler@vsu.edu.

December 18, 6:30 - 8:00 PM: Forest Farming: Maple Syrup (Virtual)

Discover the fundamentals of forest farming and explore the rewarding process of maple syrup production—from sap collection to syrup creation. Learn how non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like forest plants and fungi can provide food, medicine, and artistic materials for personal use or income. Whether you're curious about sustainable harvesting or looking to expand your knowledge of agroforestry, this session offers practical insights. All registrants will receive access to recordings, ensuring you can revisit the material whenever needed. This event is being provided at no charge to participants. Registration is required to obtain the link to access the webinar.

December 20, 10:00 AM 12:00 PM: Poultry and litter Management (Warfield, VA)

If you are thinking about starting a homestead, farm, or want to sharpen your farming skills, this workshop is for you. Join for a Poultry 101-type workshop. You will learn the basics of raising and marketing poultry as well as incorporating the use of composted poultry litter into a nutrient management plan. Please dress appropriately for the weather; this is an outdoor event. For more information, contact Tammy Holler at 804.895.9472 or tholler@vsu.edu.

January

January 9th-11th, 2026 The 26th annual Virginia Biological Farming Conference

The Virginia Biological Farming Conference brings together farmers, gardeners, eaters, educators, industry professionals, and advocates of sustainable, regenerative, biological, and organic agriculture. The three-day Conference includes: Pre-Conference intensive workshops on Friday, 50 concurrent sessions on Saturday and Sunday with 35+ speakers, locally sourced farm meals prepared by the amazing chefs at the Hotel Roanoke, book sales with author signings, a Farmer Listening Session, and 50 agricultural tradeshow exhibitors. Conference highlights include a youth and teen program for ages 5-17, a local farm tour, and four half- and full-day workshops, a silent auction, and plenty of networking opportunities! Also featuring a regional networking meeting, fireside chats in an intimate space with a scheduled speaker, morning yoga for farmers, and book sales with author signings. The Taste of Virginia Expo & Market is a popular space within the Conference to enjoy samples and sales of Virginia food, beverages, and handicrafts, and the new 'Farming is Funny' Comedy Show will surely not disappoint! All Conference registrations include breakfast and Lunch on Saturday and Sunday, all thoughtfully prepared with local ingredients by the amazing chefs at Hotel Roanoke, sourced from our own VABF member farm.

January 14: Tree Crop Workshop

Join us for a professional development opportunity that brings together leaders in sustainable agriculture and tree crop industry innovation. This workshop is designed for growers, natural resource professionals, entrepreneurs, and enthusiasts seeking to advance their expertise in tree crop management and agroforestry integration. Participants will gain valuable insights from distinguished industry leaders, leading researchers, and innovative farmers. This workshop will host structured breakout sessions designed to foster meaningful dialogue and learning in small group settings. Come prepared with your questions.

January 15, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM: 2026 Agroforestry Symposium: Growing Opportunities in Emerging Tree Crop Industries (Columbia, MO, OR online via Zoom)

Join the Center for Agroforestry for our 17th Annual Agroforestry Symposium! This year, we will bring together farmers, researchers, industry professionals, and stakeholders to explore tree crop production and agroforestry systems. The symposium features expert panels on farm-level management and economics, regional development opportunities, and mixed species agroforestry systems.

Whether you're interested in scaling tree nut industries, exploring specialty crop development, or learning about sustainable farming practices, this hybrid event offers both in-person networking opportunities and virtual participation options to dig deep into these intertwined subjects. *More details and registration coming soon!*

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