



Newsblast

September 2, 2025

Photo by Karalina S

A Message from VBFRC

As September arrives with crisp mornings and fields heavy with promise, we know it's a busy and rewarding time for farmers. Harvest is in full swing, and with it comes both the satisfaction of hard work and the anticipation of what's ahead. This month, we're bringing you programs, workshops, and events to help you pause, connect, and gather new tools for the season. May these offerings bring fresh energy and insight as you balance the rhythm of harvest with planning for what's next.

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

Join us for a Small Farm Recordkeeping webinar on Wednesday, September 17, from 12-1 pm, featuring Cyndi Knudson, Co-owner of Honey River Farm and Small Farms Area Specialist with NC Cooperative Extension. Small farm record keeping can include everything from tax preparation and financial tracking to daily harvest logs and breeding schedules. A clean and organized paper trail is essential not only for your tax professional but also for managing the day-to-day flow of your farm operations. In this webinar, you will learn how to:

- Set up your record-keeping system so that it aligns smoothly with Schedule F and Schedule C tax forms
- Maintain accurate financial records that support business decisions and compliance
- Track daily harvests, breeding schedules, and production data to improve efficiency
- Approach record keeping in a way that works for both short-term tasks and long-term goals

Key resources will be shared to help you select and implement the most effective record-keeping strategies for your farm.

[REGISTER](#) to join us!

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute: Invitation to Participate in an Interview

This is a call to gather perspectives from organizations in the solar and agricultural space, as well as landowners and farmers, through interviews. Are you or any landowners or farmers interested in participating in the survey? If so, you can book a time using this link [here](#). Please feel free to share it with others as well. For those who may not have the time for an interview but still wish to participate, we are also conducting a [small, 10-question survey](#).

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](#)

Secretary Rollins Announces \$60.9 Million in Disaster Assistance for Farmers in Virginia

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced additional U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance to help producers in the Commonwealth of Virginia recover from Hurricane Helene. In this agreement, VDACS is receiving \$60.9 million in funding to administer a program covering infrastructure, timber, and plasticulture losses in addition to market losses and future economic losses. This funding is part of the \$30 billion disaster assistance relief effort authorized by the *American Relief Act, 2025*. USDA is working with 14 different states, including Virginia, to develop and implement block grants to address the unique disaster recovery needs for each state. USDA, Governor Glenn Youngkin's office in Virginia, and VDACS have finalized a grant agreement that will cover qualifying losses not addressed by other USDA disaster programs. Producers should look for additional program information available through the VDACS. Visit the [2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page](#) to track the status of USDA disaster assistance. The page is updated regularly and accessible through fsa.usda.gov.

January 22-23, 2026: Future Harvest's 27th Annual Conference Call for Proposal (Silver Spring, MD)

Call for Workshop Proposals! Future Harvest's 27th Annual Conference will be held on January 22–23, 2026, in Silver Spring, Maryland, with the theme "Pivot, Care, Grow: Farmers and Communities Building Together." The planning team is now accepting proposals for 75–90 minute workshops on topics including farm production, marketing, soil health, policy, community, and more. Submit your proposal by August 15, 2025, to share your knowledge and connect with a vibrant, diverse community of farmers and food system changemakers! Questions? Email conference@futureharvest.org with the subject line CONFERENCE.

Save the Date: A Gathering of Watershed Leaders

It's never too early to start planning for an event that brings together passionate leaders from agriculture and conservation to explore innovative strategies for meeting water quality goals across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The event will take place from December 8 to 10. This is your chance to be part of meaningful conversations and collaborative solutions that support both agriculture and clean water. [More info here!](#)

Agricultural Producers for the Local Food Exchange System Supplier Database

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs is committed to increasing the availability of local foods in school meals. The help of Maryland producers and aggregators is required to make the dream a reality. An upcoming opportunity for local food procurement for school meals will soon be post on [eMMA](#), a Maryland's new online procurement platform used to connect the vendor community with contracting opportunities from state, county, and local government entities. Registered vendors will receive notices of bid opportunities, can submit bid responses online, and may obtain bid results online. Select the Commodity Code: 70000000 - Farming and Fishing and Forestry and Wildlife Contracting Services, as a preliminary (primary) code

Series

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](#).

- September 26: Creating Vernal Pools
- October 24: Tree Growth
- 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](#).

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.

- **Full Generation NEXT Workshop.** October 4, full day, in Farmville. This comprehensive workshop offers presentations and provides an opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts, as well as experienced fellow landowners. More information will be available when registration opens in early August.
- **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. More information will be available when registration opens in early September.

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.

Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Lunch Tours

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program partners with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation to offer an annual series of Tree Farm Tours. These tours bring woodland owners together to visit an active Tree Farm, learn about the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation, and provide fellowship among those who care about healthy woods and active woodland management. You do not need to be a Tree Farmer to attend. Registration deadlines are two weeks prior to the tour date.

- September 4: Sussex County
- September 15: Bland County
- September 19: Shenandoah County
- September 26: Montgomery County

Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Lunch Tours

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program partners with the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation to offer an annual series of Tree Farm Tours. These tours bring woodland owners together to visit an active Tree Farm, learn about the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation, and provide fellowship among those who care about healthy woods and active woodland management. You do not need to be a Tree Farmer to attend.

- September 4 - Raccoon Creek Pinelands, Sussex County – 2025 Tree Farm of the Year!
- September 15 – Demeter Tree Farm, Bland County – 2024 Tree Farm of the Year!
- September 19 - C. Furnace Lutheran Camp, Shenandoah County
- September 26 - Sowder Tree Farm, Montgomery County

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours

Join landowners, natural resource professionals, and other outdoor lovers for day-long tours that explore a variety of sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices. Tours visit private, public, and industry-owned lands. Past tours have visited seedling nurseries, timber harvesting operations, sawmills, pine plantations, cooperages, hardwood forests, arboretums, Christmas tree farms, elk habitat, fisheries, hunting plantations, and more.

- October 2, Henry County
- October 9, Wise County
- October 17, Frederick County
- October TBA, Virginia Beach

Agendas and registration will be available in August.

Generation NEXT Legacy Planning

Discussions about what happens to family forestland when mom and dad die are difficult. A well-thought-out plan can help things go smoothly. In this series, experts will provide practical techniques to help you plan for the future of your land.

- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - October 4
 - Farmville
 - [Register](#)
- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - November 8
 - Norfolk or Hampton Roads
 - Agenda and registration available in September.

4 the Soil Highlights



S5 - E17: Everything Good Starts with the Soil with Dr. Summer Thomas, Pt. I

Everything good starts with the soil and a conservation stewardship mindset. In the 101st episode, Dr. Summer Thomas, education and outreach specialist with the Virginia Soil Health Coalition, explains how agriculture and soil health are good for everyone. As a third-generation farmer from Delaware, former watermelon queen, a trained soil scientist and educator, and an overall advocate for agriculture, Summer shares some of her earliest experiences of 4-H and FFA with Jeff, Mary, and Eric in public speaking, youth education, and land stewardship. These early education and outreach experiences were a launch point for her passion for agriculture and career pursuit. Summer emphasizes that soil health and agriculture provide many positive community connections and must be fun for the next generation of farmers. Additionally, soil health is foundational to resilient farm businesses and systems.

S5 - E16: Celebrating Our 100th Podcast Episode with Jeff, Mary, and Eric

During this 100th episode of 4 The Soil: A Conversation, Jeff, Mary, and Eric take a look back at some of the most memorable topics and guests. They share how (and why) the podcast started in 2021, and also offer their vision for the future of the podcast.

4 the Soil Blog Check out the latest 4 the Soil blog!

September

September 3, 10:00 - 11:30 AM: New Innovative Approach to Hydroponics (Kenbridge, VA)

Are you interested in learning more about growing produce using hydroponics ?? Join at Full Circle Bloom Farm for a tour of their facility to learn more about hydroponics and the newest methods for success. The farm strives to furnish the local communities with fresh, nutritious produce. Join us with founder, Veteran Andrew Richardson to learn more about this alternative method of growing produce. For more information, contact Marilyn Estes at 804-481-0485 or mestes@vsu.edu.

September 3, 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. The challenges of the agriculture industry and provide financial solutions to help producers achieve sustainability, scalability, and profitability. Explore key topics such as: Understanding Tax Compliance for Agribusiness Operations, Choosing the Right Entity Structure for Your Agribusiness, and Financial Literacy for Farmers, Ranchers, and Veterans. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804-720-6826.

September 3, 5:00 – 8:00 PM: Feast From the Field (Warrenton, VA)

Our annual Feast from the Field fundraising dinner will take place on September 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Moriah Farm will once again host us and will have a much more family-friendly price. Details are on the link below, and you can purchase your tickets there as well. This year, for an additional price, we are adding a Farm Tour and Epicurean Experience from 5 to 6 PM at the Fauquier Education Farm. There are lots of new details, so please explore the link below for more information. <https://runsignup.com/TicketEvent/FeastFromTheField2025>

September 4, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: Nature Journaling Workshop (Crozet, VA)

Join the [Piedmont Environmental Council](#) and [Botanical Artist Lara Call Gastinger](#) at [Montfair Resort Farm](#) for a nature journaling workshop. PEC will lead participants out into the grasslands to discuss their importance as a habitat before they begin their journaling. There will be a sketch of grassland species (including plants, birds, and insects) to get better acquainted with this unique ecosystem. Whether you're an experienced artist or a curious beginner, this workshop will give you the tools to see nature in a whole new way. This event is free and open to all, but space is limited; therefore, [registration is required](#). Learn more about the Piedmont Environmental Council's work with the Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative to bring back our grassland bird population at vagrasslandbirds.org.

September 5, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM: Destination Agritourism Workshop (Ellicott City, Maryland)

Learn how to start and maintain an agritourism operation directly from a successful business in Maryland during a daylong Destination Agritourism Workshop hosted by UMES Extension on Sept. 5, 2025. The workshop will be held at Mary's Land Farm in Ellicott City, Maryland, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This workshop will focus on how to start an agritourism operation, including a farm stay. Discussion topics include regenerative agriculture; cost, pricing, and marketing strategies; food safety and handling; organizing and managing visitor activities; and human resources, liability, taxes, zoning, and permitting. Pre-registration is required at <https://umesagritourismdestination.eventbrite.com> for each participant by Aug. 29; the workshop is limited to 25 people.

September 5- 6: Southeast Virginia: Beyond the Basics Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat (Charlottesville, VA)

Advanced Woodland Owner Retreats are hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension and are geared towards landowners who have some experience with forest management. Advanced Retreats delve deeply into a specific forestry topic. They also provide opportunities for interaction with natural resource professionals from various agencies in Virginia, as well as with other landowners. A combination of classroom instruction, field trips, and hands-on activities is used. Agenda and registration available in July. Contact Jennifer Gagnon, jgagnon@vt.edu, 540-231-6391, for more information.

September 6, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Homestead Mushroom Cultivation: Gardens, Lawns and Woodlots (Monterey, VA)

Learn the ins and outs of incorporating mushrooms into a homestead landscape—practical advice for growing outdoors in multiple environments using widely available methods, materials, and species. The lesson will cover the basics of fungal biology and its application to cultivation, including the three most common outdoor growing practices, how to maintain your mushrooms from year to year, how to induce fruiting, and how to harvest them. The day will end with a discussion of what to do with the mushrooms you harvest, whether edible or not. Please get in touch if you require financial assistance to attend the event.

Sep 6, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Yoga and Herbalism (Monterey, VA)

Join for a day of tending. The event begins with a welcome circle and orientation to the village/land, followed by a Yoga class with a grounding meditation, multilevel asana flow, and pranayama (breathing) practice. Before lunch, we'll have time for quiet, nature reflection with a guiding prompt. The event will provide a vegan lunch before delving into an herbal body-care making workshop, and conclude with an optional sauna. As our society moves forward at an ever-increasing pace, it becomes essential to create space and time to prioritize our wellness. Having the support of the community gives us permission to care for and nurture ourselves.

September 6, 2:00 - 5:00 PM: STEAM & Play Back to School Bash (Washington D.C)

We are thrilled to partner with Washington D.C. Youth Rugby to host the STEAM & Play Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. This free, family-centered event is designed to bring together local organizations, educators, artists, and community members for a day of learning and wellness, and play as we prepare students for a strong start to the school year, children in Ward 7 and 8 of Washington, D.C.

September 9, 9:30 AM- 12:00 PM: South-Central Pumpkin Field Day (Kenbridge, VA)

Attend South-Central Pumpkin Field Day at the Parrish Pumpkin Patch, 2571 Dundas RD. You can RSVP at the Charlotte Extension Office at (434) 542-5884 or the Lunenburg Office at (434) 696-5526.

September 9, 10:00 AM: Allegany County Local Working Group Meeting (Cumberland, MD)

The purpose of this meeting is to prioritize local natural resource concerns for the fiscal year 2026 Farm Bill programs, which offer financial assistance for installing conservation practices. Farmers and producers representing a variety of crops and livestock raised within the local area, private woodland owners, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations, and representatives of other agriculture and natural resource agencies are encouraged to attend. Local Working Group meetings are open to the public, and all recommendations will be considered.

September 9-10: Controlled Environment Agriculture Summit East 2025

The Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Summit East is returning to the IALR Conference Center in Danville, Virginia, on September 9-10, 2025, to cover a wide variety of topics related to greenhouse production, vertical farms, and indoor agriculture. Co-hosted by Virginia Tech and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center in partnership with Indoor Ag-Con, this event brings together industry leaders, researchers, educators, and growers for two days. The conference schedule includes: Keynote presentations and research showcases, networking opportunities, and tabletop exhibits, including CEA suppliers, a graduate student poster competition, and a guided tour of the CEA Innovation Center that includes additional educational content and research updates, in-depth 1.5-hour education sessions focused on CEA Skills, Business, and Workforce Development & Training. There is a registration scholarship for Extension personnel.

September 10, 9:00 - 11:30 AM: Basic Soil Science for Farmers (Ettrick, VA)

Farmers and Growers will learn about how to develop a healthy soil, how soils form, the different layers, the different soil particles and how they affect our potential to produce crops, the importance of porosity in soil, organic matter in soil, water holding capacity and how soil surveys are made and how they are a great source of information on your land to help determine productivity. Space is limited to 30 participants. For more information, contact Tim Sexton at 804-524-1028 or tsexton@vsu.edu.

September 10, 10:30 AM: Harford County Local Working Group Meeting (Forest Hill, MD)

The purpose of this meeting is to prioritize local natural resource concerns for the fiscal year 2026 Farm Bill programs, which offer financial assistance for installing conservation practices. Farmers and producers representing a variety of crops and livestock raised within the local area, private woodland owners, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations, and representatives of other agriculture and natural resource agencies are encouraged to attend. Local Working Group meetings are open to the public, and all recommendations will be considered. For more information, or to request reasonable accommodations, contact Rob Weaver, District Conservationist at rob.weaver@usda.gov or (443) 567-7810.

September 10, 9:30 -11:30 AM: Ag Community Invited to Improve Conservation in America Samoa (Pago Pago, AS)

Local conservation districts convene Local Working Group meetings, which are open to the public, with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. They gather input from a diverse group of stakeholders with interests in both agriculture and the environment. Their feedback helps NRCS guide conservation priorities in the local communities for the upcoming fiscal year. Representatives of the American Samoa SWCD and NRCS will provide information and answer questions about available conservation programs, farm loans, and disaster assistance programs. Together, we provide financial and technical assistance to help farmers, ranchers, and private landowners deliver environmental benefits and to invest in, improve, and expand agricultural operations. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Brooke Gurr, district conservationist, American Samoa Service Center, USDA NRCS Pacific Islands Area, at (684) 731-2805 | brooke.gurr@usda.gov.

September 11, 9:00 AM: Virginia Soybean Field Day

You are invited to join us on September 11 at 9:00 am for the Eastern Virginia AREC Soybean Field Day. Please register here: bit.ly/25SoyFieldDay. Topics include Tissue Testing & Growth Stages; Planting Dates & Maturity Groups; Deer Management; Variable Rate Pre-Plant Fertility; Disease & Insect Management; Weed Management with Drone Technology; Breeding Updates.

September 12, 1:30 - 4:00 PM: Bio Recycling of Agricultural Waste into Value-Added Products (Petersburg, VA)

Join us at VSU Randolph Farm to learn from bio-recycling expert Dr. Adnan Yousuf about recycling crop residue from various crops to produce value-added products, such as romaine lettuce and oyster mushrooms. VCE Powhatan County Agent, Mr. John Few, and his clientele will share how to grow oyster mushrooms for home consumption. Farm marketing specialist Dr. Theresa Nartea will share exciting marketing ideas, including simple recipes for you to try. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804-720-6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

September 13, 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM: New Christmas Tree Growers Meeting (Cumberland, VA)

Kyle Peer, Superintendent of the Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center, and Richard Nuckols, grower of Nuckols Christmas Tree Farm, will discuss getting started in Christmas tree production. The topics include seedling selection, planting techniques, farm layout, and shearing. We will also discuss the safe application of pesticides and herbicides. This is a hands-on workshop with indoor and outdoor sessions. Wear appropriate footwear, and bring work gloves. Please pre-register by September 9th. For more information about the program, please don't hesitate to contact Kyle Peer at the Reynolds Homestead FRRC at krpeer@vt.edu or 276-694-4135.

September 13, 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM: Salute To The Soil – Community Celebration (Ruckersville, VA)

Join us for Salute to the Soil, a fun-filled day bringing together families, farmers, veterans, and community members to celebrate agriculture, connection, and community spirit!

September 13, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Yoga and Herbalism (Monterey, VA)

Join for a day of tending. It begins with a welcome circle and orientation to the village/land, followed by a Yoga class with a grounding meditation, multilevel asana flow, and pranayama (breathing) practice. Before lunch, you'll have time for quiet reflection on nature with a guiding prompt. A vegan lunch will be provided before delving into an herbal body-care making workshop, and will conclude with an optional sauna. As society moves forward at an ever-increasing pace, it becomes essential to create space and time to prioritize our wellness. Having the support of the community gives us permission to care for and nurture ourselves. Lodging options are available for those traveling long distances or for those who wish to spend the night at The Village. To discuss lodging options, reach out to our Executive Director, Tim, for more information. You can reach him at: tim@amivillage.org

September 13, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: History Hike at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook

Join The Piedmont Environmental Council and [Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association](#) (VPHAA) for a History Hike at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook on Saturday, September 13! As we walk along the trails at overlook, Travis Shaw and Ian MacDougall from VPHAA will share a variety of stories on the history surrounding Ashby's Gap. The stories will range from a brief overview of the landscape, to Native American uses of the mountain gap, to Ashby's Gap in the context of the American Revolution and the Civil War. The event is free, but [registration is required on Eventbrite](#). Space is limited.

September 13, 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM: 2025 Stomp-Salute to the soil (Ruckersville, VA)

Join the 2025 Stomp - Salute to the Soil in Greene County, hosted by Living Free Together, Cattle Run Farm, Virginia Career Works - Piedmont, and Minority Veteran Farmers of the Piedmont. This event honors the service and sacrifice of those who serve us, highlighting the healing power of nature and the transformative potential of farming. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, this community event is free for veterans and first responders, with a low fee for community members and their families. Enjoy country music, line dancing, crafts, a petting farm, and workshops in beekeeping, livestock and poultry raising, and gardening tips from master gardeners and generational farmers. Let's gather and celebrate the gifts that nature has to offer!

September 16, 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 or Derrick Gooden at 804-586-5352 or dgooden@vsu.edu.

September 16, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM: VSU Trojan Farmers Market hosted by Cooperative Extension (Virginia State University, VA)

Come for Farms, Friends, and Fun!!! Free Surprise Gift to the first 100 customers. Raffle Drawings every half hour. Educational Agriculture-Related Demonstrations. Open to the Public. For more information, contact Dr. Theresa Nartea at tnartea@vsu.edu.

September 16, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Albemarle Data Center Community Meeting (Charlottesville, VA)

Hear from Julie Bolthouse, PEC's Director of Land Use and one of the leaders of the [Virginia Data Center Reform Coalition](#), about data centers' environmental impacts and how advocating for regulations at the state and local level and transparency can achieve better outcomes for communities. PEC's Albemarle County Senior Land Use Representative, Rob McGinnis, will talk about Albemarle County specifically, the ongoing Data Center Ordinance update, and how you can get involved this fall. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of staff who are working on the ground in Loudoun, Culpeper, Orange, and Albemarle Counties, where data center development and proposals are most prevalent. We will also have detailed maps around the room of the proposal Data Center Overlay Districts in Albemarle County, as well as increased and larger transmission lines. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. [Register here](#).

September 17, 9:00 - 11:30 AM: Basic Soil Fertility for Farmers (Ettrick, VA)

Farmers and Growers will learn about the 18 essential nutrients required for plant growth and the forms that they must be in to be used by the plant. You will learn how they function in plants and the deficiency symptoms they exhibit. You will also learn about how lime works in the soil and what causes the soil to become acidic. You will learn about nitrogen and the forms that a plant can use it, as well as phosphorus and potassium. For more information, contact Tim Sexton at 804.524.1028 or tsexton@vsu.edu.

September 17, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Women for the Land (Bridgewater, VA)

VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program and American Farmland Trust (AFT) team up for a Women for the Land event in the Shenandoah Valley. Join other producers for a day of peer-to-peer learning at Revercomb Farms in Bridgewater, VA. This Learning Circle event will focus on network development, on-farm education, and support of women farmers. Farm owner Mindy Lipinsky will offer tours of her pastured pig and chicken operation, sharing insights about her farm business and educational offerings. Becky Gartner from Virginia Cooperative Extension will lead a hands-on session on water bath canning and food preservation. Participants will create and take home a seasonal apple product. AFT will share information about land access and land preservation resources. Enjoy a delicious, locally catered lunch and camaraderie with fellow women farmers from the Valley and across the state of Virginia! For more information, contact Marian Dalke at 540.232.6010 or mdalke@vt.edu.

September 17, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Information Session for the Beginning Small Farmer (Rapidan, VA)

This workshop will include information on the mission of the Small Farm Outreach Program, offered through the Virginia State University Cooperative Extension. The SFOP provides outreach and technical support to small-scale, beginning farmers and ranchers with limited resources. Come to this workshop and learn about the services and technical support offered by the Small Farm Outreach Program. For more information, contact Roland Terrell at 804-892-4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

September 17, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Small Farm Recordkeeping webinar (Virtual)

Join us for a Small Farm Recordkeeping webinar on Wednesday, September 17, from 12-1 pm, featuring Cyndi Knudson, Co-owner of Honey River Farm and Small Farms Area Specialist with NC Cooperative Extension. Small farm record keeping can include everything from tax preparation and financial tracking to daily harvest logs and breeding schedules. A clean and organized paper trail is essential not only for your tax professional but also for managing the day-to-day flow of your farm operations. In this webinar you will learn how to: Set up your record keeping system so that it aligns smoothly with Schedule F and Schedule C tax forms; Maintain accurate financial records that support business decisions and compliance; Track daily harvests, breeding schedules, and production data to improve efficiency; Approach record keeping in a way that works for both short-term tasks and long-term goals. Key resources will be shared to help you choose and implement the best record-keeping strategies for your farm. [REGISTER](#) to join!

September 17, 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. 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.

September 18, 5:00 – 8:00 PM: Southwest VA Pumpkin Field Day (Laurel Fork, VA)

Join us for the Southwest VA Pumpkin Field Day on September 18th from 5:00–8:00 PM in Laurel Fork, VA! Tour two pumpkin variety trials and a spacing trial, hear from VCE specialists, and enjoy dinner at Sky View Church in Fancy Gap. RSVP by September 11 to Ashley Edwards at aledwards@vt.edu or 276-733-8738.

September 19, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: On-Farm Chicken Processing (Elkton, VA)

Join Jack Dixon of Riverbank Farms and Dr. Jessica Walters of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) for an on-farm chicken processing workshop. During this hands-on workshop, participants will gain confidence as they dispatch, scald, and eviscerate pasture-raised birds. The workshop will review food safety, anatomy and physiology, and discuss VDACS meat and poultry services. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Marian Dalke at 540-232-6010 or mdalke@vsu.edu.

September 19 – 21: Soil to Body: How Regenerative Agriculture Enhances Human Health (The Plains, VA)

Join a one-of-a-kind immersive and eye-opening weekend that brings together farmers, food retailers and processors, health professionals, chefs, scientists, and healthy eaters to explore how regeneratively grown food nourishes our bodies, our land, and our communities. Hosted at the beautiful Kinloch Farm in The Plains, Virginia, this event is more than a workshop—it's a full-sensory journey into soil, flavor, and healing. Over three days, you'll enjoy field demonstrations, hands-on food and farming experiences, expert-led panels, and unforgettable meals crafted from nutrient-dense, regeneratively grown ingredients. Come hungry for knowledge—and leave with tools to grow, cook, and source food that heals.

September 20, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Wood and Wildlife Conference

Join the first-ever South-Central Virginia/North-Central North Carolina Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conference. Modeled after the ever-popular Woods & Wildlife Conferences in Culpeper and southwest Virginia, this one-day event will consist of concurrent sessions and a tour of the nearby Roseburg Forest Products mill.

September 20, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Garden Mastery Series: Seed Saving (Monterey, VA)

Join us at The Village for a series of educational workshops featuring Master Gardener Emeritus Pamm McDowell throughout 2025. In this workshop, Pamm teaches you how to save seeds for your future garden beds, as well as discussing the best way to harvest and store vegetable and flower seeds. Tickets are \$20.00 each; however, scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance. Please get in touch if you require financial assistance to attend the event.

September 23, 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. 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.

September 23, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Planning and Benefits of Silvopasture in Livestock Production (Petersburg, VA)

This workshop will explore landowners' interest in silvopasture, a system integrating the management of trees, forage, and livestock for sustainable ecological and economic production. Participants will learn about the benefits and opportunities of silvopasture, design principles, practical management techniques, and resources available to support landowners' interest in the practice, implementation, and management. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804-720-6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

September 23, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Planning and Benefits of Silvopasture in Livestock Production (Petersburg, VA)

This workshop will explore landowners' interest in silvopasture, a system integrating the management of trees, forage, and livestock for sustainable ecological and economic production. Participants will learn about the benefits and opportunities of silvopasture, design principles, practical management techniques, and resources available to support landowners' interest in the practice, implementation, and management. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804-720-6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

September 24, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Aerial Imagery for Small Farmers (Petersburg, VA)

In this workshop, Growers will learn about the history of aerial imagery, the use of imagery in Agriculture, and the ability to detect skips and overlaps in planting, fertilizer applications, herbicide applications, early detection of disease and pests, and very economical ways to utilize these methods to have more uniform growth characteristics, improve crop and soil health! For more information, contact Tim Sexton at 804.524.102 or tsexton@vsu.edu.

September 24, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Fruit Production Planning Workshop (Nelson County, VA)

Planning and establishing fruit plants correctly are significant steps towards the success of a profitable enterprise. Learning the right varieties, local conditions, and market trends, along with the hints and tips learned through experience, is essential before moving forward. Fall planting of many fruits has become the best option, and this timely meeting might help with this concept. For more information, contact Forrest Hobbs at 804-892-5310 or fhobbs@vsu.edu.

September 24, 12:30 - 4:00 PM: Sheep & Goat Fall Field Day (Meadowview, VA)

Join other farmers to learn how to keep sheep and goats on your property and where you want them to be, while being in control of what, when, where, and how much they eat. Topics will include hands-on demonstrations on: Sheep and Goat Fencing for Improved Animal Control, Managed Grazing and Reduced Predation; Gates, Braces, and Trails/Walkways; Low-stress Sheep and Goat Handling; Rotational Grazing and Soil Health; Shelter – Shade and Water. Local fencing contractors will join us to provide a demonstration and Q&A session. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with industry experts and learn invaluable techniques to apply on your farm! For more information, contact Amanda "Mandy" Fletcher at 804.892.0108 or afletcher@vsu.edu.

September 25, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM: Agroforestry Farm Tour series: Silvopasture at Caney Fork Farm

Join a tour of a working silvopasture system where sheep are rotationally grazed on a mix of grass species. This system supports soil health, forage growth, and livestock while contributing to carbon sequestration. Participants will see tree plantings designed to benefit biodiversity, habitat, and forage. The site includes hard and soft mast-producing trees that support wildlife and grazing animals. The majority of the trees are chestnuts, but many other species are also represented. Trees integrated into the pasture provide shade for sheep, improve soil carbon storage, and enhance forage production. There will be discussions on the management of multi-species tree plantings and forage systems, focusing on their effects on soil fertility, pasture resilience, and productivity. This tour is for farmers, land managers, and researchers. Registration is required. Registration is coming soon!

September 25, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM: Beginner Farm Finance and Conservation Seminar (Suffolk, VA)

You are invited to a free event for beginning farmers to discover farm financing options and cost-share conservation opportunities. The event is hosted by the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry of the VA. Lunch is provided courtesy of the sponsor, Suffolk Economic Development. Email jhillgass@suffolkva.us with any questions.

September 25, 1:30 - 5:00 PM: Edamame Harvest and Taste Event (Petersburg, VA)

Join for a hands-on educational Edamame experience. Participants will enjoy a delightful time picking and tasting edamame (green soybeans). Internationally renowned Edamame expert, Dr. Guo-Liang Jiang, will discuss promising VSU Agricultural Research Station Edamame cultivars of interest and how to grow them in Virginia. Farm marketing specialist Dr. Theresa Nartea will share exciting marketing ideas, including simple recipes for you to try. You will also learn how to harvest Edamame beans properly. Don't miss this special opportunity to learn about VSU Edamame! For more information, contact James Gibson at 804-720-6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

September 27, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: High Tunnel Maintenance and Layout (Rapidan, VA)

When growing vegetables in a controlled environment, you need a strong and safe structure for you and your vegetable crop. Now is the time to prepare your high tunnel for Fall planting. The high tunnel must be planned, designed, and constructed from a manufactured kit that includes detailed directions. Periodically inspect and repair the high tunnel as needed to maintain its structural integrity. This workshop teaches you how. For more information, contact Roland Terrell at 804.892.4612 or rterrell@vsu.edu.

September 27, 4:30 PM: PEC Farm-to-Table Dinner and Virtual Auction

Save the date for PEC's annual farm-to-table event and virtual auction. Event website: pecva.org/woodside. More to come! Questions? Contact Montana Lanier Ruffner at mlanier@pecva.org.

September 29, 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.

September 29, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Intermediate Class: Advanced Season Extension (Virtual)

Discover techniques for extending the growing season for plants. This allows gardeners to grow crops for an extended period, either earlier in the spring or later in the fall. This class is conducted virtually via Zoom.

September 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Beginner Class: Season Extension

Discover techniques for extending the growing season for plants. This allows gardeners to grow crops for an extended period, either earlier in the spring or later in the fall. This is a virtual class and will be held through Zoom.

October

October 1, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM: Urban Farming and Management Course (Richmond, VA)

This whole-day workshop will cover the many things to consider in your effort to maximize production from a small urban farm. We will discuss techniques used to grow vegetables organically on an acre or less of land. The topics covered in this workshop will be relevant to both beginning and seasoned farmers. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804-720-6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

October 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Shenandoah Valley Young Farmers Coalition (Keezletown, VA)

The Shenandoah Valley Young Farmers Coalition is headed to Silver Run Forest Farm for a fall tour and potluck. Join other young farmers from the region to connect and network, while learning about Silver Run's regional agro-forestry model and nut production! This event is open to all, but is geared towards farmers aged 20-40. For more information, contact Marian Dalke at 540-232-6010 or mdalke@vt.edu.

October 3, 2025 - October 5, 2025: Mountain Run Jam (Sedalia, VA)

Africulture Will Be At This Year's Mountain Run Jam! Experience three days of hands-on learning, live music, local food, and genuine community connection on their beautiful family farm. A Celebration of Agriculture & The Arts.

October 4, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Garden Mastery Series: Soil Health (Monterey, VA)

Join The Village as they host Master Gardener Emeritus Pamm McDowell throughout 2025 for a series of educational workshops. October is an ideal time to enhance your soil health for next year's growth. In this workshop, Pamm will discuss soil testing, soil amendments, and protecting soil from winter wind and precipitation. She will also explain why understanding pH is crucial to your soil and garden. Please get in touch with us if you require financial assistance to attend the event.

October 4, 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.

October 4, 1:00 - 4:00 PM: Create a Healthy Pollinator Homestead (Foster, VA)

One of the keys to a successful harvest is to ensure that your blooms are being pollinated. A great way to achieve this is to ensure you have a suitable habitat for the insects responsible for pollination. We will discuss the best pollinators and how to attract them. This will include the basics to get started with beekeeping. Honeybees are an excellent pollinator with the benefit of delicious honey to your table. For more information, contact Derrick Gooden at 804.586.5352 or dgooden@vsu.edu.

October 4, 5:00 PM: 19th Annual Mill Day at McCormick Farm (Raphine, VA)

This year will mark the 194th anniversary of the invention of the McCormick Reaper. The main attraction of Mill Day will be the operation of the McCormick grist mill. Additional activities and a hay ride will be provided for families to enjoy, and the Raphine Volunteer Fire Department will serve their legendary BBQ chicken. <https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/shenandoah-valley.html>

October 7, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Tomato Tasting

Tomatoes are at their freshest from May to October in most parts of Virginia and come in literally thousands of varieties, including different colors, sizes, and shapes. Celebrate National Tomato Month by tasting several different hybrid and heirloom tomato varieties such as 'Paul Robeson', 'Sun Gold', 'Roma', and many others. An enlightening discussion will take place about planting methods, indeterminate vs. determinate varieties, and adventitious vs. vegetative growth. Please bring your own foldable chair; cold water will be available. Philadelphia Tomato Pie will be served. This event will be held at a private home located near Sentara Obici Hospital (Route 10/32 & US-58); the address will be sent to registrants no earlier than 72 hours before the start time. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Garry Banks at 804.760.3615 or gbanks@vsu.edu or Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu.

October 7, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Soil Testing (Suffolk, VA)

Jake Browder, Conservation Specialist with the Peanut Soil & Water Conservation District, will discuss his experiences in soil conservation on this farm and the role of his organization, as well as several S&WCD programs. After learning about the soil food web, soil horizons, and soil characteristics & composition, a hands-on sampling exercise will take place in a predetermined area to demonstrate the step-by-step process of obtaining soil for testing. This will be done in preparation for supporting a vineyard, chestnut, and pecan grove. For more information, contact Ben Dukes at 804.731.7916 or bdukes@vsu.edu or Garry Banks at 804.760.3615 or gbanks@vsu.edu.

October 7, 5:00 - 7:00 PM: Market Farm Garden Tour (King George, VA)

Guided farm tour and educational experience covering sustainable agriculture topics such as fruit tree planting, irrigation, pruning, and grafting. Visitors will also see beehives, poultry, lambs, hanging baskets, flowers, and a market garden with baked goods, local beef, beverages, and handcrafted items. Designed for gardeners of all levels and those curious about farm life. For more information, contact Michael Carter Sr. at 804.481.1163 or mcarter@vsu.edu.

October 7, 6:00 - 8:30 PM: Nutrient Management & Soil Health on Farms (Glade Spring, VA)

Join other farmers and hear from Ag experts on how to manage nutrients in the soil while optimizing pasture and crop production. Topics like soil testing, fertilizer application, manure management, and the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship (right source, correct rate, right time, and right place) will be discussed. Dinner is provided—registration is required by October 2. For more information, contact Amanda "Mandy" Fletcher at 804.892.0108 or afletcher@vsu.edu.

October 8, 9:00 - 11:30 AM: Nutrient Management for Farmers (Ettrick, VA)

In our Nutrient Management Workshop, Farmers and Growers will learn about nutrient loss mechanisms, Nitrogen and Phosphorus management techniques, and when losses are likely to occur. You will learn about fertilizer and manure application rates, timing, and placement to maximize plant growth, maintain healthy soil, and protect the environment while reducing runoff. For more information, contact Tim Sexton at 804.524.1028 or tsexton@vsu.edu.

October 8, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Managing an Urban Farming Business (Richmond, VA)

What do you need to start a successful farm business? What are some legal challenges you may face farming in an urban environment? What approach to financial record keeping should urban farmers use to help manage their farm business? This workshop explores urban farm measurement and management options to make good decisions about your business development. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804.720.6826 or jgibson@vsu.edu.

October 8, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM: Managing an Urban Farming Business (Richmond, VA)

What do you need to start a successful farm business? What are some legal challenges you may face farming in an urban environment? What approach to financial record keeping should urban farmers use to help manage their farm business? This workshop explores urban farm measurement and management options to make good decisions about your business development. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804.720.6826 or jgibson@vsu.edu.

October 9, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Understanding Your Conservation Plan For EQIP, CSP, And Cost-Share Participants (Petersburg, VA)

If you've been awarded a contract through EQIP or CSP, your conservation plan is more than just paperwork — it's your roadmap to compliance, success, and long-term stewardship. However, many participants struggle to interpret or implement it fully. That's where education and this hands-on workshop come in. For more information, contact Tabitha Bugg at 804.892.2997 or tbugg@vsu.edu.

October 10, 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Redfern's Regenerative Hemp Agriculture - Birds, Bees, Bulls & Biomass (Ruther Glen, VA)

Join Redfern Hemp Co. at their 42-acre historic farm in Caroline County for Hemp Field Day, an immersive afternoon exploring regenerative hemp agriculture. Guided by founder Graham Redfern's "Birds, Bees, Bulls & Biomass" model, attendees will gain hands-on insights into sustainable farming practices that integrate hemp with biodiversity, soil health, and livestock. Experts from VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program, including Derrick Gooden, along with representatives from Virginia's Hemp Enforcement Program, will cover best practices in hemp cultivation and compliance. The day also features a live Hempcrete building demonstration, showcasing the power of hemp in sustainable construction, and a deep dive into Virginia's colonial hemp history led by in-house historian and author Joe Domino. Enjoy refreshments, local hemp snacks, and community connection from 2–4 PM, then cap off the day with a celebratory Happy Hour at Center of the Universe Brewing outside Ashland, VA. Grow with us! For more information, contact Derrick Gooden at 804.586.5352 or dgooden@vsu.edu.

October 12, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Marketing for Urban Farms (Richmond, VA)

This workshop will explore how successful market farmers have achieved financial success. Discover whether being certified organic or opting for an alternative to organic certification is the best choice for you to enhance your bottom line. Learn the various marketing channels used by small urban farms and how to evaluate the effectiveness of a marketing channel. What are some "guerrilla marketing" techniques that can help you achieve success on your farm? For more information, contact James Gibson at 804.720.6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

October 12, 4:00 – 7:00 PM: "Barn to Run" 4-Miler for Agriculture (Abingdon, VA)

Join ASD to celebrate 30 years of growing a stronger Appalachia through agriculture! This family-friendly event will be held at The Meadows Sports Complex, 78 Cook Street, Abingdon, VA. Wear your best fruit or veggie costume or dress like your favorite farmer. The first 100 registrants are guaranteed an *utterly ravishing* event t-shirt! Wear your favorite fruit/veggie gear or farming coveralls! All proceeds support ASD programming for agriculture education, workforce development, resource management, and food access.

October 15, 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](#), 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.

October 15, 7:00 - 8:00 PM: Small Farm Producers Summit 2025 (Location to be announced)

The objective of this event is to educate and empower small, beginning farmers and ranchers to own, operate, and sustain their farms and ranches independently through agricultural training programs that enhance farm management skills and improve the quality of life. The summit will provide the opportunity to meet VSU Staff members, Networking (Producers/Vendors), Square One: Farming Operations, Writing a Business Plan, Crop Insurance, and Heirs Property. For more information, contact Yowei Peralta at 804-892-0282 or yperalta@vsu.edu.

October 16, 5:30 - 7:30 PM: SWCD in Session: October Board Meeting Tour - Stop 3 is Calling Prince George's County Producers! (Prince George, VA)

Learn, Connect, Get Involved. Calling all Prince George's County producers and those served by the James River SWCD! For more information, contact Tabitha Bugg at 804.892.2997 or tbugg@vsu.edu.

October 16, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Essentials of Livestock Carcass Composting (Petersburg, VA)

This hands-on workshop is designed for farmers seeking natural and respectful ways to manage livestock losses. Hosted on Randolph Farm, this workshop will walk participants through the composting process using real-life examples, including actual livestock mortalities. Participants will learn the science, the steps, and the tools to do it safely, legally, and sustainably. For more information, contact Dahlia O'Brien at 804.524.6963 or dobrien@vsu.edu.

October 18 -19, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Fall Foliage Festival at Sky Meadows State Park (Paris, VA)

Enjoy the beauty of fall in Virginia at the Fall Foliage Festival at Sky Meadows State Park, taking place on October 18 and 19, 2025, in Paris, VA. Take in the vibrant colors of the changing leaves and enjoy activities such as hiking and wagon rides, along with live music, fall treats, and more. The festival will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days, so mark your calendars and plan to join in the festivities. PEC is a partner in this event and will have a table at the festival both days. Please stop by and see us! The event itself is free and no registration is required; however, please note that standard parking or admission fees to enter Sky Meadows State Park still apply.

October 21, 9:00 - 11:00 AM: Small Farm Orientation (Afton, VA)

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, or Derrick Gooden at 804-586-5352 or dgooden@vsu.edu.

October 20, 5:00 - 6:00 PM: Middlesex County Garden Series (Deltaville, Virginia)

Join Frank Long, VCE Agriculture Extension Agent, for our Public Library Garden Series. October's topic is Let's Plant Something Wild- Specialty Crops. Free and Open to the Public. Location: Middlesex County Public Library- Deltaville Branch 35 Lovers Lane Deltaville, Virginia.

October 21, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Farm and Rural Business Planning (Afton, VA)

A business plan is important to the success of any business, including farming. Farm lending institutions require a basic farm business plan. An introductory example of how to set up a business plan, along with some helpful guidelines and tips, will be presented to the first 20 participants who sign up for this program. For more information, contact Forrest HOBBS at 804.892.5910 or fhobbs@vsu.edu

October 22, 7:30 AM - 6:30 PM: North Carolina State Fair Bus Tour (Raleigh, NC)

The North Carolina State Fair Ag Bus Tour, from Virginia State University (VSU), is a bus tour that explores food, farming, and fair festivities. The bus picks up and drops off passengers at the following locations and times: VSU Randolph Farm Pavilion, with a 6:00 AM departure. Walmart's parking lot: 7:30 AM departure. North Carolina State Fair: 9:30 AM arrival. The 2025 North Carolina State Fair will be held at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh from October 16-26. For more information, contact Derrick Cladd at 804-892-4489 or dcladd@vsu.edu.

October 22, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM: Ginger Workshop and Field Day (Petersburg, VA)

This event provides an overview of basic information and research updates on ginger. Topics include sustainable field and high-tunnel ginger production, ginger seed production, integrated pest management, marketing, post-harvest handling, and health benefits. A field tour to the field, high tunnel, and greenhouse, ginger research and demonstration on Randolph Farm will be provided. The target participants of this event are interested growers and extension educators. For more information, contact Tabitha Bugg at 804.892.2997 or tbugg@vsu.edu.

October 22, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Agritourism 101 (Jackson, VA)

Are you considering adding an agritourism venture to your farm? Learn key tips from the experts! Hosted at the lovely Cave Ridge Vineyard in Mt. Jackson, this event will feature information on marketing & promotion, managing liability, and everything in between! Featured organizations include the Virginia Tourism Corporation and Shenandoah County's Tourism and Economic Development Office. For more information, contact Marian Dalke at 540.232.6010 or mdalke@vt.edu.

October 22, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Marketing for Urban Farms (Richmond, VA)

This workshop will explore how successful market farmers have achieved financial success. Learn if being certified organic is the best option, or maybe one of the alternatives to organic certification is a better choice. Learn the various marketing channels used by small urban farms and how to evaluate the effectiveness of a marketing channel. Learn what some "guerrilla marketing" techniques are that can help you achieve success on your farm. For more information, contact James Gibson at 804.720.6826 or jegibson@vsu.edu.

October 22, 4:30 - 6:30 PM: SWCD in Session: October Board Meeting Tour - Stop 2 is Calling Dinwiddie County Producers! (Dinwiddie, VA)

Learn, Connect, Get Involved. Calling all Dinwiddie County producers and those served by Appomattox River SWCD! Tour Hosted By: VSU Small Farm Outreach Program in partnership with Appomattox River SWCD & Virginia DCR. For more information, contact Tabitha Bugg at 804-892-2997 or tbugg@vsu.edu.

October 23, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Building a Walk-in Cooler (Alberta, VA)

Attendees will learn the steps to successfully building a walk-in cooler for the on-farm preservation of their farm products. James and Stacey West own and operate Golden View Guernsey Farm, offering fresh dairy products to their herd-share owners. Their growth has demanded a larger storage area for their products to maintain the highest quality for their customers. For more information, contact Marilyn Estes at 804.481.0486 or mestes@vsu.edu.

October 25, 4:00 - 6:00 PM: Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration (Rockingham, VA)

The Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Soil Health Coalition, the Virginia Tech Center for Food System and Community Transformation, and community partners will host the first annual on-farm Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration to celebrate soil, farming, food, and community. The harvest celebration gathering will uplift the people and partnerships, building a healthier food system from the soil up. This educational and celebratory evening will bring together farmers, food system leaders, educators, health professionals, and community members to enjoy a locally sourced farm-to-table dinner, share stories, highlight innovations in soil health, and cultivate joy and connection. The Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration will be held on the historic Sunny Slope Farm. The evening will blend good food, music, farmer storytelling, and interactive displays to honor the collective work of Virginia's soil health and farm-to-table champions. This harvest celebration will also raise visibility for the Virginia Soil Health Coalition and the 4 The Soil initiative, helping attendees see how their values, work, and actions are all rooted in healthy soil. If you would be interested in financially supporting or having an exhibit at the Virginia Farm-to-Table Harvest Celebration, please reach out to co-chairs Eric Bendfeldt at ebendfel@vt.edu, 540.383.5393, or Mary Sketch Bryant at msketch2@vt.edu / 919.402.7240 for information on financial support packages and exhibit opportunities.

October 27, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM: Well Water Testing (Northumberland, VA)

Virginia Cooperative Extension will offer household water testing for Northumberland residents in October 2025. Registration and Pre-payment are due by October 28, 2025. Northumberland residents can pick up prepaid water sample kits on Tuesday, October 28, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Northumberland County Extension Office. The water samples will be collected by the homeowner on Wednesday, October 29, and delivered to the Northumberland County Extension Office between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on the same day. A limited number of testing kits are available - register early. Call 804-580-5694 for details. For information about the Virginia Household Water Quality Program: www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu.

October 27, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Intermediate Class: Regenerative Agriculture (Virtual)

Learn about regenerative agriculture, a farming and gardening approach focused on rebuilding and improving the health and biodiversity of the soil, ecosystem, and overall environment. This class is conducted virtually via Zoom.

October 28, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Beginner Class: Herbs and Wild Edibles

This class offers a comprehensive list of medicinal, edible, and wild herbs. This is a virtual class and will be held through Zoom. You can register [here](#).

October 28, 3:00 - 5:00 PM: Invasive Species Walk (Waynesboro, VA)

Invasive plant species are spreading, overtaking habitats and altering the natural balance of native ecosystems in large areas of wilderness and backyard environments. Identification of the different flora and fauna is an essential step towards understanding the spread and the control of invasive species. Control and containment methods for various invasive plant species will be discussed and demonstrated. For more information, contact Forrest Hobbs at 804.892.5310 or fhobbs@vsu.edu.

October 28, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Grow Your Own Beginner Class: Herbs and Wild Edibles (Virtual)

This class provides a comprehensive list of medicinal, edible, and wild herbs. This is a virtual class and will be held through Zoom.

October 28 – 29: 2025 Mid-Atlantic Ag & Resource Law Conference

Join this fall for the Mid-Atlantic Ag & Resource Law Conference, taking place October 28–29, 2025, at the beautiful National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. If you are interested in learning more about heirs' property, land use, solar development, and other similar topics, register today to receive the early bird rate. If you have any questions, please email Jennifer Friedel, Associate Professor of Practice and Director of the VA Land Use-Value Assessment Program, at jfriedel@vt.edu. Sponsorships are available! Details about the sponsorship opportunities are provided below. To learn more about the levels, please get in touch with Jesse Richardson at jesse.richardson@mail.wvu.edu.

October 30, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM: VSU Trojan Farmers Market hosted by Cooperative Extension (Petersburg, VA)

Come for Farms, Friends, and Fun!!! Free Surprise Gift to the first 100 customers. Raffle Drawings every half hour. Educational Agriculture-Related Demonstrations. Open to the Public. Please note: the October VSU Trojan Farmers Market will be featured at the 2025 Agritourism Fall Fest. For more information, contact Dr. Theresa Nartea at tnartea@vsu.edu.

November

November 1, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Fall Cover Crop Pasture Walk (Warfield, VA)

If you are thinking about starting a homestead, farm, or want to sharpen your farming skills, this workshop is for you. Join us for a late fall pasture walk and discover some of the ways the grazing season can be expanded in central Virginia. You will learn fall nutrient management skills and best management practices of fall cover crops planted for late fall/winter grazing. 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.

November 3 – 4: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM: 2nd World Congress on Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine 2025

Inovine Meetings LLC is delighted to invite you to the 2nd World Congress on Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, taking place on November 3-4, 2025, at the Grand Mercure Bangkok Atrium, Thailand. This year's theme, "Emerging Trends in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science for Future Resilience," highlights the latest advancements shaping the field. Join this global platform to explore diverse topics, including Veterinary Medicine and Research, Animal Reproduction and Genetics, Nutrition and Feeding, Parasitology, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Dairy Science, Aquatic Animal Health, Veterinary Forensics, Poultry Science, Livestock Management, Farm Animal Feeding, Animal Welfare, and Animal-Human Relationships. This conference provides a unique opportunity to connect with experts, share insights, and collaborate on solutions to pressing challenges in Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine.

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 it's important for you 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 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](#), 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.

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