

Newsblast

VIRGINIA
Beginning Farmer & Rancher
COALITION PROGRAM

January 25, 2020

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A Message from VBFRC

Winter greetings! In the spirit of learning and planning, which often accompanies us in the stillness and quiet of winter, this newsblast features a number of educational opportunities coming up in the next couple months.

If you are interested in a listed event, you can find more details by clicking the hotlink titles, or by visiting the Virginia Beginning Farmer & Rancher Coalition website ([Click here](#)). Not all events announced in this email are sponsored by the VBFRC, and not all events in Virginia may be included in this list.

Please share this flyer with your networks. If you would like your event added to our newsletter, website, and calendar, send an email with the event details to the coalition coordinator, Katie Trozzo, at ketrozzo@vt.edu

Partner Highlights

The Fauquier Education Farm just announced their 2021 Workshop Series, which is a learning resource for farmers and home gardeners of all experience levels. These workshops are free and open to everyone and will be held rain or shine. Unless otherwise indicated, all workshops are held at the Fauquier Education Farm: 8428 Meetze Rd, Warrenton, Virginia. [Click here for more information.](#)

Interested in joining VSU's New and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program? The Virginia State Small Farm Outreach Program is offering orientation for small and beginning farmers in January and February. [Find more information here.](#)

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Training Series

Fauquier Education Farm's 2021 Workshop Series

The Fauquier Education Farm Workshop Series is a learning resource for farmers and home gardeners of all experience levels. You can pick and choose any workshops that may interest you with no expectation that you need to attend them all. These workshops are free and open to everyone. These will be held rain or shine and children are always welcome. Unless otherwise indicated, all workshops are held at the Fauquier Education Farm: 8428 Meetze Rd, Warrenton, Virginia.

VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program Winter Workshop Series

SFOP provides outreach and learning opportunities to small farmers for production management, financial and risk management, marketing, USDA assistance programs and more. Check out their upcoming workshops!

Virginia Sustainable Farms and Agribusiness Education

Running from January to April and including 20 webinars, this series developed by the Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics gets to the heart of what sustainability is and what it looks like for your farm and agribusiness.

January

January 25: Estate Planning and Land Transition

A virtual workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

January 27: Dr. Nick Copeland on Cooperative Extension and the Coming Transition

Covid 19 has exacerbated structural inequalities and shone a spotlight on vulnerabilities endemic in food, economic, and community systems, compounding growing concerns about environmental sustainability and racial justice. In this talk, Dr. Copeland, a cultural anthropologist, will make the case for expanding on cooperative extension programs that are already responding to these interconnected crises to build more just and sustainable systems into the future.

January 28: Farmers Market Preparedness Workshop

A three part series offered by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

January 29-31: Young Farmers of Virginia Convention **POSTPONED**

The Young Farmers of Virginia will hold their annual convention in Petersburg, VA in January 2021.

January 19-February 5: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) Annual Farming for the Future Conference

Our 2021 Conference features 90+ sessions, 100+ speakers, and marks 30 years of hosting this hallmark event that has served as a springboard for transformative food system change in the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond.

February

February 2: Organic Agriculture Workshops

A three part series offered by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 8: Beginner/Small Farm Orientation

A virtual meeting hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 8-11 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention has become the premier grower meeting in the Northeast, normally combining three days of six or more concurrent educational sessions with a large industry trade show and numerous networking opportunities - all designed to enable fruit, vegetable and berry growers as well as direct marketers to stay on the cutting edge of their industries. The 2021 virtual Convention will feature four days of three or more concurrent educational sessions.

February 9: Small Farmers Planting Row Crops

A virtual zoom meeting hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 9: Cooking for Crowds

Does your church or non-profit organization have food events for its members or sell food as a fundraising event? "Cooking for Crowds" is a workshop that will teach food safety and how your organization can ensure the safe handling of food. Learn how to handle food during cooking and serving and the food safety standards for temporary events. Members of non-profit organizations, churches, athletic associations and fire departments are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be held online, February 9th, from 6 to 8 pm, Free of charge!

February 16: Injury Prevention for Farmers

Too often, farmers receive injury prevention recommendations while in the doctor's office after an accident already occurs. This webinar brings three medical professionals from agricultural communities together to discuss what steps farmers can take to prevent common on-farm injuries. Topics will include using farm equipment, protecting joints from impact injury, and identifying minor injury before it becomes a major injury.

February 17: Soil Nutrient Management

An in person workshop hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 19-20: Woods and Wildlife Conference

Over 10 million acres of Virginia's woods are privately owned. The Woods & Wildlife Conferences provide information, tools, and personal contacts to help private woodland owners keep their woods, and the wildlife that live in them, healthy and productive.

February 22: Drone Demonstration Workshop

An in person workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

February 25: Small Ruminant Weaning for Success

An in person workshop hosted by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.