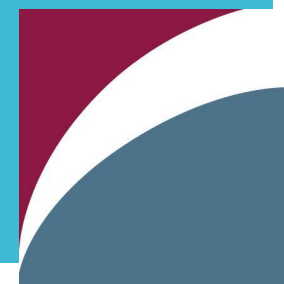




# Key Agencies and Resources to Assist Your Farming Venture

Theresa Pittman

Extension Agent, Accomack County



**Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension**

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



- Ag Agent in Accomack County (“specialty” in on-farm food safety)
- Self proclaimed Farm Girl from the Eastern Shore of Virginia
- Loves Harvest Season!
- Enjoys Extension, advising farm operations and teaching



# Who is Theresa Pittman?





# Who's Who?

- Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)



- Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition



- Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center

- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Natural Resource conservation Service (NRCS)
- Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Rural Development (RD)



# Virginia Cooperative Extension & Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition



Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

- We can help answer your questions!
- Programmatic Offerings:
  - Whole Farm Planning Coursework
  - Networking and Educational Resources
  - Webinars, Workshops, and Farmer Videos
  - Farmer-to-farmer Mentoring
- Small Farm Outreach Program
  - Housed at Virginia State University



Contact Your Beginning  
Farmer and Rancher  
Coordinator that can help  
you with questions on  
working with USDA. Find  
yours at  
[farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators](https://farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators)



# Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Districts

- Districts - political subdivisions of the state within the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
  - manage conservation programs
  - employ staff and deliver conservation services free of charge
- Main focus is nonpoint source pollution
- Programs include:
  - Nutrient management
  - Agricultural best management practices
  - Resource management planning
  - Shoreline erosion







# Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Improvements to the land that you own/lease
  - Offers technical and financial assistance to famers, ranchers and forest managers



- NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters.



# USDA Service Center

- Visit your local USDA Service Center
  - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
  - Rural Development
  - Risk Management
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service
- BEFORE YOUR VISIT
  - Make an appointment.
  - Prepare.
  - Think about your vision.
- DURING YOUR VISIT
  - Register for a farm number
  - Discuss your business and conservation goals.
  - Verify eligibility.



From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is here to support you and your operation.

[www.farmers.gov/service-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator)





# Questions? Comments?

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757-787-1361 x 14







# Resources

- Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition
  - <https://www.vabeginningfarmer.alce.vt.edu/>
- New Farmer Getting Started Publication
  - [https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/NewFarmers\\_GetStarted\\_Factsheet\\_MASKED\\_FINAL-2020.pdf](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/NewFarmers_GetStarted_Factsheet_MASKED_FINAL-2020.pdf)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
  - [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)
- VA Small Farm Resource Center
  - <https://vasmallfarmers.com/>
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  - <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/swclds>

