

Newsblast

May 16, 2024

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A Message from VBFRC

Hello everyone! We hope May treating you well. There are a number of workshops and opportunities we are excited to share with you in this newsblast. We hope you enjoy!

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. This funding is led by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

Partner Highlight

Join for a spring farm tour of Kat the Farmer's operation in Check, Virginia. This tour will be held Monday, May 20 from 3:00-6:00 pm. It is hosted by the Roanoke Foodshed Network and will feature Kat Johnson's quarter acre salad centric farm in Floyd County. Kat specializes in Certified Naturally Grown salad mixes, microgreens, culinary herbs, tomatoes and cucumbers and produces a line of salad dressings to complement her farm products. Kat will lead a tour of her 'farmlet' fields, tunnels, propagation house and pack shed and share about farm establishment, design considerations, wash pack systems for extended shelf life, and all things microgreens. Networking social will follow the event with light refreshments.

[Register](#) to attend.

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

Virginia Forage and Grassland Council's Grazier Mentor Network Webinar Recording

Learning for most farmers is most successfully achieved by doing things hands on and with a more experienced counterpart. This is why the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) supports their Grazier Mentor Network where they pair experienced graziers with new or beginner graziers to help show them the ropes when it comes to successfully implementing prescribed grazing practices and techniques on their farms. Join us to hear from Becky Szarzynski and Jacob Gilley about the network and how you can become involved.

2024 Urban Food Systems Symposium

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) hosts the 2024 Urban Food Systems Symposium in Columbus, Ohio on June 11-13. The event includes keynotes, a grower panel, 40 presentations, a reception with more than 30 posters, a choice of off-site educational tours, and dinner at The Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, a unique 261-acre university facility for teaching, research, and community engagement.

2024 Beginning Farmer Stipends from RAFI

RAFI is now accepting applications for the 2024 Beginning Farmers Stipends. This year, stipends will support the success of Historically Underserved (HU) farmers and ranchers as defined by USDA NRCS. The funds can be used to help reduce financial barriers and cover farming start-up and/or production costs. Individual applicants may request between \$3,000 – \$5,000 in funding. The application period is open until Friday, May 31, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

National Farmer Union Beginning Farmer Institute

National Farmers Union's Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI) is a free, online, 10-week intensive program intended to improve the health of your farm or ranch business. The program is open to producers ages 18 and up and is inclusive of all operation types and scales of production.

Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices and Opportunities for Virginia Farmers

Support is available for farmers interested in silvopasture development and rotational/prescribed grazing including training and education, technical guidelines, farm visits, cost for inputs and rental costs. Find more information on the flyer (linked in this title) and reach out to Vitalis Temu for more information on how to apply (vtemu@vsu.edu).

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs

USDA farm loans can be used to support a variety of climate-smart agriculture practices, which build on many practices that farmers and ranchers already use like cover cropping, nutrient management, and conservation tillage. Visit the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry webpage on farmers.gov to learn more and see detailed examples of how an FSA farm loan can support climate-smart agriculture practices.

Rosemont Vineyard & Farms Assistant Vineyard Manager

Rosemont Vineyard & Farms is looking to hire an Assistant Vineyard Manager that would assist our current Vineyard Manager in the field, but also assist our Winemaker in winemaking duties as needed. They would be expected to grow and excel in their job with the goal of replacing our Vineyard Manager in 2-3 years. Compensation is competitive and is based on level of knowledge and experience.

Series

360 Beef Discussion Group in Goochland County

Save the Date for the 360 Beef Discussion Group gatherings every month from 6-7 pm in Goochland County! May 14, June 11, July 9, August 14, September 17, October 8. More details coming soon.

360 Cut Flower Discussion Group in Goochland County

Save the Date for the 360 Cut flower Discussion Group gatherings every month from 9 – 10 am in Goochland County! May 17, June 13, July 18, August 13, September 19, October 15. More details coming soon.

Online Woodland Options for Landowners

This 10-week self-paced on-line course teaches the fundamentals of forest management. The 2024 class will begin July 1 and end September 9.

The Woods in Your Backyard Online Course

This course promotes the stewardship of small parcels of land for the personal enjoyment of the owners and improved environmental quality for society. If you own 1 to 10 acres in the Eastern United States that is forested or has unmowed natural areas, this course is for you. It is for you if you have a mowed lawn area that you want to turn into a woodland. It is also for you if you are a land manager or part of a group that manages natural areas, such as a preserve or a community woodland. This course runs April 8 to June 17.

4 the Soil Highlights



May 20, 1:00-3:00 pm: Virginia Soil Health Coalition Quarterly Meeting (Virtual)

Join us virtually on Monday, May 20th from 1 to 3 PM for our next Virginia Soil Health Coalition Quarterly Meeting. The meetings are open to all and a great way to learn more about all things soil health in Virginia. The meeting will feature a soil health champion farmer, two new faculty at Virginia Tech, and a 4 The Soil refresh among other updates. The Quarterly Meetings are open to all and a great opportunity to connect with others, share knowledge, and learn about projects and partnerships in the state.

May 21, 11:00-12:00 pm: Part 2 Harvesting Unity, Empowering Farmer Participation (Virtual)

Dr. Heilman will discuss establishing and empowering farmer participation in educational outreach, state and federal conservation programs, and research-related grant initiatives. Dr. Heilman will share techniques for listening across differences, navigating disagreements to achieve common ground and more unity needed for successful farm-to-fork and regenerative agriculture results, and strategies for

structuring outreach to maximize participation of farmers. If you missed Part 1, the recording is available.

Part 1: Rooting Resilience in Farm Communities Webinar Recording

Episode 24-8: Calm Your Lizard Down with Dr. Elizabeth Heilman of Wichita State Part 1

Are you resistant to change or risk averse? You may need to calm your lizard down and understand how important safety and security are to change, risk aversion, and the adoption of new behaviors. Dr. Elizabeth Heilman, Professor of Education at Wichita State University, talks with Mary Sketch Bryant, Jeff Ishee, and Eric Bendfeldt about how our "lizard brains" relate to farming and ranching. For farmers and ranchers, many day-to-day factors (i.e., markets, weather, public policy, etc.) are out of their control. The lack of control can cause stress and anxiety that activate our lizard brains.

Episode 24-7: A Passion for Gardening with Bill Paterson of Virginia USDA-NRCS Part II

A passion for gardening and tasty, flavorful tomatoes, cucumbers, and hot peppers continues to drive Bill Patterson's experimentation with crop rotations, mulching, composting, and winter and summer cover crops in his home garden. Mary Sketch Bryant and Eric Bendfeldt talked previously with Bill about his conservation work with soil health and grazing lands. Bill is equally passionate about his home garden as he is about farmers' grazing lands.

4 the Soil Blog

Check out the latest 4 the Soil blog!

May

May 17, 9:00am – 3:30pm: High Tunnel Growing –May (Way Barco, NC)

Join us at the NC Cooperative Extension Currituck Center for monthly High Tunnel Growing information meetings. We will offer hands-on and in class portions of the day.

May 17, 9:00-10:00 am: Cut Flower Discussion Group (Goochland, VA)

In this training, the VCE Flower Girls, VSU's marketing specialist Dr. Theresa Nartea & Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Erin Small, will share timely tips on pricing strategies and selling techniques for beginning flower farmers.

May 17, 9:00- 4:30 pm: Maximizing Daily Animal Performance for High Profits (Catawba, VA)

Join us for a one-day grazing school with Greg Judy, the Regenerative Rancher. Animal performance depends on them getting what they need to prosper daily. Learn from Greg about what to look for in your animals and your grass to dramatically improve daily gains and profit potential on your farm.

May 17, 9:00-12:00 pm: Precision Agriculture in Virginia (Petersburg, VA)

Farmers and Growers will have the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of managing their farm field by field and intra-field by using multiple inputs that occur during the growing season up through post-harvest, along with the aids to farmers that make the decisions easier to make, such as precise soil testing locations to determine intra-field variables, disease or pest test results, or pre-side-dress nitrate testing, which will reduce variability in yields and increase farm profits.

May 17, 1:00pm–3:00pm: BIRDS, BEES, AND URBAN TREES (Petersburg, VA)

Do you like birdwatching? Which tree is best for collecting honey? Interested in identifying bird, bee, and urban tree relationships? Dive deep into the connections, benefits, and functions of birds, bees, and urban trees within urban forestry ecosystems. We will explore the effects urban sprawl or "heat islands" have on birds and urban forests. Plus: buy honey from some local farmers!

May 18, 8:00-5:00 pm: Agroforestry Field Day (Harrisonburg, VA)

Join for this agroforestry field day to learn about agroforestry and see examples in the Harrisonburg area.

May 20, 3:00-6:00 pm: Roanoke Foodshed Network Farmer Tour and Farmer Social with Kat the Farmer (Check, VA)

Join us for a tour with Kat the Farmer at her quarter acre salad centric farm in Floyd County. Owner, operator Kat Johnson specializes in Certified Naturally Grown salad mixes, microgreens, culinary herbs, tomatoes and cucumbers and produces a line of salad dressings to complement her farm products. Kat will lead a tour of her 'farmlet' fields, tunnels, propagation house and pack shed and share about farm establishment, design considerations, wash pack systems for extended shelf life, and all things microgreens. Networking social will follow the event with light refreshments.

May 21, 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 VSU Integrated Marketing Program, will walk attendees through the process of how to develop a productive and profitable farm. Participants will receive a Small Farm Orientation manual.

May 21, 9:30-2:00 pm: From Farm to Market (Charlotte Court House, VA)

We will meet at the Southside Produce Auction. While there, participants will learn how the auction system works and how to safely deliver products from the field to the market, including loading, setting up, and packing systems required for commercial sales. Afterwards, we will travel to a local farm to learn about small-scale and commercial production. The farm tour will include crop production in both field and high tunnels. This tour is an excellent opportunity for farmers interested in taking the leap to commercial sales and improving efficiency and operations on their farms.

May 22, 10:00pm-1:00 pm: SFOP- DCR Farmer Field Days (Martinsville, VA)

Four FREE events to help you improve your farm and the environment! These farm tours will demonstrate how you can improve the health of your soil, your grazing animals, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, these private farms demonstrate conservation best practices such as nutrient management, cover crops, grazing-land management, continuous no-till, and nitrogen split applications. Access valuable resources. Discover major funding available to implement these effective practices.

May 23, 10:00am-1:00pm: SFOP-DCR Farmer Field Days (Warfield, VA)

Four FREE events to help you improve your farm and the environment! These farm tours will demonstrate how you can improve the health of your soil, your grazing animals, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Hosted by the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, these private farms demonstrate conservation best practices such as nutrient management, cover crops, grazing-land management, continuous no-till, and nitrogen split applications. Access valuable resources. Discover major funding available to implement these effective practices.

May 28, 10:00am- 12:00am: Introduction to Permaculture (Rapidan, VA)

Permaculture is more than a new system of recordkeeping and urban agriculture. It is an ecological design system based on systems found in nature. Patrick Johnson, of Nanih Farm and Garden, Inc., will

lead this workshop. Come learn about the key concepts surrounding the broader aspects of permaculture: care for people, care for the earth, and fair share.

May 29, 9:00am–1:00pm: What is heirs property 101 (Portsmouth, VA)

Learn about Heirs Property 101: Estate planning, land transition, access, and succession. Our training equips extension staff to educate underprivileged landowners on Heirs Property. Special guest Lillian “Ebonie” Alexander, from the Black Family Land Trust, shares insights and resources on retaining family land. Presented by VSU Heirs Property team and partners.

May 30, 9:00am–12:00pm: Farm Tour (Brodnax, Virginia)

Participants will tour the historic Cabbage Farm in Brodnax, Virginia. Mary Anna Boze is known for growing some of the most delicious strawberries in Southside. At age 90, she works seven days a week, helping to maintain the strawberry crop, three high tunnels, and field vegetable crops. She also starts vegetable and flower seeds in her greenhouse for her customers to purchase as transplants. Please join us for an enjoyable morning farm tour.

May 30, 4:00pm –6:00 pm: Emergency Preparedness (Petersburg, VA)

Being prepared in an emergency is essential to surviving natural and artificial disasters. Representatives from Chesterfield Emergency Management will explain what items you need for emergencies, including how to get a kit, make a plan and stay informed. The Chesterfield representative will review crop and animal protection options during disasters. Chesterfield County firefighters and first responders will also be available to share tips on fire prevention around the home and farmstead.

May 30, 6:30pm–9:00pm: Small Ruminants: Using fecal egg counts on your small farm (Glade Spring, VA)

Fecal Egg Counts (FECs) are tests used to determine the level of internal parasite infection in livestock. By analyzing fecal samples, farmers can tailor parasite management strategies to the specific needs of their animals rather than routinely treating them. Attendees will learn the importance and practical implementation of FECs using the McMaster Egg Counting procedure, with instruction from Dr. Chris Fletcher of VDACS and assistance from Mandy Fletcher of the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program. Workshop supplies will be provided, and registration is required by May 27. Enjoy a free dinner during the event.

June

June 4, 11:00-3:00 pm: Berry Field Day (Virginia Beach, VA)

Join for a summary and presentation of berry trials, a field walk, a berry and kombucha tasting, networking with local stakeholders, and sharing of precision agriculture tools. Hear from 5 speakers.

June 4, 1:00pm–3:00 pm: Introduction to Permaculture (Emporia, VA)

Permaculture is more than a new system of recordkeeping and urban agriculture. It is an ecological design system based on observations found in nature. Permaculture design is founded on replicating or imitating natural patterns in ecosystems because these solutions have evolved over thousands of years and proven effective. Patrick Johnson, of Nanih Farm and Garden, Inc., will lead this workshop. Learn about the key concepts surrounding the broader aspects of permaculture: care for people, care for the earth, and fair share.

June 5, 10:00am–2:00pm: New Farm Tour (Martinsville, Virginia)

Participants will tour a new farm in Henry County that has successfully introduced year-round production by using multiple high tunnels, raised beds and field planting through seed and transplants.

This tour is an excellent opportunity to meet with and learn from someone who has recently become a farmer, having worked through pitfalls and enjoyed success.

June 5, 5:00pm –7:00pm: High Tunnel Maintenance and Repair (Yanceyville, NC)

When growing vegetables in a controlled environment, you need a strong and safe structure for you and your vegetable crop. This workshop will cover the management of a high tunnel and what you will need to do to keep the structure safe and secure. The correct construction and maintenance of a high tunnel can prolong its lifespan. In this workshop, you will learn what construction mistakes to avoid and how to pick out a structure for your operation.

June 7, 12:00pm–1:30 pm: How to Create Worm Castings (Petersburg, VA)

Worm castings are known to help soil water retention, improve soil aeration, and help prevent the leaching of nutrients. Learn how to make your own high quality castings to help amend the soil. This course will cover the benefits of worm castings, and show you how to create the castings by utilizing different breeds of worms.

June 10, 6–8 pm: Bringing Basic Solar Energy to Your Farm (Fredericksburg, Virginia)

Solar energy can provide farmers with invaluable power options on the farm. It is convenient and inexpensive. Join Farmer Thomas Roberson as he discusses solar energy options in use on his small 10-acre farm. Learn about design basics, solar operations, and how he uses it for electric fencing, powering his well and cooling his high tunnels during the summer.

June 10-13: Beef Improvement Federation Conference (Knoxville, TN)

The 2024 BIF Research Symposium and Convention features educational programming and networking opportunities with leaders within the industry. The technical breakout sessions will focus on a range of beef-production and genetic-improvement topics.

June 15, 12:00-4:00 pm: Juneteenth at Sweet Vines Farm Winery (Unionville, VA)

Libation ceremony, ancestor acknowledgment, presenting of the colors, vegan food options, moon bounce, community discussions, business networking and community building.

June 17, 6–8 pm: Cut Flower Farm Tour, Bouquets, and Market Prep (Fredericksburg, Virginia)

Botanical Bites & Provisions, LLC, is a small, 10-acre, family-owned farm and business located just outside Fredericksburg, Virginia. Thomas and Anita Roberson, owners of the farm, grow and market a variety of cut flowers and other products. The Robersons will demonstrate how to make bouquets, including planning, selecting and arranging flowers, choosing bouquet-making supplies, and more. Learn the basics of harvesting, storage, transportation, and pricing your flowers for the market. There will be a comprehensive discussion about preparing your cut flowers for display and selling at farmers markets, and a checklist of items you will need for your farmers' market display will be provided. Participants can also tour the farm fields and high tunnel operation.

June 19, 9:00am–12:00pm: Environmental Management of Nutrients (Petersburg, VA)

Learn about how to maximize your crop yields while being environmentally friendly. Find out why we manage phosphorus and nitrogen differently. Discover the best times to apply nutrients for healthy plant growth. Find out about how you can do your part to protect your rivers and streams. This presentation will benefit students, farmers, gardeners, and other growers.

June 25, 10:00am–1:00 pm: Growing Flowers for Profit (Church Road, Virginia)

Kathleen Hesse will speak about getting started growing flowers. She will talk about attending workshops through the Small Farm Outreach Program to gain more knowledge in the areas necessary to be successful. She has grown her business with the addition of value-added products and a CSA. Join us for a full morning and learn about growing flowers for profit.

June 25, 6:30–8:00 pm: Growing Ethnic Crops for Soil Health and Nutrient Density (Unionville, Virginia)

Join us at Carter Farms to explore how various ethnic specialty crops impact soil health, soil erosion, resource management and native pollinators. We will learn about leaf nutrient analysis and how these plants compare to more traditionally grown produce in Virginia. We will also discuss Climate Smart Agriculture and how to practice it in your farming operations. Learn with Michael Carter Jr. of Carter Farms and Africulture as we dive deeper into the soil and the plants he grows.

June 28, 9:00-5:00 pm: Precision Ag Technology Expo (Suffolk, VA)

The event will witness participation from all stakeholder groups which include but are not limited to Growers, Ag extension agents, Precision AG companies, students, and faculties among others. We will have technology displays, in-field demonstrations, panel discussions, and student posters oriented towards utilization of precision ag technologies.

July

July 2, 9:00 am–12:30 pm: Setting Up a Whole Farm Irrigation System (Dundas, Virginia)

Being able to water your field crops is essential during the summer months to keep your production going. Bruce and Walter Thompson, owners of Willowland Farm in Dundas, Virginia, will explain how they set up an irrigation system from the pond to each of their fields. They will show how the irrigation pump works and how they can control which fields are irrigated through an underground pipe system and control valves. They will also speak about using crop rotation for better production.

July 2, 10:00 am –11 am: All About Peanuts Zoom Event

Peanut production may be confined to only one area in Virginia, but the peanut industry has deep roots here and is still thriving today. Come and learn all about what makes Virginia peanuts so unique. We will take a deep dive into the history of Virginia peanuts, the peanut plant, and the peanut industry in Virginia and the United States.

July 10, 9:00–1:00 pm: What is Heirs Property (Rapidan, VA)

Discover Heirs Property 101: estate planning, land transition, access, and succession. Join us for an engaging training session designed to empower underprivileged producers and landowners. Special guest Lillian “Ebonie” Alexander from the Black Family Land Trust, Inc., offers invaluable insights on land retention and succession. Presented in partnership with the VSU Heirs Property team and collaborating partners.

July 11, 1:00 –4:00pm: How to Plan and Purchase a Greenhouse or High Tunnel (Petersburg, VA)

If you plan to purchase a greenhouse or high tunnel, this educational program is for you! Harry Edwards of RIMOL Greenhouse Systems will explain the various types of greenhouses and high tunnels that are available. You will learn about methods for calculating size and what customization options are available. Dr. Theresa Nartea of VSU Integrated Marketing will bring snacks and help you visualize how to plan your marketing based on what you grow. A USDA representative will be on hand to present various funding methods through USDA program loans and grants. At the end of the workshop, we will visit the VSU Randolph Farm high tunnel with Mr. Edwards and Dr. Nartea to look at typical high tunnel space and step through a potential layout plan together. What does and doesn't work? Come find out!

July 16, 9:00-11:00 am: Small Farm Orientation (Zoom Event)

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 VSU Integrated Marketing Program, will walk attendees through

the process of how to develop a productive and profitable farm. Participants will receive a Small Farm Orientation manual.

July 23-24: Opportunities in Agriculture for a Thriving Chesapeake Bay Watershed Beyond 2025 (Annapolis, MD) SAVE THE DATE

Join a conversation with leading agricultural scientists and experts from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to discuss the latest advances. Through an interactive discussion with the workshop participants, scientists will share their recommendations based on decades of agricultural research in the Bay Watershed and how we can sustain thriving agriculture AND have a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Workshop recommendations will be shared with the Chesapeake Bay Beyond 2025 Steering Committee to inform efforts post-2025.

July 30 10:30 am–12:30 pm: Agricultural Community Outreach Information Session (Virginia Beach, VA)

Partnerships and Education Resources for 1890s and Underserved Communities—providing information on fostering opportunity, wealth creation, and asset building in rural and underserved communities. Herbert Brown Jr., USDA Liaison for Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement at Virginia State University, will discuss partnerships, education resources, and wealth creation in rural areas. Facilitators Perry Hickman, Joe Boatwright, and Tracey Krespach from USDA Rural Development will introduce grants and resources for farmers and rural Americans. Dr. Ronald M. Howell Jr., State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, will explore opportunities in urban agriculture.

July 31, 5:00-8:30 pm: Virginia Forage and Grassland Council Summer Field Day on “Summer Stockpiling to Extend the Grazing Season and Improve Grassland Bird Habitat (Swoope, VA)

The program will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at the Wheatland’s Farm at 304 Cattleman Road, Swoope, VA 24479 from 5 pm to 8:30 pm. Please save the date if you are interested in attending. Full registration information will be forthcoming later this spring and should be available on the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council website.

August

August 4-6: National Urban Agriculture (NUAg) Conference (Detroit, MI)

This will be a national opportunity to celebrate the advancement, investment, and dedication to urban agriculture. The conference will focus efforts to “bridge the gap” for all those working to advance urban agriculture across the nation by building stronger connections among USDA programs and the stakeholders that they serve. This conference will intentionally increase awareness and transparency about USDA programming and bring stakeholders together for training, networking, resource connecting, and relationship building. See the attached flyer for more information. Learn more about the initiative at: National Urban Agriculture Initiative (nuaginitiative.com)

August 7: 2024 Shenandoah Valley AREC Field Day (Raphine, VA)

The Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center 2024 Field Day will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. We will feature field tours of ongoing forage, livestock, and forestry demonstration and research projects. Please consider joining us for this free, in-person tour of the farm. The tour will begin at 1 pm, followed by an evening presentation before dinner. The tour will feature recent work on creep-grazing for fall calves, bale grazing, silvopasture, and native warm season grasses and wildflowers, among other topics. If you are planning to attend this event, please register soon as space is limited.

Fall

September 20-21: Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat (Providence Forge, VA)

Landowner Retreats are co-hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Retreats provide information on hardwood and pine forest management, legacy planning, management planning, and more. They combine classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities to teach concepts of sustainable woodland and wildlife management.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.