



Newsblast

December 3, 2024

Photo by Aaron Burden

A Message from VBFRC

As December unfolds with its crisp air and festive cheer, we hope you're embracing the magic and joy this season brings! This month, we're thrilled to share a host of exciting workshops, programs, grants, conferences, and more in our NewsBlast. Pour yourself a cup of cocoa, wrap up in your coziest blanket, and explore the opportunities that will warm your winter and inspire your new year!

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 is sponsored by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Award #2020-49400-32326. This funding is led by VSU's Small Farm Outreach Program.

Partner Highlight

Join the Grazing Mentor Network

American Farmland Trust's Grazing Mentor Network (GMN) is now accepting applications for Mentors and Mentees in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi.

- **Mentors:** Experienced regenerative graziers providing individualized guidance and support to mentees. Includes training on soil health, adaptive grazing, marketing, and more. Mentors are financially compensated.
- **Mentees:** Producers seeking assistance to adopt or improve regenerative grazing practices. Gain access to technical experts, resources, and a supportive peer network.

For more details, visit <https://farmland.org/gmn> or contact Richard Watson at rwatson@farmland.org.

Note: Green underlined text is a link

Announcements

Black, Hispanic, and Tribal Producer Wholesale Marketing Survey

Virginia Tech and Illinois Tech invite Black, Hispanic, and Tribal farmers and ranchers to participate in the Wholesale Marketing and Technical Assistance Survey. This survey aims to identify the unique technical assistance needs, challenges, and best practices for scaling into wholesale markets. If you have experience selling wholesale or plan to access wholesale markets, your insights are invaluable. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and will help shape programs, policies, and services designed to support producers like you.

USDA Acreage Reporting Improvements for Urban and Innovative Producers

Accurate and timely acreage reports are essential for accessing USDA programs. The USDA has made acreage reporting easier for urban and innovative agriculture producers through new flexibility and enhancements. These improvements include reporting smaller-scale acreage (down to 2.5 inches by 2.5 inches) and identifying innovative practices like multi-level planting and vertical farming. Producers can also include plant inventory with acreage reports, better reflecting unique operations.

USDA Urban Service Centers

USDA is launching 17 new Urban Service Centers to support urban farmers with loans, conservation, and disaster assistance.

Soil Health Specialist – Apply by December 8

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is seeking a Soil Health Specialist to work directly with farmers and partners on agricultural conservation, water quality improvement, and climate-smart practices throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This full-time position includes substantial fieldwork and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, corporate partners, and conservation organizations.

Roanoke Foodshed Network Communications Coordinator – Apply by December 17

The Roanoke Foodshed Network (RFN) is seeking a Communications Coordinator to strategize, develop, and manage internal and external communications for the network. This part-time position (20–25 hours per week) includes flexible, hybrid work and focuses on engaging partners, building public awareness, and managing the launch of a Roanoke Regional Food and Farming Website.

Join the Virginia Native Seed Pilot Project

The Virginia Native Seed Pilot Project is building a network of farmers to collectively provide Virginia-ecotype native seeds for large-scale revegetation and restoration projects. This initiative offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to ecological restoration efforts while diversifying farm operations. Learn More: Visit their website to find out how you can become a participating farmer and make a difference in restoring Virginia's landscapes.

Hurricane Helene/ Natural Disasters Resources

[Southern SARE Producer Grants - Agricultural Disaster Microloan Program](#)

Governor Glenn Youngkin has announced the Agricultural Disaster Microloan Program to support farmers and agricultural and forestry small businesses in counties affected by Hurricane Helene in Southwest Virginia. This program offers loans of up to \$50,000 to cover disaster-related needs, including equipment repair, temporary revenue loss, and recovery expenses. Loans feature a fixed 2.5% interest rate (1.5% for veteran-owned businesses) with flexible terms of up to 36 months. Eligible applicants must have established their business before October 1, 2022, and funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications are open until December 31, 2024.

[Post-Helene Forest Farm Damage Assessment](#)

The Appalachian Forest Farmer Coalition is gathering voluntary and anonymous information about the damage caused by Hurricane Helene to forest farms in Southern and Central Appalachia. This survey aims to estimate the storm's impact and identify farmer needs to support recovery efforts. If you experienced forest farm damage, we encourage you to participate in this 10-question survey to help ensure accurate regional estimates of the storm's impact.

[Virginia Farm Relief Fund Now Open for Donations and Assistance Applications](#)

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the Virginia Farm Relief Fund has been activated to support Virginia agriculture affected by natural disasters. Housed within the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture Innovation & Rural Sustainability (VAFAIRS), the Fund allows for tax-deductible donations to aid in recovery efforts. The Fund is accepting applications for assistance from agricultural producers in Bedford, Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, Wythe, and the independent cities of Bristol, Covington, Danville, Galax, Norton, and Radford—areas significantly impacted by the storm and subsequent flooding. Please see the above link for donations and/or assistance application.

[Hurricane Helene: Emergency Resources for Farmers](#)

Our hearts go out to the Appalachian communities deeply impacted by Hurricane Helene. While the devastation is difficult to witness, we are inspired by the overwhelming support from agencies, organizations, and citizens providing supplies and volunteer assistance. The Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) is actively working to connect regional farmers with critical emergency resources. This resource list will be updated daily as new information becomes available. See the above link for federal and national support resources, business-based resources, state resources, and emotional support resources.

[Agriculture Needs for Producers Affected by Hurricane Helene in Virginia](#)

Are you a farmer affected by Helene? Notify us of your agricultural needs (hay, fencing, feed, etc) so that we may be able to connect you with the proper donors! Complete the following form or call your local extension office. Southwest Virginia farmers have experienced significant damage from Hurricane Helene, with catastrophic losses reported along the New River and Holston River. Extension agents are actively assessing the needs of affected farmers and coordinating the availability of donations to support recovery efforts.

[Donations for Farmers Affected by Hurricane Helene in Virginia](#)

Southwest Virginia farmers have suffered significant damages from Hurricane Helene, with catastrophic impacts especially along the New River and Holston River. If you are interested in donating specific supplies such as hay, fencing, and more, please fill out the form to let us know about any materials or

services you can provide. Extension agents are working to assess farmers' needs and coordinate donations.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Natural Disaster Resources

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) offer several programs to assist landowners with recovery and mitigation efforts following natural disasters:

- **NRCS Act Now Program** – Provides support for immediate relief efforts.
- **NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program** – Offers assistance for streambank stabilization to reduce future risks to life and property from flooding.
- **FSA Emergency Forest Restoration Program & Emergency Conservation Program** – Provides financial aid to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters, including debris removal, land grading, and repairs to conservation structures.

Series

Ask an Agroforester: 2024 Season Now Open for Registration

Join us for this season's *Ask an Agroforester* series, offered as a "Lunch and Learn" opportunity. All sessions are free and will take place from 12:00 – 1:30 pm EST.

- Friday, Dec. 13: Yellowbud Hickory, a Rising Star in Agroforestry Featuring Jesse Marksohn of Yellowbud Farm.
- Monday, Dec. 16: Nut Collectives – Lessons from the Fields and Facilities Featuring the New York Tree Crops Alliance and Keystone Tree Crops Cooperative.

FDA's FSMA Final Rule on Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water: Webinar Series Now Open for Registration

Join us for this informative webinar series on the FDA's FSMA Final Rule for Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water. Each session is free and will take place from 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET.

- **Monday, January 13, 2025:** Overview of the final rule, changes, and tools. Hear from the VDACS Produce Safety Program Team about inspections and participate in a Q&A session.
- **Monday, February 19, 2025:** Continuation of the discussion on the rule's implementation and helpful tools, featuring updates from VDACS and a Q&A session.
- **Monday, March 25, 2025:** A deeper dive into inspections, updates on implementation, and final Q&A for participants.

4 the Soil Highlights



Episode 24-23: From Soil to Ingredient to Plate with Nate Sloan of Bloom Restaurant & Wine Bar

Join us for a captivating conversation in 4 The Soil: A Conversation with Nate Sloan, owner and executive chef of Bloom Restaurant and Wine Bar in Roanoke, Virginia. Nate shares his journey from farming in Franklin County to creating a restaurant committed to farm-to-table production. Speaking with Jeff Ishee, Mary Sketch Bryant, and Eric Bendfeldt, Nate discusses his deep appreciation for soil health, local food systems, and the connections between flavor, ingredient quality, and community. Discover how we can all make choices to support our local foodshed and strengthen ties between soil, food, and people. Tune in for this inspiring episode!

Episode 24-24: Flavor and Sustainability with Nate Sloan of Bloom Restaurant & Wine Bar (Part II)

In this continuation of 4 The Soil: A Conversation, Nate Sloan, executive chef and owner of Bloom Restaurant and Wine Bar, discusses how restaurants can serve as a bridge between flavor, sustainability, health, and food security. Growing up on a farm in Franklin County, Virginia, Nate shares how his roots inspired his commitment to local farms and food entrepreneurs. Speaking with Jeff Ishee, Mary Sketch Bryant, and Eric Bendfeldt, Nate emphasizes the importance of place, soil health, and regionalism in shaping flavor and taste, while encouraging everyone to connect with farmers and explore their passion for food and farming. Tune in for an insightful and flavorful conversation!

4 the Soil Blog

Check out the latest 4 the Soil blog!

December

December 2, 11am – 12pm: Institutionalizing DEIA (Online Zoom Event)

Join L'Tonya Davis, USDA's first permanent Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, for an insightful session on institutionalizing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) within the USDA. Since March 2023, Ms. Davis has led the USDA's efforts to advance DEIA initiatives as outlined in the Department's first-ever DEIA Strategic Plan. Drawing from her experience at the FDA and her current role, she will provide an overview of the USDA's DEIA mission, strategic goals, and future direction. Register now to gain valuable insights into USDA's DEIA journey.

December 3, 3:30pm – 5:30pm: Healthy Soils in High Tunnels Field Day (Pikesville, MD)

Join the Million Acre Challenge and Future Harvest at Butterbee Farm to explore minimal soil disturbance techniques for high tunnel growing, along with details on the Maryland Healthy Soils Grant.

Owners Laura Beth Resnick and Jascha Owens will share their experience in cut flower farming and small business management. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members, and free for BFTP and ALDI participants.

December 3, 8am – 5pm: Controlled Environment Ag & Precision Ag Workshop/ Tour (Danville, VA)

Explore the innovative world of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) through a hands-on workshop and tour at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR). CEA practices, such as greenhouse cultivation and vertical farming, leverage controlled environments to optimize crop growth, support traditional farming, and ensure year-round production. Join us to learn how CEA addresses key agricultural challenges like climate change, resource scarcity, and food security, while enhancing crop quality. Register now to secure your spot!

December 3, 6pm – 7:30pm: Diversifying Streams of Revenue (Online Zoom Event)

As farming evolves beyond traditional practices, join Michael Carter Jr. of Carter Farms and Africulture to learn how to boost revenue through unconventional farm products and soft skills. Winter doesn't have to mean a slowdown in earnings—let's explore innovative ways for farmers to increase their income year-round.

December 3, 6pm – 8:30pm: Lambing & Kidding Workshop – Beyond the Basics (Glade Spring, VA)

Join us for an engaging workshop tailored to both beginning and experienced sheep and goat producers. This session will cover essential best management practices for pre-lambing/kidding and post-lambing/kidding. Participants will gain hands-on experience with a birthing model and learn strategies for preventing lamb/kid loss, troubleshooting birthing complications, and diagnosing and treating newborn issues.

December 4, 1pm – 3pm: Agricultural Tax & Agribusiness Development (Carver Center, Rapidan, VA)

Join the Tennie Agriculture Group, a tax and accounting firm specializing in financial solutions for farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses, for a workshop on building sustainable and profitable operations. This session will cover key topics including tax compliance for agribusinesses and Schedule F, choosing the right entity structure, and financial literacy for farmers, ranchers, and veterans. Gain the tools and knowledge to strengthen your agribusiness for the future.

December 4, 2:45pm – 4:45pm: Harvest Field Day (Eden Green Farm)

Join us at Eden Green Farm for a Celebratory Farm Harvest Field Day, honoring the legacy of Mr. Luther "Deacon" Brown. This event will showcase the journey of a generational success story, culminating in a fellowship meal for family, friends, and community. Participants will learn about conservation, heirs property and estate planning, value-added products, post-harvest processing, and cooperative farming practices. Please RSVP to attend. The address and additional details will be shared via email five days before the event.

December 4, 4pm – 6pm: Farmer Listening Session (Rising Silo Brewery, Blacksburg, VA)

Join us at Rising Silo Brewery for a Farmer Listening Session to discuss challenges, share concerns, and provide ideas to improve our food and agricultural system. Your feedback will help shape the Virginia Association for Biological Farming's program planning, guide the Roanoke Foodshed Network's efforts, and influence advocacy priorities to better support farmers. This free event is open to farm owners, managers, employees, and aspiring farmers. Food and beverages will be provided

December 5, 8am – 11am: James River Soil & Water Conservation District Farmers Breakfast (Chesterfield, VA)

Join the James River Soil & Water Conservation District for a Farmers Breakfast tailored for farmers, ranchers, and land stewards in Prince George and Chesterfield counties. Enjoy a catered breakfast,

network with peers, and receive valuable updates from NRCS, James River SWCD, VSU Small Farm Outreach Program, and Virginia Cooperative Extension about current and upcoming programs. This event also includes recertification workshops for commercial pesticide applicators in categories 90 & 91.

December 5-6, 8am – 4pm: Virginia Farm to Table Conference 2024: Connecting Food, Farms, and Health (Weyers Cave, VA)

You're invited to the 2024 Virginia Farm to Table Conference at Blue Ridge Community College's Plecker Workforce Center! Join us for two days of collaboration, conversation, and community with farmers, practitioners, researchers, and more. This year's conference will gather a wide range of food system stakeholders, including farmers, producers, buyers, restaurateurs, food entrepreneurs, community organizers, and regenerative agriculture advocates.

December 5, 4pm – 7pm: Networking Hoot-n-Annie (Weyers Cave, VA)

Celebrate World Soil Day at the Networking Hoot-n-Annie! This exciting event, held after Day 1 of the Farm to Table Conference, features the premiere of the new music video for "We Are 4 the Soil" by The FlipCharts and a lively jam session with Uncle Jimmy's Stringband & The FlipCharts. Bring your instruments or your voice to join in the fun as we celebrate soil, sustainability, and community!

December 5, 5pm – 7pm: Game Night @ SFOP -Jeopardy and Farmer Feud (Petersburg, VA)

Join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition at VSU Randolph Farm! Test your knowledge of agriculture, SFOP, and government programs designed to support producers with rounds of Jeopardy and Farmer Feud. Participants will receive a Prep Guide, participation awards, and prizes for winners.

December 9, 11am – 1pm: The Agribusiness Way™ Workshop (1425 Norchester Ave, Norfolk, VA)

Join the Tennie Agriculture Group, LLC for The Agribusiness Way™, a workshop designed to empower farmers, ranchers, and veterans with essential knowledge in agriculture taxation, financial management, and recordkeeping. Gain tools and strategies to build financially resilient and successful agribusiness operations.

December 10, 4pm – 5pm: An Introduction to Whole Farm Planning (Virtual Event)

Join Dr. Kim Niewolny, Professor at Virginia Tech and Director of the Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation, for an insightful webinar on whole farm planning. Learn how this process supports short-term and long-term decision-making to help new and beginning farmers achieve their goals and ensure long-term success.

December 12, 9am – 2:30pm: Farm Finance & Conservation Planning Seminar (Middleton, VA)

The Virginia Secretary of Agriculture is hosting a free Farm Finance & Conservation Planning Seminar on December 12 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm in Middleton, VA. This seminar will cover farm financing options and cost-share conservation opportunities, with lunch provided for attendees. To participate, please register by December 10 by emailing Josie.Rao@governor.virginia.gov.

December 12, 9am – 4pm: HEIRS Property – Estate Planning Workshop (Buckingham, VA)

Join us for the HEIRS Property – Estate Planning Workshop, where industry professionals, Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialists, Virginia Department of Agriculture representatives, and Central Virginia Produce Auction leaders will share insights on modern production practices, marketing trends, and estate planning for agricultural properties. This annual meeting has been moved to a larger venue to accommodate the overwhelming attendance from last year's program.

December 13-14, 2024: Cattle & Equipment WISE 2024 (Chatham, VA)

Join us for a comprehensive two-day program designed to enhance skills in cattle and equipment management. On Friday, December 13, the Cattle WISE Program will cover essential topics like herd

health, testing protocols, reproduction, calving, and low-stress cattle handling. Optional sessions include BQA Certification, a hands-on cooking session with beef, and a “Branded for Success” dinner featuring Michele Payn. On Saturday, December 14, the Equipment WISE Program focuses on practical skills for tractor and skid steer operation, safe handling of trucks and trailers, chainsaw use, fencing techniques, farm fire safety, and pesticide handling. An optional CPR and First Aid session will close the day.

December 16–18, 2024: Mid-Atlantic Grazing Conference (Washington County Ag Center, MD)

Join the Mid-Atlantic Grazing Conference to explore innovative grazing practices and sustainable farming techniques. Featuring keynote speaker Burke Teichert, farm tours, and more, this event offers both in-person and virtual options.

December 16, 9am – 4pm: Cleaning and Sanitizing Workshop (Winchester, VA)

Join us for a workshop on best practices for cleaning and sanitizing within the context of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Learn from industry experts, cooperative extension specialists, and regulatory agencies about the current regulatory framework, requirements, and draft guidance for cleaning and sanitizing produce on farms.

December 17 & 18, 1pm – 5pm: PSA Grower Training Course (Online Zoom Event)

Join us for the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course, designed to meet the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements for farms. This training covers critical topics, including produce safety best practices, worker health and hygiene, agricultural water, postharvest handling, and developing a farm food safety plan.

December 18, 10am – 12pm: Farm and Rural Business Planning Workshop (Rapidan, VA)

Join us for the Farm and Rural Business Planning Workshop, where producers will learn the essentials of business planning to evaluate production alternatives, explore new market opportunities, and effectively communicate ideas to lenders, partners, and family. This session is ideal for agricultural entrepreneurs looking to adopt innovative practices, venture into new markets like organic farming or direct marketing, or explore rural tourism opportunities. A solid business plan will help you map strategies, manage financial risk, and demonstrate your preparedness for success.

December 18, 2pm – 3pm: Farm Number (Zoom Event)

Did you know that having a farm number is an essential first step in applying for most USDA funding? Join this interactive online workshop to learn why a farm number is important, how it can support your goals for farm profitability, and the steps to obtain one. Don't miss this valuable session!

December 20, 12pm – 2pm: Introduction to Bokashi Composting (Petersburg, VA)

Discover the benefits of Bokashi Composting, a versatile composting method that allows for the inclusion of items beyond traditional green and brown wastes, such as meat, dairy, feces, and even bones. This workshop will explore how to source, prepare, and use Bokashi composting to add value to your farm operations.

January

January 7, 1pm – 2pm: Field to Fork – All About Bear (Prince Edward Extension Office, Farmville, VA)

Join the Prince Edward Cooperative Extension for a free presentation on black bear biology, history, and management in Virginia. Learn about conflict prevention and mitigation, particularly for homeowners

and outdoor recreationists, from bear biologist Katie Martin. To Participate contact Erin Small at (434) 392-4246 or email erins96@vt.edu.

January 10-12: 25th Annual Virginia Biological Farming Conference! (Roanoke, VA)

We are excited to announce new sponsorship opportunities for the Virginia Biological Farming Conference, including the Taste of Virginia Expo & Market Sponsor, Tote Bag Sponsor, and our Demonstration Add-On. Sponsors will enjoy enhanced benefits and recognition through our extensive promotional channels. Held January 10-12, 2025, at The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. Proposals for both Pre-Conference Workshops and Conference Sessions are due by August 29, 2025.

January 17th - 18th: 26th Annual Future Harvest Conference Silver Spring Civic Building (Silver Spring, MD)

Join us for two days of workshops, lectures, farmer-to-farmer chats, farm-fresh meals, and networking at our 26th annual conference. Early bird registration, which saves you \$25, is open until December 14. Scholarships and work trade opportunities are available. Conference speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and participants in the 2024 or 2025 Agricultural Leadership Development Initiative will receive a code for a complimentary ticket.

January 18, 2025: VT Beef Cattle Health Conference (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA)

The VT Beef Cattle Health Conference offers essential insights for cattle producers, featuring sessions on dart gun use, mineral supplementation, fly control, colostrum management, and more. Hands-on labs will focus on preventing chute injuries, managing colostrum, and selecting genetics for strong hooves. For more information, contact Lisa McCormick at (540) 231-2792. Registration is \$20 (cash or check only), and the deadline is January 16, 2024.

January 28 & 29, 1pm – 5pm: PSA Grower Training Course (Online Zoom Event)

Participate in this essential training to comply with FSMA standards. Learn about compliance requirements, food safety practices, and strategies for managing risks in farm operations.

January 28–31, Various Locations, VA: 2025 Winter Forage Conference

Join the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) for the 2025 Winter Forage Conference, focusing on making, buying, and using quality hay and baleage. Featured speakers include Chris Teutsch, Extension forage specialist with the University of Kentucky, and Jessica Williamson, hay and forage specialist for Massey Ferguson, alongside local producers from each conference location.

January 31, 9:30am – 11:30am: Grain Elevator Tour (Perdue Agribusiness, Chesapeake, VA)

Explore the Perdue Agribusiness Grain Facility, home to the East Coast's only deep-water grain bulk terminal and one of two deep-water soybean crushing plants in the U.S. This tour highlights Perdue's role in supporting over 700 Virginia farmers, offering a strong local market for crops while supplying soybean products, wheat, and corn to markets worldwide.

February

February 22, 2025: Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences (Blacksburg & Culpeper, VA)

Join fellow landowners, natural resource professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts for the *2025 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences* on February 22nd. These day-long tours will explore sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices across private, public, and industry-owned lands.

Locations:

- Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech, Southwest Virginia - Blacksburg
- Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College, Northern Virginia – Culpeper
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Late Winter

2025 Advanced Soil Health Training (ASHT) in the Mid-Atlantic

American Farmland Trust is excited to launch the 2025 Advanced Soil Health Training (ASHT) program in the Mid-Atlantic, funded by the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program. In collaboration with Truterra/Land O' Lakes, AFT will sponsor and train soil health advisors to deepen their expertise and support their communities. This program is designed for experienced farmers and farm advisors, equipping them to share advanced soil health practices with a wider audience. For more information, contact gsalazar@farmland.org.

Training Dates (2025) & Locations:

- **February 3-4: Harrisonburg, VA**
- March 5-6: Central MD
- July 23-24: Lancaster, PA
- December 3-4: Eastern Shore, MD

March 25 & 26, 1pm – 5pm: PSA Grower Training Course (Online Zoom Event)

Gain insights into FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule) compliance through this comprehensive training. Topics include hygiene, agricultural water safety, postharvest handling, and more.

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.