ANR News

Soybean Update: http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/soybean-update/
Virginia Pest & Crop Advisory: http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/ag-pest-advisory/ -Subscribe for alerts!
Southern Piedmont Ag Connection website: http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/ag-connection/
VTFORAGES YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/VTForages
AgrAbility Virginia http://www.agrability.ext.vt.edu/
Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition: https://www.vabeginningfarmer.alce.vt.edu/
Virginia Farmer Veteran Coalition: https://www.vabeginningfarmer.alce.vt.edu/

*New Farm Cost-Share Program: Central Virginia Pasture, Crops & Livestock Phase II Grant Awarded from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. See end of newsletter for press release about this grant and the SOVA Agribusiness Information Technology Cost-Share Program

*Registration open for up to 15 farms (multiple members per farm are welcome)

Amelia Barter Town Farmers Market Opens in May: Join local vendors on Tuesdays from 10-1 AND 3-6 (new hours!) at the Amelia County Fairgrounds. For details email salliegordon@yahoo.com

Amelia residents invited to Powhatan-area Equine Discussion Group, 2nd Tuesdays, 4-6pm. Are you a horse enthusiast looking to connect and learn about topics that matter to you? Join our monthly regional equine discussion group. Register at this link: https://tinyurl.com/equine2019 $10 per event, or join the yearly program for $40 (covers materials and food). For details, please contact Rachel Henley at 804-598-5640 or rgrosse@vt.edu or Laura Siegle at laura-b08@vt.edu or (804) 313-5396.

Amelia residents invited to Beef Cattle Production 360 Discussion Group: Over the past few years, the Goochland and Powhatan extension agents worked with a small group of beef cattle producers monthly. This has been a great platform for fellowship and shared learning on any topic that interested the group. In 2019, our office is joining this effort. The group will be open to 15 farms that are interested in taking a deeper dive into their farm’s production. We will work on forage production tracking, herd production, farm expenses/costs and financials. As a participant you will be required to host a meeting on your farm for the group. Meetings are very informal and designed to allow for group conversations and sharing. Guest industry professionals will be asked to join to help with some topics and field trips to other locations are possible. If interested, please register: Beef Cattle Production 360 Discussion Group – starting Tuesday, May 21, 2019 (meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month); Registration: https://tinyurl.com/beef360

May 1 The Southern Virginia Makers Market, Southern Virginia Food Hub Maker’s Market, 100 W. Danville Street, South Hill, VA from 9 am to 12:30 pm. - Local & Value-added products. Participants will tour the Maker’s Market at Southern Virginia Food Hub, a newly opened market with a mission to create “successful agribusinesses in our community while preserving the heritage of our family farms and local cuisine.” The Maker’s Market is designed to showcase products from more than 100 small farmers and food artisans, especially in Brunswick, Charlotte, Din-
widdie, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, and Nottoway counties. This educational workshop is free and open to the public. Space is limited to 25 participants. For more information, contact Small Farm Outreach Agent Marilyn Estes at mesteres@vsu.edu or (804) 481-0485.

4 **Plant Sale** - The South Central Master Gardener Association will be having a Plant Sale at the South Hill Farmer Market, 105 W. Danville St., South Hill, VA from 9 am - 1 pm. Click on the link for the plant that will be available.

4 Powhatan’s 5th Annual Celebration of the Horse & Ag Expo: [www.powhatancelebrationofthehorse.com](http://www.powhatancelebrationofthehorse.com)

8 **Farm Transition Workshop**, May 8th, 2019, 1:30-4:30pm. Featuring: James P. Seidl, James P. Seidl Law Offices, PC; Thomas I. Hill, of Hill and Davis, CPA, PC; David R. Wise, DavidWise.com Insurance, LLC. The workshop will help farm owners and their families plan for the successful transfer of the farm and forest lands and business. Topics include: Goals for the Future of Your Farm, Business Profitability, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Tax Management Issues, and Business Organizations. Register at the following link: https://goo.gl/forms/di1YKAt5d6jvqjc2 or by calling the Cumberland Extension Office at 804-492-4390. Class location: he Randolph Vol. Fire Dept. 2145 Cumberland Rd. Farmville. VA 23901

7-8 **VFGC Grazing School for Producers**, VT Middleburg Ag Research and Extension Center. (5527 Sullivans Mill Road, Middleburg, VA 20117). This school is a great educational experience where farmers can learn from forage and livestock specialists, other experienced graziers and network with other farmers from around the state who want to learn how to reach their goals of improved pasture and grazing management. It is designed for both experienced and beginning producers in mind. Space is limited to the first 25 participants; sign up before April 15th to get the early bird registration price. Visit [https://vaforages.org/vfgc-grazing-school-for-producers-in-middleburg-va-may-7-8-2019/](https://vaforages.org/vfgc-grazing-school-for-producers-in-middleburg-va-may-7-8-2019/)

9 **Cage Production Workshop**, 1:30-5 PM, Randolph Farm, 4415 River Road, Petersburg, VA. Cage-building materials will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring leather gloves, tin snips, a tape measure, cutting pliers and protective goggles. Participants will learn the basics of cage aquaculture and construct a fish cage. Raising fish in cages can utilize a water resource that is not suitable for other aquaculture production techniques. Farm ponds are a good example where cage aquaculture is quite suited as a production means. Free and open to the public, but limited to 20 participants. Register at ext.vsu.edu calendar of events. If you have any questions, please contact Mollie Klein at mklein@vsu.edu or (804) 524-5960.

9-10 **Cattle Behavior and Handling Clinic at the BARN in Buckingham** with world-renowned clinician Tom Curtin. $50/person for both days, $40 for one day. 8:30 AM—4:30 PM, 11851 W. James Anderson Hwy. Buckingham, VA. Visit: [http://tomcurtinet.net](http://tomcurtinet.net). Learn how to increase profitability without additional input costs through techniques applied during our daily routine. Reduce stress during weaning, reduce illness/injury, increase effectiveness of vaccines and medications, increase safety, milk production, weight gain, pregnancy rates. Lunch included, and there will be a horseback demo on Friday. Special presentations during lunch: Thursday May 9th-Mike Peacock of Cargill Feed & Nutrition, Breed back and meeting your customer expectations with backgrounding and Kitty Myers of Boehringer Ingleheim; Friday May 10th Dr. Tim Marshall of Purina Animal Nutrition and Dr. Preston Morris on Diamond V products for cattle. Register to Buckingham County Extension Office. We must receive your registration and payment to hold your spot--registrations due April 20.

9-11 **Bovine AI School**, VT Blacksburg. $150. Registration deadline May 6; for more information, contact Vitor Mercadante (352) 672-4061 or vrgm@vt.edu

16 **The 10th Annual Vegetation Management Workshop of 2019**, Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum, 880 W. Roslyn Road, Colonial Heights, VA 23834 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Registration fee is $40 per person. Pre-registration is mandatory. For more information and to pre-register, please RSVP by May 10, 2019 to charles.smyth@nutrien.com (804) 513-7185; doug.pond@nutrien.com (804) 241-8118; or Brendan.schnell@nutrien.com (804)356-6547.

22 **Virginia Grain Producer Association Small Grains Field Day**: The Virginia Grain Producers Association, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Small Grains Checkoff Board and Davis Produce are proud to host the 2019 Virginia Small Grains Field Day. This year's field day will be held at Davis Produce in New Kent at 9194 Hill Harm Road, Laxena, Virginia 23089. Paul & Boogie Davis are the owners/managers of a 550 acre research and demonstration farm, with a majority of their work being conducted on corn, wheat, barley, soybeans and pumpkins for different fertilizer, chemical and seed companies. More Details to come in April--visit [http://www.virginiagrains.com/](http://www.virginiagrains.com/)
25-26 **Low Stress Cattle Handling Clinic**, Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center/McCormick Farm from 9 AM to 4 PM. The program will feature renowned clinician and professional stockman Tom Curtin. Tom Curtin travels the United States and abroad to share his knowledge with beef cattle producers on low stress handling methods. Due to the generous support of our sponsors we do not have a registration fee, but lunch will be available for purchase on site. For more information, contact John Benner at 540-245-5750 ext. 2 or benner89@vt.edu.

**June**


**August**

1 Save the date: Tobacco Field Day, VT Southern Piedmont AREC.

9-10 **Family Forestland Short-course, Two-part workshop (attend both sessions)**: 9th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm and 10th from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Longwood University, Farmville, Specific location TBA with registration. Are you concerned about passing your family land to your heirs? Do you know your options to pass on your family woodlands or farm? Do you know where to start? For more information, contact Jason Fisher at 434-476-2147 x 3389 jasonf@vt.edu or Kim Biasiolli at 434-220-9184 kim.biasiolli@dof.virginia.gov

Farm Cost-Share Updates

**Central Virginia Pasture, Crops & Livestock Phase II Grant Awarded from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**

Producers in sixteen Southside Virginia Counties will be eligible for matching grants this year under a program funded by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. During its January 8, 2019 meeting in Richmond, the Tobacco Commission approved $426,000.00 in Agribusiness funding for the Central Virginia Pasture, Crops & Livestock Phase II Grant. The Central Virginia Pasture, Crops & Livestock Phase II Grant offers producers in a 16-county region an opportunity to apply for a cost share incentives of up to $3,300 per producer. This project includes the counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward. The grant focuses on pasture conversion/production, by providing pasturing systems; crop/feed storage, by providing for grain bins, grain dryers, & hay barns; and livestock management structures such as head gates, squeeze chutes, scales & Calf Catchers, Cold Storage and Produce Handling Equipment. These programs are aimed at enhancing farm profitability with corresponding benefits to the region’s overall economy. Cost share funds will be available to agricultural producers who meet all eligibility requirements. Robert Spiers, Chairman of the Tobacco Commission’s Agribusiness Committee said, "I am pleased that the Commission chose to provide more funding for this worthwhile program. Farming has always been a vital part of the economy here in Central Virginia and, since day one, supporting our local farming community has been a priority for the Tobacco Commission."

Producers interested in applying for funding must attend a minimum of one informational/educational session out of Ten (10) opportunities offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension agents prior to applying for funds. These sessions have been scheduled at the following locations on the dates and times listed below:

- Extension Office, Halifax May 2 starting at 7:00 pm
- Franklin Center, Rocky Mount May 9 starting at 6:00 pm
- Extension Office, Boydton May 14 starting at 10:00 am
- County Annex Building, Lawrenceville, May 14 starting at 6:00 pm
- Olde Dominion Agriculture Complex, Chatham, May 16 starting at 3:00 pm
- Lynchburg Livestock Market, Lynchburg, May 16 starting at 6:30 pm
- Prince Edward Extension Office, Farmville May 20

Jane Henderson, Unit Coordinator, Extension Agent—FCS
Laura Siegle, Extension Agent—ANR
Thomas Woodson, Extension Agent—4H
Janet Crews, Unit Administrative Assistant

Amelia County Extension Office
16360 Dunn Street, Ste. 202
P.O.Box 229
Amelia, VA 23002-0229

Pho: 804-561-2481
Fax: 804-561-3224
E-mail: jcrwes@vt.edu
Website: http://offices.ext.vt.edu/amelia/
starting at 2:00 pm
• Southside Community College, Keysville May 20 starting at 6:00 pm
• Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone, May 23 starting at 3:00 pm (contact Laura Siegle: 804-561-2481)
• Henry County Administration Building, Martinsville May 23 starting at 6:00 pm
Cost share applications will be accepted beginning 8:00 am on Monday, June 10, 2019, at the Virginia Cooperative Extension offices in the participating counties. Funding is limited and will be provided to producers on a first-come-first-serve basis with special consideration given to producers who have never received a Tobacco Grant. Incentives will only be awarded on a one-time basis per producer, per family, and/or per farm. For more information on this program, please contact your local extension agent or this office.

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is a 28-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly. Its mission is the promotion of economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities, using proceeds of the national tobacco settlement. To date, the Commission has awarded over 2,000 grants totaling more than $1.1 billion across the tobacco region of the Commonwealth, and has provided $309 million in indemnification payments to tobacco growers and quota holders. If you would like more information about the Commission, please contact Jordan Butler at 804-786-7692 or email at jbutler@revitalizeva.org.

Virginia Cooperative Extension announces an additional round for the SOVA Agribusiness Information Technology Cost-Share Program: In January 2017, Virginia Cooperative Extension was awarded $104,000 by the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for its Agribusiness project titled SOVA Agribusiness Information Technology Program. An additional round will open in January 2019 to serve producers in eighteen counties.

The SOVA Agribusiness Information Technology Cost-Share Program offers approved agribusiness operators an opportunity to apply for a cost-share incentive of up to $1200 per producer. The program focuses on increasing productivity through technology by providing cost-share on the following eligible components: Farm Logic software, Cattle Pro software, CowCalf software, Angus Info Management Software, and professional website development. Optional additions include: laptop computer, Quick-Books financial record keeping software, IPad/tablet (for Farm Logic applicants only), and CowCalf Mobile App. Producers in the following counties are eligible to apply: Bedford, Campbell, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania, Wythe, Charlotte, Appomattox, Nottoway, Brunswick, Cumberland, Buckingham, Amelia, and Prince Edward.

Producers interested in applying for funding must attend an informational/educational session offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension prior to applying for funds. Cost share applications will be available at educational sessions and should be submitted to the Virginia Cooperative Extension offices in the participating counties. Deadline for submitting applications is Friday, June 14, 2019 at 4:30pm. Applications will be reviewed by an evaluation team comprised of individuals from Virginia Cooperative Extension. Applications will be scored based on evaluation criteria and final selection of approved cost-share applications will be based on the strength of the applications and will give consideration to geographic distribution within the Tobacco Region. Funding is on a first-come-first-serve basis. For more information, contact your agent (Amelia: Laura Siegle, 804-561-2481, laura-b08@vt.edu)

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please call the person listed above as contact person for the meeting during normal business hours (M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) five business days prior to the activity to discuss accommodations. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all.

FCS NEWS

Estate Planning and Farm Transition
June 8, 2019
10AM – 1PM
Branches Runn Baptist Church
3830 Woodley Drive
Amelia VA 23002

The USDA estimates that 70% of U.S. farmland will change hands in the next twenty years. If a farm or ranch family business has not adequately planned for changes in ownership, it is more likely to go out of business, be absorbed into ever-larger farming neighbors, or be converted to non-farm uses.

This workshop will provide information and guidance on the decisions you can make today to help you plan and achieve financial and personal goals for the future of your farm.