



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Report

VASWCD Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 2021

VCE continues to serve the needs of Virginians with a broad array of research-based educational programming. Due to the variety and scope of these efforts it is always difficult to provide an all-inclusive summary. However, here are a few “goings on” and impacts from around the state that may be of interest.

- 4-H Camp is taking place this summer!
- Over 700 producers representing over 242,000 acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed responded to the Virginia Farm Voluntary Agricultural Best Management Practices Inventory. This survey was crafted over many months by members of Virginia’s Voluntary Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Task Force convened by Ann Jennings, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources. Task force members worked closely together on this effort and include representatives from the: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Agribusiness Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Farm Bureau, and Virginia Tech Office of Analytics and Institutional Effectiveness, among other partners. VCE serves as the survey administrator with support from VTOAIE.
- Check out the Desktop Farm Day site produced by Extension agent Mike Parrish <https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/desktop-farm-day/home> to provide youth with a virtual farm day experience in the absence of in-person visits due to COVID. Thanks to Appomattox River, Chowan Basin, and Lake Country SWCD’s for supporting this effort.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension agents have been serving as a bridge at the local level to facilitate sharing of information about COVID-19 vaccine with agriculture workers and their communities at large. In numerous locations across the state agents are working with the Virginia Department of Health, local government, and/or partner organizations to develop lists of local farmers, farm workers, loggers, and others that wish to be vaccinated. And, agents are working with VDH to identify centralized locations used by these audiences where shots can then be administered. One county government has provided 100% local funding to place an additional employee in an Extension office specifically to field calls about the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, VCE has established a team of Extension agents and specialists that will pursue grant funding to further support agency efforts to strengthen community immunization education.

- VCE and CALS Department of Ag and Applied Economics faculty are engaged in an effort to characterize the evolving impacts of the pandemic on Virginia farms and agribusinesses. The survey results will help to inform Extension programming to better serve stakeholders in response to ongoing challenges. The survey closed on April 12 and summary report is forthcoming.
- 8,038 participants attended one or more of the eight virtual canning, freezing, and dehydration classes that were held in 2020 and 107 registered for the online food preservation training course. VCE home food preservation educational resources were provided through email, social media, and website links and thousands of people continue to be provided education through posted videos, the online course, and links to printable online resources. Attendees indicated through chat and email that the virtual and online classes allowed them to develop new skills, share ideas and have personal interaction even while in quarantine.
- Funded by GO Virginia Region One and the Virginia Tobacco Commission and hired through VCE, the SWVA Agribusiness Opportunities Project Manager will begin work on April 25. By working closely with Extension agents, educational institutions, clients, and partners in the region, this position will capitalize on existing strengths and collaborative partnerships to advance agricultural enterprises throughout 13 counties and three cities. The Project Manager will help identify new opportunities and assess the viability of these new ventures; alleviate barriers to entry; help producers pursue niche opportunities, and; facilitate start-up and expansion of local businesses, among other activities.
- During Fall 2020 VCE State Program Leaders approved two new program teams that formerly operated as sub-teams within the existing program team structure: *Safe, High Quality Food from Field to Table* and *Farm to School*. These join the following program teams in addressing issues of interest across Virginia: *4-H Positive Youth Development; Agribusiness Management and Economics; Agronomic Crops and Horticulture; Animal Production; Community, Leadership, and Civic Engagement; Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems; Emerging Pests and Pest Management; Family and Community Economics; Healthy People, Healthy Communities; Human Development; Natural Resources, Environmental, and Agricultural Literacy, and; Natural Resources Management*.
- During 2020 VCE Extension Foresters produced 32 segments of the Fifteen Minutes in the Forest educational series. Topics included tree identification, invasive species, herbicide application, urban forestry, and American chestnut research, among many others. The videos had almost 7,000 views and resulted in 351 new subscribers to the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program YouTube Channel. Viewers spent over 638 hours watching, with an average view time of 5.33 minutes. Evidence of increased and broadened engagement is also reflected in the corresponding VFLEP Facebook page grew from 867 followers in 2019 to 1,298 in December of 2020.

...And, here are a few examples of VCE programming taking place during the first half of April 2021.

#### Tue Apr 6, 2021

##### 6:30pm - 8:30pm Master Cattlemen's Program

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 6:30pm - 8pm

##### PLIGHT OF THE POLLINATOR: HOW TO SUPPORT POLLINATING INSECTS

Where: <https://www.plantvirginiannatives.org/webinars-landscaping-with-virginia-natives>

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 7:30pm - 8:30pm Women in Agriculture Network: April Meeting

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

#### Wed Apr 7, 2021

##### 9am - 11am Vegetable Production and Crop Selection

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 10:30am - 2:30pm Providing Technical Service to Private Landowners

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 11am - 2pm In-Orchard Tree Fruit Meeting

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 3pm - 4:30pm Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning Webinar Series

Where: [https://ext.vt.edu/natural resources/legacy planning/training.html](https://ext.vt.edu/natural%20resources/legacy%20planning/training.html)

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 5pm - 6:30pm

##### Exploring the Ethical Politics of Storytelling in Communities of Struggle for Social Change

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

#### Thu Apr 8, 2021

##### 10am - 12:30pm Farm Family Financial Wellness

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

##### 10am - 11am Farm Pond Management 101

Calendar: VCE Educational Events

Created by: Cyndi Marston

## VCE Educational Events

**10am - 12:30pm Growing Small Grains Organically**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**1pm - 2:30pm Selling to the Commonwealth and State Universities**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**3pm - 4:30pm Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning Webinar Series**

**Where:** <https://ext.vt.edu/natural-resources/legacy-planning/training.html>  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**7pm - 9pm An Introduction to Getting Your Hands Dirty**

**Where:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-introduction-to-getting-your-hands-dirty-tickets-139663054957>  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**7:30pm - 8:30pm Conversations in Ag Series**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Fri Apr 9, 2021**

**9am - 11:30am Apple Tree Grafting Workshop**

**Where:** 209 Fox St NW, Floyd, VA 24091, USA  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**9am - 12pm The Role of Professional Societies Across Your Career**

**Where:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/97509089739> Meeting ID: 97509089739  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**12:15pm - 12:30pm Fifteen Minutes in the Forest: Silvopasture for Chickens**

**Where:** <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/97509089739> Meeting ID: 97509089739  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**1pm - 3:30pm Apple Tree Grafting Workshop**

**Where:** 209 Fox St NW, Floyd, VA 24091, USA  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Sat Apr 10, 2021**

**9am - 3pm SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Mon Apr 12, 2021**

**10am - 12pm Test portable retail scales with VDACS Weights & Measures**

**Where:** 209 Fox St NW, Floyd, VA 24091, USA  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

## VCE Educational Events

**4pm - 5pm Food waste, food prices, the environment, and hunger**

**Where:** <https://aaec.vt.edu/extension/va-sustainable-farms-agribusinesses.html>

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Tue Apr 13, 2021**

**12pm - 1:30pm VA Fresh Match/SNAP**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**1pm - 5pm Virtual Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**6:30pm - 8:30pm Master Cattlemen's Program**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Wed Apr 14, 2021**

**11:30am - 12:30pm Seasonal Tree Fruit Meeting**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**1pm - 5pm Virtual Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**3pm - 4:30pm Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning Webinar Series**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Thu Apr 15, 2021**

**9am - 4pm**

**The VA Youth Beef Challenge and the State 4-H and FFA Tractor Driving Contests**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**10am - 11am Farm Pond Management 101**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**10am - 1pm USDA Information Session**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**12pm - 3pm Worker Protection Standard Training for the "Worker"**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**1pm - 2pm**

**Spring 2021 Evaluation Speaker Series - Evaluation Entrepreneurship**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events

**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

## VCE Educational Events

■ **3pm - 4:30pm Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning Webinar Series**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

■ **7pm - 9pm An Introduction to Getting Your Hands Dirty**

**Where:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-introduction-to-getting-your-hands-dirty-tickets-139663054957>  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

**Fri Apr 16, 2021**

■ **9am - 11:30am Apple Tree Grafting Workshop**

**Where:** 209 Fox St NW, Floyd, VA 24091, USA  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

■ **10am - 11:30am Best Bets: Native Plants for Wet Conditions**

**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

■ **12:15pm - 12:30pm**

**Fifteen Minutes in the Forest: Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance**

**Where:** <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/97509089739> Meeting ID: 97509089739  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
**Created by:** Cyndi Marston

■ **1pm - 3:30pm Apple Tree Grafting Workshop**

**Where:** 209 Fox St NW, Floyd, VA 24091, USA  
**Calendar:** VCE Educational Events  
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