

Central VCE

April 2016

URBAN GARDENING: WHAT, WHY, HOW

Join the Bedford Master Gardeners on April 2nd beginning at 11 a.m. at the Bedford Urban Garden for a workshop on Urban Gardening. This is held at 412 Jackson Street, Bedford, VA. Learn about what urban gardening is, how its done, and why garden in the city/town benefits. This is a hands on workshop and will demonstrate methods of gardening in small places. This workshop is free of charge, but please register by calling 540-586-7675.

SOUTHSIDE VA VITICULTURE PRIMER

If you have every thought about starting a vineyard, then you need to make plans to be at the "Southside Viticulture Primer" which will be held on April 13th from 11:00 am-3:00 pm at The Homeplace Vineyard, located at 568 Rigney Circle, Chatham, VA. Hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Pittsylvania County Agricultural Development and The Homeplace Vineyard, this primer will provide an introduction to the basic components of a vineyard operation in Virginia. It will include classroom time indoors and time out in the vineyard (rain or shine). Freddie Wydner will discuss the SoVA Vineyard Development program, Tremain Hatch will give an overview of the industry, site selection, varieties and canopy management as well as the projected costs/returns and labor demands of a vineyard enterprise, Jesse Williams will exhibit training systems, site design and varieties, and Jamie Stowe will share what resources Virginia Cooperative Extension has for growers. All participants should bring a bag lunch and dress for the weather. Registration is required and can be completed online at <http://goo.gl/forms/1C7oRVFyIv> or a copy of the agenda with the registration link can be picked up at Virginia Cooperative Extension-Pittsylvania County Office between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCTION SEMINAR

Join us on April 9th for a Small Ruminant Production Seminar & YMQA Training at the Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research Station from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. There will be a Sheep Production Seminar by Andrew Weaver - VT Grad Student. Topics include Parasite Control, Genetics, Pasture Management, Carcass Quality and Judging, Feed and Nutrition Seminar - Making sure your animals make weight. Free lunch provided. Register by April 4th by calling 434-542-5884 or contacting Darla Marks at dmarks@vt.edu.

FAMACHA TRAINING

There will be a famacha training on April 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department. This will be held at 2150 Sontag Road, Rocky Mount. Preregistration is required and costs \$20 per person. Please register to 540-483-5161.

GRANT INTEREST MEETINGS

This grant, funded by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification And Community Revitalization Commission, will offer partial cost-share for several farm practices in cases where these practices will be new (not replacing existing equipment): hay bale wrappers, mix wagons, creep feeders, and cold storage. The meeting will cover eligibility guidelines, project specs, and application details. Please attend one meeting if you are interested.

- April 11 starting at 10:00 am. South Hill Town Hall- Room B, 211 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, VA
- April 14 starting at 4:00 pm- Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone
- April 19 starting at 9:00 am- Olde Dominion Agriculture Complex, Chatham
- April 20 starting at 6:00 pm- County Building Auditorium, Lawrenceville
- April 21 starting at 6:30 pm- Lynchburg Livestock Market, Lynchburg
- April 21 starting at 6:00 pm- Mary Bethune Office Complex, Halifax
- April 26 starting at 3:00 pm- Prince Edward Extension Office Conference Room, Farmville

POND CARE WORKSHOP

On April 12th there will be a [Pond Care Workshop](#) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Amelia Wildlife Management Area. Learn about pond care, pond wildlife, fish health, water quality, and pond weeds. Bring a water sample and a pond weed sample for identification. At Amelia WMA, meet in the parking lot next to the boat ramp— enter the WMA from Genito Road, go straight, and then follow the signs to the boat landing. Free; register in advance to (804) 561-2481 or laurab08@vt.edu.

SPRING FORAGE AND GRAZING FIELD DAY

On April 14th from 9:30a.m.—3:00p.m. there will be a Spring Forage and Grazing Field Day at Swallow Hill Farm in Caroline County. This will be held at 12581 Stonewall Jackson Road, Woodford, VA 22580. Tim Tobin will discuss calf to finish forage based production system, grazing annual forage mixtures for feed quantity, quality, and soil health benefits, overview of grazing systems, and much more. Please register by April 11th and the cost is \$10 per person. After April 11th the late registration fee is \$25 per person. Register online at www.vaforges.org. This program includes lunch.

FARMERS MARKET TRAINING SERIES

Join us on April 12, 19, and 26th for Local Food Systems: Farmers' Market Vendor Training Series at the Danville community Market, Community Room, 629 Craghead St., Danville, VA 24541. All sessions will be from 4-7 p.m. and will include drinks and hors d'oeuvres. There is no cost to attend. Please register by the Friday before each session. For questions, directions, and registration, please contact: Kenny Porzio, 434-797-8961, porziks@danvilleva.gov.

STRATEGIES FOR DIRECT MARKETING

Join us April 28th for Strategies for Direct Marketing at Pearisburg Community Center, 1410 Wenonah Avenue, Pearisburg, VA 24134 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. (Optional mingle with other producers: 11:30 am - 12:45 pm. Light box lunch provided/\$8.00 per person. Minimum 10 people required to offer lunch - reserve at registration.) Every customer who walks by your market stand represents money gained or lost. Just as you harvest your farm products, you harvest your customers. Come learn about winning direct marketing strategies that you can implement this year for maximized profits. To register: contact Christy Mutter, ANR Extension Agent, Giles County Extension Office at 540-921-3455 or jdudding@vt.edu at least one week before the event. First 20 registrants will receive a chalk ink marker and a chalkboard sign.

FISH CAGE BUILDING WORKSHOP

On April 28th there will be a [Fish Cage Building Workshop](#) from 1:30pm - 5:00pm at Randolph Farm, Virginia State University, 4415 River Road, Ettrick, VA. To register or for more information, call Dr. David Crosby, VSU fish health specialist, at (804)524-5620 or e-mail dcrosby@vsu.edu.

BLUEBERRY FIELD WALK

There will be a Blueberry Field Walk: 9:00 am - 11:00 am on April 29th at Randolph Farm, Virginia State University, 4415 River Road, Petersburg, VA. New and experienced blueberry growers are invited to learn about new and better blueberry cultivars for successful planting. To register by phone, call Mollie Klein at (804) 524-5960 or email mklein@vsu.edu.

PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

Join the Piedmont Beekeepers Association for Practical Beekeepers for Beginners in Lynchburg on weeknights from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. These will be held on February 4, March 3, March 10, March 24, March 31, April 7, and April 14 in the meeting room at Old City Cemetery on Taylor Street. Tuition will be \$90.00 and this includes classroom instruction, 3 textbooks, CD and course notebook with printouts, one years membership to the Piedmont Beekeeper Association, and field day with a demo. You will learn about the history of beekeeping, biology and life cycle of honeybees, seasonal colony management, assembly of hive components and much more! Space is limited so register early at 434-660-6063 or email annzee@aol.com.

NEWSLETTER UPDATES

Check out our blogs at: <http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/ag-connection/> or <http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/central-virginia-ag-spotlight/> Check out the google drive with information to all programs at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XKezpKoPA9Mk6qjlf7dy3RUXHHpP189w9LvLxUlaC7o/edit?usp=sharing>

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Newsletter is created by Campbell County Extension Office. Questions or Comments please contact Livvy Gill at livvy16@vt.edu or (434) 332-9538.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact VCE-Campbell County at (434/332-9538) during business hours of 8:00 am.-5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.



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April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Urban Gardening Workshop- Bedford
3	4 Youth Cattle Working Contest -Blackstone	5 VA Agritourism Conference- Halifax-----	6 -----	7	8	9 Famacha Training – Rocky Mount Small Ruminant Production Seminar– Blackstone
10	11 Grant Meeting- South Hill	12 Grant Meeting- Keysville Pond Care Workshop– Amelia Farmers Market Training- Danville	13 Southside VA Viticulture Primer– Pittsylvania	14 Spring Forage and Grazing Field Day – Caroline Grant Meeting- Blackstone	15	16
17	18	19 Farmers Market Training- Danville Grant Meeting- Chatham	20 Grant Meeting- Lawrencville	21 Tri-County AG Supper-South Hill Grant Meeting- Lynchburg Grant Meeting- Halifax	22 Area Beef Conference- Blackstone	23
24	25	26 Farmers Market Training- Danville Grant Meeting – Farmville	27	28 Strategies for Direct Marketing- Petersburg Fish Cage Building Workshop-VSU	29 Blueberry Walk – VSU	30