

Central VCE

March 2016

AMELIA FARMERS MARKET VENDOR TRAINING

Join us on March 1st for a Farmer's Market Vendor Training at the Amelia County Conference Room (down the hall from the Extension office). This will be from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. and free of charge. Bring your scales for scale certification. Topics include food safety, regulations, Q&A with a food safety agent, and SNAP/EBT options for vendors. Please register to (804) 561-2481 or laurab08@vt.edu.

ADVANCED EQUINE AND FORAGE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Join us for an Advanced Equine and Forage Management School on March 2nd at the Southern Piedmont AREC from 9:00 a.m. -3:00p.m. This year's conference will help horse managers and boarding barn managers improve pasture, hay selection, feeding practices, insurance plans, and more. Speakers include forage specialist Dr. Chris Teutsch, Shayan Ghajar from the VT Middleburg AREC, David Wise Insurance, a panel of hay producers, and more. The cost is \$10.00 per person. For more information, call (804) 598-5640 or (804) 561-2481.

DIRECT MARKETERS AND PACKINGHOUSE WORKSHOP

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Fresh Produce Food Safety Team will be holding two workshops. The first is March 2nd in Hillsville. This will be a hands on workshop about using risk based framework to increase fresh produce food safety. This will be held at the Southwest VA Farmers Market from 9:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please register to 276-730-3110. The second workshop will be held on March 9th at the Wytheville Community College from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please register to 276-223-6040. Each workshop is \$20.00 per person and will cover handouts, lunch, and refreshments. Space is limited so register today! If you have questions, please contact Steve Pottorff or Susan Slack at 276-730-3110.

SOUTH ATLANTIC HOPS CONFERENCE

This conference will be held on March 4-5th in Richmond at the Clarion Hotel Richmond Central. This event is a prime opportunity for beginner and experienced hop growers alike to learn and network. Brewers and other industry stakeholders may also wish to participate. Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are still available--visit the registration link to learn more. The agenda, online registration, and sponsor information can be found at this website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-south-atlantic-hops-conference-tickets-19730934757> Both days will cost \$80.12. Friday only will cost \$32.64 and Saturday only will cost \$59.67. Topics include perspectives from brewers, managing hops yard pests, university research updates, how to construct a hop yard, industry round table, and tours! Contact Laura Siegel for more information at laurab08@vt.edu.



GROW YOUR OWN SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE GARDEN

The Prince Edward Extension Office is hosting a Grow Your Own Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series on March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, and November 14 of 2016 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00p.m. at the Prince Edward Extension Office, 100 Dominion Drive, Farmville. Topics will include principles of organic gardening, building soil health, seed starting and seedling care, attracting beneficial insects, weed control, trellising, water management, companion planting, square foot gardening and cooking and food preservation demonstrations. To pre-register by March 7th please contact (434) 392-4246 or hawthoks@vt.edu.

CENTRAL VA FARMERS MARKET TRAINING

The Campbell Extension Office is hosting a Central VA Farmers Market Training on March 21st from 4:00 p.m. -7:00p.m. This will be located at 163 Kabler Lane, Rustburg, VA 24588. Cost of the workshop is \$5.00/person. Topics covered will be Marketing Your Booth, SNAP at the Market, Food Safety at the Market, and Q & A. Please register to livvy16@vt.edu.

MAXIMIZING YOUR MARKETING

Join VSU for a four part workshop on maximizing your marketing. These will be held on March 7 and 21st and April 4 and 18th. These will be held at VSU in Petersburg and cost \$10 per person per session. Topics include: Your Best Sales: Marketing Plan, Your Best Image: Logo Brochure, Look Your Best: Display and Signage, and Your Online Best: Create Website. Each workshop is 1:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please register to Mollie Klein at mklein@vsu.edu or call (804) 524-5960.

AG WEATHER WORKSHOP

The Ag Weather Workshop will be held on March 17th from 8:00a.m. –noon. This will be held at the Tidewater AREC in Suffolk. The National Weather Service in Wakefield, VA and Virginia Tech's Tidewater AREC will provide agriculture-relevant information in support of productivity. The workshop is free and open to all producers and industry. Topics include; NWS forecasts and services, climate, CoCoRAHS, SKYWARN, and agriculture outreach. For more info: scott.minnick@noaa.gov.

SOUTHERN VA WINTER AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP

The Winter Agritourism Workshop will be held on March 24th at Hudson Heritage Farm, 6247 Birch Elmo Road, South Boston, VA 24592. This will be from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with dinner provided. Linda Sheperd of Halifax Tourism will be speaking on partnerships with local tourism offices and structuring of regional tours. Hudson Heritage Farms will also be available for questions. Please register by 3/11/16 to Ashley Nauta at aswolfe@vt.edu.

COMMERCIAL LICENSE RECERTIFICATION

The Commercial License Recertification will be held in Lynchburg on March 7 and 8th. Contact Kevin Camm for more information at kecamm@vt.edu.

The Commercial and Registered Technician Pesticide Recertification will be held at the Southern Piedmont AREC in Blackstone on March 18th. To register please call Cynthia Gregg at the Brunswick Extension office at (434) 848-2151.

The second Virginia Agritourism Conference will be held on April 5 & 6th in Halifax, Virginia. This is a two day conference filled with educational sessions, tours, and special guests. Topics will include: farm safety, liability, social media, financing and legal structures, business planning, and much more. Tours will include: Hudson Heritage Farm, Greenwood Vineyards, Reese’s Farm Fresh, Hunting Creek Vineyards and Bright Meadows Farm, and Shangrila Guest Ranch. There will be networking and social time for you to meet agritourism leaders, share successes, and explore challenges. Registration is open and can be found at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/agriculture/agritourism/index.html>. The deadline is March 26, 2016. This conference will be located at Southern VA Higher Education Center at 820 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA 24592. For questions, contact Martha Walker at walker53@vt.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>

Like us on Facebook at Virginia Cooperative Extension Central District!



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.



Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Farmers Market Vendor Training- Amelia	2 Advanced Equine & Forage Management School- Southern Piedmont AREC Packinghouse Workshop- Hillsville	3	4 South Atlantic HOPS Conference---	5 -----> VA-NC Horse Festival- Chatham Fruit Pruning workshop- Powhatan
6	7 Amelia/ Southside Dairy Conference- Amelia Governors Ag Trade Confer- ence -Richmond Commercial Pes- ticide-Lynchburg Marketing Workshop Series- Petersburg	8 -----> ----->	9 Direct Market Workshop- Wytheville	10	11	12
13	14 Grow your own Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series- Prince Edward	15	16	17  Tri-county Ag Supper- South Hill Ag Weather Workshop- Tidewater AREC	18 Commercial and Registered Tech Re-Cert- Bruns- wick	19
20	21 Central VA Farmers Market Training- Campbell Marketing Series- Petersburg	22 Pond Workshop- Goochland	23 Lunch to Learn- Lynchburg	24 Agritourism Workshop-Elmo	25	26
27 HAPPY EASTER! 	28	29	30	31		