

Central VCE

May 2016

URBAN AGRICULTURE SEMINAR SERIES

Join us on May 2nd for an Urban Agriculture Seminar Series at Virginia State University in the L. Douglas Wilder Building, in the First Floor Demo Kitchen. This will be at 12:00 p.m. Todd Niemeier, the Operations Director for the Urban Agriculture Collective of Charlottesville (USCC) will be speaking. He served as an Agricultural Extension Volunteer in the Peace Corps Bolivia and has worked on various small and large-scale vegetable farms. He is committed to the idea that collective urban agriculture can serve as a vehicle for bringing people together across racial, economic, and social barriers. Registration is requested to assure space. Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18Ehwji8vuzxcSaCp0jkwGLW_1J9DDpa2PEGuFuQHxU/viewform?c=0&w=1

2016 GRAZING SCHOOL

Join us May 2 & 3rd for the [2016 Grazing School](#) at McCormick Farm (Shenandoah Valley AREC), in Raphine, VA. This is limited to 30 people. This hands-on, two-day course will cover basic pasture management, grazing management, designing rotational grazing systems, fencing and watering, extending the grazing season, matching forage quality to animal needs, and forage budgets. For more information, visit <http://vaforages.org/> or contact Matt Booher at (540) 245-5750 or mrb260@vt.edu.

BACKYARD POULTRY DINE AND DISCUSS

Join us on May 3, 17, 31, and June 14 for the Chesterfield Backyard Poultry Dine and Discuss Series at the Chesterfield Extension Office at 6 p.m. This is \$8 per class or \$30 if preregistered for all (May 3-Nutrition; May 17-Predators; May 31-Health; June 14-Marketing). For more info, contact (804) 751-4401 or mcharley@vt.edu, or [register online](#).

2ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE HORSE

Join us for the 2nd Annual Celebration of the Horse, Rocky Oak Farm, Powhatan on May 7th. Join us for kids' activities, vendors, silent auction, cornhole tournament, livestock petting zoo, and more. Features a 4-H qualifying show and open show horse show. Event supports Powhatan 4-H and FFA programs and parking is \$5 per vehicle. For more information click [here](#).

GROW YOUR OWN SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE GARDENING SERIES

Join us on May 9th for a [Grow Your Own Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series](#) at the Prince Edward County Extension Office, 100 Dominion Drive, Farmville, VA from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This is a series from March to November. Please contact Katy Overby or Caitlin Miller at 434-392-4246 or hawthoks@vt.edu. [Schedule for the series](#).

STRAWBERRY FIELD DAY

The Virginia State University College of Agriculture Small Fruits and Vegetables program invites you to join us for a special field day to learn more about growing strawberries for local markets. View current strawberry growing, harvesting and post-harvest techniques and discuss local markets with our University specialists. This will be held on May 12, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Westover Farms, 21604 Westover Drive, McKenney, VA. Register online at: <http://goo.gl/forms/AhZTDCOkMC>

PROJECT LEARNING TREE GIVES STUDENTS A BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN A FUN WAY

By Laura Dobson, HCMGA Master Gardener

Howard Butler, a master gardener with the Hill City Master Gardeners Association in Lynchburg, Va., along with a dedicated group of volunteers, have completed their third year of teaching the Project Learning Tree (PLT) program to students at Amelon Elementary School in Madison Heights, just outside Lynchburg. The PLT program is designed to give an environmental education to students from elementary school through high school. By customizing the lessons, master gardeners can offer a PLT education to benefit students in any age group. In Lynchburg, the HCMGA PLT volunteers take over the third-grade classes once a month and use fun, hands-on activities to teach students *how* to think, not *what* to think, about complex environmental issues. Students learn about topics such as forests, wildlife, water, recycling and energy.

Butler and his team of master gardener volunteers started the year with a Schoolyard Safari. Students explored the area around their school and learned what types of animals and other creatures share their space. Other activities this year included Every Tree for Itself, in which students learn how trees compete for water, sunlight and nutrients. Have Seeds Will Travel introduced students to aspects of plants' reproductive system, and in Nature's Recyclers the third-graders picked up worms (with varying degrees of delight and disgust!) and learned about how these squirmy insects live off dead organic material and how they can even eat food scraps from their own kitchen, as well as their role in the decomposition process. The students found it amazing to learn that the earth has only a fixed amount of water in the Water Wonders activity. While playing a fun game, they learned about the water cycle and how water travels through the environment.

PLT volunteers in Lynchburg have learned that both students and teachers enjoy the classes. It gives the students something different to look forward to each month and offers the teacher a welcome break. The volunteers enjoy it too. "It is so rewarding to see the smiles on the children's faces when we walk into their classrooms," said Master Gardener Susan Turner. "And it's so sweet when some of the kids gave us a hug at the end of the year."

Are you interested in adding Project Learning Tree to your master gardener offerings projects? Contact Howard Butler at httg@verizon.net for information on how to organize a training class for master gardeners in your area who would like to become certified PLT educators.

This workshop on May 19th will focus on the "Science of Food Based Business" to help participants decide how to proceed with the development of their food based business. The cost of the workshop is \$15 to cover materials and lunch. A minimum of 15 participants are required for the workshop to be held. Contact the Nottoway Extension office at 434-645-9315 to register or e-mail Eric Bowen, Area Food Safety Agent at bowen@vt.edu for additional information.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT BUS TOUR

Join us on May 24-26th for a Nutrient Management Bus Tour. Beginning Small Farmers don't want to miss this tour of Northern Virginia, West Virginia, and Western Maryland to see a variety of niche markets on small farms. Hear from successful growers about strategies that have made them sustainable and how soil nutrient management practices have been utilized on their small farms. Space is limited and \$50 Registration Fee (per person). For more information and to register, click [here](#).

PASTURE "PORKSHOP"

The Cooperative Extension Service from North Carolina State University and NC Choices are holding a workshop entitled, *Pasture "Porkshop"*, on May 25, 2016 at the Forsyth Cooperative Extension Offices in Winston-Salem. Topics will include, Alternative Feeds; Factors that Affect Meat Quality and Nutrition; Pricing with Confidence: Understanding the Financial Side of Pastured Pork; Infrastructure, Welfare, and Best Management Practices; Marketing to wholesalers and more. Information appears at the following website: <https://ncchoices.ces.ncsu.edu/2016/03/save-the-date-for-our-pasture-porkshop-may-25-2016/?src=rss> To register for the meeting go to: <http://go.ncsu.edu/porkshop>

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 Co. at (323/332-9538) during business hours of 8:00 am. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event." TDD number is (800) 828-1120."



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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May 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | 2 Urban Ag Seminar Series- VSU Grazing School – Shenandoah Valley | 3 Backyard Poultry- Chesterfield -----> | 4 BCA Feeder Calf Marketing Meeting- Buckingham | 5 | 6 CVLS Show and Sale- Lynchburg Woman Landowner Workshop- Dinwiddie | 7 CVLS Show and Sale- Lynchburg Celebration of the Horse- Powhatan |
| 8 | 9 Grow your own sustainable garden- Prince Edward | 10 | 11 | 12 Strawberry Field Day- VSU | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Backyard Poultry- Chesterfield | 18 | 19 Food Based Business Workshop- Blackstone | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Southern Piedmont Pasture Infrastructure Grant Meeting- Blackstone Bus tour | 25 ----- | 26 -----> | 27 | 28 Piedmont Jr. Livestock Show- Blackstone |
| 29 | 30 Memorial Day | 31 Backyard Poultry- Chesterfield | | | | |