



Central VCE Ag

Happy Holidays from Extension!

December 2017

Important Pesticide Recertification Dates

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Sessions Category 90, 91, & 87

Dec. 11 Patrick County: Patrick Henry Community College (Stuart Site), Community Room from 6 - 9 pm.

Dec. 14 Powhatan/Goochland: Goochland County Public Library (3075 River Rd West, Goochland VA 23063) from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Contact Rachel Grosse 804-598-5640 or Charley Maxwell at 804-556-5841

Jan. 4 Buckingham/Cumberland/Prince Edward: Prince Edward Extension Office, Farmville, VA from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Contact Katy Overby at 434-392-4246, Jennifer Ligon at 434-969-4261, or Amber Anderson at 804-492-4390.

Jan. 4 Amelia: Amelia County Government Building Conference Room, 16360 Dunn Street, Amelia, VA from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Contact Laura Siegle at 804-561-2481

Jan. 16 Greenville County/Emporia: Greenville/Emporia Extension Office, 105 Oak Street, Emporia, VA from 2:00 pm-5:00 pm. Contact

Sara Rutherford or Sammi Kent 434-348-4223.

Jan. 18 Halifax: Mary Bethune Center, Halifax, VA from 6– 9 pm. Contact Rebekah Slabach at 434-476-2147.

Jan. 25 Appomattox: Appomattox Community Center from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Contact Bruce Jones; 434-352-8244.

Jan. 30 Brunswick: Brunswick County Government Annex Auditorium, from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Contact Cynthia Gregg or Virgie Dow at 434-848-2151.

Feb. 1 Mecklenburg: Sandy Fork Hunt Club, Clarksville, VA; 6-9pm. Contact Taylor Clarke or Vickie Tackett at 434-738-6191 ext. 4371.

Feb. 20 Charlotte/Lunenburg Counties: The Workforce Development Building at Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville, VA from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Contact Charlotte at 434-542-5884 or Lunenburg at 434-696-5526.

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*Hungry for more
grass?*

You can find educational information and presentations from American Forage & Grassland Council (AFGC) on YouTube! Check out:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/AFGCORG/videos>

Tri-County Ag Supper Club

**THERE WILL BE
NO
AG SUPPER CLUB
MEETING
IN DECEMBER.**

**Please join us on
January 18, 2018
for guest speaker
Dr. Gabe Pent,
Ruminant Livestock
Specialist at the
Southern Piedmont
AREC in Blackstone.**

Meetings will also be held on:
Thursday, November 16, 2017
Thursday, January 18, 2018
Thursday, February 15, 2018
Thursday, March 15, 2018
Thursday, April 19, 2018

Important Pesticide Recert. Dates Continued

Commercial Applicator Recertification Sessions

December 13—Commercial Ag Recertification: Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone, VA. 9:00am—4:30pm, Registration 8:30am. \$15/person. Register by December 1, 2017.

Contact Mecklenburg Extension Office (434) 738-6191 ext. 4371.

Categories Covered: 1A/Ag Plant; 1B/Ag Animal; 1C/Fumigation of Soil & Ag Products; 1D/Chemigation; 4/Seed Treatment; 10/Demo& Research; 60/Reg. Technicians; and Private 90 & 91.

More commercial dates and categories to come!

About Pesticide Certification & Recertification

- Private Pesticide License—licenses expire on Dec. 31 of year of expiry; this license is **for farmers who need to purchase restricted use chemicals for their farm.**
- Commercial Pesticide License— licenses expire on June 30 of year of expiry; this license is **for any individual applying chemicals to public property or for hire.**

Both private and commercial licenses are good for two years. You must attend an approved recertification program to renew your license prior to it expiring—and sign ALL paperwork at that recertification course. There is a 60 day grace period following the expiration date of your license, during which, if you attend a recertification you will not have to retest, but your license will be renewed once the paperwork goes through. It is important to remember though, that you cannot purchase restricted use chemicals with an expired license.

You can always check your pesticide certification status on the Virginia Department of Ag & Consumer Services website here: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticide-applicator-certification.shtml>

***Note:** *If you have both private and commercial licenses, try to attend commercial recertification courses that also offer private recertification so that you do not have to attend multiple meetings.*

****For more information contact your local extension agent.**



**Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**

Farmers' Market Vendor Food Safety Workshop

December 12th, 2017; 10 am to 4 pm

Registration begins at 9:30 am

Southside Virginia Community College

John H. Daniel Campus, Workforce Center

200 Daniel Road; Keysville, VA 23947

\$25

Topics include:

On-Farm Food Safety Assessment
Risk Assessment Group Activities
Virginia Food Laws
Booth Displays Activities
Food Samples
Labeling Requirements

Plan to join us as we explore the flow of food from the field to the consumer. Food safety begins on the farm, before lunch fruit and vegetable producers will learn about conducting a risk assessments to help mitigate risks. Risk assessment concepts will be introduced and producers will participate in assessing food safety risks scenarios in groups. Lunch and breaks will feature local products including Alberta General Stores' "Unkol" Chuck's Brunswick stew and flavored goat cheeses by Goats-R-Us. The workshop will focus on Market topics including Virginia Food Law exemptions for products sold at the market, offering food samples, labeling requirements and activities where producers/vendors assess food safety risks. **Register by December 6th by calling or emailing Eric Bowen at 434-645-9315 or bowen@vt.edu. Mail registration fee to VCE-Nottoway, P.O. Box 22 Nottoway, VA 23955. Food Safety training certificate for 5 hours training will be provided.**

How to Start a Sheep and Goat Meat Enterprise

*Are you interested in raising your own sheep or goats?
Join us in Dillwyn, Virginia for a class on starting out with small ruminants.*

DECEMBER 13, 2017 • 9am - 3pm
CURDSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
122 School Road, Dillwyn, VA 23936

Sheep and goats can be raised to provide meat, milk, and fiber. They can also be raised for 4-H projects, clearing brush from an area or simply as pets. If you are interested in raising sheep and goats for meat, this class covers all the basics you need to start your enterprise.

A local producer and Virginia State University's Extension Specialist and Researchers will review the basics of

- Starting a farm business: insurance, tax, and legal considerations.
- Everything you need to know to raise sheep and goats (breed selection, housing, supplies/equipment, fencing, feeding, marketing).
- Health of your sheep and goats.
- Reproduction (to include preparing for lambing and kidding).
- Hands-on activities including hoof trimming, body condition scoring, correct drenching techniques, lambing, etc.



\$10 PER PERSON*

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN
ACCOMPANYING ADULT

**fee, payable by cash or check to
"DavidWise.com Insurance LLC" upon
arrival, includes lunch, refreshments
and workshop materials.*

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

**Or visit the Calendar of Events
at www.ext.vsu.edu**

For more information call the Small Ruminant Program office at (804) 524-5960 or email mklein@vsu.edu




Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

December 14, 2017

*Prince Edward County Extension Office
100 Dominion Drive, Farmville, VA*

9 am to 3 pm

*Space is limited. Must
preregister by December 1 at:*

434-392-4246 or sheldae@vt.edu

*\$20 per participant— Make checks payable to:
Treasurer, VT*

Returned checks are subject to a \$50 penalty

From *Landscape* to **Tablescape**

- Learn the basics of plant identification, specifically of evergreens used in holiday arrangements
- Participate in a Plant Identification/Cutting Tour of Longwood House
- Learn the history behind holiday decorations, specifically Colonial Williamsburg style
- Create your own special Colonial Williamsburg style tablescape

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, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Katy Overby-434-392-4246 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.



Produce Safety Rule Training

We are pleased to be hosting a PSA Grower Training on FSMA's Produce Safety Rule on **January 8, 2018**. Farms subject to the FSMA Produce Safety Rule are required by law to have **'at least one supervisor or responsible party from your farm successfully complete a food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'**

Virginia Cooperative Extension is bringing the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training to Virginia and surrounding area growers. The curriculum is similar to a GAPs course, with key requirements of the Produce Safety Rule included. **It is also recognized as adequate by the FDA.**

- **Date and Time:** **Monday, January 8th 2018 - 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**
- **Location:** **Southside Community College, John H. Daniel Campus, Workforce Development Center, 200 Daniel Road, Keysville, VA 23947**
*Lunch and refreshments will be served.
- **Lead Trainer:** Dr. Laura Strawn
- **Trainers:** Eric Bowen, Amber Vallotton, and Tommy Saunders
- **Cost:** **\$25** for Virginia growers and **\$60** for non-Virginia growers
- **RSVP (space is limited):** **Nottoway Extension Office at 434-645-9315** or to Eric Bowen at bowen@vt.edu. **Register by January 3rd, payments may be mailed to VCE Nottoway, P.O. Box 22, Nottoway VA 23955-0022.**

Note: You must attend the FULL day in order to receive the certificate of completion from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions!

TECHNOLOGY TIDBIT - Tracking Your Rainfall



One tool available to producers for tracking your rainfall is Climate Field View. (<https://climate.com/>) You can sign up in a few easy steps.

1. Go to <https://climate.com/>
2. Create an account
3. Add your fields—This program uses your FSA maps for easy adding of fields!
4. Receive email updates on your rainfall!

The image shows two screenshots from the Climate FieldView website. The top screenshot is the 'Create an Account' page, which includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Password, Phone Number, and United States. It also features a 'Create Account' button and three icons representing features: 'All My Data In One Place', 'Optimized Seeding & Fertility', and 'Simplified Field Insights'. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Add a Field' page, which includes a search bar, a map of the United States, and fields for Field Name, Client Name, Farm Name, and Farm Name. It also has 'Cancel', 'Save & Add More', and 'Save' buttons.

Upcoming Winter Conferences

AFGC 2018 Annual Conference & Expo
 "Forages: Opportunities for the Next Generation"
 Hosted by the
Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council
 January 14-17
 Crowne Plaza
 Louisville, KY

CLICK HERE FOR INFO

AFGC Conference—January 14—17, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky

Find information at: <http://www.afgc.org/>

VA Crop Production Association
 Virginia Organization dedicated to Crop Production, Education and a continuous Pro-Active approach to Virginia Agriculture

VACPA Annual Meeting Information:
The 2018 VACPA Annual Meeting will be January 16, 17, & 18

Below is the program for this year's (2017) meeting. As you can see we had a great meeting with great speakers and topics.
 The program qualified for VA, VA Private, MD, NC, and WV Pesticide Recertification.
 Also available were CCA CEUs and VA Nutrient Management Credits.

VA Nutrient Management Credits.....		
Tuesday	6	Wednesday 2
Thursday	4	Total of 12

"Managing For Success"

VACPA Meeting—January 16-18 in Richmond, VA

Find information at: <http://www.vacropproduction.com/annualmeetinginfo.htm>

Join more than 400 Farmers, Gardeners & Foodies at the
19th annual Virginia Biological Farming Conference
 January 22-24, 2018 at The Homestead Resort

- Intensive pre-conference workshops in Hot Springs, VA
- 6 tracks of conference sessions
- Agriculture tradeshow
- Seven Springs Bulk Delivery
- 'Taste of Virginia' social
- resort accommodations at only \$95 per night
- childcare available
- hot tubs & heated pools
- hiking, ice skating, skiing
- luxuries that every farmer deserves!

VABF
 Virginia Association for Biological Farming

VABF Conference—January 22-24 at The Homestead in Hot Springs, VA

Find information at:

<http://vabf.org/>

VFGC Meetings—January 29-Feb.1 various locations

Find information at: <http://vaforages.org/events/>

NCBA Convention—January 31—February 2 in Phoenix, AZ

Find information at: <http://convention.beefusa.org/>

BLAZE
 a trail to PHOENIX

COUNTDOWN TO PHOENIX 50 DAYS 11 HOURS 12 MINUTES 37 SECONDS

GENERAL INFORMATION REGISTRATION & HOTELS TRADE SHOW EVENTS & MEETINGS CONTACT US

2018 CATTLE INDUSTRY CONVENTION & NCBA TRADE SHOW
 January 31 - February 2, 2018
 Phoenix, AZ

LEARN MORE

2018 Winter Forage Conferences
 Hosted by
 Virginia Forage and Grassland Council
 and Virginia Cooperative Extension
 This conference is partially funded by Virginia NRCS through the CIG program.

January 29
 Wytheville Meeting Center,
 Wytheville

January 30
 Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex
 Chatham

January 31
 Madison Fire Hall
 Madison

February 1
 Weyers Cave Community Center,
 Weyers Cave

2018 Dates to Keep in Mind

January 17 [Beekeeping Workshop Series](#), **Intro to Beekeeping** at the Buckingham Extension Office at 7:00 p.m. This is a four part series beginning in January and ending in April. Cost is \$25. For more information, contact the Buckingham Extension Office at (434) 969-4261.

29th - Feb 2 [Advanced Craft Malting Course](#) Registration is now open for our next class in craft malt production which will be held January 29th to Feb 2nd at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, VA. The instructors will be Dr. Patrick Boivin, Training & Technical Manager, IFBM and Mr. Aaron MacLeod, Director, Hartwick College Center for Craft Food and Beverage. The fee will be \$1,500/person. Complete Program and Registration information can be found here: [http://www.hartwick.edu/about-us/centers-institutes/center-for-craft-food-and-beverage/advanced-craft-malting-](http://www.hartwick.edu/about-us/centers-institutes/center-for-craft-food-and-beverage/advanced-craft-malting-course/)

[course/](#)

March 2-3 South Atlantic Hops Conference: Save the date for the 2018 conference to be held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. More information forthcoming at <http://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/hops.html>

April 7-8 [Wool Handling School](#) hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension and American Sheep Industry Association at Blue Ridge Community College's Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center in Weyers Cave. Topics: wool fiber characteristics, responsibility in wool production, wool contamination and handling practices, wool packaging and labeling, and commercial wool processing fee. Instructor fee and registration: \$75 (payable to American Sheep Industry

Association) and due by August 10th by mail to: August Extension Office, P.O. Box 590, Verona VA 24482; contact John Benner at benner89@vt.edu or (540) 245-5750.



SPRING TO GREEN
GARDENING for SOUTHSIDE

February 3, 2018
(Snow Date Feb 10, 2018)
8AM – 3PM

THE INSTITUTE for ADVANCED LEARNING & RESEARCH
150 Slayton Avenue
Danville VA 24540

The 8th Annual Presentation of the Danville Master Gardeners & Virginia Cooperative Extension



FEBRUARY 17 PRUNING FUNDAMENTALS

Improve your pruning skills

Do you have an unruly shrub or tree that needs some TLC? Or, perhaps a fruit tree in need of some maintenance? This class will help you learn multiple techniques for pruning trees and shrubs. Registration required. Please call the Greensville-Emporia Extension Office to sign up.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Greensville/Emporia Extension office, (434) 348-4223 during business hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

Improve your
Technique

1pm – 3pm

FREE

Pruning
Demonstrations

WHERE:
GREENSVILLE-
EMPORIA
EXTENSION OFFICE

105 Oak St.
Emporia, VA 23847

(434) 348-4223

About Us

THIS NEWSLETTER

This agriculture newsletter is created by Virginia Cooperative Extension—Central District (Extension Agents) as part of our outreach and public efforts. If you have questions, comments, or information for the newsletter, please contact Lindy Tucker via email at tucker07@vt.edu, or via cell at (434) 321-2009. **Note—this is a change in contact person.*

Information and flyers for our programs can be found on Google Drive: [here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA



Want to know more about local farms? Follow the **Ag Spotlight** blog to learn about farms and ag in south central Virginia! <http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/central-virginia-ag-spotlight/>.

Like us on Facebook at

Virginia Cooperative Extension Central District or follow your local

Virginia Cooperative Extension—Your County Facebook page!



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech
Virginia State University

VIRGINIA TECH & VIRGINIA STATE

VSU College of Agriculture offers many educational programs, workshops, and field days. To find out more, visit: <https://www.ext.vsu.edu/calendar/> or follow the **VSU College of Agriculture Facebook page** and check out their **Events** section: <https://www.facebook.com/VsuCollegeOfAgriculture/>.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.

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