

# FOR CALLOUSED HANDS

*Virginia Cooperative Extension's  
Central District Monthly Agriculture Newsletter*



## USDA Farm Service Agency Is Open and Announces Program Deadline Extensions

*All USDA offices are open and offering full service for farm loans and farm programs. Application and reporting deadlines have been extended.*

- **Market Facilitation Program** - Deadline to apply extended to Feb. 14, 2019
- **Marketing Assistance Loans** - If loan matured in December 2018, settlement date extended to Feb. 14, 2019. Peanut loans or Loan Deficiency Payments - loan availability date now Feb. 28, 2019.
- **Emergency Conservation Program** - Performance reporting due Feb. 14, 2019.
- **Livestock Forage Disaster** - 2018 application for payment due Feb. 28, 2019.
- **Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program** - Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program** - Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019
- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program** - Submitting 2019 application for coverage due Feb. 14, 2019. Notice of loss for 72-hour harvest and grazing (as applicable) due Feb. 14, 2019. Notice of loss for prevented planting and failed acres due Feb. 14, 2019. Applications for payment for 2018 covered losses due Feb. 14, 2019.
- **Tree Assistance Program** - Notice of loss due Feb. 14, 2019
- **Acreage Reporting for Honey** - January reporting deadlines extended to Feb. 14, 2019.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### FEATURE ARTICLE: FORAGES

#### HORTICULTURE: UPCOMING CONFERENCES

#### CROPS: NEMATODES- A NOTE TO SWEET POTATO GROWERS

#### FORESTRY EVENTS: 4:00PM BURN BAN IN EFFECT!

#### FORAGES: SPRING PASTURE RESTORATION

#### LIVESTOCK: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

#### AG EVENTS CALENDAR

#### YOUTH & AG PROGRAMS

#### ABOUT VCE

## Profitable Cattle Production from Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue

By: Jane Graham

Profit is a necessity for a Carroll County, Va. beef cattle producer. H. G. Mark Strauss, DVM said that the only way to make a profit with stocker cattle is if the cattle gain over 1.5 lb/day through the season. He has found a way to do this after working his way through a gain/loss/gain season for some of his cattle. Strauss identified the cause of the problem when he weighed his cattle on and off pastures to measure daily gains.

The veterinarian runs stockers on his three farms. He tries to pasture enough cattle each summer on grass to make one 50,000-pound tractor trailer load in the fall.

Strauss has set his personal goal for the rate of gain at two pounds per day on grass only for his cattle. His predominate grass is tall fescue, both common toxic-endophyte (Kentucky 31) and non-toxic novel-endophyte infected (Jesup MaxQ).

Strauss uses rotational grazing on each site and rotates animals between three farms. He explained he has a 30-acre farm; a 16-acre farm; and a 15-acre farm. He discovered his problem was on the 15-acre farm which was intended as back-up grazing.

When 25 of the 50 heifers he bought in April 2014 gained weight on one pasture, lost it on another and regained it on a third, Strauss knew he had a problem. He traced the weight loss to common toxic endophyte-infected fescue on the 15-acre farm. He calculated that the toxic fescue cost him \$4,100 that year.



Mark Strauss, DVM

Strauss explained that his “accidental” field trial occurred when he moved 25 heifers from the largest farm to the smallest. He reported the cattle weighed 612 pounds when they departed the largest farm, a gain of 204 pounds in 92 days, an average of 2.2 pounds per day. When he moved them 35 days later from the smallest farm, they weighed 608 pounds, a loss of four pounds. They then went to the middle-sized farm where in 51 days they gained 157 pounds or 3.08 pounds per day.

Strauss reported the pastures on the 30-acre and 16-acre farms were mixtures of Jesup MaxQ fescue and clover. The 15-acre farm pasture was about 80 percent common toxic-endophyte Kentucky 31 fescue and 20 percent clover.

He began working to get rid of the toxic fescue. This grass makes cattle unthrifty by restricting blood circulation and thus unprofitable. The condition, fescue toxicosis, is the cause of summer slump. Strauss stressed that the summer slump really cuts into profit. His management practices showed that the weight losses can be reversed. Other symptoms of summer slump in cattle include retained winter hair coats, standing in the shade and ponds or making mud wallows to cool down.

Strauss decided that replacing the toxic fescue with novel-endophyte fescue was the answer to the problem in the 15-acre field. But he said he “broke the rules” for establishing a new novel-endophyte fescue pasture. Rather than following the recommended protocol, Strauss skipped important steps.

Strauss baled hay off the field in the first week of July. He felt that he had taken the hay off before the seed was mature; he was probably wrong. He put down 2 tons lime/acre and let the toxic fescue grow until the cattle grazed it on July 28. He removed the cattle on Labor Day, and when he recognized how poorly the cattle gained, he had the toxic fescue spray killed 2 weeks later and then drilled with novel endophyte fescue and fertilized the field 2 weeks after that. Strauss acknowledged his method did not totally rid the pasture of the toxic fescue. He only sprayed once in September. Strauss now knows that the toxic fescue dropped seeds on the soil that summer. Because he did not spray twice to kill off any newly emerging volunteers, he had toxic fescue plants germinating right beside the novel endophyte fescue. Strauss’ experience shows that you should follow every step in the recommended protocol. He wrote “this proves that you cannot cheat”.

Strauss has developed a program detailing his experience. He will present it at a workshop on tall fescue renovation, hosted by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal and Virginia Tech, on March 11, 2019, in Blackstone, Va. For more information or to register, visit <http://grasslandrenewal.org/education.htm> or [www.vaforges.org/events](http://www.vaforges.org/events).





## Warm Days Have You Excited for Spring??

Here are two publications that can help you plan for your 2019 Vegetable Garden:

[tinyurl.com/vavegplantingguide](http://tinyurl.com/vavegplantingguide)  
[tinyurl.com/planveggarden](http://tinyurl.com/planveggarden)



## Pruning Class

The Dinwiddie Master Gardeners will be holding a pruning class this Saturday, February 16th, at 10am at Brian Johnson's farm:

Moon Shot Farm  
 5213 Whitmore Road  
 McKenney, VA 23872.

If you would like to attend, please bring your pruning equipment and dress for the weather. Please call the office if you plan to attend 804-469-4514.

## Heart of Virginia Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter

**There is no charge for membership this year. All current & new members must fill out a form.**

**MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2019!**

**You can find the form here:  
[tinyurl.com/hovabfbl2019](http://tinyurl.com/hovabfbl2019)**

### Some Upcoming Programs:

#### Southeast Virginia Fruit & Vegetable Conference

**Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

**8:30am - 4:00pm @ Old Dominion University**

Topics: Blueberry & Blackberry Production; Diseases & Insects of Cucurbits; Weed Control & Varieties; Diseases & Insects of Sweet Corn, Tomatoes, & Peppers; PPA Recert. **For more information and to register, contact Elaine Ballance at (757) 382-6348.**

#### Virginia Market Ready: Farm to Restaurant Workshop

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

**9:00am - 3:00pm @ SVCC Keysville**

Topics: Current Food Policy Legislation; Effective Packaging; Marketing Strategies; Communicating with Managers & Chefs; Alternative Pricing Structures; Regulatory Concertns, Etc. **Cost \$15/person, includes lunch. For more information and to register, please contact Rebekah Slabach at (434) 476-2147.**

#### MidAtlantic Strawberry Programs

**Tues., February 26th - Strawberry Field Walk**

**12:30pm - dark, Chesapeake, VA**

**Wed., February 27th - Strawberry School & Trade Show**

**8:30am - 3:30pm, VA Beach, VA**

No Cost, but you must preregister. You can find form here:  
[tinyurl.com/2019strawberryprograms](http://tinyurl.com/2019strawberryprograms)

#### Beginning Beekeeping Classes

**Heart of Virginia Beekeepers**

\$50/family; Preregistration Required.

*For questions and to register, please contact Mary Jane Morgan (434) 315-1433.*

**Class 1 - Feb. 12, Prince Edward Extension Office, 7-9pm**

**Class 2 - Feb. 19, Prince Edward Extension Office, 7-9pm**

**Class 3 - Feb. 26, Prince Edward Extension Office, 7-9 pm**

**\*Make-up date if any sessions are cancelled: March 12th**



## Industrial Hemp

Industrial Hemp continues to be a subject of much interest. General information on the permitting process can be found at the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) website:

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-hemp.shtml>

Erin Williams remains the contact person for hemp questions, but **be advised that paperwork processing is taking 75+ days at this point, so if you do not already have paperwork in you are unlikely to receive permission to grow this year.**

For those of you seeking more information about Industrial Hemp Production in Virginia, you can watch a recording of a live forum here: <https://youtu.be/VV6fgbeT2cl>

## Cotton Growers Association Meeting



February 14, 2019  
9:00am at the Workforce Develop. Center, P.D. Camp Community College, Franklin, VA. \$20 preregistered/\$25 at door. Call Kaitlyn Maxian at (804) 290-1117.

## Silvopasture Production

February 20, 2019  
10:00am - 1:00pm at VSU's Randolph Farm Pavilion.

## VA Grain & Soybean Conference

February 20-21, 2019  
The Westin, Richmond, VA  
<http://www.virginiagrains.com/annualconference/>



## Production Meetings

### Annual Peanut Growers

February 27, 2019  
9:00am - 2:00pm  
Workforce Dev. Center, P.D. Camp Community College, Franklin, VA.  
(757) 562-4103

### Cover Crop College

February 27, 2019  
9:30am - 3:30pm  
Rockingham, VA  
(540) 808-3225

### Organic Tobacco Meeting

February 28, 2019  
10:00am New Hope Baptist Church, Skipwith, VA.

## North Carolina Works to Certify all Sweet Potato Seed Nematode-Free

A new nematode pest of sweet potatoes, *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, has been confirmed in eight North Carolina counties. *Meloidogyne enterolobii* has a wide host crop range, including many of our Virginia field crops. With most Virginia sweet potato producers securing planting material from North Carolina (NC) suppliers, a few have expressed concerns of introducing the nematode to new areas on seed potatoes and plant material. The state of North Carolina has committed to a voluntary quarantine, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA)

is working to ensure extra diligence in seed potato and plant material certification. Any plants purchased from NC from this point forward will be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from NCDA. These plants have to be 100% root free to receive that certificate and subsequently, to leave the state of NC. As for seed potatoes, they will receive a certificate from the NC Crop Improvement Association as they have been for years. Additionally, these potatoes, will also be certified nematode free by NCDA with an accompanying phytosanitary certificate.



If growers have questions, please contact your extension agent or your supplier. We are all working to make the 2019 growing season a successful one.

## Pesticides

**Commercial Pesticide Recertification for Categories: 2, 3A, 3B, 5A, 6, 8, 10, & 60.**  
March 12, 2019  
8:00am - 3:30pm  
University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, VA. Cost: \$40/person by Feb. 28th. To register: [tinyurl.com/2019lynchburgcpar](http://tinyurl.com/2019lynchburgcpar)

**Commercial Pesticide Recertification for Categories: 7A, 7B, 10, 60, & 90.**  
March 15, 2019  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone, VA. Cost: \$15/person by Mar 8th. To register: [tinyurl.com/pestcontrolblackstone2019](http://tinyurl.com/pestcontrolblackstone2019)

**Private Pesticide Recertification & Dicamba Training**  
February 19, 2019  
7:30am - 10:30am  
Ragsdale Community Center, McKenney, VA. To register: (804) 469-3284

**Dicamba Training**  
March 14, 2019  
2:30pm (prior to Southside Soybean & Corn Production Meeting)  
Meherrin River Hunt Club  
Baskerville, VA. To register: (434) 738-6191 ext. 4371.

**4:00 P.M.**  
**BURNING LAW**  
**IN EFFECT**  
**FEBRUARY 15 – APRIL 30**



**MAXIMUM FINE \$500.00**

**BURNING LAW IN BRIEF:**

1. No burning until **AFTER 4:00 p.m.** if within 300 feet of woodland or grass brushland leading into woodlands.
2. Fire must be attended at all times if within 150 feet of woodland or grass or brushland leading into woodland.
3. No fuel may be added or fire rekindled after midnight.
4. Law applies to camp fires, warming fires, brush piles, household trash, stumps, fields of broomstraw and brush, or anything capable of spreading fire.



**Brunswick County**  
*Agriculture and Timber*  
**Conference**

February 19, 2019  
 8:30am-2:00pm

Brunswick County Conference Center  
 100 Athletic Field Road  
 Lawrenceville, VA 23868



**February 2019**  
**Featured Events**

**On-line Woodland Options**  
**for Landowners**

March 4 – May 24, 2019  
[tinyurl.com/onlinelandowner](http://tinyurl.com/onlinelandowner)

Learn about your woods and how to keep them healthy and productive - from your computer. This 12-week self-paced class covers the basics of woodland management. And for those who want more, hands-on activities are also provided. An optional hands-on, in-person field trip in central Virginia will serve as the capstone for the class. \$45/family – includes a hands-on field trip and 3 books

**EmpowerU! Advocating**  
**Invasive Species Management**

February 15, 2019  
 Farmville, VA

**Beginning Landowner Retreat**

March 14-16, 2019  
 Appomattox  
 May 16-18, 2019  
 Galax, VA

**For More Information on these or**  
**other Virginia Forest Landowner**  
**Programs,**

**Please Contact:**

Jennifer Gagnon  
 228 Cheatham Hall 0324  
 Blacksburg, VA 24061  
<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>  
[jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu)  
 540/231-6391

**Or Join the Listserv below!**

**Camp Woods & Wildlife**  
 (Formerly Holiday Lake Forestry Camp)  
**Third Week of June**  
**Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox**  
 Field experiences for students ages 13-16 with an interest in natural resources.  
 Dates and nomination forms available in January at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

**Join the Forest Landowner Listserv!**



To get the latest updates, sign up here:  
<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/newsletter/signup/index.html>

## SPRING PASTURE RESTORATION

By: Dr. Gabriel Pent,  
Livestock Specialist



With this exceptionally wet fall and winter, pastures quickly turned from lots of grass to sloppy as producers turned cattle in to utilize the forage. Heavy traffic on wet ground can result in serious damage to a pasture, including pugging and compaction of soil and a reduction in forage yield the following year. Bare spots in the stand can be an entry point for weeds. It is important to evaluate the severity of damage to a pasture to determine the extent of restoration that will be required.

In stands where soil structure has not been impaired, dragging or light disking alone may help smooth out the pasture. Drag the pasture when soil moisture levels are not as high as to cause additional compaction, but not so dry that the rough soil cannot be smoothed over.

Clovers can be successfully frost-seeded into lightly damaged pastures in February, whether or not dragging is required. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce a highly nutritious forage that will also provide nitrogen to your pastures. An example seeding rate for a mixture of red and ladino clover may be 4-6 + 1-2 lb/acre, respectively.

If the forage stand has been thinned significantly, cool season grasses may be seeded in mid to late March after the pasture has been dragged, but establishment of these forages is often most successful in the fall. Seed can be planted with a no-till drill or by broadcasting at a rate of 10-15 lb/acre of tall fescue or 8-10 lb/acre of orchardgrass. Follow broadcast seeding with a cultipacker to ensure good seed to soil contact. Be sure to use these fields lightly throughout the following fall or defer grazing for a year.

In heavily damaged stands, a complete renovation may be necessary. A summer annual may be successfully established on these pastures for summer forage before seeding the desired cool season perennial grasses in late summer or early fall (see Virginia Cooperative Extension Publications #418-120 and 418-007 for more information).

This may be an excellent opportunity to consider renovating a toxic tall fescue field to a novel-endophyte infected variety of tall fescue. If renovation is necessary for a field, converting to a novel tall fescue variety may pay for itself in less than 2 years. (For more information on fescue renovation to novel-endophyte, consider attending the Alliance for Grassland Renewal's March 11 workshop in Blackstone; visit [vaforages.org/events/](http://vaforages.org/events/) for more information or to register.)

It may be helpful to dig a hole in the pasture to evaluate soil structure. Compacted soils retain a blocky structure and do not crumble easily. Another indication that soils are compacted includes standing water that does not drain through the soil properly. However, livestock compaction is generally limited to the top six inches of soil. If a severely compacted layer is present, subsoiling or ripping may help to improve soil structure and drainage. After smoothing the field, drill the desired forage species into the seedbed, preferably in the summer for warm season grasses and in the fall for cool season grasses.

Depending on the level of damage to a field, forage yield the following year may be reduced as much as 80%. Evaluating the damage and ensuring a timely restoration will be critical to bringing our pastures back to full production in the years following this wet season.

### Don't miss the Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop on March 11, 2019 in Blackstone, VA!

For details: <https://tinyurl.com/novelreno2019>



## Virginia Cow-Calf Conference

### "BEEF PRICE CYCLE DYNAMICS"

**Speakers Include:** Dr. Kenneth Burdine, University of Kentucky Extension Economist; Dr. Anne Zajac, Veterinarian & Professor of Parasitology; Dr. Scott Greiner, VT Extension Specialist; Richard Odom, Director, VA Animal ID Program; & Dr. John Currin, VT Extension Veterinarian.

February 19, 2019

8:00am - 3:00pm

Weyers Cave Community Center  
Weyers Cave, VA

Registration: \$15/person. Please register with the Augusta Extension Office at (540) 245-5750.



March 8, 2019

8:30am - 3:30pm

Southern Piedmont AREC  
2375 Darvills Road, Blackstone, VA  
Registration: \$20/person. Please contact the Brunswick Extension Office for registration form and details: (434) 848-2151.

## Area Beef Conference

### "INFORMATION ON BEEF CATTLE FOR YOUR OPERATION"

**Topics to Include:** Reproduction Management of Beef Females; Bull Selection; Nutrition for Beef Cattle Reproduction; & More!.

\*This Program is approved for Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Recertification

## Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop

**Topics to Include:** Tall Fescue Toxicosis, Animal Economics, Endophytes Under Microscope; Establishing Novel Fescue; Calibrating A Seed Drill; Seed Quality & Endophyte Testing; Financial Assistance Opportunities, & More!

March 11, 2019

8:30am - 5:00pm

Southern Piedmont AREC  
2375 Darvills Road, Blackstone, VA  
Registration: \$70/person or \$100/couple before Mar 1 (\$85 & \$120 after). Register online at: [www.vaforges.org/events](http://www.vaforges.org/events).

April 30, 2019

9:00am - 4:00pm

Randolph Volunteer Fire Department  
2145 Cumberland Rd, Farmville, VA  
Registration \$10/person.  
Please fill out and return form and check by April 19, 2019:  
[tinyurl.com/sheepgoatcumberland](http://tinyurl.com/sheepgoatcumberland)



## Setting Up a Sheep or Goat Enterprise Workshop

**Topics to Include:** Tall Fescue Toxicosis, Animal Economics, Endophytes Under Microscope; Establishing Novel Fescue; Calibrating A Seed Drill; Seed Quality & Endophyte Testing; Financial Assistance Opportunities, & More!

## Cattle Behavior & Handling Clinic

### "Increase Profitability Without Increasing Input Costs" w/ Special Guest Tom Curtin

Topics: Reduce Weaning Stress; Reduce Illness/Injury; Increase Vaccine & Medication Effectiveness; Increase Safety, Milk Production, Weight Gain, & Conception Rates Beed Quality Assurance (BQA) recertification will be offered!

May 9-10, 2019

8:30am - 4:30pm

The B.A.R.N.  
11851 W. James Anderson Hwy Buckingham, VA.  
Registration: \$40/person for one day; \$50/person for both days. Please return registration form and check to Buckingham Extension Office by April 20, 2019: [tinyurl.com/handlingclinic2019](http://tinyurl.com/handlingclinic2019)

# FEBRUARY 2019

19

8:00 AM -  
3:00 PM



## Virginia Cow-Calf Conference

Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave  
For details: <https://tinyurl.com/vacowcalf2019>

20

8:30 AM -  
4:30 PM



## Southeast Virginia Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Old Dominion University, VA Modeling Analysis & Simulation Center, 1030 University Blvd., Suffolk  
For details: <https://tinyurl.com/SEVA2019>

20

6:30 PM -  
8:30 PM



## Organic Fruit Study Group

Farmville Library, Farmville, VA  
Prince Edward Extension Office, Farmville, VA  
For details: <https://tinyurl.com/organicfruitSG2019>

20

9:00 AM -  
5:00 PM



## Food Safety Workshop for Produce Growers #1

Introduction to Basic GAPs Certification & Audits  
Produce Source Partners, Ashland, VA  
For details: Roxie Bowie (804) 687-4058

21

9:00 AM -  
5:00 PM



## Food Safety Workshop for Produce Growers #2

Transitioning to Harmonized GAPs (Advanced)  
Produce Source Partners, Ashland, VA  
For details: Roxie Bowie (804) 687-4058

20-  
23

8:30 AM -  
4:00 PM



## Virginia Vineyards Association Winter Meeting

Charlottesville OMNI Hotel  
For details: <https://tinyurl.com/vvawinter2019>

23

\* \* \*



## Woods & Wildlife Conference

Locations: Roanoke & Culpeper  
For details: contact Jennifer Gagnon  
(540) 231-6391 or [jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu).

27

1:30 PM -  
4:30 PM



## Setting Up An LLC

Randolph Volunteer Fire Department  
2145 Cumberland Road, Farmville, VA  
For details: [tinyurl.com/llccumberland2019](https://tinyurl.com/llccumberland2019)

5  
MARCH  
2019

## Virginia Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade

<https://www.ag-forestry.virginia.gov/agtrade2019/>



# MARCH 2019

7

8:30 AM -  
5:00 PM



## 2019 Virginia Agricultural Labor Forum

Longwood University, Dorril Dining Hall,  
Nance Room, Farmville, VA.

For details: [tinyurl.com/VAaglaborforum2019](http://tinyurl.com/VAaglaborforum2019)

8

8:30 AM -  
3:30 PM



## Area Beef Conference w/ Amelia Area Cattlemen

"Info on Beef Cattle Repro for Your Operation"

Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone, VA.

For details: Brunswick Extension (434) 848-2151.

11

8:30 AM -  
5:00 PM



## Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop

Economics, establishment, management, & more!  
Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone, VA.

For details: [vaforages.org/events](http://vaforages.org/events)

12

8:30 AM -  
4:00 PM



## 2019 Virginia Innovation in Greenhouse & Vertical Farming Conference

VA Farm Bureau Bldg, W  
Creek Pkw, Richmond. For details:

<http://bit.ly/Register-2019-Vertical-Farming>

12

9:00 AM -  
11:00 AM



## Producer Ag Breakfast Series: Forest Management

Ag Marketing Center

1001 Landfill Lane, Scottsburg, VA.

For details: Halifax SWCD (434) 476-7923.

13

10:00 AM -  
2:30 PM



## Amelia Area Dairy Conference

Amelia County Administrator Building Conf. Room

For details: Laura Siegle (804) 313-5396 or  
[laurab08@vt.edu](mailto:laurab08@vt.edu).

13-  
14

8:00 AM -  
5:00 PM



## Cut Flower Growers Conference

"Go Beyond the Bouquet!"

Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

For details: [tinyurl.com/vacutflowergrowers2019](http://tinyurl.com/vacutflowergrowers2019)

16

9:30 AM -  
11:30 AM



## Healthy Living - Organic Vegetable Gardening

Greensville-Emporia Extension Office

Emporia, VA

For details: G/E Extension Office (434) 348-4223

22-23  
MARCH  
2019

## Women in Agriculture Gathering

*Prepare to be Inspired!*

Details & Registration: [tinyurl.com/womeninag2019](http://tinyurl.com/womeninag2019)

# Youth & Agriculture Programs

For more details on youth livestock programs, check out:  
<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html>

**Virginia 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest**  
**Topic: "Honey Varietals, State to State"**  
**Essays Due: February 25, 2019**  
**Open to all active 4-H members. Cash prices include: 1st - \$750, 2nd - \$500, 3rd - \$250. For details, please visit:**  
<https://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays>

**Camp Woods & Wildlife (formerly Holiday Lake Forestry Camp)**  
 June 17 - 22, 2019  
<http://dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/index.htm>

**Southern Piedmont Youth Cattle Working Contest**  
 10:00AM March 29, 2019  
 Southern Piedmont AREC  
 Cattle Handling Facility  
 Blackstone, VA  
<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/ycwc-index.html>

**Youth Conservation Camp**  
 July 7 - 13, 2019 @ Virginia Tech  
<https://vaswcd.org/conservation-camp>

## ABOUT US - Virginia Cooperative Extension Central District Ag & Natural Resources

*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.*

*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.*

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

*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 hosting office at the phone number given during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.*

*\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.*

Virginia Cooperative Extension –  
[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

Please contact your local office to get on mail or email lists. You can find a list of local offices online: <https://ext.vt.edu/offices.html>

This agriculture newsletter is created by Virginia Cooperative Extension—Central District Extension Agents & Specialists as part of our outreach and public efforts. If you have questions, comments, or information for the newsletter, please contact Lindy Fimon via email at [tucker07@vt.edu](mailto:tucker07@vt.edu) or at (434) 321-2009.

Informational flyers for our programs:  
<https://tinyurl.com/vcecdisteventflyers>



Like us on Facebook at Virginia Cooperative Extension – Central District Ag & Natural Resources or find your VCE County's Facebook page!