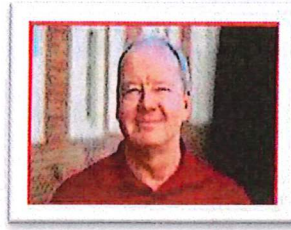


AGRICULTURE

SUMMER 2026

JUL - AUG - SEPT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to Summer!

As July 4th approaches, many exciting events and celebrations are taking place across the country. This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation. It promises to be a memorable summer filled with festivities, gatherings, and opportunities to make lasting memories with family and friends. Most importantly, stay safe, take care of one another, and enjoy all that the season has to offer.

This is a wonderful time of year to support our local agricultural businesses, as agritourism is in full swing and farms are offering a variety of unique experiences for families and visitors. Fresh fruits and vegetables are abundant, including tomatoes, watermelons, sweet corn, green beans, cucumbers, blueberries, and apples, just to name a few. By shopping locally and visiting our farms, you help support hardworking farmers while enjoying the freshest products our community has to offer.

We all hope for a productive growing season, with just the right balance of rain and sunshine to keep our crops healthy and abundant. Agriculture continues to play a vital role in the economic vitality of the City of Virginia Beach, and one of its most important partners is the weather, along with the ongoing support of our local farming operations. The impact of agriculture in Virginia Beach is estimated at \$177 million in 2025. The continued growth and sustainability of agriculture, as well as the strength of Virginia Beach's rural agricultural community, are tremendous assets to our city. As we move forward, let us remember not to take this for granted and to always strive to make a positive difference in our community.

We hope you enjoy our Summer Newsletter and find it both informative and interesting. Its purpose is to keep you informed while highlighting topics and opportunities that may be of interest to you. While news and information come from many sources, our goal is to keep you informed with helpful reminders, important updates, and items we think you may find valuable or enjoyable.

I will close with one final reminder: On March 18, 2027, the Excellence in Agriculture Committee will hold its annual banquet dinner at the Creeds Ruritan Complex. This is always a wonderful evening of networking with neighbors, celebrating our agricultural community, and recognizing the importance of agriculture in our region. Pungo Catering will once again provide an outstanding buffet dinner for everyone to enjoy. I wanted to share this early reminder so you can mark your calendars for March 2027. Please plan to join us in supporting Agriculture Week and our local community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

David

DAVID TRIMMER, DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

757-385-5775

CATHY ROGERS, ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II

AGRICULTURAL RESERVE PROGRAM

757-385-8637

JENNY MCPHERSON, RURAL COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR

SARAH GRIMSTEAD COTTEN, ARP COORDINATOR

FARMERS MARKET

757-385-4388

KEN THOMS, MARKET SUPERVISOR

KRISTI MICHAEL, PROGRAM EDUCATOR

VACANT, OFFICE ASSISTANT II

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

757-385-4769

ASHTON HOLLIDAY-GOULART, HORTICULTURE
AGENT

ROY FLANAGAN III, AGRICULTURE AGENT

DESMYN OWENS, 4-H YOUTH

DEVELOPMENT AGENT

KAREN MUNDEN, FAMILY & CONSUMER
SCIENCES AGENT

TAMMY MAS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SUE DOYLE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



MASTER GARDENER'S HELP DESK

757-385-8156

VIRGINIA DARE SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION

DISTRICT

757-385-4775

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN, DISTRICT MANAGER

CORY HOAR, CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

On May 8, Ms. Katie Frazier, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry for the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with colleagues from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visited several farms in the City of Virginia Beach. Her team included Ms. Amanda Thompson and Ms. Ursula Deitch.

The agricultural tour included visits to Cullipher Farms, Land of Promise Farms, Coastal Cattle “The Meat Shack”, Vaughan Farms Produce, and Bay Breeze Farms.

The tour focused on gaining a deeper understanding of Virginia Beach’s agricultural community and continuing to strengthen relationships between the state and local community. Additional visits are planned in the future to highlight other farming operations throughout the region.



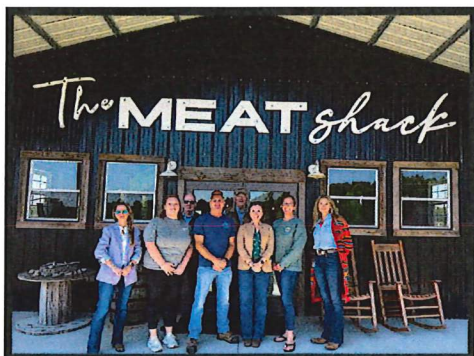
Cullipher Farm



Bay Breeze Farm



Cullipher Farm



Coastal Cattle/Vaughan Farm



Bay Breeze Farm



Coastal Cattle/Vaughan Farm



Land of Promise Farm



Land of Promise Farm



Hello Summer!

Let's Celebrate with Fresh News on Keeping Virginia Wild and Wonderful

As the Virginia Cooperative Horticulture and Natural Resource Extension Agent for Virginia Beach, my goals are to educate our community and City about the importance of protecting and preserving our fragile ecosystems through sound horticultural choices and practices, invasive species removal, and prevention.

What Exactly Is an Invasive Species? Invasive species are **non-native plants, animals, fungi, or microorganisms** that establish themselves in environments far from their native environment. Once established, they can cause real trouble: they threaten biodiversity, disrupt natural ecosystems, and outcompete native species for food, water, and space. Because they often arrive without natural predators and can reproduce quickly, they adapt fast—sometimes too fast—for local ecosystems to keep up.

Wait... Good News About Invasive Species? Absolutely. I know “great news” and “invasive species” rarely appear in the same sentence. But now and then, progress shines through. Success can look like managing tough plant or insect populations, quarantining outbreaks, improving landscaping practices, or passing laws that slow the spread of harmful species through horticultural trade.

And today, I get to share some genuinely exciting updates. Governor Spanberger has signed three major pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening invasive-species prevention and management. These new laws mark a meaningful step forward in protecting our ecosystems and supporting long-term biodiversity.

THREE NEW BILLS IN 2026:

1. HB109 – Closing the “Commercial Viability” Loophole - amends the state’s definition of “noxious weed” and strengthens controls on plants deemed invasive, even if they are commercially grown or sold in Virginia
 - a. This bill has phase-out periods for commercial propagation, meaning if a plant is designated as a noxious weed and is commercially propagated in Virginia, it must be phased out over:
 - i. **2 years** for grasses, forbs, and vines
 - ii. **4 years** for shrubs



iii. 7 years for trees

b. This bill is effective as of JULY 1st, 2026.

c. More information can be found here: [HB109_Invasives-CV-Loophole.pdf](#)

2. **HB 88 – Expand VDOT’s Role in Roadside Invasive Plant Control** - Prohibits the Commonwealth Transportation Board (the Board) and the Commissioner of Highways from planting or causing or suffering to be planted any invasive plant on the list of invasive plants created by the Department of Conservation and Recreation on the right-of-way of any state highway (LIS, 2026).

a. Roads act as significant pathways for the spread of invasive plants. Soil disturbed during construction provides habitats that are easily colonized by opportunistic invasive species. Seeds and reproducing plant fragments can hitch rides on vehicles and mowing equipment to move swiftly over long distances from one locality or region to another (VCNVA, 2026).

b. More information can be found here: [HB-88_Invasive-Plants-VDOT-ROW.pdf](#) c.

This bill is effective as of JULY 1st, 2026.

3. **SB 163 – Pesticide Control Exemptions** - Provides that volunteers associated with state agencies, municipal corporations, or other governmental agencies shall be certified as commercial applicators or registered technicians for the use of pesticides, provided that such certification is valid only when applying or supervising the application of pesticides used by such governmental agencies.

a. Utilizing volunteers on government property can be extremely beneficial, especially since we have limited staffing in many City and State landscape management control departments!

b. This bill is effective as of JULY 1st, 2026.

DCR List of Invasive Plants: the extensive list compiled in 2024 can be found here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2024.pdf>

I recommend folks checking the table over and looking at how many invasives are found in Virginia’s Coastal areas.

Some Prevalent Invasives in Hampton Roads:

- Tree – of – Heaven – *Ailanthus altissima*
- Japanese Honeysuckle – *Lonicera japonica*
- Japanese Stiltgrass – *Microstegium vimineum*
- Common reed - *Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*

How to Report Invasive Species to Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) or Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

VDACS monitors a specific list of insects and noxious weeds; examples include spotted lanternfly, imported fire ant, box tree moth, Asian giant hornet, and more. You can view the noxious weeds here:

(<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title2/agency5/chapter317/section20/>) and
(<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title2/agency5/chapter317/section20/>)

VDACS: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCZp7yRWCVj5ChnrHF0sDd-NUODdVSU9QUUY5WEZOVTEzUUtUUk5DS1BEWS4u&route=shorturl>

DCR: Go to this website here: <https://www.invasivespeciesva.org/report-sightings> to report sightings and images!

Sources: <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB88>
<https://jrpsinvasiveplants.org/news-resources/news-legislation/>
<https://www.vpap.org/bills/88190/SB163/#>;
<https://www.vpm.org/generalassembly/2026-05-20/virginia-invasive-plant-law-spanberger-seibold-laufer-tree-of-heaven-bradford-pears>;
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2024.pdf>

Extension Programs with Ashton

Ashton and the local Hampton Roads Agents collaborate to host a couple of Pesticide Recertifications and Trainings throughout the year. She focuses on conservation landscaping programs, invasive species programs, starting your own vegetable garden, and many more! If you need the information to gain credit for your Pesticide License, please reach out to her to be put on her mailing list! If you would like for her to come speak to your civic league or club please reach out to her!

Virginia Beach Extension Master Gardener Seed Libraries

The Extension Master Gardeners of Virginia Beach, in Community Partnership with the City of Virginia Beach Public Libraries, have established 6 seed libraries. They are free to the public for home gardens, along with instruction sheets. Seeds for a vegetable, an herb, and a flower are available each month with a rotating selection. Master Gardeners interact on each site twice a month for questions and information. We hope to grow new gardeners, introducing our community to the joy of harvesting their own food, using herbs in their cooking, learning about a variety of flowering plants, and helping preserve the biodiversity of our plant population.



The seed libraries can be found in the following libraries:

- Bayside Library
- Oceanfront Library
- Princess Anne Library
- Central Library
- Kempsville Library
- Great Neck Library

Each packet provided has information on planting your seeds. Below you will find further explanation of the categories on your seed packet and helpful planting tips.

Resource Conservation

Create Your Rain Barrel This Year with Virginia Beach Master Gardener Water Stewards!

Use waterwise practices to aid in your summer gardening season by learning how to make a rain barrel. You may ask what a rain barrel is and what purpose it serves. Rain barrels collect rainwater from rooftops during each rain event. The collected water can then be used around the landscape. You can use the collected water to water gardens and lawns, clean garden tools, fill fountains, extinguish campfires, etc. (Penn State Extension, N.D.).

At the Virginia Beach Farmers Market, join the Virginia Beach Master Gardener Water Stewards to construct a 55-gallon sealed rain barrel. Each barrel includes a diverter kit for installation on an existing downspout. At the workshop, additional barrels will be available for purchase.

A graphic for the 2026 Rain Barrel Workshops. It features a blue background with white clouds at the bottom. Several blue water droplets are scattered across the top. On the right side, there are several colorful, curved shapes in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple, resembling a stylized sun or a fan. The year '2026' is written in large, white, outlined numbers. Below it, the text 'Rain Barrel Workshops' is written in a bold, dark blue font. At the bottom, the text '2026 Workshop Dates' is written in a bold, dark blue font, followed by a list of dates: 'March 14', 'April 11', 'May 9', 'June 20', 'July 11', 'August 8', 'September 5', and 'October 17'. Each date is separated by a small white water droplet icon.

2026

Rain Barrel Workshops

2026 Workshop Dates

March 14 ◊ April 11 ◊ May 9 ◊ June 20 ◊ July 11

August 8 ◊ September 5 ◊ October 17



Virginia Beach Master Gardeners present

Gardening Talks & Workshops in 2026

- September 21 **Fall Gardening at the Historic Francis Land House**
Speaker: Lynn Goodman Francois & Jayme Gruden, VCE, Virginia Beach Master Gardeners
- October 19 **Engineering Your Backyard Ecosystem**
Speaker: Danielle Bisson, VCE, Virginia Beach Master Gardener
- November 16 **From the Wild to a Home Garden: Practical Tips for Growing Native Orchids**
Speaker: Dr. Lisa Wallace, ODU Department of Biological Sciences

All Gardening Talks are held on Zoom from 7 to 8 pm

For further assistance, scan the QR code, call, or email the Master Gardener Help Desk vbmghelp@vbgov.com or 757-385-8156



**Extension
Master
Gardeners**



VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS A PARTNERSHIP OF VIRGINIA TECH, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. FOR THE FULL NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT, PLEASE VISIT EXT.VT.EDU/ACCESSIBILITY.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND DESIRE ANY ASSISTIVE DEVICES, SERVICES, OR OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY MAS 757-385-4769/TDD 800-828-1120 DURING BUSINESS HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS ACCOMMODATIONS FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

This training is being offered as a review of the Virginia Core Manual: Applying Pesticides Correctly in preparation for certification testing for Registered Technician and Commercial Applicator Core.

This is **not** a recertification course for those already licensed.

In order to prepare for the exam, it is recommended that you study the Core Manual.

You can order pesticide manuals from Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs
<https://vtpp.ento.vt.edu/>

Manuals are not supplied through this training.



Pesticide Certification Preparation Course

Core & Registered Technician

When: July 29 - July 30, 2026

9am - 4pm (Sign-in begins at 8:30 am)

Where: Holland Road Annex

2323 Holland Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23453
Old Kellam High School
(on the corner of Nimmo Pkwy and Holland Rd)



Cost: \$45 enrollment fee by July 20, 2026
\$55 enrollment fee after July 20, 2026
(space permitting)

Municipal/Government Employee Discount:

\$15 enrollment fee by July 20, 2026
\$20 enrollment fee after July 20, 2026

Cancellation/Refund Policy: ALL refunds will incur a \$5 processing fee.*No refunds after July 24, 2026.

Register by following this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/VBPestPrep2026>

or by scanning the QR Code

For more information:

Contact the Virginia Beach Extension Office 757-385-4769



The annual event has more than 100 exhibitors and sponsors showcasing the latest in farming technology. Whether you are a large acreage production farmer or a weekend lifestyle farmer the Expo is an event you don't want to miss.



VA AG EXPO 2026 will be held
at The Meadow Event Park

July 30, 2026

7:30 am - 2 pm

13191 Dawn Blvd

Doswell, VA 23047



Northeast Ag Expo Summer Field Day

Thursday, July 30, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Agenda:

8:00-9:30 a.m.:

Registration, Breakfast, Trade Show &
Opening Remarks

9:30-11:30 a.m.:

Field Tours

Corn & Soybean Research

11:30 a.m.:

Distinguished Guests Remarks
&

Catered Lunch Provided

Location:

Roberts Brothers, Inc.
169 N. Gregory Road
Shawboro, NC 27973

Pre-Registration:

<https://go.ncsu.edu/2026neagexpo>



Or

Currituck Extension Center at
252-232-2262 by
Friday, July 24th



N.C. Cooperative Extension prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy), disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, political affiliation, and veteran status.

For more information or accommodations for persons with disabilities please contact the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Currituck Extension Center at 252-232-2262 no later than ten days before the event.



Roy Flanagan, 757-385-4769



royf@vt.edu



To find your Extension office
ext.vt.edu/offices

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Tammy Mas at (757-385-4769) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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2026 Entomology Field Day

- Tuesday, August 4, 2026
- 8:30 AM - 12 PM (with lunch following)
- 1613 Centerville Turnpike South
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Join us for these featured topics:

- On-Farm Research and Insecticide Efficacy
- Research Updates on Soybeans
- Marketing Insights from Robert Harper,
Virginia Farm Bureau

Please register: <https://forms.gle/C9KjqB5f4JjnN8CXA>



SCAN HERE

Questions?

Contact:

Tim Bryant, Assistant Professor
and Extension Entomologist



btim2@vt.edu



757-621-8804

Presented by entomologists Tim Bryant,
Alejandro Del-Pozo, and Kemper Sutton in
collaboration with VCE agents Roy Flanagan
and Nathan Sedghi

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Southeast Virginia Soybean Field Day

Date: August 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: NEXTGEN Farms

Home of the Dudley Farm
2145 Old Pungo Ferry Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23457



Why Attend?

Connect with Virginia Tech specialists and discover the latest tools, research, and management practices to help maximize your soybean production.

What to Expect:

- In-field presentations by Virginia Tech specialists
- Tours of the 2026 Group IV, Group V, and stacked Dicamba & Enlist demonstration plots
- Wagon-guided soybean variety trial tours
- Opportunity to ask questions and network with industry professionals.
- Lunch will be provided - please register in advance



Cost: **Free** to attend! Registration required

To register: Please follow the link or scan the QR code
<https://forms.gle/o3GdbHxhYJBudz2BA>



Roy Flanagan, 757-385-4769



royf@vt.edu



To find your Extension office
ext.vt.edu/offices

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Community Grow Fest

Growing Forward - Learn, Grow, Connect

Join Virginia Cooperative Extension for a fun and educational event for community members of all ages. Explore the many programs and services available to Virginia Beach residents.


Desmyn Owens
4-H Youth
Development


Karen Munden
Family and
Consumer
Sciences


Ashton Holliday-
Goulart
Horticulture


Roy Flanagan
Agriculture &
Natural
Resources

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location: Virginia Beach Farmers Market
3640 Dam Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453**

Enjoy:

- Family-friendly activities and educational exhibits
- Interactive demonstrations and mini-workshops
- Guided tours of our Children's Garden and Kitchen Garden
- Take-home resources
- Giveaways, door prizes, and opportunities to win exciting prizes

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Virginia Beach Extension office at 757-385-4769

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Would YOU like to become an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer?

Join the Virginia Beach Extension Master Gardener volunteers who enjoy learning and sharing knowledge about horticulture, gardening, botany, and ecology.

Classes start January 2027

Orientation Sessions

(mandatory attendance of 1 session is required to apply)

Thursday, August 27, 2026 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Friday, August 28, 2026 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Meyera Oberndorf Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Virtual Zoom Options Available below:

Zoom 8/27
5:30 pm



<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83005749194>



Zoom 8/28
10:30 am



<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83614972499>

For more information:

Contact the Virginia Beach Extension Office: 757-385-4769

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Happy Summer Virginia Beach Agriculture Community!

What is an "Agricultural Conservation Easement?"

The Agricultural Reserve Program places an agricultural easement on the deed of your property when enrolled. It is a conservation tool that makes a powerful impact on land stewardship, allowing ownership retention for continued farming, and to pass the land down to heirs. Secure your vision with tailored flexibility, landowners may dictate most land use - keep farming, raising livestock, hunting, and private ownership.



The ARP offers Protection with Preservation in Perpetuity!

- **Shielding the Legacy:** "Ensure your life's work continues to feed future generations rather than being paved over for development."
- **Permanent Protection:** "Put a permanent guarantee on the land so it remains an active farm, no matter who owns it in the future."
- **Financial Flexibility:** "Unlock the economic value of your land's development rights today through tax incentives, while keeping your property in the family."



Photo courtesy of J. Louis Parsons, Jr., June 2026



Photo courtesy of Bonney Bright Farms, June 2026

This could be the highest and best use of your land, conserving for the next generation. Speaking of the next generation.....

It was such an honor to volunteer for the Virginia Beach 4-H Livestock Club Show and Sale. What a great turnout seeing so many familiar faces in our community. Thanks to each one of you who took the time to give me a hug and say, "Welcome Home." I especially enjoyed helping in the show ring and watching the next generation of young farmers and ranchers exhibit life skills learned through the amazing opportunity 4-H offers.

We are excited to announce the conservation of 229 total acres of agricultural land this fiscal year with the additional enrollment of 138.36 acres by J. Louis Parsons, Jr. With these 2 additional parcels, 14 developments rights have been reserved, totaling our 2025-2026 year ending Development Rights Acquired to 28. This brings the Agricultural Reserve Program total to over **11,358 acres**.

ARP interest payments were issued at the beginning of last month, if you have not received yours, please reach out to me. If you have questions or I can assist you with enrolling your land? Give me a call. 757-385-8697

"Preserving Agriculture, one farm at a time"

What is Family and Consumer Sciences?

Have you ever heard someone mention Family and Consumer Sciences or Virginia Cooperative Extension and wondered what they actually do?

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership between Virginia's two land-grant universities. The universities are Virginia Tech and Virginia State University. Thus, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) is a partnership between the two land-grant universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. VCE's mission is to deliver research-based information and educational programs to citizens across Virginia in the areas of agriculture, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and community viability.

Family and Consumer Sciences is a people-focused profession dedicated to helping individuals, families, and communities improve their quality of life through practical, research-based education and resources. Many people may not realize that Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Norfolk each have Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension Agents serving their communities. These professionals are educators providing a wide range of educational programs and resources designed to improve the well-being of individuals and families. FCS professionals empower people with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions in everyday life. Their work supports healthy living, financial stability, workforce readiness, environmental health, and overall community wellness. Programs often focus on nutrition education, cooking skills, physical activity, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, stress management, and maintaining healthy homes.

FCS educational programs take a holistic approach to addressing the needs of individuals and families. Classes and resources may cover topics such as nutritious meal planning, food safety and preservation, personal finance and budgeting, mental wellness, workforce development, life skills, and consumer education. In Virginia Beach, the FCS Extension Agent is Karen Munden, who has served the city for 25 years. She conducts workshops, classes, and simulations focused on personal finance, professional development, nutrition, and consumer education for people of all ages.



Among the most popular youth financial education programs she offers are Kids Marketplace for elementary students, Real Money Real World for middle school students, and Reality Fair for high school students. Karen also teaches nutrition-focused youth programs such as Cooking Matters and Teen Cuisine. For adults, Karen provides educational programs including All My Money, Taking Charge of My Money, Poverty Simulation, Holiday Shopping on a Budget, Identity Theft and Cyber Financial Protection, developing Professional Image and Marketing Skills, Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate, and Clean and Healthy Homes. Karen, together with her colleagues in Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Newport News, offers the 20-hour Master Financial Education Volunteer training three times each year. She is also a member of the Bank of Hampton Roads financial education training team. These programs are designed to strengthen financial skills, improve health and wellness, and support stronger, more informed communities.

For more details about our educational programs, visit the Virginia Beach Cooperative Extension website at www.ext.vt.edu. You can also follow the VCE Virginia Beach – Family and Consumer Sciences Facebook page with this link [Facebook](#) for practical tips to enhance your everyday life. If you have questions, feel free to contact **Karen Munden at 757-358-4769**.

Fall 2026 Master Financial Volunteer Training

Become a Master Financial Educator

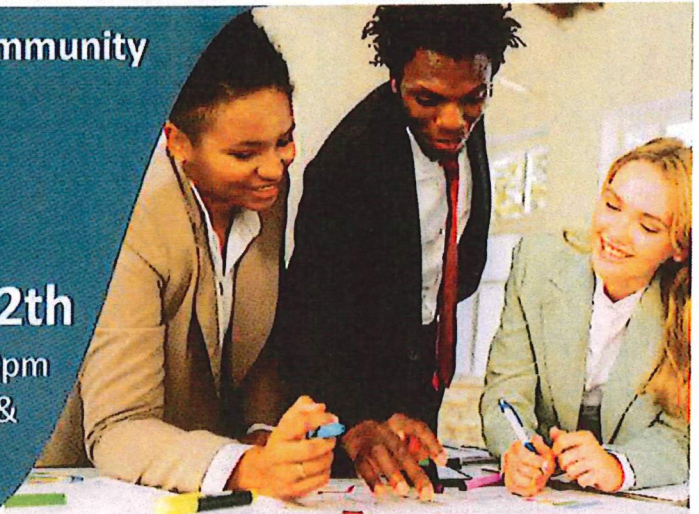
Help individuals and families in your community improve their financial well-being!

Fall 2026 Session

October 13th to November 12th

Held via Zoom every Tuesday & Thursday, 6–8pm

Cost: \$90 includes Financial Education Toolkit & background check



Become a Master Financial Educator Volunteer through an engaging training program that includes 20 hours of instruction in financial management. Participants gain valuable knowledge and practical skills through sessions covering topics such as:

- Value clarification
- Financial goal setting
- Financial record keeping
- Credit reports & scores
- Spending plan development
- Cash flow management
- Credit use and debt management
- Risk management

To learn more about this program or other Extension programs visit: ext.vt.edu/family/mfev.html

Registration Opens

September 14th

Registration Deadline

October 8th

To register:

Please visit the link below

<https://tinyurl.com/VB-MFEV>

or QR Code



For additional information or questions about becoming a Master Financial Volunteer contact any of these Virginia Cooperative Extension Offices:

VA Beach: 757-385-4769

Chesapeake: 757-382-6348

Newport News 757-591-4838 Portsmouth: 757-392-7870

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, ethnicity or national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or military status, or any other basis protected by law.

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 City of Chesapeake VCE Office at 757-382-6348 during business hours of 8 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**
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



4-H Camp S.P.A.R.K.

A weekend specialty camp for neurodivergent youth and youth with intellectual or cognitive differences.

Fri. Jul. 31 – Sun. Aug. 2, 2026
Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg, VA

Cost \$250 per camper

Limited partial scholarships available

Geared towards youth ages (9-15 as of Sept. 30, 2026) Led by 4-H Extension agents, camp staff, and adult volunteers. Parent/Guardian volunteers welcomed!

**Scan the QR code
to learn more or
to register:**

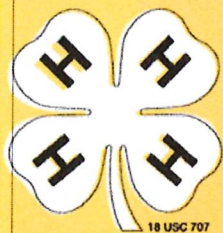
tinyurl.com/4-HCampSPARK



**Igniting
Camp Spirit,
Friendship, and
Belonging**



**We welcome families to
contact us to discuss
individual accessibility
needs and determine
if our site can
safely accommodate
their camper.**



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

HAPPY SUMMER!

TIME TO EXPLORE MORE... LEARN MORE... LEAD MORE

4-H Volunteer receives the City's
2026 Spirit of Virginia Beach Award

"For more than 35 years, Rose Talbott has faithfully served as a 4-H volunteer, contributing more than 8,400 hours to mentoring and empowering young people throughout the community. She continues that mission as the adult leader of the 4-H Craft Club alongside her sister, Jean.

Her impact reaches far beyond a single club. She has served in numerous leadership roles with the 4-H Leaders Association, 4-H Clubs of Virginia Beach Inc., the Livestock Show & Sale Committee, VB Craft Club, Southeast District/Airfield Volunteer Leaders Association, and both the local and state 4-H All Stars chapters. Among her most treasured contributions, she said, is her work with the 4-H Ham Project, where she has helped coordinate and maintain records since the program began in 2001."

*If you are interested in becoming a 4-H Volunteer,
please contact our office at (757)385-4769*



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxuzjf7>



<https://4-h.org/clover/about/>

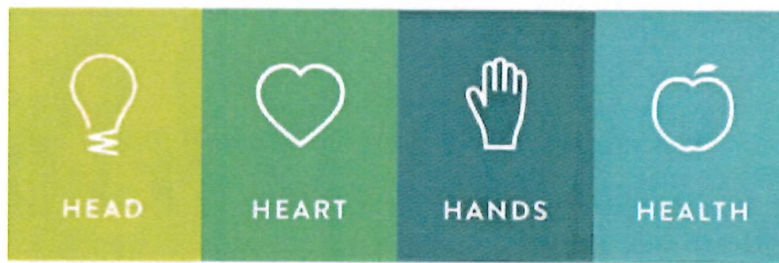
SCHOOL IS OUT, BUT LEARNING SHOULD NEVER STOP!

CLOVER creates impactful learning experiences in partnership with 100+ top-tier universities. With 260+ online interactive activities. CLOVER has interactive, exciting activities for everyone ages 5-18.

Engage in Interactive content and gamification while earning rewards and customize your experience as you explore CLOVER.

Kids thrive when given the tools to succeed. CLOVER offers a supportive space to achieve. 97% of our users would recommend

CLOVER to friends and family.



2026 VIRGINIA 4-H ALL-STARS



Congratulations to Reagan Babb!

Reagan is the 25-26 President of the Virginia Beach 4-H Livestock Club. She has been involved in 4-H for 10 years. Additionally, Reagan owns over 30 breeding ewes, all of which she purchased herself.

In May 2026, she earned both her high school diploma from Liberty University Online Academy and an associate's degree in psychology from Liberty University. Being tapped as a 4-H All-Star is the highest honor a 4-H member can receive.

We are super proud of Reagan.

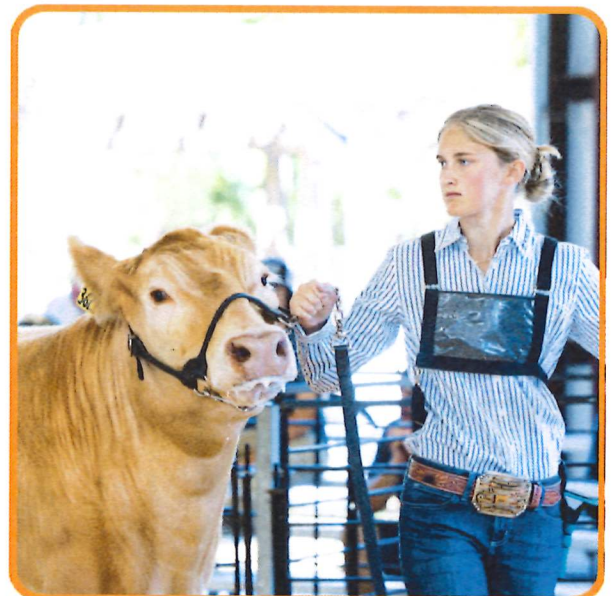


Congratulations to Leah Vaughan Gentry!

Leah is the 25-26 Vice-President of Virginia Beach 4-H Livestock Club. She has been involved in 4-H for 9 years. She regularly gives her time volunteering with various club projects and activities.

She is always willing to jump in and mentor younger club members. Being tapped as a 4-H All-Star is the highest honor a 4-H member can receive.

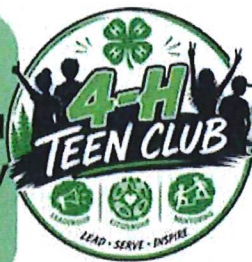
We are super proud of Leah.



Both of these ladies will be officially inducted into the Virginia Chapter of the 4-H All-Stars on June 18th during 4-H Congress at Virginia Tech

Youth 13-18

Developing leadership, citizenship, & service with hands-on experiences, community involvement, and peer mentoring. Teens build confidence, strengthen leadership skills, and make a positive impact by guiding younger youth, serving their communities, and preparing for future success.



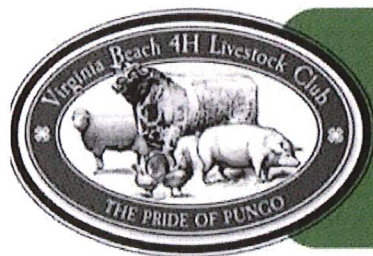
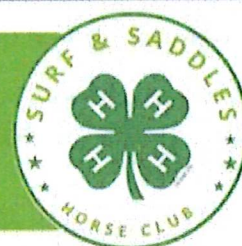
Youth ages 9-18

Alternating Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evenings.

Gain knowledge on safe firearm handling.

The club offers a wide variety of disciplines to choose from: Archery, Air Pistol, Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, Muzzleloader and Hunting. We participate in local and statewide 4-H competitions.

- Youth ages 9-18
- 1st Monday of the month, 7:00pm
- Learn about horses and do 4-H projects and activities.
- You do not have to have your own horse to participate.



Youth ages 9-18

4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm

Project emphasis is on steers, hogs, sheep, and goats.

Creeds Ruritan Community Complex

Project emphasis is on market steers, hogs, sheep, and goats.

Seahorse Riders

- Youth 5-18
- 2nd Tuesday of every month, various locations.
- Learn about horsemanship, participate in various activities related to horses, and volunteer at local barns.
- You do not have to have your own horse to participate.



Youth ages 5-18

2nd Monday of each month, 6:30pm.

@Creeds Ruritan Community Complex.

Crafts using paper, yarn, textiles and recycled items.

Seasonal crafts, STEAM and community service projects.



4-H
Military
Partnership



Midway Manor 4-H
Lucky Charms and Little Clovers



Happy Summer everyone!

Are you looking for something to do on Friday nights that is free? If so, come out to the Farmers Market to enjoy free music and family fun at the Friday Night Hoedowns held from 7-10 pm every Friday during the summer and fall through October 30!

The Market will be hosting a Flea Market event on Saturday, July 18th. Spaces are available first come, first served. Bring your treasures to sell or shop for new ones!

Are you a teacher? If so, we hope that you will join us for the Agriculture in the Classroom workshop on Wednesday, August 5. If you are interested, please visit <https://virginia.agclassroom.org/> to register for this free event. Just scroll down on the page to click on "Summer Professional Development" and select our date. The workshop will be held at the Virginia Beach Public Utilities Building Multi-Purpose Training Room located at 3500 Dam Neck Road. Participants will receive a Farmers Market tote bag and access to free materials. Snacks and lunch will be provided. We will finish the workshop with a visit to the Rural Heritage Center and Children's Education Garden at the Farmers Market.

Please continue to support our local businesses at the Farmers Market as well as our local farmers at their produce stands and markets. Visit our website at www.virginiabeach.gov/farmersmarket for the latest information.

We welcome farmers and crafters to be at the Market any day of the week by renting a spot under our Pavilion or in our parking lot. Please call our office at 757-385-4388 for more details.

I would like to thank Barbara Morrisette of Season's Best Bakery for being a merchant with us for over 18 years! Barbara started her business with her late husband John in the back row of the Market. John and Barbara were able to expand the store's footprint and move into the center circle to grow a successful bakery over the years. I will miss stopping in for a sweet treat but want to extend best wishes to Barbara in her retirement.

I would also like to thank Brenna Smith, our Office Assistant, for her years of service with us. Brenna was an instrumental member of our team and has accepted a position with Parks and Recreation. I want to wish Brenna well as she starts a new chapter with more opportunities.

We will soon welcome two new businesses to the Farmers Market to occupy spaces vacated by Season's Best Bakery and Moosewood Creek. More details will be shared once City Council approves the new leases, so stay tuned for updates.

Apple Extravaganza will be our first event in the fall on September 19, so we hope you join us. The Butterfly Society of Virginia will be hosting a plant sale.

**Have a safe summer and hope to see you soon,
Jenny**



VIRGINIA BEACH
FARMERS
MARKET

SUMMER FLEA MARKET

**SATURDAY
JULY 18**

9am-4pm



VENDORS WANTED!



**Vendor set up
starts at 7:00
First Come
First Served**

3640 Dam Neck Road

**RATES: \$20 parking lot space 10' by 10'
(table/tent not included).**

**\$30 covered pavilion space includes
table/chair**

Application and payment will be collected morning of.

Call or email with questions: 757-385-4388

kmichael@vb.gov

**Certificate of insurance is required for all vendors selling
products that are applied or ingested.**

Agriculture in the Classroom @ Virginia Beach Farmers Market

Join AITC for a unique K-5 educator professional development workshop!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
virginia.agclassroom.org

The workshop will begin with hands-on lessons in the multi-purpose training room at the Virginia Beach Public Utilities building before giving participants the opportunity to tour the nearby Virginia Beach Rural Heritage Center and Farmers Market.

- **August 5, 9am-1pm**
- Take part in AITC's engaging activities using Virginia agriculture to teach the standards.
- Tour the Virginia Beach Rural Heritage Center and Farmers Market and learn of educational opportunities.
- Lunch will be provided.



Get growing & sprout success with us!



FUN ON THE FARM



Fun on the Farm Field trips continue through the Summer for groups of 10 or more, children pre-k through 5th grade. It's a 2-hour tour to teach the basics of Agriculture, including farming, planting, pollinating, vermiculture, composting, recycling and animal/insect life cycles. The kids learn through interactive activities, like doing old timey chores from churning cream into butter, milking our life-size fiberglass cow, washing on a wash board, gathering eggs from the hen house and churning corn kernels into flour. We have arts and crafts, tour the gardens, plant a veggie or flower they take home, and wrap it up with ice cream at story time.

This isn't a playgroup; this is a structured field trip where they learn while having fun and the children pick up so much knowledge.

The best part, for me, is watching a group of young children go from being terrified of bees, or bats, or any insect, and leaving with a new wonderment, appreciation, and even love for these former formidable foes. One of our seasonal crafts is making honeybees out of toilet paper rolls. While the kids construct their bee, I teach them all about these important tiny creatures who play such a vital role in our ecosystem.

Did you know there are 3 types of bees living inside the Hive? The Queen Bee can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day. The worker bee is a female, and she does most everything in and outside of the hive. She builds the hive, cleans it, takes care of the babies, protects the hive, forages flowers, and makes the honey, which never goes bad, by the way. The Drones, who are male, hang around with the Queen all day, making babies. They don't even have a stinger. Even some of the mom's and dad's walk away with new knowledge.

I bet you didn't know there is cotton in all our paper currency!

If you're interested in booking a field trip, call the VB Farmers Market Office at 757-385- 4388 and ask for me, Kristi Michael. Groups of 10 up to 100 are welcome and, it's still only eight cottony dollars a child.



For students in preschool through 5th grade

FUN

on the Farm

Field Trips at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market

An interactive tour to learn about Agriculture and have fun!



\$8 per child

Teachers & parents are free

The Rural Heritage Center tour includes hands-on activities.

Planting • Churning butter • Grinding corn

Milk "Beachy" the life-size, fiberglass cow

Wash clothes with a pitcher pump and washboard

See antique tools and machines

Learn about plants, pollinators and chickens in the Children's Garden

This program aligns with Virginia SOL topics including insects, vermiculture, plants and farm animals with an emphasis on life cycles, habitat, recycling and more.

Learn more: Visit VirginiaBeach.gov/FarmersMarket

"We had a wonderful time on our field trip! The students loved all the activities. Every learning opportunity was partnered with a hands-on aspect and that is something you never see in a field trip. Staff was not only knowledgeable, but completely passionate about everything. We will certainly be back."

~ Kathleen, Virginia Beach Teacher

**Schedule
Today!**

Contact Farmers Market Management Office
farmmrkt@vbgov.com • 757.385.4388

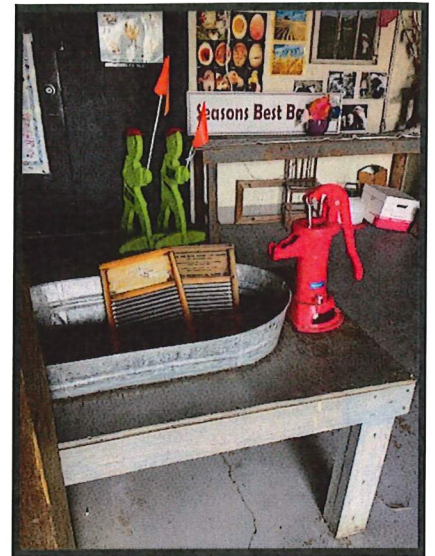
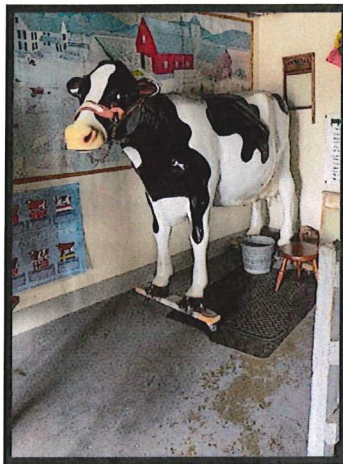


CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH
Agriculture

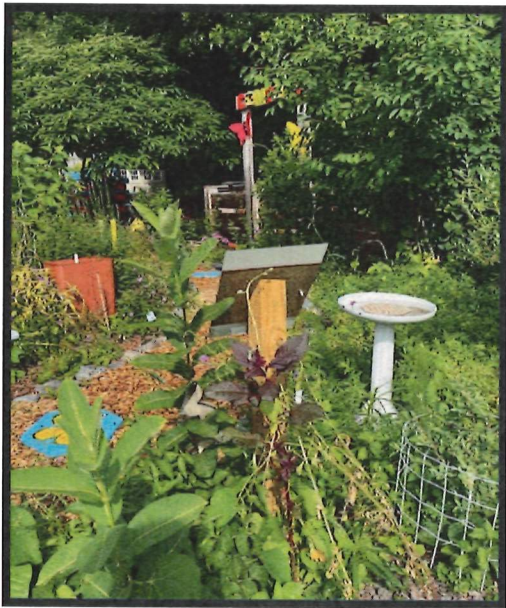
VIRGINIA BEACH
FaRMers
MARKET

3640 Dam Neck Road | virginiabeach.gov/farmersmarket | facebook.com/vbfarmersmarket | 757.385.4388

FUN ON THE FARM



FUN ON THE FARM



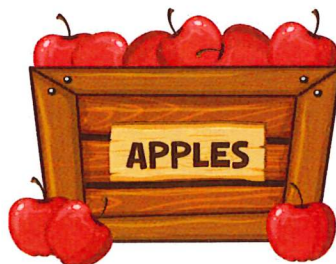
APPLE EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE FARMERS MARKET

For more than 30 years, the Virginia Beach Farmer's Market has been providing fresh, local produce to Virginia Beach locals and visitors alike. The Market, located on the corner of Dam Neck and Princess Anne Roads across from the Landstown Shopping Center, is open year-round. It features a variety of agriculturally-focused vendors selling everything from flowers, fresh vegetables to candy and home and garden gifts.

The Apple Extravaganza is a wonderful way to support local farmers, discover new seasonal products, and enjoy the best flavors of season. Whether you're stocking up on fresh produce, looking for delicious recipes, or simply spending time with friends and neighbors, there's something for everyone at this special market event.

Mark your calendar and bring the whole family for a day of fresh apples, festive fun, and community celebration at the Farmers Market on Saturday, September 19.

We look forward to seeing you there!



VIRGINIA BEACH

FARMERS MARKET

2026 Hoedown Schedule

Friday Nights 7pm- 10pm

***Rain or Shine**

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy
free, live, local music.

APRIL

3 DALLAS BAND
10 COUNTRY REBELS
17 COUNTRY REBELS
24 TIMELINE

MAY

1 RAW BEET'S
8 COUNTRY REBELS
15 DALLAS BAND
22 TIMELINE
29 COUNTRY REBELS

JUNE

5 DALLAS BAND
12 TIMELINE
19 COUNTRY ROCKERS
26 COUNTRY REBELS

JULY

3 RAW BEET'S
10 TIMELINE
17 COUNTRY ROCKERS
24 COUNTRY REBELS
31 ROB OLIVER

AUGUST

7 COUNTRY REBELS
14 COUNTRY ROCKERS
21 TIMELINE
28 RAW BEET'S

SEPTEMBER

4 DALLAS BAND
11 TIMELINE
18 COUNTRY ROCKERS
25 COUNTRY REBELS

OCTOBER

2 DALLAS BAND
9 TIMELINE
16 COUNTRY ROCKERS
23 ROB OLIVER
30 ROB OLIVER

Like us on Facebook
@ VB Farmers Market

3640 Dam Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453

757-385-4388

** Management reserves the right to delay or cancel events.*

VIRGINIA BEACH

FARMERS MARKET

2026 Event Calendar

Saturdays, 10am to 4pm | Craft Show at each event!



3640 Dam Neck Road | virginiabeach.gov/farmersmarket
facebook.com/vbfarmersmarket | 757-385-4388

CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE

March 21, 2026

BIRTHDAY BASH

April 18, 2026

STRAWBERRY JAMBOREE

May 16, 2026

HONEY FESTIVAL

June 13, 2026

APPLE EXTRAVAGANZA

Sept. 19, 2026

HARVEST FAIR

Oct. 10, 2026

FALL FESTIVAL

Nov. 7, 2026

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Dec. 5, 2026

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Know Your Break-Even: The Key to 2026 Profitability

This year has been full of obstacles for your operation from input costs to weather to managing price risk. You are shining brightly as you navigate the obstacles in your decision making. What an inspiration you and your operations have been with the planning, preparation to plant, decisions around production and decisions around marketing. You all shine the brightest as you try to feed us under difficult circumstances.

Continue to focus on the positive circumstances as you are now in full swing caring for this corn and soybean crop that was difficult to establish. We continue to enjoy record breaking corn export demand. The amazing corn exports have been supported by excellent domestic use in the ethanol and livestock industries. The timing on this increased demand was perfect as the USA produced its largest corn crop in 2025.

Our normal soybean export customers have stayed true, and China fulfilled its original commitment to purchase old crop beans from the USA. As we come into the third quarter the trade eagerly anticipates when China will begin purchasing new crop beans – keep your eye out for this and make sales. The domestic use of beans, as with corn, has been exceptional and is helping hold future prices at the current levels.

The USA corn and soybean crop is entering July with excellent crop ratings as weather across the production States has been near ideal. Our historic drought conditions across Virginia this winter and spring have improved by different degrees in various locations – much to be thankful for. Expect continued price volatility around war and politics.

Keep doing your work in controlling what you can control. Keep scouting your fields to stay ahead of pest pressure and to keep a good eye on potential yield. Consider what percent of your 2026 crop is priced. Keep in close touch with the buyers you sell to - they want to hear from you and hear how you and your crop are doing. Keep in close touch with your Crop Insurance Agent for encouragement and guidance. Keep your breakeven cost clear in your mind and be ready to make forward sales as crop development and price action allow you to do so.

Virginia Farm Bureau appreciates all you do and celebrates our 100th anniversary this year trying harder to support and advocate for you and your operations. I wish you the best in continued timely rains and safety around the equipment as you care for your crops.

Best Regards

Robert Harper

Virginia Farm Bureau Grain Division

804-338-0664

