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## **FALL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**T**he Eastern Shore and Hampton Roads AREC's bi-annual Advisory Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. We welcome all stakeholders to join the meeting and provide feedback via zoom. Dr. Saied Mostaghimi, Director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES), and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) will join us. If you are interested in joining, please email Lauren Seltzer ([mlpeyton@vt.edu](mailto:mlpeyton@vt.edu)) for details on the virtual event.



## **From The Director**

We hope everyone is doing well and are able to continue with Fall harvest. We are beginning our interviews for the Horticultural Cropping Systems position at the Eastern Shore AREC. This position will have a 50% applied research and 50% extension appointment to serve growers throughout Virginia. Please join us during the interview process to hear an extension seminar aimed at growers for improving production, along with an hour long meet-and-greet session. During the meet-and-greet session, please feel free to ask questions and put the candidate's extension knowledge to the test! Zoom Connection links and audio only phone numbers are below:

- *Dr. Emmanuel Torres Quezada*, November 23, 2020 from 8:00 to 10:00 am  
Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88449682073>  
Phone: +1.929.436.2866 US (New York); Meeting ID: 884 4968 2073
- *Dr. Jianbing Ma*, November 24, 2020 from 8:00 to 10:00 am  
Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88263678065>  
Phone: +1.929.436.2866 US (New York); Meeting ID: 882 6367 8065
- *Dr. Marlee Trandel*, December 1, 2020 from 9:00 to 11:00 am  
Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85011722375>  
Phone: +1.929.436.2866 US (New York); Meeting ID: 850 1172 2375

— *Mark*

## Agents Corner

**E**astern Shore Harvest is in FULL swing! Corn harvest is wrapping up, soybean harvest is well underway, and sweet potatoes and turnip greens are being harvested and will be ready for your Thanksgiving feast. We are thankful to have had some good weather at the end of October and hopeful that weather holds until all crops are out of the ground for 2020. As you are finishing up your harvest, now is the time to take soil samples and begin to prepare for 2021.



*Ursula & Theresa*

### CONTAINER RECYCLING

The grinding of pesticide containers usually occurs in the first weeks November. Due to COVID-19, the recycling truck has been delayed and has plans to visit the Eastern Shore in December this year. If you have any pesticide containers laying around your farm please triple rinse them, remove the caps and labels and take them to the nearest recycling location – Northampton County Landfill, Nutrien in Keller, Nutrien in Tasley.

### EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

Theresa and Ursula have started a YouTube Channel to educate the Eastern Shore public about the agriculture around them. These videos are being released through social media of local organizations. Please feel free to share the videos and visit the YouTube Channel. So far, we have released a pumpkin and strawberry video. Another segment of this series is “Ask a Farmer” where local community members submit questions and farmers answer them. Please let us know if you would like to participate in this educational opportunity!

### HERBICIDE RESISTANCE “WATCH PARTY”

Drs. Michael Flessner and Vijay Singh are offering a virtual Herbicide Resistance Workshop on *Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>* and *Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>* from 9am – 11am. For these workshops we are going to host “watch parties” at the Eastern Shore AREC in Painter. If you would like to attend these watch parties, RSVP is necessary due to space limitations as a result of COVID restrictions. More information regarding these watch parties will be coming out soon. Please let either Ursula ([ursula@vt.edu](mailto:ursula@vt.edu)) or Theresa ([tpittman@vt.edu](mailto:tpittman@vt.edu)) know if you plan to attend.

### PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

Private pesticide recertification will be offered virtually for 2020. This is a self-paced course offered through the Virginia Tech Canvas platform. If you would like to participate in private pesticide recertification please contact either Ursula or Theresa and they can set you up.

### CONTACT US:

Accomack County ANR Agent – Theresa Pittman, [tpittman@vt.edu](mailto:tpittman@vt.edu) 757-787-1361 ext. 14  
Northampton County ANR Agent – Ursula Deitch, [ursula@vt.edu](mailto:ursula@vt.edu) 757-678-7946 ext. 25



# November Research Highlight

## Shockley Farms Help Evaluate Seed Control Unit

**A**t harvest, common ragweed, Palmer amaranth, and many of our most problematic weeds have seeds still attached to the parent plant. During harvest, the combine will spread these weed seeds across the field with the crop residues, making the problem worse for next season.



Now there is a way to get rid of weeds and preventing addition to soil seed bank at the time of harvest. Many harvest weed seed control strategies were evaluated in Australia in response to herbicide resistant weeds, where widespread adoption has occurred. While there are several forms of harvest weed seed control, the ultimate is through a seed impact mill. These mills integrate on the back of the combine and process the chaff residues, which is where weed seeds exit in a properly adjusted combine. Seed impact mills kill over 95% of seeds that enter and then spread the residues back across the field for even nutrient return.

*“We hope to see weed pressure plummet over the next 3 to 5 years as we nearly eliminate additions to the weed seed bank”*



Dr. Michael Flessner (Extension Weed Specialist based in Blacksburg) is working with Shockley Farms in Northampton County to evaluate Redekop’s Seed Control Unit on a commercial farm, the first on the east coast. Common ragweed and Palmer amaranth seed kill rate in soybeans and Italian ryegrass in wheat will be evaluated as well as additional combine horsepower requirements and diesel use. “We hope to see weed pressure plummet over the next 3 to 5 years as we nearly eliminate additions to the weed seed bank,” said Flessner. “Additionally, Dr. Vijay Singh (Weed Scientist, ESAREC, Painter), myself, and researchers from several other states were recently awarded a USDA NRCS National On-Farm Conservation Innovation Grant that will be further evaluating this technology.”

Check out more about Harvest Weed Seed Control here: <https://growiwm.org/how-harvest-weed-seed-control/>

See why Bill Shockley wanted to try a Redekop Seed Control Unit on his farm here: <https://youtu.be/V-AKwTAP5IY>

Dr. Vijay Singh is interested in obtaining herbicide resistant weed samples from growers! Please contact him for more information.

[v.singh@vt.edu](mailto:v.singh@vt.edu) 757/807-657 479/713-0094

# WANTED

**Love The Stalk?**

Feel free to send us your feedback!

[mlpeyton@vt.edu](mailto:mlpeyton@vt.edu)



### Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center

33446 Research Dr.

Painter, VA 23420

Phone: 757-807-6586

Fax: 757-414-0730

<https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore.html>

The Virginia Tech, Eastern Shore AREC is committed to supporting commercial vegetable, grain, oilseed, and fiber production throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Centrally located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the center conducts basic and applied research on more than 25 agricultural crops.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any activity, please contact Lauren Seltzer at 757-807-6586\* (\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations.



## ESAREC Contacts

Faculty	Email	Work Phone	Cell Phone	Title
Mark S. Reiter	<a href="mailto:mreiter@vt.edu">mreiter@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6576	757/693-2556	Director/Associate Professor, CSES
Vijay Singh	<a href="mailto:v.singh@vt.edu">v.singh@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6579	479/713-0094	Assistant Professor, Weed Science
Staff	Email	Phone		Title
James Custis	<a href="mailto:jcustis@vt.edu">jcustis@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6596		Farm Manager
Hélène Doughty	<a href="mailto:hdoughty@vt.edu">hdoughty@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6592	757/999-0780	Research Specialist, Entomology
Thomas Hines	<a href="mailto:thhines@vt.edu">thhines@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6580		Research Specialist, Weed Science
John Mason	<a href="mailto:masonje@vt.edu">masonje@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6582		Research Specialist, CSES
Lauren Peyton Seltzer	<a href="mailto:mlpeyton@vt.edu">mlpeyton@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6586	757/710-5701	Executive Secretary
James Warren	<a href="mailto:jwarren@vt.edu">jwarren@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6595		Mechanic
Joy Zuchel	<a href="mailto:jzuchel@vt.edu">jzuchel@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6583	757/710-1761	Research Specialist, FST

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