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"The month of August had turned into a griddle where the days just lay there and sizzled."
—Sue Monk Kidd

The Stalk

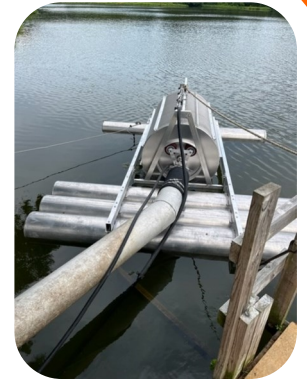
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AUGUST 2022

From The Director

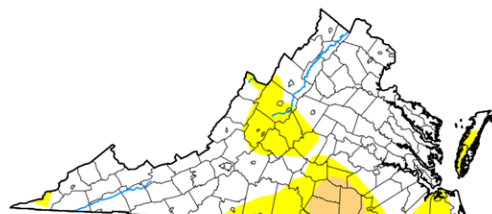
The summer is marching on, crops are growing, AREC improvements are continuing, student interns are learning, and overall dry weather is still a common theme. Regarding AREC upgrades, we recently installed a new irrigation suction line that will assist with reducing algae clogs within our irrigation system. We'll let you know how it works over the remaining summer growing season. The design allows for optimal irrigation suction to occur in ponds with significant algae issues as well as shallow water. We are fortunate to have ample water on-station, but many farmers are running out of water in their ponds.



Research programs at the Eastern Shore AREC hosted 3 student interns this summer as part of the VT-REEL (Research and Extension Experiential Learning) program. This program allows undergraduate students to spend five weeks on-campus in a basic science laboratory and then they transition to an AREC for another five weeks to work with in-field applied research. Students on the Eastern Shore focused on phosphorus soil chemistry's interaction with auxin herbicides in Dr. Reiter's Soils and Nutrient Management research group and planted/monitored herbicide resistant weeds in Dr. Singh's Weed Science lab. Students presented their basic and applied research on-campus during an undergraduate research symposium on July 27, 2022. To view abstracts and learn more about this internship program, visit: <https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/summer-research-vt/student-support/summer-research-sym.html>.

We are planning several late fall meetings with a focus on cover crops that will span the Eastern Shore. Look for more information on those programs in the future! Also, don't forget to travel across the Bay to the Virginia Ag Expo on Thursday, August 4, 2022 at Mill Creek Farms @ Camden, 8123 Camden Rd, Port Royal, VA 22535. We'll be there presenting work on unmanned aerial vehicles, cover crops, and assisting USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services with the soil pit, with a focus on nutrient stratification and leaching. We always want to hear from you! Let me know when is best to come visit your farm to hear your ideas for advancing our applied research and extension programming to best meet your farming needs.

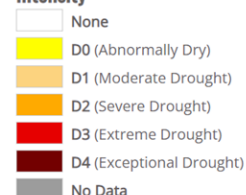
— Mark



Map released: Thurs. July 28, 2022

Data valid: July 26, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center

Agents Corner

We have finally hit the hot part of the summer and boy has it set in! We are busy making plans for fall programs and also monitoring fields for Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm. With these hot temperatures we have seen a surge in bug pressure. Make sure you are sweeping your fields regularly to see if a spray application is warranted.



2023 Eastern Shore Ag Conference

A few inquiries have been made regarding the date for the 2023 Eastern Shore Ag Conference. Please save the date and mark your calendars for January 25th & 26th 2023. We plan for 2023's event to be just as engaging as last year's event. Additionally, we will continue the tradition of hosting an Oyster Roast on the evening of the first day of the event. Be on the lookout for more information regarding the 2023 event as we move into the fall.

Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair

Planning is in full swing for the 2022 Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair. The fair committee is focusing on bringing Aquaculture as a featured commodity to the event. There will be an Oyster Shucking competition, clam eating competition, wader relay races, skillet throwing competition, and more! The Peninsula Tractor Organization will be hosting an Antique Tractor parade and an Antique Tractor Pull at the event as well. Educational booths will be on hand to provide a hands-on experience for Fair goers. Please come out and enjoy this event that is free and open to the public on Saturday, October 8th at the Old Northampton Middle School.

Farm Tour – Accomack & Northampton County

In cooperation with the Northampton and Accomack Farm Bureau Boards we are planning to bring back the Accomack County Farm Tour, but for 2022 we are going to expand it to Northampton County so it is a "whole Shore" experience. On Tuesday, September 20th the Accomack County Farm Tour will provide an on-farm Agricultural experience for all 3rd graders in Accomack County. The following day, September 21st the event will shift to an on-farm experience in Northampton County. At the event, 3rd graders will have a hands-on experience rotating amongst booths learning about all aspects of agriculture on a working farm. This event in the past has been praised by teachers as one of the best field trips for the kids! We are excited to expand it this year!!

Food Safety & GAP Plans

Within these summer months both Ursula & Theresa have been working diligently with multiple vegetable crop growers on putting together GAP and Harmonized GAP Food Safety Plans for their operations. These plans are becoming a standard for growers to have in order to sell their produce on a large scale.

4-H Updates

4-H in Accomack & Northampton Counties hosted two camps in the month of July. The first on July 11 – 14th, was a Computer Science & STEM Camp at the Eastern Shore Community College where the kids learned about drones, robots, and computer programming. The second camp was the following week July 18-22nd and was the traditional 4-H Overnight Camp in Wakefield, VA. Although it was a hot week, everyone had a great time!

Ursula & Theresa



August

The Dog Days of Summer began on July 3rd and ends on August 11th. This refers to the time period of typically extreme heat, humidity and drought. These dates coincide with the rising of Sirius, the Dog Star, which is part of the constellation Canis Majoris. Next to the sun, Sirius is the brightest star in the sky.



The sturgeon moon occurs on August 11th and is the last supermoon of 2022. Sturgeon were caught in abundance in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain during this time.

Catch a glimpse of the Perseid meteor shower, which peaks August 11-12.

Each month has a full moon theme and name, which is historically derived from Native Americans, Colonial or European sources, and used in the Old Farmer's Almanac.

Community Agriculture Spotlight



This month we feature a community agricultural partner, Black Narrows Brewing Co. on Chincoteague Island. Eighty-three percent of their beer ingredients are locally sourced. They have created beers that feature Eastern Shore partners, watermen and small, local farmers. Below are a few of their brews.

“We not only source from our local farmers, watermen and makers, we plan with them and partner with them. Because without them, we can’t create these one of a kind beers. Our farmers are the future, for our kids, for our families and for our breweries.” *Black Narrows Brewing Co.*



Weathered Together recognizes Dixon Leatherbury of Seaside Hops in Machipongo whose expertise and innovations in machinery has helped bridge the gap for the small acreage hops farmer.



Cackle Creek is a partnership with Murphy & Rude Malting Co., which sources its malts from across the state, including barley from Turtle Pace Farm in Melfa.



How Bout It features Bill and Bob Savage of Pungo Creek Mills in Painter, which is the only mill on the ESVA. These heirloom corn varieties for this beer include Bloody Butcher and White Pipe.



Salts is a testament to men and women in the aquaculture industry. Black Narrows sources oysters from Tom’s Cove Aqua Farms on Chincoteague for this brew.

Eastern Shore AREC in the Community

Our rock star ESAREC students are taking part in helping their community along with working on advances in agriculture! On Sunday July 17th, Vipin Kumar, Masters student in weed science and Andrew Fletcher, assistant farm manager at the ESAREC, came to the rescue to assist a group of volunteers for four hours. They packed 560 bags for needy families in Northampton and Accomack counties with ESAREC entomology staff Helene Doughty.

Left to right: Andrew Fletcher, Vipin Kumar and Helene Doughty



Vipin and Andrew, along with Beau Badon, Joey Haymaker (Masters students in soils and nutrient management), have also helped our community during the 68th Annual Wachapreague Volunteer Fireman's Carnival delighting children by running the cotton candy booth.

Left to right: Vipin Kumar, Andrew Fletcher, Beau Badon and Joey Haymaker

Eastern Shore AREC Featured in the Delmarva Farmer

Dr. Mark Reiter, Professor of Soil and Nutrient Management, and Mr. Ricardo Gandini, graduate student, Horticulture, were featured in the [June 28th](#) and [July 5th](#) issues of the *Delmarva Farmer*. Click [here](#) to read both articles.



Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Education Center Director Mark Reiter looks over plants in the center's newly remodeled greenhouse.

Photo by Sean Clougherty



Ricardo Gandini, a Virginia Tech graduate student at the Eastern Shore Agriculture Research and Education Center, shows the temperature differences between plain black plastic and black plastic sprayed with a kaolin clay solution.

Photo by Sean Clougherty

Kaolin clay may serve as sunblock for tomatoes

*Virginia Tech grad student
studying product as more
inexpensive alternative*

By SEAN CLOUGHERTY
Managing Editor

PAINTER, Va. — Tomatoes need sun and heat to grow, but too much of either or both can hurt production. Like people heading to the beach this summer, tomatoes, especially in plastic systems need some type of sunblock, too.

Plastic mulch for tomatoes is nearly ubiquitous on vegetable farms as a system to reduce weeds, manage soil temperature and hold moisture in the soil.

But, the researchers added, black plastic can overheat the soil in late summer and reduce productivity.

So Ricardo Gandini, a Virginia Tech graduate student working at the Eastern Shore Agriculture Research and Education Center started a trial last year studying the use of kaolin clay as

See **TOMATOES**
Page 13

Eastern Shore AREC Hosts Weed Science Field Day

Multistate (DELMARVA region) field days were conducted on June 28th and 29th for farmers, ag industry, and others interested in seeing the latest results from university weed management trials. These included tours of herbicide demonstration plots, updates on integrated weed management trials, and UAVs (drones) for herbicide applications. Dr. Vijay Singh, hosted a field day on June 28th at Painter, VA and Drs. Mark VanGessel and Kurt Vollmer showcased weed management strategies at Georgetown, DE, and Queenstown, MD, respectively, on June 29th, 2022.





4-H Camp July 18-22 in Wakefield, VA



4-H Camp July 18-22 in Wakefield, VA



CAMP



2022 Virginia AG Expo

Thursday August 4, 2022

Mill Creek Farms @ Camden

Port Royal, VA 22535

Binkley & Hurst
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*We are honored to be Equipping the
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**2022
VA AG
EXPO**

**THIS EVENT IS FREE
TO THE PUBLIC**



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Chef Mark Jones
catering food truck dine-in events
804-456-4540
chowboymark@gmail.com



**ARNETT SEAFOOD
CATERING**
804-366-5336

**THURSDAY AUGUST 4, 2022
MILL CREEK FARMS @ CAMDEN
8123 CAMDEN RD
PORT ROYAL, VA 22535**

**KONA
ICE**

VIRGINIA GRAIN
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Virginia Soybean
Association

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

YOU'RE INVITED TO A VCE SPECIALIST DAY FOCUSED ON:

ITALIAN RYEGRASS PREVENTION IN WHEAT

7:30am - Registration and Coffee
7:45 - Ryegrass Prevention with Dr. Michael Flessner
8:15 - Weed Management with Drs. ViJay Singh & Michael Flessner
8:45 - Introduction of Dr. Doug Higgins ESAREC Plant Pathologist
9:00 - Open Question Forum

DATE: AUGUST 31, 2022

LOCATION: ES AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER (ESAREC)

TIME: 7:30 AM

TO RSVP, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY AGENT

ACCOMACK - THERESA PITTMAN // TPITTMAN@VT.EDU // 757-787-1361

NORTHAMPTON - URSULA DEITCH // URSULA@VT.EDU // 757-678-7946

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Rachel Barnes, Accomack County VCE at 800-828-1120 during business hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.



SAVE THE DATE

Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair

October 8, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

7247 Young St., Machipongo, VA (old Northampton Middle School)

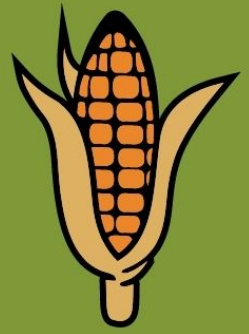
**FREE
& OPEN
TO THE
PUBLIC**

- Skillet Throwing & Keg Rolling
- Baking Competition
- Antique Tractor Parade
- Oyster Shucking Contest
- Educational booths & craft vendors
- Kids' Activities including pumpkin painting, pedal tractor competition and much more!

*Now Accepting
Vendor
Applications*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/319237273621282>

Vendor applications contact: ESVA Chamber at sjohnson@esvachamber.org
For more info contact: Northampton Cooperative Extension at amandalh@vt.edu



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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PO Box 457
Eastville, VA 23347
757-678-7946

Accomack County
23185 Front St
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Accomac, VA 23301
757-787-1361

Virginia Cooperative Extension brings the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth. VCE provides education through programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H Youth Development and Community Viability.

Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center

33446 Research Dr
Painter, VA 23420
757-807-6586



<https://www.ares.vaes.vt.edu/ares/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.



ESAREC & VCE Contact Information

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VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH.

