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# The Stalk

VOLUME III, ISSUE VI



JUNE 2022

## From The Director

**P**otatoes are bulking, tomatoes are being staked, corn is growing, and soybeans are being planted. Although cool and wet, this May is moving along! This year we are trying a new format for field day. We will have a field day focused solely on vegetable production on June 22, 2022. See the information included in this newsletter for the entire schedule and watch for email correspondence too. The idea behind this new field day format is to go into more detail for each crop as it's presented. We know some of you may come and go and that's fine! Come and learn at Vegetable and Strawberry Field Day.

We've also had a great time over the past month showcasing Eastern Shore of Virginia agriculture to various groups including Potatoes USA and Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matthew Lohr, along with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Business and Marketing Specialist, Heather Wheeler. We certainly have a diverse agricultural system that attracts interests from farmers, promotion boards, government, and many other groups. Showcasing what we do on the Shore is the best way to ensure continued support for sustainable agricultural productivity!

We hope you are having a productive year so far as we transition from spring to summer. Let us know what questions you may have and what problems you face as your feedback helps to shape our applied research programs moving forward!

— Mark



*Mark Reiter, Ursula Deitch, Sec. of Ag & Forestry  
Matthew Lohr, and Heather Wheeler of VDACS*



*Potatoes USA Tour May 2022*

# Agents Corner



The temperatures are finally warming up and there has been a lot going on to keep all Extension Agents on the Eastern Shore busy over the past month. Northampton ANR & 4-H enjoyed judging the Shore Christian School Science Fair on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. There were a lot of good, scientific based projects so judging was tough! Also in the month of May Northampton 4-H finished up Embryology projects in all of the schools. This year the schools got an option to hatch either ducks or chickens so it was fun seeing all of the excitement for the poultry/wildfowl. Accomack ANR & 4-H have set a date for the “2022 Farm Tour” for September 20, 2022. This is a program hosted at a local farm - WT Holland & Sons – where every 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student in Accomack County gets to learn about agriculture on a working farm. After a 2 year hiatus due to COVID we are excited that this program is coming back!

## Pesticide Container Recycling –

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, we recycled pesticide jugs in 3 location throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties. A total of 9,180 lbs of plastic was recycled between all 3 locations. At this point, all recycling locations should be empty and able to take on more pesticide jugs. **Please remember to triple rinse the jugs and remove all caps and labels.** At the Northampton Landfill we still had a large issue with applicators leaving dirty pesticide jugs in our trailer and those jugs cannot be recycled. This is a free service, so please be considerate and have your employees follow the rules. If you are interested in the process of how we do pesticide container recycling, click the link for the video we made of the process. <https://youtu.be/1vDHxk6HjXQ>

## Potatoes USA Tour & VA Secretary of Agriculture Tour –

On May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Executive Committee from Potatoes USA (formerly known as The National Potato Board). Attendees came from Colorado, Idaho, Maine, and California. While here they toured HM Terry Clam and Oyster Hatchery, learned about research going on at the Eastern Shore AREC, and visited several potato farms throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties. It was a fun, but busy two days.

We were excited to have Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Matt Lohr and VDACS Manager of Domestic Marketing and Promotions, Heather Wheeler join us on May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> to tour Eastern Shore of Virginia farms. We were able to visit several vegetable farms that included potatoes, tomatoes, string beans, and aquaculture. A special thank you to Dublin Farms in Horntown, the Eastern Shore AREC in Painter, Lipman Produce in Exmore, C&E Farms in Cheriton, and Cherrystone Aquafarms in Cheriton for hosting Secretary Lohr!!

## Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair – SAVE THE DATE –

After a hiatus due to COVID, the Northampton County Agricultural Fair will be coming back in 2022!! Now under the management of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Cooperative Extension, the newly branded Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair will be held on Saturday, October 8th at the Old Northampton Middle School in Machipongo, VA. We are excited to bring this family oriented event back to the community and to make it bigger and better! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



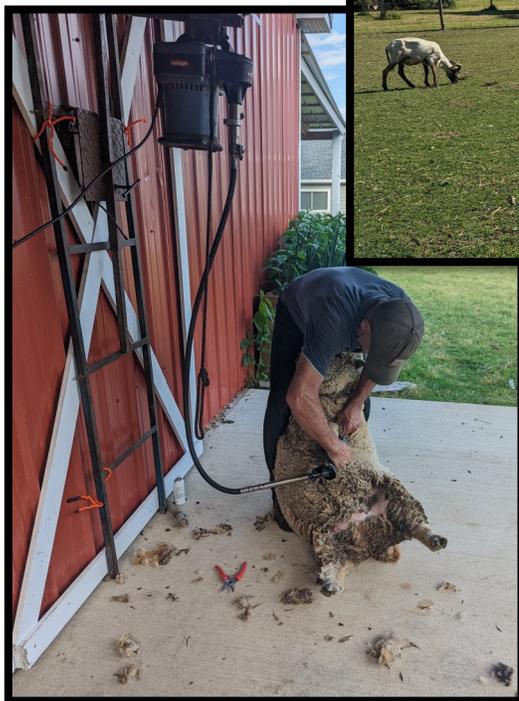
## Homeowner Well Water Testing –

Registration is now **OPEN** for the Homeowner Well Water Testing event that will occur on June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, this program has been subsidized by a SERCAP Grant and participants will only pay \$10 per sample for testing. Please see the attached flyer for more details on how to register and spread the word to encourage as much participation in this program as possible!

*Wanda & Theresa*

# Eastern Shore Sheep Shearing 2022

The Eastern Shore Sheep Shearing Program was held on May 18, 2022 and was highly successful in reducing shearing costs for sheep and goat owners this year. This VCE program contracts with Chamelin Shearing (Frederick, MD) to come and shear sheep and goats allowing for farm owners to cost-share while having a professional shearer visit the farm for this once-a-year shear. Nine farms participated in the Eastern Shore Sheep Shearing Program for a total of 48 ewes, 15 rams, 4 wethers and 3 goats to be sheared.





Father's Day first stemmed from a service in 1908, suggested by Grace Golden Clayton, to honor the 361 men who lost their lives in a West Virginia mining accident. Then, in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd wanted to honor her father, William Smart, who was a Civil War veteran and widower raising six children.

The first official Father's Day was celebrated in 1910 in Washington State, but didn't become an official holiday until 1972. It is observed every year on the third Sunday in June. This year it falls on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

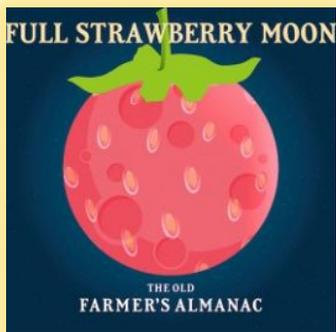


The summer solstice begins June 21<sup>st</sup> and is the longest day of the year for the Northern Hemisphere. It is when the North Pole is at its maximum tilt toward the sun. In the Southern Hemisphere, the June solstice marks the beginning of winter. The word "solstice" is derived from the Latin *solstitium* - Sol meaning sun and stitium meaning still or stopped.

Astrologically speaking, the Summer Solstice marks the first day of summer. Meteorologically speaking, June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the first day of the summer season.

This is the day of the year that your shadow will be the shortest because the sun is at its highest point in the sky. If you live in the tropics, you will not cast a shadow at all!

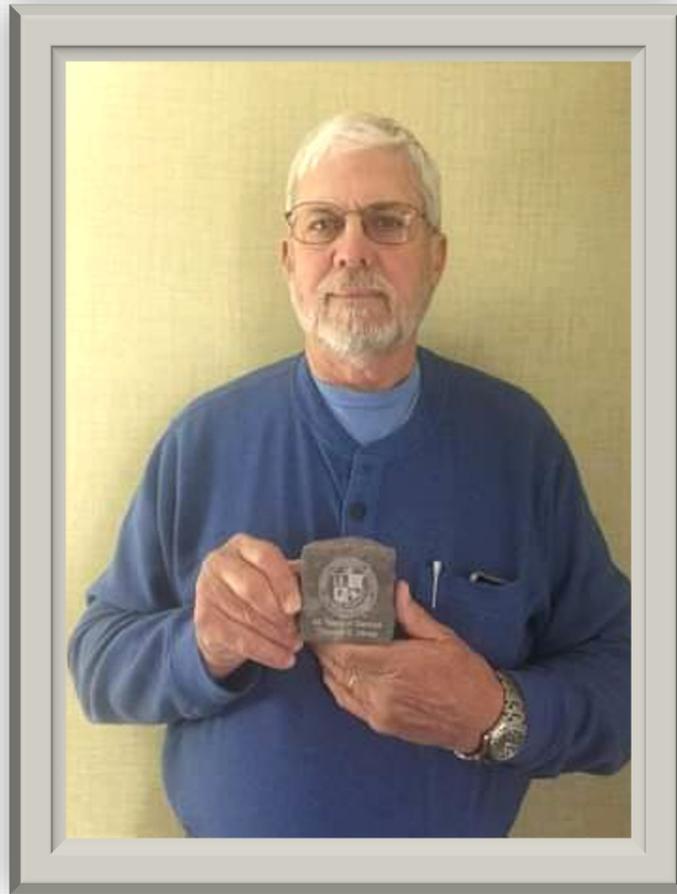
Midsummer's Day, generally celebrated in Europe, celebrates the mid-point of the growing season coinciding with the Summer Solstice.



The full strawberry moon occurs on June 14th and is the second super moon of 2022. Strawberry moon gets its name from Native Americans who marked this as the time that wild strawberries ripened.

*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.*

## Tommy Hines Receives Virginia Tech's Staff Career Achievement Award



**C**reated in 2011 to recognize retiring staff members, the Staff Career Achievement Award is presented annually to individuals who retired the previous year and who distinguished themselves through exemplary performance and service during their university career. Mr. Hines' nominator praised his research and extension focus as well as his dedication to stakeholders, graduate students and the community. "Throughout Tommy's career, he has co-authored over 140 refereed articles and paper presentations, presented posters, and served on various committees for the Northeast Weed Science Society. For most staff, they do not focus on both local research needs and the extension of these research findings to professional societies. Mr. Hines commonly excelled at collecting applied research data, assisted with presenting information to farmers and industry stakeholders, and then carried through to ensure that professional societies were informed, such as the Northeast Weed Science Society (NEWSS). His longtime efforts with NEWSS led to him being inducted as Fellow to demonstrate his service to the NEWSS organization and industry. His 48-year legacy is certainly missed within our AREC, farming community, and throughout the Mid-Atlantic and northeast USA."

# Pesticide Container Recycling May 4th, 2022



All containers should be triple rinsed with caps and labels removed



# Potatoes USA Tour May 17th - 18th, 2022

Tour stops included HM Terry Clam and Oyster Hatchery, Eastern Shore AREC, and several potato farms throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties



# VA Secretary of Agriculture Tour May 26th - 27th, 2022

Tour stops included Eastern Shore AREC, Dublin Farms, C & E Farms, Lipman Produce and Cherrystone Aqua-Farms





## **2022 Summer Internships and Part-Time Employment**

The Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) located in Painter, VA, is searching for summer interns and hourly workers. We encourage senior high school and college students and others that may be interested in learning more about Eastern Shore agricultural production to apply. Workers and interns will work directly with scientists and current graduate students on projects that relate to fertilizer use and environmental sustainability, cover crops, plasticulture, high tunnels, weed management, insect pest management, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), remote sensing, sensors, and other projects that have direct financial and environmental impacts for our Eastern Shore agricultural community. By the end of the summer, hourly workers, students, and interns will have first-hand experiential knowledge of many scientific components that will propel them in the workforce.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter stating your program interests to [esarec@vt.edu](mailto:esarec@vt.edu).

Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.

[www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore.html](http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore.html)

Virginia Cooperative Extension

**Northampton County**  
 16392 Courthouse Rd  
 PO Box 457  
 Eastville, VA 23347  
 757-678-7946

**Accomack County**  
 23185 Front St  
 PO Box 60  
 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

ESAREC 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/Professor, Soils & Nutrient Management
Vijay Singh	<a href="mailto:v.singh@vt.edu">v.singh@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6579	479/713-0094	Assistant Professor, Weed Science
Emmanuel Torres	<a href="mailto:etorres@vt.edu">etorres@vt.edu</a>		352/682-0708	Assistant Professor, Horticulture
Lorena Lopez	<a href="mailto:lorelopezq257@vt.edu">lorelopezq257@vt.edu</a>		954/529-9042	Postdoctoral Associate, Entomology

ESAREC Staff	Email	Phone	Cell Phone	Title
James Custis	<a href="mailto:jcustis@vt.edu">jcustis@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6596		Farm Manager
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Lauren Peyton Seltzer	<a href="mailto:mlpeyton@vt.edu">mlpeyton@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6586	757/710-5701	Executive Secretary Sr.
Joy Zuchel	<a href="mailto:jzuchel@vt.edu">jzuchel@vt.edu</a>	757/807-6583	757/710-1761	Research Specialist, Horticulture

VCE Faculty	Email	Phone	Address	Title
Ursula Deitch	<a href="mailto:ursula@vt.edu">ursula@vt.edu</a>	757/678-7946	16392 Courthouse Rd Eastville, VA 23347	ANR Agent, Northampton County
Theresa Pittman	<a href="mailto:tpittman@vt.edu">tpittman@vt.edu</a>	757/787-1361	23185 Front St Accomac, VA 23301	ANR Agent, Accomack County

*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, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, 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 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.*



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



# 2022 Vegetable and Strawberry Field Day

Eastern shore Agricultural research And extension center  
33446 Research Drive, Painter, VA 23420



**Wednesday, June 22, 2022;  
8:30 am until 5:00 pm**

We will bring together researchers, growers, students, and industry to cultivate ideas and share the latest technology relating to vegetable and strawberry production.



- *Registration at 8 am*
- Tomato tour
- Strawberry tour
- Green tea stop
- *Lunch at 12 pm*
- Potato tour
- Cucurbit tour
- *Student poster competition (3 pm)*
- *Reception (food and drinks)*

**RSVP here:**

<https://forms.gle/VTY5vYRG1mnmK5F68>



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



Visit us online: <https://www.ares.vaes.vt.edu/ares/eastern-shore.html>

## 2022 EASTERN SHORE Household Water Quality Clinic

*Does your water come from a well, spring, or cistern?*

*Do you want to learn more about the quality of your water and how to care for your water system?*

### How does it work?

1. Pick up a sample kit from your local County Extension office and get instructions on how to collect your household water sample.
2. Collect a sample from your tap at home and complete a short questionnaire.
3. Drop off sample at your local County Extension office.
4. About 4 weeks later, receive your confidential test results, an explanation of what the numbers mean, and information about how to handle any problems that are present. For more information, visit: <http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/clinics.php>



### What does the water test include?

**Limited kits available • sign up today!!!**

Iron	Manganese	Sulfate	Hardness	pH	Total Dissolved Solids	Fluoride
Sodium	Copper	Nitrate	Arsenic	Lead	<i>E. coli</i> bacteria	Coliform bacteria

### How much does it cost?

Scholarships are available from a partnership with SERCAP through the Eastern Shore Water Quality Improvement Project grant (Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Program). Sample kits are \$60 each or with scholarship, \$10 each, limit one \$10 kit per household.

**Registration is required** – Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-EasternShore-VAHWQP>, to pre-pay for your sample kit with a credit card. A registration receipt will be required for pick-up of your sample kit on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to purchase your sample kit via check, please visit your local Extension Office.

	Date	Location (Accomack County)	Location (Northampton County)
<b>Pick up sample kit</b>	<b>June 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Accomack Cooperative Extension</b> 23185 Front St Accomac, VA 23301 <b>12:00pm – 5:00pm</b>	<b>Northampton Cooperative Extension</b> 16392 Courthouse Rd Eastville, VA 23347 <b>8:00am – 4:30pm</b>
<b>Instructions for Sampling</b>	<b>View on your own</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2wqzuzvbK4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2wqzuzvbK4</a>	
<b>Drop off samples</b>	<b>June 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Accomack Cooperative Extension</b> 23185 Front St Accomac, VA 23301 <b>8:30am – 4:00pm</b>	<b>Northampton Cooperative Extension</b> 16392 Courthouse Rd Eastville, VA 23347 <b>8:00am – 4:30pm</b>
<b>Receive Results via mail/email</b>	<b>July 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>

**Contact: Amanda Hurley [amandalh@vt.edu](mailto:amandalh@vt.edu) /757-678-7946**

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Amanda Hurley at 757-678-7946 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.

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# Computer Science & S.T.E.M. Day Camp



July 11–14, 2022

1:00pm – 5:00pm

Eastern Shore Community College

For youth ages 8–13

Cost \$10.00

Register online: [v2.4honline.com](http://v2.4honline.com)

Campers will explore Computer Science through both unplugged and plugged-in activities and experiences. Instructors from A & N Electric Cooperative, NASA and Accomack County Public Schools will teach campers the basics of coding, computational and creative thinking skills, circuits and electricity, use Scratch, learn about drones and how to fly them and much more!

For more information please contact: Marcus Riley, 4-H Youth Development Agent for Accomack County at 757-787-1361 ext. 16 or Erin Morgan, 4-H Youth Development Agent for Northampton County at 757-678-7946 ext. 15.



*If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Marcus Riley at 757-787-1361 ext. 16 during business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations upon registration.*



[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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# Suffolk/Greensville- Emporia/Accomack/ Northampton 4-H Camp



For All Youth, Ages 9-13  
(As of September 30, 2022)

**July 18 - 22, 2022**

Airfield Southeast 4-H  
Educational Center  
Wakefield, VA



4-H camp is a week-long residential camp held at the Airfield 4-H Center in Wakefield, VA. 4-H camp is a fun opportunity for youth to learn skills through hands-on experiences. The camping program helps youth build self-esteem and challenges them to be innovative and creative. Campers have the opportunity to participate in exciting classes, with many options to choose from: arts and crafts, canoeing, riflery, archery, robotics, swimming and theater arts, just to name a few. There are also swim and recreation times, special evening events, songs, games and more!

**Regular Registration: \$385**

**Scholarships may be available, please contact  
the Extension Office for details.**

Thanks to our generous donors:



Fees & registration are due by July 1.

Find the [Brochure & Registration form](#)  
on the Northampton County VCE  
website:

<https://northampton.ext.vt.edu/>

**Erin Morgan, Extension Agent**  
**Northampton County**  
4-H Youth Development  
[emorgan2@vt.edu](mailto:emorgan2@vt.edu)  
757-678-7946 x15

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