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"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

—Charles Dickens



From The Director

Time is flying by and we are progressing with spring field research! We are nearly finished planting potatoes at the station and look forward to seeing results of several trials designed to screen new potato varieties, investigate alternative insecticide and herbicide treatments, evaluate the effectiveness of soil fertilizer additives, and impacts of adding cover crops into the potato system.

We are making strides in the interview process for our vacant plant pathology faculty position and weed science research associate position. We'll provide more information soon on both of these positions.

We hope to see everyone at "Corn Specialists Day" on March 31, 2022 at the Eastern Shore AREC and hope some of you will venture over to the Virginia Agriculture and Natural Resources Summit on April 12-13, 2022 in Richmond, VA.

Make sure you read through this newsletter to find out more about both of these great events. As always, let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,

— *Mark*



Potato Planting at the ESAREC



Agents Corner

Spring is here and growers are starting to get in the field after a long winter. Potato planting is nearly complete and in just a few short months those potatoes will be ready to harvest! Also, our winter wheat crop is growing nicely and has really greened up this month. Soon we will begin side-dressing the wheat and it will start to jump in height.



The commercial pesticide recertification held at the Eastern Shore AREC on March 2nd was a success! We recertified 32 commercial applicators from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, VDOT, and local landscaping businesses. We are really appreciative of our speakers – Dr. Alejandro Del-Pozo, Mr. Adam Nichols, and Mr. Rodney Knight traveling over to the Eastern Shore to support this recertification opportunity.

Feedback received from the Eastern Shore Ag Conference indicated that agricultural growers would like to receive more information regarding corn production. In response to that request, we are offering a **“Corn Specialist Day” at the Eastern Shore AREC on Thursday, March 31st**. Specialists will discuss fertility needs, irrigation timing, weed management for corn, disease considerations and insect concerns for 2022. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more details!

“Agritourism” is a buzz word around the state. For a rural area like the Eastern Shore it is a good way for agriculture and tourism to work together. Virginia Cooperative Extension is partnering with the ESVA Chamber to host an **Agritourism Summit on April 13th**. This workshop will be for small farmers interested in agritourism opportunities, and businesses looking to incorporate agritourism into their businesses.

Coming back for the **summer of 2022 is Homeowner Well Water Testing!!** In late June, we are partnering with SERCAP to offer this service at a reduced cost to participants. Be on the lookout for program details in the coming months. Please spread the word and plan to get your well water tested!

Wanda & Theresa



Commercial Pesticide Recertification Class March 2, 2022

4-H Embryology



Northampton 4-H is Eggs-pecting!

EGGS SET IN MARCH AT CAPE
CHARLES CHRISTIAN, THE
MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S HOUSE,
AND OCCOHANNOCK

Baby Chicks arriving first of April!

*A Special Thanks to Lauren Seltzer of Triple S Farms for continually providing fertilized
eggs to the Northampton County 4H Embryology Program*



“When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.”

— Helen Keller

“Butterflies are like women – we may look pretty and delicate, but baby, we can fly through a hurricane.”

— Betty White

March celebrates Women’s History Month and has been designated as such since the 1980’s.

A few facts about women’s history in Virginia:

- ◆ Laura Lu Scherer Copenhaver (1868 -1940) of Smyth County Virginia was the director of information for the Marion-based Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and developed strategies to help improve the standard of living for farm families by marketing farm products to boost the agricultural economy. Copenhaver began Rosemont Textiles out of her home, hiring women to produce linens from local wool and incorporate traditional design. Rosemont Textiles was incorpo-



rated into Laura Copenhaver Industries, Inc. and still operates today.

- ◆ Henrietta Lacks, born in 1920, was a black tobacco farmer in Clover, Virginia who helped provide (unknowingly at the time) the most important tools in medicine—her cells. This was a breakthrough for cancer research and developing the polio vaccine, but unfortunately her cells were taken without her consent in 1951 when she was diagnosed with terminal cervical cancer. The code name used for her cells is HeLa and those cells are still cultured today. Further reading: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

Did you know? Approximately 36% of Virginia’s farmers are women.

For resources, visit Virginia Women in Agriculture Network <https://www.facebook.com/vawomeninagnetwork/posts/>

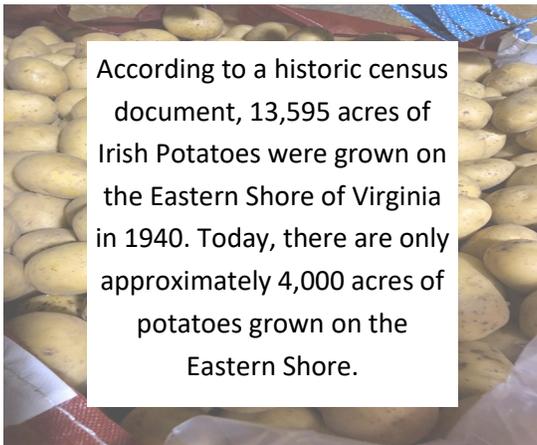
Read Governor Youngkin’s [Women’s History Month Proclamation](#).

National Ag Day

- National Ag Day is celebrated on March 22, 2022 during National Ag Week. It recognizes the importance of agriculture in modern society
- Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom holds its Agriculture Literacy Week March 14-18
- Farmers on the Accomack and Northampton County Farm Bureau boards will be reading to 2nd graders in schools throughout Northampton & Accomack Counties



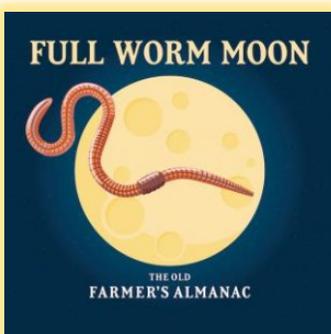
St. Patrick's Day: The Irish Potato



According to a historic census document, 13,595 acres of Irish Potatoes were grown on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1940. Today, there are only approximately 4,000 acres of potatoes grown on the Eastern Shore.



Moon of the Month



The full worm moon occurs on March 18th and is thought to have been named as such due to spring's warming temperatures causing earthworms to emerge. However, 18th century explorer Jonathan Carver wrote that it refers to beetle larvae, which start to emerge from the bark of trees. It is also referred to as the Lenten Moon.

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.

JOIN US!

2022 VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMIT: FARM, FORESTRY, FOOD, AND FIBER OF THE FUTURE

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022
RICHMOND MARRIOTT | SHORT PUMP

Expanding the economy and security of Virginia's agriculture, natural resources, and food systems

YOU ARE INVITED: Virginia Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Summit

DATE: April 12-13, 2022 in Richmond, Virginia.

WHY YOU? Your involvement and leadership in the key sectors of agriculture, forestry, natural resources are influential. These sectors are all critically intertwined across the Commonwealth and influence every person in the Commonwealth. Your voice is important. We recognize that this initiative will only be successful with active support and participation of our private sector, producers, and agricultural and natural resources organizations. We encourage you or a designee from your organization to participate in this important conference.

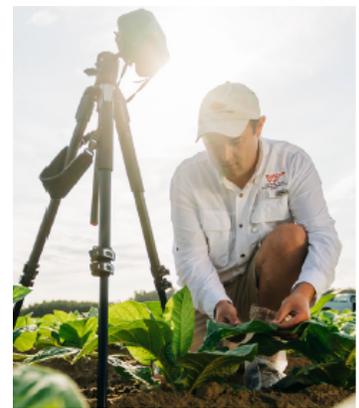
PURPOSE: As the largest industries in Virginia, agriculture and forestry, combined with natural resources, do collective good across the state, providing economic contribution, supporting workforce and engaging in research. As a participant, you will discuss and envision opportunities for enhancing partnerships between Virginia Tech and the private agricultural, forestry and natural resources industries, producers, and commodity groups.

WHAT? Through interactive sessions, networking events, and small breakouts, you can help identify opportunities for dynamic engagement in private-public partnerships to ensure that Virginia's ANR industries continue to prosper. As leaders from the agriculture, forestry, and natural resource sectors, you will gain perspective on Virginia Tech's expertise and potential for enhancing partnerships. Your ideas will help shape a future for Virginia Tech's ANR research and extension programs that will yield benefits for your enterprise.

HOSTS: The Summit is hosted by Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment, and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

ACCOMMODATIONS: We have set aside a block of rooms for conference attendees at the Richmond Marriott Short Pump, located at 4240 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Reservations must be made no later than March 15.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING? Click here to review sponsorship opportunities and register.



**CLICK HERE OR SCAN FOR
EVENT DETAILS**

YOU'RE INVITED TO

CORN SPECIALIST DAY

9:30am - Corn Fertility with Dr. Mark Reiter
10:00 - Irrigation for Big Yields with Dr. Julie Shortridge
10:30 - Weed Management for Corn with Dr. ViJay Singh
11:00 - Disease Considerations with Dr. David Langston
11:30 - Insect Concerns with Dr. Sally Taylor
Noon - Lunch

DATE: MARCH 31, 2022

LOCATION: ES AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER (ESAREC)

TIME: 9:30 AM - NOON

TO RSVP, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY AGENT

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

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



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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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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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.

