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Introducing "What's That Bug?"

The Entomology Department at the Eastern Shore AREC invites you to participate in their new program, "What's That Bug?". Each month a new insect needs your correct identification. Email responses to hdoughty@vt.edu for your chance to win a prize! Below is January's pest. Good luck! (Quick tip, you can also email H el ene pictures of your pests to ID!)



From The Director

Welcome to 2021! We are optimistic as we progress through the new year with planning upcoming research activities, continuing data analysis from the 2020 growing season, and continue extension outreach.

Let us know of any questions you have in particular as you plan your 2021 growing season. Don't forget to continue taking soil samples and making lime and fertilizer plans.

Please contact us or your local extension office if you need soil testing boxes. Also, please join us during the virtual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show that will go live on January 27, 2021. The virtual Ag Conference can be found on the Eastern Shore AREC YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLldHHn24T22mSj7OGG6vbZfKE8sG6blyq)

[list=PLldHHn24T22mSj7OGG6vbZfKE8sG6blyq](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLldHHn24T22mSj7OGG6vbZfKE8sG6blyq)

— Mark



Agents Corner

Happy New Year from Virginia Cooperative Extension! We are hard at work on our annual reports and the virtual Ag Conference for 2021. We plan to hold the Eastern Shore Ag Conference virtually in a similar format to that of the ESAREC Virtual Field Day 2020. Educational videos from Specialists across the state will be posted on YouTube beginning January 27, 2021 and we will share more information with producers and local agribusinesses as we get closer to the day. If you are not receiving emails from your local County Agent, please contact either of us and we will update your contact information.



Ursula & Theresa

*****PLEASE COMPLETE THE Voluntary BMP Survey*****

Virginia is in the final phase (III) of the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and we need your help to improve the TMDL Bay Model. The Chesapeake Bay Farm Voluntary Ag BMP Survey will help Virginia tell the story of what farmers are doing to conserve soil and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay region. This is incredibly important information that can help agriculture achieve its water quality goals. The data collected from this survey will be entered in the Bay model and give government officials and legislators a better representation of what Eastern Shore growers are doing to protect the bay. We hope you will consider participating in this survey as it will help regulators to determine what is actually happening on the ground. The survey is live right now and should take about 20 minutes for you to fill out if you have the proper documentation with you. Paper copies of the survey can be picked up at your local Extension office. For more information about the survey, including answers to frequently asked questions as well as the survey link, please visit <https://vaswcd.org/virginia-farm-voluntary-agricultural-bmp-inventory>. This survey is confidential and your specific data will not be singled out nor shared, it will be compiled with others from your county to create a bigger picture. This is a joint effort between Virginia Cooperative Extension, Department of Conservation Recreation, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Farm Bureau, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

If you need recertification credits for 2021 – contact us NOW! Private pesticide recertification will be offered virtually for the foreseeable future through the Virginia Tech Canvas platform. If you would like to participate, please contact Ursula or Theresa.

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

We 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, potato and strawberry video. We are currently working on a video about conservation on the Shore. If you have any ideas on topics for the community – let us know!

CONTACT US:

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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.



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