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

# The Stalk



VOLUME II ISSUE VII

JULY 2021

## Field Day Updates From the Director

**W**e look forward to seeing everyone at our Summer Research Field Day on July 21, 2021 in Painter, VA. Please check out the tentative program on Page 4 with interactive stops that highlight our fresh market tomato, potato, corn, soybean, cover crop, high tunnel, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other applied research programs ongoing here at the Eastern Shore AREC! Make sure you come out, visit with Sponsors and meet with our new faculty, staff, and graduate students. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday! – *Mark*

## Assistant Farm Manager Hired!



**A**ndrew Fletcher moved to Madison, Virginia in 2013 from San Diego, California to work in the Virginia wine industry, making wine and tending grapevines. Though he enjoyed working with wine, he wanted to branch out to other areas in the agricultural sector. In 2019, he transferred into Virginia Tech to study Agricultural Business and Economics in the hopes of helping Virginia farmers realize the full financial and agronomic potential of their operations. Andrew enjoys kayaking, sailing, fishing, and skiing in his off time. Andrew is looking forward to being a part of the Eastern Shore AREC team and helping Virginia Farmers create longevity in their operations.

# Agents Corner

## 2022 Eastern Shore Ag Conference:

After having to host the 2021 Eastern Shore Ag Conference virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are excited to announce that the 2022 Eastern Shore Ag Conference will be held on January 26th & 27th 2022 at the Eastern Shore Community College. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!!

## Insect Update:

Both Northampton and Accomack County growers receive insect reports weekly on insect pressure from their county extension agent. Corn Earworm numbers throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties are up and we recommend scouting in both counties. This can be attributed to the warm winter, and the hot dry conditions we have been experiencing. Corn Earworm can cause a negative economic impact to your sweet corn and soybean crops, therefore scouting and a potential spray may be warranted. Field corn plays a critical role with this pest because it is where second generation larvae, which infests corn ears, builds up population abundances. Late-planted or double-cropped soybeans are most vulnerable to attack by corn earworm. Infestations during peak flowering to early pod fill stages can delay seed production and lower yields. Please continue to scout your crop and if you have any questions contact either Theresa Pittman (Accomack) or Ursula Deitch (Northampton).



*Ursula & Theresa*

## Administrative Update:

Just a reminder summers are a really busy time of year for the both of us (Theresa & Ursula) due to diagnostic field visits, bug traps, and trials. If you need to speak to us please schedule an appointment to ensure that we are at the office and available. We are both readily available during office hours via email and cell phone.



Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension

## Now Hiring!

We are now accepting applications for the position of Research Specialist Sr. to support the Weed Science Program. Successful candidate will conduct weed science research leading to efficient and effective weed control in grain, oilseed, fiber, and vegetable crops for the farmers of Virginia. Assisting faculty, staff, and stakeholders with the SmartFarm initiative through Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech that involve unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and robots.

To view the complete job description and apply online, click [here](#) or visit <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/516753/research-specialist-sr>



WHAT'S THAT BUG?

The Entomology Department at the Eastern Shore AREC invites you enter June's "What's That Bug?" contest. Email responses to [hdoughty@vt.edu](mailto:hdoughty@vt.edu) for your chance to win a prize!

\*Quick tip, you can also email Hélène pictures of your field or garden pests to identify!



Did you guess a Potato Leafhopper? Click [here](#) to learn more!



## Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center

33446 Research Dr.

Painter, VA 23420

Phone: 757-807-6586

<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 & 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, 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
Emmanuel Torres	<a href="mailto:etorres@vt.edu">etorres@vt.edu</a>		352/682-0708	Associate Professor, Horticulture
Lorena Lopez	<a href="mailto:lorellopezq257@vt.edu">lorellopezq257@vt.edu</a>		954/529-9042	Postdoctoral Associate, Entomology

  

ESAREC 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
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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 Road Eastville, VA 23347	ANR Agent, Northampton County
Theresa Pittman	<a href="mailto:tpittman@vt.edu">tpittman@vt.edu</a>	757/787-1361	23185 Front Street Accomac, VA 23301	ANR Agent, Accomack County

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



# 2021 Eastern Shore AREC Interactive Research Field Day



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER  
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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES  
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INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

33446 Research Drive  
Painter, VA 23420  
(Phone) 757.807.6586

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

**July 21, 2021  
8:30 am until 1:00 pm**

## **SCHEDULE OF INTERACTIVE EVENTS**

**8:30 am:** *Registration at new shed*

**9:00 am:** *Welcome and introductory remarks* – Mark Reiter (mreiter@vt.edu)

*Virginia Tech update* – Susan Duncan (duncans@vt.edu)

*Demo for Unmanned Aerial Systems: Weed detection and herbicide applications* – Vijay Singh, Dhiraj Srivastava & William Reynolds (v.singh@vt.edu)

*Precision agriculture tools for irrigation and mite management in tomato* – Lorena Lopez, Emmanuel Torres, Tom Kuhar & Mark Reiter (lorelopezq257@vt.edu)

**9:30 am: Maroon Wagon Vegetable Track (plasticulture, tomato, potato, edamame)**

*Heat stress mitigation for open field tomatoes* – Emmanuel Torres & Joy Zuchel (etorres@vt.edu)

*Plant density selection for tomatoes under high tunnels* – Emmanuel Torres & Joy Zuchel (etorres@vt.edu)

*Introduction to anaerobic soil disinfestation* - Jose Garcia-Gonzalez, Steve Rideout, Mark Reiter & Laura Strawn (josefg1@vt.edu)

*Edamame nitrogen management* – Keren Brooks, Bo Zhang, John Mason & Mark Reiter (kerend@vt.edu)

*Corn earworm pyrethroid resistance and control options for crops such as edamame and snap beans* – Kemper Sutton & Tom Kuhar (klsutton@vt.edu)

*Monitoring wireworm adults with pheromone traps* – Hélène Doughty & Tom Kuhar

*Battling wireworms with killer fungi* – Mika Pagani & Tom Kuhar

**9:30 am: Orange Wagon Grain and Oilseed Track (corn, soybean, cover crops)**

*Are neonicotinoid seed treatments needed on Bt corn in Virginia?* – Kyle Bekelja & Tom Kuhar (kbekelja@vt.edu)

*Soybean sulfur and nitrogen fertility and troubleshooting using plant tissue* – Keren Brooks, John Mason & Mark Reiter (kerend@vt.edu)

*Cover crop impacts on corn yield* – Joseph Haymaker, Mark Reiter, John Mason, Jenny Templeton & Cris Lawrence (jrhaymaker@vt.edu)

*Cover crop management and volunteer plant control in corn* – Vijay Singh, Vipin Kumar, Mark Reiter & Michael Flessner (v.singh@vt.edu)

*Herbicide symptomology and efficacy – How to detect herbicide injury and control weeds* – Vijay Singh & Vipin Kumar (v.singh@vt.edu)

*Soybean varieties for Eastern Shore growers* – David Holshouser (dholshou@vt.edu)

**11:15 am: Return to Shed (everyone together)**

*Virginia Cooperative Extension update* – Dan Goerlich (dalego@vt.edu)

*Virginia Cooperative Extension Eastern Shore update* – Ursula Deitch & Theresa Pittman (utankard@vt.edu and tmjlong@vt.edu)

*Find the Federal money: USDA-NRCS cost-share programs* – Jenny Templeton (jennifer.templeton@usda.gov)

*Find the State money: Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District cost-share programs* – Carmie Savage (carmie.savage@esswcd.org)

**12:00 pm: Please Visit Our Sponsors. Thank you!**

- *Smith Agronomic*
- *Nichino*
- *AgBiTech*
- *MidAtlantic Farm Credit*
- *Delmarva Two-Way Radio*
- *Virginia Soybean Association*
- *Nutrien*

**Lunch** – Enjoy a low contact and socially distanced lunch catered by Exmore Diner.

**1:00 pm: Visit with speakers of other track**

**Visit Us Online:**

**Eastern Shore AREC:**

<http://www.facebook.com/ESAREC>

**Entomology:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ESARECEntomology>

**Horticulture:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ESHortLab>

## **Soils/Nutrient Management:**

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternShore.Soils>

## ***The Stalk* newsletter:**

[https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore/articles\\_and\\_publications.html](https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore/articles_and_publications.html)

# **Personnel & Programs**

## **Administration**

Dr. Alan Grant	Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dr. Saied Mostaghimi	Associate Dean and Director, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station
Dr. Susan Duncan	Associate Director, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station
Dr. Edwin Jones	Associate Dean and Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Dr. Daniel Goerlich	Associate Director, Ag & Natural Resources, Virginia Cooperative Extension

## **Soils/Nutrient Management Program**

Dr. Mark Reiter	Professor/Director
John Mason	Research Specialist Sr.
Thomas Badon	Ph.D. Student
Keren Brooks	Ph.D. Student
Joseph Haymaker	Ph.D. Student
Sarah Harrison	OMALS Student
Leslie Anne Hinton	OMALS Student
Anne Mason	Summer Research Assistant
Ellie Mason	Summer Research Assistant
Gillian Travis	Summer Research Assistant

## **Weed Science Program**

Dr. Vijay Singh	Assistant Professor
Vipin Kumar	M.S. Student
Dhiraj Srivastava	M.S. Student
Milton Sturgis	Research Assistant

## **Horticulture Program**

Dr. Emmanuel Torres	Assistant Professor
Joyce Zuchel	Research Specialist Sr.
Darcie Badon	Summer Research Assistant

## **Entomology Program**

Dr. Tom Kuhar	Professor
Dr. Lorena Lopez	Postdoctoral Associate
Hélène Doughty	Research Specialist Sr.
Sean Boyle	Ph.D. Student
Kadie Britt	Ph.D. Student
Kemper Sutton	Ph.D. Student
Mika Pagani	Ph.D. Student
Jim Jenerette	Research Assistant
Mary Morse	Summer Research Assistant
Chloe Doughty	Summer Research Assistant

**ESAREC Support Staff**

Tommy Custis	Agricultural Farm Manager
Andrew Fletcher	Assistant Farm Manager
Lauren Seltzer	Executive Secretary Sr.
James Warren	Agricultural Supervisor
Jose Garcia-Gonzalez	Summer Research Assistant
Sawyer Coulbourne	Summer Research Assistant
James Burrus	Custodian

**Local County VCE Agriculture & Natural Resources Agents**

Ursula Deitch	ANR Extension Agent, Northampton County
Theresa Pittman	ANR Extension Agent, Accomack County

**Other Virginia Tech Cooperators**

Michael Flessner	Associate Professor and Weed Scientist, SPES
David Holshouser	Professor and Soybean Agronomist, Tidewater AREC
Steve Rideout	Professor and Plant Pathologist, SPES
Laura Strawn	Associate Professor and Food Safety, FST
Bo Zhang	Assistant Professor and Soybean Breeder, SPES



# NICHINO



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