

The Stalk

Accomack & Northampton County Cooperative Extension
Eastern Shore Agricultural Research & Extension Center

25th Annual Accomack County Farm Tour Day

For the last twenty-five years, Farm Tour Day has been hosted by Duncan Farms and sponsored by Accomack County Farm Bureau in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and area agribusinesses. The objective of Farm Tour Day is to educate children and adults about agriculture in Accomack County and the Commonwealth. Those attending will learn how a modern commercial farm works by rotating through 19 learning stations demonstrating agricultural subjects such as farm equipment, soils, drones, aquaculture, soybeans, trees and forestry, entomology, life cycle of baby chicks and more.

This year, we hosted over 400 children and chaperones. In many cases, this will be the only opportunity a student will have to see and learn about production agriculture. Farm Tour Day is a non-profit event and much of the work is done by volunteers and other agency cooperating partners.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

M.S. student Mary Michael Zahed demonstrates the benefits of no-till agriculture



This Issue:

Accomack County
Farm Tour Day
[Page 1](#)

Agent's Corner
[Page 2](#)

Farm Tour Day Pictures
[Page 3](#)

Updates from the ESAREC
Director
[Page 4 & 5](#)

4-H News & Updates
[Page 6](#)

Announcements
[Page 7](#)





25th Annual Accomack County Farm Tour Day cont...

I would like express my heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and generous financial supporters who have played a critical role in making this day an outstanding success for the past 25 years. Your unwavering commitment and hard work have been instrumental in continuing the vital mission of educating our children about the essential world of production agriculture.

Through your efforts, you've helped bridge the gap between our community and the agricultural industry, fostering a deeper appreciation for the vital role farming plays in our lives. Thank you for your tireless dedication to this important cause, and for sowing the seeds of knowledge in our future generations. Your contributions are truly invaluable.

Join us in thanking W. T. Holland and Sons, Mountaire Farms, Scott Insurance, Loblolly Farms, Keen Consulting, Hooper, Shore United Bank, Mills Bros Farm, Tyson Foods, Horsey Poultry Farm, Dublin Farms and Atlantic Tractor for their financial support.

THANK YOU to Chorman Aerial, Revell Farms, Tyson Foods, VIMS - Wachapreague, Oyster Seed Holdings, Inc., Accomack County Farm Bureau Board, Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA-NRCS, Virginia Department of Forestry, Middlesex and Northampton County Virginia Cooperative Extension, Accomack County Emergency Services, Eastern Shore AREC - Virginia Tech, Virginia Soybean Association, Virginia Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners and Accomack County 4-H Ambassador, Sophia Gallivan for their dedication to educating each group of children at their booths.

Thank you

Most importantly, a huge thank you to Duncan Farms and the Holland Family for allowing their farm to be taken over during harvest season in order to give these students an true "on-farm" experience.



Soil Science grad students from the ESAREC discuss drones and how we use them as a resource in agriculture on the ESVA



Thanks to Accomack County Emergency Services for their demonstration of fire safety in their smokehouse

Accomack County Farm Tour Day Duncan Farms September 19th, 2023



Tyson Food has always the most popular booth with baby chicks for children to hold



The Soybean Association was on hand to talk soybeans



One of the biggest highlights for the participants was a plane flyover by Chorman Aerial.



Participants were so excited to be able to love on a new baby calf and talk about milk



Thanks to Dr. Dick Snyder from VIMS who took on teaching about the aquaculture part of our industry



Dr. Gutter, Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension visits the Eastern Shore

In early September we had several visitors to the Eastern Shore from Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to meet with faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders to better understand what our locality needs to succeed. Dr. Mike Gutter, Associate Dean and Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), Ms. Janet Spencer, Southeast District Director, and Ms. Nicole Martin, VCE Coordinator joined us for two days in Accomack and Northampton Counties.

Dr. Gutter joined VCE on November 1, 2022 and is making rounds around the Commonwealth to meet stakeholders and ask how we can better engage to provide science-based information for the agricultural industry. Thank you to all the farmers that shared your time and insights. The team also visited the Eastern Shore AREC to tour research plots and learn more about applied research programs that aim to increase efficiency, quality, and overall value of our farming systems.

To learn more about Dr. Gutter's vision for VCE, please visit: <https://ext.vt.edu/about/admin-team/mike-gutter.html>



Lynn Gayle, local farmer, meeting with Dr. Gutter, Nicole Martin, and Theresa Pittman as they discuss grain farming on the Eastern Shore.



Nicole Martin and Dr. Gutter learning about the ES clam industry with Steve Sturgis, local farmer, and Bubba Frisby with Cherrystone Aqua Farms.

34th Annual

January 24 & 25, 2024
Exmore Moose Lodge, Belle Haven, VA

EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Vendor Applications Now Open!
Head over to **THIS LINK** or check out the application at the end of The Stalk to apply.



New Hire: Agricultural Farm Manager

We would like to welcome Mr. Andrew Fletcher into his new role as Agricultural Farm Manager at the Eastern Shore AREC. The farm manager position is pivotal to ensuring that research projects are implemented in a scientific and realistic way to best represent our agricultural farming systems in Virginia. Duties include maintenance of equipment and facilities, land scheduling and upkeep, research plot implementation, and managing day to day farm operations. Andrew has served as interim farm manager since Tommy Custis retired in March 2023 and has worked within our unit since July 2021 as Assistant Farm Manager. Andrew has an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration from Piedmont Community College and a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural and Business Economics from Virginia Tech. Mr. Fletcher has worked in a variety of agricultural settings that includes vineyards, hogs, forages, and other specialty crops. Andrew's favorite interests include mechanic work, welding, learning more about innovative technologies that can be used with the agricultural sector, and killing weeds (especially yellow nutsedge!). Welcome (to your new role) Andrew!



Dean Alan Grant to Retire from Virginia Tech



Dean Alan Grant has announced that he will retire from Virginia Tech in fall 2024. Dean Grant has served as in his current role for the Collage of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) since 2009 and has spent over 44 years serving stakeholders at four different land-grant universities. Locally, we appreciate the efforts and support that Alan has championed over the years to increase funding and to update facilities and equipment to better serve stakeholders across the Commonwealth. Alan will continue in his current role as a search is initiated to find a replacement.

More information on the impact Dean Grant has made to Virginia Tech and CALS can be found at: <https://news.vt.edu/articles/2023/09/cals-deangrant-retirement.html>

WHAT'S THAT BUG?

Hélène Doughty, Research Specialist Sr., invites you to test your entomology knowledge. Take a guess on the pest and email her your answer! hdoughty@vt.edu



September's Answer: a green stink bug nymph and a Southern green stink bug nymph. The green stink bug nymph is recognizable by lateral dark grey stripes on its body while the Southern green stink bug nymph has 2 rows of white spots on the center of its abdomen and 2 rows of white or pink spots on the outer edge of its body. Colorations of these nymphs may vary with variations in green and black. Earlier instars (stages) of Southern stink bug nymphs can appear mostly black with white spots. Adults are not differentiable without examining their stink glands up close



Eastern Shore Shooting Education Club Participates in the 4-H State Shoot

The Eastern Shore Shooting Education Club competed in the 4-H State Shoot the weekend of September 8-10, 2023 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA. Twelve members of the club participated in Instinctive Archery, Compound Archery, Air Rifle three position, 22 Rifle, Air Rifle Silhouette, Air Pistol Silhouette, Air Pistol PPP (Progressive Position Pistol), BB gun, Target Sprint, and Public Speaking. Olivia Rinaldo took home first place in the senior public speaking contest.

Connor Maynard won third overall in the male's junior target sprint and Abby Cobb won third overall in the female's junior target sprint. Caleb Dail took third overall in Air Pistol Silhouette. Olivia Rinaldo was also selected as a 4-H Ambassador for the state of Virginia and will serve a two-year term.



The club members will participate in Exmore's 2nd Annual Fall Festival on September 30 at 10:00. They will have a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and other fundraising opportunities. The club uses the money raised to send members to competitions and summer camps. Please stop by and say hello.



The club consists of kids from across the Eastern Shore who strive to learn how to effectively and safely use firearms, grow further in their leadership abilities and discover ways to better serve their community.

For further information about the club, please contact Erin Morgan with Northampton 4-H at esill@vt.edu or 757-678-7946, ext. 15.



2nd Annual Northampton County Farm Tour Day

On September 20, 2023 in cooperation with the Northampton County Farm Bureau Board, the Northampton Farm Tour was implemented to provide third grade students an on-farm agricultural experience. This event was held at Shore Breeze Farms in Cheriton, VA for public, and private school students in Northampton County. At the event, there were 10 agriculturally based booths that students rotated through to learn the importance of agriculture and its impact in our community. Approximately 115 students were educated during the Northampton Farm Tour.

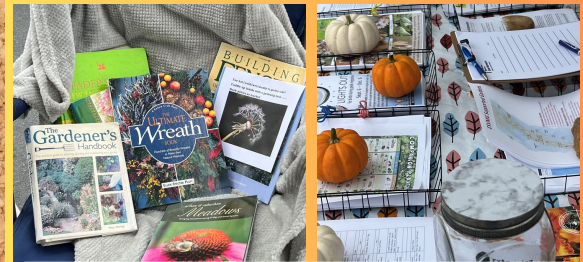




Eastern Shore Master Gardeners Participate in the Exmore Fall Festival



Phil Goetkin, ESMG Past President, hands out cuttings and "how-to" information to EFF goers



ESMG had gardening information available as well as books, pots and cuttings for sale



The Exmore Fall Festival was a good opportunity to educate the public on fall planting dates and for members to network

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



Please help Northampton County Cooperative Extension by completing this survey to help us understand community needs for local Extension programming!

Use the link or QR code:
bit.ly/northamptonSA



Your participation is much appreciated and your responses will help us understand critical community issues and prioritize educational programs for Northampton County residents.



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.



Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School November 14-16, 2023 Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort, Ocean City, MD

The Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School, a joint effort of land-grant universities in the Mid-Atlantic region, offers a 2 ½-day in person format with a variety of breakout sessions designed to offer continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) and pesticide recertification credits for DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV. Individuals needing training in soil and water, nutrient management, crop management, and pest management can create their own schedule by choosing from 5 program options offered each hour. Emphasis is placed on new and advanced information with group discussion and interaction encouraged.

This school is designed for anyone interested in crop management issues, including: agronomists - crop consultants - extension educators - farmers & farm managers - pesticide dealers, distributors, and applicators - soil conservationists seed and agricultural company representatives - state department of agriculture personnel.

The early-bird registration fee (recommended to ensure a place in the sessions of your choice) is \$325 if received by October 13th; \$375 if received by November 6th. Registration will close on Monday, November 6th at 11:59 p.m. ET or when enrollment reaches capacity. Payment of registration fee entitles you to participation in 2½ days of sessions, materials, 3 continental breakfasts, 2 lunches, and refreshment breaks.

Presenter and registration information can be found [HERE](#)

VCE & ESAREC Contact Information

	Faculty/Staff	Title	Email	Work/Cell Phone
Northampton County Cooperative Extension 16392 Courthouse Rd PO Box 457 Eastville, VA 23347	VACANT	ANR Agent		757/678-7946
	Erin Morgan	4-H Agent	emorgan2@vt.edu	757/678-7946
	Amanda Hurley	Unit Support Staff	amandalh@vt.edu	757/678-7946
	Faculty/Staff	Title	Email	Work/Cell Phone
Accomack County Cooperative Extension 23185 Front St. PO Box 60 Accomac, VA 23301	Theresa Pittman	ANR Agent	tpittman@vt.edu	757/787-1361
	VACANT	4-H Agent		757/787-1361
	Rachel Barnes	Unit Support Staff	mrbarnes@vt.edu	757/787-1361
	Faculty/Staff	Title	Email	Work/Cell Phone
Eastern Shore Agricultural Research & Extension Center 33446 Research Dr. Painter, VA 23420 https://www.ares.vaes.vt.edu/ares/eastern-shore.html	Mark Reiter	Director/Professor, Soils & Nutrient Management	mreiter@vt.edu	W 757/807-6576 C 757/693-2556
	Vijay Singh	Assistant Professor, Weed Science	v.singh@vt.edu	W 757/807-6579 C 479/713-0094
	Emmanuel Torres	Assistant Professor, Horticulture	etorres@vt.edu	C 352/682-0708
	Doug Higgins	Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology	doughiggins@vt.edu	C 517/803-0636
	Lorena Lopez	Postdoctoral Associate, Entomology	lorelopezq257@vt.edu	C 954/529-9042
	John Mason	Research Specialist, Soils & Nutrient Management	masonje@vt.edu	W 757/807-6582
	VACANT	Research Specialist, Weed Science		W 757/807-6586
	RC Cooley	Research Specialist, Horticulture	robertc42@vt.edu	W 757/807-6583
	Calyn Adams	Research Specialist, Plant Pathology	calynadams@vt.edu	W 757/807-6586
	Hélène Doughty	Research Specialist, Entomology	hdoughty@vt.edu	W 757/807-6592 C 757/999-0780
	Andrew Fletcher	Farm Manager	alf20007@vt.edu	W 757/807-6596
	James Warren	Mechanic		W 757/807-6596
Belinda Sterling	Administrative & Office Specialist	belindas@vt.edu	W 757/807-6586	



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

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.

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.

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 Amanda Hurley at 757-678-7946* (*TDD number is (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu



October 1, 2023

Dear Agricultural Supplier, Supporter and Friend:

The 34th annual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference & Trade Show will be held on **Wednesday and Thursday, January 24th & 25th, 2024 at the Exmore Moose Lodge 683, located at 15315 Merry Cat Ln, Belle Haven, VA 23306.** We hope that you will plan to be a part of this event.

You may purchase your Eastern Shore Ag Conference booth space along with your sponsorship and oyster roast tickets on our Destiny One websites:

Sponsorship/Exhibit Space: <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-ES-AG-SPONSOR-2024>

Oyster Roast: <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-ES-AG-TICKETS-2024>

Additionally, you can still choose to return your registration form via email and we will send you an invoice for check payment.

Online registration for the 2024 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show will close on January 5th, 2024. Please try and register as soon as you are able. If you miss the deadline, we will still accept registrations/sponsorships via check or cash in the Accomack County VCE Office. Please make checks payable to VCE-Accomack and send to PO Box 60, Accomack, VA 23301. If you are mailing your payment, please be sure to include a copy of your application form or invoice.

Payments on all invoices shall be due no later than January 5th, 2024 and checks shall be made payable to VCE-Accomack. Applications received after January 5th, 2024 will be charged a \$50 late fee.

****There will be no refunds based on weather conditions****

Booth Information

Booth location will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. **Each 8'x8' booth space for exhibitors is \$300.** Booths along the outside wall will have access to electricity. Please bring your own tablecloths.

Registration application forms must be completed and submitted to Theresa Pittman, Accomack County Cooperative Extension Agent. Please email tpittman@vt.edu. We will accept mailed paper application forms; however, timeliness is crucial and booth space is limited. Please use the Moose Lodge layout map to rank your top booth preferences on your application form. Once we receive your application, you will be assigned a booth space. If your top booth choices are already taken by other vendors, efforts will be made to locate you as close as possible to your choice location.

Booth set up will be on Tuesday, January 23rd from 1:00pm to 5:00pm or Wednesday, January 24th from 7:00am to 8:30am. Booth take down will begin immediately following lunch on Thursday afternoon.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension 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, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

 **Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
www.ext.vt.edu

Sponsorships

We are continuing to offer tiered level sponsorship options for advertisement in the program booklet. These sponsorship levels are outlined on the application form and on the Destiny One website. Sponsorships will offer color logos prominently displayed in the program booklet and advertisements in the program booklet as well.

Door Prizes

We will be continuing the tradition of door prizes. Door prizes will be given out at lunch both days of the event and at the Oyster Roast on the evening of the first day. Please consider donating a door prize on behalf of your organization.

Hotel Accommodations

If you need hotel accommodations, the Holiday Inn Express and the Hampton Inn are located in Exmore, VA.

Oyster Roast

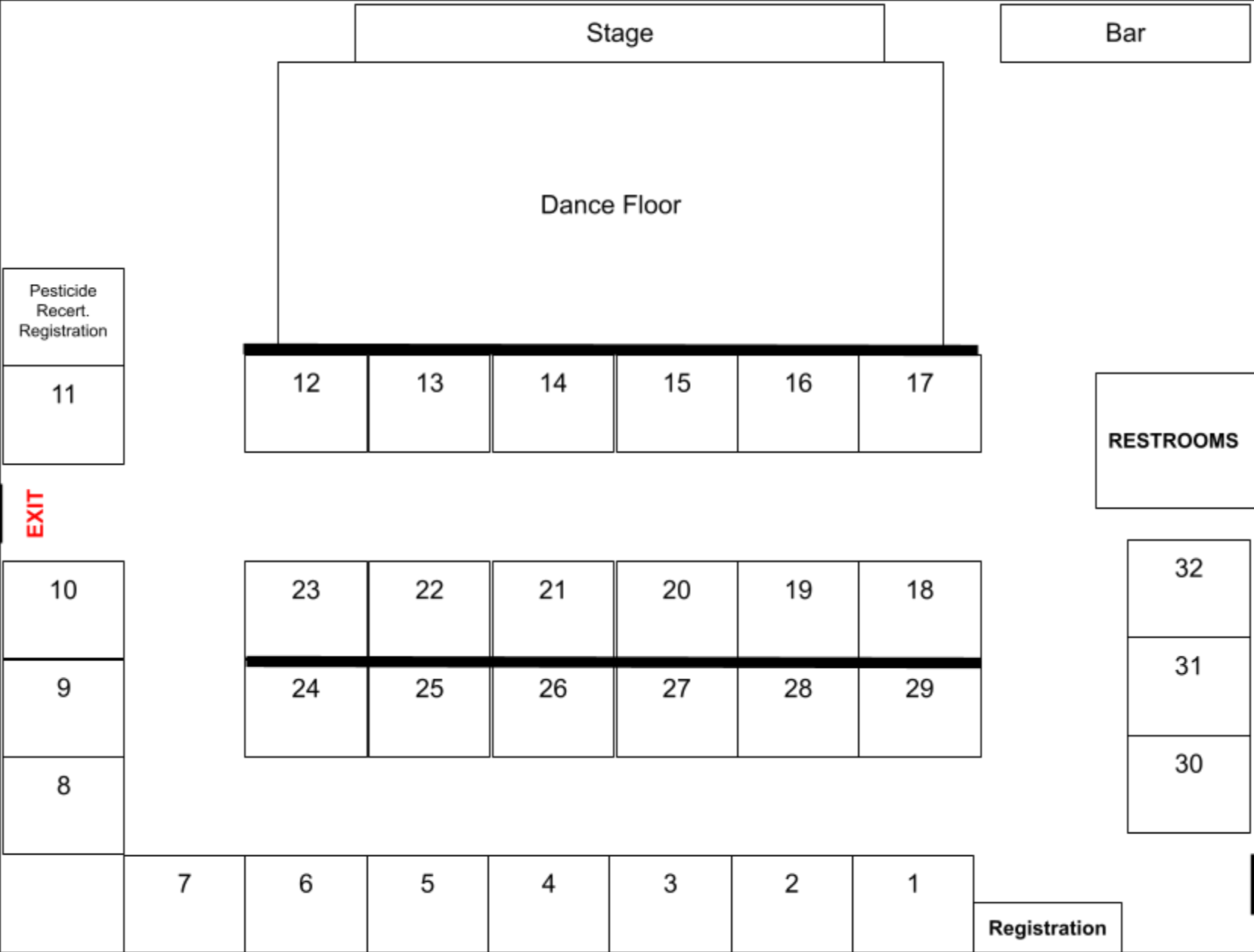
The Annual Ag Conference Oyster Roast will be hosted by the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) in Painter, VA (33446 Research Drive, Painter, VA). The event will begin at 6:00pm and the ticket cost will be \$50/person. Each ticket will include all you can eat oysters and barbeque, and include beverages (beer, soda, and water) in lieu of a cash bar. The Farm Bureau - Eastern Shore Young Farmers have graciously agreed to assist with the event again this year. Therefore, if you see a Young Farmer please be sure to thank them! Oyster Roast tickets may be purchased along with your exhibitor booth space or sponsorship, however they also may be purchased the day of the event at the conference registration table.

If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Pittman tpittman@vt.edu.

We appreciate your continued support.

2024 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference & Trade Show

Booth spaces are 8'x8'



Moose Lodge

15315 Merry Cat Ln
 Belle Haven, VA
 23306

2024 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference & Trade Show

APPLICATION FOR EXHIBIT SPACE, SPONSORSHIP, AND OYSTER ROAST TICKETS Wednesday & Thursday, January 24 & 25, 2024

Company Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contact Name _____

Sponsorship Levels			
Planter—\$150	Tractor—\$250	Sprayer—\$350	Combine—\$500
Name listed as program sponsor	Name listed as program sponsor	Name listed as program sponsor	Name listed as program sponsor
Full color logo/ad on back page of program	Full color logo/ad on back page of program	Full color logo/ad on back page of program	Full color logo/ad on back page of program
	Full color 1/4 page sized logo/ad in program	Full color 1/2 page sized logo/ad in program	Full page color logo/ad in program
		2 oyster roast tickets	2 oyster roast tickets

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Exhibit Space – See booth sizing and description on enclosed map. Please list your booth choices: _____ 1 st _____ 2 nd _____ 3 rd			\$
Sponsorship – see above	\$		\$
Oyster Roast Tickets	per person		\$
Total Due:			\$

Authorized Signature _____

Submit this application form by clicking here:

Or email to tmjlong@vt.edu

* Make checks payable to **VCE-Accomack** and mail to PO Box 60, Accomac, VA 23301

**Credit card payments may be made online through Destiny One:

Sponsorship/Exhibit Space: <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-ES-AG-SPONSOR-2024>

Oyster Roast: <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-ES-AG-TICKETS-2024>