



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Eastern Shore Ag Fair Recap](#)
- [ANRAgents Corner & 4-H News](#)
- [Message from ESAREC Director](#)
- [ES Ag Fair Photos](#)
- [Potato Varieties](#)
- [ESAREC Jobs](#)
- [Flyers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)



2022 Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair was a Success!

Approximately 1,000 adults and children made their way through the Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair on the grounds of Northampton County Parks & Rec Community Center in Machipongo on October 8th. The beautiful weather created a perfect backdrop for all kinds of great activities centered around the Eastern Shore's foundational industry: agriculture. Photography, Baking, Skillet Throwing, Potato Sack Races, Wader Races, Oyster Shucking Contests, Tractor Pulls, Line-man demonstrations and more entertained all afternoon. "The Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair was a great success. I am so pleased that the ESVA Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension was able to recognize the hard work of our agricultural and aquacultural farmers on the Eastern Shore," said ESVA Chamber Executive Director Robert Sabbatini. "It was a great opportunity for the community to come out and enjoy the event and learn more about our farmers. Many thanks to all the volunteers that made this event so successful."



We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Ag Fair volunteers and partner organizations that helped to make this Fair possible. We would especially like to thank the **Peninsula Tractor Organization** for their continued commitment to educating the general public on the Eastern Shore's rich agricultural tractor history. Other thank-you's go to **Northampton County** for continuing to support the Fair with their property usage; **Julie and David Head**, for showcasing animal agriculture with their farm animal exhibit; to **Lipman Family Farms** for providing bathroom facilities and handwashing stations; to **Angie Pfeiffer** for her horsemanship exhibit; to **Hélène Doughty, Ralph Dodd** and **Deborah Cooley** for their organization of the activities and competitions and to **Amanda Hurley** for her time, attention to details, and organization of the Fair.

ANR Agents Corner



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VCE Private Pesticide Recertification

VCE's annual **Private Pesticide Recertification** will be held on Wednesday, November 30th, 2022 at the Eastern Shore AREC. A light breakfast will be provided for attendees. Please RSVP with your local Extension Office. See the attached flyer for more details.

2023 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show

Planning has begun for the 2023 ES AG Conference on January 25th and 26th, 2023. Be on the lookout for more details as we make our way through the fall and into the first of the year.

Monica & Theresa



4-H News

This October Northampton 4-H agent, Erin Morgan, brought back Pumpkin Mania to the schools in Northampton County. This program is geared toward second grade students, providing them with a hands-on approach to learning math and science concepts. During the lesson students are assigned a pumpkin to work with. They are then asked to measure the height and circumference of the pumpkin, guess the weight of their pumpkin, then weigh their pumpkin to see how accurate their guesses were. The lesson ends with a basic science experiment of will the pumpkin sink or float. This lesson correlates to Virginia math SOLs on measuring. Approximately 125 students participated in pumpkin mania this fall.



From The Director

We have sad news to report that deeply impacts our Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES) family. Our Associate Director of VAES, Dr. Susan E. Duncan, passed away unexpectedly on October 12, 2022. Dr. Duncan was a staunch supporter of VAES and the Eastern Shore AREC throughout her tenure serving the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. Dr. Duncan was an innovator, collaborator, and warm personality that could bridge translational gaps across disciplines and between basic and applied sciences throughout the college and university as a whole. The Eastern Shore AREC team also worked closely with Dr. Duncan in her role as Professor in the Food Science and Technology department with EAT, the Edamame Advancement Team. Dr. Duncan's food sensory laboratory utilized edamame grown on the Eastern Shore to help find the most palatable and saleable variety within Virginia Tech's soybean breeding program to enhance alternative specialty crops for our growers.



Additionally, our Eastern Shore AREC team was deeply involved with Dr. Duncan via her duties as Director of the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture (CAIA). The Eastern Shore AREC weed science team, under the leadership of Dr. Duncan, highlighted their presence at an international conference in 2022: *Envisioning 2050 in the Southeast: AI driven innovations in agriculture* and secured the outstanding research award. Dr. Singh and Dhiraj Srivastava (M.S. Student) were significant contributors to CAIA activities led by Dr. Duncan and were recognized at the CAIA Big Event in 2022. Dr. Duncan was a great leader who brought together all ARECs to advance precision agriculture and smart farming operations with a vision to extend these technologies to farmers' fields. The SmartFarm Innovation Network® (<https://caia.cals.vt.edu/smartfarm.html>) is an instrumental group in facilitating research to improve agricultural efficiency and profitability by incorporating technologies into our agricultural systems.

To read more about Dr. Duncan's career at Virginia Tech and work within our AREC system, her obituary can be found at: <https://www.bowerfuneralhome.com/obituary/dr-susan-duncan-phd>. Dr. Duncan will be greatly missed.

— Mark

Dr. Sue Duncan presenting the collaborative EAT project (Edamame Advancement Team) at a field day in September 2021.



Dr. Sue Duncan with the Virginia contingency at the AI in Ag Conference. From left to right: Rebekah Miller (PhD Student in Department of Food Science and Technology), Dhiraj Srivastava (M.S. student in weed science at Eastern Shore AREC), Dr. Susan Duncan, Roja Kaveh Garna (PhD Student in Biological System Engineering Department), Feras Batarseh (Associate Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering), Vijay Singh (Extension Specialist of Weed Science at Eastern Shore AREC), Hasan Seyyedhasani (Assistant Professor of Ag-robotics in School of Plant and Environmental Sciences).

2022 Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair Oct. 8



Photo Credits: Hélène Doughty & Caitlin Hart

2022 Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair Oct. 8



Photo Credits: H el ene Doughty & Caitlin Hart

Potato Varieties for the Eastern Shore

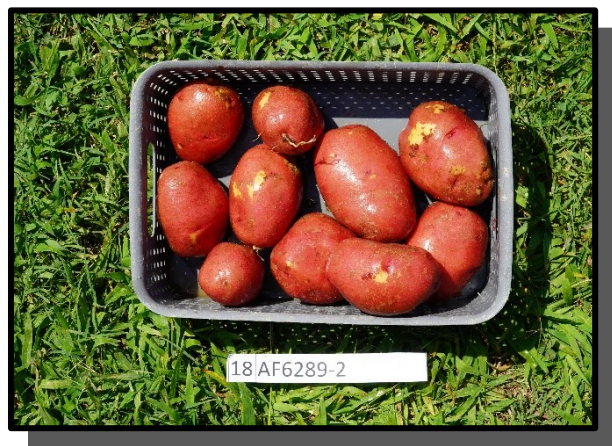
By: Emmanuel Torres, Assistant Professor - Horticulture ES AREC

Selecting one or more suitable varieties is an essential first step in any successful potato operation. Varieties must not only suit the intended market but also be well adapted to local growing conditions. The problem is that many varieties differ in several characteristics, from the more fundamental like yield, to quality and plant growth parameters such as skin and flesh color, tube shape, eye depth, time to maturity, disease, and pest resistance, among others.

Potato farmers need to be at the forefront of cultivar selection to stay competitive in our ever-changing market and to help with that, we at the Eastern Shore AREC are part of a multidisciplinary, multistate research project that aims to help small-, medium- and large-scale potato growers with high-quality varieties while maintaining economically and environmentally sustainable production practices. We hope to provide VA farmers with new potato varieties to solve production problems and meet industry and consumer preferences. These varieties will have better yields, enhanced fresh market, processing or value-added traits, and better pest and abiotic stress resistances resulting in improved productivity and/or reduced chemical inputs.

This project is a highly collaborative effort involving seven states and four breeding programs in the Eastern U.S. Our overall goal is to develop an array of attractive, high-yielding, disease- and insect-resistant, table stock, processing, and/or specialty-type potato varieties that potato farmers in the East can produce for this exceptionally diverse consumer-based market.

New potato varieties with improved disease resistance, resistance to abiotic stresses, improved processing or fresh market characteristics, and enhanced nutritional quality will be commercially evaluated and released, providing growers with better marketing opportunities, great profits, and/or improved resistance to diseases. This year we evaluated 23 potato varieties at the ESAREC, and the results will be available soon through the Virginia Cooperative Extension System. However, if you just can't wait to know the results, stop by our station and talk to our specialist, we are always happy to share our results and help in any way we can.



Careers at Virginia Tech

Research Specialist (Job no. 520611)

Work Type: Staff

Eastern Shore AREC, Virginia Tech, Horticulture research group at Painter, VA, has advertised a Research specialist position. A B.S. in plant sciences (horticulture/agronomy) with experience in operating farm equipment is desired. Candidates with a high school education with significant practical field experience will also be considered. Shortlisting of candidates will start after November 1, 2022. Interested candidates please visit the link and apply online.

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/520611/research-specialist>

Research Specialist (Job no. 521473)

Work Type: Staff

Eastern Shore AREC, Virginia Tech, weed science group at Painter, VA, has advertised Research specialist/ Associate position. BS in agricultural sciences with experience to handle research and farm equipment is desired. Candidates with high school education with significant practical field experience may also be considered. Shortlisting of candidates will start after November 1, 2022. Interested candidates please visit the link and apply online.

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521473/research-specialist-sr>



Email responses to hdoughty@vt.edu

Private Pesticide Recertification

Categories 90 & 91

When:

November 30th, 2022
8:30am - 1:00pm

CATERED
BREAKFAST
INCLUDED

Where:

Eastern Shore Agricultural
Research and Extension Center
33446 Research Dr
Painter, VA 23420



RSVP Required:

Ursula Deitch
Northampton ANR Agent
ursula@vt.edu
757-678-7946 ext. 25

Theresa Pittman
Accomack ANR Agent
tpittman@vt.edu
757-787-1361 ext. 14

If you cannot attend this program, recertification will be offered at the 2023 Eastern Shore Ag Conference on January 25th & 26th

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assisted devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Ursula Deitch at the Northampton County Extension office, 757-678-7946 x25, during regular business hours (8:00am-4:30pm) to discuss necessary accommodations no later than 5 days prior to the event. TDD 1-800-828-1120

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.



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.aren.vaes.vt.edu/aren/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	mreiter@vt.edu	757/807-6576	757/693-2556	Director/Professor, Soils & Nutrient Management
Vijay Singh	v.singh@vt.edu	757/807-6579	479/713-0094	Assistant Professor, Weed Science
Emmanuel Torres	etorres@vt.edu		352/682-0708	Assistant Professor, Horticulture
Doug Higgins	doughiggins@vt.edu		517/803-0636	Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology
Lorena Lopez	lorellopezq257@vt.edu		954/529-9042	Postdoctoral Associate, Entomology
ESAREC Staff	Email	Phone	Cell Phone	Title
VACANT		757/807-6596		Research Specialist, Weed Science
James Custis	jcustis@vt.edu	757/807-6596		Farm Manager
Hélène Doughty	hdoughty@vt.edu	757/807-6592	757/999-0780	Research Specialist, Entomology
Andrew Fletcher	alf20007@vt.edu	757/807-6596		Assistant Farm Manager
John Mason	masonje@vt.edu	757/807-6582		Research Specialist, Soils & Nutrient Management
Lauren Peyton Seltzer	mlpeyton@vt.edu	757/807-6586	757/710-5701	Executive Secretary Sr.
VACANT		757/807-6583		Research Specialist, Horticulture
Ursula Deitch	ursula@vt.edu	757/678-7946	16392 Courthouse Rd Eastville, VA 23347	ANR Agent, Northampton County
Theresa Pittman	tpittman@vt.edu	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.

