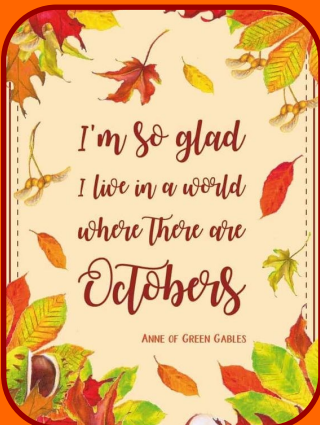




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OCTOBER 2022








## From The Director

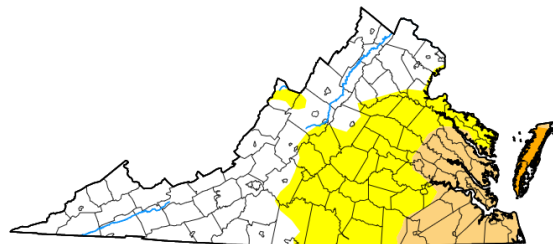
**R**ain is on everyone's mind, one way or another. Dry weather has made corn harvest a breeze, but hampered planting of early fall cover crops. Several cover crop species, such as tillage radish, grow best when planted in the fall early enough to have significant growth before they are winter damaged and/or killed with freezing temperatures. Good corn harvest has led to poor to no germination in our early planted cover crops to date. Of course, that is changing with rains from remnants of Hurricane Ian. Check out the drought monitor that classified us as a "severe drought" on September 29, 2022 (<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?VA>).

**Map released: Thurs. September 29, 2022**

**Data valid: September 27, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT**

**Intensity**

	None
	D0 (Abnormally Dry)
	D1 (Moderate Drought)
	D2 (Severe Drought)
	D3 (Extreme Drought)
	D4 (Exceptional Drought)
	No Data



We had a great time working with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in both Accomack and Northampton counties with Farm Tour! Graduate students Joseph Haymaker, Ph.D. student in Soils and Nutrient Management and Vipin Kumar, M.S. student in Weed Science, enjoyed showcasing their research to students with hands-on activities. Joseph instructed students on the various soil textures and taught them how to texture soil by feel, along with discussing fertilizer use and cover crop management. Vipin awed students with his unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and through discussion on how UAVs can make us more efficient as we battle hard to kill herbicide resistant weeds on the Eastern Shore. Helene Doughty and Jim Jenerette, staff in Entomology, showcased various insects that are important to Eastern Shore agriculture and how to best control such pests in our production systems. Ultimately, we hope these students have a better understanding of Eastern Shore agriculture, their environment, how food is produced, and look forward to some of them considering the agricultural industry for future careers.

— Mark

# Agents Corner



## Farm Tour – Accomack & Northampton County

Accomack and Northampton Counties both hosted successful Farm Tour Days on September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2022. Although this was the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Tour Day for Accomack County, this was Northampton County's inaugural year. We were lucky to have beautiful, warm weather to educate every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader on the Eastern Shore of Virginia for both events. During the Farm Tours, Accomack County hosted close to 400 teachers, students, and chaperones whereas Northampton County hosted close to 200 teachers, students, and chaperones. The events were hosted at Duncan Farms (Accomack) in New Church, VA and Shore Breeze Farms (Northampton) in Cherriton, VA.

Farm Tour Day is successful due to the time and effort from over 40 adult volunteers. THANK YOU to VIMS - Wachapreague, Accomack & Northampton County Farm Bureau Boards, Northampton & Accomack County Cooperative Extension, Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA-NRCS, Virginia Department of Forestry, Middlesex County Virginia Cooperative Extension, Eastern Shore AREC - Virginia Tech, Bay View Farms, Virginia Soybean Association, VA Tech Eastern Shore AREC Entomology, Virginia Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardener Association for their dedication to educating each group of children at their booths.

One of the biggest highlights for the children was spray plane flyovers by Chorman Aerial (Accomack) and Buntings Dustings (Northampton)! The children all left wanting to fly airplanes that swoop down! The amount of ooohs and aaahs was contagious.

Most importantly, a huge thank you to Duncan Farms and the Holland Family in Accomack County and Shore Breeze Farms and the Sturgis Family in Northampton County for allowing their farms to be taken over during harvest season to give these students an true "on-farm" experience. Without their support this event could not be successful.

## Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair

Northampton County Cooperative Extension is co-hosting with the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce the Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This free and open to the public community event is returning for the 5<sup>th</sup> time after a 2-year hiatus due to COVID-19. Lots of family-fun competitions and educational experiences are planned. Come out Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm at the old Northampton Middle School in Machipongo to join in the fun!

Please see the Schedule of Events flyer attached to this newsletter and visit the Chamber's website:

<https://www.esvachamber.org/esvaagfair>

*Wanda & Theresa*

# October



**Celebrate National Farmer’s Day on October 12th!** This day acknowledges the hard work of a farmer in supplying food and materials to our nation and their contribution to our economy.

**Did you know?**

Individual farmers provide food for 6X as many people as they did in the 1960s.

90% of Virginia farms are owned by families or individuals, not corporations.

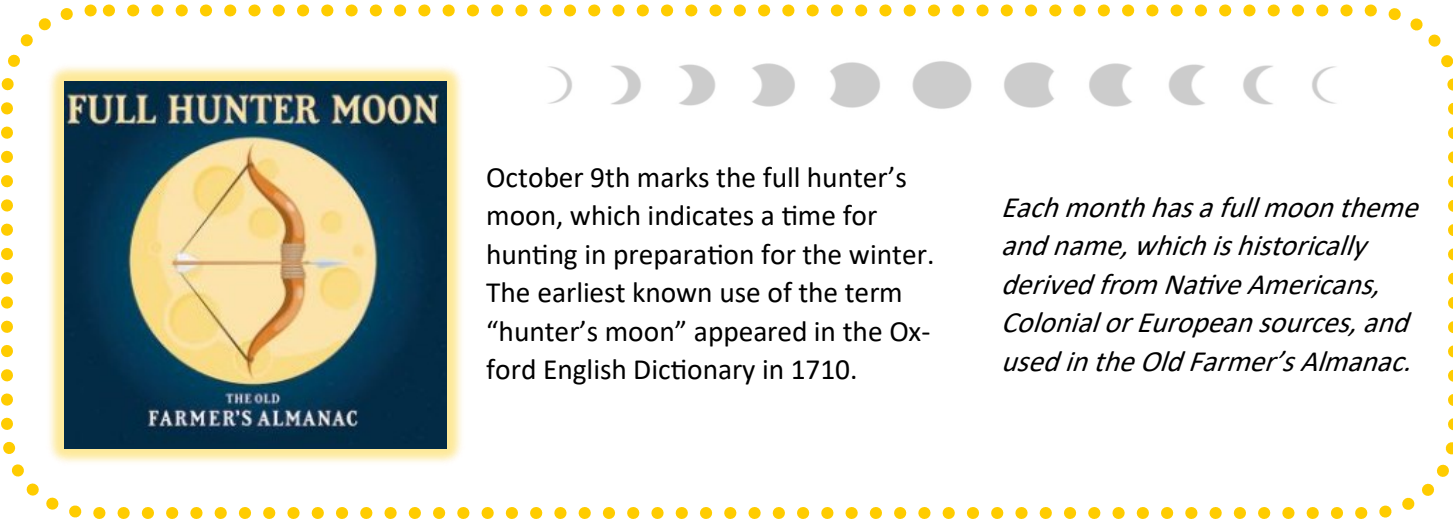
Virginia has 43,225 farms covering 7.8 million acres.

<https://www.vafb.com/membership-at-work/agriculture/agriculture-facts>



October 9th marks the full hunter’s moon, which indicates a time for hunting in preparation for the winter. The earliest known use of the term “hunter’s moon” appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1710.

*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.*

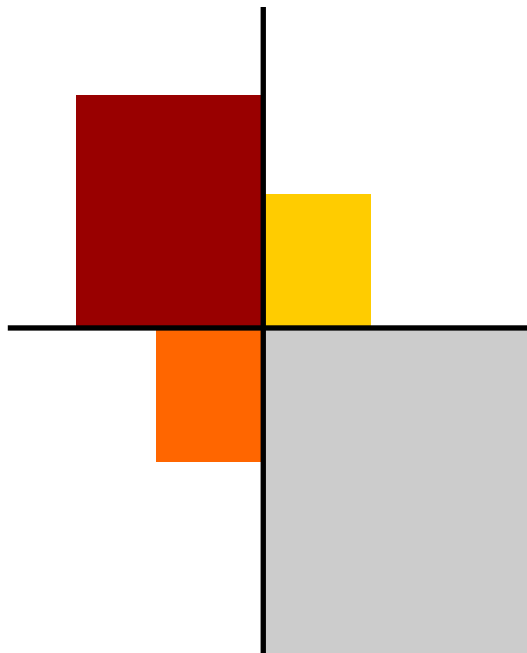


## Careers at Virginia Tech

### Research Specialist/Associate (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 October 15, 2022. Interested candidates please visit the link and apply online. <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521473/research-specialist-sr>



### SKILLS CHALLENGE

Hélène Doughty invites you to test your entomology knowledge by taking this short quiz! <https://tinyurl.com/esarecquizoct>

# Accomack County Farm Tour



# Northampton County Farm Tour





The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is encouraging growers to join its call-to-action and submit comments to the EPA on the important role atrazine, a popular herbicide, plays in their work.

The call-to-action was launched over the summer as EPA began revising its registration for atrazine. EPA is proposing a level of concern for atrazine at 3.4 parts per billion, down from the current level of 15 parts per billion.

The move would significantly impair the effective use of atrazine on farms, according to NCGA.

“Atrazine allows corn growers to experience higher yields using less land with fewer inputs, which is good for the environment and saves growers money,” said Brooke S. Appleton, vice president of public policy at the National Corn Growers Association. “Reducing the effectiveness of this important herbicide will hinder the work of farmers and turn the clock back on our conservation efforts.”

Since the organization launched the call to action on July 20, more than 3,000 growers have taken action through NCGA’s website. The response on this issue needs to reflect its importance to our industry, according to NCGA leadership.

EPA’s open comment period closes on October 7. You can join NCGA’s effort by [clicking here](#).



FREE  
& OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



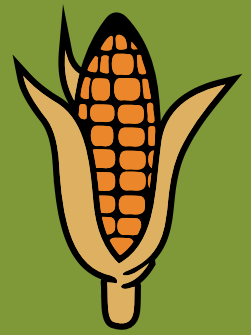
## Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair

October 8, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

7247 Young St., Machipongo, VA (old Northampton Middle School)

<https://www.esvachamber.org/esvaagfair>

- 10:00am Event Opens
- 10:30am Baking Competition Judging
- 10:45am ANEC Lineman Climbing Demonstrations
- 11:00am Wader Relay Races
- 11:15am Skillet Throwing (Men)
- 11:45am Skillet Throwing (Women)
- 12:00pm Antique Tractor Parade
- 12:30pm Oyster Shucking Contest
- 1:00pm Keg Rolling
- All Day: Tractor Pull
- Kids' Pedal Tractor Competitions and Kids' Archery
- Educational Booths and Craft Vendors
- Live Music by No Spare Time
- Hay Rides
- Kids' Area: Pumpkin Painting, Face Painting, Balloon Animals and More! Kids' Area wristbands are \$5.
- Food: Cape Charles Lions Club, Mt. Nebo Meats and more



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**ESVA**  
CHAMBER



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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**Accomack County**  
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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.*



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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.

