

The Stalk

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

Mark your calendars for January 24th and 25th, 2024 for the 34th Annual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference & Trade Show!



We are excited to announce we have a compelling agenda for this year's sessions with educational programs focusing on soybeans, potatoes, agronomic crops, and vegetable crops discussing the most relevant information and research to benefit your production systems. This year's speakers will include Virginia Tech Extension Specialists from the ESAREC, TAREC and Blacksburg, as well as invited presenters from other universities and supporting industry.

We encourage you to take full advantage of our program by attending our educational sessions, visiting exhibitors and network with agribusiness-men and women from all over the region. As always, make sure to register to obtain pesticide license recertification credits for commercial and private categories in both Virginia and Maryland.

We also are happy to announce an outstanding general session on Wednesday, January 24th that will include keynote speaker Greg Edwards providing updates on exports from Virginia ports as well as Virginia Tech Provost Cyril Clarke, Dr. Mike Gutter from Virginia Cooperative Extension, Commissioner of Agriculture Joseph Guthrie, and Governor Glen Youngkin, among others.

To close a great day on January 24th, make sure to secure your tickets for the annual oyster roast as the perfect opportunity to network with our agricultural partners, producers, speakers and ESAREC Extension Specialists.

We could not be more thankful for the support provided by our vendors and sponsors who make this event possible each year. This year's lineup of exhibitors and vendors is bigger than ever, and we are happy to announce that we are currently at capacity for our trade show! Although we are 2 weeks away, you may still sponsor a meal for attendees or purchase a ticket for the oyster roast by reaching out to the Accomack (757-787-1361) or Northampton County Extension Office (757-678-7946).

Below you will find the complete brochure for this year's conference. We are looking forward to seeing you at the 34th Annual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show!

Helene, Theresa and Mark





We hope you had a great holiday season and happy new year! We are excited to start 2024 with a long list of projects underway to better our Virginia agroecosystems. We are continuing our work in the realms of weed science, entomology, disease management, soils, nutrient management, cover crops, and horticultural production with an effort to increase productivity, profitability, and sustainability. Specific for specialty crops, we look forward to initiating the following projects via funding from the Virginia Specialty Crop Block Grant Program on the Eastern Shore. More information can be found at: https://news.vt.edu/articles/2023/12/cals-USDA-specialty-crops-grant.html?utm_source=cmpgn_news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=vtUnirelNewsDailyCMP_jan0924-fs

USE OF DRONE-SPRAY FOR WEED MANAGEMENT IN SPECIALTY CROPS

This project, led by Vijay Singh, assistant professor of weed science and Extension specialist, will evaluate the economic benefits of using drones to apply herbicides that inhibit weed growth in specialty crops. Previous studies using drones to spray soybeans and corn have shown higher efficacy and better cost savings than backpack spray applications. This will be the first test of drone-applied herbicides on specialty crops, specifically tomatoes and broccoli.



VIRGINIA-SPECIFIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO PROTECT SWEET CORN SEEDLINGS



Seed rot and seedling blight remain a constant threat for Virginia's sweet corn producers. This project will identify fungicide seed treatments that are most beneficial for Virginia growers and determine which soilborne pathogens are most common in the state's soils. Led by Douglas Higgins, assistant professor of plant pathology and Extension specialist, this project will produce specific disease management recommendations for protecting sweet corn seedlings in Virginia.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show, and oyster roast, on January 24-25, 2024 at the Exmore Moose Lodge. Come spend a few days with us as you learn more to increase productivity, earn pesticide recertification credits, and enjoy great food!

Mark



VT CAREERS VIRGINIA TECH

Assistant Farm Manager. (Job no. 527895)

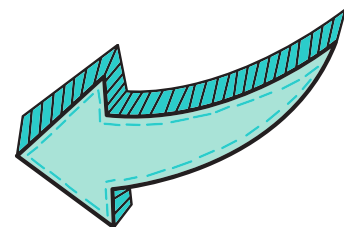
Join our team at the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Painter, VA! The Assistant Farm Manager provides direct support and assistance to the Agricultural Farm Manager for managerial oversight of farm operations that includes research and general farming activities for crops important to the Eastern Shore that includes fresh market tomato, snap beans, potato, soybean, wheat, corn, among others. Experience growing and managing various vegetable, grain, and oilseed agricultural crops on a commercial basis for control of insects, disease, weeds, fertility, irrigation, etc. is mandatory. Application review will begin on January 5, 2024, and continue until a suitable candidate is found. For more information and to apply online, visit: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521473/research-specialist-sr>

Applied Entomology Extension Specialist. (Job no. 521473)

The Eastern Shore AREC seeks an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Applied Entomology. The incumbent will focus on crops significant to Virginia's agricultural economy and important to the Eastern Shore and Coastal Plain regions of Virginia (potato, tomato, snap bean, broccoli, corn, soybean, wheat, and others). This is a 9-month, tenure track faculty position (50% research and 50% Extension). The candidate's tenure home will be within the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech. Applicants are required to hold a PhD in entomology or a closely related discipline by the appointment start date. The candidate must have effective communication and interpersonal skills to collaborate with diverse teams and audiences, internal and external to the University. Packet review will begin on January 31, 2024, and continue until a suitable candidate is found. For more information and to apply online, visit: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521473/research-specialist-sr>

We have two positions at the ESAREC that remain open for applications. Join our team!

Spread the word and share



EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW BROCHURE

The 34th Annual

Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference & Trade Show

Wednesday & Thursday
January 24th & 25th, 2024

Exmore Moose Lodge
Belle Haven, VA



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL
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 - a. 1/24, 9:30 am—General Session, Lodge Room
2. **Pesticide Safety Updates**—choice of the following
 - a. 1/24 3:15 pm—Soybean Session, Lodge Room
 - b. 1/25, 1:00 pm—Agronomic Session, Lodge Room
3. **Grower may pick one full session of their choice:**
 - a. Agronomic or Soybean

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2024 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference Oyster Roast



Wednesday, January 24th
Tickets available to purchase at the Conference
Registration table

Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference

Oyster Roast

Location: ESAREC
33446 Research Dr., Painter, VA 23420

Time: Social Hour - 6:00 pm
BBQ and Oysters - 6:30 pm

Tickets: cost is \$50/person

Join the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers

Over the past 20 to 30 years, vegetable production acreage in eastern Virginia has severely decreased. As the agricultural world shifts, we are adapting to diversify with it. The Association of Virginia Potato & Vegetable Growers, Inc. will be re-branding ourselves to be more inclusive of the entire agricultural industry in eastern Virginia.

Moving forward, we will be known as "*The Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.*" to encompass vegetables, grains, aquaculture, nursery, viticulture, small fruits, and poultry. The goal of this re-branding is to be an advocate for all agricultural producers and to showcase the diverse and rich agricultural culture present in eastern Virginia.

Memberships are open to growers, agricultural industry members, and government/educational personnel. Member dues will be \$50 annually. With your membership, you have a voice at two meetings per year and advocacy on agricultural issues facing your industry. *The Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.* will continue to host the Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show in January of each year and look to expand our outreach.

Please consider joining our organization; which consists of a consortium of farmers looking to make positive changes and awareness regarding our agricultural industry within Virginia and beyond.

For more information contact: H. Bruce Richardson, Chairman



General Session—Wednesday, January 24th—Lodge Room

Moderator —Bruce Richardson, Chairman, Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.

8:00 a **Registration & Corner Bakery Donuts**

8:15 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**—H. Bruce Richardson, Chairman, Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.

8:30 **2024 Market Outlook** —Robert Harper, Grain Division, Virginia Farm Bureau Fed.

9:00 **Keynote Presentation: Update on Exports from Virginia Ports**—Greg Edwards – Director of Sales for Strategic Export Accounts Virginia International Terminals, LLC

9:30 **Pesticide Legal Updates**—Robert Christian, Pesticide Investigator, VDACS

You must attend the *Pesticide Legal Updates* presentation to receive recertification credit.

10:15 **Break - Visit with Exhibitors**

Trade Show

10:30 **Updates from the Eastern Shore AREC**—Dr. Mark Reiter, Director

Virginia Cooperative Extension—Dr. Mike Gutter, Director

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station—Dr. Mary Burrows, Director

Virginia Tech—Provost Cyril Clarke

Virginia Department of Agriculture—Commissioner Joseph Guthrie

The Governor's Office—Governor Glenn Youngkin (*Tentative*)

11:45 **Awards Ceremony** — H. Bruce Richardson, Chairman

12:00 **Enjoy Lunch Catered by the Exmore Diner—served in the Trade Show**



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Keynote Speaker:

Greg Edwards—Director of Sales for Strategic Export Accounts Virginia International Terminals, LLC

Greg Edwards is a native Virginian and a lifelong resident of Hampton Roads. He joined The Port of Virginia in July 1992, giving him more than 30 years of maritime and supply chain logistics experience. Since 2021, Greg has served with the port sales team, as Director of Strategic Export Accounts. He is focused primarily on two key verticals: agriculture and forest products, chemicals and resins.

Greg served on the boards of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and “Future of Hampton Roads.” He also served as chair of the Hampton Roads Transportation and Planning Organization’s Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee.

He is a graduate of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, as well as the Virginia State Chamber’s LEAD Virginia program and the regional LEAD 757 initiative. Greg lives in Chesapeake and enjoys spending time with his three adult children and two grandchildren.



Thursday - January 25th, 11 am

Annual meeting of the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.

SEAFOOD ROOM



FOR MORE INFORMATION - SEE CHAIRMAN H. BRUCE RICHARDSON



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech. • Virginia State University

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.

Soybean Session—Wednesday, January 24th—Lodge Room

Moderator - Dr. Mark Reiter, Professor of Soils and Nutrient Management, ESAREC

1:00 p *Approaches to Scouting and Managing Tar Spot in Corn*—Dr. Alyssa Koehler, Plant Pathologist, University of Delaware

Tar spot is an emerging disease of corn that has been spreading across the US in recent years. This session will discuss scouting for tar spot and recommendations for management.

1:20 p *An Update on Soybean Diseases and Strategies for Disease Management*—Dr. Mychele Batista da Silva, Virginia Tech TAREC, and Dr. David Langston, Professor & Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, Virginia Tech TAREC

Overview of fungicide and soybean variety trials in 2023 to minimize cyst and root knot nematode.

2:00 *Frog Eye Leaf Spot*—Dr. Mychele Batista da Silva, Virginia Tech TAREC. and Dr. David Langston, Professor & Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, Virginia Tech TAREC

Results of frog eye leaf spot trials and strategies to control the disease.

2:20 *Seeding Late: Cover Crops' fit with Soybean* — Mary Michael Lipford, Joseph Haymaker, Ph.D Students, John Mason, Research Specialist, and Dr. Mark Reiter, Professor & Extension Specialist, Soil and Nutrient Management, ESAREC

Cover crops are vital to improving soil quality and to meeting nutrient management goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. However, planting cover crops behind soybean in rotation can be challenging due to time constraints and temperature. Innovative technologies can be incorporated to allow for aerial seeding of cover crops that impact fall cover crop biomass and nutrient accumulation, which will be discussed.

3:00 *Stink Bugs in Soybeans* — Hélène Doughty, Northampton County ANR Agent, VCE & Dr. Tom Kuhar, Professor & Extension Specialist, Entomology, Virginia Tech

An update on stink bug control and population distribution changes in soybeans on the Eastern Shore.

3:15 *Pesticide Safety Update*—Theresa Pittman, Accomack County ANR Agent, VCE



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Potato Session—Wednesday, January 24th—Seafood Room

Moderator —Ursula Deitch, Marketing Specialist, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

1:00 p *Update from Potatoes USA*— Blair Richardson, CEO, Potatoes USA

1:30 *Potato Market Outlook for 2024*— Brett Richardson, Marketing Specialist, VDACS

A review of last year's market conditions and a look forward as to what we can expect in the upcoming year.

2:00 *Potato Pathology Research Update* —Dr. Doug Higgins, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, ESAREC

A review of potato disease forecasting and outbreaks in 2023.

2:30 *Volunteer Potato Management*—Dr. Sudeep Mathews, Syngenta

Dr. Mathews will discuss options for the management of volunteer potatoes in various crops

3:15 *Pesticide Safety Update*—LODGE ROOM

You must attend one of the *Pesticide Safety Update* presentation in order to receive recertification credit.



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Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219, vdacs.virginia.gov

Vegetable Session—Thursday, January 25th—Seafood Room

Moderator - *Hélène Doughty, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, Northampton County*

8:30 a *Mulch Color Selection for Summer-grown Tomatoes in Virginia* — Dr. Emmanuel Torres, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Horticulture, ESAREC

In this talk, we will explore the impact of mulch color on tomato production, examining how different plastics affect plant growth, fruit yield, and pest management. We'll delve into recent research findings and practical applications, highlighting the optimal mulch colors for enhancing tomato health and productivity

9:00 *New Irrigation Management Techniques for Tomato Productions*— Dr. Emmanuel Torres, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Horticulture, ESAREC

In this presentation, we will delve into the nuances of irrigation management for tomato cultivation, discussing strategies for optimizing water use efficiency and enhancing fruit quality. We'll cover the latest techniques in scheduling and delivery methods, and their implications for yield, plant health, and resource sustainability in tomato farming.

9:30 *Sweet Corn Treatments: Why do you need them?* - Dr. Doug Higgins, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, ESAREC

A review of fungicide seed treatments used to control seed-borne and seedling diseases and to suppress early season root rots. Adaptive management strategies will be discussed to aid in seed treatment selection and help prioritize production scenarios where fungicide seed treatments are expected to be most beneficial.

10:00 *IPM in Sweet Corn for Insect Control*—Hélène Doughty, Northampton County ANR Agent, VCE & Dr. Tom Kuhar, Professor & Extension Specialist, Entomology, VT

An overview of integrated pest management techniques for insect control in sweet corn. The use of pheromone trap catch as an indicator to determine when to apply insecticides still provides good control with reduced impact on beneficial insects.

10:15 *Snap Bean Insect Control Update*— Hélène Doughty, Northampton County ANR Agent, VCE & Dr. Tom Kuhar, Professor & Extension Specialist, Entomology, VT

A new upcoming insecticide for control of major insect pests of snap beans.

10:30 *Snap Bean Pathology Research Update*— Dr. Doug Higgins, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, ESAREC

A discussion of 2023 pod spotting outbreaks and trends in yield response observed from 2023 fumigation strip trials.

11:00 *Annual Meeting of the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.*

12:00 *Enjoy Lunch Catered by the Moose Lodge—served in the Trade Show*

1:00 p *Pesticide Safety Update*—LODGE ROOM

You must attend one of the *Pesticide Safety Update* presentation in order to receive recertification credit.

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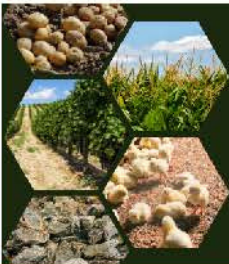
DEPTH

3-D COMPACTION MAPPING



Thursday - January 25th, 11 am
Annual meeting of the Association of Eastern
Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.

Seafood Room



Agronomic Session—Thursday, January 25th—Lodge Room

Moderator - Dr. Mark Reiter, Professor of Soils and Nutrient Management, ESAREC

8:30 a *Small Grain Pathology Research Update*—Dr. Doug Higgins, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, ESAREC

Fusarium head blight disease management and 2023 fungicide efficacy trial results

9:00 *Wheat Varieties*—Dr. Nicholas Santantonio, Assistant Professor, Small Grains Breeding and Genetics, Virginia Tech

9:30 *Cover Crops: The Fertilizer Recycler*—Joseph Haymaker, Ph.D. Student, John Mason, Research Specialist, and Dr. Mark Reiter, Professor & Extension Specialist, Soils and Nutrient Management, ESAREC

We all know that cover crops can dig deep to scavenge nutrients that might be otherwise lost to cash crops. But how many nutrients can be accumulated? When are these fertilizer nutrients available during the cash crop growing season? What is the fertilizer economic value of these cover crop nutrients? We'll discuss cover crop's ability to fertilize corn on the Eastern Shore during this session

10:00 *Panel Discussion*—

This panel discussion will include cover crop seeding via drone, combine mounted seeders, and airplane seeding.

11:00 *Annual Meeting of the Association of Eastern VA Agricultural Producers. (Seafood Room)*

12:00 *Enjoy Lunch Catered by the Moose Lodge—served in the Trade Show*

1:00 p *Pesticide Safety Update*—Theresa Pittman, Accomack County ANR Agent, VCE

You must attend one of the *Pesticide Safety Update* presentation in order to receive recertification credit.

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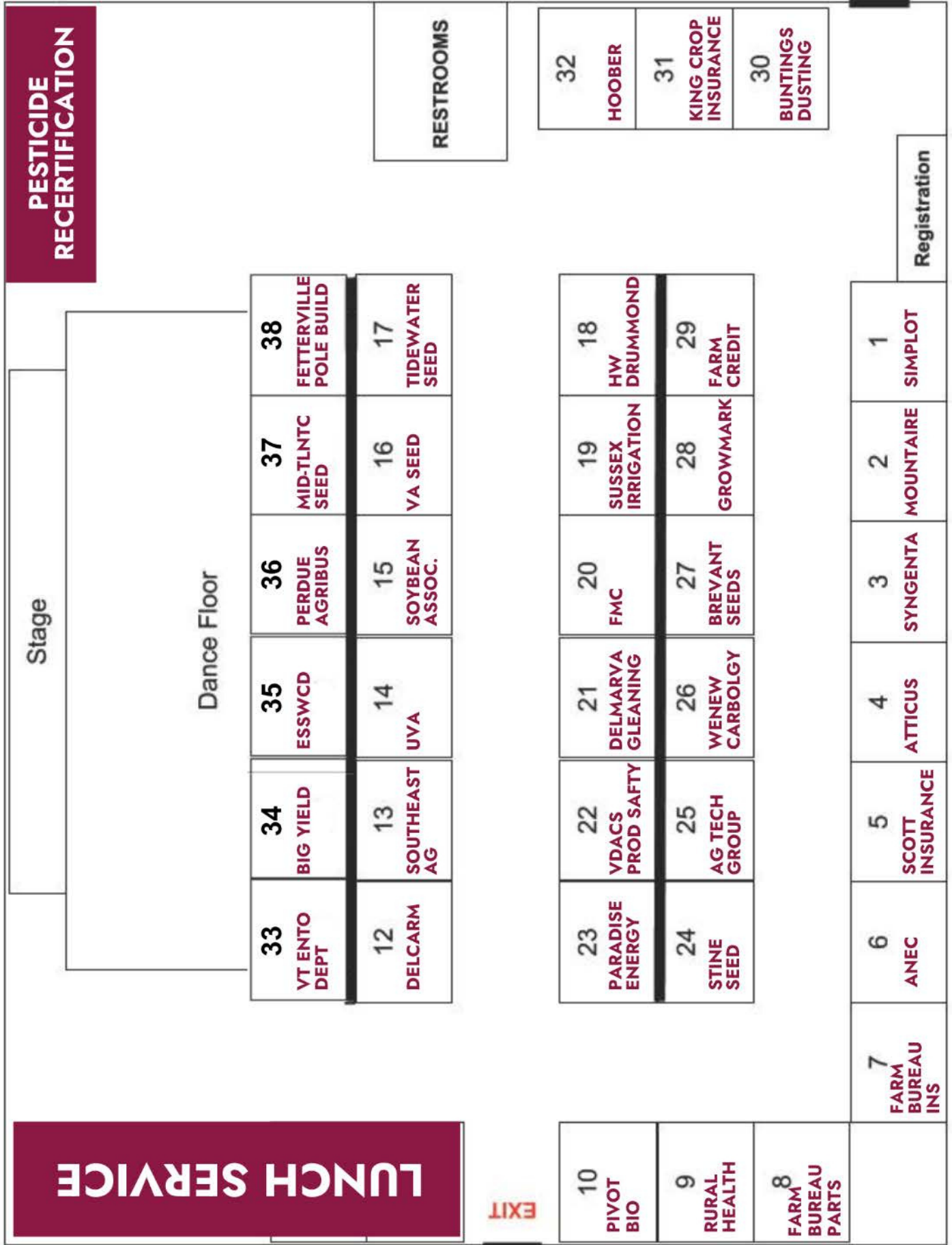
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As a crop insurance agency, our mission has always been to ensure that farmers are covered effectively against acts of nature by helping them manage risk. It is important to us that the growers we insure are comfortable with and confident in their insurance coverage. During over 30 years of business, we have partnered with a selection of trusted AIPs in order for our clients to have the best coverage options available to suit their individual needs.



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CONFERENCE EVALUATION

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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.