

The Stalk

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



Northampton County Cotton Fields

Welcome Alana! New Communications Associate

We welcome Alana Kirsch to the Eastern Shore AREC family as our new Communications Associate. Alana will be responsible for assisting with Extension outreach through video, print, web, radio, social media, and any other way you can obtain information.

Applied research that we conduct within our facility is only useful if information reaches pertinent stakeholders and agricultural practices and/or production is improved. Alana is a joint resource shared evenly with the Hampton Roads AREC so you will see her bouncing back and forth and showcasing a wide array of different practices across multiple industries.

Alana has a B.A. in Communications from Virginia Tech with a concentration in multimedia journalism and recently moved to the Hampton Roads area after graduation in 2023. She is especially passionate about video production. She enjoys gardening, hiking, kayaking, and spending time with friends and family. Alana has a border collie, and even though she's getting old, they try to spend as much time together outside as they can.

Alana Kirsch

Communications Associate
Eastern Shore & Hampton Roads AREC
Virginia Tech



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

This Issue:

Welcome Alana -
Communications Associate
[Page 1](#)

Updates from the ESAREC Director
[Page 2 & 3](#)

The Agent's Corner
[Page 4 & 5](#)

Research from ESAREC F&S
[Page 6, 7 & 8](#)

Announcements
[Page 9](#)

Contact Page
[Page 10](#)

2023 ES Ag Fair Wrap-Up
[Page 11 & 12](#)



Reiter wins Andy Swiger Land-Grant Award

Dr. Mark Reiter was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Andy Swiger Land-Grant Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at Virginia Tech. This award recognizes faculty whose research, teaching, and/or Extension accomplishments have realized state or national impacts on agriculture and the life science industries, communities, and agencies in fulfillment of the land-grant mission.

The Andy Swiger Land-Grant Award was made possible by an endowment established in honor of former Dean Andy Swiger. The award includes a personal honorarium plus an additional \$2,000 in operating funds for the winner's research, teaching, and Extension program. Past recipients and their biographies can be found [HERE](#)

The winner must have a program that emphasizes the CALs mission statement:

The college creates, integrates, and shares knowledge to enhance:



- Life sciences, food, and agricultural systems;
- The economic prosperity and life quality of the greater community;
- The stewardship and health of land, water, and air for future generations; and
- Student learning through diverse, hands-on, experiential opportunities.



Former Dean Andy Swiger who served in various roles at Virginia Tech from 1980 to 2003.

Eastern Shore of Virginia Agricultural Fair

The Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair was held in Machipongo, VA on Saturday, October 7. Faculty, staff, and graduate students from the Eastern Shore AREC had the opportunity to spread agricultural research and awareness with over 1,000 Eastern Shore residents, vendors, and other stakeholders throughout the event. Thank you to the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Northampton County Farm Bureau, and other agencies that hosted this successful event!



**TO VIEW
MORE
PICTURES
FROM THE
FAIR, AND SEE
THE LIST OF
CONTEST
WINNERS
PLEASE SEE
PAGE 11 AND
12**



ESVA residents learning more about ESAREC programming from Weed Science, Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Soils/Nutrient Management faculty, staff, and graduate students.



Vijay Singh, Weed Scientist at the ESAREC, discussing aerial application of pesticides with unmanned aerial vehicles.



Virginia Cooperative Extension Wins "Spirit of the Fair"

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) incorporated a learning experience into the Virginia State Fair this year with Extension agents, Specialists, and volunteers staffing a VCE booth from September 22 through October 1, 2023. In addition to a diverse range of contacts, information exchange, and stakeholder engagement, the VCE booth won the "Spirit of the Fair."



Throughout the event we were proud to have videos highlighting Eastern Shore agriculture running on a constant loop that included our potato, snap bean, grain, and aquaculture industries. This year the Virginia State Fair set a record with 210,000 attendees enjoying Virginia agriculture. The largest daily attendance ever was set on Saturday, September 30; the day we represented the Eastern Shore at the Fair, with fairgoers being turned away as capacity limits were reached. Thank you to the many hands that organized the booth and materials throughout VCE; especially the Dinwiddie County Extension Office who designed backdrops, set-up, and disassembled the booth.



VCE team accepting the "Spirit of the Fair" award on behalf of our organization.



Part of the VCE and VT team and volunteers staffing the Virginia State Fair VCE Booth in Doswell, VA. Mark Reiter (Eastern Shore AREC Soils and Nutrient Management), Sadie Reiter, Scott Barrett (Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation) and Mike Parrish (Dinwiddie County VCE Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent).



The Spirit of the Fair Award-Winning State Fair Booth Setup

Eastern Shore AREC and Hampton Roads AREC

Advisory Board MEETING



Eastern Shore AREC
33446 Research Dr, Painter, VA



Thursday, November 30, 2023
2:00 pm





Save the Date and Mark your Calendars!

VCE Private Pesticide License Recertification Class

A private pesticide license recertification class is being planned for Wednesday, November 27th, 2023 at the Eastern Shore AREC. More information to come as the planning continues!

2024 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show

Planning has begun for the 2024 ES AG Conference on January 24th and 25th, 2024! The Planning Committee plans to feature the 2024 conference program in the Dec Stalk. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or sponsor, click the link below to learn more. MORE DETAILS TO COME!

34th Annual January 24 & 25, 2024
Exmore Moose Lodge, Belle Haven, VA

EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

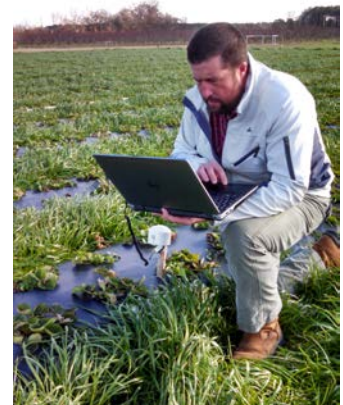
VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH

VENDOR INFORMATION

Let's talk Strawberries with VB Agent Roy Flanagan

Greetings from the Virginia Beach-VCE office, the closest VCE office on the mainland. My name is Roy D. Flanagan III and I am the ag agent working with commercial producers in Virginia Beach.

I am currently in my 12th year as the ag agent in VB, raised and live on our family's Century Farm in Pungo, and for the last 10 years or so have full decision-making authority on the farm. That is, if my wife isn't home. We are in our 24th crop of strawberries, been raising Princess Anne turkeys for over 85 years, and grow quite few other vegetables and some soybeans. My wife and I are blessed with 5 children ages ranging from 13-23.



Strawberries? In Virginia Beach? Really? Well, strawberries are the first sweet crop that comes off in the spring and there is not another annual crop that can match the potential revenue that strawberries can provide. Also, Princess Anne County has been known for strawberry production for a long time. In 1899, more than 1,500 acres of strawberries were produced in Princess Anne County and today, we are holding tight at about 30 acres, but this crop is still a big contributor to the economic impact of agriculture to the City of Virginia Beach.

It wasn't that long ago (1964), that agriculture was Virginia Beach's top industry. It isn't the #1 industry for the City today, but it still ranks within the top 3, behind the military and tourism.





Flanagan Farms Strawberry Fields



Strawberries Cont...

If you are growing strawberries commercially using the annual plasticulture production model, there are things to consider after planting. In all seriousness, I hope that your strawberries are already planted since it is November.

Each strawberry farm has different planting dates, grows different varieties, and uses different production systems, so this advice is not meant to be inclusive of every farm scenario. Instead, make sure to work with your local Extension Agent, talk to the VCE Specialists, and get their advice on making sure you are on the right track for a successful season. Know this, there is nothing we can do in the spring to make up for missteps in the fall.

- If you have not put your deer fence up, DO IT before they find your crop, deer are much harder to manage once they have had a taste of your plants.
- Frost this time of year means nothing really, you are only concerned about frost on strawberry plants when there are blooms present that you are ready to commit to making into berries.
- If you do not rotate your strawberry production area, it is a good practice to run a mefenoxam product (ex. Ridomil gold or Ultra Flourish) labeled for strawberries through the drip a couple of weeks after planting for control or prevention of phytophthora crown rot.
- Continually scout for insects, mites and aphids. These will be the pests for this time of year.
- Make sure your beds have good moisture, strawberry plants continue to grow at temperatures above 50F.
- If you are using row covers in the fall to make up for late planting or are trying to get the growing degree days up on a specific variety it is always a good choice to apply a miticide and fungicide like Thiram or Captan to clean up any issue you may have prior to putting covers on. Nothing will cause an issue to get worse then that moist warm environment created with a row cover.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Small Fruit Production Information](#)

[Production Guide for Annual Plasticulture Strawberry Production](#)

[IPM Guide for Strawberry Production](#)

Want to learn more about strawberries?

CONTACT ROY FLANAGAN in the VB Extension Office

Flanagan Farms Strawberry Transplanting



Don't let Foliar Diseases Spoil your Holiday Collards & Turnip Greens

Dr. Doug Higgins, Plant Pathologist, Eastern Shore AREC

For many Eastern shore families, collards and turnip greens are a coveted side dish at the holiday table. As you cultivate your fall patch of collards and turnip greens, watch out for several foliar diseases that can cause blemishes and destroy leaf tissue.



Alternaria leaf spot is caused by a fungal pathogen of the same name (*Alternaria brassicae*). This disease can develop rapidly in cool and wet weather, just the kind we get here on the Shore in the fall. Small black, pin-sized specks are the first symptoms to appear.

These specks enlarge into spots that look like targets or bull's eyes surrounded by a yellow ring. Sometimes spots are covered in a soot-like layer of fungal spores. Symptoms typically appear on the older leaves first. Good cultural practices such as using certified clean seed, tilling under plant debris, rotating with non-crucifer crops for at least two years, and controlling weeds will help reduce disease pressure. Fungicides, such as chlorothalonil and azoxystrobin, are available to help manage Alternaria leaf spot. Always use fungicides according to the product's label. Apply fungicides early, when symptoms are first noticed; repeated applications may be needed under prolonged period of disease conducive conditions.

Black rot is caused by bacteria (*Xanthomonas campestris pv. campestris*) that prefer warm and humid weather. Be on the lookout for this disease in years when summer temperatures push later into the fall. Black rot causes yellow lesions that start on the boarder of the leaf. The lesions expand from the leaf edge toward the center to form a "V" shape that eventually turns brown and causes the leaf to collapse. The leaf veins in the affected area may also appear black. Unfortunately, once this disease is established there is nothing that can be done to cure the plants. To limit disease spread from plant-to-plant, avoid overhead watering. Also make sure to purchase your seed from a reputable source. If you have a severe outbreak of black rot, plant something other than collards and turnip greens (also avoid broccoli, cabbage, mustard greens) in that area for at least two years.

A few other diseases also affect the foliage of collards and turnip greens including bacterial leaf spot, white leaf spot, anthracnose, white rust, and downy mildew. If you are unsure of what is affecting your collards and turnip greens, contact me at the research station and I can help you figure it out [doughiggins@vt.edu; (757) 807-6584]. If you have a good collards and turnip greens recipe to share, I would be interested to hear about that, too!



Crucifer leaves with black rot (left) and Alternaria leaf spot (center) and white leaf spot (right).

Herbicides needed for Italian Ryegrass Control

Dr. Vijay Singh, Weed Scientist, Eastern Shore AREC



Italian ryegrass is the most common weed reported in wheat fields in Virginia. It germinates when day/night temperatures range from 50/41°F to 77/41°F, which coincides with wheat germination. High infestation of Italian ryegrass may cause significant yield losses in yield. Italian ryegrass is an obligate outcrosser, which helps it to transfer weedy and herbicide-resistance traits to neighboring fields. Controlling Italian ryegrass in wheat with herbicides becomes challenging as both are grass species, and limited herbicide options available especially when it is herbicide-resistant.

In Virginia, Italian ryegrass populations are resistant to ALS-inhibitors (Group 2), or ACCase-inhibitors (Group 1) herbicides. Therefore, it is important to know the status of herbicide-resistance in a field before devising an herbicide-program, and focusing on different herbicide groups in rotation or tankmixes for achieving excellent results. Experiences from on-station and on-farm research indicate that postemergence herbicides alone cannot provide complete control of Italian ryegrass. Combination of preemergence and postemergence herbicides ensures effective control of this troublesome weed.



*Figure 1.
Pictures
represent Italian
ryegrass in
wheat field (A)
before maturity,
(B) after maturity*

Starting clean is a good strategy. For burndown applications, growers can consider glyphosate (3 qt/A), gramoxone/paraquat (3 qt/A), Valor (2 oz/A), or sharpen (2 oz/A) before planting of crop. Sharpen will help in controlling only broadleaf weeds. Paraquat is a broad-spectrum herbicide option ahead of planting, especially in areas where Italian ryegrass is resistant to glyphosate and other ALS- and ACCase-inhibitors, but it may require multiple applications. Italian ryegrass populations in Virginia are not resistant to glyphosate, therefore, it will be effective as burndown against most broadleaf and grass weeds. Valor must be applied 7 days prior to planting in no-till or minimum-till wheat and there is a 30-day preplant recommendation for conventionally tilled wheat.

For preemergence control, Axiom (8 fl oz) Prowl H2O (3 fl oz), and Zidua 4.17 SC (3-4 oz/A)/ Anthem Flex (3-4.5 fl oz) are reliable options, especially for the control of Italian ryegrass. Zidua is highly effective in controlling Italian ryegrass even resistant to group 1 and 2 herbicides, but crop injury may result under prolonged wet soil conditions. If annual ryegrass escapes any preemergence treatment, Axial/ Axial Bold (15 fl oz/A), Osprey (4.75 oz/A) or Powerflex (2 oz/A) can be used as a rescue treatment when applied postemergence (POST). Axial and Osprey are more effective when applied at early postemergence.

Herbicides needed for Italian Ryegrass Control Continued...

For the control of broadleaf weeds, consider Harmony/ Harmony extra (0.5 – 0.9 oz/A), Huskie (11-15 fl oz/A), Tricor/metribuzin (3 oz/A), Aim (1-2 fl oz), Starane Ultra (4.8-6.4 fl oz/A) as postemergence application. These products can be tank-mixed with grass herbicides (indicated in Table) or applied separately for postemergence weed control.

Table 1. Selected herbicide programs for controlling Italian ryegrass in winter wheat

Preemergence	Rate (per acre)	Efficacy
Axiom	6-10 fl oz	Very good
Prowl H2O	1-3 fl oz	Very good
Zidua 4.17 SC	1.25 – 4 fl oz	Excellent
Anthem Flex	2-4.5 fl oz	Excellent
Postemergence		
Axial	16 fl oz	Excellent
Axial Bold	15 fl oz	Excellent
Osprey	4.75 oz	Very good
Powerflex	2 oz	Very good



Other considerations for the control of Italian ryegrass (winter fallow/ cover crops/ long-term).

- Harvest weed seed control strategy (example, chaff lining) in spring, helps in placing all weed seeds in single line (concentrated chaff), and results in preventing spread of this weed in rest of the field.
- Application of Valor and Zidua in fall in combination with cover crops, helps in effective control of Italian ryegrass and reducing soil seed bank.
- No-till helps in reducing soil seed bank at an average rate of 58% per year.

In summary, ALS-inhibitor-resistant Italian ryegrass should be managed with a preemergence application of Axiom plus Prowl or Zidua or Anthem Flex followed by postemergence application of Axial XL or Axial Bold. If Italian ryegrass is not ALS-inhibitor-resistant, Osprey or PowerFlex remain good options for the postemergence application. For more information, you may refer to weed management guide link:

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/456/456-016/ENTO-522E.pdf

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



October's Answer: Believe it or not, this is a green stink bug (*Chinavia hilaris*), one of our native species of stink bugs. It is actually what is called a morph (a visual or behavioral difference between organisms of distinct populations in a species) and is somewhat common to see an orange stink bug once in a while in field settings



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.

Pumpkin Mania



Northampton 4-H Agent Erin Morgan assisting students with weighing their pumpkins.

During the month of October, Northampton 4-H Agent Erin Morgan, has been taking pumpkins graciously donated by Shockley Farms into all the schools in Northampton County. The program geared toward second grade students, uses pumpkins to focus on key math concepts. The students have the opportunity to make observations on the pumpkin they are assigned, measure the height and circumference, and weight of the pumpkin. During the lesson, concepts such as making educated guesses and making estimations are also introduced to the students. The lesson concludes with a basic science experiment of, will a pumpkin sink or float in the water. Students have to make predictions on whether they think the pumpkins will sink or float, then they have the opportunity to test to determine if their prediction was correct or incorrect. This has become a favorite learning activity for students and teachers. In all, approximately 160 public and private school students were reached through this program



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 agrichemical 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](#)

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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.



On October 7, 2023 the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce held the Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair in Machipongo. It is estimated that over 1,000 people braved the wind to attend the event. The event started as a way to celebrate agriculture on the Eastern Shore and has grown to become a family favorite event. The Eastern Shore AREC as well as the Northampton Cooperative Extension Office were heavily involved in planning and implementing components of this event. Hélène Doughty, Research Specialist, Entomology for the ESAREC, and Erin Morgan, Northampton VCE 4-H Agent, both served on the planning board for this event. Both of these ladies were the force behind the scenes for several competitions.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Erin Morgan was the organizer for the youth poster competition, the critterless critter competition, and the youth sack races. This year's theme for the youth poster competition was ESVA: Shore Grown. There was a total of 42 posters entered into the competition, which were divided into four age categories.

Pre-K - 1st

- 1st Place - Robert Roselle - Accawmacke Elementary School
- 2nd Place - Lochlan Ford - Metompkin Elementary School
- 3rd Place - Merrick Ford - Metompkin Elementary School

2nd - 3rd Grade

- 1st - Beckley Farrell - Chincoteague Elementary School
- 2nd - Liam Bundick - Accwamacke Elementary School
- 3rd - Cooper Cherrix - Chincoteague Elementary School

4th and 5th Grade

- 1st - Scarlett McDonald - Pungoteague Elementary School
- 2nd - Willow Snead - Metompkin Elementary School
- 3rd - Charlotte McDonald - Pungoteague Elementary School

Middle School Division

- 1st - Isaac Dail - Northampton Homeschooler
- 2nd - Arianna Danahoe - Nandua Middle
- 3rd - Jasmine Timmons - Nandua Middle

Hélène was the organizer of the photography competition for both youth and adults. The photography competition had an agriculture and aquaculture division for both youth and adults. There was a total of 35 photos entered into the competition with Megan Ames being named the best overall adult photographer for her picture of soybeans in the sunset, and Sadie Reiter was named the best overall youth photographer for her photo of chickens.

Adult Agriculture

- 1st - Megan Ames
- 2nd - Mary Michael Lipford
- 3rd - Amanda Hurley

Adult Aquaculture

- 1st - Amanda Hurley
- 2nd - Mary Michael Lipford
- 3rd - Amanda Hurley

Youth Agriculture

- 1st - Lana Youngblood
- 2nd - Willow Snead
- 3rd - Courtney Youngblood

Youth Aquaculture

- 1st - Hayden Morgan
- 2nd - Hayden Morgan
- No other entries

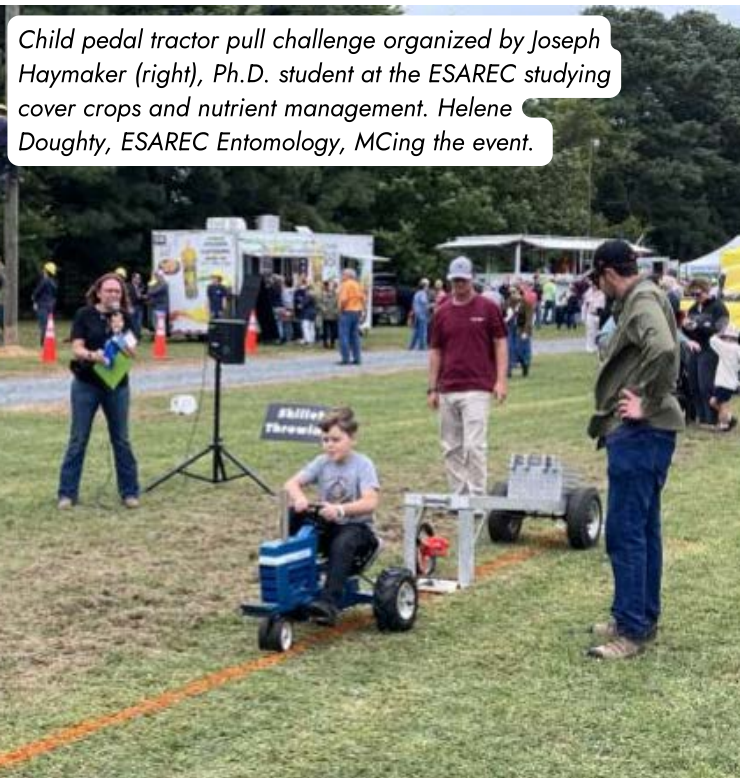
Middle school Agriculture

- 1st - Sadie Reiter
- 2nd - Emma Deitch
- 3rd - Grace Deitch



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the judges for their invaluable wisdom and discernment, which made the competition an unforgettable display of excellence. Thank you for your contributions!

Child pedal tractor pull challenge organized by Joseph Haymaker (right), Ph.D. student at the ESAREC studying cover crops and nutrient management. Helene Doughty, ESAREC Entomology, MCing the event.



Scenes from the Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair

