

The Stalk



Eastern Shore Agricultural
Research & Extension
Center

Accomack & Northampton
County Virginia
Cooperative Extension

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33rd Annual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference & Trade Show

The 2023 Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show gets better every year! We were honored to have Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Matt Lohr, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Joe Guthrie, and the new Virginia Cooperative Extension Director Dr. Mike Gutter attend the conference to give updates on the morning of the first day. Robert Harper from Virginia Farm Bureau gave an excellent presentation on commodity crop prices and where they are going in 2023 along with the keynote speaker, Veronica Nigh from American Farm Bureau, diving deeper into international economics and explaining the impacts on our fertilizer prices. The conference planning committee would like to thank all of our speakers for their support of Eastern Shore Farmers.

There were 31 agribusiness booths on the tradeshow floor who were able to visit with approximately 325 attendees over the two-day conference. Speakers came from throughout Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Colorado to speak to

our growers about timely agricultural topics. This two-day conference would not be possible without the support from Northampton and Accomack Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Association of Potato and Vegetable Growers and the Eastern Shore AREC.

If you attended and would like to provide feedback please consider taking five minutes to fill out this survey:

<https://forms.gle/HEXHbqKiw7PX9jGAA>





Agent's Corner

Ursula Deitch- Northampton County ANR Agent & Theresa Pittman- Accomack County ANR Agent

January was fast and furious with the AG Conference planning, submitting our administrative year-end reports and attending industry meetings. February is turning out to be just as jam-packed with events that we are planning. As a reminder, the ESVA County Agents and ESAREC Faculty will be in Blacksburg from February 6th – February 9th at our annual Cooperative Extension Conference. If you have an issue to discuss, please email us as we can usually answer some emails on the go. If you'd rather leave a message, please call our offices and speak with Amanda or Rachel.

Giving Day

February 15th - 16th is Giving Day! Giving Day is a yearly 24-hour online donation event. Across the state, your gift helps support programs in local communities that: Help the agricultural and natural resources industries; Protect the environment; Empower individuals and families to learn about health and nutrition; Grow 4-H, FFA, and other youth leadership and development opportunities.

[Click here](#) to make a donation to Accomack VCE

[Click here](#) to make a donation to Northampton VCE

Paraquat/Dicamba Training

Mark your calendars for a Paraquat/Dicamba training TENTATIVELY scheduled for February 27th at the ESAREC. More details will be shared via email, posted to our website and our Facebook pages. Please make sure that we have your current email on file and you follow us on social media. That is the best way for you to get the latest information on programming from our offices.

Commercial Pesticide Recertification

The annual Eastern Shore Commercial Pesticide Recertification (categories - 3A, 3B, 6, 10 and 60) will be held on February 28th at the ESAREC starting at 8:30am ([click here for the flyer](#)). If you/your company are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact one of us. Thank you in advance.

Private Pesticide License Training Course

We are planning to host a training course for those seeking a private pesticide license in March. We are short on details but will make sure to advertise as we progress. We have heard from some of you about this need but if you have yet to speak to Ursula or Theresa about this course, please call/text/email to help us plan the program.

General Assembly Updates

- HB 1806 – Farm Use Placards

Delegate Bloxom has sponsored a bill in the house that would delay the requirement for vehicles claiming a farm use exemption to obtain and display a DMV placard from July 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024. He has also introduced the following details that would apply to farm vehicles:

- The bill exempts trailers and semitrailers from the requirement to display a farm use placard.
- The bill removes certain requirements on the application for a farm use placard, prohibits requesting additional information on such application, and prohibits disclosure of application information for certain purposes.
- The bill clarifies that certain farm use exemptions apply to all pickup and panel trucks, sport utility vehicles, and trailers or semitrailers, not just those having a gross vehicle weight greater than 7,500 pounds.
- The bill authorizes the use of an agricultural or horticultural vehicle for disposing of incidental refuse and a seasonal transportation vehicle for driving to a storage house, packing plant, or market regardless of distance.
- The bill clarifies that the exemption for transporting back to a farm essential food includes procuring a meal for a farmer or his employees and that such exemption applies while engaged in authorized farm vehicle uses.

We will be following this bill through the legislative process and will also organize an informational session after the legislative session that would allow for farmers to get answers to their questions. As we plan, we will keep everyone updated.

Continued on Next Page

- Chincoteague Pony Bill – HB 1951 & SB 1478

Sophia Pearl Gallivan, a junior at Broadwater Academy, has been advocating for a piece of bipartisan legislature to make the Chincoteague Pony the official Pony of Virginia. Delegate Bloxom and Senator Lewis have submitted House Bill 1951 and Senate Bill 1478 that acknowledges the cultural, historical, and economic impacts these iconic Chincoteague Ponies have provided to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sophia is a member of the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team and President of Hoof Beats By the Beach 4-H club. She was recently appointed a Virginia 4-H Horse Ambassador and has been representing Virginia in Atlanta at the National 4-H conference as a delegate. Sophia has been to Richmond advocating and has received support from First Lady Youngkin. We are very proud of Sophia and all the work she has put in to lobbying for this legislation and is an excellent representative of our 4-H program here on the Shore! Way to go Sophia!



4-H News

Erin Morgan Northampton County 4-H Agent



Northampton 4-H is looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering for the Real Money Real World simulation taking place on March 2, 2023 at Northampton High School. The simulation is geared to providing high school students with an understanding of the real world. I will need volunteers to run the various booths during the simulation. The students are expected to visit each booth to pay their “bills” using the salary they are provided based on their career field.

The booths are: Chance, Child Care, Clothing, Communications, Contributions, Credit and College Loans, Entertainment, Food, Housing, Transportation, Insurance, Utilities, and Financial Advice. There is a sheet at each booth that lists all the

options the students have for “purchasing” at that respective booth, so you do not need to provide anything. You may need to assist some of the students with their math, but I will have calculators and pencils at each station for that. You may also need to refer the students to the Financial Advice booth if they do not have enough money to pay for their bill at your station.



It is an eye-opening experience for the students as many do not realize how much things cost and that paychecks really don't go as far as they think. It also hopefully gets the students to start thinking about the importance of budgeting, starting a savings account, and selecting careers that provide them with salaries to afford the things needed in life.



The simulation will begin at 8:15 am on Thursday, March 2nd at Northampton High located at 16041 Courthouse Rd, Eastville, VA and should conclude by 11:30am.

If you or anyone from your organization is able to volunteer please let me know by February 15. If you or any volunteers from your organization have a specific booth of interest let me know that as well.

Erin Morgan, Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development
 Email: esill@vt.edu Call: 757-678-7946 ext. 15

Virginia Sea Grant Project

Adrian Robins, graduate student of landscape architecture at the University of Virginia, is applying for the Virginia Sea Grant graduate fellowship for a research project on the Eastern Shore. He is collaborating with extension agent Ursula Deitch and UVA Associate Professor Michael Luegering to address land use-related concerns surrounding salt-water intrusion on farmland. As a Master's student of landscape architecture with a Bachelor's degree in environmental science, Adrian hopes to work with interested farmers and land owners on the Eastern Shore to:

- a) Analyze the ecological changes that are occurring in the region;
- b) Imagine solutions that allow land to remain productive, in the family, and in relative harmony with the surrounding landscape; and
- c) Utilize landscape architectural tools to represent these solutions for use by the community.

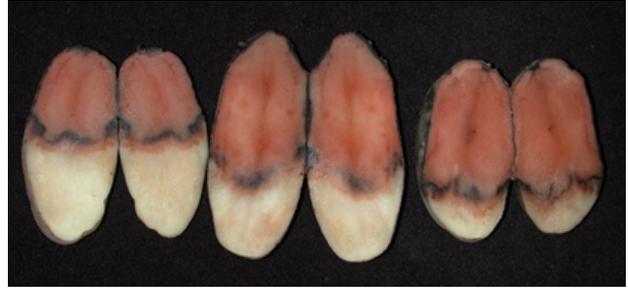


Adrian grew up in a small beach town in California, where he developed a love for the coast and an awareness of coastal threats. After attending college at the University of Oregon, he traveled abroad, working on farms in exchange for room and board. In 2016 he joined the Peace Corps, where he worked as a food security volunteer in Nepal, training farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques and learning about indigenous Nepali agriculture. In his spare time, Adrian likes to garden, hike, draw, go to breweries, hang out with his roommates and cat, and visit new parts of this country. He has visited the Eastern Shore once before to record soundscapes of seagrass meadows and ghost forests through UVA's Coastal Research Center in Oyster, and he looks forward to coming back soon to meet more people in the community!



Seeking Potato Grower Cooperator to Host Pink Rot Study

Potato planting season is right around the corner. The Vegetable and Small Grains Plant Pathology Lab at the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore AREC is seeking a grower-cooperator to host a pink rot study evaluating in-furrow and foliar fungicide treatments. There are no harvest restrictions associated with the study. If you have a field with a history of pink rot and are interested in hosting a small plot trial on your farm, please contact Dr. Doug Higgins at doughiggins@vt.edu or (757) 807-6584 for details.



Sting bugs?



Corn earworm?




**HOW WAS YOUR YEAR
WITH INSECT PESTS?**

Let us know!
Take our 1 minute poll!

<https://forms.gle/BwD4YZCM8T4xyNt88>

2023 Eastern Shore Ag Conference January 25th-26th

"I was surrounded by great staff members of VDACS and Virginia Cooperative Extension, alumni I had taught at Virginie Tech, and Eastern Shore farmers who are some of the most warm-hearted, hard-working, salt-of-the-Earth people you'll ever meet." *Joseph Guthrie, VDACS Commissioner*



Pictured L to R: Northampton ANR Agent Ursula Deitch, VDACS Commissioner Joseph Guthrie, Accomack ANR Agent Theresa Pittman



Top: Vendors chat with ag conference attendees

Center: Eastern Shore AREC Director Mark Reiter

Bottom: Northampton 4-H Agent Erin Morgan and Northampton Unit Support Staff Amanda Hurley



Pictured L to R: VDACS Commissioner Joseph Guthrie, VA Secretary of Agriculture Matt Lohr, VCE Director Michael Gutter

GIVING DAY is almost here! Mark your calendars for February 15th to February 16th noon to noon!

What is Giving Day?

- A yearly 24-hour online donation event
- Supporters from around the world select their favorite VT colleges, departments, programs organizations, and teams
- Gifts of all sizes add up to a huge impact on our students and our community



MAKE A DONATION TO THE EASTERN SHORE EXPERIMENT STATION

At <https://givingday.vt.edu/amb/ESAREC>
Area of Support → AREC and Experiment Stations
Fund Designation → ES Experiment Station



FEBRUARY 15TH-16TH 2023

<https://givingday.vt.edu/amb/ESAREC>

YOUR DONATION'S IMPACT



Eastern Shore Agricultural Research & Extension Center

- ✓ Community outreach
- ✓ Extension programs
 - ✓ Field days
 - ✓ Equipment
 - ✓ Recruitment

KEEP IT LOCAL!!

WHO BENEFITS

Community at large, farming community, schools, organizations, VT alumni, 4H, master gardeners

All donations are tax deductible

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO SUPPORT THE ESAREC?

Eastern Shore Commercial Pesticide Recertification

Categories 3A, 3B, 6, 10 and 60

WHEN:

Tuesday, February 28, 2023
8:30am - 3:30pm

WHERE:

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

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$40.00

Please email your local extension
office for the website link for
registration & credit card payments

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ursula Deitch

Northampton ANR Agent

ursula@vt.edu

757-678-7946 x25

Theresa Pittman

Accomack ANR Agent

tpittman@vt.edu

757-787-1361 x14

LUNCH
PROVIDED



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Ursula Deitch at the Northampton County Extension office at 757-678-7946 ext. 25 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (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.

VCE & ESAREC Contact Information

	Faculty/Staff	Title	Email	Work/Cell Phone
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	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.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/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
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	Doug Higgins	Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology	doughiggins@vt.edu	C 517/803-0636
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	VACANT	Research Specialist, Weed Science		W 757/807-6596
	VACANT	Research Specialist, Horticulture		W 757/807-6583
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	Andrew Fletcher	Asst. Farm Manager	alf20007@vt.edu	W 757/807-6596
VACANT	Administrative Specialist		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.*