



Small Farm Outreach Program

About Us



The VSU Small Farm Outreach Program (SFOP) was established in 1986 as a pilot project with 5 staff and became a program in 1991. Since then it has grown to 27 staff to include Program Director, Assistant Director, Field Coordinator, Regional and State Program Assistant (include Hispanic Coordinator & Veteran Coordinator), Program & Grant Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Field Tech, & Student Interns.

Our Mission:

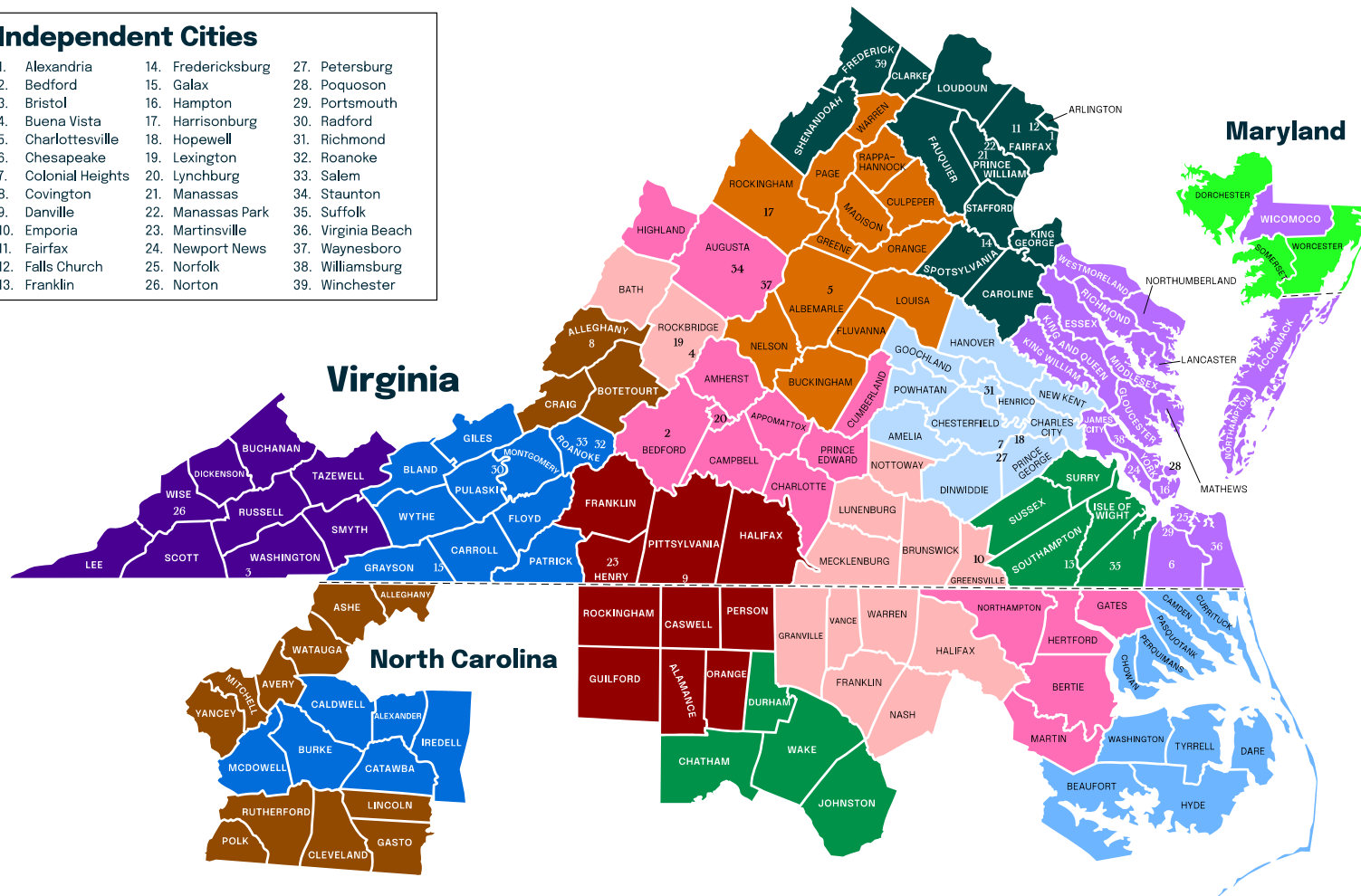
The Mission of SFOP is to provide Outreach, Training and Technical Assistance to small, limited resourced, socially disadvantaged, veteran and beginning farmers and ranchers, so they can make informed decision about their farm operation.

SFOP Territories Map

Contact our Program Assistants

Independent Cities

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alexandria | 14. Fredericksburg | 27. Petersburg |
| 2. Bedford | 15. Galax | 28. Poquoson |
| 3. Bristol | 16. Hampton | 29. Portsmouth |
| 4. Buena Vista | 17. Harrisonburg | 30. Radford |
| 5. Charlottesville | 18. Hopewell | 31. Richmond |
| 6. Chesapeake | 19. Lexington | 32. Roanoke |
| 7. Colonial Heights | 20. Lynchburg | 33. Salem |
| 8. Covington | 21. Manassas | 34. Staunton |
| 9. Danville | 22. Manassas Park | 35. Suffolk |
| 10. Emporia | 23. Martinsville | 36. Virginia Beach |
| 11. Fairfax | 24. Newport News | 37. Waynesboro |
| 12. Falls Church | 25. Norfolk | 38. Williamsburg |
| 13. Franklin | 26. Norton | 39. Winchester |



Regional Program Assistants*

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■ James Gibson	804-524-3292	jegibson@vsu.edu
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■ Tracy Porter	804-481-2566	tporter@vsu.edu
■ Cliff Somerville	804-892-4581	csomerville@vsu.edu
Stacy Taylor <i>Drone Pilot</i>	804-689-0410	ssomers-taylor@vsu.edu
■ Roland Terrell	804-892-4612	rterrell@vsu.edu

State Program Assistants

■ Frederick Custis	804-894-0218 fcustis@vsu.edu	<i>Agriculture Management Coordinator</i>
■ Leonel Castillo	804-731-0230 lcastillo@vsu.edu	<i>Hispanic Outreach, Drone Pilot</i>
■ Derrick Cladd	804-892-4489 dcladd@vsu.edu	<i>Beginning Farmers</i>
James Edwards	804-720-2588 jtedwards@vsu.edu	<i>Military Veteran, AgrAbility</i>
Tammy Holler	804-229-2730 tholler@vsu.edu	<i>Nutrient Management</i>
Wanda Johnson	804-894-4858 wjohnson@vsu.edu	<i>Community Gardens, Food Services</i>
■ Grace Summers	804-712-0093 gsummers@vsu.edu	<i>NRCS, SFOP High Tech Tunnel</i>

*If you have any difficulty figuring out which region is yours, please call 804-524-3292 for clarification.

Our Partners

SFOP is supported by our partnering agencies through grants and Cooperative Agreements.



- AgrAbility
- Arcadia
- Brunswick Farm To Families
- DCR Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DCR)
- Farm Service Agency
- Fauquier Education Farm
- Minority Veteran Farmers of Virginia
- Natural Resource and Conservation Services
- Southern Extension Risk Management
- Virginia Beginning Farmer & Rancher Coalition
- USDA Agencies

Mobile Education Unit

Highlighting various agricultural enterprises in Virginia



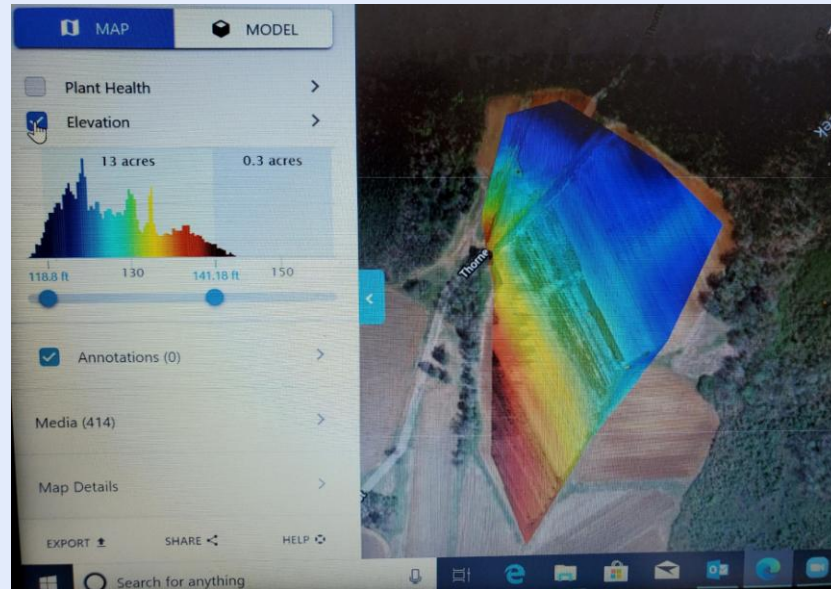
Fully Automated High Tunnel Production System



- Automated Systems for Power, Water & Ventilation
- Alternative Energy Systems & Storage
- Water Collection & Storage Solutions
- Back-Up Power Systems
- Applied Economic & Agronomic Data Research
- Potential for Scalability & Increased Efficiency
- Technology and Training Initiative



Drone Technology



We train farmers on the benefits of using drones to take aerial photos that detects problems areas on the land, and use findings for spot applications or targeted actions.



Mobile Processing Unit



The Cattle Project





Dear Small-Scale Farmers, Ranchers and Veterans,

I am excited to introduce the new assistant director of the Small Farm Outreach Program, Mr. Herbert Brown Jr. As a former Brunswick County executive director, he is passionate about educating producers and implementing programs to help sustain farming operations in Virginia.

Despite the Brunswick County native growing up in rural America, he never thought of agriculture as a career choice until he discovered his passion for agriculture at Virginia State University. Each summer during college, he interned with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). After graduating in 2009 with a degree in Agriculture Business and Economics, he began his professional career in an FSA county office. The relationships he developed with farmers while in the field enables him to understand their needs firsthand. Herbert's from-the-ground-up approach will be a big asset to the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program.

To ensure agriculture remains strong for current and next-generation socially-disadvantaged small farms in the Commonwealth, Herbert will connect the dots between our Land Grant Universities, USDA, state agencies

and other agricultural organizations, and will focus on innovation and profitability, which are critical. His skills will enable SFOP to make data-driven decisions and targeted outreach campaigns to provide real-life solutions for farmers, ranchers, landowners, small communities and veterans who need assistance.

In his spare time, Herbert assists his dad with their family farm.

Please join me in welcoming Herbert Brown, Jr., assistant director, to the SFOP family VCE/VSU-SFOP.

VCE/VSU-SFOP keeping you informed,
William Crutchfield, SFOP Director



“This is a dream come true. It feels good to be back at VSU to make a difference and have an impact on the future of Virginia Agriculture”

–Herbert Brown, Jr.

Our Quarterly Newsletter reaches over 5000 people

Small Farm Orientation



October 13, 2022 · 9–11 am · **FREE!**
 Space is limited to 30 participants!
 Join us on Zoom!

This two-hour Zoom session will provide you with 20 years of experience from the VSU Small Farm Outreach Program. Walk with attendees to a profitable farm.

Register at ext.vsu.edu/



Visit ext.vsu.edu for info on upcoming events.

If you are a person with a disability, please contact us at (804) 524-3292 / TDD (800) 828-6282. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, and the University of Mary Washington.

Farm Equipment Safety



Small Ruminants: Preparing for Winter



October 25, 2022 · 7:30–9 pm · **FREE**
 Join Us on Zoom!

Fall is often a time of rest for sheep and goat producers. The ewe and doe flock is in varying stages of pregnancy and does not require as much attention. But sound management at this time is extremely important. Proper vaccination programs, mineral supplementation, and other nutritional factors can directly affect success at lambing. Join us for an evening of learning and a Q & A session with Dr. Si Greiner, Extension Sheep Specialist with Virginia Tech.

Register at ext.vsu.edu/calendar

For more information, contact:

DCR Information Session



The 3 Baby Steps to Building Risk-Ready Markets



1 Building to Last **2 Counting the Cost** **3 Choosing Carefully**
 VSU Small Farm Outreach Program's Dr. Theresa Nartea and Program Assistant will show you how to build a risk-ready market in three important baby steps. This session is for beginning farmers and includes activities to help you create a successful market.



A sample of the types of workshops offered by the Small Farm Outreach Program.



We provide ongoing training and technical assistance.



SFOP Small Farm Program Assistants demonstrating to small farmers



Providing hands-on experience



Annual Conference and Agribusiness Bus Tour



Rosa Nunez and Carlos Ordaz
2019 Farmer of the Year



Thomas & Anita Roberson
2017 Farmer of the Year

Small Farm Resource Center

vasmallfarm.org



- The SFRC is a website designed to provide Virginia's small and beginning farmer with a single place for comprehensive information about resource development that may help make their business more profitable and successful.
- With special funding from the Virginia Department of Health and Community Development, VSU Small Farm Outreach Program has developed the Small Farm Resource Center (SFRC).
- The SFRC is intended to serve as a hub for all information pertaining to small farm agriculture in the commonwealth.

Contact:

William Crutchfield, Program Director

(804)524-3295



Learn more about us at: www.ext.vsu.edu · www.vasmallfarm.com