What can Extension do for you?

Sarah Sharpe, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, Greene County

History of Extension

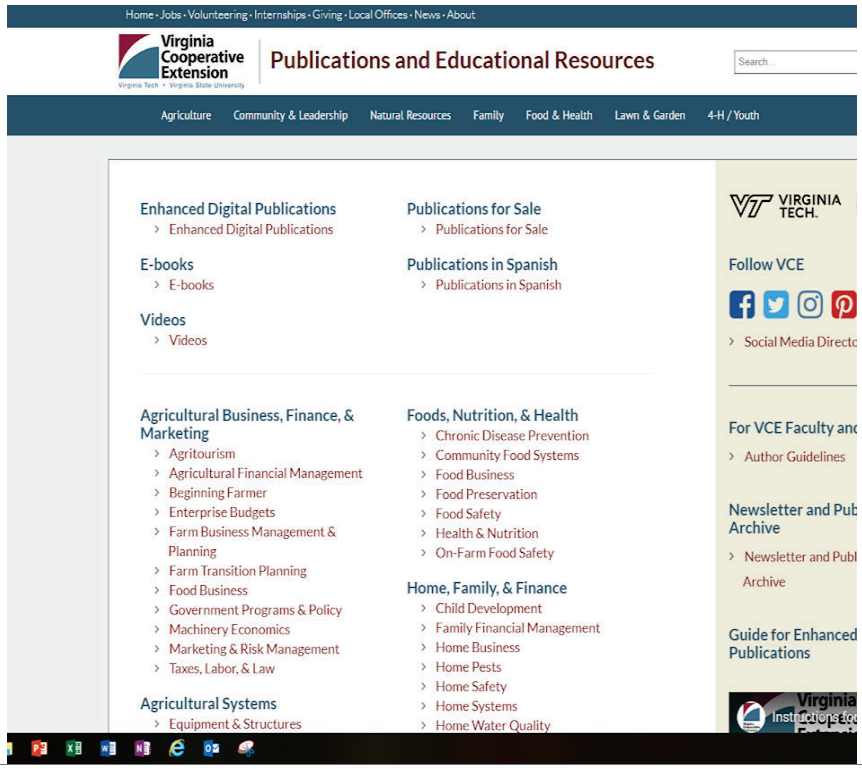
- Officially began in 1914 with the Smith Lever Act and Land-Grant Universities
    - Partnership of federal government, state government, and higher education to work cooperatively towards the solution of social and economic problems
- VCE is the educational outreach program of VA's two land-grant universities: Virginia Tech and Virginia State University
- Offices in 108 counties/cities
- 11 research stations
- 4-H, ANR, FCS, Community Viability, Forestry
- Offers science/research based information and solutions

Local Agents

- Culpeper: Carl Stafford (ccstaffo@vt.edu) *Animal Science*
- Greene: Sarah Sharpe (seweaver@vt.edu) *Commercial Horticulture and Local Foods*
- Madison: *currently open*
- Orange: Luke Bello, bellol@vt.edu *General Ag*
- Rappahannock: Kenner Love (klove@vt.edu) *Crop and Soils*
- District Forestry Agent: Adam Downing (adowning@vt.edu)

Educational Publications

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/index.html



Educational Publications

Agriculture

Agriculture programs help sustain the profitability of agricultural production and enhance and protect the quality of our land and water resources. Virginia Cooperative Extension strives to improve the well-being of Virginians and increase producers' profitability through programs that help put research-based knowledge to work in people's lives.

Agriculture topics | About | Diagnostic and Laboratory Services | Publications | Certifications & Trainings | News | Other resources

- Agritourism
- Beef Cattle
- Commercial Horticulture
  - Greenhouse, Nursery and Landscape
  - Greenhouse Vegetable Production
  - Hops
  - Irrigation Pathogens and Water Quality
  - On-farm Food Safety
  - Small Fruit
  - Spotted Lanternfly in Virginia
  - Tree Fruit
  - Boxwood Blight Task Force in Virginia
  - Wine Grapes
- Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems
- Corn
- Dairy Cattle
- Sheep
- Silvopasture
- Small Grains

Featured Publications

- Tractor Safety: Lawn Care Training Guide, Safe Use of Tractor

Related Topics

- 4-H / Youth
- Biosolids
- Composting and Compost Use
- Natural Resources
- Turf and Garden Tips Podcast
- Volunteer with Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia State University

Events

- Agricultural Business, Finance & Marketing calendar
- Agricultural Systems calendar
- Animal Agriculture calendar
- Crops & Soils calendar
- Specialty Agriculture calendar

Contact

For questions regarding agriculture tips, advice, and research, please contact your county's unit office or browse through the Agriculture topics for specific contact information.

Educational Publications

Soil Health and Cover Crops

Soil is a foundational resource to farming, conservation and health in the 21st century. Soil health, also referred to as soil quality, is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Key concepts of soil health and ecological soil management include protecting soil habitat; managing more by disturbing less; keeping soil covered, diversifying food and carbon sources for soil microorganisms; diversifying plant and animal communities; and growing living roots throughout the year. This topic page will focus on how to build soil health for improved soil function and better crops.

What's New | Topic Programs | Academic Programs | About Soil Health | Video & Webinars | Resources | Website Links | Blogs | Slides | Soil, Conservation, and Place Video Series

Bringing the Past Forward – Mike Phillips of Valley View Farms – A Soil, Conservation, and Place supplement

https://youtu.be/HyW858Hb12k

Soil, Conservation, and Place Video Series

Introduction to Soil, Conservation, and Place video series (1/5)

https://youtu.be/KaXW-Qreaol

Soil, Conservation, and Place -- Renard Turner of Vanguard Ranch, Ltd. (2/5)

https://youtu.be/qRIgFlnR-gI

Soil, Conservation, and Place -- Amy Hicks of Amy's Garden (3/5)

https://youtu.be/VkZNsNozcq0

Soil, Conservation, and Place -- Mike Phillips of Valley View Farms (4/5)

Featured Publications

- Building Soils for Better Health
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably
- Cover Crop Economics Opportunities to Improve Your Bottom Line in Row Crops

Related Topics

- Irrigation Pathogens and Water Quality
- Soil Information
- Turf and Garden Tips Podcast

Events

- Crops & Soils calendar

Contacts

Eric Bendfeldt
ebendfel@vt.edu

Greg Evanylo
gevanylo@vt.edu

John Galbraith
john.galbraith@vt.edu

Wade Thomason
wthomaso@vt.edu

Follow Soil Health

Follow VCE

- Social Media Directory

Need help? Find your city or county's local office.

Publications and Resources

Events and Calendars

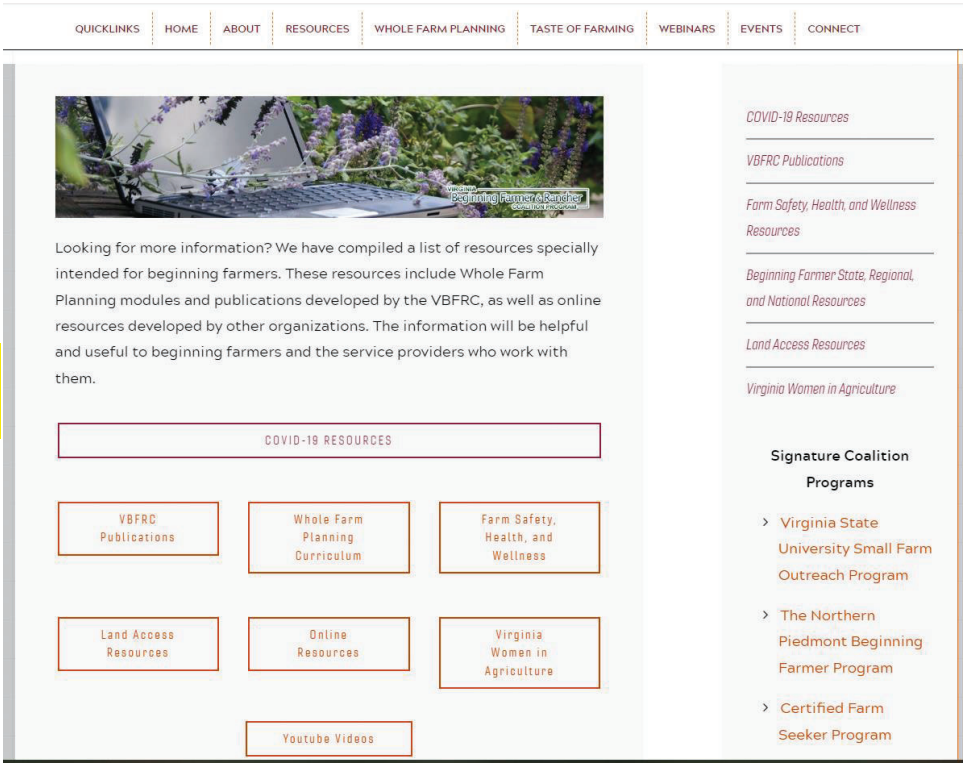
extension
Issues • Innovation • Impact
A Part of the Cooperative Extension System

Partners

- Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Virginia State University College of Agriculture
- Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station

Educational Publications

Virginia Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition

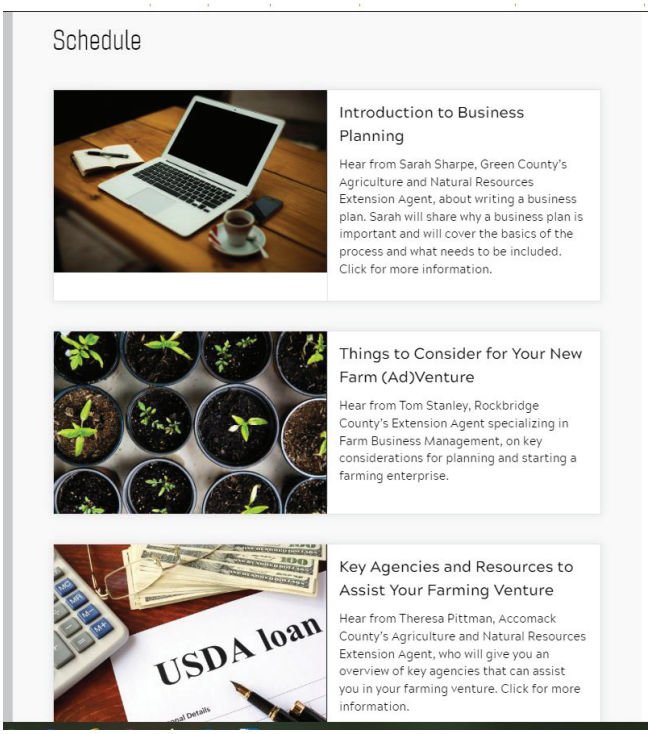


Taste of Farming Videos

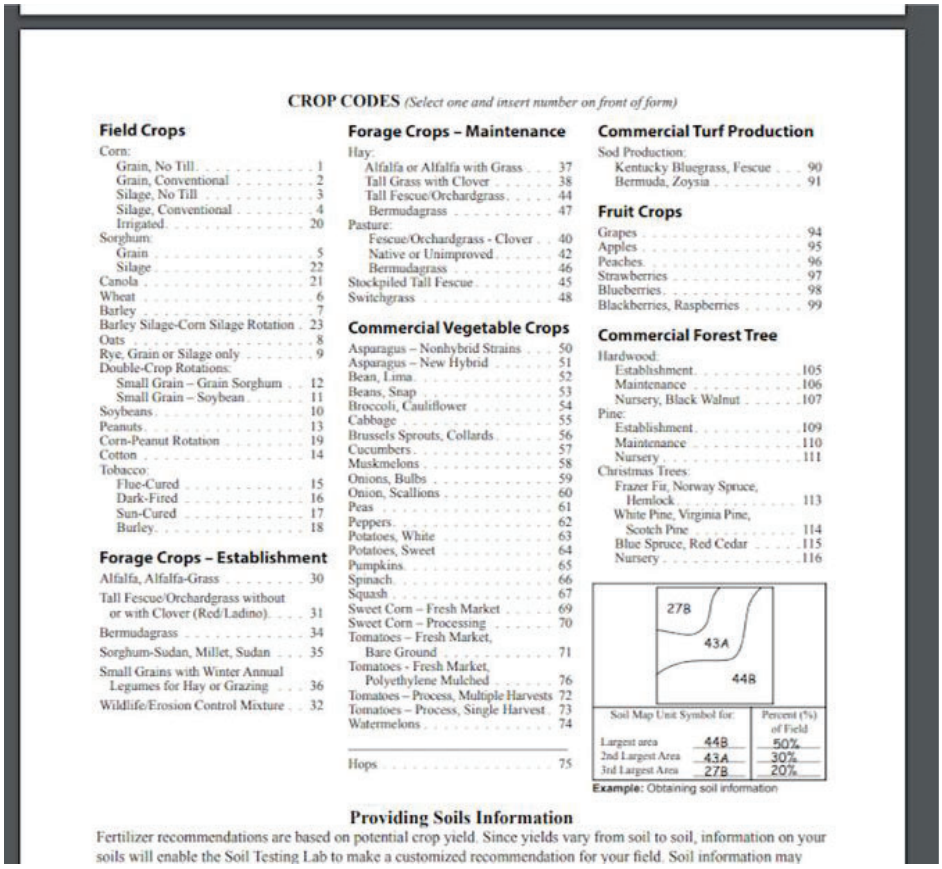
https://www.vabeginningfarmer.alce.vt.edu/TasteofFarming.html

Videos Currently Published:

- Introduction to Business Planning
- Things to Consider for your New Farm adVenture
- Key Agencies and Resources to Assist your Farming Venture
- Basic Soils
- Vegetable Production and Food Safety Requirements
- Integrated Pest Management Basics
- Getting Started in the Greenhouse
- Horse Management 101
- Pumpkins
- Forestry
- Grazing Math
- Beef Management 101
- Agroforestry and Forest Farming
- Small Fruit
- Strawberries
- Agritourism
- Hydroponic Production
- Starting a Small Dairy
- Seafood Safety
- Direct Marketing Meat
- Sheep and Goat Production
- Christmas Tree Production
- Vineyard Establishment
- Floriculture
- Information for New Pesticide Applicators
- How to Interpret a Soils Test



Soil Samples



CROP CODES *(Select one and insert number on front of form)*

Field Crops

Corn:
- Grain, No Till . . . 1
- Grain, Conventional . . . 2
- Silage, No Till . . . 3
- Silage, Conventional . . . 4
- Irrigated . . . 20

Sorghum:
- Grain . . . 5
- Silage . . . 22

Canola . . . 21
Wheat . . . 6
Barley . . . 7
Barley Silage-Corn Silage Rotation . . . 23
Oats . . . 8
Rye, Grain or Silage only . . . 9
Double-Crop Rotations:
- Small Grain – Grain Sorghum . . . 12
- Small Grain – Soybean . . . 11

Soybeans . . . 10
Peanuts . . . 13
Corn-Peanut Rotation . . . 19
Cotton . . . 14
Tobacco:
- Flue-Cured . . . 15
- Dark-Fired . . . 16
- Sun-Cured . . . 17
- Burley . . . 18

Forage Crops – Establishment

Alfalfa, Alfalfa-Grass . . . 30
Tall Fescue/Orchardgrass without or with Clover (Red/Ladino) . . . 31
Bermudagrass . . . 34
Sorghum-Sudan, Millet, Sudan . . . 35
Small Grains with Winter Annual Legumes for Hay or Grazing . . . 36
Wildlife/Erosion Control Mixture . . . 32

Forage Crops – Maintenance

Hay:
- Alfalfa or Alfalfa with Grass . . . 37
- Tall Grass with Clover . . . 38
- Tall Fescue/Orchardgrass . . . 44
- Bermudagrass . . . 47

Pasture:
- Fescue/Orchardgrass - Clover . . . 40
- Native or Unimproved . . . 42
- Bermudagrass . . . 46

Stockpiled Tall Fescue . . . 45
Switchgrass . . . 48

Commercial Vegetable Crops

Asparagus – Nonhybrid Strains . . . 50
Asparagus – New Hybrid . . . 51
Bean, Lima . . . 52
Beans, Snap . . . 53
Broccoli, Cauliflower . . . 54
Cabbage . . . 55
Brussels Sprouts, Collards . . . 56
Cucumbers . . . 57
Muskmelons . . . 58
Onions, Bulbs . . . 59
Onion, Scallions . . . 60
Peas . . . 61
Peppers . . . 62
Potatoes, White . . . 63
Potatoes, Sweet . . . 64
Pumpkins . . . 65
Spinach . . . 66
Squash . . . 67
Sweet Corn – Fresh Market . . . 69
Sweet Corn – Processing . . . 70
Tomatoes – Fresh Market, Bare Ground . . . 71
Tomatoes - Fresh Market, Polyethylene Mulched . . . 76
Tomatoes – Process, Multiple Harvests . . . 72
Tomatoes – Process, Single Harvest . . . 73
Watermelons . . . 74

Hops . . . 75

Commercial Turf Production

Sod Production:
- Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescue . . . 90
- Bermuda, Zoysia . . . 91

Fruit Crops

Grapes . . . 94
Apples . . . 95
Peaches . . . 96
Strawberries . . . 97
Blueberries . . . 98
Blackberries, Raspberries . . . 99

Commercial Forest Tree

Hardwood:
- Establishment . . . 105
- Maintenance . . . 106
- Nursery, Black Walnut . . . 107

Pine:
- Establishment . . . 109
- Maintenance . . . 110
- Nursery . . . 111

Christmas Trees:
- Frazer Fir, Norway Spruce, Hemlock . . . 113
- White Pine, Virginia Pine, Scotch Pine . . . 114
- Blue Spruce, Red Cedar . . . 115
- Nursery . . . 116

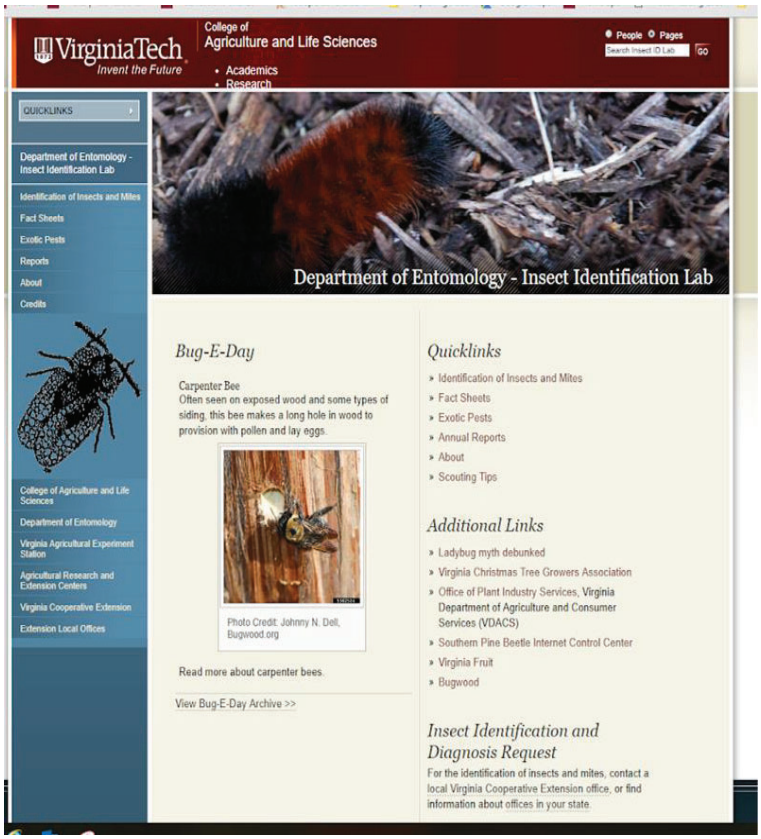
Soil Map Unit Symbol for:		Percent (%) of Field
Largest area	44B	50%
2nd Largest Area	43A	30%
3rd Largest Area	27B	20%

Example: Obtaining soil information

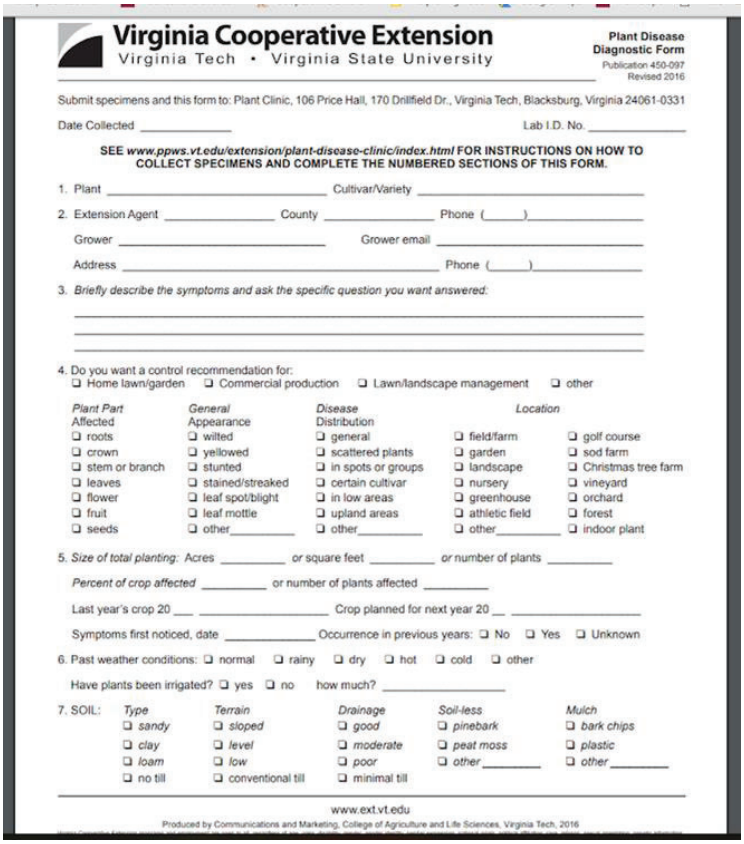
Providing Soils Information

Fertilizer recommendations are based on potential crop yield. Since yields vary from soil to soil, information on your soils will enable the Soil Testing Lab to make a customized recommendation for your field. Soil information may

Insect ID



Disease ID



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Plant Disease Diagnostic Form
Publication 450-097
Revised 2016

Submit specimens and this form to: Plant Clinic, 106 Price Hall, 170 Drillfield Dr., Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0331

Date Collected _____ Lab I.D. No. _____

SEE *www.ppws.vt.edu/extension/plant-disease-clinic/index.html* FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COLLECT SPECIMENS AND COMPLETE THE NUMBERED SECTIONS OF THIS FORM.

1. Plant _____ Cultivar/Variety _____
2. Extension Agent _____ County _____ Phone (____)_____
   Grower _____ Grower email _____
   Address _____ Phone (____)_____
3. *Briefly describe the symptoms and ask the specific question you want answered:*
   _____
   _____
   _____
4. Do you want a control recommendation for:
   ❑ Home lawn/garden ❑ Commercial production ❑ Lawn/landscape management ❑ other

Plant Part Affected	*General Appearance*	*Disease Distribution*	*Location*	
❑ roots	❑ wilted	❑ general	❑ field/farm	❑ golf course
❑ crown	❑ yellowed	❑ scattered plants	❑ garden	❑ sod farm
❑ stem or branch	❑ stunted	❑ in spots or groups	❑ landscape	❑ Christmas tree farm
❑ leaves	❑ stained/streaked	❑ certain cultivar	❑ nursery	❑ vineyard
❑ flower	❑ leaf spot/blight	❑ in low areas	❑ greenhouse	❑ orchard
❑ fruit	❑ leaf mottle	❑ upland areas	❑ athletic field	❑ forest
❑ seeds	❑ other_____	❑ other_____	❑ other_____	❑ indoor plant

5. *Size of total planting:* Acres _____ *or* square feet _____ *or* number of plants _____
   Percent of crop affected _____ or number of plants affected _____
   Last year's crop 20__ _____ Crop planned for next year 20__ _____
   Symptoms first noticed, date _____ Occurrence in previous years: ❑ No ❑ Yes ❑ Unknown
6. Past weather conditions: ❑ normal ❑ rainy ❑ dry ❑ hot ❑ cold ❑ other
   Have plants been irrigated? ❑ yes ❑ no how much? _____
7. SOIL:

Type	*Terrain*	*Drainage*	*Soil-less*	*Mulch*
❑ *sandy*	❑ *sloped*	❑ *good*	❑ *pinebark*	❑ *bark chips*
❑ *clay*	❑ *level*	❑ *moderate*	❑ *peat moss*	❑ *plastic*
❑ *loam*	❑ *low*	❑ *poor*	❑ *other*_____	❑ *other*_____
❑ no till	❑ conventional till	❑ minimal till		

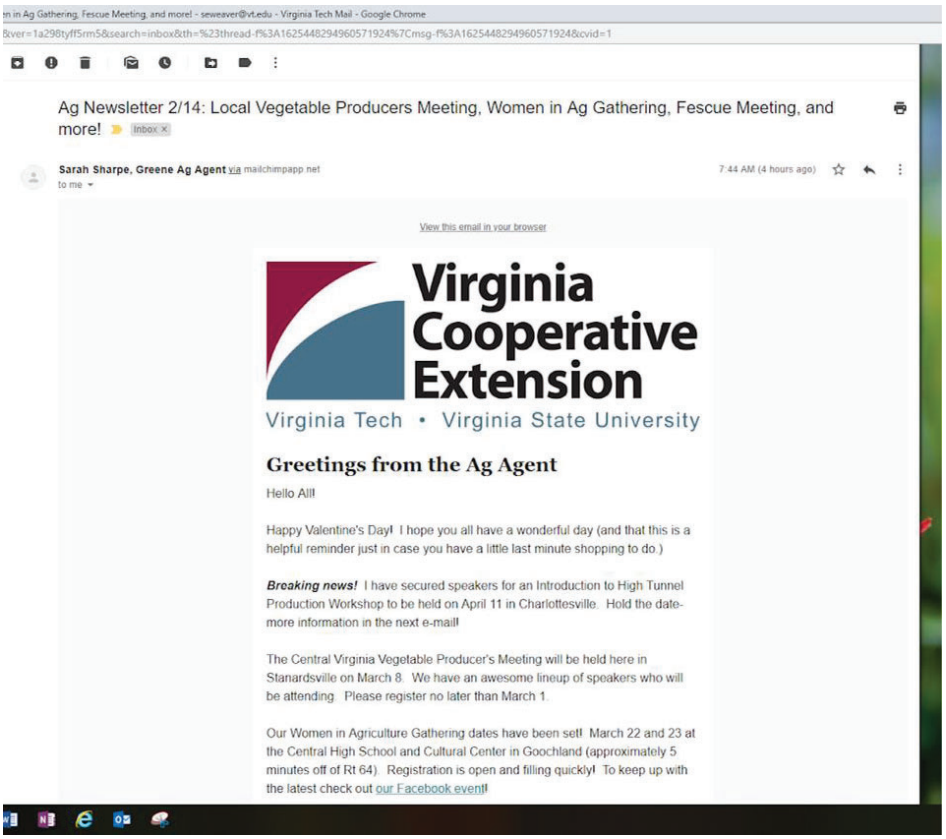
www.ext.vt.edu

Produced by Communications and Marketing, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech, 2016

Educational Programs

- Direct Meat Marketing 101
- Women in Agriculture Gathering
- Beef Cattle Educational Meetings
- Writing an Agriculture Business Plan
- Farmers Market Vendor Training
- Whole Farm Planning
- Farm Leases
- Central VA Vegetable Growers Meeting
- High Tunnel Production
- Eastern Virginia Pumpkin Growers Meeting
- Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce
- Baleage
- Farm Taxes
- Well Water Testing

Newsletter



Ag Newsletter 2/14: Local Vegetable Producers Meeting, Women in Ag Gathering, Fescue Meeting, and more!

Sarah Sharpe, Greene Ag Agent via mailchimpapp.net — 7:44 AM (4 hours ago)

View this email in your browser

Virginia Cooperative Extension

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Greetings from the Ag Agent

Hello All!

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you all have a wonderful day (and that this is a helpful reminder just in case you have a little last minute shopping to do.)

Breaking news! I have secured speakers for an Introduction to High Tunnel Production Workshop to be held on April 11 in Charlottesville. Hold the date- more information in the next e-mail!

The Central Virginia Vegetable Producer's Meeting will be held here in Stanardsville on March 8. We have an awesome lineup of speakers who will be attending. Please register no later than March 1.

Our Women in Agriculture Gathering dates have been set! March 22 and 23 at the Central High School and Cultural Center in Goochland (approximately 5 minutes off of Rt 64). Registration is open and filling quickly! To keep up with the latest check out our Facebook event!

Questions?

Sarah Sharpe
seweaver@vt.edu