

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Goochland Office

Quarterly Newsletter



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Second Quarter, Spring/Summer 2019

Spring Garden Fest



The Goochland - Powhatan Master Gardeners Association will hold its 15th annual Spring Garden Festival on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 8a to 3p at Reynolds Community College, 1851 Dickinson Road, Goochland. This annual event of the Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association (GPMGA) in cooperation with RCC and the VA Cooperative Extension is a free, family friendly event that is a celebration of all things related to gardening. SGF 2019 will include the much loved GPMGA Plant Sale, with a wide variety of plants at great prices, an Ask the Master Gardener station for free gardening help, and lots of fun gardening related vendor booths.

For a small registration fee you can also increase your gardening knowledge through classes, workshops, and tours offered throughout the day. Online registration for classes : https://www.cognitoforms.com/CharlesCrow1/_2019SpringGardenFestRegistration
Or visit www.gpmga.org for more information.

Horticulture Help Line:

Residents with questions regarding gardens, lawn care, pruning and more are invited to contact the Goochland Extension Office for free advice. The Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners are available at the office Wednesdays beginning in mid-March through September. You can reach them at 804-556-5874 or stop by the Goochland Extension Office.

We have moved!

Our office is now located at 2748 Dogtown Rd, Goochland, VA 23063. Please come see us at our new location in the Central High School Complex! We look forward to serving Goochland County's citizens in our new space.



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Please note that there is a \$50 returned check fee for any returned checks.

Backyard Bird Biosecurity

By Sarah Sharpe, Extension Agent, ANR- Greene County

As more and more individuals are creating backyard flocks of chickens and raising chickens as pets, there are some safety tips that all chicken and poultry handlers need to remember to help keep themselves safe. Just like any animals, there are risks that come with having chickens and interacting with them frequently.



While having backyard chickens can be very fun and entertaining, as well as a great source for fresh eggs, it is important to remember that there are many diseases that chickens can carry. Some common diseases that are known to be carried by chickens are Campylobacter, E.coli, and Salmonella. It is very common for chickens, ducks, and other poultry to carry Salmonella. Salmonella is a type of germ that naturally lives in the intestines of poultry and many other animals. Even organically fed poultry can have Salmonella. While it usually does not make the birds sick, Salmonella can cause serious illness when it is passed to other people.

Contact with live poultry can be a source of Salmonella infections. Many of these people who have reported being infected with Salmonella reported bringing the live poultry into their homes and others reported kissing or cuddling with the live poultry. These behaviors increase a person's risk of a Salmonella infection from contact with live poultry. People can get sick even if they do not have direct contact with the live poultry, but touch items and places that have been contaminated in the poultry's environment.

Does this mean that you should not have chickens in your backyard? No! Good practices to help keep you safe include always washing hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam; after collecting eggs from the hens, thoroughly cook them as Salmonella can pass from healthy looking hens into eggs; clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry outside the house, such as cages or feed or water containers; if you have free-roaming chickens or poultry, assume where they live and roam is contaminated with Salmonella. Another good practice to consider is to keep an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol near the bird's enclosure to encourage guests and children to clean their hands after handling birds.

Do not let children younger than 5 years of age, older adults, or people with weak immune systems handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry; don't eat or drink in the area where birds live or roam; don't let live poultry inside the house, in bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios.

There are many benefits that come from having your own backyard chickens and other poultry. They provide fresh eggs for your family, provide entertainment, eat bugs, and help you become more in touch with where your food comes from. Just remember to practice safe food handling techniques and always wash your hands after doing anything around your birds!

More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/SalmonellaPoultry/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html>

For more information, feel free to contact your local Extension Office or Greene County Agriculture Agent Sarah Weaver Sharpe at (434)985-5236 or seweaver@vt.edu

2019 Agriculture Discussion Groups

You may have noticed that the local Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agents have started to offer discussion groups.

What is a discussion group?

It is a type of educational programming that is driven **by the participants for the participants**. We intentionally keep these groups small (~15 people) in order to have good discussion and learn from each other more effectively.

Traditionally, these groups meet monthly and discuss a topic of their choosing. Speakers for the meetings range from the participants, local industry professionals or VCE Specialists. The meeting may take place in an Extension office, on a participant's property or out of the county on a trip.

Our current Discussion Groups include our **Equine Discussion Group** that meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and our **Beef Cattle Production 360 Discussion Group** that meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:00pm-8:00pm. In 2019, we may add a **Small Ruminant Discussion Group** if there is interest. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, or would like to see a new group formed, please contact the Goochland office at (804)556-5841 and Rachel Henley at rgrosse@vt.edu.



Photo Credit: University of Tasmania

Teacher's Herb Class at Byrd Elementary with Phyllis Jacoby, MG

Anyone who has visited Byrd Elementary School in Goochland knows that horticulture and gardening is a visual and hands-on focus at this unique learning environment for kids. The school building surrounds a courtyard of carefully planned gardens and natural habitats that have been created by the teachers and students over the years. This year, as a treat to the staff, first grade teacher and head of the courtyard committee, Holly Swift, organized a special hands-on workshop focusing on "herbs," with guidance from Phyllis Jacoby, a master gardener with the Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association. As a culinary introduction to a summer favorite herb, Ms. Jacoby served individual Caprese salads, stacks of layered tomato, mozzarella cheese, and basil, drizzled with olive oil. Eight other culinary herbs were introduced. All who attended enjoyed learning interesting information on the use and care of varying types of herbs. Then, choosing from an assortment of mature seedlings, teachers designed and planted their own kitchen herb gardens to take home. It was a fun afternoon project for the staff gardeners at Byrd Elementary!



Teachers at Byrd Elementary making kitchen herb gardens.

Upcoming Extension Events:

April

4-H Great Equestrian Club - Next meeting - **April 2, 6:30pm**. Contact the Goochland Extension office at (804) 556-5841 for more information.

4-H Goochland Livestock Club - Next Meeting - **April 12 at 7pm** at St. Mathews UMC.

4-H Trailblazers Club - **April 13th at 10a** LaserQuest (889 Research Rd, N. Chesterfield)

4-H Cloverbuds Club - **April 9th at 6pm** - at the Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063)

Spring Garden Fest - **Saturday April 27th 8a-3p**. This annual event of the Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association (GPMGA) in cooperation with RCC and the VA Cooperative Extension is a free, family friendly event that is a celebration of all things related to gardening. SGF 2019 will include the much loved GPMGA Plant Sale, with a wide variety of plants at great prices, an Ask the Master Gardener station for free gardening help, and lots of fun gardening related vendor booths. For a small registration fee, you can also increase your gardening knowledge through classes, workshops, and tours offered throughout the day. Online registration for classes will be available starting in January 2019. Please use the online registration to ensure that you get the classes you want! You can instantly lock in your choices by being able to see what seats are open in each offering. Online registration will be available until April 24th. If you must use the manual registration, you may not get your first choices. Manual registrations must be postmarked no later than April 18. www.gpmga.org

May

4-H Great Equestrian Club - Next meeting - **May 7th, 6:30pm**. Contact the Goochland Extension office at (804) 556-5841 for more information.

4-H Goochland Livestock Club - Next Meeting - **May 10th, 7pm** at St. Mathews UMC.

4-H Trailblazers - Next Meeting - **May 14th at 7p-** at the Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

4-H Cloverbuds - Next Meeting - **May 14th at 6p-** at the Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

June

4-H Great Equestrian Club - Next meeting - **June 4th at 6:30pm**. Contact the Goochland Extension office at (804) 556- 5841 for more information.

4-H Goochland Livestock Club - Next Meeting - **June 14th, 7pm** at St. Mathews UMC.

4-H Trailblazers Club - Next Meeting - **June 11th, 7p** at Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

4-H Cloverbuds Club - Next Meeting - **June 11th at 6p** at Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

****Please call the Extension Office prior to these meeting dates to verify that the clubs will be meeting on these dates and times.****



4-H News & Spotlight:

Top: Goochland Shooting Education Club Spring Air Competition
Bottom: Goochland County & District Photography Contest Winners



The Goochland Shooting Education Club after Spring Air weekend March 16-18, 2019.



Goochland County & District Photography Contest winners: 1 to r
Ivy Flory (Sundays in the South), Bethany Bosley (A New Life of Ducks), Burkely Towner (An Evening on the James)



Would you like to learn more about Goochland County?

In October, Goochland Leadership Enterprise (GLE) will begin its 22nd Class. Consider that over these last 21 Classes, over 300 people were introduced to opportunities to participate in Goochland County. The GLE program informs and educates interested citizens about issues facing the County to foster involvement in making Goochland a desirable place to live, work and enjoy. The goal of the GLE is to develop as a group of County citizens who will be motivated to participate in current and future County activities. The program begins in October and concludes with graduation in April. For further information about this program and the upcoming Class, please contact the Goochland Extension Office at (804) 556-5841 or visit the Extension website at <https://goochland.ext.vt.edu/programs.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Goochland-Leadership-Enterprise/282584751894928>



4-H Food Challenge Team:

Are you an aspiring youth chef? Do you love to watch cooking competitions like Chopped? Sign up for our new Goochland 4-H Food Challenge team! Participants will learn how to prepare nutritious and safe meals and snacks and adopt behaviors that can help reduce their risk for chronic disease. This contest challenges teams of 4-H members to create a dish using only a predetermined set of ingredients. From these ingredients, team members must identify and prepare the dish, then make a presentation about it to the judges. Participants will get the chance to compete locally and at state competitions! To reserve your spot, email sarahc89@vt.edu.

Space is limited. Ages 9+.
\$50 fee covers all food materials.

4-H Junior Summer Camp Ages 9-13

Junior 4-H Camp will be held July 15-19 at Jamestown 4-H Center. Jamestown offers canoeing, riflery, crafts and much more. More information about summer camp 2019 will be available after the first of the year. Don't miss a minute of the fun!



Jamestown 4-H Educational Center

Family Fun Day and Open House Sunday, June 2 from 1-4pm. Bring your family and spend the afternoon along the shores of the James River! Our staff and volunteers will provide an afternoon of fun for the whole family. This is a great opportunity to come out and play and to learn more about Summer and Year-Round Programs!



FREE Camp Programs

*Archery * Fishing * Nature and Wildlife * Arts and Crafts * Marshmallow Roasting * Face Painting * Carnival Games and Activities for children of all ages
Admission is free and Open to the Public. Local businesses and vendors welcome. Please call for more information. Food will be available for purchase.
(757) 253-4931. <http://www.jamestown4hcenter.org/>

See what 4-H has to offer for you!! Here is a list of our 4-H Clubs:



The Goochland County 4-H program is growing throughout the county. 4-H provides “learn by doing” opportunities for youth to receive “hands on experiences through work or activities. 4-H is for all youth, both boys and girls between the ages of 5-18 years of age regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap or political affiliation. For further information or questions regarding any of these programs please contact the 4-H office at 556-5841.

Goochland 4-H Shooting Education Club: Ages 9-18

The Shooting Education Club focuses on teaching responsible handling of any firearm, including safety, cleaning and proper storage. The youth will have a chance to compete in several 4-H sponsored shooting event throughout the year. The 4-H club is lead by qualifies, trained 4-H volunteers who are certified instructors in the following disciplines; archery, rifle, shotgun, pistol, air rifle.

4-H Trailblazers & Cloverbuds: Ages 5-18

Youth will learn about a variety of subject areas such as geocaching, photography, science and more. Meetings are usually held in the Central High School Classroom. (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

Great Equestrian 4-H Club: Ages 9-18

The 4-Hers will participate in equine workshops, visit farms and show equine at local 4-H horse shows. Youth do not need to have a horse to be a member, just interest in the equine industry. The 4-H members meet once a month on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm.

4-H Thunderhooves: Ages 9-18

The Thunderhooves are an equine club that focuses on learning more about the equine industry. The 4-Hers will participate in equine workshops, visit farms and show equine at local 4-H horse shows. Youth do not need to have a horse to be a member just interest in the equine industry.

Goochland 4-H Livestock Club: Ages 5-18

The Goochland Livestock 4-H club focuses on learning about livestock animals and agriculture. Throughout the year, the youth participate in workshops on different species of livestock; have guest speakers within the industry and show at the local 4-H livestock shows. Youth do not need to have a livestock animal to be a member just an interest. Youth 5-8 years of age, can be a part of this club as Cloverbuds until they reach the 4-H age of 9. This 4-H Club meets once a month on the second Friday at 7 pm at St. Mathews UMC in Goochland.



As a 4-H Volunteer, You can:

- *Lead youth within school-based and after-school programs, camp settings or 4-H clubs.
- *Serve as a chaperone, board member, or judge for a 4-H contest
- *Develop and support community service opportunities for youth to make a difference in Goochland County.
- *Teach youth using research-based university curricula
- *Work with other adults to create fun, new programs for youth.
- *Make a difference in the lives of youth

4-H is a great volunteer opportunity that allows you to share your interests, skills and time available with the youth in Goochland County. Interested in learning more? Contact Sarah Crews, 4-H Youth Development at 804-556-5873 or sarahc89@vt.edu for more information.

“When adults take time to help young people through 4-H, they exert an enormous, positive influence on the lives of youth.”
– Retired General Colin Powell

Do you have a well or spring? What's In your water?

The Virginia Household Water Quality Program aims to improve the water quality and health of Virginians with wells, springs and cisterns. We provide affordable water testing, help interpreting their water test results, and information about addressing problems.



How does it work?

Participants attend a short *Kickoff Meeting*, where they receive information about how to collect water samples and a sampling kit. Participants collect samples on a designated day and time and drop off at the sample collection point. Water is analyzed on the Virginia Tech campus for 14 parameters. Once analysis is complete, results are returned at a final meeting, water test results are explained, along with information about how to deal with any problems. If you are unable to attend the interpretation meeting, results will be mailed to you.

Testing includes:

Iron	Manganese	Sulfate	Hardness
Sodium	Copper	Nitrate	Arsenic
Fluoride	pH	Total Dissolved Solids	
Coliform bacteria	<i>E. coli</i> bacteria	Lead	

Cost: \$60 per sample kit.

	Date and Time	Location
Pick up sample kit and receive directions to collect samples	September 23, 2019 @ 6 PM	Central High Cultural & Educational Complex Auditorium 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063
Drop off samples	September 25, 2019 between 7 – 9 AM	Goochland Extension Office 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063
Results Meeting	October 22, 2019 @ 6 PM	Central High Cultural & Educational Complex Auditorium 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063

Contact Bob Whitehead to register:

whitehd5@vt.edu or call (804)556-5841

For more information about the program, visit <http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/>

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Goochland Extension office (804)556-5841, during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



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The Incredible Edible Fig**By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate**

Goochland Extension Office
2748 Dogtown Road
P.O. Box 20
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Fax - 804-556-3144



If you are looking for an addition to an edible landscape - why not consider figs?

Fig trees (*Ficus carica*) arrived in the Virginia in 1669 from varieties grown in Europe. They are thought to have originated in western Asia, but have been introduced to most temperate climates worldwide. Cultivating Figs in Virginia can be challenging depending on the severity of our winter temperatures. Currently, we seem to be in a

pattern of severe cold during the months of January and February with temperatures dropping to single digits for short periods. Fig growers have to take action to winterize the trees to prevent winter dieback. For those who love the distinctively sweet flavor of fresh figs or the taste of fig preserves from an heirloom family recipe, it's worth the effort.

There are four types of figs - Caprifigs, Smyrna, San Pedro and Common. Common Fig trees are recommended for ease of cultivation. There are 600 varieties of common fig, but Celeste, Brown Turkey and Chicago Hardy are three varieties that have some amount of cold hardiness suitable for our area. Plant figs either bare root or container grown. Container grown plants should be headed back by 1/3 or to 2 to 3 feet in height at planting. Figs require a soil pH around 6.5. In our area figs are usually trained to a bush form and are usually cut back annually to a manageable height to facilitate winterizing/wrapping. Fertilize figs in spring around the drip zone with about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of a complete fertilizer the first year. Increase this amount $\frac{1}{2}$ cup through year 4 and level off for year 5 on. Don't fertilize past the month of July. Fig trees begin producing fruit by years 3 to 4. Fruits are produced on old and new stems during the growing season. After leaf drop, prepare the tree/shrub for winter by pruning, then tying the branches together and wrapping in burlap. For more detailed information see the web links below:

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS1198/>
<http://ccenassau.org/resources/-fig-culture>

Or contact Bob Whitehead at 804-556-5868 or whitehd5@vt.edu



Visit our website at:
<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/goochland/>
For more programs and information!
Also search Virginia Cooperative Extension Goochland on Facebook!



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Find us on Facebook for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office - Goochland and Goochland 4-H here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Cooperative-Extension-Goochland-County/197382547017139> &

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Goochland-4-H/192197339215>

