

# Virginia Cooperative Extension, Goochland Office

## Quarterly Newsletter



Third Quarter, Fall 2021

### ***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 (Cash or Check).

**Please make checks payable to "Treasurer of Virginia Tech".**

*There will be a \$50.00 service charge on all returned checks.*

	Date and Time	Location
Pick up sample kit and receive directions to collect samples	September 20, 2021 between 5 PM - 7 PM	Central High Complex Auditorium 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063
Drop off samples	September 22, 2021 between 7 AM - 9 AM	Goochland Extension Office Central High Complex 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063

Contact Bob Whitehead to register: [whitehd5@vt.edu](mailto:whitehd5@vt.edu) or call (804)556-5841

OR REGISTER at the link: <https://forms.gle/KuPZF5GBMsin8WCo7>

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.



[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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### **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 Tuesdays beginning in mid-March through September. You can reach them at 804-556-5874 or stop by the Goochland Extension Office.**

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

## Save the Date! Landowner Education Event with the James River Association

Join us on October 2, 2021 to learn about James River Association's riparian buffer program. Lunch at Clover Forest will be followed by a guided float down the James from Cartersville to Maidens. Contact Joey Shelton at [jshelton@thejamesriver.org](mailto:jshelton@thejamesriver.org) or Nicole Shuman at 804-556-5872 to register and for more information.

Riparian forest buffers are the area of trees and shrubs between a stream and open land that filters soil, nutrients, and pollution before they reach the stream. These streamside forests not only protect the James River and its tributaries, they support landowner production goals. Buffers can attract pollinators, provide shade along pasture land, and help reduce streambank erosion. They are quickly becoming a common feature across Goochland's landscape. The James River Buffer Program, led by the James River Association, Department of Forestry, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, can help you join the movement by providing everything you need to get started.

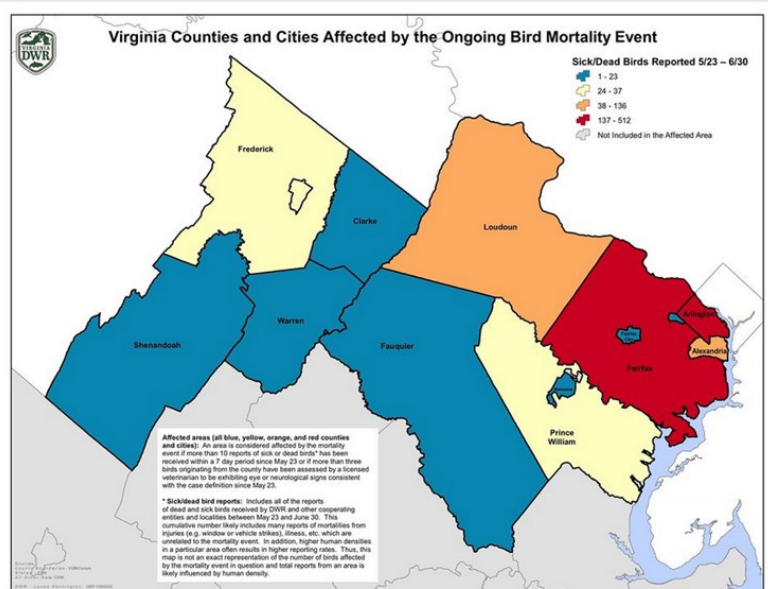
100% of the cost is covered, including a design and management plan, preparation of site as needed, materials, installation, and maintenance for three years.



This spring and summer, there was an unexplained bird mortality event across the mid-Atlantic states and as far away as Ohio. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) recommended that all bird feeding activity in Virginia stop, since bird feeders and birdbaths can be good ways to spread disease. Further investigation revealed that the bird mortality event was restricted to Northern Virginia, and DWR restricted its feeding prohibition accordingly. On August 19, DWR lifted the prohibition. The map below, shows the extent of the event in Virginia on June 30th.

Although Goochland County is located outside the scope of this mortality event, there are preventative steps that every backyard birdwatcher should take to ensure that wildlife remain healthy. Birdfeeders should be taken down, emptied (and unused seed thrown away), washed/cleaned, and disinfected with a 10% bleach solution at least every two weeks. The same strategy should also be used with bird baths (i.e., emptied/cleaned/disinfected). Dead or diseased birds should be reported to DWR.

With regard to hummingbird feeders, Dr. Jim Parkhurst of Virginia Tech recommends that "as a normal routine, all hummingbird food dispensers should be taken down, emptied, cleaned and disinfected a minimum of once every 2 weeks, regardless of whether the liquid has been finished or not. Given the high sugar content of the liquids being dispensed, they are notoriously vulnerable to bacterial contamination and black molds, especially in higher temperatures and higher humidity conditions; thus, the contents routinely should be discarded and the feeders cleansed thoroughly to prevent making hummers ill." Bleach solution can be made by mixing 1 part bleach with 9 parts water. Please remember that homemade bleach solution loses efficacy within 24 hours. As an alternative to feeders, bird-watchers should consider planting native plants such as seed-bearing flowers or shrubs like bayberry and beautyberry. They never need to be cleaned!



## Virtual Farm Safety Workshops

Virginia Tech Environmental Health and Safety is holding a series of virtual safety workshops as part of our ongoing Farm and Agricultural Safety Training (FAST) program. Funding for the program comes from OSHA through a Harwood Grant, so there is no cost to participants. The FAST program is part of the office's outreach and service effort.

The workshop will cover the relationship between agriculture and OSHA, as well as information on more specific safety initiatives for the farm. The program is modular, with four modules (Intro to Agriculture & OSHA, ATV Safety, Hazardous Chemicals, and Falls) currently in use. Additional modules on Farm Tractor and Implement Safety, Vehicle Safety, Manure Pit Safety, Weather Safety, and Animal Handling will be rolled out later in 2021. The goal is to build ongoing relationships with all interested parties to reduce illness, injury, and death associated with farming and agriculture.

Upcoming sessions include:

Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 PM

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM

Registration information and the full schedule of trainings can be found at: <https://ehs.vt.edu/FarmSafety/FASTSchedule.html>.

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### New Pest Alert: Elm Zigzag Sawfly By: Eric Day, Virginia Tech Insect Lab

Earlier this year, Heather Huntington with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services submitted a sample that turned out to be a non-native sawfly that feeds on elm. She took pictures last year and, upon seeing a pest alert from Ag Canada in May, then collected samples from Frederick County, Virginia.

The elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*) is native to Asia but was introduced to Europe in 2003, where it has become a pest. It is parthenogenetic, meaning only females are found, and it takes 24-29 days for a full life cycle. There are four generations in a year in Japan, and between four and six generations a year in Europe (Northern Italy). In North America, it was detected in Ste. Martine, Québec in 2020 and in Winchester, Virginia in 2021.

If you see any damage similar to the pictures, please submit damage and/or sawfly larvae to the Insect Identification Lab through your local Extension Office.





# 4-H Updates



## Welcome Cayla!

Cayla Walker began her position as the new 4-H Youth Development Agent in late June 2021. Before being hired in Goochland, Cayla worked as a 4-H Program Assistant in Albemarle County/Charlottesville City. During her time at Albemarle, Cayla worked to provide programs to youth during the COVID-19 pandemic within the schools, clubs, and families.

Cayla is originally from Fluvanna County, VA where she actively participated in 4-H as both a member of the Livestock Club and an adult volunteer. Because of her 4-H experiences and upbringing on her family's beef cattle farm, Cayla attended Ferrum College to pursue her B.S. in Agricultural Sciences; Animal Science. During her time at Ferrum, Cayla was active in the Agriculture Club, Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, and was an Admissions Ambassador. Ferrum also provided her with an internship opportunity with Virginia Cooperative Extension, where she interned in both the Fluvanna and Albemarle offices. After graduating in spring 2020, Cayla was hired as Albemarle's 4-H Program assistant. Her favorite 4-H program areas are Agriculture Education/Animal Science, STEM, and In-School Enrichment.



Cayla is very eager to meet the youth of Goochland County and get acquainted with potential program opportunities in our schools, clubs, and more! You can contact Cayla at (804-556-5873) [caylaks98@vt.edu](mailto:caylaks98@vt.edu), or stop by the Goochland Extension Office Located at 2748 Dogtown Road.

## Cattle WISE: Women Increasing Skills and Education

Join us on Friday, October 29, 2021 as we gather to learn the hands-on skills needed on cattle operations and dairies! The day will focus on giving women the opportunity to gain cattle handling, chute side skills, tractor driving, trailer backing, and calving troubleshooting skills. The program will be held at the BARN in Buckingham from 10:00 am till 4:00 pm. Cost is \$20 with materials & lunch included.

Register by October 15th at: <https://tinyurl.com/cattlewise2021>.



**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 556-5873.



#### **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.

**\*There is a waitlist for this club\***

#### **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 or via ZOOM. (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. This is a competition horse club. The 4-H members meet once a month on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm.

#### **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 Thursday at 6:30 pm at St. Mathews UMC in Goochland.

## **Shooting Club Instructors Wanted!**

The Goochland 4-H Shooting Education Club is seeking shooting instructors in all disciplines (air rifle, shotgun, archery, BB, pistol, small bore rifle) Some requirements include mandatory training, 4-H volunteer Enrollment, and a required background check process. If you are interested in being a Shooting Instructor, or would like more information please contact 4-H Agent Cayla Walker at [caylaks98@vt.edu](mailto:caylaks98@vt.edu)

## Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener Class of 2022



Now is the time to complete your application for an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about gardening and give back to your community. All applications for the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener training program for 2022 must be turned in by November 1, 2021. The program offers more than 50 hours of instruction on a broad range of horticultural topics including garden flowers, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect/plant disease identification, weed management, soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening, home fruit production, lawn care, and water conservation. All classes are taught by Virginia Tech extension specialists, agents, and local experts. In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer time to their County Extension program with at least 50 hours of volunteer service within one year following the training to earn their certification as a Master Gardener.

The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs, and the abilities and interests of the Master Gardeners. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening while others staff plant clinics or displays at community events. They may help establish community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist their agent with press releases related to gardening. The Master Gardener coordinator in the County Extension office decides how volunteer time can be best utilized. Tuition for the training class is \$140 (cash or check). Applications can be acquired online at [gpmga.org](http://gpmga.org) or by calling the Goochland Extension Office at 804-556-5872 or the Powhatan Extension Office at 804-598-5640.

### Would you like to learn more about Goochland County?

The Goochland Leadership Enterprise (GLE) is now accepting applications for its 23rd Class. GLE classes introduce Goochland residents to their county by providing information on topics such as the county's history, county departments and services, agriculture, economic development and the budget process. Participants are introduced to both county and state government officials. GLE hosts 13 sessions, typically every other Wednesday, at 7:00 PM from mid-October through early April. Sessions are held at different locations in the county to provide further insight into Goochland's history and environment. Registration is in progress and continues into October. For additional information, brochure, and applications visit The Goochland Extension Office website at <https://goochland.ext.vt.edu/programs.html>.

#### Schedule for GLE's 23rd Class

Session Name	Date
Class Orientation/Pictorial County Tour/History	Oct 13
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Oct 27
County Administration, Revenue, Treasurer	Nov 10
Sheriff, Clerk of Courts, and Commonwealth's Attorney	Dec 01
Education	Dec 15
Community & Government Services	Jan 05
Budget & Fire Rescue	Jan 19
Dinner with Board of Supervisors (Tuesday)	Feb 01
State Legislature (Day at the State Capital) (Monday)	Feb 14
County Development	Feb 23
Business and Economic Development	Mar 09
Leadership: Getting Involved!	Mar 23
Graduation Dinner	Apr 06



**COVID Notice: Goochland County and VT Cooperative Extension COVID restrictions, in place at time of events, will apply.**



Goochland Extension Office  
2748 Dogtown Road  
Goochland, VA 23063

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

Sign up for the Goochland County News Flash notifications:

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## Home in the Meadow

In our rural environment, we are fortunate to live with an abundance of plant flora and wildlife, but population growth continues to reduce natural habitats. Lately, concern for pollinators and habitat loss for wildlife has spurred interest in wildflower meadows. Creating a wildflower meadow on your property offers a way to provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife while reducing turfgrass or other marginally used areas which require laborious and costly maintenance activities. With reduced maintenance requirements, more time can be spent observing the simple beauty of the meadow and the new residents that will make it home. Like anything worthwhile, a successful wildflower meadow requires significant planning and preparation. A weed free planting site is necessary, since many beautiful and desirable native perennial flowering plants will usually require three years for full establishment. Native cool and warm season grasses are essential in a wildflower meadow too. With a broad palette of plants to choose from, selection should be based on local site, soil, and environmental conditions. The goal for the plants selected is a blend of colors, and bloom succession. A number of authoritative publications on wildflower meadows provide specific steps for successful establishment. Starting with a small area, say 500 - 2000 sq. ft. is recommended for "do-it-yourself aficionados" and there are a few native plant landscape contractors that can assist with larger scale projects. To learn more about wildflower meadows, see the following web links:

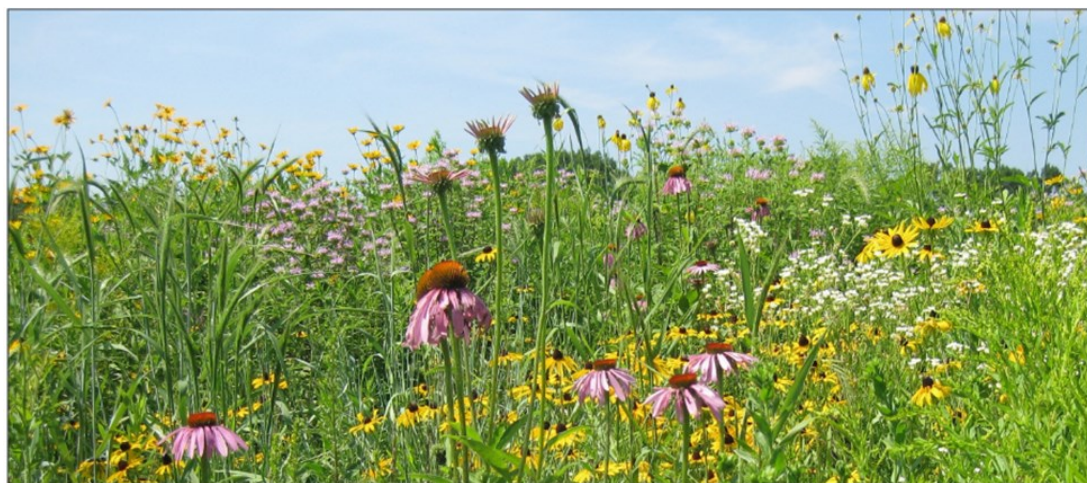
<https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/mid-atlantic-native-meadows>

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/how-make-meadow>

<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/meadow-gardening/>

[https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/](https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf)

[NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf)



An established meadow should be dense enough to out-compete weeds and should provide a succession of diverse flowers to support pollinators.

Photo credit: UNH Cooperative Extension



## Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)



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>

