

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Goochland Office

Quarterly Newsletter



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

First Quarter, Winter/Spring 2020

Women in AGRICULTURE GATHERING

Pre-conference - Farm Transition
Workshop: Thursday, February 20
Conference: Friday, February 21

Goochland Agricultural Center
2748 Dogtown Road
Goochland, VA 23063

**Listen, Learn, Network,
& Grow!**

Register today at: <https://tinyurl.com/vawomeninag2020>

REGISTRATION: Pre-conference (Thurs): \$15 (limited space)

OR Conference (Fri): \$35 [Both Thurs & Fri: \$45]

DEADLINE: February 12 // \$50 returned check fee

Feel free to keep up with what is going on by visiting **the event Facebook**
page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3256723811021110/>

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are also available, so please inquire!

For questions or more information, contact Rachel Henley (804-598-5640, rachelhenley@vt.edu) or Sarah Sharpe (434-985-5236, seweaver@vt.edu).

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 Thursdays 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.

Spring Garden Fest

The Goochland - Powhatan Master Gardeners Association will hold its 16th annual Spring Garden Festival on Saturday, April 25, 2020 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 2020 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 on the website www.gpmga.org.



Woodland Stewards Comes to Goochland

In February and March 2019, Forestry and Natural Resource professionals from Cooperative Extension programs across the southeast US, in collaboration with university, state and federal partners, delivered a regional education program for woodland owners. The goal of the program was to empower woodland owners to promote environmental and forest health through increased awareness, experience and access to resources. The series included four sessions conducted over four weeks. County and regional agents from participating states hosted landowner groups while speakers presented via webinar software. Participants found the series to be "an eye-opener," and 4 out of 5 recommend it to other landowners.

We are pleased to be bringing this program to Goochland in 2020! The sessions will be held on Thursdays in February (the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th), from 7 to 9 in the evening. Each session will cover a different topic, so it is recommended that participants attend them all. Contact 804-556-5841 or nks49@vt.edu to register.

Lawn and Pasture Renovations!

If you would like to find out more on how to make this happen please contact Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Assoc. (Lawns) at 804-556-5868 or Nicole Shuman, ANR Extension Agent, (Pastures) at 804-556-5872. They will

be more than happy to help you with any questions or concerns that you may have.



2020 Agriculture Discussion Groups

You may have noticed that the local Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agents have started to offer discussion groups in 2018.

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 2020 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)556-5872 or email Nicole Shuman at nks49@vt.edu.



Photo Credit: University of Tasmania

2020 Pork Industry

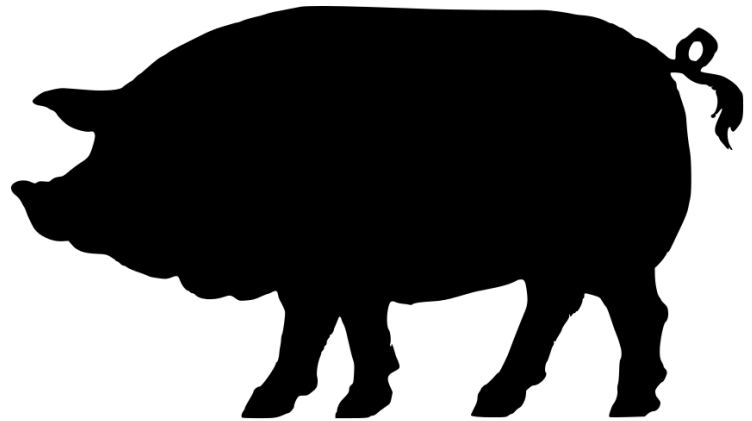
Conference,

March 12, 2020

Goochland Agricultural Center,

2748 Dogtown Rd.,

Goochland, VA 23063



This educational event is open to all Virginia pork producers, and will include special sessions for niche producers. Registration will open soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cynthia Gregg (434-848-2151 or clgregg@vt.edu) or Sarah Sharpe (434 985-5236 or seweaver@vt.edu).

Pond Workshop



April 10, 10:00-2:00, Goochland Agricultural Center, 2748 Dogtown Rd.

Come learn how to keep your pond healthy and productive! Topics will include aquatic weeds, aquaculture, and water quality. This program will consist of an in-class lesson followed by a site visit. Contact 804-556-5872 or ssexton@vt.edu to register.

Upcoming Extension Events:

January

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

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

4-H Trailblazers Club - **Jan. 11th** - Field Trip—TBD

4-H Cloverbuds Club - **Jan. 14th at 6pm** - at the Company 5 Firehouse in Goochland, VA 23063

Master Gardener Educational Talk - Association Meeting (9:30am—noon) FREE.

Join the Master Gardeners for their association meetings to hear about different horticultural topics from a range of speakers. For more information visit the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener website at www.gpmga.org.

February

Septic System Best Management Practices For the Homeowner - Feb 4th, 6 pm. FREE
Central High School Complex - Auditorium, 2748 Dogtown Rd, Goochland.

Knowing how to manage your septic system is important for rural residents. This program is an opportunity for rural home owners to learn how to properly manage their septic system including household practices and land use considerations near the drain field to promote optimal functionality and years of use. Commonly encountered problems will also be discussed. To Register follow the link (<https://tinyurl.com/septic2020>) or contact Nicole Shuman or Bob Whitehead: nks49@vt.edu or whitehd5@vt.edu, 804-556-5868.

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

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

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

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

Master Gardener Educational Talk - Association Meeting (Feb 13 9:30am—noon) FREE.

Join the Master Gardeners for their association meetings to hear about different horticultural topics from a range of speakers. For more information visit the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener website at www.gpmga.org.

March

4-H Great Equestrian Club - Next meeting - **March 3rd at 6:30pm**. Contact the Goochland Extension office at (804) 556- 5841 for more information.

4-H Goochland Livestock Club - Next Meeting - **March 13th, 7pm** at St. Mathews UMC.

4-H Trailblazers Club - Next Meeting - **March 10th, 7p** at Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

4-H Cloverbuds Club - Next Meeting - **March 10th at 6p** at Central High School Classroom (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

Master Gardener Educational Talk - Association Meeting (March 12th 9:30am—noon) FREE.

Join the Master Gardeners for their association meetings to hear about different horticultural topics from a range of speakers. For more information visit the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener website at www.gpmga.org.

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

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in these activities, or any activity listed in this newsletter, please contact Goochland Extension Office at 804-556-5841 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.





Would you like to learn more about Goochland County?

In October, Goochland Leadership Enterprise (GLE) will begin its 21st Class. Consider that over these last 20 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 Hippology Contest:

Compete with 4-H youth from Goochland and Powhatan County in our annual 4-H Hippology Contest! Show off your equine knowledge and compete for a blue ribbon! February 27, 6pm at Powhatan Elementary School.
Email chowland@vt.edu by February 20 to register.



4-H Junior Summer Camp Ages 9-13

Junior 4-H Camp will be held July 27-31, 2020 at Jamestown 4-H Center.

4-H Junior Camp has a rich history of providing educational programming to thousands of youth annually through hands-on, experiential learning. 4-H camping teaches youth to make their own decisions, solve problems, and manage their resources without the help of family. 4-H Junior Camp provides a unique opportunity for children to learn, grow and make memories that last a lifetime.

Programs May Include:

- **Aquatics:** Swimming and Boating (sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and stand up paddleboarding)
- **Outdoor/Environmental Education:** Wildlife, Forest and Marine Ecology, Outdoor Living Skills
- **Teambuilding:** Group Games/Initiatives and low ropes Challenge Course
- **Target Sports:** Archery, Air Rifles
- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics):** Multimedia, Maker Program
- **Creative Arts:** Arts and Crafts, Music, Performing Arts, Woodworking
- **Athletics:** Court and Field Sports
- **Campfires, Evening Programs, Special Events plus more!**

More information about summer camp 2020 will be available after March 1st. Don't miss a minute of the fun!

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

4-H Horse Club: Ages 9-18

The Goochland 4-H Horse Club is 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.



Inspire the Next Generation...
Become a 4-H Volunteer!



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

Septic System Best Management Practices For the Homeowner

Knowing how to manage your septic system is important for rural residents. This program is an opportunity for rural home owners to learn how to properly manage their septic system including household practices and land use considerations near the drain field to promote optimal functionality and years of use. Commonly encountered problems will also be discussed.

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 - 6:00PM

This event is **FREE**, however please pre-register (info below).

Central High School Complex - Auditorium
2748 Dogtown Rd
Goochland, Virginia 23063

To Register follow the link

(<https://tinyurl.com/septic2020>) or contact the Goochland or Powhatan Extension Offices:

Goochland Office contact Nicole Shuman or Bob Whitehead:

nks49@vt.edu or whitehd5@vt.edu or call (804)556-5841

Powhatan Office contact Rachel Henley or Allison

Walters: rachelhenley@vt.edu or allisw2@vt.edu or call (804)598-5640



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of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Bob Whitehead at the Goochland Extension Office at (804-556-5868/TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Septic System Do's & Don'ts

By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate



Goochland Extension Office
2748 Dogtown Road
Goochland, VA 23063

Phone - 804-556-5841
Fax - 804-556-3144



Visit our website at:
<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/goochland/>

For more programs and information!

Also search Virginia Cooperative Extension Goochland on Facebook!

In rural communities, it is the homeowner's responsibility to properly maintain their onsite Septic System. Appropriate maintenance and household practices are important to protect the health of your family and neighbors, reduce costs, maintain property values, protect the environment and keep the septic system and drain field functioning properly for many years. Educational information on septic system maintenance is available from a number of sources such as the Virginia Department of Health, EPA and Cooperative Extension research universities. Here are some useful tips for homeowners to keep their septic systems functioning properly:

Do's

Maintain records on the construction date, type, location, drawing, design details and any maintenance or septic tank pumping operations (**Note: If you don't have the original construction information, you can frequently obtain it from your local county government/health department**)

Think of ways to conserve/reduce water going down the drain to the septic system

Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets, etc.

Keep shallow rooted vegetation growing on the drainfield, no deep-rooted plants or water loving trees, like willows.

Divert roof drainage and surface water away from the septic tank and drainfield.

Install secure risers over the septic tank to simplify access

Have the septic system inspected and periodically pump solids from the septic tank

Avoid construction over the septic system and drainfield

Don'ts

Don't pour grease or cooking oils down the drain and limit use of garbage disposals

Don't pour chemicals, paint, oil, medications, disinfectants, pesticides, etc., down the drain.

Don't use the septic system to dispose of materials that could be deposited in household trash.

Don't drive heavy vehicles over the septic tank or drainfield

Don't connect well water filtration systems such as a water softener backwash discharge pipes to drains going to the septic system.

For more detailed information, please see the following links:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/onsite-sewage-system-owner-responsibilities/>

<https://www.epa.gov/septic>

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/septic-system-owners-guide>



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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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>

