

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Goochland Office

Quarterly Newsletter



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Third Quarter, Summer/Fall 2020

The Birds, Bees and Bears

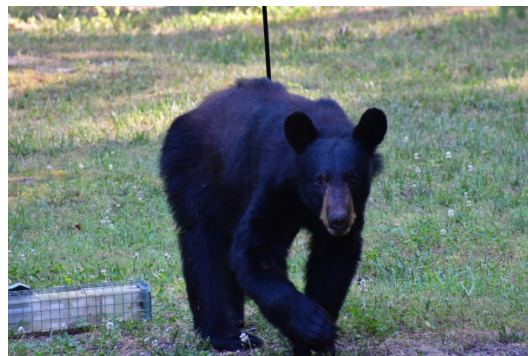
By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate

Home poultry and beekeeping are two growing hobbies especially in rural areas of Virginia including Goochland and Powhatan counties. In addition to normal management activities associated with these hobbies, homeowners have to consider the activities of another county resident – Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*). Many people marvel at the sightings of wildlife on their property. Sometimes this can lead to human – wildlife conflicts. Black Bear sightings have increased in recent years. After winter denning, Black Bears spend most of their time searching for food to add body weight for the next winter season. Bears are omnivorous which means they will eat a variety plant and animal foods - insects, berries, nuts, carrion, household garbage, pet food, humming bird nectar and bird seed, etc. Bears can raid chicken coups and bee hives too. Nondestructive sightings may be enjoyable, but these destructive visits are a conflict that residents should learn to manage wisely by becoming “Bearwise”. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources has a number of recommendations such as 1) Never intentionally feed bears, 2) Remove bird feeders – April – November, 3)Secure garbage, 4)Pick up pet Food, 5) Don’t add meat scraps to compost piles, 6)Pick up and remove ripe fruit from fruit trees, 7)Clean grills often and secure, 8)Install electric fencing to protect beehives, chicken coups, gardens, etc. 9) Report unresolved bear problems to the Wildlife Conflict Helpline (855-571-9003). For more detailed information on bears and life in bear country, see the following web links:

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/black-bear-facts/>

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/living-with-black-bears/>

<https://bearwise.org/>



Bear photos by Bob Whitehead

Horticulture Help Line:

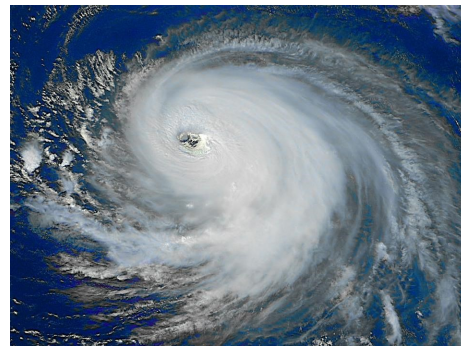
Residents with questions regarding gardens, lawn care, pruning and more are invited to contact the Goochland Extension Office for free advice. The Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners are available at the office Thursdays beginning in mid-March through September. You can reach them at 804-556-5874 or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

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

Hurricane Season Preparedness



Hurricane season got off to an early start this year, and the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to disrupt emergency response efforts in the event that we do get a big storm. In addition to buying toilet paper and canned goods, here are some to-do items for your on-farm hurricane preparations.

- **Create a printed list** of extended family, veterinarian, employees and their families, your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, utility company and local county Extension office. **Remember that Extension assists FSA and local governments with agriculture damage assessments. You can call the office to report your damages, but we will also attempt to reach out to you.*
 - **Purchase batteries for flashlights and lanterns.** Have enough flashlights ready for each employee.
 - **Stock up on feed for animals** receiving supplemental feeds. Don't forget the cat and dog food. Have enough hay, feed and health-care supplies on hand for one to two weeks. Feed stores may not be open for business for a week or more after a storm or shipments of feed to stores may be delayed if their sources were disrupted.
 - **Check to ensure generators are ready** and in working order for livestock operations that rely on electricity for milking parlors, chicken houses, wells for watering livestock and electric fence chargers.
 - Make sure **chainsaws** are in good working order and stock up on **mixed fuel**.
 - **Locate chains and come-a-long** for limb and tree movement off fences and buildings.
 - **Stock up on fence repair materials:** wire, posts and staples for repairing fences damaged by limbs and trees.
- This information was provided by University of Florida Extension. You can find more information on hurricane-season preparations for farms here: <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2018/10/08/hurricane-preparation-for-your-farm/>

Virginia Pesticide Collection Program

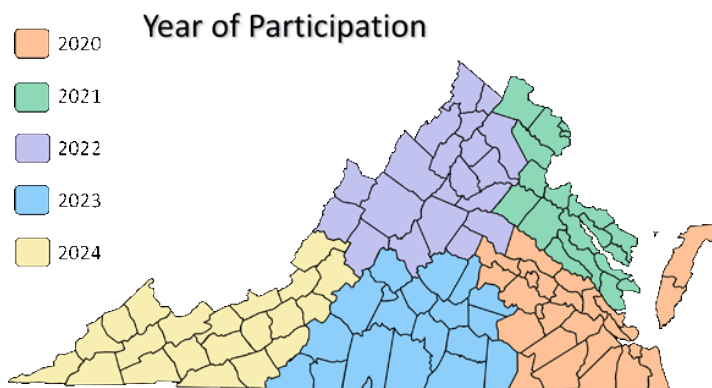
The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (VDACS) Pesticide Collection Program is returning to the southeast this summer.

Since its inception in 1997, Virginia's Pesticide Collection Program has collected and destroyed more than 1.5 million pounds of pesticides. Available at no cost to eligible participants, the program is supported by pesticide fees collected by VDACS. No general fund tax dollars are used to implement the program.

Agricultural producers, licensed pesticide dealers, pest control firms, golf courses and homeowners with excess or out-of-date pesticides are all eligible to participate. Pre-registration is required. Paper registration forms can be returned to Jeffrey Rogers, VDACS-OPS, PO BOX 1163, Richmond, VA 23218, faxed to 804-786-9149 or emailed to jeffrey.rogers@vdacs.virginia.gov. Alternatively, they can be dropped off in-person at the Goochland Extension Office at 2748 Dogtown Road.

If you prefer to register online, you can do so here: <https://tinyurl.com/pesticidecollection2020>.

The collection that will serve Goochland residents will be held on September 1, 2020 at the Springfield Road Landfill, 10600 Fords County Lane, Glen Allen, VA 23059. If you cannot attend this event, there will be others held in other counties. Contact Nicole Shuman at the Goochland Extension Office (804-566-5872; nks49@vt.edu) if you wish to receive updates about the program or if you have questions.



The Pesticide Collection Program moves between regions of the state on a 5-year cycle. In 2020, it will come to Goochland's region. Miss the collection dates for your region? Residents of one region are welcome to participate at a collection site in another region.

Phone: (804) 786-3798 - Fax: (804) 786-9149 - www.vdacs.virginia.gov
PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Return completed registration forms to: Jeffrey Rogers, VDACS-OPS, PO BOX 1163, Richmond, VA 23218 or fax 804-786-9149 or jeffrey.rogers@vdacs.virginia.gov

DO YOU HAVE ANY "UNKNOWN" PESTICIDES GREATER THAN 50 POUNDS FOR SOLIDS OR 5 GALLONS FOR LIQUIDS? ____ YES ____ NO

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Would you like to learn more about Goochland County?

In October, Goochland Leadership Enterprise (GLE) will begin its 23rd 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>



Goochland County 4-H Livestock Show 2020

**September 18-20, 2020
Field Day of the Past**

As of right now, Field Day Of the Past is still happening September 18, 19 & 20, 2020. We may have alterations to the way that the shows will be done, but we will worry about that closer to time of the Show. NEW this year is

ONLINE registration! Please read the information carefully, and fill out the appropriate tabs in the Google Form. At the very end of filling out the Google Form there is the "Show Guidelines – Rules and Regulations" page that EVERYONE must print, sign and send to the address listed. Please let me know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to having a great show this year. We can't wait to see everyone again this year!

Use this link to register for the Goochland 4-H Livestock show:

<https://tinyurl.com/FDOP-livestock2020>

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 Thursday at 6:30 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

In a Normal Year

By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate

In a normal year, we would be celebrating spring with a myriad of gardening activities and extension educational offerings. The SARS-CoV-2 virus has not only caused us to modify our social behavior, but also to think of creative ways to enjoy and manage our gardens and landscapes within the mandates of social distancing. In previous years, our SmartLawn program has been popular with home lawn aficionados. Fall is the prime time for lawn maintenance and renovation activities. The SmartLawn program, usually offered in spring, provided time for homeowners to receive soil testing results and lawn maintenance reports in time to implement recommendations in the fall. Even with COVID-19, all is not lost for those hoping to make improvements to their lawns. If you find that you have a little more time at home these days why not start planning your fall lawn maintenance program.

The first step is a soil test of the lawn. The soil lab at Virginia Tech is still accepting soil samples though reporting time may be longer due to reduced staff. Soil sampling now should provide plenty of time to plan fall activities. Soil Sampling is easy. You only need a few items: 1) hand trowel or shovel, 2) clean plastic bucket, 3) soil test sample box, 4) soil test lab form. Soil test sample boxes and lab forms are available at the Goochland Extension Office located at 2748 Dogtown Rd., Goochland Va. 23063. We have labeled containers with forms and boxes located outside at the building doors for your convenient pickup.

Once you have the forms and boxes, the procedure for taking the sample requires that you define the area you will be testing. For lawns, this could be a combination of front, back or side lawn areas. If you have worked the soil in your lawn, you may have noticed differences in color or texture. If the soil in the front lawn looks different from the soil in the back, it probably is different. In such situations, you may want to sample the front lawn separately from the back lawn. Use this strategy to define your lawn into separate test areas.

To prepare a soil sample, you will collect soil from at least 10 locations within a selected test area to form a composite sample. Each soil core from the 10 or more locations should be placed together in a clean plastic bucket. For lawns, the depth of each soil core is about 4 inches deep. Thatch and other organic debris should be scraped away to bare soil to collect each soil core.

Once all of the cores are in the bucket, mix thoroughly to form a composite soil mixture. Fill in the requested information on the soil box and form. This is important so that the lab staff can match the form with the soil box when received at the laboratory. Fill the soil box, which holds approximately 16 ounces, from the composite mixture. Prepare a mail shipping container for the soil sample box, lab form and payment. Soil test cost information and the VT soil laboratory address is listed on the bottom of the lab form. A standard soil test cost \$10 per sample. Checks should be made payable to the "Treasurer of Virginia Tech" and placed in the shipping container with the soil sample box. Additional soil sampling instructions are on the back of lab form too.

Later, if you need assistance interpreting the soil test report, Goochland Extension Office staff will be happy to assist by phone or email. Give us a call at 804-556-5841. We are still here to help in these unusual times. For more information on Soil Test sampling and Lawn maintenance and other topics, see the following web links:

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/452/452-129/SPES-176.pdf

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/452/452-125/SPES-172.pdf

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html/pubs_ext_vt_edu:lawns



Have you read the Label?

By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate



Goochland Extension Office
2748 Dogtown Road
Goochland, VA 23063

Phone - 804-556-5841
Fax - 804-424-3185



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

It appears that household maintenance projects including gardening have risen to the top of the homeowner priority list due to Covid-19 stay home orders. Home gardening has been so popular this spring that home centers have had to increase stocks of ornamental plants, vegetable seed, vegetable plants and other garden management products to meet demand. Successful vegetable gardening is challenging most years. Crop damage due to disease and insects is a frequent issue for gardeners of all experience levels who may resort to pesticide products for control. All pesticides have labels and are required reading as a precursor for safe, effective and legal use. All information on a pesticide label is important and applicators, including homeowners, are required by law to know and follow label directions precisely. There are many decisions that must be made before choosing a pesticide product. To add even more complexity, product labels change frequently. As an example, most vegetable gardeners have probably heard of an insecticide product called "Sevin". For years the liquid version of this product had an active ingredient called carbaryl. In 2018, the manufacturer "GardenTech" released a liquid Sevin product with an active ingredient called Zeta-Cypermethrin. In other situations, information on a pesticide label may change even if the active ingredient remains unchanged. So, you can never be sure that you are applying a pesticide product properly unless you read the entire label. Complete knowledge of pesticide label directions and constraints is vitally important for protecting human health, non-target organisms and the environment. For more detailed information on this topic, see the following web links:

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-706/426-706.pdf.pdf

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-707/426-707.pdf.pdf

<http://npic.orst.edu/health/readlabel.html>



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>

