

Virginia Cooperative Extension



FARM NOTES

October 2013

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Opportunities

Please find below a list of meetings in which you can receive recertification credits for your private pesticide applicator license. There is no registration fee or preregistration required for the four meetings listed below. All of these meetings will provide full recertification credit for both Category 90 and 91. Feel free to contact any of the following Extension offices if you have any questions.

Clarke:	540/955-5164	Shenandoah:	540/459-6140
Frederick:	540/665-5699	Warren:	540/635-4549
Page:	540/778-5794		

December 4	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC, Winchester, VA
December 9	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Page County Extension Office, Stanley, VA
December 11	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Clarke County Government Center, Berryville, VA

Topics to be covered at these meetings include: Pesticide Regulatory Update, Trailer Safety, Agronomy Pest Updates, IPM for Small Ruminants, and Horticulture Update.

Agronomy School/Pesticide Recertification

December 17 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Shenandoah County Government Center, Woodstock, VA

Topics to be covered at this meeting include:

What's New in Cover Crops	<i>Matt Yancey, Extension Agent</i>
Early Season Insect Management in No-Till Crop Production	<i>Curt Laub, Virginia Tech Entomology Department</i>
Understanding NRCS No-Till Standards: What's the Goal, What are the Rules, and How to Make it Work on Your Farm	<i>Mike Liskey, USDA NRCS District Conservationist</i>
Making No-Till Systems Work	<i>Chris Lawrence, USDA NRCS State Agronomist</i>
Pesticide Legal and Safety Update	<i>Bobby Clark, Senior Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources</i>

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Additional Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training Opportunities

Contact the Madison County Extension Office for more information
540-948-6881

December 16	6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Madison Fire Hall, Madison, VA
December 17	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Remington Fire Hall, Remington, VA
December 17	2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Whitestone Farm, Aldie, VA

Contact the Augusta County Extension Office for more information
540-245-5750

December 3	7:00 p.m.	Rockingham County Government Center Fire and Rescue Meeting Room, Harrisonburg, VA
December 10	1:00 p.m.	Briery Branch Church of the Brethren, Activities Building, Dayton, VA
2014		
January 15	1:00 p.m.	Augusta County Government Center, Verona, VA

Upcoming Educational Meetings

November 12-13 - Virginia Beginner Grazer School, Blackstone, VA.

November 19-21 - Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School, Ocean City, MD. Contact Josh McGrath at 301-405-1351 or by e-mail at mcgrathj@umd.edu.

2014

January 14 - Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training, Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, VA. Preregistration required. Contact the Frederick County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at 540-665-5699.

January 21-23 - Virginia Crop Producers Association, Holiday Inn, Koger Conference Center, Richmond, VA.

February 4 - Virginia No-Till Alliance Annual Meeting, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA.

February 19-20 - Virginia Grain and Soybean Annual Conference, Williamsburg Doubletree in Williamsburg, VA.

February 28 - Next Generation Crop Fertilization Technology Meeting, Shenandoah County, VA. Exact location to be announced.

Go to the link below to see recordings from the Coyote Management Meeting:
[http://offices.ext.vt.edu/shenandoah/programs/anr/AgricultureandNaturalResources/
Coyote_Education_Meeting_-_September_26_2013.html](http://offices.ext.vt.edu/shenandoah/programs/anr/AgricultureandNaturalResources/Coyote_Education_Meeting_-_September_26_2013.html)

Grain Bin Safety of Paramount Importance: It's a Matter of Life or Death

There have been a significant number of grain bins constructed in the Northern Shenandoah Valley this summer and fall. This means there will be a large number of farmers, farm workers, and family members who may work in and around these grain bins who have never done so in the past. Over 1,500 fatal and non-fatal grain entrapment cases have been documented with the earliest case dating back to 1964 (source, Purdue University). As with most aspects of farming, there are many ways farm workers can become injured when working around grain storage facilities. The primary concern is grain entrapment or engulfment. An entrapment occurs when a victim becomes buried in grain beyond the point of self-extrication, while an engulfment is an incident where the victim is completely buried or submerged beneath the surface of the grain. Approximately half of grain entrapments lead to engulfment which in turn are almost always fatal. Most entrapments or engulfment occur inside grain bins. However, there is also significant risk around piles of stored grain and in grain transport vehicles.



The following link is a short video summarizing the risk of grain bins.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqbUubNAVE0&feature=youtu.be&noredirect=1>.

More information on grain bin safety can be found at the link below:

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/grainlab/index.php?page=pubs/safety.php>.



What Portion of Fescue in the Shenandoah Valley is Infected with Endophyte and What Should Livestock Producers Do About It?

Recently, Extension Agent Matt Booher did a survey of pastures in Augusta and Rockingham County to assess the extent of endophyte infection in fescue pastures. The link below is a summary of the results. Matt's results show that the majority of the fescue in pastures are infected with endophyte. The second link contains information on management options for dealing with endophyte infected fescue.

<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/augusta/programs/anr/forages/shenandoah-valley-fescue.pdf>

http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/418/418-050/418-050_pdf.pdf

My Wish List for Northern Shenandoah Valley Grain Farmers

Bobby Clark

Senior Extension Agent, Crop and Soil Science

For the past three to five years, most grain producers in the Northern Shenandoah Valley have enjoyed good prices and abundant crops. In fact, some farmers tell me that the yield/price dynamics of the 2012 corn and soybean crop was the best year they have ever experienced (a “Once in a lifetime event”). In my travels around the Northern Shenandoah Valley, there are noteworthy changes that I attribute to these good times. First, data from the National Ag. Statistics Service indicates that acreage devoted to corn and soybean has increased from about 25,000 acres in the 2000-2004 years to 35,000 acres in 2012. Second, there are several young people trying to start farming operations that have corn and soybean as one of their enterprises. Third, there has been a noteworthy amount of capital investments made in things like grain bins, corn planters, combines, etc. The past few years have been exciting times for everyone involved in cash grain production.

So what’s next? In reality nobody can predict the future. However, what we can do is look at historical data and look at data about our current situation. A few months ago I read a sobering article about economic swings in the agriculture sector. The following quote summarizes the article fairly well “**After farm booms in the 1910s and 1970s, lower incomes and higher interest rates contributed to farm financial crises and waves of farm bankruptcies during the 1920s and 1980s.**” This article focuses on farming in Kansas. And while there are differences between Kansas and Virginia, I think there are lessons to be learned for all farmers. (http://www.kansascityfed.org/publicat/mse/MSE_0113.2.pdf) In regard to our current situation, recently the Southern Outlook Conference was held in Georgia. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the market outlook for Southern crops and livestock. The presentations can be found at this web site: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/events/southernoutlook/presentations/2013.html>.

I used this information to help me develop my wish list.

1. I hope that all Northern Shenandoah Valley farmers who have been producing/selling grain for the past five years are prepared for a few years of marginal profitability.
2. I hope that we have above average yields in the future. However, yields for most of the Northern Shenandoah Valley have been above average for the past few years. Eventually the law of averages will catch up to all of us.
3. I hope that if commodity prices fall that input prices fall also. Most people say they have no control over the cost to plant and grow an acre of corn. However, this is not exactly true. What inputs can you purchase this fall that are dramatically lower than they have been for the past few years? What inputs have you been purchasing that are probably not needed (for the past couple years many farmers have experimented with various treatments and additives touted to boost yield). Trying new things is good. Now is a good time to decide which inputs are really needed.



Kick up your Yield...With Good Cover!

November 12th 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Optional Field Discussion: Adding grazing to your cropping system 1:00-2:00pm

Mountain Valley Tenth Legion Ruritan Club

Valley View Farm

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Hosted By:

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension #VCEonline VCE

Shenandoah Valley SWCD



Program Topics:

- Soil Nitrate and Nutrient Cycling with Cover Crop
- Final Yield Results from Mixed Species Cover Crop Plots
- Walk through Plots and Discuss Corn Yield Results
- How can Mixed Species Cover Crops Work for Me?
- Results from Poultry Litter Injection Research Plots
- Adding Grazing into Multi-Species Cover Crop

Featured Speakers:

- Chris Lawrence & Richard Fitzgerald, NRCS Agronomists
- Matt Yancey, Extension Agent, VCE
- Cory Guilliams, NRCS District Conservationist
- Rory Maguire & Stephanie Kulesza, Virginia Tech
- Mike Phillips, Valley View Farm



Call to register by November 5th so we can plan for your lunch!

Shenandoah Valley SWCD Office (540)433-2853 ext 101

Registration is FREE for agricultural producers!

Agency/Non-agricultural producer registration: \$5/person for lunch.

For weather cancellations call (540) 433-2853 ext. 3; **RAIN DATE:** Thursday, November 14th

Field Day Sponsor: Pure Water Forum



Directions: Look for signs!

Tenth Legion Mountain Valley Ruritan Club-1037 Mauzy Athlone Rd

I-81 to Exit 257(VA-259/Mauzy/Broadway); go north on US-11; take first right onto Mauzy Athlone Road; 1037 Mauzy Athlone is on the left.

Valley View Farm: Continue east past the Ruritan Club on Mauzy Athlone Road to reach Valley View Farm and plot sites.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

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540-459-6140 FAX: 540-459-6147 raclark@vt.edu

ELECTRIC FENCE PROGRAMS

Wednesday, November 13
McIntire Cattle Company
Tilt Hammer Mill Road
Millwood, VA
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

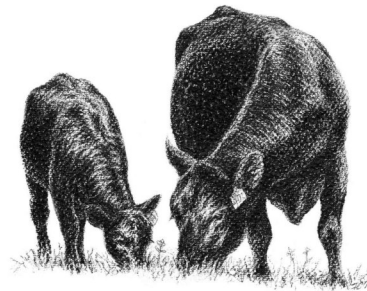
Thursday, November 14
Steels Tavern AREC
128 McCormick Farm Circle
Raphine, VA
2:00-5:00 p.m.

Featuring: Lewis Sapp

Program Includes:

- The basics of electric fencing
- Proper energizer selection and grounding
- Proper high tensile fence construction and wire insulation
- Electric offset wires for non-electric fences
- Underground wires and jumper wires
- Trouble shooting
- The fundamentals of Fixed-Knot
- Bring all of your fencing questions

*Preregistration not required; however, e-mail cchilds@vt.edu if you hope to attend.



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Corey Childs, Warren County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension, at 540-635-4549 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Robert A. Clark
Senior Extension Agent

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Robert A. Clark, Senior Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, at the Shenandoah County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at 540/459-6140 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

**TDD number is (800) 828-1120.*

2013

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

October

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