

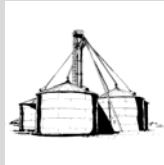
# Virginia Cooperative Extension



## FARM NOTES

November 2015

### Grain Marketing Group: First and Third Thursdays December through March



There will be a Grain Marketing Group meeting at Denny's in Mt. Jackson at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month from December 2015 through March 2016. Anyone attending can order supper off the menu.

- Farmer to Farmer Conversation about Grain Marketing with Discussion Topics including:
  - Pros and Cons of Using a Commodity Broker
  - Strategies for Cash Contracts
  - Combining Crop Insurance with Other Marketing Strategies
  - Grain Transport and Places to Sell
  - World Supply/Demand and Its Effect on Grain Price.



### Guidelines for In-House Composting Poultry Mortality as a Rapid Response to Avian Influenza

Over the past several weeks several poultry farmers have requested information regarding the process that will be used to dispose of poultry that are infected with Avian Influenza. It is my understanding that composting is the preferred option and will likely be used on most farms. Below is a link to a document that describe the composting process. This document is limited to describing the composting process. There are a myriad of other aspects to dealing with an avian influenza outbreak.

It is my hope that we do not have an avian influenza in this region. It is a highly stressful situation for everyone involved, especially poultry farmers.



<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/CSES/CSES-142/CSES-142-PDF.pdf>

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# Keeping Your Farmland Farming

*A seminar on how to manage the transition of your farm to the next generation*

Preparing for Major “What Ifs”

Involving Family Members

Protecting Your Farm’s Resources



**November 17, 2015 • 5:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Creekside Plain & Fancy, 107 N. Main Street, Edinburg**

Presenters: John Flora, *attorney, Lenhart Petit P.C.*, Sara Hollberg, *Valley Conservation Council*; Tom Stanley, *Virginia Cooperative Extension*. Dinner provided. Register by November 10.

To register, call Valley Conservation Council, 540-886-3541, or email [info@valleyconservation.org](mailto:info@valleyconservation.org).

**November 19, 2015 • 5:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Smith Transfer Room, Augusta Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, Verona**

Presenters: Jeff Adams, *attorney, Wharton, Aldhizer, & Weaver*; Sara Hollberg, *Valley Conservation Council*; Tom Stanley, *Virginia Cooperative Extension*. Dinner provided. Register by November 12.

To register, call Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District, 540-248-0148.

***Don’t just wonder what will happen to your farm. Give it the future you want.***

This free seminar – just in time for the family holidays – gets you started. Dinner provided.

More topics will be covered in January and February: business structures and tax management for farm estates; wills and powers of attorney; farmland rental; and profitable farm enterprises for the future. Contact Tom Stanley at 540-588-0241 or [stanleyt@vt.edu](mailto:stanleyt@vt.edu) for more information.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Tom Stanley at (540-588-0241/TDD\*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 10 days prior to the event. \*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



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## Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Trainings:

Virginia Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will be holding pesticide recertification workshops for private pesticide applicators for categories 90 and 91 who have been notified that their license will soon expire. **Sessions are open to all regardless of the county in which you reside.** The sessions will last for approximately three hours. Call the Shenandoah County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension for more Information at 540-459-6140. The schedule for the work shops is as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Wednesday, December 2, 2015	Page County Extension Office Stanley, VA	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 7, 2015	Alson H. Smith Research Center Winchester, VA	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 7, 2015	Clarke County Government Center Berryville, VA	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 9, 2015	Augusta County Government Center Smith Room Verona, VA	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 10, 2015	Shenandoah County Government Center Woodstock, VA	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 10, 2015	Woodmen of the World Dayton, VA	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 15, 2015	Rockbridge County Extension Office Lexington, VA	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 12, 2016	Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training. \$30 Registration Fee	All Day Event
Friday, January 15, 2016 <b>FINAL MAKE-UP SESSION</b>	Augusta County Government Center Main Board Room Verona, VA <b>Last Chance in Extension Planning District 6</b>	1:00 p.m.

### Other Upcoming Educational Meetings

**January 12, 2016:** Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training.  
Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal. Call 540-665-5699 to register.

**January 19-21, 2016:** VA Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting.

<http://www.vacropproduction.com/annualmeetinginfo.htm>

**January 28, 2016:** Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council Winter Conference,  
Weyers Cave. <http://vaforages.org/>

**February 2016:** Graze 300 Educational Meeting...How I Successfully Graze My Cow Calf  
Herd More than 300 Days per Year. Date/Time and Location To be Announced.

**March 2016:** Two-Day Fencing School, Shenandoah County Farm.  
(Woven Wire and Electric Wire). Date To Be Announced



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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Throughout the year, Virginia Cooperative Extension organizes multiple educational meetings. The following agribusinesses graciously provide funding to help support these meetings. Their support is very helpful to our educational effort.

<b>AMVAC</b>	<b>Mathias Brothers</b>
<b>BASF</b>	<b>MidAtlantic Farm Credit</b>
<b>Binkley &amp; Hurst</b>	<b>Page Cooperative Farm Bureau</b>
<b>CFC Farm &amp; Home</b>	<b>Pasture Management Systems, Inc.</b>
<b>DeKalb / Asgro</b>	<b>Pioneer Seed</b>
<b>Dow AgroSciences LLC</b>	<b>RECYC Systems Incorporated</b>
<b>Dupont</b>	<b>Rockingham Cooperative Farm Bureau</b>
<b>Farm Family Insurance</b>	<b>Southern States – Luray</b>
<b>First Bank &amp; Trust Company</b>	<b>Southern States – Winchester</b>
<b>Gallagher</b>	<b>Syngenta</b>
<b>Gudentight Fencing</b>	<b>Valley Fertilizer &amp; Chemical Company</b>
<b>Helena Chemical Co.</b>	<b>Wightman Insurance Agency</b>
<b>James River Equipment</b>	<b>Winchester Equipment Company</b>
<b>King’s AgriSeeds, Inc.</b>	

Robert A. Clark  
Senior Extension Agent  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Virginia Cooperative Extension is implied.

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/TDD\* during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

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

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# Virginia No-Till Alliance

Harrisonburg Winter Conference

**February 17, 2016**

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Fairgrounds



## *Crop Protection in the No-Till Environment*

### Featured Speakers

#### Ken Ferrie

Ken Ferrie grew up working on his Iowa family farm, tending hogs, cattle, and a dairy herd. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science and Agricultural Business from Illinois State University. Much of his leading-edge agronomic training was received as an apprentice under Dr. Everett Dennis, private agronomist from Manhattan, KS. Ken currently manages Crop-Tech Consulting ([www.croptechconsulting.com](http://www.croptechconsulting.com)) based in Heyworth, Illinois.



#### Paul Bodenstine

Paul W. Bodenstine is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science and is an ASA Certified Professional Agronomist. Bodenstine worked in commercial agribusiness as a professional agronomist for 20 years before starting ag.systems a private agriculture research and development company. For the past 19 years, ag.systems has worked with commercial farms and private agribusinesses in 12 states developing high yield crop production systems for wheat, barley, alfalfa, corn, soybeans, tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, fruits, and vegetables with an emphasis on balanced plant nutrition and plant health.



**\$10 Registration Fee. Pay in advance or at the door. Make checks payable to "VANTAGE" and mail to: VCE-Rockingham County, 965 Pleasant Valley Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.**

**For more information, go to <http://virginianotill.com/> or call 540-564-3080.**

## Tips on Preventing the Spread of Avian Influenza

Virginia Cooperative Extension is reminding people with backyard chickens and small commercial flocks to remain vigilant to protect their animals from the avian flu.

To date the current outbreak includes two strains of the virus known as H5N2 and H5N8, neither of which has spread to Virginia. Its closest proximity to the commonwealth has been in wild birds in Kentucky and a backyard flock in Indiana. It is not thought to be a threat to human health. However, agricultural authorities are requesting that backyard, hobbyist, and small, local poultry producers take precautions to prevent the flu from spreading to Virginia.

The disease is spread through migratory birds that travel on overlapping flyways — major and minor routes used by wild birds which allow the virus to spread quickly over the globe. So far no avian flu has been found in the Atlantic Flyway, the route that passes over Virginia, but the risk will continue into the fall as birds that have been in summer ranges fly south for the winter.

“This is a disease that can move very quickly and it’s a tremendous catastrophe if a flock becomes infected because there is no way to treat the disease except for destroying the infected flocks,” said [Mike Persia](#), Extension Poultry Specialist and Assistant Professor of Animal and Poultry Sciences in the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#). “It’s not here now but that doesn’t mean it won’t be here tomorrow.”

Some warning signs of the avian flu in poultry include:

- sudden high mortality rate of 50-70 percent;
- reduced feed intake;
- reduced egg production and misshapen eggs;
- swelling of the face and hocks;
- and sneezing, coughing, and nasal discharge.

In order to prevent the spread of avian flu, agricultural specialists and authorities caution backyard, hobbyist, and small-scale poultry producers to practice basic biosecurity by doing the following:

- Protect flocks from wild birds by putting them in a coop if possible.
- Cover any exposed feed and water sources that your flock uses. Don’t let domestic birds have access to streams or ponds.
- Limit exposure to other birds. Seal structures where birds nest and cover holes. If birds have outside access, cover the area to reduce exposure.
- Do not use wild bird feeders or birdbaths that would attract other birds to areas that house poultry.
- If you hunt migratory birds you risk exposing your flock to the virus. Have dedicated footwear and equipment that is only used on your poultry flock.

Contact the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 804-786-2483 to test deceased birds or visit their [website](#) for more information.