

## 2024 EASTERN SHORE SMALL FARM WORKSHOP AGENDA

Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>

Northampton County Parks & Recreation, 7247 Young Street, Machipongo

### DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

8:00 am - Registration and coffee / donuts			
8:30 am	Workshop Opening / Introductions		
8:40am	<b>Insect Pests Issues and Management Options:</b> Overview of major insect pests and control, with additional focus of pest complexes on cucurbits, sweet corn, potato and floriculture. Natural/biological and conventional options with strategies for beneficial insects.	Hélène Doughty, ANR Extension Agent	Virginia Cooperative Extension - Northampton
9:25 am	<b>Disease Issues and Management Options</b>	Doug Higgins, Associate Professor, Plant Pathology	Virginia Tech ESAREC
10:10 am – Break / Addressing Production Issues Breakout Session			
10:25 am	<b>Soil fertility</b> is the basis of healthy plant growth and is impacted by soil additives, fertilizers, and the natural environment. We will discuss how to test your soil for ensuring optimal pH, nutrient concentration, and best management practices for nutrient application.	Mark Reiter, Professor, Soils & Nutrient Management / Director	Virginia Tech ESAREC
11:10 am	<b>Weed Issues and Management Options</b>	Vijay Singh, Associate Professor, Weed Science	Virginia Tech ESAREC
11:55 am – Addressing Production Issues Breakout Session			
12:10 pm - Lunch free of charge on-site			
1:00 pm	<b>High Tunnel and Irrigation Practices</b> for small farms	Sanjun Gu, Associate Professor/Ext. Horticulture Spec. & Southern Sare Coordinator	Virginia State University
1:45 pm	<b>Small Farm Outreach Program:</b> marketing strategies, pricing products, whole farm profit management tools, farm budgets and yield expectations	Ben Dukes, Extension Associate/Small Farm Outreach Program	Virginia State University
2:10 pm	<b>Marketing strategies and VDACS Marketing Programs:</b> Strategies to use on your farm and presentation of the Virginia Grown, Virginia Finest Programs and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Introduction of the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers, Inc.	Ursula Deitch, Marketing Specialist	VDACS
2:30 pm	<b>Open discussion on successes and challenges</b>		

**DAY 2 – THURSDAY MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> 2024**

8:00 am	Registration and coffee/donuts		
8:30 am	<b>Value-Added Products:</b> Food safety basics for value-added products, resources for getting started, and a quick overview of the VA Food and Drink Law.	Alexis Hamilton, Assistant Professor	Virginia Tech Food Science & Technology
9:30 am	<b>Beekeeping and Honey Production</b>	Chris Kutyla	Eastern Shore Beekeeping Guild
10:10 am	<b>Food Safety on Small Farms:</b> Food safety is paramount for both consumer health and the economic viability of our agricultural system. As small farmers, understanding and implementing good practices are essential. In this presentation, we'll delve into two critical aspects: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).	Theresa Pittman, ANR Extension Agent	Virginia Cooperative Extension - Accomack
11:30 am	<b>Lunch free of charge on-site</b>		
12:30 pm	<b>Animal Production:</b> Basic information for new producers on considerations for raising livestock including enterprise budgets, selection, housing, supplies/equipment, fencing, feeding, and marketing	Rachel Lawmaster, Program Assistant for Sustainable & Urban Agriculture Mackenzie Robertson, student	Virginia State University
1:30 pm	<b>Open Discussion on successes and challenges</b>		

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