



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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## 2020 Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Updates

### Agricultural Services

- **79** in-person consultations and **428** indirect consultations – a value of **\$77,500** (based on private consultant fees)
- **Access to labs at Virginia Tech for identifying plant diseases, insects, and weeds**, as well as nearly **400** Virginia Tech soil samples processed from the county

### Pesticide Certification and Training

- **100 private and commercial pesticide applicators** were able to receive recertification credits toward their pesticide applicator's certification
- **4 in-person recertification classes** or workshops were held by VCE in the Northern Neck
- **Online private recertification offered in fall 2020**
- Pesticide review and exam was offered, **100% pass rate**
- **24 commercial farm pesticide applicators trained** and 88% passed exam to legally apply pesticides

### VCE AG Today

- **30 minute online live presentation** focusing on timely agricultural topics with Q&A
- **Delivered 37 weeks in 2020**, reaching **7,982 participants** through the live and recorded program
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://bit.ly/vceagtodayvideos>
- **75% agreed** that the information learned during VCE AG Today would **improve their operation**

### Northern Neck Crops Conference

- **Over 70** local grain producers and agribusinesses representing **over 26,200 acres**
- **93% were better prepared to market grain**, a necessary skill in times of tight margins
- **74% expected to increase profits in 2020** as a result of attendance

### Westmoreland County Drinking Water Clinic

- **30 households** in Westmoreland County participated
- Water test kits picked up and dropped off **drive-thru style** due to COVID-19 restrictions
- **Interpretation meeting** offered by Zoom and on an individual basis

### Crop Research

- Corn, soybean, and wheat **on-farm variety trials**: assists local producers in making **research-based crop variety choices**
- Co-coordinator of statewide **On-Farm Soybean Research** program
- **Sweet Corn Insect Monitoring** to minimize pesticide usage on local farms
- **Rappahannock River Salinity Testing** to determine salt content of river water for irrigation use

### County-Funded Mosquito Briquettes

- **40 local residents and businesses picked up 158 mosquito briquettes** from the Extension office for control of mosquito larvae

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