



# 2019 REGIONAL AGRICULTURE NETWORKING FORUM SHENANDOAH VALLEY

JUNE 18 - JUNE 19

# 2019 Regional Agriculture Networking Forum SHENANDOAH VALLEY

The Granary at Valley Pike Farm Market || 3494 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486



Altria



TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH

REGISTRATION BEGINS

8:30 AM

Welcome Breakfast (provided)

8:30 AM—9:30 AM

## AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION AND FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY 9 AM—9:30 AM

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is excited to welcome grantees and partners to share best practices and discuss opportunities for scaling up nutrient and sediment reductions in the agricultural sector. NFWF is committed to serving and accelerating restoration efforts in the Shenandoah Valley, especially in light of NFWF's revised Chesapeake Business Plan.

Jake Reilly, Chesapeake Director — National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

## MOVING FORWARD AG LOAD TARGETS IN THE POTOMAC BASIN: OPERATIONALIZING THE VIRGINIA PHASE 3 WIP 9:30 AM—11 AM

Following the extensive Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) process, the Bay jurisdictions are moving ahead to implement the goals outlined in the WIPs. Virginia undertook an in-depth planning process with the SWCDs and other ag partners to identify the challenges and opportunities for optimizing its WIP. This session will look at which practices will require the greatest effort and lift to operationalize the WIP in the Valley. Panelists will also discuss how to align partners and practitioners to address the greatest needs and challenges, what capacity gaps exist to getting practices on the ground, and the resources needed for successfully implementing the Phase 3 WIP.

MODERATOR: Adrienne Kotula, Virginia Director — Chesapeake Bay Commission

PANELISTS: Megen Dalton, District Manager — Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District  
James Davis-Martin, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator — Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Cory Guilliams, District Conservationist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)  
Ann Jennings, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for the Chesapeake Bay — Commonwealth of Virginia  
John Kaylor, Conservation Specialist — Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

Break

11 AM—11:15 AM

## SOIL HEALTH: CONNECTING WITH WATER QUALITY FOR VIRGINIA

11:15 AM—12:45 PM

Soil health practices such as improved tillage and pasture management, cover crops, and crop and livestock rotation have become increasingly recognized as being important for managing water quality throughout the Bay. With the opportunity to improve the capacity of crops and soils to reduce runoff and increase nutrient uptake, prioritizing soil health is, in many ways, both an old and new frontier for agricultural conservation. This session will discuss:

- ◇ What practices are already connected to soil health – and how is the Valley as a whole doing with these practices? What elements can Valley partners move forward?
- ◇ How does Virginia's strategy for soil health move the region towards water quality improvements?
- ◇ How can soil health be a strategy and driver for water quality improvements in the agricultural sector?

MODERATOR: Emily Francis, Consultant — New Dominion Solutions

PANELISTS: Eric Bendfeldt, Extension Specialist: Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems — Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Chris Lawrence, State Cropland Agronomist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)  
Bill Patterson, Grazing Specialist (ACES) — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)  
Phil Witmer, Producer, Grazeland Dairy

Networking Lunch (provided)

12:45 PM—1:30 PM

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE VALLEY IN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT****1:30 PM—3 PM**

The opportunities and challenges to nutrient management adoption in the Valley prompt questions around manure management and on-farm phosphorus balance. This session will look at nutrient management in the context of soil health, manure storage, infrastructure choices, and manure application and transport. In addition to examining nutrient management practices, panelists will discuss the expansion of transport and other manure management systems to help the Valley reach its new goals and explore what cost share opportunities are emerging for litter and manure transport.

MODERATOR: Dale Gardner, Ag Consultant — Lee & Associates

PANELISTS: Kristen Hughes Evans, Executive Director — Sustainable Chesapeake  
 Rory Maguire, Professor: Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences — Virginia Tech  
 Scarlett Reel, Nutrient Management Specialist — Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 Tim Sexton, Nutrient Management Program Manager — Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 Tad Williams, Dairy and Small Farms Nutrient Management Specialist — Virginia Tech

**Break****3 PM—3:15 PM****BUILDING ON SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIVE MODELS: THE VALLEY EXPERIENCE****3:15 PM—4:45 PM**

A number of models for collaboration have occurred in the Valley through the years – each with their own approaches, goals, successes, and challenges. Specifically, many collaborative efforts have looked at expanding buffers and fencing. Representatives from collaboratives in the Valley will share successes and lessons learned from their partnership approaches, looking towards replicability both in the Valley and throughout the watershed. This session includes examples from the Smith Creek Partnership, the Virginia Waste Solutions Forum, Trout Unlimited's stream restoration program, and ag restoration on protected lands.

MODERATOR: Kate Wofford, Executive Director — Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley

PANELISTS: Seth Coffman, Shenandoah Home Rivers Initiative Manager — Trout Unlimited  
 Jeremy Daubert, ANR & Dairy Agent — Virginia Cooperative Extension  
 Kathy Holm, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations) — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)  
 Natasha Skelton, Executive Director — Valley Conservation Council

**NFWF Wrap Up****4:45 PM—5 PM**

Please join us for an informal networking Happy Hour starting at 6PM (location TBD) following the Tuesday, June 18 sessions.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH**

Joint convening with the Chesapeake Bay Program Agriculture Workgroup to hear from regional experts before heading out on a field tour to several farms implementing conservation practices

**Breakfast (provided)****9:30 AM—10 AM****WELCOME FROM VIRGINIA AND BAY WATERSHED LEADERS****10 AM—10:30 AM**

Leadership from the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and state officials will welcome attendees to the Valley and speak to partnerships, progress, and plans for agricultural conservation.

Jake Reilly, Chesapeake Director — National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Delegate Tony Wilt, 26th District — Virginia House of Delegates

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, Commissioner — Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Ann Jennings, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for the Chesapeake Bay — Commonwealth of Virginia

Cosmo Servidio, Regional Administrator for the Mid-Atlantic Region — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY****10:30 AM—11:15 AM**

NFWF has invited regional specialists to level-set on the historic and current status of agriculture and conservation in the area. Speakers will touch on the history in the Valley, set the stage for afternoon field tours, and give important context for the agriculture work being done on the ground.

Megen Dalton, District Manager — Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

Cory Guilliams, District Conservationist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)

Natasha Skelton, Executive Director — Valley Conservation Council

**Board Field Tour Buses****11:15 AM—11:30 AM**

**COFFMAN FARM**

The Coffman Farm – a heifer replacement and corn seed operator – is on Beaver Creek in Ottobine, VA. Trout Unlimited (TU) has implemented extensive riparian protection and restoration practices on Coffman Farm including livestock exclusion, buffers, and instream habitat improvements. The project is a few years old – so good growth in the riparian area is underway. Additionally, there are off channel wet areas as a result of the narrowing of the stream channel. This site is within the Eastern brook trout priority habitat area and provides a good example of how water quality improvements (pollution load reduction) and habitat improvements can work in concert with one another.

Seth Coffman, Shenandoah Home Rivers Initiative Manager — Trout Unlimited

Cory Guillems, District Conservationist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)

James Fulcher, Stream Restoration Specialist — Trout Unlimited

**Boxed Lunches (provided) on Buses****RIVERHILL FARM, GLENN AND NELSON RODES**

Riverhill Farm produces dairy and poultry (turkey); the Rodes demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and have been at the forefront of innovation, demonstrating practices such as manure injection, poultry litter-to-energy, bio-fuel production, and precision nutrient management on their farm. Additionally, in January 2016, the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association presented Riverhill Farm with a Farm Family Environmental Award for the Northeast Region of the U.S.

Glenn Rodes, Producer (Poultry Management) — Riverhill Farm

Nelson Rodes, Producer (Crop Management) — Riverhill Farm

Kristen Hughes Evans, Executive Director — Sustainable Chesapeake

Rory Maguire, Professor: Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences — Virginia Tech

Jon Roller, Manager, Principal Environmental Scientist — Ecosystem Services

Kyle Ashmun, Ecological Restoration Specialist — Ecosystem Services

Sam Morton, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering — James Madison University

Cory Guillems, District Conservationist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Virginia)

**CAVE VIEW FARM, GERALD GARBER**

Cave View Farm, situated right next to the I-81 corridor in Augusta County, Virginia, includes nearly 2,000 acres of cropland (1000 acres of corn, 300 acres of small grain, and 300 acres of soybean), 575 milking cows, 575 replacement heifers, and six draft horses that pull a wagon periodically for smaller groups to tour the farm. Cave View Farm has a VA Resource Management Plan and has been widely recognized for its nutrient management approach. Mr. Garber currently serves on the county board of supervisors and was a Clean Water Farm award winner.

Gerald Garber, Producer — Cave View Farm

Charlie Ivins, District Conservationist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Verona Service Center)

Bobby Drumheller, Soil Conservationist — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Verona Service Center)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH**

CBP Agriculture Workgroup Meeting



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