

Fauquier County Farm Bureau



Get the Membership Advantage. | 540-347-3172 | VirginiaFarmBureau.com

The vision of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation is to create an environment where agriculture can flourish. The purpose of Farm Bureau, as stated in the county Farm Bureau bylaws, is to be "... a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of persons, firms and corporations interested in agriculture, united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement, and thereby promote the national welfare ..."

Senior District Field Services

Director: Philip Shenk

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President: Judy McConnell

Vice President: John Schied

Board of Directors:

- Jeffrey Clark Harold Hiner
- Matt Davenport Roy Lambert
- Rick Dorkey Tim Mize
- Howard Grove Mike Webert
- William Gulick Deborah Williamson

2008 Virginia Farm Bureau

Membership: 147,789

2008 Fauquier County Membership:

1,678

Number of Virginia County Farm

Bureaus: 88

Membership Types:

Producer: Farm memberships with voting rights

Associate: Persons, groups or businesses interested in promoting farming and protecting farmland

Annual dues: \$40

Fauquier County Farm Bureau

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Warrenton, VA 20186

Phone: 540-347-3172

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FROM THE PRESIDENT | Judy McConnell

The theme of our 83rd Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Hot Springs during early December was "Safe, Fresh and Locally Grown: Save Our Food." If you haven't yet visited the SaveOurFood.org or VirginiaFarmBureau.com Web sites, I encourage you to take a look. Farm Bureau is striving to take part in the "age of technology" while maintaining the community that provides the person-to-person communication, phone work and actual physical labor it takes to run Virginia farms. Wayne Pryor, our president, has again encouraged Farm Bureau members to help grow our organization within the farm community and attract non-farmer members, who are interested in food security, local food and—more and more—what it is that farmers actually do.

At the convention I was proud to watch two of Fauquier County young farmers, Katelin Barnes and Eric Croushorn give presentations to our statewide group. It is a priority that our state and country attract more young people to agriculture as a future career. To this end, the Fauquier Farm Bureau is proud to announce its support for the new Fauquier Community Farm (See related article in this newsletter). The farm will provide an opportunity for young people who might not otherwise be exposed to learn about gardening and farming by actually doing it.

Although the economy has slumped, there are many opportunities to improve the future of farming. I look forward to the changes and chances 2009 will bring.

Virginia Farm Bureau contests and award nominations

Entry forms for the annual photo and youth poster and essay contests and the Rural Health Essay Contest are available online at VAFB.com.

- » Rural Health Essay Contest entry deadline: March 31; two winners receive \$1,000
- » Youth essay contest entry deadline: March 31; state-level winners receive \$100; open to the public
- » Photo entry deadline: June 1; open to the public
- » Youth poster entry deadline: June 30; state-level winners receive trophies; open to the public

Nomination forms for the Young Farmer Achievement Award, Environmental Stewardship Award and Excellence in Agriculture Award also are available at VAFB.com. The nomination deadline is Feb. 28.

Mark your calendar

Upcoming events:	Date	Registration deadline
Food Freedom Day	Feb. 17	
VFB Products Division open house	Feb. 27	
International Trade Workshop, VFBF home office	March 5-6	Feb. 25
VFBF Women's Conference, Roanoke	March 6-8	Feb. 10
Leadership/Policy Development Meeting	March 10	March 3
Forum for Rural Innovation, Winchester	March 13	March 6
National Ag Week	March 15-20	
"How to Win an Election," VFBF home office	March 17-18	March 2



Fauquier Community Farm

The time is ripe for a community farm in Fauquier County.

What can a 10-acre volunteer farm do for us? We have some lofty goals, which include educating, empowering, enlightening, energizing. But we also have the down-to-earth goal of producing edible results for everyone in our community.

In 1943 Eleanor Roosevelt tore up part of the White House lawn to create a Victory Garden and encouraged American citizens to do the same at their homes. By the end of World War II they had followed her lead and raised 40 percent of their own produce. Ecological writer Michael Pollan has suggested President Obama might want to consider following in Mrs. Roosevelt's footsteps.

In our times, concerns about food safety, energy consumption, health and the levels of nutrition in our food have delivered Americans again to a time for considering the value of local farms and gardens and the food they can and do produce.

At the Fauquier Community Farm we hope to harness the energy and knowledge of citizen volunteers of all ages to make an "edible education" available for everyone. Growing together, we can provide food for our Fauquier Community Food Bank and our community. We can teach and learn from each other and build our sense of community.

Please donate or volunteer. We need you.

Deborah Williamson
Volunteer Coordinator
540-788-4901

Be a proactive farmer

One of the easiest ways to stay informed about the actions of the Virginia General Assembly is through Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Capitol Connection. You can receive e-mail alerts when action is necessary to contact legislators.

With just a few clicks you can make your voice heard. Go to VAFB.com and use the left menu to access "Legislative Issues."

Nice work!

Congratulations to Charlotte Byler, member service specialist at Fauquier Farm Bureau, who will be proudly adding CISR to the end of her title, as she has completed the academic requirements for the Certified Insurance Service Representative designation. Please give Charlotte a call if you are interested in getting a health insurance quote.

Have you told someone about Farm Bureau lately?

When is the last time you mentioned your membership in Fauquier Farm Bureau? Help us help you by sharing thoughts about Farm Bureau with friends, neighbors or acquaintances. For \$40 a year anyone can become a member and feel good about contributing to an organization grounded in traditional agriculture and addressing the more modern goal of food security with the Save Our Food campaign.

Visit SaveOurFood.org and VirginiaFarmBureau.com for more information.



The Membership Advantage

- Voice in the legislature
- Comprehensive line of insurance products
- Health insurance for individuals, families and businesses,
- Estate and retirement planning
- \$1,000 teen driver reward program
- Banking products and services
- Free magazine and classified ads
- Risk management services
- Farm market analysis
- Grainger savings
- Farm safety items
- Prescription drug savings
- Child auto seat program
- Dodge \$500 discount
- Accidental death benefit
- Property protection reward
- Hotel savings program
- ROPS retrofit incentive
- Taste-ful food gift items
- Agriculture in the Classroom program support

Call 540-347-3172 or visit VAFB.com/fauquier for more information.

You know you're a Fauquier farm family if ...

- ... you have more than a dozen cats;
- ... you have a yard but not a lawn;
- ... your farm equipment has the latest global positioning technology, and you still can't find your husband;
- ... the word "auction" makes you tingle; and
- ... a night out involves the local 4-H club.

Buy Fresh, Buy Local

If you are interested in selling your farm products directly to the public, please apply, or re-apply if you were in it last year, to Buy Fresh, Buy Local. Contact Melissa Wiley at 434-977-2033 or mwiley@pecva.org. Inclusion in the directory is free, and it is mailed to most of Northern Virginia in May. The deadline is April 1.

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