From the State Chair:

It’s harvest time, which means cooler temperatures, farmers are busy in the fields, people are visiting the apple orchards and pumpkin patches and decorated hay bales are scattered across the landscape of Virginia. I hope to see many hay bale entries as the season progresses. November 1st is the deadline to submit your decorated bale!

The Women’s Committee district meetings have been well attended with excellent topics, as well as speakers. By attending these meetings and traveling all over the state, I had the opportunity to explore and enjoy the uniqueness of each area. These are places that I will cherish, but what really made the visit was You! Thank you for your hospitality.

We are well on our way to reaching the $15,000 goal for the Golf Cart raffle! With the golf cart fully sponsored, 100% of ticket sales support Agriculture in the Classroom. I appreciate all county offices, women’s committees and individuals that have already purchased and/or sold tickets. If you have not bought a ticket yet, you still have time. The drawing for the golf cart will take place December 4th at the Virginia Farm Bureau Annual Convention, at the Hilton Norfolk The Main Hotel.

I hope you enjoy all the season offers!

Cordially,

[Signed]

Upcoming Meetings

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
Annual Meeting
December 2-5
Hilton Norfolk The Main Hotel

Farm Credit Knowledge Center
Farm Management Institute
March 20, 2020
Location TBD

Virginia Farm Bureau Women’s Spring Conference
March 20-22, 2020
Madison Hotel and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center
Harrisonburg

The Golf Cart Raffle is on its way of making the goal of $15,000! You can purchase tickets prior to November 15th online or at a county office or at the annual convention.
Time To Shine: Capital District

Chesterfield County Farm Bureau Women's committee assisted at the Honey Bee Festival held at Rockwood Park. Children were given the opportunity to make baggie greenhouses. Later in the summer, they hosted a regional Agriculture in the Classroom workshop held at Henricus Park and served lunch for over 24 teachers in attendance.

Sharon Munyak of Hobby Hill Farms facilitated a cream cheese making class during the Capital/Eastern district meeting. During the hands-on class, different steps were discussed to start and finish the cheese with an edible product 24 hours later. All attendees left with their class project to finish at home.

Southeast District

For the fifth straight year, Greensville County Farm Bureau Women participated in the fundraiser at Annual Brink Festival on August 3rd. They prepared and served over 200 plates of BBQ Beef, beans, slaw, bread and tea to festival goers. They promoted the golf cart raffle and sold tickets at the event.

Over 230 youth and adults visited the Brunswick County Farm Bureau Women's booth during National Night Out on August 6th. The women distributed information on safety and membership, and also gave away items to adults. Youth of all ages participated in a duck pond game for school supplies.

Mark Your Calendar for Virginia Agriculture Literacy Week

Agriculture Literacy week takes place March 9-13, 2020. The “Book of the Year” will be revealed at the Virginia Farm Bureau Annual Convention. Contact Agriculture in the Classroom staff for more information: aitc@vafb.com or 804-290-1143.

400,000 Children Heard the Story of Agriculture

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom celebrates connecting over 400,000 children to the story of agriculture. Farm Bureau women lead the charge of volunteers for 2019. Over 200,000 children learned about agriculture through the Agriculture Literacy Project, the back-to-school "Who Grew My Food" posters and over 100 outreach request for outreach resources to share with children in local communities. Thanks for an awesome 2019. We can't wait to see what is in store for 2020. Check out our resources at agintheclass.org under the volunteers tab.
VFBF AgPAC Endorses 16 Candidates for General Assembly Seats

RICHMOND—Virginia Farm Bureau Federation AgPAC, Farm Bureau’s political action committee, announced in mid-August its endorsement of 39 candidates for the Virginia Senate and 87 candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates.

The endorsements are based on recommendations of local committees of farmers. “Candidates are evaluated through a grassroots process on their understanding of the needs and challenges that we as farmers face in today’s times,” said Wayne F. Pryor, VFBF president and chairman of the VFBF AgPAC board of trustees. “Those who have received the AgPAC endorsement have a history of supporting issues important to agriculture or have demonstrated their commitment through their participation in the evaluation process.”

The non-partisan VFBF AgPAC was created in 1999 and employs in-kind contributions and endorsements to support candidates who can best support agriculture and Farm Bureau issues. Visit https://www.vafb.com/membership-at-work/farmers-in-action/political-endorsements to see the list of endorsements and be sure to vote on November 5!

New Resources Offered

Having difficulty with a conversation on GMOs? At your next event, make sure you have the new GMO bookmark designed to assist in communicating this topic with the general public. The bookmark lists all 10 GMO commodities and why GMOs are needed to have a plentiful food supply for all to enjoy.

Another handout, “Virginia Farm Facts,” lists facts about Virginia farmers and commodities along with reasons to join Farm Bureau. Contact Angela at angela.haskovec@vafb.com if you are interested in either of these resources.
The purpose of the Virginia Farm Bureau Women's Program is to promote agriculture and educate our communities on the importance of the agriculture industry.

For more information about these programs, contact: women@vafb.com or 804-290-1031