State Chair Address:

It's the most wonderful time of the year~ SUMMERTIME! Fresh vegetables from the garden, picnics, vacations, and spending time with family seem to be sweeter when it is warm outside.

Throughout this newsletter you will find activities that I hope you will participate, support, and be engaged in.

The district meetings will begin on August 22nd and continue through October 12. As a women's committee member, I encourage you to attend the district meeting that best suits your schedule – date, time and place. These meetings will update you on mid-year happenings and are an educational tool to use in your community to promote agriculture. If you would like additional information about a particular district meeting, please feel free to call Angela Haskovec at 804-290-1031 for details.

Let's support AITC! I am excited for the kickoff of our Custom Club Golf Cart Raffle. With everyone's help we can not only achieve our annual giving goal of $50,000 to Agriculture in the Classroom but surpass it and make it the best year ever! I hope we can count on you to assist us in selling raffle tickets, to continue educating Virginia's children about the importance of agriculture.

Exciting things are happening in the Women's Program and in agriculture! Get involved and share the excitement. See you soon!

Cordially,

Faye Hundley
**Time To Shine: Eastern District**

King William held a teacher appreciation luncheon at Acquinton Elementary School on June 12 and served 70 teachers. They also presented a $1,000 scholarship to West Point High School graduate, Kaitlin Seckora.

Caroline County Women’s Committee supported the Ag Field Days for 4th graders at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds in April by providing lunches for the presenters and teachers.

**Time To Shine: Southside District**

The 2nd Annual Bluegrass Crops & Critters Festival will be held August 3, 2019 in Campbell County at Rustburg High School. Scheduled to perform are Stony Ridge, James River Cutups, and Lorraine Jordan & Carolina Road. Food, exhibitors, and vendors will be on hand to showcase their goods. New this year is an antique tractor show! All tractor entries are $10 each. Advance tickets are $20 for adults at lynchburgtickets.com or 434-332-5411. Tickets at the gate are $25. Children 5-12 are $10. Children 5 and under free. All proceeds benefit Agriculture in the Classroom! See you there!

The Southside District has had a busy spring supporting Ag in the Classroom by reading to elementary school students and participating in numerous community events. Bedford County reached an impressive 1,350 students and donated over 700 greenhouse kits to all kindergarten classes in their county. Pittsylvania County participated and sponsored in part the Pittsylvania-Caswell County Livestock Show and Sale in April. The county sponsored an Educational Ag Poster Contest and cash awards of $150. Mecklenburg County is busy planning for the Southside District Meeting which will be held on September 21, 2019.

**Time To Shine: Valley District**

Rockingham County Farm Bureau held a Legislative Appreciation Dinner during National Ag week at Keexletown United Methodist Church. Attendance consisted of 45 elected officials, the school board, general assembly members, and the county Farm Bureau board and Women’s Committee. A meal was sponsored and provided by the Women’s Committee and the women’s church group.

The Botetourt County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee toured Central Academy Middle School’s new greenhouse that has been purchased and built for the students in the garden and is located outside of the classroom. The garden also consists of raised beds and a fish pond. The students are growing their own produce and harvesting the fruits of their labor to share with their fellow students in the cafeteria. The committee donated a chicken coop to the Ag class and the Young Farmers Committee assembled the coop and took it to the school for the students to begin using. We look forward to seeing this program grow!

Botetourt provides and serves a meal to families at The Ronald McDonald House. They collect tab tops for donations which The Ronald McDonald House can use as a source of income.
Agriculture in the Classroom: Big News!

Start the school year off right by connecting agriculture to your local schools. Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) has developed a series of posters and a classroom companion guide for use in schools. This is perfect to put in school cafeterias as a constant reminder to children throughout the year that farmers grow their food.

Upon request, AITC will provide poster sets that are ready for use, to county Farm Bureau’s. Volunteers should visit schools to deliver the posters to school administrators or school nutrition managers. It is our goal to have posters in every school by October 1 which is the kick off to Farm-to-School month.

To request Who Grew My Food resource kits contact AITC at aitc@vafb.com or 804-290-1143. Please include in your request which county Farm Bureau is requesting and how many sets are needed.

Debbie Brubaker: 2019 National Agriculture in the Classroom’s Agriculture Advocate Award Winner!

Brubaker won the award for expanding her ‘Dairy Day’ event into one that covers 20 different commodities to educate students about local agriculture, participating in STEM school events to demonstrate to students the important role agriculture plays in science and the natural world, reading as part of Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom’s Agriculture Literacy Project and hosting hundreds of students at ‘Dairy Days’ at the Franklin County Fair each year. Brubaker estimates she has reached about 60,000 students with the message of the importance of agriculture over the years.

The Virginia Farm Bureau Women’s Program, along with the county women’s committees and county offices, will be selling raffle tickets for a Custom Club Golf Cart. This project was created to increase the women’s annual giving to Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) from $35,000 to $50,000.

Tickets will be sold from July 15 through Dec. 3. Buy one for $10 or three for $25 for a chance to win three different prizes:
- FIRST PRIZE: Custom golf cart from River City Golf Carts
  Sponsored by: Hoober, Inc., Hubner Seed, TopHand Foundation and Emporia Self-Service Storage.
- SECOND PRIZE: $500 cash
- THIRD PRIZE: $250 cash

Tickets may be purchased online at aagintheclass.org or by mailing a check (payable to “Agriculture in the Classroom”) with the purchaser’s contact information (name, address, phone and email) to Agriculture in the Classroom, P.O. Box 27552, Richmond, VA 23261. You also may purchase tickets at participating county Farm Bureau offices or from women’s committee members. Please contact your local office for ticket availability. (All proceeds benefit AITC)

The drawing will take place at the Virginia Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Norfolk on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 during the Women's Fellowship Lunch. If your women's committee or county office is interested in selling tickets, please contact Angela Haskovec at 804-290-1031 or angela.haskovec@vafb.com.

*All winnings are subject to IRS guidelines.
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