



THE ROOTS

Fauquier County Cooperative Extension

FAUQUIER VCE HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

**SORRY
WE'RE
CLOSED**

The Fauquier VCE Office will be closed starting December 24th, 2025 through January 1st, 2026. The office will resume normal office hours on Friday, January 2nd, 2026.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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Calling all photographers!

Do you have a photo of a Fauquier County landscape that you want featured in our newsletter? Email your photo submissions to Meredith Day at meredithday@vt.edu

(540) 422-8250
24 Pelham Street,
Warrenton, VA 20186
Fauquier County
Cooperative Extension



FAUQUIER
COUNTY
4-H

THE CLOVER CORNER

THE CLOVER TREE

The Clover Tree is up! Now through December 12th, the Clover Tree will be set up in the foyer of the Extension Office. Each clover on the tree lists the needs of a local organization. All 4-H families and community members are welcome to grab a clover, fill a box of things to donate, and bring back to the office!

The last day for collecting items is Friday December 12th – deliveries begin Monday December 15th!

Fauquier County 4-H
Presents...

The 3rd Annual
**CLOVER
TREE**

A COMMUNITY
SERVICE EVENT

We encourage each club/member/family to stop in and grab a clover, shop for items, and drop off items at Achievement Night or put them under the tree at the Extension Office!

Now through December 12th!

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
www.vce.vt.edu

24 Pelham St.
Warrenton, VA 20186

TRACTOR SUPPLY, CO. PAPER CLOVER

It's Paper Clover Time!

Nov. 28 - Dec. 14, 2025

Funds support scholarships to 4-H camp and leadership activities.

TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.
TractorSupply.com

Tractor Supply, Co. is once again hosting the Paper Clover Campaign to support 4-H youth programs such as camp, scholarships, and leadership activities! A portion of the proceeds will go to your local 4-H program when you purchase a paper clover at checkout! These funds will be used to fund scholarships to 4-H camp and leadership activities!



FAUQUIER
COUNTY
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THE CLOVER CORNER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

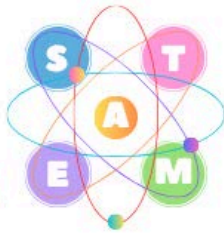
The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program needs your help to expand! If you are interested in helping this program grow further, please contact nhollins@vt.edu.

*Ask about our stipend!

ELEANOR HAZEL 4-H AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATE!

Program Update: The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program - Series 2: 4-H STEAM Quest

The Eleanor Hazel
4-H After
School Program



SERIES 2: 4-H STEAM QUEST

Students will learn about science, technology, engineering, art & mathematics and how they roles they play a role in our everyday lives. Students may perform science experiments, create a masterpiece, solve puzzles, code robots, and much more!! Beyond having fun through experiential learning, students will develop life skills such as collaboration, communication, and critical thinking.

2025
2026

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4-HSTEAMQUEST](https://tinyurl.com/4-HSTEAMQUEST)



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Students will learn about science, technology, engineering, art & mathematics and the roles they play a role in our everyday lives. Students may perform science experiments, create a masterpiece, solve puzzles, code robots, and much more! Beyond having fun through experiential learning, students will develop life skills such as collaboration, communication, and critical thinking.

This series is offered free of charge as part of the Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program.

*** For more information please visit <https://tinyurl.com/4-HSTEAMQUEST>

*** If you are interested in helping this program expand to additional schools, please reach out to nhollins@vt.edu



NAE-4YDP CONFERENCE RECAP

In October, our 4-H Agent Mary Ott Prados headed to Atlanta, Georgia with fellow 4-H professionals for the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals conference! Sessions were available to attend to learn about new and different programs and techniques to empower youth, as well as association meetings to discuss and vote on 4-H topics. Outside of sessions and meetings, participants spent some time touring some of Atlanta's favorites, including the Georgia Aquarium, and the first ever Chick-Fil-A! "My favorite part was learning some different ways to empower youth to be #BeyondReady and being surrounded by people who love 4-H as much as I do! I'm excited to bring some things I learned back here to Fauquier County 4-H." - Mary



CHARACTER COUNTS!

Character development is at the core of 4-H experiences. There are six pillars of character development: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Over the next six months, we will dive into each of these pillars, and we look forward to hearing your stories!

Our first Character Pillar is Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness includes:

Be honest.

Don't deceive, cheat, or steal.

Have integrity.

Do what you say you'll do.

Keep your promises.

Be loyal.

Stand by your values.

In 4-H, we are always working to be more [#trustworthy](#) with our words and actions. What are some ways 4-H has taught you trustworthiness? Submit your stories [here](#) or by scanning the QR code!

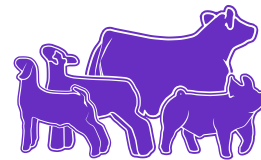
Learn more about Character Counts by clicking [here](#)!



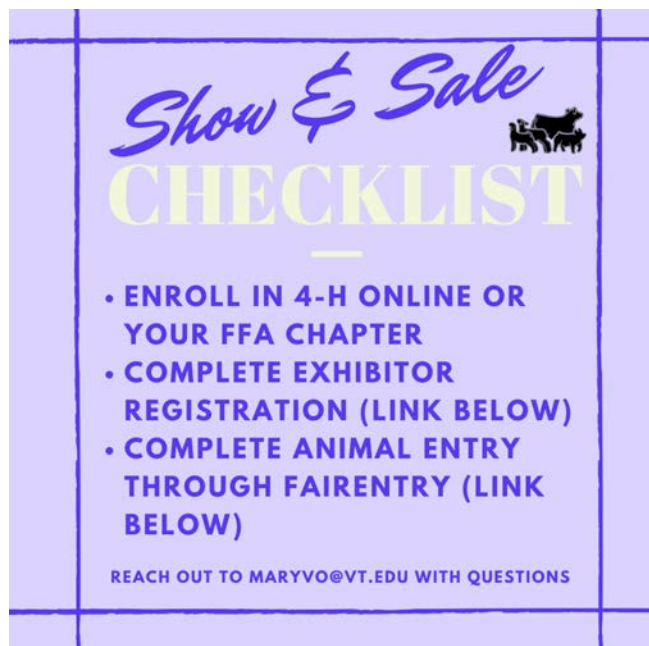
TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat, or steal.
- Have integrity. Do what you say you'll do.
- Keep your promises.
- Be loyal. Stand by your values.





SHOW & SALE ENTRY CHECKLIST!



Exhibitors must complete the following steps:
Enroll in 4-H Online of your FFA Chapter
Complete Exhibitor Registration
Complete Animal Entry through [FairEntry](#)
Find all links and resources in the 'Exhibitor Corner' on the website www.fauquiershowsale.org

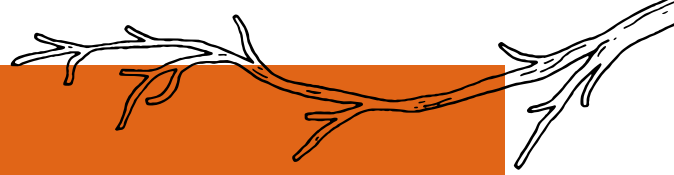


Click [here](#) to complete animal entry through FairEntry

BEEF WEIGH-IN RECAP

The first weekend in November, Fauquier Livestock Show & Sale weighed in 26 market beef projects for 22 beef exhibitors! The youth committee worked together to line up trailers, check entries, man scale gates, tag animals, record weights, and more! Market beef cattle are weighed-in the first weekend in November, then again in May the weekend of Show & Sale. Exhibitors grow their animals for 180 project days to compete for Rate of Gain - a contest to see whose animal gains the most pounds each day! Huge thanks to all the parents and volunteers who support these great kiddos and their projects. We're looking forward to a great project season. Be on the lookout for opportunities to support these members!





TREE HIGHLIGHTS

For December I am highlighting an eastern red cedar tree at Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Cemeteries are often a great place to find old community trees. Take a look around and let me know if you find a noteworthy community tree in your neighborhood at tohwlwile@vt.edu!

Tree: Eastern red cedar – *Juniperus virginiana*

Location: Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Goldvein, the cemetery is divided by Blackwells Mill Road. This eastern red cedar is on the north/west part of the cemetery along the fence line with the neighboring farm.

Age: This is a native tree that is difficult to tell the age. It may have sprouted up, or it may have been planted. Graves in the area date back to the early 1900's.

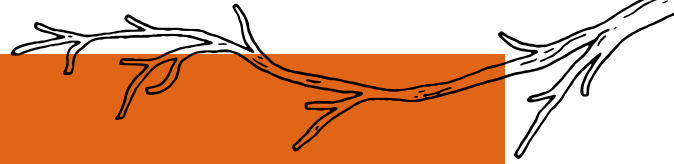
Size: The canopy is fairly narrow as is typical of many mature cedars. Maybe 30 feet wide and a height of 65 feet.

I love the sinew look of the trunk and bark of old eastern red cedars. Eastern red cedars is very tolerant of many growing conditions. They can grow next to a pond or a stream in fairly wet soils or on a craggy rock outcrop on the wester side of the mountains. They grow well in soils with a low pH or a high pH. They need to be in full sun, as they do not like to grow in shade.



This is nowhere near the largest eastern red cedar in the state! This Virginia Big Trees website has several larger eastern red cedar trees.

<https://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/index.html> Can you find the largest eastern red cedar in Virginia on this website?



UPCOMING EVENTS

FAUQUIER VCE OFFICE CLOSED

December 24th - January 1st

The Fauquier VCE Office will be closed starting December 24th, 2025 through January 1st, 2026. The office will resume normal office hours on Friday, January 2nd, 2026.

PESTICIDE PREP- CORE TRAINING

December 9th, 8:30 - 3:30

December 12th 8:30 - 3:30

Registration here to attend CORE training :

<https://tinyurl.com/mvb7p5kd>

Register to take the Registered Technician exam here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3ykwdhws>

2026 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Tuesday evenings 5:30 - 8:30 starting January 20th

\$225 before Dec. 10, and \$275 after Dec. 10. For questions, email Tim Ohlwiler at tohlwile@vt.edu or Tiffany Black at coordinator@mgfrc.org.

CLOVER CALENDAR

All Month Long | Club Meetings at Various Locations

December 12th | Clover Tree items due to the office

December 15th | Clover Tree deliveries

January 9th | Camp Counselor applications due



FAUQUIER
COUNTY
4-H

SHOW & SALE CALENDAR

Early December | Cattle Clinic Registration Opens

January 10th | Cattle Clinic

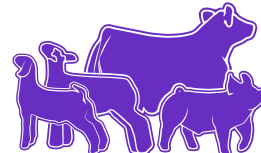
January 14th | Market Beef Midpoint Weight & Pictures Due

January 31st | Lamb & Goat entries due in FairEntry

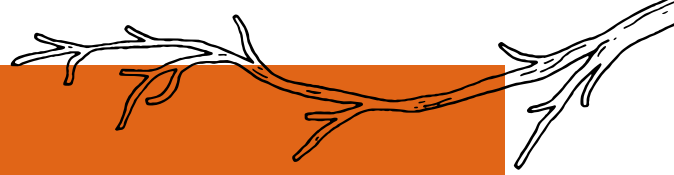
February 1st | Lamb & Goat Weigh-In

February 11th | Hog & Breeding Animal entries due in FairEntry

May 3-4 | 2026 Show & Sale



OFFICE CONTACT



TIMOTHY MIZE	tmize@vt.edu	540-422-8250 ext. 2	Extension Agent, Animal Science
TIM OHLWILER	tohlwile@vt.edu	540-422-8250 ext. 3	Extension Agent, Horticulture
MARY OTT PRADOS	maryvo@vt.edu	540-422-8250 ext. 4	Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
NICOLE HOLLINS	nhollins@vt.edu	540-422-8250	Extension Agent, 4-H After-School
SHARON BROYLES	sbroyles@vt.edu	540-422-8250 ext. 0	Unit Administrative Assistant
ADAM DOWNING	adowning@vt.edu	540-948-6881	Extension Agent, Forestry Housed in Madison
KENNER LOVE	klove@vt.edu	540-675-3619	Extension Agent, ANR, Crop and Soil Sciences Housed in Rappahannock
CARL STAFFORD	ccstaffo@vt.edu	540-727-3435 ext. 351	Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources Housed in Culpeper
LENAH NGUYEN	lgeer@vt.edu	540-727-3435 ext. 342	Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences Housed in Culpeper