

NOVEMBER 2025



THE ROOTS

Fauquier County Cooperative Extension

A NEW 4-H CLUB YEAR HAS BEGUN! ENROLLMENT OPEN UNTIL DECEMBER 1ST!

Our 4-H club year began October 1st! Fauquier 4-H has a wide variety of club offerings for ages 5-19, including livestock-based clubs, science-based clubs, small animal-based clubs, robotics, and shooting education! Now is the perfect time to check out different kinds of clubs to see what you might like! Head over to our club list on our website to find a club, when they meet, and reach out to the club leader for more information! We look forward to seeing you!



Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3
5
6
9
10

The Clover Corner

The Ready Ring

The Office Branch

Upcoming Events

Office Contact

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

2025 FAUQUIER 4-H POULTRY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM DONATES OVER 1,900 DOZEN EGGS!

Our 2025 Poultry Service Learning project has wrapped up our official program year! A few participants will continue to donate through the fall months.

Participants donated to our local food banks:

- 1,992 Dozen eggs
- Equivalent to 23,904-ounce portions of protein

Thank you for all your hard work, participants!!



OFFICER TRAINING RECAP!

We had a successful Officer Training in October! Club officers learned about the proper order for a business meeting, practiced Parliamentary Procedure by "carving" pumpkins, then completed activities for their particular office! Check out what our officers said about their favorite things of 4-H!





FAUQUIER
COUNTY
4-H

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program is in full swing and has expanded to a 6th school for the 2025-2026 school year! We would love to expand to an additional school before Series 2 starts in early December. If you are interested in helping us grow further, please contact nhollins@vt.edu. *Ask about our stipend!

THE CLOVER CORNER

The Eleanor Hazel
4-H After School Program

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
to help expand our program!

Help Inspire Young Minds — Volunteer with the Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program!

The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help bring hands-on STEM learning to local elementary students.

Currently offered in 5 of our 11 elementary schools, we're looking to expand — and we need your help! Volunteers lead four 6-week series at one school, meeting once a week for one hour. All activities are STEM-focused and designed to spark curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity.

If you enjoy working with kids and want to make a real impact in our community, this is a fun and rewarding way to do it!

Ask about our stipend!

for more information please contact nhollins@vt.edu

 Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.

 **Virginia Cooperative Extension**
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

SAVE THE DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT!

SAVE THE DATE
FAUQUIER COUNTY 4-H
ACHIEVEMENT
NIGHT

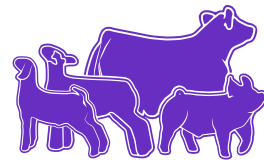
November 23, 2025

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR EMAIL
UPDATES FROM YOUR CLUB
LEADERS AND IN 4-H ONLINE!

Our annual Achievement Night will be held on Sunday November 23, 2025. Keep an eye out for email updates from your club leaders and in 4-H Online!

THE READY RING

FAUQUIER LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE



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.



Show & Sale CHECKLIST

- ENROLL IN 4-H ONLINE OR YOUR FFA CHAPTER
- COMPLETE EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION (LINK BELOW)
- COMPLETE ANIMAL ENTRY THROUGH FAIRENTRY (LINK BELOW)

REACH OUT TO MARYVO@VT.EDU WITH QUESTIONS

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

Exhibitor MEETING

2ND MANDATORY MEETING
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12 6PM
FAUQUIER FAIRGROUNDS

FAUQUIER LIVESTOCK
SHOW & SALE
MAY 3-4, 2026

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Fauquier County 4-H

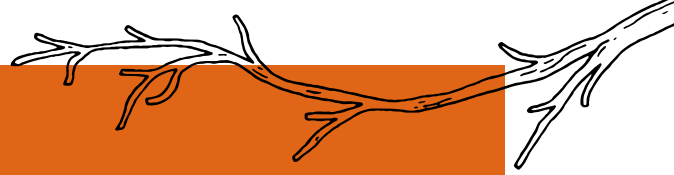
SECOND MANDATORY MEETING

We had a great First Mandatory Meeting in October welcoming new families and seeing familiar faces!

Youth Committee Members facilitated station workshops on animal housing, selection, nutrition, buyers, sponsors, and more!

Reminder our Second Mandatory Meeting is November 12th 6pm at the Fauquier Fairgrounds. This is the LAST DAY to join Show & Sale for 2026! Exhibitors MUST attend this meeting!

Please contact Mary at maryvo@vt.edu with questions.



A HARD FROST CAN TURN A GOOD FORAGE BAD!

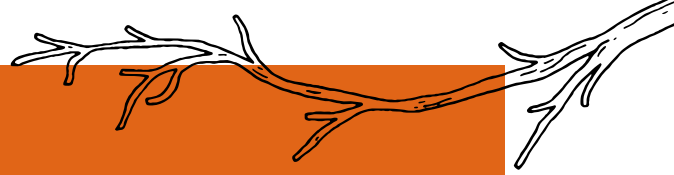
As we approach our first potential freeze, it's important to remember that certain summer forages can become dangerous after frost. When these plants freeze, metabolic changes can cause toxic compounds to form, creating potential hazards for grazing livestock, such as prussic acid, high nitrates, and increased bloat potential.

FROST AND PRUSSIC ACID RISK IN SORGHUM FORAGES

Sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, and johnsongrass contain a natural compound called dhurrin that can convert into toxic hydrogen cyanide (prussic acid) when plant tissues are damaged by stress—especially frost. Cell injury from freezing releases enzymes that trigger this reaction, producing dangerous levels of prussic acid in the leafier portions and new growth. Prussic acid blocks oxygen transfer in the blood, causing rapid asphyxiation in livestock, particularly ruminants. Symptoms such as excessive salivation, difficulty breathing, staggering, or collapse can appear within minutes of consumption. These conditions can occur just hours after frost damage. Pearl millet and others in the millet family rarely, if ever, cause toxicity issues and are generally considered safe to graze unless they have been heavily fertilized (potential nitrate poisoning).

SO, WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Remove animals from summer forages (except millets as described earlier) when expecting frost. For non-killing frost wait 14 days before allowing livestock to graze. But as you can guess, the odds of not having another frost in this timeline are very low. Don't graze wilted plants, or plants showing new growth following a freeze. After a killing frost wait until plants have browned and dried off before grazing. The hay making process generally lowers the prussic acid content, the loss occurs during drying. So, hay cut after frost, if properly cured should be safe to feed. However, testing is the only sure way to know. Ensiling can also lower the cyanide levels, but forage should not be fed for 8 weeks, and the silage should be analyzed before feeding. If you are grazing and unsure if you have potential risk in the field, use higher stocking densities and rotational grazing to limit selective feeding on leaves that may contain elevated prussic acid levels.



INCREASED BLOAT RISK

Legumes such as alfalfa and clovers pose a higher risk of bloat when grazed within a day or two after a hard frost. The danger is greatest in pure legume stands and lowest in mixed pastures with mostly grasses. To reduce risk, wait several days after a killing frost—until the forage has started to dry—before grazing pure legume fields. Always provide animals with dry hay before turning them onto lush fall pastures containing legumes. Another option is to swath the pasture and allow livestock to graze the wilted forage in the windrow. Bloat-prevention products containing poloxalene, available as blocks or grain additives, can be effective when animals consume a consistent amount daily, though they add to feed costs.



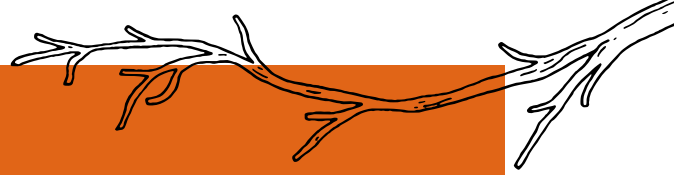
ALFALFA



JOHNSON GRASS



SORGHUM-SUDANGRASS



TREE HIGHLIGHTS

For November, I am highlighting a tulip poplar on private land between Rectortown and Upperville. Tulip poplar is the largest growing hardwood in our local forest and while this is a grand old specimen, there are others that are larger and older in the area.

Tree: Tulip Poplar – *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Location: on private land in Fauquier County. Tulip poplar like to grow in rich deep fertile soil, especially near water.

Age: I really don't have any idea how old this tree is. It is large and has been damaged by a lightning strike on the back side. It is close to a small stream and has plenty of water, so it is likely growing quite fast. Likely more than 200 years old.

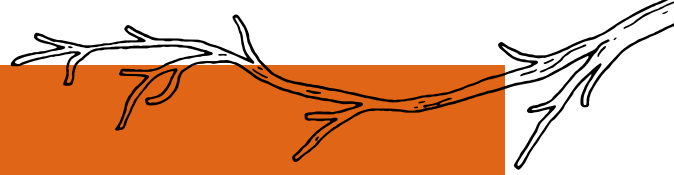
Size: see people in the photo for reference.

This tree is full of character. If you look closely, you can see what looks like the profile of a moose head and antlers in the branches of the tree on the right-hand side of the trunk. Sometimes, large old trees get nicknames. Maybe this tree could go by Bullwinkle, or simply Moose. Tulip poplar is native from Michigan to Massachusetts, and south to Florida and Louisiana. It is a member of the magnolia family, with greenish-yellow flowers in the late spring that are large, but not very showy. Many years they have a beautiful yellow-gold fall color display. This year most tulip poplar trees lost their leaves early and there has not been much color. Perhaps the wet spring and dry summer drained out all the fall color!

If you have a tree that you would like to have highlighted, please reach out to Tim Ohlwiler at tohlwile@vt.edu!



UPCOMING EVENTS



CLOVER CALENDAR

All Month Long | Club Meetings at Various Locations

November 23rd | Achievement Night



FAUQUIER
COUNTY
4-H

SHOW & SALE CALENDAR

November 1st | Beef Entries Due in FairEntry

November 2nd | Beef Weigh-In

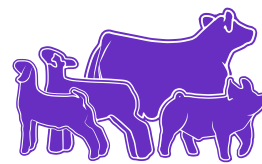
November 12th | Second Mandatory Meeting

Early December | Cattle Clinic Registration Opens

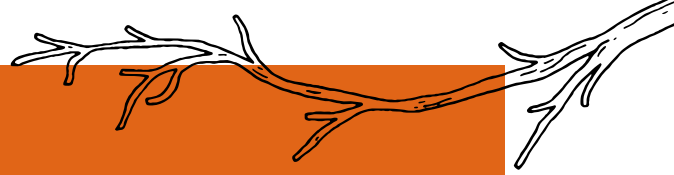
January 10th | Cattle Clinic

January 14th | Market Beef Midpoint Weight & Pictures Due

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