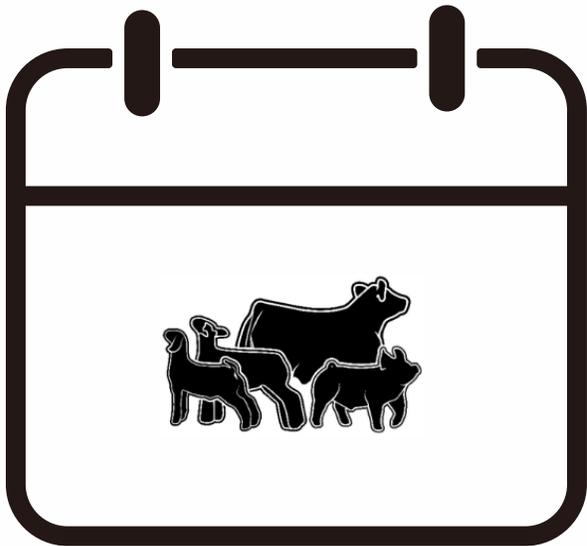


PICTURE SUBMITTED
BY MORGAN OTT

THE ROOTS

Fauquier County Cooperative Extension



YOU'RE INVITED!!

The Fauquier County Show & Sale will be held on May 5 & 6, 2024!

If you are interested in being a buyer or sponsor, please email Sarah Bullard at sarahs2@vt.edu, or scan the QR code below!



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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

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(540) 341-7950
24 Pelham Street,
Warrenton, VA 20186
Fauquier County
Cooperative Extension

THE CLOVER CORNER

FAUQUIER 4-H VISITED THE STATE CAPITOL!

Four junior members traveled to Richmond, VA for 4-H Day at the Capitol on Wednesday January 24th. Fauquier 4-H members, with our two Virginia 4-H Cabinet members Addison DePoy and Jack Woodard, participated in the Virginia 4-H Rally, where we heard from State 4-H Cabinet members, State 4-H Program Leader Jeremy Johnson, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr, and Assistant Secretary of Education Zach Jacobs!



We then headed to the General Assembly Building to meet with Delegate Michael Webert and Senator Bryce Reeves' Senior Advisor Christopher Snider! Members explored the history of Fauquier County at the Virginia Library and participated in a program called "How a Bill Becomes a Law," where they were able to walk through the process of our legislation. This program was cut short by a surprise invitation to tour the Governor's Mansion and meet First Lady Suzanne Youngkin! What an experience! Our members were professional, asked great questions, told impactful stories, and made us proud!



THE CLOVER CORNER



SHOW & SALE CATTLE CLINIC

The Fauquier Livestock Show & Sale hosted its second annual Steer Fitting and Showmanship Clinic on January 13th! 15 members and their parents joined us to learn about daily prep for their show steers, showing, and fitting. We had two great coaches, Emma Jo Donnelly and John Thomas Heyl, who answered tons of questions and worked with the members on live animals for the day. A great time was had by all!



BUYER'S MIXER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Fauquier Livestock Show & Sale is hosting its annual Buyer's Mixer event. Through this event, Show & Sale exhibitors will have the opportunity to meet with community members and businesses. This event allows the exhibitors to practice their buyer meeting skills in preparation for future buyer meetings. If you are interested in volunteering as a mock buyer, please RSVP by scanning the QR code below or clicking [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Bullard at sarahs2@vt.edu



SHOW & SALE EVENT CALENDAR

LAMB AND GOAT WEIGH-IN

February 4th, 2024 - 7:00-9:00 AM

BUYER'S MIXER

February 7th, 2024 - 6:15 PM

SWINE & BREEDING ANIMAL ENTRY FORMS DUE

February 7th, 2024 - 6:30 PM

EXHIBITOR PROFILES DUE

March 1st, 2024 - 5:00 PM

SHEEP, GOAT, AND HOG CLINIC

March 9th, 2024 - 10:00 AM

THE CLOVER CORNER



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT NOMINATION

Do you have a 4-H member, volunteer, alumni, club, program, or event that you would like Fauquier County 4-H to highlight via Facebook or Instagram? Fill out the form below to have your nomination posted!

To access the form, please scan the QR code or visit the website listed below



<https://forms.gle/CwQv3kZ1VZDt1jEA>

CLUB HIGHLIGHT FEATHERED FRIENDS



In December, the Feathered Friends Fauquier 4-H Club met for their final meeting of 2023. Members enjoyed a potluck, made peanut butter bird feeders, played games, and had an abundance of fun exchanging and receiving gifts during the White Elephant game. Members of the Feathered Friends 4-H Club look forward to a project-filled 2024 4-H year!

From the desk of Audrey Falcon,
Feathered Friends club reporter



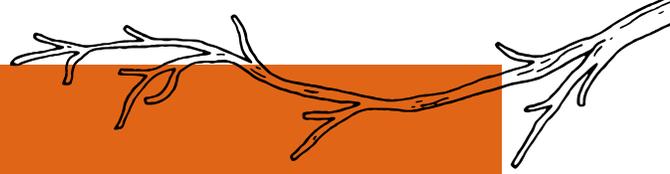
Feathered Friends meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Extension Office in Warrenton at 6:30 PM

ATTENTION 4-H CLUB REPORTERS!

We are launching our new segment of the Clover Corner for Club Highlights! Club reporters are invited to send a write-up and photos to meredithday@vt.edu to be featured in the monthly newsletter. Submit by the 20th of each month to be featured in the following month's newsletter. Please include activities your club is doing, when/where your club meets, and any big events or projects coming up!

Remember to sign your name and your club.

****first priority will go to clubs who have not yet been featured and/or clubs who submit content first**



KEY TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL VEGETABLE GARDEN

Traditionally, the vegetable garden has been located in an area separate from other parts of the landscape because it was considered a working area and an eyesore. However, with proper planning, the garden can be both functional and attractive. Many landscape designers today incorporate edible plants into ornamental areas of the home landscape and ornamental plants such as flowering annuals into the vegetable garden. If you may be considering including edible plants in your ornamental garden or planting a separate vegetable garden, you must consider the five basic requirements for growing vegetables.

1 The garden should receive at least six hours of direct sunlight each day. Eight to ten hours each day is ideal. Vegetables should be planted so that buildings, trees, or shrubs will not shade the area. In addition, keep in mind that roots of trees and shrubs will use nutrients and water that are necessary for good growth. Some leafy vegetables such as broccoli, collards, spinach, and lettuce will tolerate shadier conditions when compared to other vegetables, but, for the most part, if you do not have at least six hours of sunlight daily, you may want to reconsider growing vegetables.

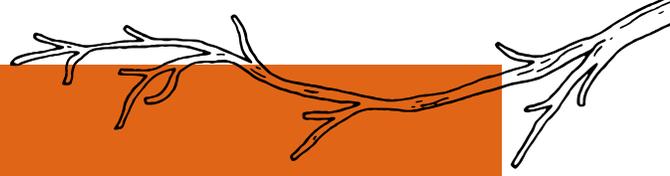
2 The second consideration should be nearness to the house. The out-of-sight-out-of-mind principle applies here. The closer the vegetable garden and the easier it is to reach, the more you will use it. It is more likely that you will harvest vegetables at their peak and be able to take maximum advantage of garden freshness. It is also more likely that you will keep up with jobs such as weeding, watering, and inspecting for insects and disease control if the garden is close by.

3 Ideally, soil should be fertile and easy to till, with just the right texture - a loose well-drained loam. Avoid any soil that remains soggy after a rain. Gardeners with heavy clay or sandy soils can improve them by adding organic matter.

4 Including rain and irrigation, the garden needs at least one inch of water per week. It is essential to locate the garden near a faucet or an additional water source. Consider using trickle irrigation to water rather than sprinklers.

5 Air drainage is the final key aspect in successful gardening. Air drainage is simply the movement of air over and past the garden area. Avoid locating the garden in a low spot, such as the base of a hill or the foot of a slope bordered by a solid fence; air tends to settle in these spots. These areas are slow to warm in the spring and frost forms more readily because of lack of air movement. Vegetable gardens located on high ground are more likely to escape "border-line" freezes for an earlier start in the spring and a longer harvest in the fall.





FOOT ROT OR SCALD: WHICH IS IT?

With the cool wet weather we are now enjoying, sheep producers have likely seen an increase in lame sheep. The two major culprits are foot rot and foot scald. This month we will address foot scald. The early signs of foot scald are animals that are hesitant to walk, are lame, or graze on their knees.

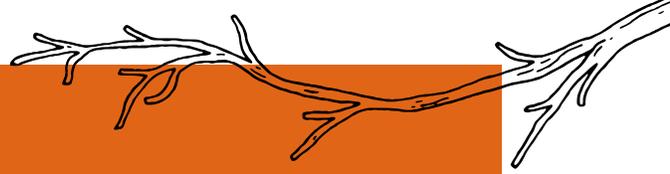
The disease is caused by the bacterium *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and outbreaks can occur during persistent rainy weather with above average winter temperatures. While foot scald is painful for the animal and can cause economic loss, it also often leads to foot rot as *F. necrophorum* is one of the invading bacteria. During these ideal conditions, foot scald spreads through soil contamination from infected animals. Livestock suffering from foot scald will exhibit raw pink or white skin between the toes



that is very sensitive when touched. Control and treatment of foot scald should start with trimming the hooves as overgrown hooves can predispose the animal to infection. A 10 percent copper/zinc sulfate or 7 percent iodine solution can be applied to the feet. For large outbreaks, foot baths can be used on the flock. Following treatment, place animals in a clean dry area with dry bedding. While foot scald may not have as much of a genetic component as foot rot, culling persistently infected animals may be beneficial. Treat animals returning home from shows or newly purchased, especially during these rainy cool days.



UPCOMING EVENTS



SHOW AND SALE BUYER'S MIXER

February 7th, 2024 6:30 PM

Fauquier County Fairgrounds

Show and Sale members are given the opportunity to meet face-to-face with community members and business owners to practice their buyer meeting skills and etiquette. Interested in being a mock buyer? Email Sarah Bullard at sarahs2@vt.edu

SERVSAFE® FOOD PROTECTION MANAGER CERTIFICATION

February 9th, 2024 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

John Barton Payne Building

2 Court House Square, Warrenton, VA 20186

This course is developed by the Education Foundation of the National Restaurant Foundation. After completing the classroom work, participants take a national certification exam. If a passing grade is achieved, participants receive their Food Preservation Manager Certification that is valid for 5 years. Please contact Lenah Nguyen at lgeer@vt.edu for more information



CLOVER CALENDAR

Club Meetings are happening each month, all month long!

Check out our club list for more information!

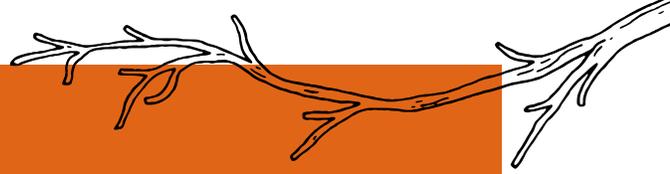
<https://fauquier.ext.vt.edu/programs/4h-clubs-list.html>

Fauquier 4-H will be having its annual Contest Day on Saturday, March 2nd.

Please contact Mary Ott Prados at maryvo@vt.edu with any questions.



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