

**JULY 2024**



**THE RADY PARK ARBORETUM, WARRENTON, VA**

# THE ROOTS

Fauquier County Cooperative Extension

## DRINKING WATER CLINIC

Virginia Cooperative Extension is pleased to once again offer a Drinking Water Clinic for residents of Culpeper, Fauquier, and Rappahannock Counties. If you have a well, spring, or cistern as a source of your drinking water, it is suggested to have it tested regularly. This clinic offers affordable water testing and education to improve water quality and health.

Sample kit pickup is July 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM at your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office. Sample drop off will be July 10 from 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM at your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office. Results will be e-mailed in August or September.

Information about successful sample collection will be delivered by e-mail and video in July. We will also provide interpretation information as test results start to arrive, and will be available to answer questions about specific results as well.

The cost per sample is \$60\* in limited quantities (\*thanks to donations from John Marshall and Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation Districts).

The cost will then rise to \$70. You can register at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/VCE-CULP-VAHWQP> or by scanning the QR code



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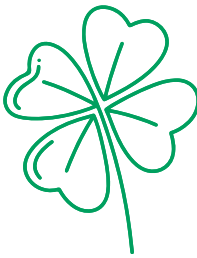
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### **Calling all photographers!**

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](mailto:meredithday@vt.edu)

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






## FAUQUIER 4-H NEXT GENERATION ENTREPRENEURS

NGE is a partnership program with the Warrenton Farmers Market. Youth vendors sell homemade goods, including baked goods, vegetable, eggs, and crafts, like macrame, paracord accessories, jewelry, wood crafts, crocheted items, herbs, and more! Our 2024 program youth vendors learned about marketing, business, and food safety. Youth will complete a project book for their business throughout the year and learn from stakeholders in the community. Join us on the first Saturday of each month May - October under the porch of the Warren Green Building at the Warrenton Farmers Market!

FAUQUIER 4-H NEXT GENERATION ENTREPRENEURS		FIRST SAT
		MAY 4
		JUNE 1
		JULY 6
		AUG 3
		SEPT 7
8 AM - 12 PM		OCT 5
		Warrenton Farmers Market Warren Green Building porch Warrenton, VA 20186



Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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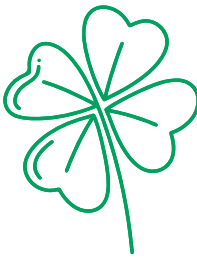


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## ATTENTION 4-H CLUB REPORTERS!

We are launching our segment of the Clover Corner for Club Highlights! Club reporters are invited to send a write-up and photos to [meredithday@vt.edu](mailto: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**



## STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

Seven Fauquier 4-H members traveled to Blacksburg, VA for the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest that took place Wednesday June 26th. All members did well with placings, questions, and reasons, despite the very warm Blacksburg weather!



### Junior members:

Ali Yankey  
Sedona Sifford  
Madison Hinkler  
Amelia Lawrence  
Beth Yankey  
Willa Price

### Senior member:

Holly Chambers



Juniors did well in a tough contest! There were several ties, and very close point numbers in the top twenty individuals in each category. Sedona Sifford placed 11th in Reasons and 8th overall. Ali Yankey placed 7th in cattle and 7th overall. Junior Team A of Ali, Sedona, and Madison came home as the 5th overall junior team!

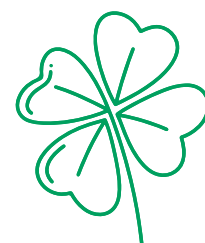
Junior Team B of Amelia, Beth, and Willa placed well, with less than a 20-point spread between them! They landed in the top twenty junior teams.

In the senior contest, Holly competed as an individual and placed in the top half at her first State Contest as a senior!

Congratulations to these members and their coach Mary Ott Prados! Thanks to all the parents and volunteers for their support of these members.



# THE CLOVER CORNER



## ROBOTICS CAMP VOLUNTEERS

### NEEDED!

Fauquier VCE is offering a half day Robotics Camp this summer for rising 1st through 5th graders! We are still in need of volunteers! Volunteer Registration is OPEN NOW. Please click [here](#) to register. **Camper Registration will open June 1st, 2024.**

\*\*\*Volunteers will get early camper registration access for family members!

**Camp Dates:** July 22-25

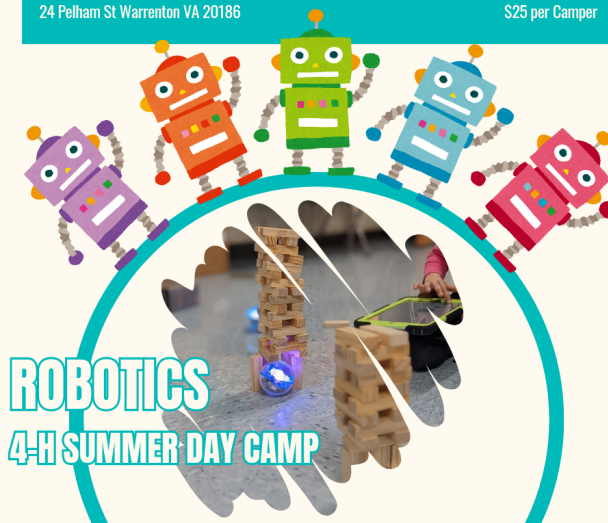
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Ages:** Rising 1st - 5th Graders



When: July 22 - July 25, 2024  
Time: 9am - 1pm  
Where: Fauquier VCE Office  
24 Pelham St Warrenton VA 20186

Camper Age: Rising 1st-5th Graders  
Camper Registration will open June 1st @ 8am  
First Come First Served  
\$25 per Camper



**ROBOTICS**  
**4-H SUMMER DAY CAMP**

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



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## ART CAMP RECAP

Last week Fauquier VCE hosted our 4-H Art Camp! Participants painted ceramics, crated macramé keychains, painted their very own highland cow, and tie dyed bucket hats! It was so much fun watching all of the kids put their own creative style into their arts and crafts. A huge thank you to our volunteers and Nadia from Earth Glaze & Fire for all your amazing help!

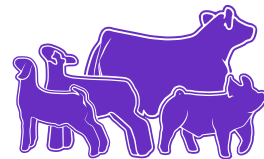
**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



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# THE READY RING

## FAUQUIER LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE



### HERDSMAN AWARD

Along with celebrating the 60th year in 2019, we dedicated the Show and Sale to Howard Grove, a longtime supporter. We are honored and thankful for the support that Howard Grove and the entire Grove family has given us through the years. Howard Lee Grove was born into a farming family of Fauquier County. From an early age he cultivated a passion for agriculture and community that he would carry through his life. Along his journey he was active in many different agricultural organizations and activities including FFA, Farm Bureau, and the Fauquier County Show & Sale, which was of particular importance to him. He was glad to support the Show & Sale over the years in many ways including as a buyer, hauling bleachers, assisting in the barn and also establishing the scholarship among many other things. He believed strongly in our responsibility to take care of the land and the animals upon it and knew that the Show and Sale was an opportunity to help carry those values forward to future generations.

Each year at the Fauquier Show & Sale we recognize one hardworking youth through the Howard Grove Memorial Herdsman Award. Mr. Grove, and now his family, was a longtime supporter of Show & Sale who dedicated countless hours to our program selflessly. We recognize the exhibitor who demonstrates the best combination of sportsmanship, helpfulness, courtesy, time-management, and display of self, project, and area throughout Show & Sale weekend.

Congratulations to this year's winner, Autumn Frear!



### CARCASS CONTEST

The data collected through the ultrasound of the animals gives us estimates of retail values that are entered into a spreadsheet which calculates the ranking based on a point system. Market cattle must grade Choice or above.

### RATE OF GAIN

This contest is only for sheep, goats, and market cattle which do have an initial weigh-in. We calculate average daily gain based on starting weight and ending weight to determine those animals which gained the most during the project.

### NANCY COLWELL MEMORIAL RATE OF GAIN CONTEST

Nancy Colwell was a 4-H Leader who started the Rate of Gain Contest in the 1980's. She felt that it was important for the youth to learn how much their steers were gaining and how much they were feeding their animals. Nancy passed away in the fall of 1993. It is only fitting to continue this contest in her memory since she felt it was an important part of the learning process of raising animals.

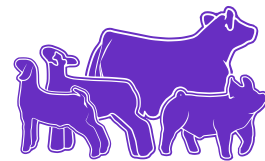
### BEST ALL-AROUND BEEF

This contest is calculation and ranking considering live score and carcass data.



# THE READY RING

## FAUQUIER LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE



### HOGS- CARCASS CONTEST

**1st:** Sedona Sifford  
**2nd:** Leslie Linton  
**3rd:** Sedona Sifford  
**4th:** Leah Gallardy  
**5th:** Charlee Talomie

### VIRGINIA PORK AWARD

Lauren Lowenbach



### BEEF- CARCASS CONTEST

**1st:** Holly Chambers  
**2nd:** Savannah Lerch  
**3rd:** Holly Chambers  
**4th:** Bryson Edney  
**5th:** Landon Shrock

### BEST ALL-AROUND BEEF

**1st:** Savannah Lerch  
**2nd:** Holly Chambers  
**3rd:** Landon Shrock  
**4th:** Autumn Frear  
**5th:** Ali Yankey

### NANCY COLWELL MEMORIAL

### RATE OF GAIN CONTEST

Bryson Edney



### SHEEP - CARCASS CONTEST

**1st:** Amelia Lawrence  
**2nd:** Eliza Lawrence  
**3rd:** Aaron Locke  
**4th:** Colt Baer  
**5th:** Jack Grove

### SHEEP - RATE OF GAIN

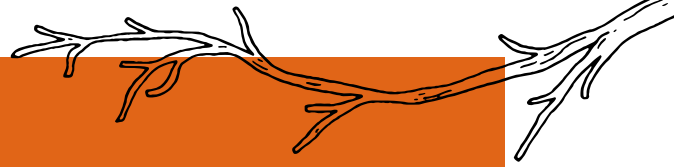
Leslie Linton

### GOAT - CARCASS CONTEST

**1st:** Caitlin Saykaly  
**2nd:** Abbie Rodgers  
**3rd:** Spencer Baer  
**4th:** Spencer Baer  
**5th:** Caitlin Saykaly

### GOAT - RATE OF GAIN

Caitlin Saykaly



## JUNE FEEDING 500

Fauquier County Public School Nutrition Staff attended a June Feeding 500 event aimed at using up some giant cans of beans, roasted red bell peppers, tomatoes, and frozen chicken that were donated by NoVA Food Rescue and Virginia Chutney. The giant cans are difficult for individual families to use, so Feeding 500 participants transformed them into 220 servings of chicken chili to provide healthy and convenient meals for Fauquier Food Bank clients. Participants also completed the ServSafe Manager Course and exam and participated in other hands-on food safety activities during the two-day course. Food preparation activities were led by guest chef David Curlis of Refresh Kitchen who always does a great job teaching participants some new culinary skills as well. Feeding 500 events are financially supported by the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, Culpeper Wellness Foundation, Amazon Web Services, and Walmart Foundation. More events are planned throughout the summer and fall around heavy harvests of local produce and other food rescue opportunities. More information about upcoming Feeding 500 programs and the Carver Food Enterprise Center can be found here: [www.gwcfec.org](http://www.gwcfec.org).



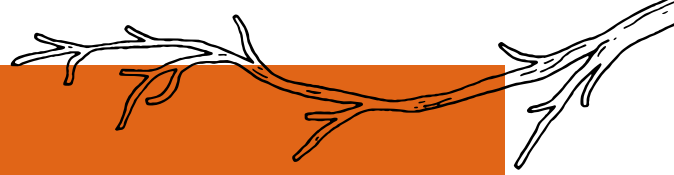
## VSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY

Join us at the Virginia State University College of Agriculture Field Day on August 29, 2024, at VSU Randolph Farm in Ettrick, VA. Check in will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m.

This year's theme is "A Taste of Randolph Farm." Discover the rich offerings of the VSU College of Agriculture and explore diverse and innovative programs in food, agriculture, natural resources, family, youth, nutrition, community engagement, and more. Meet with faculty, researchers, students, Extension specialists, and community members, including small farmers and industry partners.

This family-friendly event features hands-on activities and a chance to taste Randolph Farm's produce and meats prepared by culinary experts. Registration opens soon at: <https://www.ext.vsu.edu/events>





## A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF ANR AGENT TIM MIZE

### PAGE 1

The US drought monitor currently list all of Fauquier county as D1 or moderate drought. Managing drought on Fauquier livestock farms requires specific strategies to maintain pasture health, ensure livestock have adequate forage, and maintain the ability of forages to bounce back quickly when the rains come. Hopefully things will improve soon. In the meantime here are some approaches to help protect what you have:

#### 1. Pasture Management:

- Rotational Grazing: Rotate livestock between pastures to prevent overgrazing and allow grass to recover.
- Deferred Grazing: Set aside certain pastures to rest during the growing season, ensuring they have adequate forage during drought.
- Stocking Rates: Adjust the number of animals to match the reduced forage availability during drought periods. List groups of livestock in the order they should leave the farm to protect forages i.e.: weaned calves, open females, old cows, etc.

#### 3. Grazing Management:

- Early Weaning: Wean calves earlier to reduce nutritional demands on lactating cows and reduce grazing pressure.
- Cross-Fencing: Use temporary fencing to create smaller paddocks for better grazing control and more efficient forage use.
- Shade and Shelter: Provide shade and windbreaks to reduce heat stress on livestock and prevent overuse of certain pasture areas.

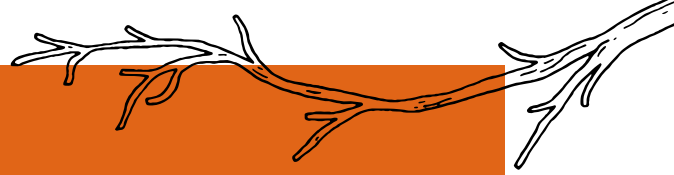
#### 2. Forage Management:

- Forage Supplementation: Provide supplemental feed such as hay or silage to reduce the pressure on pasturelands.
- Limit mowing to protect soil and conserve water
- It is too late now to do anything, but a good time to think about planting native warm season grasses.

#### 4. Monitoring and Planning:

- Regular Assessments: Monitor pasture conditions regularly and adjust management practices based on current and forecasted conditions.
- Now is a good time to develop drought plans: Develop a drought management plan that includes strategies for reducing herd size, alternative forage sources, and water management practices.
- Record Keeping: Keep detailed records of pasture conditions, forage availability, and livestock performance to make informed management decisions.

By implementing these strategies, farmers can better manage pasturelands during drought, maintaining forage availability and supporting livestock health.



## PAGE 2

Making decisions about double cropping during a drought requires careful consideration of several factors to balance the potential benefits with the risks. Here's a structured approach to help make an informed decision:

### 1. Assess Water Availability

- Rainfall Projections: Review weather forecasts and long-term climate predictions. Drought conditions might improve, worsen, or remain stable.

### 3. Economic Considerations

- Cost-Benefit Analysis: Calculate the costs associated with planting and maintaining a second crop versus the expected market prices and potential yields.
- Insurance: Check if crop insurance covers double cropping in drought conditions.

### 5. Alternative Strategies

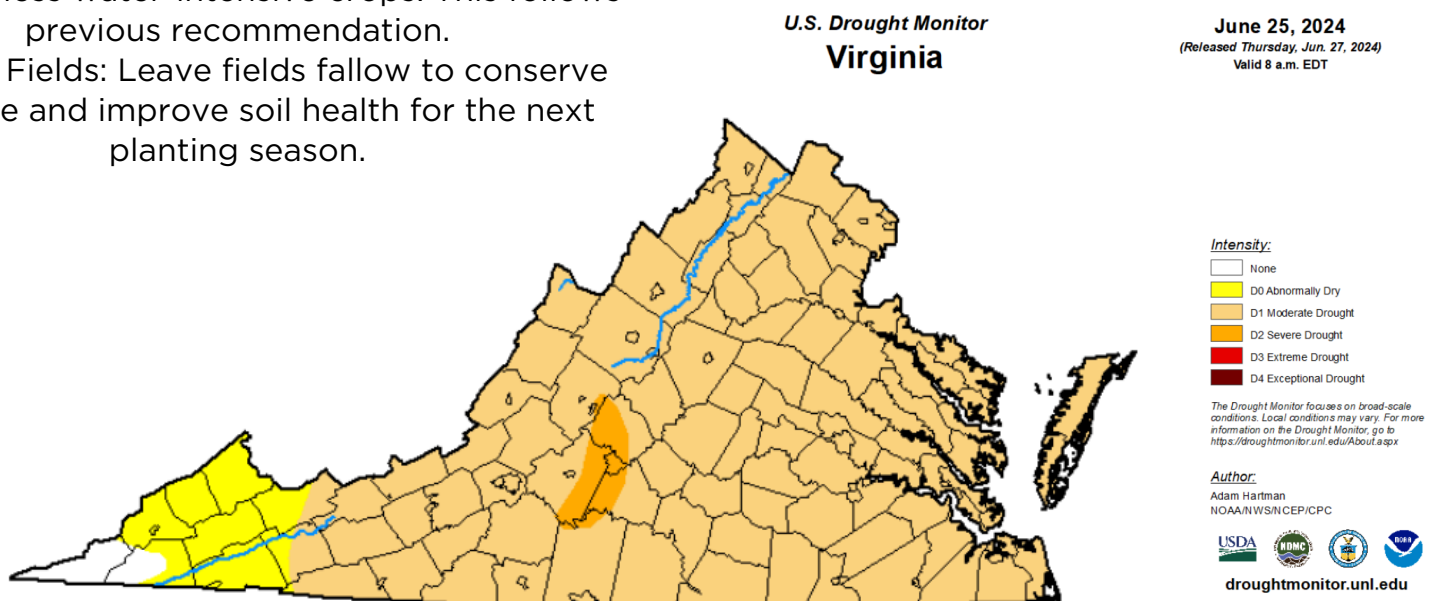
- Crop Rotation: Instead of double cropping, rotate to less water-intensive crops. This follows previous recommendation.
- Fallow Fields: Leave fields fallow to conserve moisture and improve soil health for the next planting season.

### 2. Soil Moisture Content

- Current Soil Moisture: Test soil moisture levels to determine if there's enough residual moisture to support a second crop.
- Soil Type: Consider the soil's water-holding capacity.

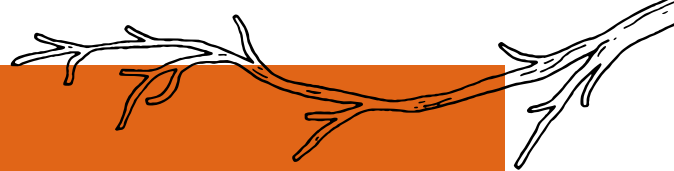
### 4. Soil Health and Sustainability

- Nutrient Management: Ensure the soil has adequate nutrients to support a second crop without compromising future soil health.
- Cover Crops: Consider planting cover crops that can improve soil health and moisture retention. If you have the ability to make hay or silage this could include forages like millet, teff, or other annual forage that have lower planting cost and better drought tolerance.



By carefully evaluating these factors, you can make a more informed decision about whether to double crop your fields during a drought.





## A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF ANR AGENT

TIM OHLWILER

As the heat of summer is here, I wanted to make a list of drought and heat tolerant trees to consider planting in the home landscape this fall for future shade and beauty. Trees provide many benefits - they reduce water run-off, provide shade, add to property value, and provide beauty. The trees on this list are fairly tolerant of neighborhood conditions that have sidewalks, driveways, and other soil disturbance from time to time. I also wanted trees that put up with our summer heat, drought, and air pollution.

**1. Redbud- *Cercis canadensis*** - Redbud is a classic with the pink flowers in the spring. This small tree is very drought tolerant and can grow as a single trunk or a multi-stem tree. The plant breeders have been making all kinds of selections from purple foliage to chartreuse and even creamy variegation of the leaves. There are also some weeping forms as well as some that bloom white.

**2. Hop Hornbeam, *Ostrya virginiana*** - This is a fairly small and very drought tolerant tree that is native to the piedmont of Virginia. It gets the common name from the flowers that look like hops dangling from the branches in the summer. It is less common in the nursery industry but also grows well in home landscapes and gardens.

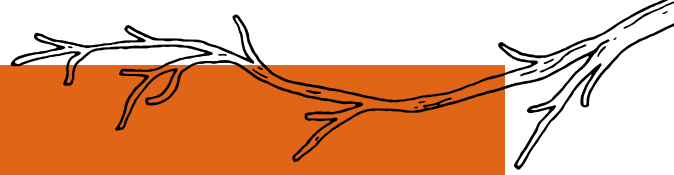
**3. American Yellowwood, *Cladrastis kentukea*** - This tree is becoming more popular in the nursery trade. It has bright green leaf color in the summer with white pendulous blooms in the spring. This slow-growing tree can become quite large with plenty of water and a deep, rich soil. The tree likes to be more broad than tall and the semi smooth bark is attractive all year long.

**4. Nuttall oak or Texas oak, *Quercus nuttalli*** - This is a very heat and drought tolerant oak that does not get quite as large as many of the oak species in our local woods. The new growth comes out a dark, purplish red before turning dark, glossy green in the summer. In the autumn, the leaves again turn to purple red. This tree which tolerates the drought and heat of Texas does very well in Virginia.

**5. Ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*** - This tree is native to China and is a slow grower. Choose a male cultivar as the female trees produce an edible messy fruit that smells like vomit. The tree is very tolerant of drought and urban conditions with disturbed soils and summer heat. In the fall, the trees produce a beautiful yellow gold show before their leaves drop.

**6. Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*** - This native tree has the form and shape of the American elm, and may be a good replacement for these favored street trees that were destroyed by Dutch elm disease over the past decades. The tree is usually light green in color, with a corky bark. It has the vase shape common with American elm and is very tolerant of drought, heat, and high pH soils.

The Rady Park Arboretum in Warrenton features all of these tree species. Stop by the Arboretum that Extension Master Gardeners maintain to see these trees growing in the park.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NEXT GENERATION ENTREPRENEURS AT WARRENTON FARMER'S MARKET

**July 6th, 2024**

**Warrenton Farmers Market  
Warren Green Building Porch**

Vendors will include: Cora's Morl, Stitch and Thyme, Golden Breads and Eggs, Declan's Dairy-Free Delights, and Turned and True.

## FAUQUIER COUNTY FAIR

**July 17-20, 2024**

**6209 Old Auburn Road, Warrenton, VA 20187**

Looking for some fun in the sun?! Come out to the Fauquier County Fair to have some fun!

## ORCHIDS 101

**July 11th, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

**Fauquier Extension Office**

**24 Pelham Street, Warrenton, VA**

Presented by Ben Murphy, Northern Virginia  
Master Gardener

## ROBOTICS CAMP

**July 22-25, 2024**

**24 Pelham Street, Warrenton, VA 20186**

Fauquier VCE is offering a half day Robotics Camp this summer for rising 1st through 5th graders! We are still in need of volunteers! Volunteer Registration is OPEN NOW. Please click [here](#) to register.



# CLOVER CALENDAR

**June 30-July 4 | Loudoun-Fauquier Junior 4-H Camp**

**July 6 | NGE Farmers' Market**

**July 16-20 | Fauquier County Fair**

**July 22-26 | Robotics Day Camp**

**July 25, 30, August 1, 2 | Back-to-School Fairs**

**August 3 | NGE Farmers' Market**

**Club Meetings are happening each  
month, all month long!**

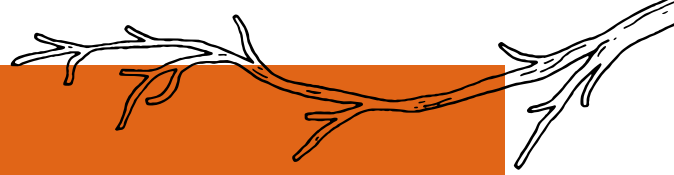
**Check out our club list for more  
information!**

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





# OFFICE CONTACT



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