

2024 Educational Exposition Field Trip Guide

SEPT. 27 - OCT. 6

Gates open at 10 a.m.
Midway Rides open at 11 a.m.



WELCOME TO VIRGINIA'S LARGEST OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



Dear Educator:

If you have conducted field trips to the State Fair of Virginia’s Educational Exposition, welcome back! If this is your first field trip to the Ed Expo, we’re delighted you saw the academic value of this event, and we hope this guide helps you plan your visit to “Virginia’s Largest Outdoor Classroom”! Please review all directions prior to arrival at the State Fair, and feel free to call with any questions or concerns. ***Please note, some procedures and the registration process have changed.*** Our goal is to make your field trip as hassle-free and enjoyable as possible. This planning guide will help you offer structured learning experiences to elementary, middle and high school students.

Our Mission

To increase agricultural and natural resource awareness, interest and education in Virginia through programs, exhibitions and competitions integral to the operation of the State Fair of Virginia

Table of Contents

Standards of Learning	1	Classroom Schedule.....	5
Emergency Action Plan	1	Educational Expo Stop Guide	8
4-H, FFA and Skills USA Competitions	2	Virginia FCCLA Day	17
Important Field Trip Information	3	Marketing/DECA Day	17
Organizational Tips	4	Virginia HOSA Day	17
		Educational Exposition Map	Separate

Stay up to date all year: StateFairVa.org



Look for the SOL icon throughout this guide to learn how specific stops relate to Virginia's Standards of Learning.



Thank you for helping us preserve natural resources by printing the guide only as needed!

The Educational Exposition at the State Fair of Virginia is designed to educate our youth about all the commonwealth has to offer, in a setting unlike any other. “Virginia’s Largest Outdoor Classroom” provides students an opportunity to see Standards of Learning come alive and experience agriculture, history, technology and natural resources firsthand.

Specific SOL correlations are identified in this guide for individual Ed Expo Stops. When at the fair, look for signs placed near the corresponding Ed Expo Stops referred to in this guide. In addition to the SOLs listed with the Ed Expo Stops, the State Fair provides an opportunity to demonstrate in person any number of SOLs to your students.

Elementary school students could:

- Identify recycled or reused materials in Fair exhibits or displays (HE 1.7, S K.10)
- Talk about the importance of hand-washing in disease prevention (HE 2.3)
- Look for meaningful patterns or symbols in the State Fair quilt show (VA 1.14)
- Carry pedometers to collect data on how far they walk around the fair (PE 5.4)
- Create their own map of the fair (H&SS 2.6)

Middle school students could:

- Critique art entered in competitions at the fair (VA 8.19)
- Discuss the watershed that includes The Meadow Event Park (S 6.7)
- Calculate the sales tax on a potential purchase (M 7.4b)
- Write a creative short story based on their visit to the fair (E 6.6, E 7.8, E 8.8)
- Listen to a musical show and discuss characteristics of sound (PS.8)

High school students could:

- Identify genetic characteristics of different cattle breeds in Young MacDonald’s Farm (LS.13)
- Measure and see principles of physics at work on midway rides (PH.4, PH.12)
- Develop an electronic ad for the State Fair (C/T 9-12.9)

State Fair of Virginia Emergency Action Plan

The State Fair of Virginia operates under the State Fair Emergency Action Plan, which was developed under the guidance of the fair’s Emergency Management and Safety Team for security, fire and emergency medical services. The fair works in conjunction with state, local and private organizations to maintain a safe and positive environment. In case of an emergency that may require evacuation from the fair facilities, all students will be returned directly to their schools. The State Fair will immediately contact school officials to notify them of the students’ return and expected time of arrival.

Arrival - please read carefully!

- All buses, vans and cars with school children coming for the Educational Exposition must enter Gate 7, on the left off of Meadow Farm Rd., and proceed to the Bus Parking area (Lot B).
- Private vehicles/cars containing parents or extra chaperones may follow the bus to parking. Please obtain a dashboard parking credential from the registered teacher to avoid being directed to general parking. Those arriving without credentials may be directed to general parking and will need to coordinate meeting up with their group. There is no charge for parking.
- Gates open at 10 a.m.

Getting Credentials

1. All school groups that have prepaid online (recommended) should bring their tickets and may proceed into the fair through the Ticket Plaza as a group at the teacher's discretion.
2. There will be a single ticket booth available for Ed Expo for check collection and to finalize any payment for anyone that has not paid.
3. **Any additional tickets needed day of may be purchased at a ticket gate by any adult present at an increased cost of \$11.50 per additional student or teacher and \$25 for additional wristband.
4. Chaperones and teachers should keep children organized through the check-in process and out of line for the ticket booth or gate entrance.
5. We encourage students to leave backpacks on the bus, as all bags are subject to search at the gate and this can slow your students' entrance to the fair.

Admission

- **Teachers must register their classes prior to arrival at the fair.**
- Ed Expo special ticket price: \$8 admission per student (the most affordable way for students to visit the fair!)
- One chaperone for every eight students is admitted free of charge.
- Additional chaperones must purchase a \$16 adult admission ticket (does not include rides) at the gate or an \$11.50 pre-purchased ticket.

Admission (continued)

- Contact Manager of Ag Education & Ed Expo Coordinator Sarah Jane Thomsen at 804-994-2743 or edu@statefairva.org for special needs.
- Bus drivers are admitted free of charge. Please direct them to school check-in for free ticket.

Rides

- **Reloadable cards.** Guests may purchase the card with ride credits. Guests can use this during any visit at the fair.
- The Weekday Unlimited Ride Wristband (ride until 4 pm) price is \$20.
 - Purchase online in advance OR
 - **Have students purchase inside the gate (cash/card)**
- Wristband tickets will be exchanged inside the fairgrounds at a ride ticket booth.
- Unlimited Ride Wristbands are good on day of purchase only and for one person only.

Payment Options

- Tickets must be purchased (pay online) or reserved (pay later) at Etix online in advance.
- We will be accepting check payment at the gate, but we encourage schools to pay in advance if possible for the easiest entrance.
- **Please note, you are responsible to pay for the tickets you have reserved whether all of your students show up or not.**
- Admission does not include rides. Ride tickets can be purchased online in advance at a discounted rate or during the fair at the regular price.
- Cash is accepted at all Ride Ticket Booths inside the fair, and select booths also accept credit cards (Visa, MasterCard and Discover).
- Checks may delivered in advance to State Fair of Virginia, 13191 Dawn Blvd, Doswell, VA 23047.*

Hand Stamps

In order for anyone to re-enter the grounds after exiting, they **MUST** have their hands stamped. This stamp is accepted for re-entry at the Ticket Plaza only, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the same day.

The ins and outs:

Upon arrival, we recommend that you start your visit in the agriculture area. One way to plan your visit is to follow the numerical order of locations on the maps.

Be Prepared

Wear comfortable walking shoes, and be prepared for inclement weather.

First Aid Station

The First Aid Station is located on the north side of state Route 30, off Festival Loop to the West. There is an additional smaller ETS mobile unit up the hill by the pig racing. First aid staff are always on duty.

Lost Child Center

Instruct students to find a police officer if they become separated from the class. Found children will be escorted to the Lost Child Center (See map).

Restrooms

All restrooms are clearly marked on the map. Restrooms are available near the Ticket Plaza once you enter the fair.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located in the Farm Bureau Center and Meadow Pavilion near the restrooms.

Hand-Washing Facilities

These are located in the midway, equine and agriculture areas. All restrooms have lavatories. For your safety, the State Fair recommends that you and your students wash your hands every time you exit an animal or midway area and before eating.

Lunch

School groups may bring lunches to the fair. However, if you and your class prefer to purchase lunch, food vendors are located throughout the grounds for your convenience.

Elementary Level Lunch

An area near the Ticket Plaza will be available for elementary students to have lunch. Lunches may be stored at the lunch tent or in the bus, and an adult may leave the fair to retrieve them.

Teacher Organizational Tips

- Review plans and learning objectives with class and chaperones prior to arrival.
- Review instructions and Ed Expo route; locate First Aid Station and Lost Child Center on map.
- We encourage students to leave backpacks on the bus, as all bags are subject to search at the gate and this can slow your students' entrance to the fair.
- Have elementary children all wear the same color shirt.
- Coordinate lunch activities with chaperones prior to arrival.
- Inform Manager of Ag Education & Ed Expo Coordinator Sarah Jane of students with special needs – 804-994-2743 or edu@statefairva.org.
- Create chaperone packets with a list of students in the group, copy of the map and supplies (adhesive bandages, pencils, tissues, etc.)
- Use the Online Resource Directory and 2024 Field Trip Guide as learning/classroom tools.
- Preschool and Elementary School Teachers: Prior to arrival, prepare child ID wristbands or necklace cards of your choosing. Please ensure that each child ID includes the cell phone number of the person responsible for each child in your group while he or she is at the fair. Please do not write children's names anywhere on the bands!

YOUTH COMPETITION

4-H & FFA - All week

September 27, 2024

- FFA Tractor Troubleshooting, Best of Show Pavilion
- FFA Small Engine Troubleshooting, Best of Show Pavilion
- 4H Lawn Tractor Safety Contest, Blue Ribbon Pavilion
- 4H and FFA Junior Dairymen's Contest, First Bank & Trust Company Pavilion
- Student Garden Judging, Horticulture Pavilion

September 30, 2024

- Horticulture Demo, Farm Credit Pavilion
- Agriscience Demo, Farm Credit Pavilion
- Career Applications in Horticulture, Farm Credit Pavilion
- Ag Poster Delivery, Farm Credit Pavilion

October 1, 2024

- Forestry Field Day, Natural Resources Field (Farm Credit Pavilion if Rain)
- FFA Junior Foresters, Farm Credit Pavilion

October 3, 2024

- Crop Judging, Blue Ribbon Pavilion
- Middle School Contest, Blue Ribbon Pavilion

October 4, 2024

- Hippology, Blue Ribbon Pavilion

State Fair Competitions

Get involved – encourage your students to be part of the fair! The youth arts & crafts and baked goods competitions are another great way to showcase the talents of your students.

2024 Competition Guides are online now! For competition information and online entry, visit StateFairVa.org. The 2024 school/class entry deadline for creative arts is Sept. 10 and Sept. 18 for culinary arts.

FFA and SkillsUSA information is available on those organizations' websites.

SkillsUSA Day - Monday & Tuesday

Monday, September 30th & Tuesday, October 1st

SkillsUSA is the organization for students in technical, skilled and service careers.

Being a SkillsUSA members is all about being a champion. This means much more than winning a contest – it's the attribute of dedication to personal and professional excellence. SkillsUSA Day is about students showcasing their new entry level skills.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.skillsusa.org>

Monday, September 30

Cosmetology - Fantasy Manikin Comb-out	10:00 a.m.
Cosmetology - Nail Care	10:00 a.m.
Drafting	10:00 a.m.
First Aid / CPR	10:00 a.m.
Cosmetology - Total Fantasy Look	10:30 a.m.
Cosmetology - Manikin Comb-out	10:30 a.m.
Cosmetology - Total Fashion Look	10:30 a.m.
Job Demonstration	10:30 a.m.
Promotional Bulletin Board	10:30 a.m.
Criminal Justice	10:30 a.m.
TV Production	10:30 a.m.
Drone Competition	10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 1

Welding	10:00 a.m.
Auto Body	10:30 a.m.
Auto Service	10:00 a.m.
Carpentry	10:00 a.m.
Electricity	10:30 a.m.
HVACR	10:00 a.m.
Masonry	10:30 a.m.
Heavy Equipment	10:30 a.m.
Plumbing	10:00 a.m.
Cabinetmaking	10:00 a.m.

*All contests will be held in the Blue Ribbon and Best of Show Tents



MEADOW PAVILION

This is your one-stop shop to learn about Virginia's agricultural commodities in an indoor environment that will be transformed into an agricultural showcase.

Virginia Farm Bureau

Explore a Virginia farm without ever leaving the State Fair! Virginia Farm Bureau will feature a multi-part educational display. Sit in our Farm Tour Tractor Cab and explore a chicken house or chop corn. Visit our interactive Farm Product Kiosk and learn about popular farm commodities and the journey they take from farm to fork. Try your hand at our My Plate matching game. Cap off your experience by testing your farm knowledge at our Prize Wheel. Virginia Agriculture is exciting and the possibilities are endless!

Agriculture in the Classroom

Join Agriculture in the Classroom in connecting children to agriculture! Visit us within the Virginia Farm Bureau educational display and explore the importance of agriculture across the Commonwealth. Enjoy interactive games and exhibits to learn about the many ways that agriculture impacts your daily life. Learn about the many other educational resources we have to offer by visiting us online at virginia.agclassroom.org.

Objective:

The student will be able to:

- Identify Virginia products and correctly match commodities and by-products
- Identify Virginia regions and match products that are grown/raised in each region
- Identify stages of plant production and harvest
- Identify the use of complex machines and technology in food production

To learn more about AITC's resources, including how you can support AITC, visit us online at AgInTheClass.org or find us on Facebook at Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership between Virginia's two land grant universities: Virginia Tech and Virginia State University. We deliver vital educational programs through our network of 107 county and city offices, 11 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers, six 4-H educational centers, and professional Extension agents and staff, specialists, and volunteers. Virginia Cooperative Extension responds to state and local needs to enhance agricultural and natural resources profitability and sustainability, improve community health and wellbeing, support strong families, mentor and empower youth, and advance the wellbeing of all Virginians. This year's exhibit will provide both visual and hands-on experiences through the use of personal interaction with Virginia Cooperative Extension staff and volunteers, educational demonstrations, videos, and activities showcasing the best we have to offer.

Stop & smell the honey at the beekeepers' exhibit

The Virginia Beekeepers plan to have an experienced beekeeper on duty all 10 days of the fair in order to talk to students and teachers about beekeeping. We also plan to have some of the youth beekeepers at the booth when possible. We have an observation hive and a teaching hive all 10 days so the kids and the general public can see what goes on inside a hive and have a chance to find the marked queen.

We will have hand outs for fair goers with information on bees. Don't miss the display of competition honey, candles and other beekeeping gadgets on display for all to see.

Learn more about:

- How to get started in beekeeping
- Where to get bees and/or equipment
- Opportunities for help and mentoring
- How to extract honey
- What is comb/chuck honey, creamed honey and hive products
- How to maintain a healthy hive.



Virginia Soybean Association

The Virginia Soybean Association invites you to come visit with us and learn how soybeans are grown and harvested in Virginia and what they are used for in our everyday lives. There will be fun and educational materials to be given away and a “Soy House” to show the many uses of soybeans all around us!

Virginia Tobacco Board

Today, tobacco continues to play a significant role in Virginia’s economy. Virginia farmers raise four types of tobacco: flue-cured, burley, dark, and cigar wrapper. Tobacco production is concentrated in 22 counties in southern Piedmont and Southwest regions. Danville, Richmond and other communities continue to have important roles in tobacco markets and tobacco product manufacture.

Virginia Peanuts

The Virginia Peanut Growers Association booth will have information on all aspects of peanuts, including the crop’s history in Virginia, where exactly they grow in our state, and particularly how our farmers grow and harvest peanuts. Virginia peanuts are the largest of the four types of peanuts grown in the US. The uses for the peanuts grown in Virginia are varied, from world renowned gourmet peanuts to roasted in shells to peanut butter. The booth will have live plants on display as well as plants just dug from the field. Information will also be available showing the nutritional qualities of one of America’s most popular snack foods.



Virginia Grain Producers Association

Make sure you stop by the Virginia Grain Producers Association’s booth on your tour and learn about corn and small grains. Virginia grains account for over \$200,000,000 in cash receipts for Virginia farmers making it a huge part of Virginia’s farm economy! Do you know how many types of corn there are? How about the average age of a farmer in Virginia? Take a spin at our popular Wheel of Facts and find out the answers. If you answer correctly, you could win one of our infamous foam corn cobs and other corn-y prizes!

Virginia Biosolids Council

The Virginia Biosolids Council invites you to stop by to learn about the beneficial use of biosolids across Virginia. Learn how biosolids benefit the environment by recycling valuable nutrients, improving soil health, and increasing productivity and sustainability of family farms; how biosolids and biosolids products help preserve rural open space and protect the Chesapeake Bay; and how the use of exceptional quality biosolids benefit homeowners’ lawns and gardens by improving soils and plant growth!

Virginia Beef Council

The Virginia Beef Council invites you to stop by and learn more about beef and beef cattle in Virginia. “Beef Up” your knowledge at the hands-on trivia board. Explore the many cuts of beef on our large beef cut puzzle model. Pickup free recipes to try at home and other beef swag. Learn more about how beef farmers and ranchers care for their cattle and how beef fits into your nutritious diet.

Superhero Ag Trading Cards

Pick up Superhero Ag Trading Cards at various booths across the Ed Expo or request trading cards online at www.statefairva.org.

Ag Trading Cards are a great way to put a real face to all the amazing Virginians who help feed the world and protect the land for future generations.

Lesson plans are available online to utilize trading cards in the classroom or make your own!



2 STUDENT GARDEN COMPETITION

Come see the gardens that high school students from across the state have installed. The theme for this year’s Student Garden Competition is “Where Homegrown Happens.” Horticulture students design and install these gardens, which are always a highlight of the Ed Expo. Students are competing for premiums, scholarships and bragging rights.

3 HORTICULTURE PAVILION

Visit the youth crops and vegetables competitions! Students might see vegetables that they like to eat, some that they don’t and possibly some they have never seen before! Kids from 5 to 18 can enter a crop such as peanuts, cotton or field corn; enter vegetables like cucumbers, tomatoes, curly kale and potatoes; or enter fruits such as apples, pears and melons. Students can even see entries in the new corn creations contest, which features creatively decorated ears of corn!

Come experience daily demonstrations and enjoy activity stations. This is a great way for students to experience agriculture in Virginia. Be sure to check on-line for the daily demonstration schedule full of fun educational topics.

Giant Pumpkins & Giant Watermelons

Come see just how big the biggest pumpkin and watermelon are at the 2024 State Fair of Virginia. Both can be found in the Horticulture Pavilion. Growing really large pumpkins and watermelons requires the right seed, about 2,500 square feet and shade from the sun. Will the 2024 biggest pumpkin break 1,000 pounds this year?

Compare sizes and weights of the pumpkins....how does density fit in?



K.7, 1.4, 4.4, 4.9



Master Gardeners

Good bug or bad bug? How can you tell the difference? Join us for interactive activities and more at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Booth to meet some of our insect friends and foes. Discover the characteristics that determine whether each is beneficial to our environment or harmful and needs to be contained.

Find out ways to create habitats supporting good bugs, which will help pest control and pollinate our farms and gardens. And, learn about an invasive species new to Virginia that can cause devastating damage – the spotted lanternfly, including how to identify it at each stage of its life cycle and where to report any sightings.

Do you have other gardening questions? Our Master Gardeners are happy to help answer them!

The Farmer's Garden

Feel the soil in your hand and make plans for growing your own food! Discover which fruits and vegetables make some of your favorite foods from pumpkin pie to grape juice. Make sure you stop at the Pizza Garden where your pizza is grown! From the wheat in the crust to the tomatoes for the sauce, don't forget your favorite ingredients and to thank the cow for the cheese. Learn about the potatoes and carrots grown underground or discover your favorite greens like beans and asparagus. From blackberries and raspberries to cucumbers and cabbage, you'll be amazed to learn about everything you can grow right in your backyard! How many of the vegetables can you identify and have you eaten?

Cash Crops of Virginia – Adjacent to the Horticulture Pavilion, students can visit the Cash Crops of Virginia Field Plot to examine such crops as hops, cotton, peanuts, tobacco, milo/sorghum and soybeans while the plants are still growing. Did you realize peanuts grow underground and not on trees? They are not even nuts but are legumes! Learn about the economic impact of cash crops in Virginia.



4 Virginia Food & Agri-Science Exhibition

Presented by Virginia State University College of Agriculture

This hands-on, multi-faceted exhibition area explores the past, present and future of Virginia's number #1 industry, agriculture, and the importance it plays in our every-day lives. Beyond corn, soybean, chickens and cows, learn what else Virginians are producing and what successes and challenges these small-scale farmers and ranchers face. How do their stories impact your life at the supermarket or on your dinner plate? What role can students play in increasing the world's food production in the next 30 years by an overwhelming 70% to feed the additional 2.2 billion people on the planet? As they explore the exhibits, students should be encouraged to think about ways to solve this critical problem facing our world. Visitors will also learn about ways Virginia State University's agricultural researchers and the Virginia Cooperative Extension program are helping deliver solutions to help ensure our food is some of the safest and most abundant, nutritious and affordable in the world.

- Visit Virginia's first Mobile Agricultural Education Trailer, a dynamic, interactive teaching tool for promoting the importance of agriculture and natural resources in the Commonwealth.

- Witness how plants and fish can be produced together using a self-contained indoor recirculating system at Virginia State University's Mobile Aquaponics Unit. Learn how this sustainable, integrated approach is beneficial to both fish and plants and can be a fun and profitable way to produce food.
- Check out Virginia's first Sheep & Goat Mobile Processing Unit, which provides small ruminant ranchers a convenient and affordable way to process and package their meat for retail distribution.
- Enjoy Daily Presentations and Activity Stations on topics ranging from urban agriculture and forestry to the science behind food production and safety. This is a great way for students to deep dive into specific subject areas, as well as learn about different careers in food production. Be sure to check on-line for the daily demonstration schedule.

Questions & Activities

1. Make sure to ask questions of the scientists making daily presentations. What are the school subjects they found most helpful in their careers?
2. Imagine you're a food scientist or play a leading role in the agricultural industry. How many different ways can you think of that will help safely increase the world's food production in the next 30 years by 70% to feed the approximate 10 billion people on the planet? (That's 2.2 billion more people today.) What are they?
3. How does Virginia Cooperative Extension help the communities around the Commonwealth of Virginia?
4. Name two types of fish that are grown by Virginia aquaculture farmers?
5. What is aquaponics? Is this something you or your family can do?



PIGEON AND DOVE PAVILION

There are over 300 different breeds of pigeons and doves with many variations of markings and colors within them. Besides being powerful flyers, some of the many abilities of pigeons include homing instincts, ground and air acrobatics, cooing that sounds like trumpets, and some that can even inflate their crop like a frog. A sight to behold, many pigeons have extravagant body shapes, which range from the small, cardinal-sized Figurita to the largest, nearly chicken-sized Giant Runt; its name is a story in and of itself. From the bold, upright "peacock tail" of Fantails to the elaborate, "hair curler" feathers of a Frillback, a pigeon's feathers are always the talk of the tent. Come and experience a husbandry that has been around for millennia and has played a critical part in history. We look forward to seeing you there and answering any questions!



SOUTHLAND DAIRY FARMERS CENTER - NEW LOCATION

This all inclusive dairy exhibit will showcase everything from breeds of dairy cattle to where our milk comes from!

Birthing Center – See newborn calves with their mothers. Usually 10 calves are born here during the Unfortunately, we can't guarantee delivery times, but there is always an educational video of the actual event. Holstein dairy cattle usually are black and white. Adult Holsteins produce more milk than any other breed, about 8 gallons a day! Dairy cattle breeds vary greatly from the more muscular cattle that are raised for beef. Only female dairy cattle are called cows. Male cattle are called bulls, and babies are called calves. A newborn calf can weigh 100 pounds and walk within an hour of its birth.

Cow Milking – Try your hand at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. daily.

6 SOUTHLAND DAIRY FARMERS CENTER - NEW LOCATION

SouthLand Dairy Parlor – Trained instructors demonstrate how to milk a cow, discuss the 13 nutrients found in dairy products and the importance of dairy nutrition in a daily diet. Learn about a cow's life on a dairy farm and how farmers care for their animals. Audiences will be able to ask their dairy questions at the end of each presentation.

This program is supported by Virginia dairy farmers, check out SouthLand Dairy to learn how you can bring the message of dairy to your school or community event!

Daily presentation times: 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

7 YOUNG MACDONALD'S FARM - NEW LOCATION

This exciting experience includes many of the animals found on a typical Virginia farm. Your class will see:

Sheep – Not all sheep have wool. Stop in and see the hair sheep and other breeds. Sheep eat grass and plants. They often graze in large groups, or flocks. Sheep have four separate stomach compartments or sections. They regurgitate their food (bring it back up from the stomach) and chew it again. This helps the stomach fully digest the food.

Baby Ducks on the famous duck slide

Geese, Ducks, Turkeys, Guineas and Chickens

Breeds of Beef Cattle – See what makes them different. Cattle eat grass and have four chambers in their stomach like sheep, making them "ruminants." This helps them digest grass and other plant material that humans cannot. This 'superpower' makes them quite resourceful as they make nutritious meat and milk with land that is not suitable to grow other crops and plants. Farmers take good care of their animals and protect them from predators.

Rabbits – All rabbits are not the same! Look for breeds like Lionhead, Jersey Woolly and Angora.

Alpacas – Virginia Alpaca Breeders will be available all day with animals your class can pet and feed. This is an opportunity to touch alpaca fleeces and learn about the unique qualities of this fiber-bearing animal. Breeders will be happy to share their knowledge!

Goats – Goats are adaptable animals. They feed on forage that other animals will not eat and can live in steep, rocky places. Goats are raised for their milk, fiber and meat. Goat's milk and cheese are easily digested. Fleece from the silky hair of the cashmere goat is used to make yarn and fabric.

Baby chicks hatching daily – An incubator provides heat similar to that of a broodie hen. It takes 21 days for a baby chicken to develop inside an egg. During that time, the chick uses the egg yolk for food. It is very important that chicks struggle to hatch out of their eggs, because it helps them develop physically.

Incubation/hatching of different poultry species:

- Chickens – 21 days
- Turkeys – 28 days
- Ducks – 28 days
- Geese – 30 days
- Muscovy ducks – 35 days

Sow / Litter – Visit the sow with her litter of baby pigs. A sow's gestation is 114 days. The babies are up and walking within minutes of being born and are weaned and ready to be on their own at 6 weeks. A sow normally will have eight to 12 pigs per litter and can have two litters per year. In today's production system pigs can weigh 250 pounds at 6 months of age or less and be ready for market. It takes about 4 pounds of feed for 1 pound of weight gain, and each pig will require about a half-ton of feed to reach market weight.



8 SECRETARIAT'S BARN

Students who visit the State Fair of Virginia at The Meadow Event Park are truly walking in the hoofprints of history. As the birthplace of Secretariat, The Meadow is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

The legendary Secretariat, who many consider to be the greatest race horse of all time, was born right here at The Meadow on March 30, 1970. If you saw the Disney movie "Secretariat," you know he won the Triple Crown in 1973. Only 13 horses have won the Triple Crown since 1919. Secretariat is the only horse in that 100-year history to break all the track records in those three races: the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont. Those records remain unbroken to this day, 48 years later! ESPN named Secretariat as one of the top 50 athletes of the 20th century. He was the only four-legged one on the list.

In 1972, the year before Secretariat won the Triple Crown, Riva Ridge of Meadow Stable won the Derby and the Belmont. No other racing stable has ever won five out of six Triple Crown races back to back.

At The Meadow, you can walk around the stalls and explore where Secretariat spent his early years.

The Meadow is where Secretariat and Riva Ridge first had a saddle and a rider on their backs and where they learned to gallop around a racetrack.

The Meadow was not always a Thoroughbred horse farm. It was founded in 1805 by Dr. Charles Morris and was a working plantation of 2,000 acres for over 100 years. In 1936, Christopher Chenery, a cousin of the Morris family, purchased The Meadow and transformed it into a famous racing stable. His daughter Penny Chenery took over the farm when he became ill and took her father's dream to the utmost heights of racing glory with Secretariat and Riva Ridge. Though he died in 1989 at the age of 19, Secretariat is still beloved by millions.

9 HERITAGE VILLAGE

Walk back in time, and explore the changes in technology and lifestyles that have taken place in America.

Machinery and engines – Mechanical power and industrialization transformed agriculture, domestic culture and transportation with great speed. See the technologies that launched Americans into the 20th century, collectors' antique tractors and early gas engines.

Blacksmith – Using physics, chemistry and mathematics, see daily demos by Carson Sams on forging every day items and farming tools, using late 1800 technology.

Flour/Corn meal – See corn kernels turned into cornmeal, and see wheat turned into flour. Ask what other grains are used for human consumption, as opposed to livestock feeds.

AND MORE!



VS.1b, 1e, 1g, 7b, 4d, USI. 1b, USII.4d, VUS.1a, preferred for grades 4, 5, 7 and 11

10 FARM BUREAU CENTER AND ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

The Creative Arts Department and the Culinary Arts Department of the State Fair of Virginia would like to invite you to visit competitive exhibits in the Farm Bureau Center during your visit.

Come discover who, among the hundreds of Virginia Students, won blue ribbons or even better, fine arts scholarships. The Creative Arts Department currently offers three fine arts scholarship categories in 2D and 3D art for students in 7th-12th grade.

The Culinary Arts Department also has a new scholarship competition for high schoolers.



NATURAL RESOURCES AREA in the Farm Bureau Center

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

The Marine Resources Commission (MRC) will be showcasing a variety of recreationally and commercially important fish and shellfish species found within the Chesapeake Bay, as well as some of our lesser known but equally fascinating resident organisms. The exhibit features 8 aquariums, totaling over 425 gallons of sea water, each displaying an array of organisms big and small. Throughout each day, staff will also be showcasing live horseshoe crabs for interactions with the public and giving presentations about the ancient and fascinating species. Agency staff and Marine Police Officers will also be present to answer questions about the role the agency has in protecting our marine environments, while allowing both the public and commercial fisherman to utilize the wealth of resources found within Virginia's waters. The exhibit and staff will work to highlight the importance of conservation and good stewardship of Virginia's marine waters, and how everyday choices can have lasting impacts on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and waters beyond.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary private lands conservation agency and is part of the United States Department of Agriculture. We help landowners make investments in their operations and within local communities to keep working lands working. NRCS focuses heavily on soil and air quality, water resources and resilient landscapes.

This year's NRCS exhibit at the State Fair will have an emphasis on conservation education, a core element of our agency's mission and function. Students can learn about the principles of soil health and how NRCS identifies and manages resource concerns. In addition, visitors will be able to speak with our employees about careers in conservation and becoming Earth Team volunteers. Handouts will include posters, coloring books and stickers.

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) exhibit will offer information to all citizens on ways to better conserve Virginia's precious natural resources, focusing on watersheds, and storm water.

Students can learn what watershed they live in, as well as the impact of individual actions have on their local watershed. Visitors will also learn about best management practices to address stormwater, such as rain gardens and what they can do at their home to help protect water quality and soil health. Visitors will also be able to test their knowledge on aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife. Outside the building there will be a raingarden they can visit along with seeing what a cross section of a rain garden and how it filters water to protect water quality and soil health. There will also be interactive signage around the raingarden for visitors to learn more about them.



K.5, K.9, K.10, K11, 1.1(g), 1.4, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1(c), 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.1(a), 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1(a), 4.4, 4.5, 4.9, 5.7(f, g), 6.5,6.7,6.9, L.S. 6, L.S. 8, L.S. 9, L.S.10, L.S. 11, E.S. 6, E.S. 8, E.S. 10 ENV. 2, ENV. 4, ENV. 5, ENV. 6, ENV. 8, ENV. 9, ENV. 10, ENV. 11, ENV. 12 BIO. 8, BIOLOGY II: ECOLOGY III, IV, V, VI

Department of Wildlife Resources

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) exhibit will be spotlighting how you can find places to Explore the Wild in Virginia's public lands. Agency staff and Conservation Police Officers will be present to answer questions about the agency's role in conserving and managing wildlife populations and habitat for the benefit of present and future generations and how DWR connects people to and keeps people safe in the outdoors.



K.6, K.8, 1.4, 1.8, 2.5,3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.3, 6.9, LS5, LS6, LS9, LS11, Bio7, Bio 8, Ecology Concepts II-IV, VI

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

If you feel like saving the world, come visit DCR. Learn to conserve, protect, and enjoy what Virginia has to offer. DCR is the state's lead natural resource conservation agency. DCR staff are ready to answer your questions about farm friendly conservation management practices and ways to protect what Virginians care about – natural habitats, parks, clean water, dams, open spaces, and access to the outdoors. Visit the booth to travel the path of conservation, meet state park rangers and test your knowledge with our interactive exhibits.



K.11.c, 1.8.b, 3.8, 4.8.a and d, 6.9.a and e, BIO.2.a, BIO.8.d, ES.10.e, ES.8.d

Flat Parker

Meet Flat Stanley's favorite furry friend for all his Virginia State Parks visits.

Download your own Flat Parker online before the fair and have your students explore the fair with Parker. Take a picture with Parker for your chance to win

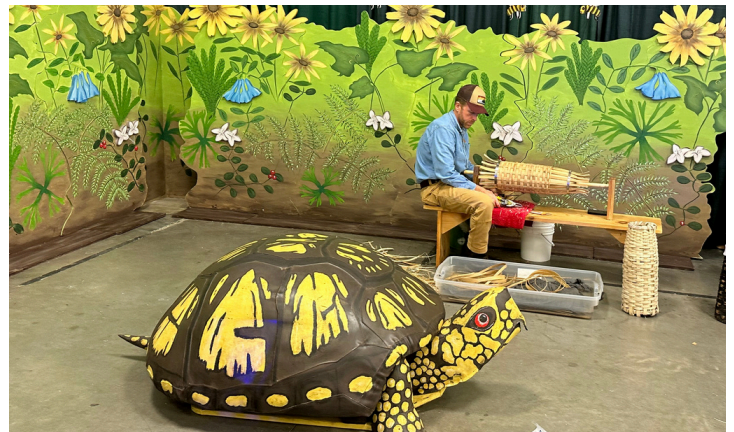


Cozy Corner in Natural Resources

Be sure to stop by the Cozy Corner for daily programming and activities or stop by for a quiet moment and story time.

Activity sheets, structured programming, or story time will be offered throughout the 10 days in our Cozy Corner, so stop by to see what's happening! When structured activity is not happening, be sure to stop in for a group picture with our new turtle friend- you won't be disappointed!

Walk around and visit our arts demonstrators as they craft from nature and be inspired as you step into this space.



The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation

The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation (WBWF), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), stop will feature interactive conservation and wildlife education content. Anchored by the WBWF Youth Outreach trailer, tables will display animal pelts for species native to Virginia and feature content like habitat facts and foundational conservation history information. Volunteers will be on hand to provide Q&A support and key takeaway reinforcement to those who stop by Monday-Friday.

The table will discuss the basic needs of animals, adaptations for survival, habitat, and food webs.



K 7, 1.5, 2.5, 3.4, 4.2, 4.3, 4.8, LS. 6, LS. 7, Bio 6.

12 SCHOLARSHIP HALL OF FAME

Since 2013 the State Fair has awarded over 1,800 scholarships and has dedicated more than \$670,000 to youth education. The fair offers more than \$80,000 each year in scholarship money through 4-H, FFA and vocational competitions and specific equine, fine arts and horticulture competitions. Walk through the hall of fame to see last year's outstanding youth and learn how you can earn a scholarship at the State Fair.

13 LIVESTOCK LOOP

Equine events held during the fair are sure to entertain students while they learn about this vital segment of Virginia agriculture. For specific offerings, dates and time, check back in late summer.

14 FIRST BANK & TRUST COMPANY PAVILION AND FARM CREDIT PAVILION

Open and Youth Livestock Shows

Visit the different livestock pavilions on your field trip. Don't miss the cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and dairy cows and goats. Be sure to talk to the exhibitors that have put so much time and energy into preparing for this moment. The types of animals being shown rotate throughout the 10 days of the fair. A full schedule will be available closer to fair.



HOME EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA (HEAV) DAY - FRIDAY

Home Educators Association of Virginia is a member-supported, statewide, 501(c)3 non-profit homeschool association. Since 1983, HEAV has successfully worked to promote and protect home education in Virginia by providing up-to-date information to homeschooling families, the media, and officials. HEAV serves all homeschoolers. With a full-time office staff and hundreds of dedicated volunteers, we're ready to answer your questions, offer support, and serve your needs year-round. Check out our website at www.heav.org, send us an email at office@heav.org, or give us a call (804-278-9200).

THE ORGANIZATION OF VIRGINIA HOMESCHOOLERS - MONDAY

The Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers (VaHomeschoolers) is an independent, inclusive, non-profit, member-driven, statewide organization. We are committed to providing homeschooling support to our members, as well as accurate information about homeschooling. VaHomeschoolers appreciates that homeschooling families are diverse in their beliefs and backgrounds, but united in loving their children, valuing their children's education, and treasuring their freedom to homeschool. To learn more about us or join our team of volunteers, visit our website at VaHomeschoolers.org.



MARKETING / DECA CAREER DAY - WEDNESDAY

Best in Show Tent- A unique marketing field experience covering basic marketing principles with an emphasis and concentration on promotions, target marketing, sales and customer service.

The field experience, which compliments numerous SOL competencies, will allow students to examine basic marketing principles at the commonwealth's largest outdoor marketing venue.

There are over 40 general marketing course competencies covered and over 15 direct SOL correlations aligned through this field experience.

VIRGINIA FCCLA DAY - THURSDAY

Best in Show Tent - See the Virginia Standards of Learning come to life through educational experiences for middle and secondary students in family and consumer sciences courses.

Once chapters enter the fairgrounds, students head out on an SOL Scavenger Hunt in which they explore Virginia's largest outdoor classroom, matching educational opportunities throughout the fairgrounds with related Standards of Learning, including those encompassing family and career issues.

Members have the opportunity to enter four contests that focus on promoting and publicizing all FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) has to offer. Contest entries should be dropped off by noon for judging by the state executive council. Entries are judged on creativity, neatness, and originality. In several events special consideration is given to "going green" materials; members are encouraged to use recycled materials or reuse items they already own to create something new.

VIRGINIA FCCLA DAY - Continued

The contests available to members include: FCCLA Poster, Brand FCCLA Wear - Clothing, Brand FCCLA Wear - Accessories, and Brand FCCLA at Home. Each event has three levels of competition: Level 1 - grades 6-8, Level 2 - grades 9-10, and Level 3 - grades 11-12. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded.

VIRGINIA HOSA DAY - FRIDAY

HOSA: Future Health Professionals is a student organization dedicated to promoting Health and Medical Sciences knowledge and skills, as well as, valuable leadership training for future healthcare careers.

VA HOSA Day at the State Fair allows students to connect Health and Medical Sciences knowledge with the healthy lifestyle exhibits at the fair. Students can explore various areas of the fair that promote many facets of healthy living, such as nutrition, the environment, and health related topics. In addition, HOSA chapters will be able to enter project competitions which will be held at the Best in Show Tent. An awards ceremony will follow the competition judging. To learn more about this unique experience, please visit the VA HOSA website: bit.ly/virginiahosa,

