



Online Resource Directory—2021

Dear Educators,

The State Fair of Virginia’s Educational Expo field trip program is the collective work of many different educational partners, all working to help expose students to the commonwealth’s agriculture, natural resources, technology and history.

Many of the sites referenced in this document have downloadable classroom materials or ways to order hard copies for your students. Some are great pre-trip introductions to topics students will come across while at the State Fair; others can serve as valuable follow-ups to your field trip.

Thanks for looking, and we hope to see you at the fair!

[Agriculture in the Classroom](#) Virginia’s Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program provides PK-8 educators and volunteers with resources that connect children to agriculture and support core curriculum. AITC achieves its mission to educate Virginia’s children about the importance of agriculture through:

- [Professional development](#) and [resources](#) for educators
- Comprehensive [website](#) featuring lesson plans, curriculum units, volunteer activities and much more including an [interactive Virginia resources map](#)
- School [grants](#) for agriculturally themed projects
- [Awards](#) for teachers who successfully integrate agriculture into their classrooms
- Support for [volunteer initiatives](#) such as the Agriculture Literacy Week reading program.

To learn more about AITC’s resources, including how you can support AITC visit us online at www.agintheClass.org/va/ or find us on Facebook at [Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom](#).

The **[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)**’s award-winning environmental education program is designed to support Virginia’s SOLs and is based on the official definition for a “Meaningful Watershed Education Experience” as defined by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Programs are supported and created in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the National Geographic Society. The foundation has a wealth of environmental education programs, field trips, publications and other resources related to the Chesapeake Bay.

<http://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/our-mission/educate>

Cotton's Journey is an industry-sponsored site that provides classroom teachers with many resources related to U.S. cotton production and processing.

www.cottonsjourney.com

Through **4-H**, the youth development education program of **Virginia Cooperative Extension**, young people learn leadership, citizenship and a vast array of life skills that can benefit them for the rest of their lives. 4-H Virtual Farm and 4-H Virtual Forest tours are offered on this website.

<http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/index.html>

<http://www.4-h.org/default.aspx>

The web site for the **Seed Survivor by Nutrien** offers teaching tools on the importance of agriculture and growing healthy plants. Free videos, games and activities curriculum-based for grades 1-6 but fun for all ages. www.SeedSurvivor.com

Get Soybean Smart is a virtual classroom where every subject is—soy! Its worksheets, glossaries and tutorials will walk you through the art and science of the soybean, which supplies the world with food, feed, fuel and fiber.

The Virginia Soybean Association and Virginia Soybean Board, along with soybean farmers across the United States, support Get Soybean Smart through the United Soybean Board.

<http://www.vasoybean.com>

The **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 the website at www.heav.org, or email at office@heav.org,

The **Southeast United Dairy Industry Association** is supported by dairy farm families of Virginia and surrounding states. On this site you will find educational activities and tools to teach students about dairy foods and the dairy industry, a Virginia-specific fact sheet and additional resources. Enjoy the online resources for interactive lessons, or contact SUDIA to request a DVD with lesson materials, activities, resource information and Web links.

<http://www.southeastdairy.org>

[Southland Dairy Farmers and the Mobile Dairy Classroom](#) has provided an educational teacher guide and resources jam-packed with information and activities covering all things dairy and nutrition. Take a look here or look into scheduling your own Mobile Dairy Classroom Trip at there website.

<https://www.southwestdairyfarmers.com/uploads/media/pdfs/teacher-resources/2019-teacher-s-guide-87deda10.pdf>

[Virginia Beef industry](#) officials recommend information for preschool through grade 12 on U.S. beef production and nutrition offered by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

<http://www.school-wellness.org>

The [Virginia Bluebird Society](#) website offers information on Eastern Bluebirds, including their habitat preferences and how best to protect and provide for them. Information on building a bluebird nest box is most helpful.

<http://www.virginiabluebirds.org>

[Virginia Carolinas Peanuts](#)’ online “Peanut Facts” includes educational materials for all grade levels, including Teacher Kits for elementary school educators.

<http://www.aboutpeanuts.com>

The [Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#):

- [Resources for teachers and students](#)
(<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/teachers/index.shtml>)
- VDACS is also on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Flickr](#)

The agency offers facts about Virginia agriculture, activity sheets for all grade levels, *The Ag Spotter’s Guide*, a section on raising lambs for 4-H, recipes, songs and more. Download a color Virginia Grown poster (<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/teachers/pdf/poster.pdf>) or a Virginia agriculture map (<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/teachers/pdf/agmap.pdf>). This year are the *Beekeeping Guide for Adults and Kids*, *Help the Honey Bees as a Citizen Scientist* and *Life on a Virginia Dairy Farm*, a day-by-day diary kept by Virginia farmer Jennifer Leech.

[Places to Visit, Camps, Special Events, Agcaching](#)

This site offers you a taste of farm history in Virginia; lists of historic farms and sites; places to visit; farms where you can pick your own vegetables, fruits and berries; farm vacations; camps and other special events; and even a section on Agcaching, which is similar to geocaching.

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/news/c-tourism.shtml>

The [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) website includes watershed and conservation information, as well as information on native and invasive plants. Visit the state park-related portion of the site to learn about other activities offered at the different parks.

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov>

The [Virginia Department of Forestry](#) offers learning and activity sheets, tree identification information, a virtual forest tour, and other resources, plus links to additional forest education information for all grade levels.

<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/index.htm>

The [Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources](#) offers teachers information on Virginia wildlife, as well as SOL-relevant resources.

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/education/>

The [Virginia Department of Historic Resources](#) offers numerous tools, guides and suggestions for presenting and gaining a better understanding of Virginia’s cultural heritage. Explore architectural, archaeological and landscape features on the department’s website. Investigate the “Important Links” at http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch_DHR/archaeo_teach.htm to learn more about how archaeology is practiced in Virginia and what it teaches us.

<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>

[The Virginia Department of Quality Environmental](#) offers a website with a large variety of learning tools for all grade levels on Environmental Education –go to MY DEQ at. www.deq.virginia.gov

The website of the [Virginia Horse Industry Board](#) offers statistics on the industry, numbers and locations of horses and how much people spend on various aspects of riding and horse ownership.

In the “[Guide to Virginia’s Horse Country](#)” section you can find historical information on the development of the industry. The “[Links](#)” section offers resources on various equine groups and facilities, as well as Virginia colleges with equestrian teams and programs of study.

*Coloring books and activity pages are available for anyone involved in educating youth about the Virginia horse industry. These are free of charge and can be ordered by contacting Heather Wheeler program manager, at heatherwheeler@vdacs.virginia.gov or 804-786-5842.

-<http://www.vhib.org>
