

2022 Educational Exposition Field Trip Guide Preview

SEPT. 23 - OCT. 2

Gates open at 10 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

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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.



YOUTH COMPETITION

4-H & FFA - All week

September 23, 2022

- 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 26, 2022

- Horticulture Demo, Farm Credit Pavilion
- Agriscience Demo, Farm Credit Pavilion
- Ag Poster Delivery, Farm Credit Pavilion

September 27, 2022

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

September 29, 2022

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

September 30, 2022

- 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.

2022 Competition Guides are online now! For competition information and online entry, visit StateFairVa.org. The 2022 school/class entry deadline for competitive arts and culinary is Sept. 2 for general entries and Sept. 14 for school entries.

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

SkillsUSA Day - Monday & Tuesday

Monday, September 27th & Tuesday, September 28th

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 28

Cosmetology - Fantasy Manikin Comb-out	10:00 a.m.
Cosmetology - Total Fantasy Look	10:30 a.m.
Cosmetology - Manikin Comb-out	10:30 a.m.
Cosmetology - Nail Care	10:00 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.
Photography	10:00 a.m.
First Aid / CPR	10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 28

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



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

- New last year- reloadable cards. Guests may purchase the card with ride credits.
- The Ed Expo unlimited ride wristband price is \$23 for any field trip day when purchased **online in advance** for all those in the class who are riding.
- Wristband tickets will be exchanged inside the fairgrounds at a ride ticket booth.
- Students who purchase the wristbands inside the fair will be charged the regular \$32 price.
- 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 2022 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 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!



New this year: we are working with some of our educational partners to offer special classroom programming during school days, specifically tied to your SOLs!

There will be limited offerings each school day with a different educational partner. Teachers are invited to sign their classes up on a first-come, first-served basis for these FREE 20-30 minute interactive and instructional presentations during the hours of 10-2.

Check out the schedule below and follow instructions to register. Space is limited!

Friday, September 23rd: Department of Wildlife Resources

- Turtle Troubles, Recommended Grades 4 and up
- 45 minutes, one class or 24 students
- Class times: 10:00, 10:50, 11:45, 12:35, 1:25

In this hands on activity students will explore the threats facing turtles and ways that scientists, communities and individuals can help protect different turtle species. Although we will be using turtles as an example we will also talk about how many of the threats to turtles and solutions for protection can be extended to many other species in Virginia.

Monday, September 26th: Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Exploring Soil & Water in Virginia, Recommended Grades K-5
 - SOL 3.7 a,b,c,d; 3.9 a,d,e; 4.9 a,d
- 15 minutes, one class or 20 students
- Class times: 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30

Students will learn the important role that soil and water play in Virginia and the world around them. Key topics such as watersheds and natural resources will be covered. Students will discover their local watershed and explore ways that they can keep their watershed clean and healthy for all life that relies on it.

Tuesday, September 27th: Department of Historic Resources (Option 1)

- Discover Archaeology, Recommended Ages 5-11
 - HSS 1.1a, 1.1c, 1.1g, 1.3a, 1.3d, Geography 1.5a, 1.5c, HSS 2.1a, 2.1c, 2.1g, 2.3a, 2.7a, HSS 3.1a, 3.1g, 3.13, VS2a, VS2b, VS2c, VS2d, VS2e, VS2f, VS2g
- 20 minutes, one class or 20 students
- Class times: 10:00, 11:00

We'll learn what archaeology is and what it tells us about people who lived in Virginia in the past. Archaeologist Laura Galke will discuss myths and misconceptions about archaeology. Students will be provided handouts showing artifacts with which they can interact. The artifacts are indigenous and historical.

Tuesday, September 27th: Department of Historic Resources (Option 2)

- Foodways in the Past, Recommended Grades 4-5
 - Science 4.4a, 4.5f, English 4.1b and e; 4.2a-c, English 5.1a-c; 5.2a; 5.6a,c, g
- 15-20 minutes, 10 students
- Class times: 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30

This presentation introduces students to foodways in the past and the methods that archaeologists use to learn about them. Information is presented in an historical overview and in a series of playing cards. Students use these materials to learn about the types of foods that people ate in the past. They also learn about foods and food-related artifacts that people acquired through hunting, fishing, gathering, gardening, poultry raising, and purchase. In addition to the content provided, the cards promote reading skills through pictures and text and ask students to classify information and assess values.

Wednesday, September 28th: Department of Historic Resources

- Finding Shipwrecks with A Magnetometer and Sonar - How Acoustics and Magnetics Work Underwater, Recommended Grades 9-12
 - ES-2 Complex Earth Systems, ES-6 Non-renewable resources, ES-10 Complex ocean systems, PH-10 Magnetic forces
- 20 minutes, one class or 20 students
- Class times: 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30

More than 70% of the earth is covered by water and much of it is unexplored. We might call this "inner-space". For thousands of years ships have wrecked in this aquatic world and are out of sight, but not out of mind. We can use understandings of acoustics and magnetic fields to locate these wrecks, even in thousands of feet of water or when completely buried by sediments. This presentation covers the basics of how we use physics to investigate our world and find amazing historic shipwrecks. Join State Underwater Archaeologist Brendan Burke, VDHR, to learn how to 'see' beneath the waves and discover the submerged history of the Commonwealth.

Thursday, September 29th: Department of Forestry

- We all need Trees, Recommended Grades 4,6
 - Science (2018) 4.8, 6.9
- 20 minutes, one class or 20 students
- Class times: 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30

Interactive session focusing on Virginia forest products. Trees are an amazing renewable resource, providing us with wood, paper, and so much more. Come explore all the places you'll find tree products hidden in materials we use every day.

Friday, September 30th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission (Option 1)

- Live Horseshoe Crab Presentation, Recommended Grades K-6
- 15 minutes for horseshoe crabs, one class
- Class times: 10:45, 11:45, 12:45, 1:45

Have you ever wanted to meet a REAL prehistoric creature? Horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) are considered a living fossil because they have existed nearly unchanged for about 450 million years. Come join us to meet these interesting creatures and learn about their exoskeletons, multiple sets of eyes, and their surprisingly-colored blood. This presentation, geared for children and adults of all ages, will include fun facts about horseshoe crabs and allow an interactive hands-on experience with one of Virginia's most interesting creatures!

Friday, September 30th: Virginia Marine Resources Commission (Option 2)

- Fish Age and Growth Lab, Recommended Grades 6-12
- 30 minutes for fish ageing
- Class times: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:05

Conducted by the MRC Age and Growth Lab and Biological Sampling Program staff, this presentation will cover the process by which age and other biological samples are taken from both commercially and recreationally harvested fishes. This presentation will last approximately 30 minutes and be divided into two distinct halves. The first portion will feature actual commercially harvested fish collected by staff prior to the presentation. Staff will demonstrate the step-by-step process by which the otoliths (ear bones) are removed from the brain cavity of the fish and how we determine the sex and maturity stage of each sample. This process will involve real organs and while it is generally a controlled and clean operation, the nature of this kind of work is that it can be unpredictable at times. Age and Growth staff will conduct the second half of the presentation and will describe how the otoliths are processed in order to determine the age of fish as well as how this information is used to better understand at-large populations of fish species. Finally, there will be a number of microscopes set up that will be displaying the finished product of a sectioned otolith. Students will have the opportunity to observe for themselves the rings described in the presentation and see if they can match the count determined by Agency staff.

Wednesday, September 28-Friday, September 30th: Virginia Tech Natural Resources

- STEM Majors in Sustainability, Environment, & Conservation, Grades 9-12
- 60 minutes, open to all, individuals welcome
- Class times: 2:10, 3:10
 - If you have a group that would like to participate in this session earlier in the day, please contact Sarah Jane at edu@statefairva.org. We would love to work with you!

All aspects of our civilization, from our tech gadgets to our homes; from our clothes to the water we drink—everything comes from nature. Thus, environmental careers play a critical role in our global economy, and yet these fields struggle to attract enough students. Often, this is a result of misconceptions about what these fields entail and what career opportunities exist. This session will introduce students and teachers to 11 unique environmental, conservation, and sustainability majors at Virginia Tech, and will make connections between these and more well-known STEM fields (such as biology, chemistry, engineering, env. science, physics, technology, etc.). The goal is to encourage more students to discover unique/hidden college majors and pursue important careers in high demand disciplines.



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. When you're done inside make sure to visit our outdoor rest area and leave a kind note for a Virginia Farmer. Virginia Agriculture is exciting and the possibilities are endless!

Agriculture in the Classroom

Explore the breadth and depth of Virginia agriculture with Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom; from peanuts in the east to pumpkins in the west and so much more in between. Visitors to the Agriculture in the Classroom booth will learn all about how Virginia farmers feed their families and can test this knowledge at the adjoining Virginia Farm Bureau interactive educational displays. Agriculture in the Classroom is your source for educational resources to connect children to agriculture. Stop by to learn about the many ways we serve schools, families, and communities and get growing with us!

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.

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, honey and other products of the hive. Don't miss the display of competition honey, candles and other beekeeping gadgets on display for all to see.





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!

Glen Allen Greenhouse

Stop by the Glen Allen Greenhouse (formerly Lavender Fields Herb Farm) booth in the Meadow Event Pavilion. Want to get your garden growing? Come by our greenhouse display to see, taste, touch and smell from a variety of herbs and vegetables all grown locally. You’ll also see some great plants that help to attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators that aid in the production of your vegetables and fruits. Native plants are also in abundance and help to preserve the life and production of pollinators. We’ll also show you how to grow fruits, berries and citrus all at your own home. Be sure to pick up a Fun Fact Flyer packed with helpful information.



K.6, K.7, 1.4, 2.5, 3.7, 4.4, 4.5

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 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 Pork Council

Be sure to celebrate all-things-VA-pork with the Virginia Pork Council! Stop by and learn about the hard work and dedication that Virginia pork producers put into providing quality pork products to consumers like you across the Commonwealth. Check out delicious recipes, tips on purchasing pork, and more. Also, be sure to visit Young McDonald's Farm to see a sow and her piglets in person, and join VPC at 7pm, October 1st for the Sale of Champions, where youth livestock competition winners will be announced, including show pigs.

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.



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 "Celebrate Virginia." 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.



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 2022 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 2022 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

Be sure to stop by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Booth to learn about decomposers and see them in action.

Decomposers are organisms that are a critical component of the food chain in our ecosystem.

Decomposers are responsible for breaking down the organic and nutrient matter of dead organisms, and then recycling the organic matter and making it available to the ecosystem. The organic and nutrient matter is absorbed or taken up by plants (the producers) of the ecosystem. Plants are an essential component of the food chain. Decomposers occupy the lowest position in the ecological pyramid and may be hidden, but they are very important because they form the base for all life in the food chain above them.

Be sure to ask the Master Gardeners how we can take care of the decomposers in our own habitat.

The Farmer's Garden & Pizza 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.



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

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

Birth 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

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

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 Wooly 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.





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.

At Secretariat's yearling barn, you can see a 600-pound model of Secretariat's racing shoe. As the largest horseshoe in America, it is almost 7 ft. tall and 7 ft. wide.

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.



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



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

Department of Historic Resources

Maritime Archaeology in Virginia: Virginia has a richly diverse maritime heritage, beginning with the first inhabitants of present-day Virginia, some of whom lived near our plentiful bays, rivers, and streams. Learn about DHR's citizen science STAMP program and how you can help document and preserve these important historic resources.

Preserving Virginia's Cemeteries: There is so much to learn from cemeteries! Learn about people who lived before us in Virginia and their history, materials science and conservation, and preservation of these special places. Use DHR's online tools to help us record cemeteries in our database.

My Virginia Places (sticker map and interactive app): What places in Virginia are important to you? Place a sticker on the map to show us your hometown, a favorite summer escape, a place important to your family, or any location special to you. Use our interactive online map to explore places listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and read nearby Historical Highway Markers to learn more about history near you.

Educational Kits: DHR has several Archaeological Resource Kits (ARKs) that are available for use by educators. Content varies by kit theme and may include hands-on objects, lessons, worksheets, and links to online videos and other resources. Content is correlated to the SOLs. View one of our kits and learn how to borrow these for your classes.



K.8, K.9, K.11, 1.1, 1.6, 1.8, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8, 3.5, 3.8, 4.2, 5.2, 5.9, 6.4, 6.6, 6.8, 6.9, LS.6, LS.8, PS.5, ES6, ES8

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, K.11, 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

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 6 different aquariums, totaling a little less than 400 gallons of seawater, each displaying an array of organisms big and small. Throughout each day, staff will also be bringing out live horseshoe crabs for interactions with the public and giving presentations about the ancient and fascinating species. Fisheries 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 waters. The exhibit and staff will work to highlight the importance of conservation and good-stewardship of Virginia marine waters and how everyday choices can have lasting impacts on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and waters beyond.

Department of Wildlife Resources

The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) exhibit will be spotlighting how you can Explore and Restore the Wild. DWR staff will be highlighting food webs, adaptations, interdependence, conservation and restoration, and how to stay safe while exploring the wild.



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

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia

First Friday, Monday & Tuesday

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia will offer a display and demonstration on native Virginia wildflowers. In addition to the beauty that they offer, wildflowers afford many benefits to the world around us. They provide vital food and serve as a habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife, which is important for the ecosystem. Teachers will be given wildflower medium, planting suggestions, and classroom activity sheets.

GFWC Virginia is a non-profit organization with a mission of enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Programs in the areas of the arts and culture, civic engagement and outreach, education and libraries, environment, and health and wellness benefit our members and our communities. For more information please visit: gfwcvirginia.org \

*Outside the Farm Bureau Center, next to Natural Resources



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.



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.



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).

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.

VIRGINIA FCCLA DAY - Continued

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.

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.

HOSA DAY AT THE FAIR - 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,



Dear Virginia Teachers,

The Virginia Lottery is once again delighted to welcome you to the State Fair of Virginia. This year marks more than three decades of partnership with the State Fair.

In 1988, just days after the Virginia Lottery launched its first game, Lottery employees made their way to the State Fair to be with fairgoers. We have continued the Fall tradition ever since and look forward to funnel cakes and Ferris wheels with each Fair.

You may know that since 1999, 100% of Virginia Lottery profits have been directed to Virginia's K – 12 public schools. Since then, the Lottery has contributed more than \$11 billion to support a variety of education programs across the Commonwealth. In this last year alone, a record \$779 million was contributed to public schools. While Lottery profits account for approximately 10% of the entire education budget every year, the General Assembly uses our funds for a variety of important programs like career and technical training, early reading intervention, class size reduction and algebra readiness tutoring.

We are pleased to continue our sponsorship of “Virginia's Largest Outdoor Classroom” at the State Fair Educational Expo. In addition to generating revenue, our mission also includes celebrating the heart of the classroom – educators – whether through campaigns like “Thank a Teacher” or sponsoring development opportunities and conferences for staff. Thank you, from all of us at the Virginia Lottery, for your work in and out of the classroom.

As the 2022-2023 school year gets underway, I hope you will join us in wishing educators, support staff and administrators a great year ahead.

Kelly Gee

Executive Director