



TEACHER AUTUMN
KINDERGARTEN TEACHER



TEACHER AUTUMN

Autumn is a teacher, author, jewelry maker and clothing designer. She wants every child to understand the importance of agriculture through hands-on experiences. Autumn knows that agriculture is a key part of a thriving community. She enjoys spending time with family, crafting and reading.



ARCHNEMESIS:

Snakes



SIDEKICK: The family puppy, Murphy!



SPECIAL POWERS:

Empowering students to be their own superheroes!



SCHOOL SUBJECT

Math



BOOK GENRE

Contemporary Fiction



HOMETOWN: Rockingham Co.



JOB: Kindergarten Teacher



WORKING YEARS: 19



FOOD: Seafood, corn on the cob & fresh peaches!



AG COMMODITY: Peaches



WISE WORDS: Do something that makes you or someone else happy every day. Soak in every little moment of joy.



FUN FACT: Autumn has 2 Virginia State Championship basketball rings & was on a cereal box! You can find her book "The Day the Farmers Quit" online.

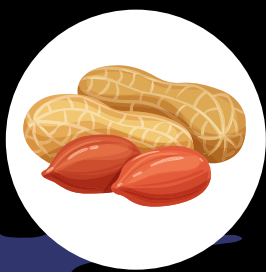
Writer

Educator

Creator



FARMER BREYON
PIERCE FARMS, LLC



FARMER BREYON

Breyon is a 6th generation farmer, ag educator and county board supervisor. He is dedicated to advancing sustainable farming practices. With his passion for teaching and leadership, Breyon works to bridge the gap between agriculture and local governance, fostering innovation and growth.



ARCHNEMESIS:

Destruction of ag land



SIDEKICK: A New Holland T7 and his German Shepherd



SPECIAL POWERS:

Growing food in any type of environment!



SCHOOL SUBJECT

History / Social Studies



BOOK GENRE

History/Biology/Science (non-fiction)



HOMETOWN: Surry Co.



JOB: Agricultural Specialist at Poppa Breeze Peanuts & Pierce Farms, LLC; Ag Teacher



WORKING YEARS: 30



FOOD: Pizza



AG COMMODITY: Peanut



WISE WORDS: Focus on your journey, not the criticism of those on the sidelines.



FUN FACT: Breyon is predominantly self-taught. He starts his day at 4:30 AM with a workout, so he can tackle the day! He creates value-added products like dog treats and wildlife mixes. Check out Pierce Farms for new ag education events!

**Community
Builder**

Learner

Advocate



FARMING SAUNDERS BROTHERS
SAUNDERS BROTHERS FARM MARKET



THE FARMING SAUNDERS BROTHERS

The Saunders Brothers have been a community staple since 1915. Now operated by the 3rd and 4th generation farmers, the brothers have opened a farm market to provide fresh fruit and fun memories for their community. They grow and sell peaches, apples, Asian pears, nectarines, shrubs, jams, jellies, and ice cream at their market!



ARCHNEMESIS:

Drought



SIDEKICK: Moose, the dog.



SPECIAL POWERS:

The ability to grow delicious fruit and beautiful plants!



SCHOOL SUBJECT

Science



BOOK GENRE

History/Biology/Science
(non-fiction)



HOMETOWN: Nelson Co.



JOB: Farmers at Saunders Brothers Farm Market



WORKING YEARS: Since 1915



FOOD: Peach Ice Cream



AG COMMODITY: Peaches, Apples, Nectarines, and Asian Pears



WISE WORDS: Faith, integrity, and honesty will take you where you need to go.



FUN FACT: In 1962, the Saunders Family provided boxwood for The White House Rose Garden. Since then, the family has continued to supply plants and consult the White House gardeners as needed.

**Community
Builder**

**Steward
of the
land**

Creator



STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RONALD
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE




STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RONALD

Ronald grew up on a family farm and was active in 4-H through childhood. He has worked with the US Department of Agriculture and Virginia State University to support ag and strengthen opportunities and outreach for minority and limited resource farmers. He is passionate about preparing the next generation of leaders in Agriculture.

 **ARCHNEMESIS:** Trying to take the fun out of farming

 **SIDEKICK:** Ford F-450 Super-Duty Diesel Crew Cab

 **SPECIAL POWERS:**
Empathy, Muscle Memory and Teleportation!

 **SCHOOL SUBJECT**
Science

 **BOOK GENRE**
Self-Help


 **HOMETOWN:** Surry Co.


 **JOB:** State Director for the US Dept. of Agriculture

 **WORKING YEARS:** 20+

 **FOOD:** Pork Chops, Fried Apples, and Peach Cobbler

 **AG COMMODITY:** Peanuts

 **WISE WORDS:** Never be afraid to make mistakes... Failures are lessons in progress! Failure is always forgivable if you have the courage to learn its lessons and move forward in a new way. A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to what it was.

 **FUN FACT:** Ronald loves soul music and line dancing!

Leader

Motivator

**Bridge
Builder**



**AG LOBBYIST BRAD
MEADOWVIEW STRATEGIES**



AG LOBBYIST BRAD

Brad grew up on a beef cattle and burley tobacco farm in Southwest Virginia. Brad has served as Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture, and now works as a lobbyist for agriculture. He uses his passion to connect government officials to farming, making sure policy and legislation reflect the needs of farmers to help get safe and affordable food on the table.



ARCHNEMESIS:

One sided conversations



SIDEKICK: Manny, a Shepherd/Pyrenees puppy!



SPECIAL POWERS:

Super speedy legislative bill reading



SCHOOL SUBJECT

History/ Social Studies



BOOK GENRE

History/Biology/Science (nonfiction)



HOMETOWN: Richmond City and Washington Co.



JOB: Agricultural Lobbyist for Meadowview Strategies



WORKING YEARS: 34



FOOD: Ribeye steak with asparagus & a baked sweet potato



AG COMMODITY: Cattle



WISE WORDS: Always be willing to listen to other people's perspectives and never shy away from sharing your passion!



FUN FACT: Brad loves spending time cooking, creating delicious food with fresh vegetables from the garden. Brad and Manny enjoy going back to the family farm for a visit.

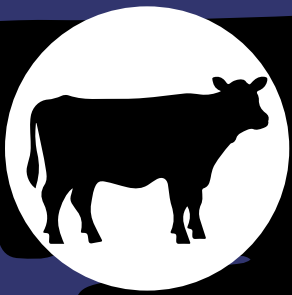
Educator

Motivator

Bridge Builder



FARMERS MATT & LINDY
THE FIMON FAMILY




FARMERS


MATT & LINDY

Alongside Lindy's family, Matt and Lindy run a cow-calf beef operation in Brunswick and Lunenburg. They also have a small flock of hair sheep and cut flowers. Lindy grew up on the farm and worked as the county extension agent. Matt grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis and dreamed of being a cowboy. Together, they have built a life in ag and filled their hands and hearts as they raise their 3 kids on the farm.

 **ARCHNEMESIS:** Spiny pigweed & goosegrass


 **SIDEKICK:** Their 3 small children... and do they kick!

 **SPECIAL POWERS:**
The ability to fly.

 **SCHOOL SUBJECT**
Language Arts-
English /Writing

 **BOOK GENRE**
Historical Fiction


 **HOMETOWN:** Lunenburg Co.

 **JOB:** Farmers, Full-time mom (Lindy); Human Resources for One Jeanswear Group (Matt)

 **WORKING YEARS:** 6+

 **FOOD:** Rice and Gravy

 **AG COMMODITY:** Beef

 **WISE WORDS:** Pay attention and ask a lot of questions. Curiosity is a good thing. Be open to new ideas. It's never too late to get into ag!

 **FUN FACT:** While visiting from Minnesota to run a marathon, Matt met Lindy in Roanoke, and they became pen pals. Matt was the 2023 National Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair.

Advocate

**Steward
of the
Land**

Protector



WILDLIFE EDUCATOR COURTNEY
VIRGINIA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES



WILDLIFE EDUCATOR COURTNEY

Courtney is an educator by nature; she spent 17 years teaching middle and high school students biology. She found a passion for bringing lessons to life by blending them with the outside environment. Courtney believes that the key behind environmental conservation is education. She connects people to the diverse habitats, wildlife and ecosystems in Virginia.



ARCHNEMESIS:

A world without coffee



SIDEKICK: The SEEK app by iNaturalist



SPECIAL POWERS:

The ability to survive both on land and in water



SCHOOL SUBJECT

Science



BOOK GENRE

Fantasy



HOMETOWN: Augusta Co.



JOB: State Wildlife Education Coordinator for the Dept. of Wildlife Resources



WORKING YEARS: 3



FOOD: Any kind of dessert



AG COMMODITY: Coffee



WISE WORDS: Be kind – to wildlife, to habitats, and to each other.



FUN FACT: Courtney plays ice hockey and her favorite cartoon is Moana! Courtney is also very involved with the Natural Resources exhibit at the State Fair of Virginia and can often be found sharing her passion with others.

Educator

**Steward
of the
Land**

**Fair
Fanatic**



UTILITY LINEWORKER GENEVIE
NORTHERN NECK ELECTRIC CoOp



UTILITY LINEWORKER GENEVIE

Genevie works for her local electric cooperative to provide power to the community. Her dad was also a lineworker, and she found her own path in the industry after school and an apprentice program. She enjoys working outside and supplying power to homes while giving back to the community. Genevie climbs power poles, operates equipment, and works with her hands daily.



ARCHNEMESIS:

Squirrels



SIDEKICK: Her bucket and climbing gear



SPECIAL POWERS:

The ability to fly



SCHOOL SUBJECT

Language Arts-
English /Writing



BOOK GENRE

Historical Fiction



HOMETOWN: Warsaw, VA



JOB: Lineworker for Northern Neck Electric CoOp



WORKING YEARS: 4.5



FOOD: Sweet treats



AG COMMODITY: Corn



WISE WORDS: Don't be scared to try new things!



FUN FACT: Genevie is the first female lineworker in Virginia! She traveled to Guatemala to help bring electricity to 103 homes and a school. Her favorite book is spiderwick and she is always ready to share her knowledge with others.

**Limit
Breaker**

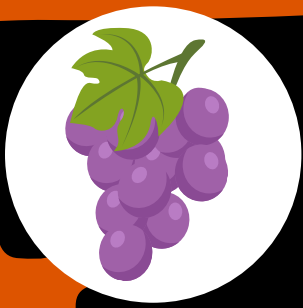
Provider

**Community
friend**



LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR MEGAN

VIRGINIA TECH | 15 PEAKS




LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR

MEGAN

Dr. Megan works for Virginia Tech as the director of an agricultural leadership program for adults, VALOR, to support Virginia's #1 industry (ag). She also runs her family's grape and cattle farm operation with her husband. They are preparing their farm for the next generation. Megan is the proud mom of 3 now adult kids. She knows that food is the first key for survival, health and having energy for great things.

 **ARCHNEMESIS:** Bugs and insects that carry diseases

 **SIDEKICK:** Her husband, Andy, and his love of ag

 **SPECIAL POWERS:**
"Naysayer Slayer" - helping people find where they fit in and how they can help

 **SCHOOL SUBJECT**
Science

 **BOOK GENRE**
Historical Fiction


 **HOMETOWN:** Botetourt Co.


 **JOB:** Vineyard Manager for 15 Peaks; Leadership Program Director for Virginia Tech

 **WORKING YEARS:** 26

 **FOOD:** Mexican and Vietnamese food

 **AG COMMODITY:** Grapes

 **WISE WORDS:** Be the best version of yourself every day. You never know what opportunities will come your way if you work hard and are open to them.

 **FUN FACT:** Megan was a cancer nurse in Washington DC when she married into agriculture. She was the 2015 Southeast US Farm Mom of the Year!

Leader

Educator

**Community
builder**



FARMER GLENN
PROMISE LAND FARM



FARMER GLENN

Glenn is a no-till row crop farmer, specializing in corn, soybeans and intensive cover crops in Appomattox, Stafford and Fauquier counties. He also sells and services precision ag equipment, Harvest International planters and sells seeds. He is a Certified Crop Advisor and helps other farmers with nutrient management, crop protection and more. Glenn shares his passion with his kids and wife.



ARCHNEMESIS:

Drought



SIDEKICK: His wife, his kids, and his cell phone



SPECIAL POWERS: The ability to make a tractor drive itself



SCHOOL SUBJECT

Math



BOOK GENRE

Biography/Autobiography



HOMETOWN: Appomattox Co.



JOB: Farmer & Certified Crop Advisor for Promise Land Farm



WORKING YEARS: 17



FOOD: Prime rib, sweet potato and some squash



AG COMMODITY: Corn



WISE WORDS: Always treat others how you want to be treated. Don't be afraid to think outside of the box.



FUN FACT: Glenn never thought he would be a farmer as a kid. He wanted to play major league baseball. Glenn and his wife won the 2019 Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Achievement Award!

**Problem
Solver**

Provider

Grower



MARINE POLICE OFFICER ALLEN

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION



MARINE POLICE OFFICER ALLEN

Allen grew up in a commercial fishing town, working with his dad on the water. He learned at a young age that he wanted to dedicate his life to protecting that way of life. Allen's passion led him to a lifelong career with the Virginia Marine Police. He is an expert in patrolling and protecting oysters, horseshoe crabs and boaters. Officer Allen is often found at schools and events doing marine outreach.



ARCHNEMESIS: The heat!



SIDEKICK: Coffee



SPECIAL POWERS: The ability to sense when horseshoe crabs are in danger and control the weather



SCHOOL SUBJECT

History / Social Studies



BOOK GENRE

History/Biology/Science
(non-fiction)



HOMETOWN: Accomack Co.



JOB: Marine Police First Sergeant for the VA Marine Resources Commission



WORKING YEARS: 30+



FOOD: Oyster Tacos



AG COMMODITY: Blue Crabs



WISE WORDS: Fix what you can fix, and don't waste time worrying about what you can't. Get outdoors and enjoy Virginia's beauty but try to leave it in a better state than when you found it.



FUN FACT: Allen entertains his fellow Marine Police Officers with his beautiful singing voice when he's driving the boat on patrol!

Fair
fanatic

Steward
of the
land

Community
friend