



Celebrating 35 Years! — 1975-2010

YF Network

Growing Agriculture's Future

March 2010

Calendar

March 31

Applications due:

⇒ Achievement Award: Excellence in Agriculture; Environmental Stewardship

April 1

Applications due:

⇒ Outstanding Young Agriculturalist

April 17

Ferrum Cattle Show and Sale

May 15

Craig County YF's Farm Expo and Craft's Fair

⇒ www.ccfarmexpo.com

July 30 - August 1

VFB YF Summer Expo in Woodstock & Shenandoah

⇒ Discussion Meet Contest and Outstanding Young Agriculturalist finals, plus Farm Tours

November 12

Collegiate Discussion Meet

⇒ Location TBD

November 28 - 30

VFBF Convention

⇒ YF Contest finals & awards

January 8 - 11, 2011

AFBF Convention in Atlanta

⇒ National YF Contests

⇒ Bus trip for YF's planned

February 5 - 7, 2011

AFBF Young Farmers Conf. in Orlando

February 11 - 13, 2011

VFB YF Winter Expo in Blacksburg

For more on events or to start a discussion, join us on our networking site at

www.vafbyoungfarmers.com

It's easy to log-on & free to all VFB Young Farmers!

Matt Lohr is New Commissioner of VDACS

Before becoming Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Matt Lohr was a Young Farmer. In fact, Matt served on the VFBF Young Farmers committee from 1998-2000, then went on to win the first YF&R Excellence in Agriculture award at AFBF along with his very talented wife and partner, Andrea.

Quickly recognized as a leader by AFBF, during the Partners in Agriculture Leadership (PAL) program, he was appointed by the AFBF President to a committee working on policy that would make agriculture profitable for the next generation and beyond. The MAAPP Report (Making American Agriculture Productive and Profitable) was the direct result of 2 years of researching policy for building agriculture's future. (search MAAPP on www.fb.org)

In Virginia, Matt worked with VFB YF's to facilitate leadership training in the YF Academy

program, using many of the skills he learned in the PAL program as the backbone. He helped state committee members get comfortable with their growing role in the organization.



Matt conducting 2008 Summer Expo leadership training session

As a Delegate, he led an effort to recognize the Farm Bureau Young Farmers on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates and in 2009, he and Andrea were awarded the highest Young Farmers award for their dedication to the program - The Warren Beach Award.

Matt farms in Rockingham with Andrea, their kids, Caroline and Carson, and his family.

The VFBF Committee congratulates Matt on this new endeavor and knows his leadership will carry VDACS and Virginia agriculture forward, well into the future.

Rural Health Essay Scholarship Contest is open to any college or high school student from a county Farm Bureau member family. Prizes include \$1,000 for first place & \$500 for second place in each of the college & high school categories. A 400 word essay, an official entry form & a resume must be sent by March 31. Winning essays will be chosen from entries by students planning to work in a health related field, including specialized areas of veterinary medicine that have an impact on human health and wellness. Entry forms are available at county FB offices; at www.vafb.com under *Our Programs, Contests & Awards* or by contacting Brenda Kramer at 800-768-8323, extension 1151; or email bkram@vafb.com.

Meet the new Dean of the College of Ag at VA Tech

New VA Tech CALS Dean, Alan Grant, will be speaking at a series of events held around the state through the end of April. The receptions include an opportunity to meet the Dean and to tour Research and Education Centers where possible. For more information on dates and locations, contact Jamie Lucero at jlucero@vt.edu or 540.231.9666.



VFB YF's one of only 14 states with Kubota prize sponsorship!

See Kubota's press release by logging on to our networking site at www.vafbyoungfarmers.com

2010 Updates - for photos and more info, set up your free log-in at vafbyoungfarmers.com!

- ⇒ New VFB Young Farmers Committee members appointed at the first of the year. Check online for your Representatives.
- ⇒ Scott & Mendy Sink won the AFBF YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award.
- ⇒ Steve & Jordan Berryman competed in the AFBF YF&R Achievement Award contest.
- ⇒ Jennifer Belcher won her way into the semi-final AFBF Discussion Meet
- ⇒ Winter Expo cancelled due to one of the Blizzards of 2010
- ⇒ A bus load of Young Farmers, & some by plane, traveled to Tulsa for the AFBF YF&R Conf. to watch Tim Ferrell & Spencer Blankenship in the Collegiate Discussion Meet.
- ⇒ VFB YF Committee & state FFA Officers' first YF/FFA Leadership Retreat was at the VFB state office in Richmond.
- ⇒ William "Bear" Lloyd became the 2010 VFB Ambassador and the first male to win the honor.



On stage at the original Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and taking turns, Tim & Spencer practice their opening statements on the way to Tulsa!

2010 Summer Expo in Shenandoah, July 30-Aug 1

The planning committee, led by Dana Fisher and Daryl & Tara Bowman, is on the fast track to completing an outstanding agenda for this year's event in Shenandoah County. Farm and special interest tours will take place on both Friday & Saturday, in addition to the annual Discussion Meet & Outstanding Young Agriculturalist contests. Presentations, the tractor safety driving contest, great food and



entertainment are all part of a very laid-back atmosphere for anyone interested in agriculture. So, mark your calendar and plan on joining us for the 5th Annual Summer Expo -- it's the best YF networking event of the summer! More info & registration in June.

We're growing - which is great! But, we still mail over 1,000 copies of this newsletter. Help us save paper & postage by e-mailing us to request the monthly online newsletter. Thank you!



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Check it out!

FFA within cities is growing fast and caught the attention of USA Today recently - "FFA: Off of the farm, into the city" http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-02-16-urban-ffa_N.htm

The Zac Brown Band responded well when pressured by an animal rights group - "Zac Brown Responds To PETA Challenge" <http://advocatesforag.blogspot.com/2010/02/zac-brown-band-responds-to-peta.html>

Do you have a farm-scene license plate on your car or truck celebrating agriculture? Did you know that nearly \$100,000 has been raised from the Ag plates and some of that money goes to farm transition education programs? Learn more about Virginia's Ag Tags at DMVNow.com. <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/exec/vehicle/splates/info.asp?idnm=FARM>



Ag In The Classroom receives a bonus when

you purchase bulbs for your flower beds at bloominbucks.com. Just select "Virginia Foundation for Ag in the Classroom". Many thanks to Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, VA for their support of AITC!



Photos of Ambassador contestants at the VFB Women's Conference in Fredericksburg, and William "Bear" Lloyd, 2010 VFB Ambassador, are now on vafbyoungfarmers.com.

Collegiate Corner

New Summer Intern Projects

VFB Young Farmers will be offering 3 internships this summer in an effort to create better resume-building opportunities. More information will be posted soon on vafbyoungfarmers.com and our Facebook page "VAFB Young Farmers". Projects include: *Young Farmers Needs Assessment - Follow-up Survey and Evaluation; Marketing and Outreach to 4-H and FFA; Local Young Farmers Assistance Pilot Program (2 test areas); Marketing & Social Media Outreach to YF's.* Interested Collegiate Young Farmers should send a resume and specific area of interest to Ron.Saacke@vafb.com.

National Ag Week Celebrated at Ferrum and VA Tech

March 14-20 was National Ag Week, so Ferrum students set up displays and activities at the county Farmers Market to raise public awareness and VT Young Farmers teamed with other clubs for a BBQ and campus-wide recognition on the drill field.

Way to go Collegiate Young Farmers!

Ferrum Ag Club Cattle Sale

is April 17th in Ferrum. Contact Brian Whitaker at bwhitaker@ferrum.edu or (540) 365-4363 for information.