

Virginia Cooperative Extension Presents

# Central Virginia Commercial Tree Fruit Production School



Wednesday, February 18, 2026

- 8:30 Registration and Pesticide Recertification Sign-in (View Exhibit/Coffee Break)**
- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions**  
**Kim Bryant, Associate Extension Agent - Nelson County**
- 9:05 Glomerella Leaf Spot, a Leaf Form of Bitter Rot Disease of Apple**  
**Srdjan Acimovic, Assistant Professor of Tree Fruit and Specialty Crop Pathology, Virginia Tech-Blacksburg**
- 9:50 Pesticide Legal Update**  
**Jessica Herring, Pesticide Investigator, VDACS Office of Pesticide Services**
- 10:35 Sponsor/Vendor Brag Session (New products, chemicals, improved technologies, etc.; VSHS membership)**
- 10:55 Break (View Exhibits)**
- 11:15 Ag Economy Outlook and Financial Tools for Decision Making**  
**Mario Ortez, Assistant Professor of Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship, Virginia Tech-Blacksburg**
- 12:00 Lunch (View Exhibits)**
- 12:45 Orchard Management to Fruit Quality: Practical Insights for Apple and Peach Production**  
**Sherif Sherif, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Virginia Tech-AHS AREC**
- 1:30 Resistance Management: Shepherding our Effective Insecticides**  
**Doug Pfeiffer, Professor of Entomology, Virginia Tech-Blacksburg**
- 2:00 Break (View Exhibits)**
- 2:10 Spray Bulletin Update/New Chemistries: Regulatory Update and Label Changes**  
**Tree Fruit Extension Specialists**
- 2:20 Using Weather-Based Models to Improve Bitter Rot Control in Apples**  
**Mat Borba, Graduate Student-Pathology, Virginia Tech-AHS AREC**
- 2:35 AREC Entomology Update and Future Research**  
**Kevin Rice, Director AHS AREC and Assistant Professor of Entomology, Virginia Tech- AHS AREC**
- 3:00 Pesticide Update**  
**Kim Bryant, Associate Extension Agent - Nelson County**
- 3:45 Pesticide Recertification Sign-out and Adjourn (View Exhibits)**

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cindy MacRae at (434) 263-7180 /TDD\*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.





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