

Virginia Berry Growers School Program Agenda

March 12, 2020 7:30AM-4:00PM & March 13, 2020 8:00AM-4:00PM

Virginia State University, Randolph Farm Pavilion 4415 River Rd, Petersburg, VA 23803



DAY 1: March 12, 2020, 7:30AM-4:00PM-Blueberry Topics

7:30AM	REGISTRATION AT THE PAVILION, RANDOLPH FARM
8:00AM	FIELD: Welcome- <i>Dr. M. Ray McKinnie, Dean, VSU College of Agriculture</i> Field, hands-on blueberry pruning demonstration- <i>Bill Cline</i>
	EVERYONE RETURNS TO CLASSROOM
9:30AM	Blueberries from A to Z 'Starting a Blueberry Farm' Considerations for soil amendment and preparation, variety selection, and planting- <i>Bill Cline, North Carolina State University</i>
10:30AM	Crop management, diseases, fertilization, irrigation and harvesting- <i>Bill Cline</i>
11:15AM	15 MINUTE BREAK
11:30AM	Organic Blueberry production- <i>Dr. Gerald Krewer, formerly University of Georgia faculty, and organic blueberry grower</i>
12:30PM	LUNCH
1:30PM	Pruning- <i>Bill Cline</i>
2:00PM	Berries on Parade: "Berrific" Market Display Tips to Try!- <i>Dr. Theresa Nartea, VSU</i>
2:30PM	15 MINUTE BREAK
2:45PM	A Local Grower experience with organic blueberry – potential, challenges, varieties, cost of production, and marketing- <i>Jay Dunbar, River Ridge Organic</i>
3:30PM	Three year VSU blueberry variety trial results- <i>Dr. Reza Rafie and Mr. Christo Galanopoulos</i>
4:00PM	ADJOURN

DAY 2: March 13, 2020, 8:30AM-4:00PM-Blackberry Topics

8:00AM	Field hands-on blackberry pruning demonstration- <i>Jeff and Joey Cole, and Dr. Reza Rafie</i>
9:30AM	Berry Nutrition and Health- <i>Dr. Rafat Siddiqui, VSU</i>
10:00 AM	Basics of Blackberry Production- <i>Dr. Reza Rafie, VSU</i>
10:45 AM	15 MINUTE BREAK
11:00 AM	How to start an acre of blackberries and what it costs- <i>Jeff Cole and Dr. Rafie</i>
12:00NOON	LUNCH
1:00PM	Berry Crops pest and disease management- <i>Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, VT & Dr. Sara Villani, NCSU</i>
2:00PM	Post-harvest management of berries- <i>Dr. Penelope Perkins-Veazie, NCSU</i>
2:45PM	15 MINUTE BREAK
3:00PM	Weed management in berry production- <i>Dr. Jeffrey Derr, VT</i>
3:30 PM	Pruning blackberry and different kinds of trellises- <i>Jeff Cole and Dr. Reza Rafie</i>
4:00PM	EVALUATION