

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message was sent from a sender outside your organization. Look at the sender's address to decide if it is safe to open.

[View in browser](#)



April 2025

HELLO!

If you are a new subscriber, we welcome you! If you missed past editions, scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter for the link to access the newsletter archive page!

Just Released! - Youth Showbox Biosecurity Resources



[Access Youth Showbox](#)

We've recently added valuable biosecurity resources to our Youth Showbox. These resources are designed to help young livestock exhibitors understand and implement effective biosecurity practices to protect their animals from disease. The new additions include guidelines on disease prevention, cleaning and disinfection protocols and strategies for maintaining healthy livestock environments. By utilizing these resources, youth can ensure their animals remain healthy and safe,

contributing to successful livestock shows and overall farm operations.

AgBundles

NEW Infographics and Activities!

We've added some cool new AgBites, AgBuds and AgBarks. You can access the new infographics, poster files and activities by visiting our AgBundles page.

Visit the AgBundles Webpage

AgBite

A series of commodity insights

Overview

- July in National Blueberry month
- Blueberries are native to North America.
- Blueberries were first cultivated in the late 1800s.
- The wild blueberry bush was successfully cultivated for commercial production in the early 1900s.
- Blueberries are certified as healthy by the American Health Association.

Blueberry

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Order: Ericales
Family: Ericaceae
Genus: Vaccinium



Nutritional Information

Total Fat: 0.5g	Potassium: 110 mg
Cholesterol: 0g	Protein: 1g
Sodium: 0mg	Vitamin C: 34 mg
Total Carbohydrate: 2g	Calories: 100
Dietary Fiber: 4g	Iron: 0.4mg
Sugars: 1g	

Did you know?
 The blueberry is one of the only foods that contain more antioxidants than vegetables. The pigment that gives blueberries their characteristic color is called anthocyanin.

Production

- A single blueberry bush can produce up to 100 pounds of blueberries per year.
- In 2020, the United States blueberry total production was 160 million pounds.

Blueberry Anatomy



Image source: [Farm Credit Virginia](https://www.farmcreditvirginia.com/Knowledge-Center)

Copyright © 2021 by Farm Credit of the Virginia ACA

AgBud
A series of horticulture insights

Overview

- Flowers may be blue, violet or white and the wild species have a strong fragrance.
- Lavender is a part of the mint family.
- Lavender has a wide range of uses some being fragrances, fragrances, flavorings, cosmetics, perfumes, and oils.
- Therapeutic properties, calming, soothing and sedative effects of lavender when infused.
- Plants grow better with regular pruning.

Lavender

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Lamiales
Family: Lamiaceae
Genus: Lavandula



Lavender Anatomy



Image source: [Farm Credit Virginia](https://www.farmcreditvirginia.com/Knowledge-Center)

Copyright © 2021 by Farm Credit of the Virginia ACA

Did you know?
 In ancient Egypt it was used as a perfume and as a medicine.
 Lavender was used in the Middle Ages against the plague.
 Lavender was used as an ingredient in soap.
 Lavender oil was used to disinfect wounds during wartime.

History

AgBark
A series of forest insights

Overview

- Black walnut is a shade intolerant species, and must have direct sunlight to grow optimally.
- The tree can grow up to 100 feet tall.
- Black walnut trees are found in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and India.
- Black Walnut timber is very hard and durable.
- Lavender will grow well in sunnier areas but is not exposed to prolonged cold and wet.

Black Walnut

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Dicotyledoneae
Order: Juglandales
Family: Juglandaceae
Genus: Juglans



Black Walnut in Agriculture

- Wood used to produce lumber.
- The large nuts are harvested and eaten raw or processed into flour or extracts.
- Cultivation of black walnut trees includes thinning, pruned, herbicides, staples, chemicals, herbicides, fertilizers, herbicides, thinnings, herbicides, plants, and plants in the heartwood.

History

AgBark
A series of forest insights

Overview

- Black Walnut wood was English.
- Black Walnut wood was used for food, dyed, ink, furniture, fence posts, barrels, gun stocks and furniture.
- During the Civil War, Black Walnut wood was used in gunstocks.

Black Walnut

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Rosaceae
Genus: Rubus



Black Walnut in Agriculture

- Wood used to produce lumber.
- The large nuts are harvested and eaten raw or processed into flour or extracts.
- Cultivation of black walnut trees includes thinning, pruned, herbicides, staples, chemicals, herbicides, fertilizers, herbicides, thinnings, herbicides, plants, and plants in the heartwood.

History

AgBark
A series of forest insights

Overview

- Black birch bark is smooth, greyish-brown, and shiny.
- Mature bark is greyish-brown and shiny.

Yellow Birch

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Betulaceae
Genus: Betula L.



Yellow Birch in Agriculture

- Large consume large numbers of yellow birch bark which is used for insulation and woodsy stems on fall.
- Yellow birch is aromatic, particularly in the north, Appalachians and the hemlock belt.
- Yellow birch reproduces primarily by seed, and seeds are dispersed by wind, at about 20 years old trees under 20 years old sometimes produce seeds.

History

AgBark
A series of forest insights

Overview

- Historically, Native Americans have used the yellow birch for therapeutic purposes.
- Yellow birch bark can make a compound from the inner bark and consume it as a diuretic, use whole pieces of bark in the treatment of blisters, and mix with soap and water for a poultice to treat sores.

Yellow Birch

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Betulaceae
Genus: Betula L.



Yellow Birch in Agriculture

- The compound name comes from the yellow color of the inner bark.
- The compound name comes from the yellow color of the inner bark.

History

AgBite
A series of commodity insights

Overview

- Black birch is a shade intolerant species, and must have direct sunlight to grow optimally.
- The tree can grow up to 100 feet tall.
- Black walnut trees are found in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and India.
- Black Walnut timber is very hard and durable.
- Lavender will grow well in sunnier areas but is not exposed to prolonged cold and wet.

Black Walnut

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Dicotyledoneae
Order: Juglandales
Family: Juglandaceae
Genus: Juglans



Black Walnut in Agriculture

- Wood used to produce lumber.
- The large nuts are harvested and eaten raw or processed into flour or extracts.
- Cultivation of black walnut trees includes thinning, pruned, herbicides, staples, chemicals, herbicides, fertilizers, herbicides, thinnings, herbicides, plants, and plants in the heartwood.

History

AgBark
A series of forest insights

Overview

- Black birch bark is smooth, greyish-brown, and shiny.
- Mature bark is greyish-brown and shiny.

Yellow Birch

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Betulaceae
Genus: Betula L.



Yellow Birch in Agriculture

- Large consume large numbers of yellow birch bark which is used for insulation and woodsy stems on fall.
- Yellow birch is aromatic, particularly in the north, Appalachians and the hemlock belt.
- Yellow birch reproduces primarily by seed, and seeds are dispersed by wind, at about 20 years old trees under 20 years old sometimes produce seeds.

History

AgBark
A series of forest insights

Overview

- Historically, Native Americans have used the yellow birch for therapeutic purposes.
- Yellow birch bark can make a compound from the inner bark and consume it as a diuretic, use whole pieces of bark in the treatment of blisters, and mix with soap and water for a poultice to treat sores.

Yellow Birch

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Betulaceae
Genus: Betula L.



Yellow Birch in Agriculture

- The compound name comes from the yellow color of the inner bark.
- The compound name comes from the yellow color of the inner bark.

History

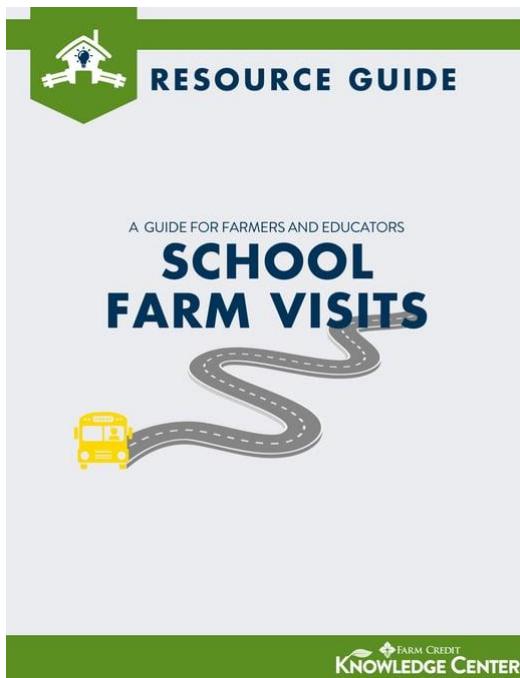
Resource Connection

School Farm Visits

The impacts and benefits of school farm visits are numerous. We want to encourage more farm visits, so we created the School Farm Visits

resource guide and Top 10 Tips for Hosting a School Group for educators and farmers. The guides are full of resources, safety considerations, tips for farmers and educators, signage links, check sheets, curriculum resources and more!

School Farm Visits Resource Guide



Top 10 Tips for Hosting a School Group



TOP 10 TIPS FOR HOSTING A SCHOOL GROUP
Interested in hosting school groups at your farm? Follow these top 10 tips to set yourself up for success and to ensure the health and safety of visitors.
Tip #1 SIGNAGE Make sure to post eye-catching signs that are both in words and pictures. Many school-aged children may not be able to read yet, but they can understand pictures. If you are in an area with multiple languages, make sure signs are bilingual. Post several signs around your farm. Review the VA Law HERE . Review the WV Law HERE .
Tip #2 DESIGNATED AREAS Designate areas for your visitors. Have a parking area, eating area, petting zoo area, photo area, restroom area, play area, etc. This helps with safety, biosecurity, and overall health and safety of visitors and livestock.
Tip #3 PARKING Have a parking area for your visitors. A one-way system is recommended with one way in and one way out. Have a walkway for visitors and children to cross safely. If this isn't an option for you, you can have someone designated for parking/directing traffic.
Tip #4 RESTROOMS AND HANDWASHING Always provide restrooms and handwashing stations. If you don't have a permanent structure, portable stations are recommended. Have hand sanitizer available near livestock areas, and at restroom and handwashing stations.
Tip #5 FARM SAFETY Make sure you have an emergency plan for the "what if's" and communicate with your employees or family. Before an event, notify your local fire, EMS, and police of the event. Make sure you have a key with you in case your farm ends in an emergency. Take keys out of equipment and block off or label closed areas with signage. Lock pesticide sheds and grain bins/augers and other farm equipment. If you are having a hayride or transporting visitors, make sure wagons have sides and ramps for getting on and off safely.
<small>Important Notice and Disclaimer: These materials are provided for educational and informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice, financial advice, tax advice, or investment advice on any matter. These materials may not be current and up-to-date. You should not act or refrain from acting based on these materials or the information they contain without seeking legal advice from an attorney licensed in your jurisdiction or other appropriate professional. Farm Credit of the Virginias, ACA expressly disclaims any liability for all acts and omissions taken or made in reliance on these materials or any information contained in these materials.</small>
<small>Copyright© 2022 by Farm Credit of the Virginias ACA. All Rights Reserved. No portion of these materials may be copied, modified, distributed, transmitted, or publicly displayed without prior written permission of Farm Credit of the Virginias, ACA.</small>
<small>Created in partnership with Lucy Price, Virginia Cooperative Extension. www.FarmCreditofVirginiast.com</small>
FARM CREDIT KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Learn about the Spotted Lanternfly

The blog emphasizes the importance of youth record keeping in agriculture, highlighting three key benefits: gaining valuable experience, learning responsibility, and improving organization skills. By maintaining records of livestock or garden projects, young individuals can better understand financial cycles, manage responsibilities, and keep organized records for future use. These skills are not only essential for farming but also beneficial in various aspects of life, such as tax and accounting purposes.



Read Blog on Youth Record Keeping

Were you forwarded this newsletter?

Click the button below for a brief description and to subscribe.

Subscribe to a Newsletter



The Farm Credit Knowledge Center is the educational arm of [Farm Credit of Virginias](#). The mission of the Knowledge Center is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources among all individuals interested in agriculture.



Farm Credit of the Virginias
102 Industry Way, Staunton, VA 24401
1-800-919-3276 (FARM)

Contact the Knowledge Center at KnowledgeCenter@FCVirginias.com
www.FarmCreditofVirginias.com
[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage Preferences](#)