

**January 2026**

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## **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!

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## **Knowledge Center Events**

**Virtual Offering:**

**Marketing Your Farm Short Course Starts March 3rd!**

Register for the Knowledge Center Marketing Your Farm Short Course today! Starting March 3rd, you'll receive one email per week for five weeks, each packed with practical insights and strategies to help grow your operation.

This short course provides:

- A comprehensive overview of marketing
- A deep dive into the Four P's: *Product, Price, Place, and Promotion***

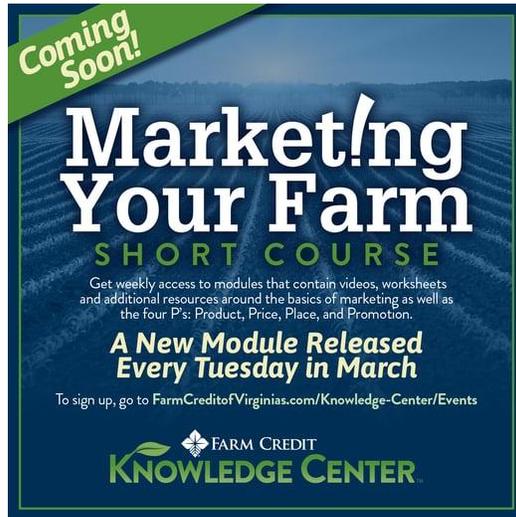
**Register for Marketing Your Farm Short Course**

**In-Person Offering:**

**Farm Management Institute 2026**

Farm Management Institute is back! Join us to hear Dr. Dave Kohl's keen insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research and involvement with ag businesses. His wisdom and engagement with all levels of the industry provide a unique perspective that you don't want to miss! [View Event Flyer](#)

**Register for Farm Management Institute**





Dr. Dave Kohl will be the speaker at both locations and both locations are open to anyone to attend!

Dr. Kohl is no stranger to the Farm Credit system, and we are excited to have him back to conduct the Farm Management Institute (FMI) at both locations. Dr. Kohl is an academic Hall of Famer in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. He provides keen insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research, and involvement in the ag businesses. His wisdom and engagement with all levels of the industry provide a unique perspective that you do not want to miss!

**Grow.Educate.Develop.Network.**

**Two Sessions:**

▲ **Monday, February 23, 2026**  
**Nuts & Bolts of Business Transition**  
 West Virginia State Fairgrounds  
 Lewisburg, West Virginia  
 Dinner 5:30 p.m. | Program begins 6:00 p.m.

▲ **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**  
**The Management Mindset of Business and Life**  
 Holiday Inn in Tanglewood  
 Roanoke, Virginia  
 Dinner 5:30 p.m. | Program begins 6:00 p.m.

Reserve your seat for one of these dates by visiting [FarmCreditofVirginias.com/Knowledge-Center/Events](http://FarmCreditofVirginias.com/Knowledge-Center/Events) or scan the QR code with your camera below.



**Resource Highlight: Goal Setting for Youth**

**Goal setting** is a powerful tool that helps young people take control of their future. By learning how to set clear, realistic goals, youth can build confidence, stay motivated and develop essential life skills such as planning and perseverance.

**Resources:**

We designed resources to make goal setting practical, interactive and inspiring for youth.

- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Guided Notes](#)
- [Goal Setting Tip sheet](#)
- [Goal Setting Worksheet](#)

Find these resources and more by visiting our [Educator Resources](#) webpage.

**SMART GOALS**



**Introducing the My Ag Coloring Book**

We're excited to announce the launch of our **My Ag Coloring Book**, a fun and educational resource for all ages! This unique coloring book takes you on an A-to-Z journey through agriculture, featuring fun facts inspired by our AgBundles series.

From Apples to Zinnias, each page combines creativity with learning, making it a perfect way to engage with the world of agriculture in a hands-on, enjoyable format.

**Why You'll Love It:**

- **Educational & Fun:** Discover fascinating ag facts while coloring.
- **AgBundles Connection:** Brings our popular series to life in a new way.

Get ready to color your way through agriculture!

[Download Coloring Book](#)

My A-Z  
Ag  
Coloring  
Book

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www.FarmCreditsVirginia.com

# AgBundles



**NEW Infographics and Activities!**

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

**Newly added:**

♣ AgBarks with addition of Juniper

🍆 AgBites with addition of Eggplant, Garlic and Kiwi

Visit the AgBundles Webpage

### AgBark

*Did you know?* Juniper berries have lots of traditional uses and many associated with love potions.

*if series of true insights*

**Overview**

- Juniper is a genus comprising approximately 60 to 70 species of woody, evergreen trees and shrubs belonging to the Cupressaceae family.
- A number of species are cultivated as ornamentals and are used for their timber.

**Tree Details**

- Juniper grows from 4 inches to 50 feet tall, depending on the species.
- They are tolerant of adverse conditions and withstand heat and drought much better than most ornamentals.
- Juniper berries are full sun and good drainage.

### Juniper

Kingdom: Plantae  
Class: Pinopsida  
Order: Pinales  
Family: Cupressaceae  
Genus: Juniperus L.

**Juniper in Agriculture**

- The highest wood of some species is made into saloons, fence posts, and many other uses.
- Oil is produced from the wood and leaves of several species and used in perfumes and has applications in traditional medicine.

**History**

- Common juniper is native to the UK, Europe and much of the northern hemisphere.

**Nutritional Information** (per 100g)

Calories 203	Fat 9.3 g
Protein 0.8 g	Fiber 18.9 mg
Carbs 4.8 g	Sugar 2.4 g
Sugar 2.4 g	

**AgBark Anatomy**

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### AgBite

*Did you know?* New Jersey is the top producer of eggplants in the U.S.

*if series of community insights*

**Overview**

- Eggplants originated in India and China.
- Eggplants are often used as a meat substitution in vegetarian dishes due to their meaty texture.
- Eggplants can be used as natural dye due to their rich purple pigments.
- Eggplants can be cooked in a variety of ways including roasting, frying, steaming and grilling.

**Production**

- Eggplants grow best in temperatures between 70-85 degrees.
- Eggplants grow and hang from the branches of a plant that can grow several feet high, like tomatoes and peppers.
- New Jersey is the top producer of eggplants in the U.S.

### Eggplant

Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Solanales  
Family: Solanaceae  
Genus: Solanum  
Species: Solanum melongena

**Nutritional Information** (per 100g)

Calories 203	Fat 9.3 g
Protein 0.8 g	Fiber 18.9 mg
Carbs 4.8 g	Sugar 2.4 g
Sugar 2.4 g	

**Eggplant Anatomy**

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### AgBite

*Did you know?* Garlic is a vegetatively propagated crop meaning it typically grows from cloves rather than from seeds.

*if series of community insights*

**Overview**

- Garlic is one of the oldest cultivated plants. Garlic has been used for over 5,000 years.
- Garlic is part of the allium family that includes onions, leeks, shallots and chives.
- The strong flavor of garlic is produced because of a chemical reaction that takes place when the garlic cloves are cut, chopped, etc. This chemical reaction produces allicin which is the subject for garlic's strong flavor.

**Production**

- Garlic is not pollinated, it grows from "cloves".
- Garlic is a perennial herb used in cooking as well as in traditional medicine or medicine applications.
- Garlic is a root vegetable that is available year-round and can be found fresh, pickled and dehydrated.

### Garlic

Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Asparagales  
Family: Amaryllidaceae  
Genus: Allium  
Species: Allium sativum

**Nutritional Information** (single clove 3g)

Calories 43	Fat 0 g
Protein 0.2 g	Saturated 0 mg
Carbs 1 g	Protein 0.2 mg
Fiber 1 g	Calories 4.4 mg
Sugar 0 g	Sodium 3.9 mg

**Garlic Anatomy**

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### AgBite

*Did you know?* A kiwi fruit is named after the New Zealand bird.

*if series of community insights*

**Overview**

- Kiwi is a superfood full of vitamins, antioxidants and fiber.
- The high vitamin C content helps boost the immune system.
- Kiwi originated in China.
- Kiwi are low in calories but high in fiber.
- Kiwi are a popular ingredient in smoothies because they are ideal for adding, masking and anti-aging.

**Production**

- New Zealand is the leading producer of Kiwi.
- Kiwi prefer climates between 50-90 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Regions with mild winters and warm summers are ideal for kiwi growth.
- Kiwi begin bearing fruit 3-5 years after planting.

### Kiwi

Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Ericales  
Family: Actinidiaceae  
Genus: Actinidia  
Species: Actinidia deliciosa

**Nutritional Information** (per 100g)

Calories 42	Fat 0.4 g
Protein 0.8 g	Fiber 14.9 mg
Carbs 11.9 g	Sodium 3 mg
Sugar 3.7 g	
Fiber 2.1 g	

**Kiwis grow on vines!**

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### AgBud

*Did you know?* The American Iris Society divides iris into three main divisions: Bearded, Bell and Standards iris.

*if series of horticulture insights*

**Overview**

- The American Iris Society divides iris into three main divisions: Bearded, Bell and Standards iris.
- Flowers vary in color, yellow, pink, purple, blue, red, or bicolor.
- Two flowers have 6 petals. The 3 upright petals are called standards; the 3 that hang down are called falls.

**Production**

- Usually tall bearded iris.
- Bloom in May and June. Several varieties bloom from both spring and fall.
- Bearded iris bloom through warm, drought and cold.
- Iris are perennial herbaceous perennials.

### Iris

Kingdom: Plantae  
Class: Liliopsida  
Order: Liliales  
Family: Iridaceae Juss.  
Genus: Iris L.

**History**

- Though native to Egypt, iris spread throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and India.
- In ancient Egypt, the iris represented immortality and guided souls to the afterlife. For Greeks, it was a rainbow bridge to the gods.

**Iris Anatomy**

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### AgBud

*Did you know?* Zinnia was first named by Antonio de Cavanilles.

*if series of horticulture insights*

**Overview**

- Zinnia are members of the huge Asteraceae family and related to daisies.
- Once flowering, even if you don't deadhead the spent blooms, zinnia, especially newer hybrids, will continue to produce more flowers in the hot garden.
- Many zinnia make great choices for the cutting garden.

**Production**

- There are various sub-angiosperm or double petalled flowers in most of the colors of the rainbow.
- Zinnia are great beginning gardeners.

### Zinnia

Kingdom: Plantae  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Asterales  
Family: Asteraceae  
Genus: Zinnia L.

**History**

- The first zinnia were discovered in Mexico and brought to Europe by the Spaniards in the 1500s.
- The Aztecs originally called them "yucca" that are hard on the eyes because of their colorful flowers.

**Zinnia Anatomy**

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## Spotlight on Youth in Agriculture: The Showbox

Be prepared for the upcoming show season with our **Youth Showbox**, your go-to resource for supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders. Help youth build skills, gain experience and connect with the agricultural community.

**What Does the Showbox Contain?:**

- Getting Started Quick Guide



- Anatomy, Primal Cuts and Retail ID Infographics and Worksheets
- Livestock Judging Sheets
- Youth Recordkeeping
- Marketing from Start to Finish and Buyers Communication Guides

**Explore the Youth Showbox Today!**

## Resource Connection

### Digging In: Earthworms

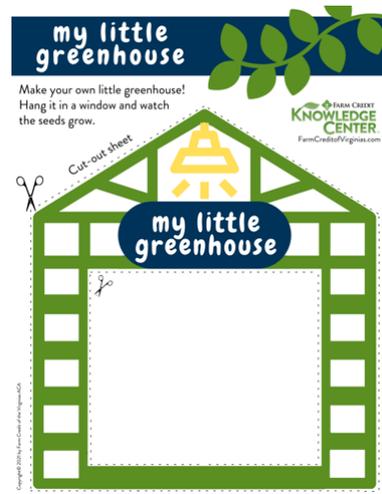
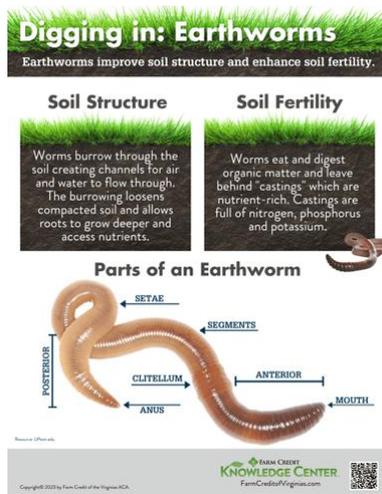
Showcase earthworms' critical role in soil health and fertility and learn earthworm anatomy.

### My Little Greenhouse

Have students create their own little greenhouse and watch seeds grow in a sunny window.

Digging in: Earthworms - [Infographic](#)

My Little Greenhouse - [Activity](#)



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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.



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