



August 2026

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!

A Quick Update on KConnection – Educator Edition

We're excited to share an update!

The KConnection – Educator Edition is transitioning from a quarterly newsletter to a twice-a-year publication. This shift allows us to focus on delivering more curated, impactful content to better support ag literacy efforts.

While the frequency is changing, our commitment remains the same, providing high-quality, practical resources for educators like you.

Between issues, we encourage you to explore the full collection of **Educator Resources** available on the Knowledge Center website, where you'll find ag-focused curriculum and activities ready to use anytime.

As always, if you have questions or are looking for specific resources, we're here to help,



NOW SEMIANNUAL

please don't hesitate to reach out to us at KnowledgeCenter@FCVirginias.com.

Agriculture Bell Ringers Are Here!

The resource agriculture educators have been waiting for is now available in the Knowledge Center.

Our new 100 Agriculture Bell Ringers provides ready-to-use, no-prep activities that help engage students while reinforcing key concepts in FFA, Soft Skills, Animal Science, Plant Science and Agricultural Mechanics.

Perfect for bell work, review or exit tickets, these quick activities are designed for agriculture programs and classrooms serving students ages 14-16.

Download the resource today and start every class with meaningful engagement!

[Download Bell Ringers](#)



Quick Daily Warm-Ups for Agriculture Programs

Engaging 2-3 Minute Activities for:

- FFA
- Soft Skills
- Animal Science
- Plant Science
- Agricultural Mechanics

Designed for Students Ages 14-16

Ideal for:

- Introduction to Agriculture
- Agriculture Foundations
- Ag Education Programs
- FFA Classrooms

INCLUDED TOPICS

FFA

Motto • Creed • SAE • History • Parliamentary Procedure • Official Dress

Soft Skills

Time Management • Professionalism • Teamwork • Communication • Interviews • Big Picture Thinking

Animal Science

Animal Terminology • Growth & Development • Processing • Byproducts

Plant Science

Plant Systems • Growth Requirements • Plant ID • Tools • Soil Components

Agricultural Mechanics

Lab Safety • PPE • Hand Tools • Ag Technology • Shop Safety • Innovations

- ✓ Ready-to-Use
- ✓ No Prep Required
- ✓ Supports Student Engagement
- ✓ Reinforces Key Agriculture Concepts
- ✓ Perfect for Bell Work, Review and Exit Tickets

*Bell ringers are adaptable to most grade levels.

09/2020

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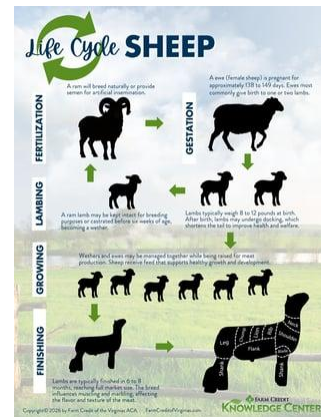
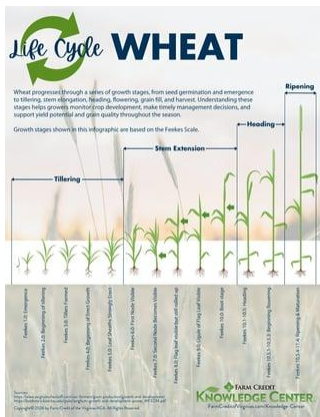
New to the Life Cycle Series!

New life cycles just added! We've expanded this educator-favorite series with additional infographics, activities and poster files designed to make agricultural concepts engaging and easy to teach. Explore the new additions today.

[Wheat Life Cycle](#)

[Sorghum Life Cycle](#)

[Sheep Life Cycle](#)



[Visit the Life Cycle Series Webpage](#)

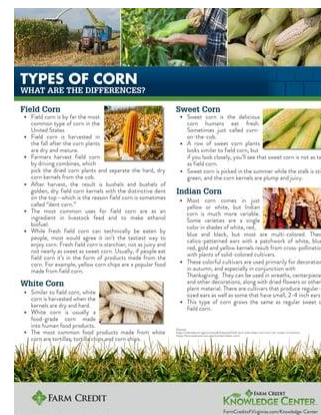
New Resource: Types of Corn

As harvest season approaches, help students explore one of America's most important crops with the new Types of Corn infographic. This classroom-ready resource highlights the different types of corn and their uses, making it a timely addition to fall lessons on crops, plant science and agricultural commodities.

Types of Corn [Infographic](#)

Types of Corn [Crossword Puzzle](#) [Key](#)

These resources can also be found on our [Educator Resources webpage](#), under Plant Science.



AgBark

A series of tree insights

Overview

- American Persimmon are known for their edible fruit.
- Persimmon harvest time is October–November.
- There is an American Persimmon tree in an Asian Persimmon tree.

American Persimmon Tree

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Ericales
Family: Ebenaceae
Genus: Diospyros

Pear Trees in Agriculture

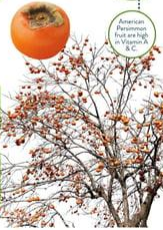
- American Persimmon would be very dense but the leaves are not as dense as pear leaves.
- American Persimmon would be a good choice for a pear orchard.
- American Persimmon would be a good choice for a pear orchard.

History

- American Persimmons are native to the eastern United States and eastern Asia.
- Indigenous people in eastern Asia used the fruit for food and medicine.
- Diogenes wrote "The Art of the Persimmon," which describes the fruit of the persimmon.

Tree Details

- The fruit, persimmons, are usually orange, red, or yellow.
- American Persimmon trees are usually 15–20 feet tall.
- American Persimmon trees are high.



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AgBite

A series of commodity insights

Overview

- Native American green beans were eaten with corn. The beans would use the corn as a field and grow up them.
- Green beans are also called snap beans and string beans.
- Green beans have a high level of vitamin K.
- After seasons and proper green beans are the third most common home garden vegetable.
- String beans can be green, yellow, purple, speckled and more.

Green Bean

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Fabales
Family: Fabaceae Lindl.
Genus: Phaseolus L.
Nutritional Information
1 cup beans (1/2 pint) (150g)

- Calories 110
- Total Fat 1g
- Sodium 1mg
- Total Carbohydrate 19g
- Dietary Fiber 1g
- Sugar 1g
- Protein 5g
- Vitamin C 10mg
- Calcium 1mg
- Iron 1mg

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Production

- Go to eight hours or more of sunlight every day allow for optimum growth.
- Green beans grow best when an temperature, range from 65°F to 85°F.
- Green beans should be ready for harvest 45 to 60 days after planting, depending on the variety.



Green Bean Anatomy



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AgBud

A series of horticulture insights

Overview

- An erect, branching perennial that typically grows 2 to 3 feet tall.
- Features distinctive reddish, bell-like flowers with red sepals, yellow petals and backward-pointing stamens.
- Blooms from spring into early summer, generally February through July, depending on location.
- Leaves are blue-green and divided into rounded leaflets grouped in threes.

Wild Columbine

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Ranunculales
Family: Ranunculaceae
Genus: Aquilegia

History

- Native Americans reportedly used crushed roots as a traditional laxative.
- Wild Columbine is native to eastern North America and naturally occurs across much of the United States and southern Canada.

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Production

- Makes an excellent addition to woodland and pollinator gardens.
- Freely self-seeds and can naturalize into large colonies in favorable conditions.
- Grows best in part shade to light sun and prefers well-drained soils.



Anatomy



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AgBark

A series of tree insights

Overview

- White Ash trees are highly valued as a wood for lumber and firewood.
- White Ash trees are native to the eastern United States and eastern Asia.
- The white ash bark of a White Ash tree is smooth and light-colored.

White Ash Tree

Kingdom: Plantae
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Sapindales
Family: Oleaceae
Genus: Fraxinus

White Ash Trees in Agriculture

- Wood from White Ash trees is highly valued due to its strength, hardness, heavy weight and shock resistance.
- White Ash wood is most commonly used in baseball bats, tennis rackets, and golf clubs.
- White Ash wood is a most valuable timber tree of the eastern United States.

History

- One of the earliest reported uses of White Ash was as a wood for spears. White Ash wood played a role in the development of the "spear" as a reference to the spearhead.
- Native Americans used the wood, leaves, seeds and the bark for medicinal purposes.
- White Ash wood is a most valuable timber tree of the eastern United States.

Tree Details

- White Ash trees usually reach 75–100 feet tall at full maturity.
- White Ash trees are 8–10 inches in diameter at breast height.
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AgBite

A series of commodity insights

Overview

- Raspberries come in two basic types: red and black. Yellow raspberries are a mutation of red and black raspberries, and purple raspberries are a cross between red and black raspberries.
- There are over 200 species of raspberries.
- Raspberries can be grown from the Arctic to the equator.
- 50–70 years of fruits can be harvested from 100 trees.
- Raspberries are sold in pound units.

Raspberry

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Order: Rosales
Family: Rosaceae Juss.
Genus: Rubus L.
Nutritional Information
1 cup Raspberries (120g)

- Calories 60
- Total Fat 1g
- Sodium 1mg
- Total Carbohydrate 16g
- Dietary Fiber 1g
- Sugar 1g
- Protein 1g
- Vitamin C 10mg
- Calcium 1mg
- Iron 1mg

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Production

- High rainfall and moderate temperatures are ideal for raspberries.
- At maturity, full plants of red raspberries should produce about 5,000 pounds of fruit per acre.
- High rainfall and moderate temperatures are ideal for raspberries.



Raspberry Anatomy



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AgBud

A series of horticulture insights

Overview

- A showy perennial growing 2 to 4 feet tall with upright stems and striking spikes of scarlet-red flowers.
- Flowers bloom from late spring through fall, typically May through October.
- Leaves are dark green, lance-shaped, and arranged along erect stems.
- Plants consistently moist conditions and has low drought tolerance.

Cardinal Flower

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Asterales
Family: Campanulaceae
Genus: Lobelia

History

- Once common throughout its range, competing contributed to local declines in some areas.
- It is native to much of the United States, Canada, Mexico and parts of Central America.

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Production

- Can self-seed and form attractive colonies in suitable habitats.
- Thrives in moist to wet soils and is ideal for rain gardens, pond edges, and stream banks.
- One of the best native flowers for attracting hummingbirds because its tubular form is well-suited for their long bills.



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Additional Resources

National Farm Safety and Health Week (Sept. 21-25)

Access free webinars and classroom-ready resources on key topics including equipment safety, health and wellness, confined spaces, and rural roadway safety. Explore tools and materials to help reinforce agricultural safety awareness with your students.

Visit the Website

Top 5 Farm Safety Hazards for Youth

Help keep young people safe on the farm with the Knowledge Center's **Top 5 Farm Safety Hazards for Youth** infographic. Learn about the most common hazards youth may encounter and discover practical tips and prevention strategies to reduce risks and promote a safer farm environment. Download the infographic and share it with students, families, and farm workers.



[Download the Infographic](#)

TOP 5 FARM SAFETY HAZARDS FOR YOUTH



Learn about the top five hazards encountered by youth on the farm and learn a safety tip so you can ensure their safety.



All Terrain Vehicle (ATV's)

Hazard: Youth riding double or not wearing a helmet.
Safety Tip: Ensure youth wear a correctly fitted helmet and ride solo.



Farm Machinery

Hazard: Youth riding on the tractor with the operator.
Safety Tip: Have youth watch from a safe distance.



Livestock Safety

Hazard: Youth cuddling/hugging livestock.
Safety Tip: Have them watch from a safe distance.



Chemical Safety

Hazard: Storing chemicals in "look-a-like" containers (for example: Keeping gas in a water bottle)
Safety Tip: Store labeled containers in locked cabinets



Sun Exposure

Hazard: Unprotected skin causing exposure to the sun.
Safety Tip: Make sure youth wear proper sun protection and clothing

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Youth Showbox

Looking for resources to support your livestock and animal science students? Our Youth Showbox offers a collection of free educational materials, including livestock anatomy and meat cut infographics, judging sheets, recordkeeping tools, biosecurity resources, marketing guides and showmanship materials. These ready-to-use resources can help students build knowledge and prepare for livestock projects, contests and shows.



[Explore the Collection](#)

Farm Safety Education: Preparing Students for Safe and Successful Farm Visits

Farm visits provide valuable hands-on learning opportunities, but safety should always come first. This blog explores practical steps educators can take to prepare students for farm tours and agricultural experiences, helping them recognize potential hazards and follow safe practices while on-site.

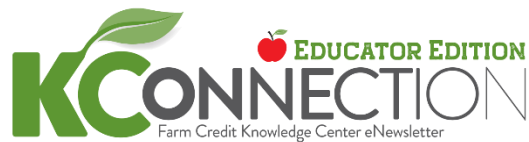
Before your next field trip or farm visit, review these farm safety tips and share them with your students to help create a safer, more enjoyable learning experience for everyone.



[Read Blog](#)

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