STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA AT THE MEADOW

Online Resource Directory—2016

Dear Teachers,

The State Fair of Virginia's Educational Expo field trip program is the collective work of many different educational partners, all working to help expose students to the commonwealth's agriculture, natural resources, technology and history.

Many of the sites referenced in this document have downloadable classroom materials or ways to order hard copies for your students. Some are great pre-trip introductions to topics students will come across while at the State Fair; others can serve as valuable follow-ups to your field trip.

Thanks for looking, and we hope to see you at the fair!

Agriculture in the Classroom Virginia's Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program provides PK-8 educators and volunteers with resources that connect children to agriculture and support core curriculum. AITC achieves its mission to educate Virginia's children about the importance of agriculture through:

- Professional development and resources for educators
- Comprehensive website (Agin theClass.org) featuring lesson plans, curriculum units, volunteer activities and much more including an interactive Virginia resources map
- School grants for agriculturally themed projects
- Awards for teachers who successfully integrate agriculture into their classrooms
- Support for volunteer initiatives such as the Agriculture Literacy Week reading program.

To learn more about AITC's resources, including how you can support AITC visit us online at www.agintheclass.org or find us on Facebook at Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom.

The **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**'s award-winning environmental education program is designed to support Virginia's SOLs and is based on the official definition for a "Meaningful Watershed Education Experience" as defined by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Programs are supported and created in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the National Geographic Society. The foundation has a wealth of environmental education programs, field trips, publications and other resources related to the Chesapeake Bay.

http://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/our-mission/educate

Cotton's Journey is an industry-sponsored site that provides classroom teachers with many resources related to U.S. cotton production and processing.

http://cottonsjourney.com

Through **4-H**, the youth development education program of **Virginia Cooperative Extension**, young people learn leadership, citizenship and a vast array of life skills that can benefit them for the rest of their lives.

http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/index.html

http://www.4-h.org/default.aspx

Get Soybean Smart is a virtual classroom where every subject is—soy! Its worksheets, glossaries and tutorials will walk you through the art and science of the soybean, which supplies the world with food, feed, fuel and fiber.

The Virginia Soybean Association and Virginia Soybean Board, along with soybean farmers across the United States, support Get Soybean Smart through the United Soybean Board.

http://www.getsoybeansmart.com

Virginia Cooperative Extension **Master Gardeners** are volunteers dedicated to working in their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices.

http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener

The **Southeast United Dairy Industry Association** is supported by dairy farm families of Virginia and surrounding states. On this site you will find educational activities and tools to teach students about dairy foods and the dairy industry, a Virginia-specific fact sheet and additional resources. Enjoy the online resources for interactive lessons, or contact SUDIA to request a DVD with lesson materials, activities, resource information and Web links.

http://www.southeastdairy.org

Virginia Beef industry officials recommend information for preschool through grade 12 on U.S. beef production and nutrition offered by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

http://www.school-wellness.org

The **Virginia Bluebird Society** website offers information on Eastern Bluebirds, including their habitat preferences and how best to protect and provide for them. Information on building a bluebird nest box is most helpful.

http://www.virginiabluebirds.org

Virginia Carolinas Peanuts' online presence includes educational materials for all grade levels, including Teacher Kits for elementary school educators.

http://www.aboutpeanuts.com

The **Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**:

- **Virginia Grown** (http://www.virginiagrown.com)
- **Virginia's Finest** (http://www.virginiasfinest.com)
- **Resources for teachers and students** (http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/teachers/index.shtml)
- VDACS is also on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Flickr**

The agency offers facts about Virginia agriculture, activity sheets for all grade levels, *The Ag Spotter's Guide*, a section on raising lambs for 4-H, recipes, songs and more. Download a color Virginia Grown poster (http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/teachers/pdf/poster.pdf) or a Virginia agriculture map (http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/teachers/pdf/agmap.pdf). This year are the *Beekeeping Guide for Adults and Kids*, *Help the Honey Bees as a Citizen Scientist* and *Life on a Virginia Dairy Farm*, a day-by-day diary kept by Virginia farmer Jennifer Leech.

Places to Visit, Camps, Special Events, Agcaching

This site offers you a taste of farm history in Virginia; lists of historic farms and sites; places to visit; farms where you can pick your own vegetables, fruits and berries; farm vacations; camps and other special events; and even a section on Agcaching, which is similar to geocaching.

http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/news/c-tourism.shtml

The **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation** website includes watershed and conservation information, as well as information on native and invasive plants. Visit the state park-related portion of the site to learn about other activities offered at the different parks.

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov

The **Virginia Naturally** website is your gateway to statewide environmental education resources, including information about Virginia's natural resources. Get information and activities about air, energy, water, waste, reuse and recycling, to name a few topics. Teachers also can find out about professional development opportunities related to science and environmental education.

http://www.vanaturally.com

The **Virginia Department of Forestry** offers learning and activity sheets, tree identification information, a virtual forest tour, and other resources, plus links to additional forest education information.

http://www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/index.htm

The **Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries** offers teachers information on Virginia wildlife, as well as SOL-relevant resources.

http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/education

The **Virginia Department of Historic Resources** offers numerous tools, guides and suggestions for presenting and gaining a better understanding of Virginia's cultural heritage. Explore architectural, archaeological and landscape features on the department's website. Investigate the "Important Links" at **http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch_DHR/archaeo_teach.htm** to learn more about how archaeology is practiced in Virginia and what it teaches us.

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov

The Virginia Department of Quality Environmemtal offers a website with a large variety of learning tools for all grade levels on Enviromental Education .www.deq.virginia.gov

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The website of the **Virginia Horse Industry Board** offers statistics on the industry, numbers and locations of horses and how much people spend on various aspects of riding and horse ownership.

In the "**Guide to Virginia's Horse Country**" section you can find historical information on the development of the industry. The "**Links**" section offers resources on various equine groups and facilities, as well as Virginia colleges with equestrian teams and programs of study.

*Coloring books, activity pages and book covers/posters are available for anyone involved in educating youth about the Virginia horse industry. These are free of charge and can be ordered by contacting Heather Wheeler program manager, at heatherwheeler@vdacs.virginia.gov or 804-786-5842.

-http://www.vhib.org

Mad Science—a leading science enrichment provider. The approach to teaching science invites children to pursue SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY ,ENGINEERING and STEM based careers .http://centralva.madscience.org