



Virginia Ag Development Officers Spring Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Offices
12580 West Creek Parkway, Richmond

Agenda

- 10:00 am **Welcome – Rob Davenport**
Introductions – Around the room
- 10:10 am **Wayne F. Pryor, President, VA Farm Bureau Federation and Virginia FAIRS**
- 10:15 am **Joe Guthrie, Commissioner, VDACS**
- 10:20 am **Rob Davenport, VDACS Director of Marketing**
- Division of Marketing Update
 - Office of International Marketing
- 10:25 am **Rachel Meyers, VDACS Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development**
- **Michele Bridges** – AFID Facility Grants, Community Outreach/BOS Mtgs
 - **Ricky Kowalewski** – VADO web updates, OAFD newsletter
 - **Genny Harris** – AFID Planning and Infrastructure Grants, AFID Blue Catfish Program
 - **Janelle Otieno** – Grants Specialist
- 10:35 am **Melissa Ball, Special Projects Manager and Janelle Otieno**
- Specialty Crop Block Grant
 - Commodity Boards
- 10:40 am **Kiesha Williams, VDACS Office of Food Distribution**
- VFAIF grant
 - VAFAP grant
- 10:45 am **Heather Wheeler, VDACS Office of Domestic Marketing and Promotions**
- Intro of Domestic Marketing team
 - Update on Virginia Grown and Virginia Finest Programs (list of domestic contacts)
 - Recap of Food and Beverage Expo 2024
- 10:50 am **Pam Miles, VDACS Office of Food Safety**

- 11:00 am **Justin Barnes, VA Department of Forestry**
- 11:05 am **Dr. Scott Lowman, Vice President of Applied Research, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR)**
- Presentation on the Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center, Q&A
- 11:30 am **Lunch**
- 12:30 pm **Introduction of Secretary Lohr – Commissioner Guthrie**
- **Matt Lohr**, Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry
 - **Beth Green**, Chief Deputy Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry
 - **Travis Rickman**, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry
- 12:50 pm **Kevin Schmidt, VDACS Office of Policy, Planning, and Research**
Erin Williams, VDACS Office of Policy, Planning, and Research
- Review of 2024 General Assembly session, Q&A
- 1:20 pm **Partner Programs**
- **VEDP – Will Arney**
 - **VFBF & VAFAIRS – Tony Banks and Whitney Perkins**
 - **TRRC – Stephen Versen**
 - **USDA – Joe Boatwright**
 - **VSBA – Joe Shearin**
- 1:50 pm **Resource Share and Community Updates – Around the Room**
- 2:25 pm **Upcoming VADO Meetings**
- Summer Tour
 - Fall VADO Meeting and Tour
- 2:30 pm **Adjourn**